

From the Minister



Rev. Dan Brosier

The following comes from Victoria Safford, minister, White Bear Unitarian Universalist Church, St. Paul, Minnesota. It is worth reading--often.

At One

Imagine this.

On the days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, every fall, every year, the people make their peace with anyone they have wronged or slighted or injured or in any way neglected in the past twelve months. The task is not to patch things up, smooth things over, reach a compromise, or sweep mistakes and uneasy memories under the rug; the task is not to feel better. The task is ownership. The goal is truth, for its own redemptive sake. "I did this. I said this to you, and it was wrong I neglected this. I botched this. I betrayed you thusly."

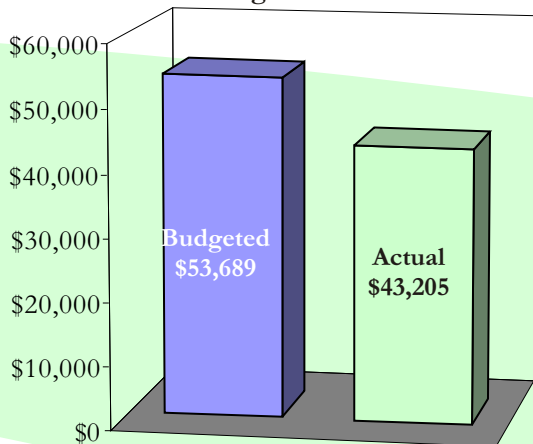
"I demeaned you, whether you ever knew it or not."

"This is the truth in which both of us are living. I ask you to forgive me."

Imagine how many deep breaths you would need to take. Imagine how many doors you'd have to knock on, how many phone calls you'd have to make, how many letters, how many lunches and coffees, how many awkward moments with your children and your parents, and with strangers (that cashier to whom you spoke so sharply). Awkward is irrelevant. The task is not about comfort, it is about truth, about wholeness and holiness. Restoration.

Imagine this.

Member Pledges—2006-2007 Fiscal Year



The 2006-2007 budget calls for \$128,750 in pledges. Five month's worth of this figure is \$53,689. Questions? Contact your Finance Coordinator, Alice Macy.

Month of Sundays

October

1 - Un/Sustainable Living

The facts are pretty clear. The questions are: what does it mean for the future, and what can and shall we do? Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

8 - Habitual Excellence

Our Prairie Cathedral has been blessed with many fruits of virtue. Together this community has accomplished amazing things! How then do we receive the personal challenge of making the extraordinary habitual? How excellent can you be today? And will you do it again tomorrow? Service led by Susan P. Anderson

15 - A History You Never Had in School

The history of Unitarian Universalism is long, rich and little known. In this service we will explore a little bit of that history. Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

22 - Dear Reverend Dan

Periodically I look over the numerous letters I imagine I receive asking my advice on profound religious questions. In this service I will share with you some of those letters and my responses. Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

29 - Our Monsters, Our Selves

Stories of monsters like Frankenstein and Dracula are human creations, and I believe say something about our humanity. On this Sunday before Halloween we explore some of the creatures that lurk in our dark. Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

Services 10:45 A.M.
Fellowship Following

UUCE Calendar



October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 am Unichords 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:45 am - Worship Service	2	3	4 6 pm - Eat & Meet 7 pm - FILM - An Inconvenient Truth 7 pm Ministry Committee 7 pm Barn Bells	5 7 pm GLBT Young Adult Group - 301 7:30 Spiritual Inquiry Covenant Group - FH	6	7
8 9:00 am Unichords 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:45 am - Worship Service	9	10	11 6 pm - Eat & Meet 7 pm - Finance Committee 7 pm Barn Bells 7:30 APPLE	12 11:30 am - Care Team 7 pm GLBT Young Adult Group - 301	13 6:30 pm Pat Pecho/rental	14 9 am Quilting Group 1 pm Rain Stick Workshop for Kids
15 9:00 am Unichords 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:45 am - Worship Service 12:30 pm Green Sanctuary 12:30 - New UU	16	17	18 6 pm - Eat & Meet 7 pm - The Lessons of Loss 7 pm Barn Bells	19 7 pm GLBT Young Adult Group - 301	20	21 8 am Leadership Retreat Tentative 8 pm - High School Lock In all church
22 9:00 am Unichords 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:45 am - Worship Service 12:30 - New UU UNICHORD NEWS	23	24	25 6 pm - Eat & Meet 7 pm - The Lessons of Loss 7 pm - Women's Spirituality Group 7 pm Barn Bells	26 7 pm GLBT Young Adult Group - 301 7 pm Board Meeting	27 7:00 pm - Book Group	28 3:00 pm Halloween Party All Ages
29 9:00 am Unichords 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:45 am - Worship Service	30	31				

