



JUNE 2014

# Unichord



THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ELGIN

## READY TO LAUNCH!



**TOP ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: DOUG PRATT, SUSAN ANDERSON, VALERIE HOWELLS.  
BOTTOM ROW: JOE MASONICK, DIANA MARCH, DAN HISLIP, LYDIA LARRABEE.**

The church has reached a critical milestone in the transition process: the Settled Minister Search Committee (SMSC) has been assembled. Among them are Dan Hislip, Diana March, Lydia Larrabee, and Susan Anderson. These four were selected by the congregation at the church's Annual Meeting on May 18. In the following days, the Board of Trustees (BoT) added the final three SMSC members: Doug Pratt, Valerie Howells, and Joe Masonick. The Board's choices were designed to balance out the group to represent as many facets of the church as possible.

According to the UUA, "The committee will need all the personal and emotional and intellectual resources they can muster for the job ahead." Each member of this group will attend every meeting, and will put in anywhere from 250-400 hours to fulfill the charge. They will undergo intensive team-building, conduct surveys and interviews, compile massive amounts of data, design instruments to measure information, even make an attractive packet about the church for candidates to review, and more—a lot more. Let us support them on their trek.

# Lise's Letter



A couple of weeks ago I was doing a little research regarding attendance numbers at UUCE. To do so I got on the UUA website and looked up the membership numbers that UUCE

has reported to the association for the last 13 years; this reporting is something that all congregations are asked to do by February 1 of each year. As part of the attendance report, the UUA asks for three figures: the number of official members, the number of people actually attending services, and the number of children and youth registered for RE (Religious Education).

When I was looking at the numbers reported for UUCE, I saw an interesting pattern. From 2006 to 2011, the number of UUCE official members ranged from a high of 172 to a low of 146 members. During this same time, the number of people actually attending services was reported as either 86 or 88 for all those years. Isn't that interesting? The official number of members varied by 26, but the Sunday service attendance number varied by only two. Hmmm. RE registrants grew from 45 to 65 during this same time period.

Why do you think that the number of service attendees remained fairly stable, despite the increase in people signing the membership book? Sometimes barriers to visitors are invisible to those already attending. A room full of strangers can seem more full and intimidating simply because the folks inside are unknown. Your sanctuary can seat about 150, and studies have shown that newcomers still feel comfortable until the sanctuary is about 70-80% full, so maybe that's not it . . . yet. What about the parking lot? If it looks too full, folks may just drive by—studies support that as well. I've observed that most of you like to park in the front parking area which is the area most visible from Highland. If those of you able to parked in the back or side parking lot, do you think that would make a difference to visitors?

Could you designate several spots with a welcoming sign just for newcomers? What if you started the church service a little earlier, say at 10:30 a.m.? Would that 15 minute psychological nudge make folks feel they could still attend without losing the rest of their Sunday? I understand you started your services at 10:45 a.m. in order to access more parking downtown before other churches in the area started at 11:00 a.m.—that was quite a long time ago.

One attendance barrier UUCE is breaking down is the mystery of on which Sundays there are services in the summer. If in doubt, just show up, because in case you haven't heard, there will be a service every Sunday this summer. There will be more opportunities to share what's wonderful at UUCE and I'm looking forward to it. I hope you are, too.

Blessings,  
—Lise

Reverend Lise Adams Sherry,  
Interim Minister

## Someone Cares

The Care Team coordinates the church's efforts in caring for our members and friends at significant and/or vulnerable times in their lives. Contact [Leslie Yoshitani](#) or [Rev. Lise Adams Sherry](#) with such concerns.



# A Month of Sundays

June

## 6/1: Flowers, new members, and seniors, oh my!

This service will have a little bit of everything. We'll have our annual flower communion, welcome new members, and honor our graduating high school senior. We'll also kick off our additional fundraising campaign, oh, and then after the service we'll have our picnic! Service led by Reverend Lise Adams Sherry. THIS SERVICE BEGINS AT 10:45.

