



APRIL 2013

Unichord



THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ELGIN

Everyone Is Welcome Here

What are we doing to make contact with first time visitors? How are we following up with people who have visited once or twice?

[Jen Day](#) and [Elizabeth Closson](#) have been working with Dan Brosier to reactivate and refine the work of the Welcoming Committee which was formerly run by Kathy Hislip. [Jen](#) has been creating and updating an information bank of interests to more easily incorporate new members into our community. Both [Elizabeth](#) and [Jen](#) worked with Dan to lead the most recent New UU classes and are taking over that responsibility. In addition, a Welcoming Team has been formed to pay particular attention to new visitors on Sunday mornings.

This Welcoming Team currently consists of Betsy Thrasher, Andrea Budasi, Leslie Yoshitani and Teresa Stultz. More team members are needed, so please contact [Jen](#) or [Elizabeth](#) if you're interested.

The team's role is to complement the Sunday morning greeters in several

ways. Here is what team members do:

- Make sure visitors have a name tag.
- Offer a brief tour and orientation so visitors know where to find the nursery, sanctuary and REE classes.
- Encourage visitors to come to coffee after church, meet them there, and introduce them to others who have similar interests, such as the book club, the prairie garden, or their children's spiritual growth.

If a member of the Welcoming Team approaches you to introduce you to a visitor, please take time to engage her in conversation and let the visitor know how glad you are that they came. Better yet, don't wait for someone to introduce you, but approach someone you don't know and ask a friendly question. In the end, all of us work together to make each other and new folks feel at home at UUCE.

Future plans include increased outreach to members

and friends who seem to have slipped away. We hope to be able to determine if someone needs help that we were not aware of, or perhaps they were offended in some way that can be addressed through the practice of right relationship. Maybe they just need a rest after a period of intense contribution. [Jen](#) and [Elizabeth](#) are open to any ideas or help you would like to offer.

Meet Eight Caring People

The Care Team's mission is to coordinate caring for members and friends at significant and/or vulnerable times. The Team acknowledges occasions, coordinates assistance in times of need, and loans medical equipment. Care Team members include Alice Macy, Barbara Sugden (Chair), Betsy Thrasher, Bonnie Schwank, Henny DuBois, Kay Kummerow, Leslie Yoshitani, and Shirley Wolin.

From the Minister

Dear UUCE,

Since I was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease nine years ago, I have wondered when or if it would lead me to leave the ministry. I had always thought that my physical body with its stiffness, declining dexterity, and increasing slowness of movement would pose the greatest challenges, but it has been the decline in my cognitive abilities that finally indicated to me that I could no longer as minister serve this congregation as it needs.

Looking back, the first indication of this was my hospitalization last April for what initially was thought to be a stroke – but wasn't. Since then I have continued to have difficulty carrying out certain cognitive functions. I frequently experience confusion when trying to do certain daily tasks on the computer, find it challenging to write coherently and in a reasonable amount of time, and experience consistent memory impairment. These become more or less prominent depending upon certain factors like stress.

Late in 2012, when Katherine and I decided it was time to pursue long-term disability, I had hoped to be able to finish out the current church year. The Worship Committee was willing to take on more responsibility (as they have) and with additional help from the Executive Team, we could have finished the regular year and flowed into the summer schedule much as usual. Of course, there would be occasions to recognize the end of my ministry, but still we could transition into summer as we usually do, an interim minister would arrive, and preparation would begin for another church year.

Well, as we are discovering, there is a process to being granted long-term disability. Part of that process is called an elimination period, which is a period of time the person must fulfill before they can begin to receive disability payments. The elimination period lasts for 90

days during which the person applying for disability is not to work. If they do work 30 or fewer days, these are tacked onto the original 90—delaying the start of the benefits. If they work over 30 days, the elimination period must start over. For this reason I am not around much. I plan to do the services on May 19, June 2, (Commencement) and June 9 (my final service), but other than that not much. This isn't the ending I had planned on, but thanks to the efforts of many in our community, we will be fine.

After the arrival of the interim minister, my family and I will remain in Elgin but not attend the church. From what I have read and observed about the transition into new ministry, it is repeatedly recommended that the departing minister stay away to first allow the interim minister to do his/her ministry, and then the newly called minister to create a relationship with the congregation without influence from the former minister. Even though my ties to this church community are deep and dear, I firmly believe in the importance of giving the new ministers their space. I look forward to bumping into you in the grocery store or public events, but I will not participate in church functions.