News & Announcements

PEACE & JUSTICE GROUP FORMING

As Rev. Brosier said in his Unichord description of a recent Sunday Service, it is good to remind ourselves about who we are and what we are about. We are a people of faith with a covenant and a mission. We are also guided by the Unitarian Universalist Association's Principles and Purposes, which state in part, "We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all". To more fully live our faith, we now have a Peace & Justice Coalition, as a part of Social Action Programming here at UUCE.

The purpose of this program is to participate in peacemaking activities. This may include advocating for peacemaking initiatives, participating in nonviolent actions to promote peace, networking with other peace groups, including other UU peace groups, and offering forums to discuss the Unitarian Universalist Association's Study/Action Issue on Peacemaking. The first of these discussions will be held Sunday, October 29 at 9:30 am as a part of the Adult Sunday School's Forum series. We hope you will participate. Also, Mary Alice Masonick will be attending the October meeting of the Fox Valley Citizens for Peace & Justice. If you have ideas for the Peace & Justice Coalition, please contact Mary Alice or Andrea Schmidlin.

New Adult Sunday School Schedule

On the first Sunday of each month, Bob Sandidge and Anne Ward will lead a discussion of Spiral Dynamics—come and learn what it is and how it applies to your life.

Dan Hislip will facilitate the second and third Sundays. The topic will be The Bible.

On the fourth and on the occasionally fifth Sunday of each month the format for the Adult RE class will be a forum, moderated by Andrea Schmidlin. A chosen presenter will speak for 10-15 minutes on a topic previously published, followed by a moderated discussion. Please join us any Sunday at 9:30 am on the 3rd floor.

NEW! SUNDAY SCHOOL MORNING FORUM

As a part of our successful Adult Sunday School program we will be offering a monthly Forum discussion, on the fourth and the occasional fifth Sunday of each month. The format will be similar for each Forum, with a member giving a prepared presentation for 10-15 minutes, followed by a moderated discussion. Everyone present will be given the opportunity to voice his or her thoughts within a specified amount of time. All who wish to speak will have a chance to do so before anyone can speak twice.

The October Forum dates are the 22nd and the 29th. On October 22, Stan Forrester will speak on the question of "Is God on Our Side? Invoking God in Politics and War." On October 29, Andrea Schmidlin will speak on the UUA's Study/Action Issue on Peacemaking, specifically addressing the study questions, "Should we, the UUA and member congregations, adopt a specific and detailed "just war" policy to guide our witness, advocacy, and social justice efforts? Or, should we, the UUA and member congregations, reject violence in any form?"

EAT and MEET

Just a reminder that we are starting Eat & Meet on Wednesday, Oct. 4. Dinner will start at 6:00 (\$5/adult \$2.50/child \$15/family).

Green Sanctuary will host the first eat and meet and we are looking for other groups to host (it's a good fundraiser). If you are interested in hosting this or another Wednesday night Eat & Meet dinner, or if you have any questions, please contact a member of the Program Council. Andrea Schmidlin, Kathy Underwood, or Kathy Hislip.

WELCOME NEW CHILDCARE PROS!

Stop by and say hello to our new childcare professionals--Julie Smith and Debbie Schmidt. You can find them in our childcare facilities on the first floor each Sunday from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM, unless the weather is nice and then they may be outside with our children.

While I have your attention I would like to remind everyone of the format for Sunday morning childcare. Childcare is available for children ages nine and younger from 9:00 AM until 10:45 AM when the church service begins. Children in first grade and above will be signed out at that time. Those children who are in the preschool RE class may stay in the nursery until their class begins. Parents, please remember to sign your child/children in and out on the clipboard in the childcare room, especially while Julie and Debbie are getting to know us and our children. We also ask that each child wear a name tag for the next few Sundays. If your child is not registered for RE, please fill in one of our childcare forms (especially if your child has special dietary needs).