REMAINING JUNE SERVICES  
BEGIN AT 9:45:

## 6/8: To Walk a Labyrinth—Cathedrals, Coconuts, and Community

Our Earth Wisdom Labyrinth is an important part of this church but it won't be the focus of this service. Today's themes are the phenomenon of the labyrinth—its history, lore, and resurgence during the 1990s—and the personal experiences of a person who values walking its path. Speaker: Diana March.

## 6/15: Snips and snails and puppy dog tails . . . really?

As we honor fathers on this day, it seems only fitting that we reflect on the boys that may grow up to be fathers some day. How are boys doing in society today? Do they have as many options as we'd like them to have? Service led by Reverend Lise Adams Sherry.

## 6/22: A Midsummer Night's Dream

Summer often brings more whimsy and relaxation to our lives. How does this affect the congruence between our outside faces (masks?) and our authentic selves? Service led by Reverend Lise Adams Sherry.

## 6/29:

We're still looking for a speaker this Sunday. Could it be you? Talk to Valerie Howells or Rev. Lise if you're interested.

*NEW for Summer 2014:*

*UUCE will hold services every Sunday!*



**T.P., Pork** and beans, and cereal top the list of items needed for the All People's Inter-Faith Pantry this month. The Pantry can also use jelly, peanut butter, juice, and canned meats.

Try to bring your donations for the Pantry on our Pantry Sunday, June 1. However, donations are welcome at any time.

Look for the donation basket in Fellowship Hall, south of the kitchen, near the Can U Use It? table. For further information, contact [Henny DuBois](#).

# Lifespan Religious Exploration and Education



As I write this, we have just had our Coming of Age service. How inspiring it was! I am so proud of our youth! It is difficult to stand before your peers and elders and put your heart on your sleeve.

Some of the feedback I have received was along the lines of "I didn't know about the program." Communication is always a challenge, especially to those who do not have children or youth in the program. It is human nature to only see and hear the information that we believe is important in our lives. I'm not sure how to improve this, but will continue to try. This is the time of year when I am looking for help in every aspect of our lifespan program. If you are seeking a meaningful way to contribute your time and talents, here are some of the ways you can do so:

- Co-teach a class – for adults, teens or children
- Assist in a class for preschool, Kindergarten-2nd, or 3rd-5th grades
- Help plan adult programming
- Be on the Religious Exploration and Education (REE) Team to coordinate activities and social action
- Share your hobbies, passions, and experiences with youngsters and teens

If any of these interest you, I can give you more detailed information.

For the summer, we will be focusing on our 7th Principle: caring for the interdependent web of life. We will also have some other fun activities interspersed. We will NOT have religious exploration and education classes on June 8; youth age 6 and up will remain in the service that day. Childcare will be available at all summer services for youngsters five years and younger.

Last but not least, here's what's happening in Religious Education and Exploration this month:

**June 1:** Flower Communion and Picnic – no REE classes

**June 8:** No REE classes - Childcare available

**June 15:** Planting Flowers in the Stacey Reynolds ComUnity Garden

**June 22:** Story from Bali and growing tomatoes

**June 29:** Story from Australia and making songline paintings

In Faith,  
—**Kathy Underwood**  
Director of Religious  
Exploration and Education

## Safety First

Children often play on the bars beneath the stairs near the church's back entrance. Due to risk of injury, this is not acceptable. Parents, please do not leave your children unattended.



The overall church policy is that children should always be within sight of their parents. This includes playing outdoors! Please: look after your children. Thank you.



# KUDOS!

- To Kathy Underwood and youth mentors Sharon Fincher, Vicki Kilgore, Brandi Talaga, Ann Kremer, Jason Engel, Tim Davis, and Anne Clough, for all their time and devotion to our Coming of Age program.
- To Sheena John for the spring flowers planted in the pots at the front doors to the church.
- To the Board, particularly Bridget Laflin and Debbie Caruso, for all of their phone calling and for their hard work organizing the ministerial search committee.

