



# From the Minister

Terry Sweetser, a Unitarian Minister and consultant, tells this story in a video entitled “Funding the Dream”.

Terry was once the minister at a UU church in Charlottesville, Virginia. Not too far down the road from his modest UU church was a very large Baptist church where Jerry Falwell was senior minister. Sweetser was curious about the goings on at Falwell’s church and so one Sunday he attended a service.

That morning Falwell delivered what Sweetser thought was an outrageous sermon based on all sorts of factual misrepresentations, and Biblical misinterpretations. Sweetser was incensed and so after the service he asked to speak with Falwell. He planned to challenge him and take him to task for many of the things he said in his sermon.

Well, as it turned out Falwell was headed out of town and couldn’t meet with him, but another minister on the staff invited Sweetser into his office for conversation. They sat down and Sweetser immediately and energetically went on and on about all that was bad with the sermon, the dangers of that conservative theology, and all the things he thought were wrong about Falwell’s approach.

The other minister let Sweetser vent for about 15 minutes, and then stopped him. He stopped him and said, “You are not really upset about what Jerry Falwell said today. You are upset because you are scared. You are scared because we took a church of 23 members and grew it to 15,000. You are scared because this church raises more money in one month than your entire denomination raises in a year. You are scared because this church does more social justice work in one week than your church does in a year. You are scared because we know how to make our dreams come true—and you don’t.”

And Sweetser had nothing to say. Sweetser knew he was right. This changed Terry Sweetser’s life, for he realized for a church to be relevant it had to be able to make its dreams come true.

That is our task—to make our dreams come true. We have to dream of a world that arises out of our principles, and then we have to make those dreams come true. There is a lot that goes into that, but a big part of making that happen is having the financial resources to do what we say is important. In churches that make their dreams come true the members and friends, through their generous financial support, empower their religious community. We need to be such a community.

Our new Strategic Plan outlines some of our dreams—your generous support in the March Canvass will go a long way toward helping us become the community we say we want to be.



Rev. Dan Brosier

## OUTREACH

Hi! My name is Kathy Hislip. I’m going to share with you things I’ve learned about Outreach Coordinating, which, by the way, goes by many names—public relations, advertising, marketing, attracting and recruiting new members, and communications to name a few.

1. The most important aspect of Outreach Coordinating is to have a product or service that deserves to be advertised. The American Heritage College dictionary defines advertising as “to make public announcement of, especially to proclaim the qualities or advantages of (a product or business) so as to increase sales.” I’ve translated that into meaning that we, the members and friends of this congregation, are the product and/or business and in my estimation we are worthy of proclamation. The increases in sales portion of the definition translates into bringing people in, so they can take advantage of what we have to offer.
2. You can’t do everything suggested—that you have to pick and choose (and hopefully choose wisely) ways to get your name out into the larger community.
3. According to THE research, radio is one of the top means of letting people know who we are, what we are about and where they can find us. If you haven’t filled out the web site survey to let us know which radio stations you listen to, please do. That info will help us decide where our listening public tunes in. I also discovered that NPR is expensive, but they will work with you.
4. The local papers are very good about printing our news items each week. Look for us in the Daily Herald/Fox Valley, Sun Courier, and the Northwest Herald.
5. The Elgin Chamber of Commerce has a web site calendar and will list any special event that is open to the public, such as our End-of-Life Decisions workshop.
6. Some people still look in the Yellow Pages for church names and locations. We will have a small, boxed listing in the new Elgin Yellow Pages this month.
7. Our web site is another means of letting people know what goes on here and how to find us. Thank you to the web site originators and upkeepers.
8. Direct mailings should be sent out at specific times of the year and that a lot of people are transferring real estate in this area. We have done two very large direct mailings so far, and I am getting familiar with local zip codes.
9. The very top means of letting others know of our open doors and hearts is through personal invitations to come and visit with us. That’s right! One-on-one, face-to-face contact is the number one way people hear about us and decide to give us a try.
10. Once someone crosses our threshold, it is up to all of us to reach out and make ourselves known. We have so much to offer—challenging sermons, music to lift our spirits, inviting space (both indoors and outdoors), interesting programs, religious education for all ages, social activities, means to make a difference in our world through our social action groups, but the most important offering we have is our caring community and the connections we make with one another.

I’m learning more all the time. If you ever have any suggestions and/or questions, please feel free to hunt me down at coffee hour or correspond by e-mail or use my mailbox at the church. I’m keeping a master list of ideas, and I’m always looking for additions to my think tank.

