



# From the Minister

## Memo

Part of the shared ministry of this church is to support each other as we face the challenges that surely come our way. In the past it was the minister who “formally” provided that support, with the members of the church community providing a lot “informally”. Such a structure is fairly effective in a smaller church, but as we have grown, that structure no longer works well enough.

And so we change. An element of that change is that we now have an additional part of the “formal” structure—we have the Care Team. In some respects they are still in the organizing stage, but it is a wonderful group of people and they are making good progress. The Care Team will help us all care for each other more effectively.

Of course, I will still be part of that pastoral ministry, and I look forward to working with the team. But I realize that I need additional help. I need help knowing who is in need of some pastoral care. Not only can I not do most of the pastoral care any more, but I also have trouble spotting the need. For this reason I ask that people let me know as directly as possible that they would like some of my time. Almost any form of communication will do—a note or a phone call or email—and I will respond.

This is important stuff. It is the core of our ministry to each other and we have to continue to figure out ways to make it work more effectively. I am committed to this, and I ask that you help the Care Team and me do just that.



Rev. Dan Brosier

*Dan*

## TENDING OUR COMMUNITY

Last month I described the importance of small groups to a mid-sized program church. These small groups provide opportunities for individuals to connect with others in a more intimate setting, as well as offering unique sharing around spirituality, service or topics of common interest. We are in the process of forming two groups which will work to support gatherings, both large and small, at our church.

The first group is a Child Care and Experience Task Force. Led by Katherine Brosier, the task force will study ways that we can enhance the child care we provide to families and the experience that children have outside of RE classrooms. It will meet 2-3 times this summer in order to make recommendations to the Board before Fall. If you are interested in participating in this task force let Katherine know.

The second group, Family Activities and Ministry Team, will be a small group or team that meets one or two times a year. It will focus on the needs of families of all sizes for intergenerational programming and support. If you have an interest in this group please let me know.

Next year will be an exciting one at UUCE. I hope you will take advantage of the many opportunities we are planning for you to get involved in our church. Have a great summer!

Linda Porter  
Community Development and Growth Coordinator

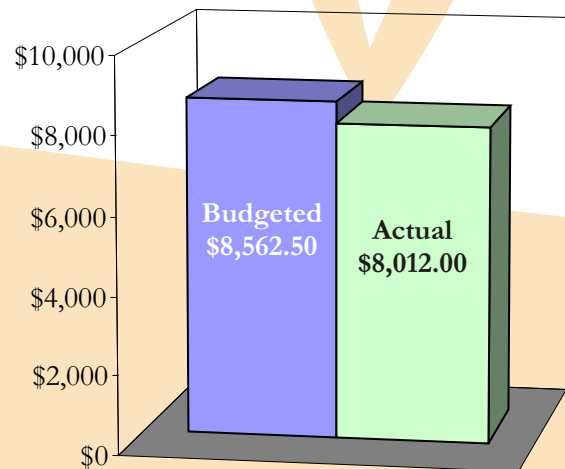
### UUCE SPRING FLING IS MAY 31

Don't miss it! We have a terrific lineup of acts for the Spring Fling Talent Show on Saturday, May 31, and it all begins at 7:30 in the Sanctuary. Child care will be provided.



Pat Segel, Sam Franzmann & David Von Kleinow were officially welcomed as new members on May 4

### Member Pledges—Year to Date: April, 2003



The 2003-2004 budget, which began April 1, calls for a total of \$102,750 in pledges, 1/12 of which = \$8562.50. Questions? Contact your friendly local treasurer, Donna Askins, at [treasurer@uuce.org](mailto:treasurer@uuce.org).

# UUCE Calendar

## June

### 2003



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9:00a RE Council 9:30a Worship Com.	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 11:30a Care Team	<b>4</b> 7:00p Com. on the Ministry 7:00p P.R. Com.	<b>5</b> 7:00p Buddhist Meditation Group -S	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:45a All Church Picnic -Hanifls'	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 7:00p Buddhist Meditation Group -S	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	<b>16</b> 7:00p Finance Com. -FH	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 7:00p Board of Trustees Meeting -FH	<b>19</b> 7:00p Buddhist Meditation Group -S	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:45a Summer Service	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 5:00p Newcomers BBQ 7:00p Membership Com.	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 7:00p Buddhist Meditation Group -S	<b>27</b> 5:00p Wedding Rehearsal 7:00p Book Group -O	<b>28</b> 12:00p Dalton Wedding
<b>29</b> 12:00p Jessica B. Wedding	<b>30</b>					

RUMMAGE SALE

## Month of Sundays

### June

#### 1 Commencement

This is the season of graduations and commencement services. Our graduating high school seniors have been invited to share a few “commencement” thoughts about life, meaning and what they feel is important. The Rev. Dan Brosier will lead the service. The service begins at 10:45 am.