Health-wise I do not believe I am in a rapid decline. I hope to live quite a few years with the limits my Parkinson's imposes on me. The desire to help out in my care that I have heard expressed is appreciated but not necessary. I am lucky to have access to quality medical care and a family willing and able to help me with my needs at this time.

If you have any questions about what will be occurring in these last couple of months, send me an [email](#). I am rather slow at response some of the time, but I will get back to you.

—Dan

A Month of Sundays

4/7: MY GENERATION

The high school youth will express what is on their minds. Service led by Amy Hill and Jason Engel.

4/14: HISTORY GEEK

Special guest speaker Bonnie Timms will dazzle the congregation with some religious history. Service led by Donna Askins.

4/21: THE FIRST R

On this Earth Day Sunday the focus is on the first R in the sustainability slogan of "Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle." Megan Butler, from Impact Illinois, will speak on ways we can make a difference by becoming more energy efficient. Her mission in life is to help residents, businesses and non-profits reduce energy use. Service led by Stephen Day.

4/28: THIS I BELIEVE

A few church members discuss their spiritual beliefs and how these beliefs affect their personal journeys. Service led by Tim Closson.

All services begin at 10:45

April Calendar

Worship Services

Sunday mornings at 10:45

Adult Religious Exploration and Education

April 7 at 9:00 in rooms 301 and 302

Bells Practice

Sundays at 12:30 in the bell room

Board of Trustees Meeting

April 17 at 7:00

Book Group—Afternoon

April 1 and 29 at 12:30 (offsite)

Book Group—Evening

April 19 at 7:00 (offsite)

Buddhist Group

Thursdays at 7:00 (offsite)

Executive Team

April 10 and 24 at 10:30

Finance Committee

April 10 at 7:00

Garden of Eatin' — Askins

April 20 at 2:00

Improv Group

Sundays at 7:00 in the Sanctuary

qUUilters

April 6 at 9:00 in room 302

**Unichord
deadline
April 21**

Wizard of Oz — Laflin

April 6 at 1:30 in the Fellowship Hall

Visit the UUCE calendar online for the latest updates.

Plans Are Underway for June 9

Be sure to mark June 9 on your calendar! This is the date for the church service during which Reverend Dan Brosier will end his covenant with the congregation. During this time, the congregation will honor Dan for all he has meant, and recognize the change in the relationship between Dan and the congregation to which he has ministered so faithfully for 25 years.

After the service, the church will follow the tradition of the annual picnic with a potluck and party. This event will include the annual Flower Communion, as well as several games and activities. Look for more information in Sunday bulletins and the UU bulletin board listserv.

From the Board

Our minister, Dan Brosier, has been at our church for 25 years and is planning to retire at the end of this church year in May. Although he had planned to continue for a couple of more years, his leaving has become medically necessary as advised by his physician. As Dan reported in an earlier email (on 12/29/12 Subject: From Dan) to the membership, he has been diagnosed with Parkinson's for several years, but recently has been experiencing increased symptoms which are interfering with his ability to do his job.

The Board of Trustees strongly desires to assist us all in right relationships throughout what will be a complex process which we are all learning together. We want to honor Dan for all he has done in the life of the church. We want to remember and embrace our past. We also want to realize the potential opportunities open to us for our future together.

Because this change is a significant one for Dan and for the membership, the Board of Trustees is beginning a series of actions to obtain an Interim Minister for a year or so, and ultimately a new settled Minister. On 1-16-13 the Board voted to begin the process to hire an Interim Minister. This individual's function will be management of day to day church business and worship on Sundays, as well as leading the congregation through an assessment and planning process. The latter will get us ready for determining the type of settled Minister we will be seeking.

The Board is also creating an Interim Task Force to oversee the search and hiring of the Interim Minister. The expectation is for the Interim to begin his or her duties in August 2013. The Board and the task force will be working with the Central Midwest District and the Unitarian Universalist Association to accomplish this goal. There is a wonderful array of resources available there to assist in our work. Visit www.uua.org/careers/ministers/transitions/index.shtml or go to www.uua.org and in the search option for the site, type in "Interim Minister."