Thank you for allowing me to share what I’ve learned so far, Kathy

# UUCE Calendar February

# 2004



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9:00a Unichords	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 11:30a Care Team	<b>4</b> 6:45p Barn Bells2 7:00p P.R. 7:00p Comm. On the Ministry 7:15p Barn Bells	<b>5</b> 7:00p Covenant Group	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 6:00p Service Auction
<b>8</b> 9:00a Unichords 9:00a RE Council 9:00a Alt. Cavasser Bkfst 12:15p Cavass Comm. 12:30p Intentional Living	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 6:45p Barn Bells2 7:15p Barn Bells	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 12:00p Wedding
<b>15</b> 9:00a Unichords 9:00a Social Justice 12:15p Secret Friends 12:30p Prairie Fest Planning Newsletter Deadline	<b>16</b> 7:00p Finance Com. -FH	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 6:45p Barn Bells2 7:00p Board of Trustees 7:15p Barn Bells	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:00a Unichords 12:30p Green Sanctuary	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 6:45p Barn Bells2 7:00p Membership 7:00p Intentional Living 7:15p Barn Bells	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 7:00p Book Group. -O	<b>28</b> 9:00a Quilters
<b>29</b> 9:00a Unichords -203 12:30p Garden Party						

FH - Fellowship Hall

S - Sanctuary

O - Off Property

L - Library

## Month of Sundays

### February

#### 1 **The Tension Within Our Principles: Acceptance and Resistance**

Our Unitarian Universalist principles encourage us to affirm and promote acceptance of one another, and work for greater justice. On occasions when we see beliefs and practices that appear to create injustice the idea of acceptance doesn't feel right. Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

#### 8 **What Makes God Laugh?**

Unitarian Universalists are planners. Life is made up of many unplanned things. Sometimes that is the true test of our spiritual resources. Sermon by Rev. Kate Rohde.

#### 15 **Celebrating Love**

A look at love and its power to transform moments and lives. A look beyond the romance to the real. As Margaret Anderson wrote: "In real love you want the other person's good. In romantic love you want the other person." Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

#### 22 **The Ultimate Canvas**

Many people would agree with the tenets of process theology, but few of us know what it is. Come find out. Service led by Susan Stafford.

#### 29 **Canvass Sunday**

This service is a celebration of who we are, what we can be, and how we can get there—with a twist or two of lime. Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

SERVICES BEGIN AT 10:45AM  
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU

### LEAP INTO OUR FUTURE!!!

We are asking you to leap at the opportunity to join forces with all of the other members and friends of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin in supporting our church, our ministry and our community during our 2004 Annual Canvass: Leap Into Our Future!

While the Sunday morning services and Religious Education programs at UUCE continue to be the cornerstone of our church ministry, there are a lot of new initiatives and activities in place, with more on the way!

In the last year we have seen new programs and activities take shape in our church because individuals in our community saw a need and took action to make a difference. We have a new Adult Sunday School class that meets each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. The Green Sanctuary Committee has developed an outreach program extending fundamentals of the Seventh Principle to other churches and to our world community. The Outreach Coordinator position was funded to let others know about our church and activities. Additional Covenant Groups were formed to meet the needs of our growing congregation. Our Care Team created neighborhoods within our church community so that we could better support each other.

And our future is exciting! A vision statement and a long-range plan were approved by our congregation to provide a blueprint for worship, to promote social action, and to address issues related to growth. Coordinators for a Children's Program will be offering programs and activities for the youngest among us. Plans for launching a Youth Group are in the works. More small group ministries such as covenant groups and adult spirituality programs are planned. A Prairie Festival is in the planning stages to reach out to the larger community.

On Leap Day, we are asking you to take a leap of faith—join us as we kick off the 2004 Annual Canvass, Leap Into Our Future, with a Leap Day Lunch following the Sunday morning service.

So, no walking, wandering, sauntering, skipping or just ordinary jumping allowed this year! Leap Into Our Future with your generous pledge of support for the Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin!

Leap now and mark your calendar: Sunday, February 29, 2004.  
- The Canvass Committee

### GROWTH AND SUPPORT INITIATIVE

The Growth and Support Initiative, or GISC, is a task force that is looking into how our Central Midwest District is growing, and what characteristics such churches have that enable them to grow. As part of this task force, I try to look at this issue through the lens of religious education. We will be holding a workshop at the District Assembly in April, as well as giving feedback on the data we have collected and analyzed.