#### 8 Flower Communion and All Church Picnic

We will hold our annual flower communion service and all church picnic at the Hanifls'. The day begins with a short service during which we celebrate our community through a flower communion. All those attending the service are asked to bring a live plant/flower to place in communion. At the end of the service each member / family is encouraged to take a plant home to enjoy and nurture. Following the service we will have a picnic, games, swimming, fishing and general fun. The Hanifls' have again generously offered to supply the “meat” portion of the picnic. Everyone else is asked to bring either a salad, a dessert or vegetable dish to share—and a beverage. Also bring the gear you need to play: swimsuits, fishing poles, softball equipment, etc.—and lawn chairs to sit on. See the map at right for directions to the Hanifls'. The service begins at 10:45 am.

#### 22 Am I Blue

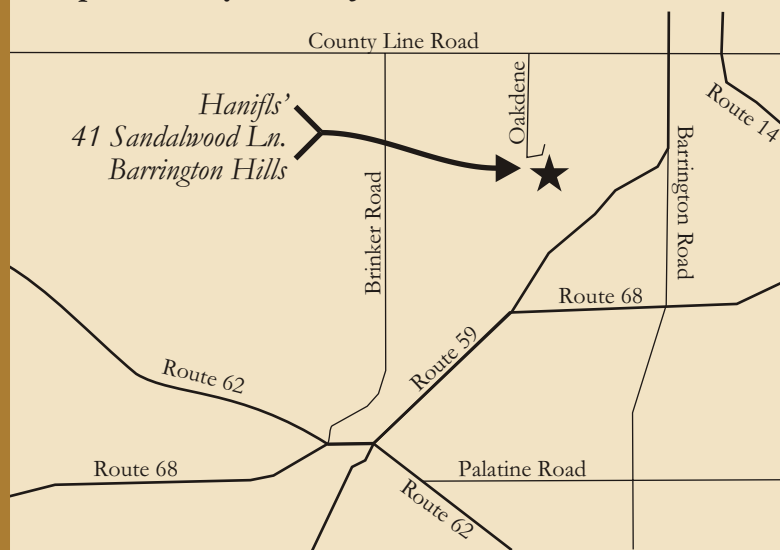
In honor of the upcoming Gay Pride Day (June 29), the focus of this service is a story about a young man and his fairy godfather. This service begins at 9:45 am and will be led by Susan Stafford.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU

## SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE NEWS

Last meeting of the 2002-2003 year will be Sunday, June 1 (sort of a rain-delayed meeting, due to commitments). Also this meeting will be Kevin Webster's last meeting as chairman of our committee. Kevin has done much and many things to advance the goals of S.J. since September of 2001. Special kudos for creation of the Social Justice Web Page, which is already being utilized. Andrea Schmidlin has consented to be chairman for the next year, and, as always we urge more membership. Activities for the summer will include tie-dyeing T-shirts with the girls at Creekside home—sometime in June. *Helen Maxwell.*

### Map to Sunday Service June 8 at the Hanifls'



### Covenant Groups at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin

Covenant groups are groups of people endeavoring to experience meaningful connection through a common structure. The elements of that structure include:

- a commitment to regular participation—at least once a month
- a covenant that members of the group create with each other
- an openness to newcomers and a commitment to split when the group grows to 10 - 12 members
- that each group has a leader and a co-leader who facilitate the process.
- that each group performs periodic service to the church and wider community
- that the elements of a meeting include: an opening reading and/or ritual, a review of the group's covenant, check-in, the content of the meeting, a check-out and closing.

The church currently has two covenant groups—one that meets every other Tuesday evening and the other meeting on Thursday evenings once a month.

If you are interested in learning more about one of the covenant groups contact one of the group leaders below.

#### Tuesday Evening Covenant Group Contacts:

Alice Macy

Helen Maxwell

#### Thursday Evening Covenant Group:

Mary Alice Masonick

## Announcements

### SUMMER SERVICES

Things slow down a bit around the church during the summer. The staff have time off, the committees meet less, and we have a reduced worship schedule. During the months of July and August we hold lay-led worship approximately every two weeks. All the summer services begin at 9:45 instead of our regular starting time of 10:45. This summer's services will occur on the following dates: June 22, July 13 and 27, August 10 and 24.