- To the leadership development committee for working so hard to find a good slate of board candidates.
- To the Green Sanctuary Committee for recently representing UUCE and our ideals at two local earth-friendly expos.
- To April Swain for being a guest in the pre-school class.

## June Calendar

### Worship Services

June 1 at 10:45

June 8, 15, 22, 29 at 9:45

(and **every** Sunday this summer at 9:45)

### Adult Spirituality

Look for classes to resume in fall

### Afternoon Book Group

June 2 and 30 at 12:30—offsite

### Board of Trustees Meeting

June 18 at 7:00

### Buddhists

Thursdays at 7:00

### Circle Supper

### Finale Potluck

June 14 at 6:00

### Executive Team

June 11 at 11:00

### Finance Committee

June 11 at 7:00

### Goddess Salon & Labyrinth Walk

June 29 from noon-2:00

### Improv Group Fundraiser for Boston Bound

June 7 at 7:00

*Please check the church's online calendar for the most current information.*



## One Size Fits All!

Graduates love gift cards. Buy them at UUCE and everyone wins:

- You get the **full value** of the gift card
- The church earns money for selling the card, which helps the operating fund

Over 700 national and local retailers participate! Order scrip cards in the downstairs lobby after each Sunday service. Pay when you place your order; pick up your card the following Sunday. Questions? Contact [Alice Macy](#).

# President's Reflections

While it is still fresh in my mind, I would like to reflect a bit on the 2014 UUCE Annual Congregational Meeting.

First, I was extremely aware of the excitement and positive energy everyone brought to the day. It is stimulating to be a part of a group that is so full of enthusiasm and caring. I am honored to be a part of this endeavor and to be your President at this moment.

Second, I'd like to share the reading I used at the beginning of the meeting. I was so taken with it when Andrea Schmidlin and Elizabeth Olson brought it to the "Examining Whiteness" RE class that I requested a copy. I don't think the sentiments can be repeated too often:

## TURNING TO ONE ANOTHER

**There's no greater power than a community discovering what it cares about.**

**Ask "What's possible?" not "What's wrong?" Keep asking.**

**Notice what you care about.**

**Assume that many others share your dreams.**

**Be brave enough to start a conversation that matters.**

**Talk to people you know.**

**Talk to people you don't know.**

**Talk to people you never talk to.**

**Be intrigued by the differences you hear.**

**Expect to be surprised.**

**Treasure curiosity more than certainty.**

**Invite in everyone who cares to work on what's possible.**

**Acknowledge that everyone is an expert about something.**

**Know that creative solutions come from new connections.**

**Remember you don't fear people whose story you know.**

**Real listening always brings people closer together.**

**Trust that meaningful conversations can change your world.**

**Rely on human goodness. Stay together.**

— Margaret Wheatley

Finally, I am thrilled at the work we have accomplished this past year in all areas of our church life. I am thankful for each one of you and the contributions you have made, no matter how small or quiet. I look forward to moving into the next stage of our transitional time, as we

partner with the Settled Minister Search Committee and the Transition Team in looking toward our future together.

—Elizabeth Closson

President,  
UUCE Board of Trustees

# Transition Team Offers Grief Workshop

On June 8 from 11:15-1:00, Hospice and Bereavement Specialist, Elise Wall, will lead a Loss, Grief, and Mourning Workshop.

In this session we will explore feelings of loss and grief related to Dan Brosier's retirement. Together we will create a sacred space for sharing and honoring each other's journeys. We will also identify the normal responses to grief and

loss and some ways to navigate them.

Those interested may RSVP to [Kathy Hislip](#) or sign up at the Transition Team Table. Walk-ins are okay, too. The workshop will be held at the church—room TBD.