Here are some facts about the growth of our denomination:

- The Central Midwest District is the fourth fastest growing district in the UUA
- 16 of the UUA's 1000 congregations accounted for 24% of the UUA's total numerical growth over the last 10 years
- Of these top 16, the Central Midwest District had four of those congregations—all of them had grown by more than 200 members
- The 200 fastest growing congregations grew by 6.5% per year. If all of them did, we would nearly double our size in 10 years to 281,000 members

It seems that many of our congregations are growing whether they planned for it or not. My hope is that by participating on this task force, I can share some of the knowledge here at UUCE.

Kathy Underwood, DRE

## Announcements

### NEW MEMBERS

Since our last Unichord, Karen Olesch-Williams has signed the membership book. We joyfully welcome her into our community.

### CIRCLE OF LIFE

We are saddened by the news of the deaths of Louette Rogers' dad, Louis, on New Year's Day and Ron Williams' partner of 10 years, Randy, who died on January 22.

### BOOK GROUP

You are warmly invited to join the members of the Book Group at any of their upcoming meetings, which begin at 7:00 pm.

January 30 - "Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books"

by Azar Nafisi. At the home of Shirley Wolin.

February 27 - "Dying Well" by Ira Byock

At the home of Dotty Carringi.

March 26 - "The Piano Tuner" by Daniel Mason.

At the home of Denise Benson.

April 23 - "The Da Vinci Code" by Dan Brown.

Place TBA.

May 21 - "Kite Runner" by Khaled Hosseini.

At the home of Barbara Sugden.

### UU STUFF SWAP

February is the month to tidy up your entertainment center and recycle your surplus audio visual materials. Bring in your gently used CDs, videos, audio tapes, DVDs and even those LP records on any Sunday in February and place them on the Stuff Swap table in Fellowship Hall. Then pick up some new-to-you items to liven up those cold winter evenings. The Stuff Swap is sponsored by the Intentional Living Covenant Group.

### NAMETAGS AT UUCE

Did you know that anyone who attends church regularly or periodically at UUCE can have a permanent nametag? To receive your nametag, sign up on the clipboard hung beside the nametag rack near the church entrance. New permanent nametags are made regularly and placed in the basket directly below the clipboard. Your new nametag can be hung on an empty hook on the nametag rack between services. There is a second basket in this area which holds nametags that are only used once or twice a year. - The Membership and Hospitality Committee

### STRATEGIC PLAN POSTED

The Strategic Planning Team met in January and made modifications to the 2004-2007 Strategic Plan based upon feedback we received from the congregation at the congregational meeting in December. The modified plan is now posted on the kiosk at church for your review. Individuals, committee chairs and task force leaders who will be implementing the plan will also receive a separate copy of the plan. Thanks for your participation in the planning process, for your feedback, and for approving the plan so the work can begin. Please join us on February 1 after church for a Strategic Plan Kick-off celebration.

- The Strategic Planning Team

### Kudos to:

**Alice Macy** and **Kathy Hislip** for above-and-beyond Care Team service; **Eric Prebys** for being Mr. Wizard and bringing fireworks for the New Year's party; **Dan and Kathy Hislip** for purchasing the Christmas tree; **the anonymous donor** for childcare; **Carl Deitrick** for stepping in as interim treasurer.



### WISH LIST

Airfare for a high school student to attend a conference addressing race relations in UU churches in New York in the month of March.

### DRUMMING CIRCLE

Come celebrate the halfway point of winter and banish any February blues! We will gather for enthusiastic rhythm-making on Friday, February 20 from 7:30-9:00. No experience necessary, just an interest in experiencing the beat. Please bring drums and percussion instruments to play and share. Questions? Call Lydia Larrabee.

### UPCOMING QUILTING DATES

The quilting group will meet at the church on the following dates: February 28, March 13, and May 10. We meet from 9:00 to 3:00. We welcome new members and sewing experience is not necessary. Bring a lunch or money for carry out. For more information call Denise Benson.

### DON'T SHORT THE PANTRY

During this "short" month, don't short the Pantry. Bring in your contributions of non-perishable food items or toiletries for the All Peoples Inter-Faith Pantry on our Pantry Sunday, February 1, or any time during the month. The Pantry always needs peanut butter, juice and "boxed meals", such as Hamburger and Tuna Helper.

### SECRET FRIENDS REVEALED!

All children and youth are invited to come meet their secret friend after the service on February 15. Your secret friend will have a gift bag for you to enjoy. If your child has not had any contact by their secret friend before February 8, please call Mila Brinker. Secret Friends is sponsored by the RE Council.

### "SPIRITUAL LISTENING" COVENANT GROUP

If you are interested in exploring and gaining insight into your own spirituality through meditation, reflection and discussion, you may be interested in joining our new covenant group. We meet on the first Thursday of the month, 7:00-9:00pm. We are looking for committed participation through June. If you are interested in joining us, or would like more information, please come to our next meeting on February 5 at 7:00 in the sanctuary. You may also contact Leslie Sawyer or Cameron Kirk.