### 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.

May 30 - "The Woman in White" by Wilkie Collins

At the home of Shirley Wolin.

June 27 - "The Secret Life of Bees" by Sue Monk Kidd.

At the home of Henny DuBois.

July 25 - "The Seven Daughters of Eve" by Bryan Sykes.

At the home of Jackie VanDeWarker.

### MEDICAL EQUIPMENT LOAN PROGRAM

Whatever you may need to borrow in the way of medical equipment, chances are the Care Team can help you out.

Thanks to the prompt and generous response from members and friends of UUCE, we have available: hospital beds, wheelchairs, walkers--with or without wheels, crutches, canes, raised toilet seats, bedside commodes, benches for tub or shower, shower wand, waterproof cast cover, dressing aids, and monitors for blood pressure, pulse, or blood sugar.

To borrow equipment, contact Alice Macy, or Shirley Wolin.

### LAST CHANCE UNTIL SEPTEMBER

Sunday, June 1, is your last chance to contribute to the Food Pantry until September. Don't miss this opportunity! Collections will be suspended for the summer months. Therefore, let's make up for this by having a **HUGE** quantity of non-perishable food items and toiletries for me to lug over to the All Peoples Inter-Faith Pantry. *Henny DuBois.*

### BUDDHIST MEDITATION GROUP

The Buddhist meditation group will now meet on Thursday evenings at 7:00 P.M. in the sanctuary. The format will remain the same: twenty minutes of sitting meditation, twenty minutes of walking meditation, twenty minutes of sitting meditation followed by reading and discussion. For details, contact Diana March.

### ARE YOU A BIBLIOPHILE?

Do you hang out at the library and local bookstore? Does a bookcase filled with books that are well organized turn you on? Then you're what the UUCE Library needs! We'd like to shape up our library over the summer to get ready for next fall. Contact Kathy Underwood if you'd like to help.

### WISH LIST

Large Brita Water Filter Container for Refrigerator

### Kudos to:

Eric Prebys for repairing the pew from the old church; Welcoming Team Members Kathy Hislip, Edythe Nagler, Jim Porter, Linda Porter, Debbie Prebys, Dennis and Bonnie Schwank, Kevin Webster, Shirley Wolin; Jackie Van De Warker for work on mail merge for Canvass Committee; Janeen Vanko for volunteering for new responsibilities on Landscape and Grounds; Norm Wilkinson and Jim Porter for clearing the fence row; Donna Askins, Dennis Schwank, Carl Deitrick. and Betsi Waldron for performing an audit of our accounting procedures and policies; Painters of the Fellowship Hall: Mike Moutrie, Dotty Carringi, Bob Jackson, Joe Masonick, Phil Webster, Tim Davis, Doug Pratt, Todd, Kathy, Savannah & Delaney Underwood, Andy Carey, Carl Deitrick; Outgoing Committee Chairs: Tim Davis (COM), Donna Askins (Aesthetics), Dan Brosier (Worship), Kevin Webster (Soc Just); Eddy Lund for contribution of microwave/convection oven for kitchen; Labyrinth Mulchers: Tim Davis, Mary Alice and Paul Masonick, & Dan Brosier. The May 24 Landscape Work Party helpers: Norm Wilinon, Pat and Dave Segel, Mary Alice and Joe Masonick, Jim and Linda Porter, Kathy and Todd Underwood.



### KEEP THOSE PLEDGES COMING

In the summertime, church members have a tendency to decrease their pledge payments. However, our bills roll in twelve months of the year. Please help keep us solvent by paying your pledge as steadily as you can. Any questions contact your friendly local treasurer, Donna Askins. Thanks!



### HYMNAL DONATIONS REQUESTED

If you would like to donate a hymnal for the church to help replace and add to our collection, please contact Linda Porter. The cost of each hymnal is \$28.00. Your name plus a message of your choice will be printed in the front of the hymnal you donate. You may also sign up to donate a hymnal on a clipboard in the Fellowship Hall. The hymnals will be ordered in August, 2003.

### GARDEN CARETAKERS NEEDED

The Landscape and Grounds Committee is looking for a few good people to assist in caring for the church gardens this summer. Assistants may either select a small portion of the grounds they would like to oversee (weed, water and monitor plants), or help at church work parties as needed. Please contact Linda Porter or Kathy Underwood if you are interested in volunteering as a garden caretaker or sign up on the clipboard in the Fellowship Hall.