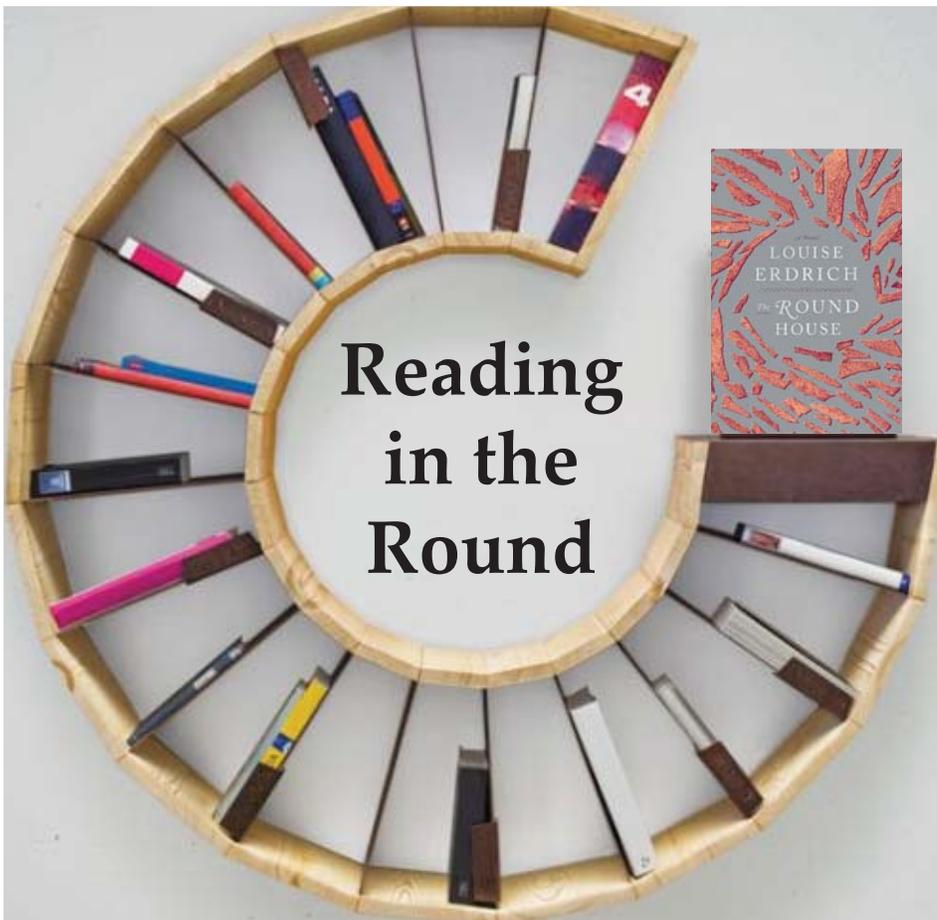
*1 To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heavens:*

*2 A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;*

*3 A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;*

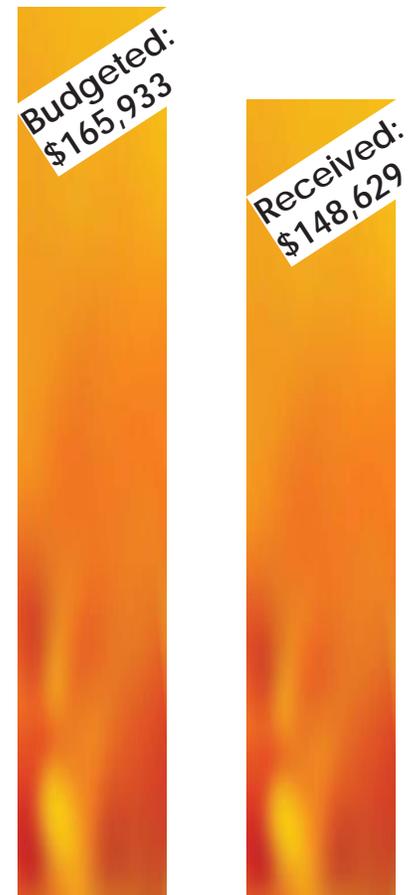
*4 A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance.*

—Ecclesiastes 3:1-4



The Afternoon Book Group will meet at 12:30 on Monday, June 2, at the home of Alice Macy to discuss "[Gone Girl](#)" by Gillian Flynn. On June 30, the group will discuss "[The Round House](#)" by Louise Erdrich. Place TBD. For more information, contact [Alice Macy](#).