# Religious Education

As the spring semester for religious education rapidly approaches, I find myself a bit panicked. I go through this at least twice a year, and yet I'm amazed that I haven't found a better way to anticipate it. It's the time of the year called "teacher recruitment".

Kathy Underwood, DRE

The Religious Education Council and I try to put our creativity hats on to discover new ways to attract adults to work with our children and youth. Sometimes we're more creative than others but in the end, the results are always the same—we find caring adults to help us out.

But I often find myself worrying about it. Why is it so hard to get people to commit to this important function of our church community? Do we make it difficult for them? Or do we not explain what it is clearly enough and frequently enough? On days where I'm especially insecure, I ask, "What am I doing wrong?"

So here are a few of the nuts and bolts of what it means to be a religious education teacher:

- Teachers work in pairs, so they can attend the adult services twice per month
- The preschool and K-2nd classes have assistants to help the teacher
- A curricula with lesson plans is given to each teacher
- Most supplies are purchased for the teacher ahead of time
- Teachers attend a training workshop in order to feel more comfortable in their role
- Each teacher teaches about nine Sundays during the semester
- Some of you may be thinking that you don't have what it takes to be a teacher. Some of the qualities we look for are:
  - People who enjoy learning themselves, because we all learn something in RE!
  - Respectful of children and youth
  - Can be flexible, but firm — "al dente", if you will!
  - Like to have fun
  - Reliable — be prepared, and be there!

If this sounds like something you can commit to, then please let me know. If there's a way I can take the mystery out of it, let me know that too!

Beginning later this church year, we will be implementing our Sexual Abuse Prevention Policy. As part of this new policy, any adults working with children or youth will need to fill out a volunteer application, and may also be interviewed and asked to consent to a background check. While the details are still being worked out, it is obvious that both the RE Council and I will have to be even more intentional in our teacher recruitment. We will also need to begin the process earlier since it will require more time. When all of the pieces of implementing the new policy are in place, we will let you know. I ask that you try to be patient with us during this transition. I also ask that you consider giving of yourself to a group of our curious and caring children and youth. It truly does take a village to raise a child.

Kathy Underwood, Director of Religious Education



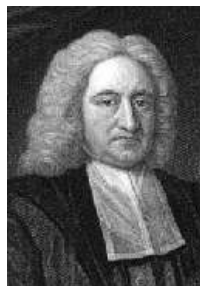
(L to R) Kathy Hislip introduced our new childcare team: Sharon Rosenberger and Debbie Vernon to the congregation on January 25.

## **CHILDCARE IS HERE!**

On January 25, our childcare team was introduced to the congregation. They are Debbie Vernon and Sharon Rosenberger, or as the children will come to know them, Ms. Debbie and Ms. Sharon! They will be here every Sunday morning from 9 am-1pm, planning and supervising age-appropriate activities for our youngest members. The childcare will be located in the former nursery and preschool rooms on the first floor. Children from the age of nine and younger may participate during the Adult Sunday School (9-10:30 am), and children five and younger may participate from 10:30 am-12:45 pm. This is a FREE service to all friends and members of UUCE. If you have any comments or concerns, please feel free to talk to Debbie or Sharon, or a member of the Childcare Task Force—Kathy Hislip, Katherine Brosier, or Kathy Underwood.

## **YOUTH GROUP LAUNCHED!**

With start-up funding from the Board of Trustees, Bob Bedard has eagerly stepped forward to get a high school youth group going. The goal is to provide a safe and supportive environment while exploring service opportunities within our community that are educational and/or foster connections between our youth and the larger community. Each month, the group will have a fun outing and a service project. Fundraisers during the year will help make this program self-supporting. Look for dates and activities soon.



## ***Who Am I?***

This famous UU astronomer was harassed for doubting the scientific correctness of the biblical story of creation. Using his theory of cometary orbits he calculated that the comet of 1682 (now named for him) was periodic and was the same object as the comet of 1531, and 1607.

(Answer will appear in the next Unichord)  
January's **Who Am I** was Linus C. Pauling.

# Kim's Korner

By the time this news reaches you, the Strategic Plan will be finalized with the changes made by the Strategic Planning Team. I want to offer my deep gratitude to all who served on this team and gave many hours in the past year to create a plan that offers us many challenges and opportunities for growth in the next three years. Those team members are: Mitch Kremer (chair), Kim Cecil, Tim Davis, Suzanne Hanifl, Kathy Hislip, Alice Macy, Linda Porter, Andrea Schmidlin, and Kevin Webster.