# Religious Education

Another church year has ended, and summer is right around the corner! I'd like to take this opportunity to thank this year's teachers Jim Hermann, Mary Shelden, Chris Davis, Mila Brinker, Sam Franzmann, Noreen Halberstadt, Mitch Kremer, Doug Pratt and Elise Wall taught both semesters. Katherine Brosier, Laurie Kiesewetter, Betsy Thrasher, Cheren Waller, Kevin Webster, Ann Kremer, Todd Underwood, Andrea Schmidlin and Diana Skipworth taught one semester. Linda Porter, Janeen Vanko, Debbie Prebys, Bridget Lucas, Charles Landauer, Karen Nunn, Melanie Davis, Dotty Carringi, Leslie Sawyer and Laurie Kiesewetter were assistants. And thanks to the parents who helped all year in the nursery!



Kathy Underwood, DRE

During the summer months, Sunday services are a little more laid back, as well as the RE program. While ideas for the five summer services are still being finalized, there are still opportunities to get involved. I am especially in need of an adult to work with the kids on June 22 and August 24. Everything will be set up and ready to go—the adult just needs to run the day's activity with the 6-8 kids who are there. If you can help in this way, please let me know. And remember, summer services start an hour earlier—at 9:45!

On August 10, we will be having a "daydreaming hour" in conjunction with the service. Linda Porter and I will be working with the children and youth to get their input on what their dream for our program is, a little like the adults did in the visioning session last March. We want to invite all the kids to attend and be heard. The service that morning will be our annual Art of the Soul, so parents will be entertained as well!

During the summer, the Religious Education Council and I will be deciding how to best restructure our classes so that the children and youth will feel comfortable, and the teachers able to work better. Since most of the possible scenarios involve adding 1-2 more classes, we will need more volunteers to help out. With the gradual implementation of the Sexual Abuse Prevention Policy, we will need even more assistance. While this is an important and much needed policy, I am concerned about recruiting enough adults to fulfill its requirements. It seems like we are stretching our limits. It is also exciting to finally be realizing the "problems" around growth—in numbers, that is. For many years it has been talked about, and now we're actually seeing it happen! With more members, children, and youth, the possibilities will be endless!

So please bear in mind that we are feeling our way in the coming year. We will be asking for your thoughts and patience, and yes, your support and time as well.

Kathy Underwood  
Director of Religious Education

## "ELGIN'S BIGGEST SALE" JUNE 13-15

This year's rummage sale will be held Thursday, June 12, through Saturday, June 14, with set-up taking place during the three days prior to the sale. Please mark the dates on your calendar.

Donations can be brought to the church now, as long as they are clearly marked "for rummage sale" and placed on the third floor. We ask that you check your items to make sure they are in saleable condition before you bring them to the church. We will take all contributions; however, we ask that you limit clothing to items which are in excellent condition. Some of the more popular items include furniture, housewares, tools, sporting goods and working electronics. This year, Helen Maxwell will be organizing the "UUniques Boutique", which will include better-quality items and interesting finds. Please look around your house for things which might be included in the Boutique.

In order to make the sale as successful as possible, we will be looking for volunteers to help with sorting, pricing and placing signs prior to the sale, as well as people to work during and after the sale. Please be thinking about how you can help and watch for the sign-up sheet at church, or contact me directly to volunteer. *Andrea Schmidlin.*



*Kim Cecil thanked outgoing Board members during the Annual Congregational Meeting on May 4*



## Who Am I?

This famous Unitarian innovator was born in Milton, Massachusetts, in 1895. Marshall McLuhan called him "the 20th century Leonardo da Vinci."

*(answer will appear in the next Unichord)  
May's Who Am I was Christopher Reeve.*

# Kim's Korner

May was our time to turn over our leadership by electing new members of the Board of Trustees and changing terms and chairpersons on committees. So this is my first newsletter column of the "new year." The end of the church year is upon us and I'm always interested that beginnings and endings are so closely linked. Our accomplishments this past year have been nearly overwhelming:



Kim Cecil  
Board President

- The Board created a Strategic Planning Team to work on a plan to be unveiled in the Fall
- Paul and Suzanne Hanifl generously funded an additional Outreach and Growth position that makes it possible for us to draw in more people who can enjoy our beloved community, and Linda Porter's work continues to help people get connected once they arrive.
- The Committee on the Ministry created a new Care Team to enhance nurture to members and help organize our efforts to care for one another.
- The Finance Committee both moved our books to a computerized accounting program (QuickBooks) and also ran a successful campaign to retire our 'mortgage' loan
- The RE Council and Kathy Underwood accommodated unprecedented growth in their programs
- Meditation Garden, stained glass, history corner, new kitchen, OWL, covenant groups.. I don't have enough space to write them all.