## Pledge Income



# New Board of Trustees Elected at Annual Meeting

At the Annual Meeting on May 18, the congregation elected the Board of Trustees which will serve for the coming year. Here are the results:

—Jun Yoshitani was elected for a three-year term, replacing Debbie Caruso.

—Stephen Day was elected for a second three-year term.

—Mary Knapp was elected for a two-year term. She was appointed last year to replace Doug Pratt after his resignation.

—Jason Engel was chosen as President Elect. He

will assume the role of President on January 1, 2015, and serve for the next 18 months. The term is somewhat unusual because former President Elect Anne Clough recently stepped down. Current BoT President Elizabeth Closson facilitated a solution: she agreed to serve until 12/31/2014. The congregation approved this arrangement at the Annual Meeting.

One other Board change was made. Due to other responsibilities, Krista Flanagan is stepping down as Treasurer, effective July 1. When this was announced at the Annual Meeting, Jamie Yucuis immediately volunteered and was elected for the one year remaining of Krista's term.

## GREEN CORNER

### USDA Abuzz About Bees

The USDA reports: "Honey bees are responsible for pollinating more than 100 crops and one out of every three bites of food Americans eat. These foods give our diet diversity, flavor, and nutrition. Sadly, the number of native bees and domesticated bee populations are declining due to disease, adverse weather and other conditions."

Supporting bees is not hard to do. Start by following these simple steps to create a bee-friendly garden:

Go Native—plant native plant species

Bee Showy—flowers should bloom in your garden throughout the season

Bee Bountiful—plant big patches of each plant species

Bee Diverse—plant a diversity of flowering species that supply an abundance of pollen and nectar

Bee Chemical Free—eliminate use of pesticides

IMPORTANT: Choose Purple Prairie Clover or White Prairie Clover. Other varieties are not native and should be avoided.



**UUCE men will go on their twentieth bike trip this year. Guess the name of the guy in the white shirt and win a prize.**

# UUCE Men Celebrate Twentieth Bike Trip

For twenty years the men of UUCE have taken an annual summer bike trip for fun, fitness, and fellowship. This June the UUCE men return to scenic southwest Wisconsin for 3 days of biking on the Omaha, Elroy-Sparta, and 400 Trails. For more details, read on.

The Elroy-Sparta Trail is one of the most scenic trails in the Midwest and was one of the first trails in the U.S. to be converted from a former railroad to a recreational trail. It is one of four sections that now make up a continuous 120 mile trail along the former Chicago Northwestern Railroad from Reedsburg to Trempeleau. It is located in the hilly and beautiful "driftless area" of southwest Wisconsin. The famous "400" passenger train traveled the 400 miles from Chicago to Minneapolis in 400 minutes over this route! The trail features three tunnels excavated in the 1870s. The longest of the three tunnels is  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile long and very dark inside, so bring your flashlights! The trail passes through picturesque Wisconsin farmland and woods, crosses several trout streams, and ambles through a number of quaint towns that serve lunch, including the *best damn pie* in the Midwest!

Wednesday, June 25— Leave the Elgin area by mid-morning and drive the 3½ hours to Elroy, Wisconsin. Ride out and back on the 12½ mile Omaha Trail that passes through a quarter-mile tunnel and then descends into the town of Hustler and then into Camp Douglas. After our 25 mile first day ride, we will dine in Elroy at one of several restaurants, then drive to either Kendall, Wisconsin, to stay overnight in the Sugar Maple Inn (double occupancy is \$65/night), or camp in the Tunnel Trail Campground just west of Kendall.