Debbie and Julie will rotate childcare duties on Eat and Meet Wednesday evenings. Childcare begins at 6:45 PM and ends at 9:15 PM. Again we ask that each child be signed in and out and wear a name tag until we all know one another just a little better. Thank you. - Kathy Hislip

New U

The New U program is a two-session workshop designed to give people new to Unitarian Universalism some basic information about the faith and this church in particular. The program is facilitated by the chair of the Membership Committee, Pat Pecho, and the minister, Dan Brosier. The next session will begin on Sunday, October 15 at 12:30 following the service. The second session will be the following Sunday at the same time. All interested in learning a bit more about UUism are encouraged to attend. A light snack will be provided. If you are interested please sign up on the designated clipboard in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like childcare please so indicate on the sign-up sheet by October 8. If you have any questions call Dan Brosier at the church.



Kathy Underwood
Director of
Religious Education

Religious Education

Things are off to a great start in religious education for the year! Our first week was spent getting reacquainted, playing games, and talking about what the year would bring. For our second week, we wrote letters and drew pictures to send to a company of soldiers stationed in Iraq. We also collected prairie seeds and dispersed them throughout the prairie.

Our Youth Retreat went well too. The group did a ropes course, went canoeing, did archery, had bonfires, and got to know each other a bit better. The Youth Ministry Team is now working with the youth on setting up activities for the next few months. The first will be going to a corn maze on October 21. Look for more info to come soon.

On October 22, all classes from preschoolers through 5th grade will be going to Goebbert's Pumpkin Farm, weather permitting. The cost is \$6 each. We will be collecting money and permission slips the first three Sundays in October. If you would like to be a chaperone, please let me know by the 15th.

In case you have not heard the announcements in the Sunday services, the Religious Education Council has been very busy working on new goals for the year. You will find more opportunities for social action as well as social activities this year, as well as multi-age events. We will also be encouraging the younger folks to be more involved in church life through participation in the worship services, and by getting involved in the pledge drive and service auction. We are helping the teachers create a more spiritual experience in the classroom as well. There will be many ways you can help support our efforts.

We will also be exploring in depth three models of religious education that have sparked our interest, and we will be sharing with you what we discover along the way. We are looking at ways to make our program more engaging. You can help by letting us know what is working for you and your family, and what isn't working for you. We will be engaging you in this dialog throughout the year. There is a sense of excitement on the Council that is invigorating! Unbelievably, this is my 10th year doing this work, and I have struggled with trying not to get into a rut, so-to-speak. So I am personally thankful for the enthusiasm of the Religious Education Council—it helps me keep energized and looking at things in new ways.

Continued >

Running in the Building

There is concern that running in the building may lead to a collision. In some cases this could result in a very serious injury and has in other churches. We ask everyone to help out with this. Please don't run. If you are a parent, please talk to your children about this. And if you see anyone running please intervene.

Here is what is happening in religious education this month:

October 1

Preschool: Welcome
K-2nd: Knowing Me, Knowing You
3rd-5th: Favorite Sport
6th-8th: Opening Sunday

October 8

Preschool: Tour of the Church
K-2nd: Our Room, Our Community
3rd-5th: Lesson For Life
6th-8th: You

October 15

Preschool: Making Clay Chalice
K-2nd: A Walk Around the Church
3rd-5th: In the Congregation
6th-8th: Cyberspace Church

October 22

Preschool-5th: Trip to Goebbert's Farm
6th-8th: Visiting a UU Church

October 29

Preschool: Memory Game
K-2nd: Halloween
3rd-5th: Dia de Los Muertos
6th-8th: Hymn #123

In Faith,
Kathy Underwood

An Inconvenient Truth on October 4 at 7 p.m.

In reviewing this film, critic Roger Ebert wrote, "In 39 years, I have never written these words in a movie review, but here they are: You owe it to yourself to see this film. If you do not, and you have grandchildren, you should explain to them why you decided not to."

APPLE and the Green Sanctuary will co-host the movie, and offer a palette of discussion and start-walkin' activities immediately afterward. Your freewill donation at the door will directly support earth-cooling activities, such as programs and workshops that stimulate car pooling and permaculture. Packets of materials will be provided, so an RSVP to Donna Askins is greatly appreciated. Child care provided.

The UUCE is proud to be among the well-over-100 Illinois congregations which will be showing the movie this October week. Thanks go to the Reverend Clare Butterfield, of Faith in Place, who included us. She estimates that we will be one of 1,500 screenings nationwide, and 70,000 or more people will attend. You are warmly invited to be in that number.