Wow, we've done a lot of work to make our church home more inviting and effective.

The next year brings a great deal of excitement as well. Our new Board is energetic and enthusiastic about bringing these things to us. Before the summer is out we will have an additional staff member, and by the end of the year a Strategic Plan. At the Annual Meeting, we discussed the following Vision Statement that was proposed by the Strategic Planning Team. We have a few changes to make based on some feedback, but the overall response was positive. Please send your comments to me or Mitch Kremer if you wish:

## **Vision Statement of the Members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin (proposed)**

*We envision a community that is safe and accepting; welcomes diversity in membership, spirituality and ideology; encourages lifetime learning and spiritual growth; and fosters conscious openness, seeking commonalities while respecting differences.*

*We envision a community with adequate resources, human and fiscal, to support an organizational structure that enhances participation, and promotes open communication, shared responsibility and good stewardship of our resources, both natural and material.*

*We envision a community that promotes connection and renewal and nurtures our members and friends, so that we may live according to our values, make meaningful contributions and expand our positive impact on the world.*

Peace,  
Kim

## **GREEN CORNER**

Tired of all the junk filling up your mailbox? All that paper make you cringe? If so, try these tips from the Illinois Student Environmental Network. You'll be glad you did every day when you get your mail.

1. Take your name off the list for bulk mail. Send your postmaster a "contrary order", written as follows:  
Dear Postmaster, This letter is to be considered a "contrary order" under Section D042, 1.1 of the current Domestic Mail Manual. We/I do not wish to receive any bulk mail or mail addressed to "resident", "occupant", "our friends at", "our neighbors" or other impersonal salutation. This contrary order is not to expire for the length of our residence at this address. Please implement this order as soon as possible. Thank you, Your name, Your address
2. Take your name off lists sold to mail order sales companies. Contact the Mail Preference Service and ask that your name be removed from their lists. You will have to give them any name used by catalog companies, e.g, Jane Jones, Mrs. D. Jones, Ms. J. Jones, including any misspellings, and your address. Contact them at: DMA Preference Service, Box 9008, Farmingdale, NY 11735, 212-768-7277, [www.dmaconsumerhelp.org](http://www.dmaconsumerhelp.org).
3. To stop receiving junk mail from credit card companies, call 888-567-8688.
4. To remove your name from lists compiled by warranty cards, contact ND.L. List Order Services, 1621 18th St. Suite 300, Denver, CO 80202.
5. To remove your name from sweepstakes mailers:  
Publishers' Clearinghouse: 800-645-9242; Reader's Digest: 800-234-9000; American Family Publishers: 800-237-2400  
*Taken from ISEN ActionNews 12/4/02*

## 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	June 15

## *June Birthdays*

6	Roger Baldwin	13	Andrew Pratt
7	Kevin Skipworth	14	Todd Underwood
9	Colleen Connelly	14	Mitch Kremer
10	Mollie Kiesewetter	15	Lisa Kerpoe
10	Andy McFarlin	16	Laura Masonick
12	Tod Waldron	18	Elizabeth Webster
13	Gordon James	25	Hannah Waldron



# The Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin

P.O. Box 1032

Elgin, IL 60121 (847) 888-0668

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



## SUMMER SOLSTICE

**A festival of the Sun!**

When: Saturday, June 21, noon 'til 9:00pm

Where: Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin

Gate opens at 12:00 noon, opening circle at 2:00. There will be workshops, dancing, storytelling, kids' activities, vendors, and more!

Closing circle and Faerie hunt at 8:00 pm

Please bring: A wrapped gift for our give-away blanket (separate blanket for children), your drums and rattles, chairs and blankets, sun screen and/or umbrella, a picnic for the 5:00 feast (no food will be provided, but a bonfire will be available for toasting wieners and marshmallows) and be sure to bring **YOUR PAGAN SPIRIT**.

\$5 donation requested. No charge for vending booths. Blanket vendors welcome. **BUT YOU MUST REGISTER!** For information call 630-513-1636.

### *Ways to Get Involved:*

- *Come to the All-Church Picnic at the Hanifls'!*
- *Become a Landscape caretaker (Contact Linda Porter)*
- *Attend the Talent Show May 31.*



*Members of the UUCE attended the ordination ceremony for our former intern minister Jacquie Meli (third from right) at the North Shore Unitarian Church in Deerfield, IL on May 25.*