Kim Cecil  
Board President

The Board of Trustees' major component of the Strategic Plan is to develop and implement a church governance structure that can accommodate the growth that we are planning. Policy governance is the type of structure that the Board believes is best suited to our organization. As we research policy governance, we have found a few little tidbits that help us make sense of the change before us:

- The Board concentrates on governance—defining policies and delegating responsibility and painting the target toward which the staff and members must shoot.
- The Management Team interprets policies and makes decisions based on the policies and directions set by the Board.
- The Board speaks with one voice through its policies, which are implemented by a Management Team. The Board best controls the Management Team by limiting, not by prescribing, and therefore gives them freedom to be creative.
- The Board acts as trustees on behalf of the larger community by knowing the community and assuring that its goals are achieved.
- Board decisions are policy decisions, not individual or personal decisions, thereby creating a focus on the future rather than the present by virtue of setting a precedent.

This is just a little taste of what may be our future. I believe it will be a future with a clearer picture of how to get things done and it will allow us to not get bogged down in individual decision making and permission for each incident. It allows us freedom to invent within the structure and limits. If you have more questions or curiosities about policy governance, visit the UUA's website about it at: [www.uua.org/interconnections/policy](http://www.uua.org/interconnections/policy).

Peace,  
Kim

## February Birthdays

1	Dotty Carrangi	17	Kathy Hamill
2	Lydia Larabee	22	Sandy James
6	Pat Segel	23	Savannah Underwood
7	Bob Jackson	24	Ayla Halberstadt
10	Anne Branstrator	24	Leslie Sawyer
13	Taylor Kremer	26	Greg Schmidlin
14	Bob Jones	26	Jack Thrasher
16	Cheren Waller	26	Emily Husseini
17	Bud Geister	27	Kelly Wall
17	Kyle Brinker	29	Carl Deitrick

## GREEN CORNER

### How UUCE Is Confronting Climate Change

Our congregation has been taking action against global warming with the 1-2-3 Program. Many members have pledged to turn down their home thermostats 1 degree during the heating season, to replace 3 regular bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs, and to reduce their highway driving speed by 2 MPH.

Total pledges to date will result in an annual average reduction of 23,000 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions. We are striving for our stated goal of 30,000 pounds.

**IF YOU HAVE NOT PLEDGED TO TAKE STEPS 1, 2, AND 3, PLEASE DO SO THIS WEEK BY SIGNING THE CLIPBOARD IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL.**

Climate change is arguably the greatest threat facing us and the planet. Temperatures are rising, precipitation patterns are changing, and storms are becoming more violent.

If climate change continues unchecked, significant impacts will occur this century, including severe droughts, widespread coastal flooding, and other catastrophic events. Scientists predict that the climate in Illinois will resemble Missouri by 2030 and Texas by 2095 (see report on Illinois in the Fellowship Hall). Our own children may be affected along with the entire planet.

**IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO TAKE ACTION TO CURB CLIMATE CHANGE.**

As citizens, we can reduce our own emissions of greenhouse gases by making a concerted effort to conserve energy and reduce air pollution. We can also encourage our government to take responsible steps toward confronting climate change.

### Letter Writing Campaign on Bad Energy Bill

A misguided energy bill is before the U.S. Senate right now, backed by the Bush Administration. The vote is expected to occur in February. This is the same energy bill which was filibustered in November. Please contact your U.S. Senators to urge them to oppose this irresponsible bill and to encourage them to develop a better energy policy.

To facilitate getting the message to Senators Durbin and Fitzgerald, a letter writing campaign is being held February 1 and 8. Stop by the table near the name tags following the service and get a sample letter to send to each senator. Background information on the bill will be available.

-the Green Sanctuary Committee

## Ways to Get in Touch

Church Office	847-888-0668
Web site	<a href="http://www.uuce.org">www.uuce.org</a>
Newsletter Submissions	<a href="mailto:newsletter@uuce.org">newsletter@uuce.org</a>

### Board President

Kim Cecil

### Newsletter Editor:

Todd Underwood

### Deadlines

Order of Service	Thursday PM
Unichord	February 15



# The Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



*Our newest members were honored on January 11. From left to right, Brandi Talaga, Karen Olesch-Williams, Sue Avot, Amy Hill, Ray Ables, Stan Forrester, Pat Pecho*



*Partygoers on New Year's Eve were treated to fascinating experiments performed by Mr. Wizard (Eric Prebys).*