Who Am I?



In the history of ideas, this UU was a philosophy professor who taught that there are no new ideas, just new ways to combine "idea-units."

(answer will appear in the next Unichord)

September Who Am I is Frances Wayland Wood

Article

Lessons Learned

By *Elise C. Wall*

I am on a mission. This mission, as I see it, is one of cultivating better communication about bereavement, loss, and grief in our beloved UUCE community. As a church community we strive to support one another through good times and bad, successes and failures, births and deaths, happiness and sorrow. I think we do a pretty good job of it. But in the area of bereavement and loss I believe we could do better. These topics are often difficult for people to talk about. For some, they are even taboo. Our American culture frowns on discussions about death. I believe that we can change the way we as a congregation approach loss and in so doing deepen our spiritual connections with each other.

Last spring I discovered a curriculum on the UUA website called "The Lessons of Loss." With the help of the Executive Team I acquired this curriculum for the church and set up a time to teach the class. I led six participants through the workshop over a period of four weeks. Together we explored our common experiences with death and loss, our varying styles of coping with these experiences, and how our UU faith can help guide us in times of emotional turmoil and loneliness. Together we navigated some very turbulent waters. It seemed that as we talked about current losses, we found that other, older losses bubbled up to the surface. Andrea Schmidlin, one of the participants, said "I thought I was attending the workshop to explore my feelings around the death of my father and the loss of my brother. But it turned out that there was a lot more grief work I needed to do." Kathy Hislip, another class member, said that she "appreciated being able to talk about loss in a close group." As a group we stretched ourselves. We approached and even surpassed our comfort zones when it came to sharing very intimate details of our lives and the losses we have endured.

Leading this workshop was a powerful experience for me. Together we learned many lessons from each other. We learned that grief has its own timetable even when others around us are ready for us to be "done grieving." We learned that we have already experience many losses in our lives *and survived!* We learned that a grief shared is diminished. We learned that the major losses we go through have many lesser losses connected to them. We learned about the power that we have to support each other in times of loss. Together we began a process that I hope will gradually permeate the congregation. We opened a dialog that can continue as long as we nurture it along. I encourage you to take part in this dialog, as the spirit moves you. Together, we can make a difference in each other's lives.

News & Announcements

Lessons of Loss Workshop this Fall

In this four week workshop participants will create a safe place to discuss losses both large and small. We will explore the feelings common to all loss. Some themes include: loss of a loved one, moving, loss of job, loss of youth, and loss of social or professional position. Together we can deepen our connections to one another by sharing common experiences and feelings. Workshop dates are October 18th and 25th, November 1st and 8th at 7:00 PM. Sign up on the clip board in Fellowship Hall or by contacting Elise C. Wall.

Green Corner

Living in Right Relationship

Do you believe that we could live abundantly, almost anywhere, within the means of nature's annual allotment? Would you like to know how devastated lands can be reclaimed and sustainably produce 5-10 times the yield of industrial agriculture? Permaculture design capitalizes on the abundant natural resources at hand to provide food, nourishing shelter, renewable energy and right livelihood for all those living within the system and hopefully, beyond. It is concerned with a high quality of life for people, animals and plants, a building up of the land's natural capital, and working towards a genuinely better future for all, and has application not only in rural areas, but for city and suburban dwellers as well.

Come to hear "An Introduction to Permaculture" on Sunday, November 5, at UUCE. Our presenter, Bill Wilson, is founding director of the Center for Sustainable Community and 28-year resident of the intentional community of Stelle in downstate Illinois. He'll share Australian Bill Mollison's vision of "permanent agriculture" and show how it has evolved into a vision of "permanent culture." There are three ethical foundations driving permaculture designs: 1. Care for the earth, 2. Care for people, and 3. Share the surplus. More than just food production, it takes into consideration energy-efficient buildings, wastewater treatment, sun-wind-water harvesting, and land stewardship as other important components. Using some examples from his own experiences at Stelle, he demonstrates that it is the people, their buildings, and the ways they organize themselves and live in relation to one another, that are central to permaculture.