Thursday, June 26—Bikers from Kendall pedal west on the Sparta-Elroy Trail through Tunnel #1 to pick up the campers at the campground and then all bike into Wilton to the café that used to be "Gina's Pies R Square" for either a late breakfast or early lunch and *delicious pie!* We then continue biking through Norwalk and beyond through Tunnels #2 and #3, stopping at Tunnel Bob's pop stand for a refreshment before turning around and heading back east to Kendall or camp. Those still not tired can continue biking another 8 miles to Sparta before turning around and heading back.

And those who did not get enough *pie* can stop again for another piece! After cleaning up from riding 40-60 miles, we drive to dinner at a Mexican restaurant in Tomah, then return for a good night's sleep!

Friday, June 27 – We drive to Elroy for breakfast and then on to Wonewoc for our final day of riding on the 400 Trail. We ride to Reedsburg for lunch, then back to Wonewoc, where after riding 30-40 miles, we load up our bikes and head home, arriving back in Elgin in the evening.

Since all of these rides are out and back, they can be shortened or lengthened to meet your biking needs. All of these trails are made of crushed limestone and are fairly smooth. The Omaha Trail requires a \$1 daily pass. The Elroy-Sparta and 400 Trails require a daily pass that costs \$4, or you can get a yearly pass good on all Wisconsin State Trails for \$20. Helmets and raincoats are recommended.

Eleven men have already agreed to go. How about you? If you are interested in joining us, [email me](#) and let me know if you want to stay in the motel or camp and if you can drive or need a lift.

—Joe Masonick  
Biker and Pie-Monger

# UUCE Board of Trustees Minutes

April 16 and April 29, 2014

Members present: David Yaeger, Debbie Caruso, Elizabeth Closson, Krista Flanagan, Mary Knapp, Tim Davis.

Others attending: Delaney Underwood, Kathy Hislip, Reverend Lise Sherry Adams, Vickie Kilgore.

## I. OPENING

- a. Centering – Mary
- b. Approval of Agenda
- c. One Minute Check-ins

## II. APPROVAL OF MARCH 2014 MINUTES – add TT proposal of method to speed up approval, thus allowing quicker publication

- a. Will review the idea of processing minutes earlier next month
- b. Minutes approved

## III. REVIEW OF PROPOSED BUDGET – moved up per Krista's request

- a. Discussion of staff compensation
- b. Church Mutual Insurance – previously forwarded via email from Mila. Motion made by Tim Davis and seconded by

Krista Flanagan to pay the \$5,208.00 plus the \$35.00 for additional medical coverage. Motion passed.

## IV. REPORTS

### a. Transition Team Report:

- i. Reviewed the Transition Team's Executive Summary with Kathy Hislip
- ii. Looking to create a web page, attached to the UUCE website, to post TT material and information; idea shared to have the option to submit comments
- iii. Who We Are statements aligned with timely sermon topics; need to coordinate with BoT person of the day
- iv. Child care for TT talks
- v. Provide summary of IM Progress Report. Elizabeth and Tim will work on the summary.

b. Financial/Earmarked Funds Report: will review new format in May.

### c. Review of Proposed Budget:

- i. Krista led the BoT through the proposed budget for 2014 – 2015
- ii. Krista recommends that when the Finance Committee asks for budget requests from committees

that the BoT submit salary requests at that time.

iii. Motion made by Tim Davis and seconded by David Yaeger to approve the proposed 2014- 2015 budget as presented. Motion passed.

iv. Motion made by Debbie Caruso and seconded by Tim Davis to extend the meeting until 9:15. Motion passed.