The UUA has been guiding churches through this transition process of obtaining an Interim Minister for years. The Board trusts the UUA to guide us into finding the best possible match for our church.

Because change always brings a multitude of questions and emotions, the Board will be working hard to provide information as we go through this process. Please watch for future articles in the [Unichord](#) as well as in church email and Sunday announcements. If you have any questions/concerns/comments, do not hesitate to contact Board President [Debbie Caruso](#) (cell 312-217-1692) or President Elect [Elizabeth Closson](#) (cell 630-294-9091).

IT'S UP TO YOUTH

What would our congregation look like if our youth were even better leaders both within our four walls and in the greater community? What would happen if we were leaders in an interfaith community? The possibilities are endless! Both of our book groups read "[Acts of Faith](#)" by Eboo Patel this year, and many felt so inspired, they want everyone to read it! It is a short and engaging read on one man's interfaith journey from his Muslim roots and experiences and his search to find a way to engage teens and young adults. Eboo lived in Chicago and its suburbs for quite a while. His journey led him to found the Interfaith Youth Core. Later this year, we will explore how our congregation can work with our youth as well as other faiths. Take the challenge of faith!

Lifespan Religious Exploration and Education

Our Adult Spirituality program, *Owning Your Religious Past*, continues until April 7. The next program, *Prayer*, will be facilitated by Anne Clough and Valerie Howells.

Be sure to attend the April 7 service, when our high school youth will be leading worship. They will be addressing how the fine arts impact their lives as well as their spirituality.

For our younger members, they continue exploring our Judeo-Christian Heritage for the rest of the church year. The K-2 class has finished collecting socks for a social action project called *Socks For Tired Feet* through the Minneapolis-based organization *Sharing and Caring Hands*. They collected 199 pairs of socks! Thanks to everyone who donated socks. I will be sending them to Minneapolis this week.

Last month, five of our friends and members volunteered at the Elgin Soup Kitchen, which is held at the Church of the Brethren. Three of the five were youth!

On April 19, four of our high school youth will be driving to 1st Unitarian in St. Louis for the Spring Conference. A huge “thanks” to Jason Engel,

who will be chaperoning the group! I will email parents with further details the week beforehand.

Of course, life at UUCE continues to evolve with Dan’s upcoming retirement. I did a short program with the young people about change, how it can be good and sometimes bad – and even both at the same time. They are aware that this transition may be a bit stressful for the adults around them. Take some time on your drive to church to ask how they feel about the changes that are happening.

In Faith,
—Kathy

Evening Book Club Has a Jones(town)

On April 19 at 7:00, the evening book club will meet at Panera Bread at 2484 N Randall Road in Elgin. The book club meets on the 3rd Friday of every month at this time and place.

The April selection is: *"A Thousand Lives: The Untold Story of Hope, Deception, and Survival at Jonestown"* by Julia Scheeres. All are welcome—bring a friend!

April Youth Curriculum

| | Preschool | K-2 | 3-5 | 6-8 | High School |
|---------|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Apr. 7 | Pussy Willows | Joseph | Nature Miracles | Jesus’ Miracles | Leading the worship service |
| Apr. 14 | Rainbows | The Moses Basket | Parables | Abraham | Brunch |
| Apr. 21 | Earth Day | | | Joseph | Attending the Youth Conference |
| Apr. 28 | Wondering About the Moon | Jacob & Esau | Healing Power/Easter | Jonah | Topic of choice |
| | Preschool | K-2 | 3-5 | 6-8 | High School |



President's Reflections

I very much look forward to warmer weather and I hope to do some planting this month! I wish everyone well in whatever seeds they choose to plant be it a vegetable or conceptual. May it grow into what you want it to be! With warmer weather coming my thoughts turn to our lovely Earth Wisdom Labyrinth. She is going to need some love this year. Please if you are out there walking it pull a few weeds along your way. It becomes way way more manageable in the long run! Thank You!

—Debbie

Afternoon Book Club Takes a Long Walk

The Afternoon Book Group will meet at 1:00 on Monday, April 1, at the home of Dotty Carringi to discuss "Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk" by Ben Fountain. On Monday, April 29, the group will meet to discuss "Sarah's Key" by Tatiana de Rosnay at the home of Alice Macy. For further information contact [Alice Macy](#).