On November 5th, the Worship Committee and the Green Sanctuary Committee welcome all members, friends and guests of UUCE to meet Bill Wilson and hear his morning talk and afternoon workshop on permaculture. After morning worship, all who are interested are welcome to share a simple lunch (12:30-1:15pm) and participate in a 2½-hour workshop (1:30-4:00pm). A suggested donation of \$10.00-\$35.00 from each participant will directly support Bill's work.



President's Report



Lydia Larrabee
Board President

As many of you are aware, over the last two years the Board changed the structure of church governance to best support our current size and complexity. This task was given to the Board in our current strategic plan. In March 2005, the Board adopted a policy governance model where the board governs by policies (You still with me here?)

Under this model, the Board continues its responsibilities for the legal and fiscal aspects of UUCE and for strategic planning. The Board monitors the overall health and functioning of the church and the fulfillment of the UUCE mission and vision. The day-to-day operations of the church are now the responsibility of the Executive Team. This Team is made up of our paid staff of Dan, our Minister, Kathy Underwood, the Director of Religious Education, and Mila Brinker, our new Church Administrator, and 3 volunteers who have taken on a significant commitment to handle major portions of church life—Kathy Hislip (groups and activities), Andrea Schmidlin (social action), and Alice Macy (finances). To guide and empower the Executive Team, the Board created policies that set the parameters within which the Executive Team must work to insure a healthy organization.

The benefit of this division of labor is that each group is empowered to do what they are best suited to do. This gives us more capacity as an organization to meet the challenges of the coming years. The Team responsible for running the church has the freedom to make decisions in areas where they have the most knowledge and this frees them from having to run everything by the Board. This in turn frees the Board to do what it needs most to focus on—*staying in touch with you, the congregation, and with your input, articulating the vision and future strategic direction of the church.*

To this end, we are taking a first step in early October. We will be asking you to complete a questionnaire to tell us what you think about how the church as a whole is functioning and your experience of what we currently do. Please look for announcements of the survey and make every effort to give us your feedback. We want to hear from you and everyone for whom this community matters.

The information gathered will be a great help to both the Board and Executive Team. We will also in the coming months be looking at more ways to talk with you about your thoughts and dreams for our spiritual and community life together.

Thank you in advance for participating with us on this important work.

Lydia

Kudos to: This semester's teachers:

Katherine Brosier, Jessica Frost, Debbie Whiston-Garman, Sergio Hernandez, Dan Hislip, Chris Leyba, Bridget Lucas, Linda Rodda, Bob Sandidge, Andrea Schmidlin, Kristy Shanahan, Kevin Sweeney, Anne Ward, and Janeen Vanko. Assistant Teachers: Anne Bedard, Kim Cecil, Ayla Halberstadt, Noreen Halberstadt, Kathy Hislip, Jill Lonegra, Colleen Madeya, Doug Pratt, Stacey Reynolds, Andrea Schmidlin, Elise Wall, and Greg Ward. And Kudos to: Kathy Hislip, Kathy Brosier, and Kathy Underwood for creating and conducting the hiring process which brought us our new childcare workers **Miss Julie and Miss Debbie.**



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 p.m.

October 27 - "I Love You Like A Tomato"

by Marie Giordano - Helen Maxwell's home

December 8 - "Wicked" by Gregory Maguire

Alice Macy's home

Ways to Get in Touch

Church Office	847.888.0668
Web site	www.uuce.org
PodCast	uuce.libsyn.com
Schedule an event	uuce.org/event-scheduling.html
Newsletter submissions	newsletter@uuce.org

Board President:

Lydia Larrabee

Newsletter Editor

Bob Sandidge

Deadlines

Order of Service	Thursday PM
UNICHORD	October 22

October Birthdays

1 Brandy Navadamski	16 Joy Shores
2 Ethan Kotlinski	17 Shirley Wolin
3 Nikolas Spayne	17 Jim Hermann
3 Andy Garman	18 Amy Schmidlin
7 Marianne Lyons	19 Betsy Thrasher
8 Charlie Schmidlin	20 Anne Clough
12 Laurie Kiesewetter	22 Ruth Gnuechtel
12 Emily Garman	22 Savannah Sherrell
12 Tyler Garman	30 Emma Brosier
16 Chris Davis	30 Mason Freeman
16 Debbie Prebys	



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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



The new stained glass window over the front door welcomed members back to this year's church year. Designed by our own Tim King and executed by glass artist, Will Hamm, the window was installed on Sept. 9th. Frieda Anderson chaired the team that moved the process forward.