### d. Minister's Report and Q & A:

- i. Board portfolio idea
- ii. Looking for a member or two to attend the UUA General Assembly in Rhode Island at the end of June.

iii. Lise and a BoT member will be meeting with a Policy Governance (PG) consultant on May 9.

e. Executive Team Report: No report this month.

f. Personnel Task Force Report: Meeting this Friday.

g. Policy Governance Task Force Report: Working on scheduling the next meeting.

h. Stewardship/Canvass Report:

i. Final tally - \$166,066.00.

ii. Tim will share Stewardship final numbers

in a note to members via out listerv.

i. Settled Minister Search Committee

- i. Phone script
- ii. Calling list
- iii. Notification shared in the Unichord
- iv. Send data to Stephen by this Sunday at 11:59 p.m..

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Safety – facilitate sign display

- i. Need to give wording and design to ET
- ii. Stephen Day makes a motion to have the ET get a Concealed Carry sign. Seconded by Debbie Caruso. Motion passed.

b. Appointment of Small Groups Coordinator – David

c. ET Members at large (suggestions: Dotty C., Andrea B., Chris D., Kay K., Betsy T., Jen D.)

- i. Looking for one ET representative at large
- ii. Waiting for Policy Governance report
- d. Conflict Resolution Policy Review: Tabled.
- e. Communication Guidelines - Stephen
- f. Review Trustee of the Day/readers' calendar

g. Revision to Leadership Committee Chair (Kathie Wachholder, not Dan Hislip): Motion made by Debbie Caruso to appoint Kathie Wachholder as Leadership Committee Chair. Seconded by Stephen Day. Motion passed.

h. Annual Meeting date, plans, agenda prep, voting process, publicity—Elizabeth and Debbie will coordinate the planning for the annual meeting.

i. Monitoring of Strategic Plan – can this become Policy Governance once PG is reviewed and maybe a small group could do?

j. Need to check on Dan's emeritus status—has this become official at UUA? Tim will work on this.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

a. Announcement of Anne's resignation – Debbie will send it out for members.

b. 2014 -2015 Budget Fundraising Part 2 (Tim). Motion made by Debbie Caruso and seconded by Mary for the Board of Trustees to charge the Stewardship Committee and to continue fundraising for fiscal year 2014 -2015. Motion passed.

VII. BOT HUDDLE AND SHARING OF APPRECIATIVE WORDS

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m..

UPCOMING DATES:

Annual Reports from Team Leaders and Committee Chairs for Congregational Meeting are due to Mila

4/20 Unichord Deadline

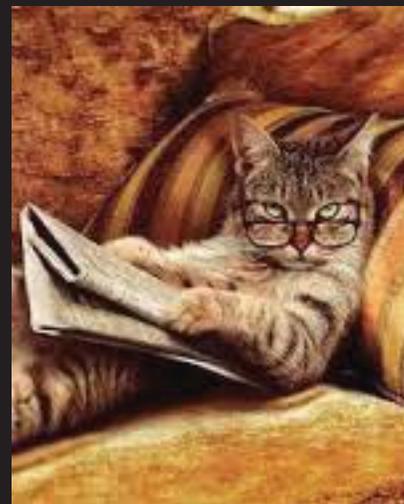
4/22 Worship Committee

5/18 Annual Church Meeting

5/21 next BoT

Faithfully submitted,  
—Tim Davis, Secretary

# MINUTES CAT SAYS



# QUIZ IS ON SUNDAY

## Ways to Get in Touch

### WEBSITE

[www.uuce.org](http://www.uuce.org)

### E-MAIL

[minister@uuce.org](mailto:minister@uuce.org)

[administrator@uuce.org](mailto:administrator@uuce.org)

[newsletter@uuce.org](mailto:newsletter@uuce.org)

### PHONE

847-888-0668

### POSTAL MAIL

P. O. Box 1032

Elgin, IL 60121

### PHYSICAL LOCATION

39W830 Highland Avenue

*three miles west of*

*Randall Rd.*

# Summertime,

# Summertime,

# Sum-Sum-

# Summertime!

This summer, UUCE will offer worship services EVERY SUNDAY! Services will begin at 9:45. Get ready for more UUCE to love!



**The Unitarian Universalist**

**Church of Elgin**

P. O. Box 1032 • Elgin, IL 60121