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

February 20, 2013

Present: B. Cooper-Zobott, B. Thrasher, D. Clough, D. Caruso, E. Closson, J. Kimball (Executive Team), K. Underwood (Executive Team), K. Flanagan, M. Brinker (Executive Team), S. Day, T. Davis.

Prior meeting minutes' corrections:

1/16 – Sexton instead of Facilities Supervisor.
1/27 – UUA recommends that a couple of BoT members serve on the task force if enough information isn't gathered from the Focus Groups; Executive Team (ET) will be part of the Focus Groups. Approved unanimously with noted changes.

Reports:

- A. Financial Report – question was raised about line item 6080 – Payroll Expenses and where the \$752.83 came from. Approved.
- B. Earmarked Funds Report – Approved.
 - General Earmarks –\$272 is line item 2340, Equal Exchange.

- C. Executive Team –
 - Currently ET is unable to function properly in the absence of Dan.
 - A joint ET/BoT meeting will occur either 3/9 or 3/16 to discuss plans for the ET transition
- D. Endowment Committee Report Approved.
- E. Committee on the Ministry Report – Approved.
 - Board nominations
 - Midwest Leadership School

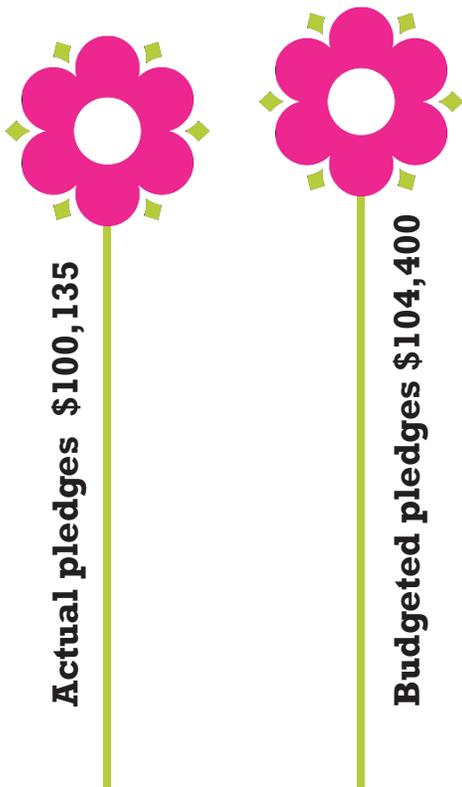
Unfinished Business:

- A. Budget Review Committee – Reviewed.
 - We seem to have found some clarity of what is owed to the earmarked funds
- B. Compensation Review Committee Recommendations – Reviewed.
- C. Interim Minister Process – Discussion.
 - E. Closson talked about the current status of the activities she is working on for the interim process.

Next meeting scheduled for March 20.

Happy Birthday!

| | | | | | |
|---|----------------|----|-------------------|----|-------------------|
| 1 | Daniel Hislip | 7 | Andrew Russel III | 17 | Bob Hamill |
| 1 | Jennifer Engel | 10 | Mary Knapp | 18 | Charmaine Hamill |
| 4 | Tommy Schnidt | 11 | Mitch King | 20 | Ron Williams |
| 5 | Sheena John | 14 | Donna Askins | 20 | Kim Cecil |
| 6 | Bob Bedard | 14 | Dan Brosier | 26 | Elizabeth Closson |



PLEDGE INCOME

Kudos

Thanks to Mitch, Helen, and Liz King, Lee Nicholson, and Reve Rogers-Bottino for representing UUCE at the Soup Kitchen; to everyone who contributed socks to Sharing and Caring Hands; and to Christina Conway for donating books to the REE library.



Thanks to the church leadership for doing their level best, and then some, as we make the very difficult transition from our beloved Reverend Dan Brosier to an interim minister.

All People's Inter-Faith Pantry Needs Canned Meat

This month the All People's Inter-Faith Pantry can use the old standbys of peanut butter, jelly, cereal (no oatmeal), juice and →canned meats← along with toilet paper, face soap and laundry detergent.

Please try to bring your donations on our Pantry Sunday, April 7, but your contributions are welcome anytime during the month. If you forget to bring a donation, you can always write a check

made out to *All People's Inter-Faith Pantry* and give it to Bob Jackson or Henny DuBois.

Ways to Get in Touch

WEBSITE

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