



Stevens Point  
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
November/December 2005 Newsletter

## Presidential Notes

--Carol Weston

### We're Moving!

That's right, we're moving to The Springs! We have found a facility that is larger, has more light, has multiple child and adult RE rooms, provides the opportunity to conduct joint community social action and education experiences between our members and The Springs members. Most importantly it is a facility that will allow for full participation by our members without fear of illness. We have been all through the building, including those who are most susceptible to mold allergies and nothing significant has occurred. We can only hope that this facility will be a healthier, more supportive facility for our members.

Our weekly services at The Springs will begin at 11:00 a.m. The Springs is the Methodist church located at 2820 Plover Springs Drive, Plover.

### Help Needed!

We need your help in November to make the move to The Springs. We need to re-arrange and do some slight cleaning at The Springs before we move our supplies and set up our new space. We have scheduled Sunday, November 20th for this cleaning and move. We are all to meet at the Odd Fellows at 10:00 am to get organized and delegate jobs.

We also have to clean and put back together the Odd Fellows lodge. We have schedule Sunday, November 27th for working at the Odd Fellows lodge. However, IF we can accomplish both tasks on November 20th, we'll end up meeting at the Springs on November 27th. If we need two weeks to get all the work completed, we will utilize Sunday, November 27th at 10:00 am to finish the work. We'll have to keep you updated through our list serve and postcards on what is expected on Nov

27th. Please be patient with us during this transition time period.

### Let's Celebrate!

We have a new facility. This is a new beginning for our Fellowship. Let's use this move for time of reflection and a time for moving forward. Jim Jaeger, a district consultant from CMwD, has been hired to facilitate a covenanting session with us for Sunday, December 4th from 10:00am - 1:00pm. This is an opportunity for all of us to re-affirm the importance of the Fellowship in this community, and reaffirm each other. We need to come to an agreement of how we wish to "be" with each other. How do we as a diverse group of individuals come together to:

- ensure a safe and welcoming environment for all present
- allow for free exchange of ideas
- maintain a healthy and vibrant Fellowship

This covenanting session is scheduled until 1:00 pm. We will incorporate a pot luck brunch into the session so please bring a dish to pass.

WE WILL BE AT THE SPRINGS FOR THIS SESSION.

## Holiday Basket

The Fellowship has received an application from the Holiday Basket project to sponsor a family this holiday. I am requesting a family of 3-4 including 2 children. As a sponsor we would provide food for a holiday meal, gifts and stocking stuffers for the children, and maybe hats, gloves, scarves for the adults. One of two people or families purchase the food and/or the toys and other items with the funds contributed from the members. When we are assigned the family, someone would need to contact the family to see if they have any special

needs and to arrange for delivery of the food and gifts. We need volunteers to coordinate this project, to help with the shopping, wrapping, and delivery. Last year a non member did this. This year it would great if we could get 1-4 individuals to do this. The whole effort takes only a small amount of time. It is one of the only community outreach projects we do as a Fellowship. Please contact Julia Weiser at 344-7769 to help.

## Thanks

--Julia Weiser

- to Dave Johnson for coordinating the service and programs in October.
- to Marcia Johnson for preparing the RE wonderful curriculum
- to Dorothy Ginnett for arranging for RE volunteers - to work with the children
- to Carol Weston for organizing the tours of possible meeting sites and for bringing the pumpkins for the children - to paint last Sunday
- to all of you too numerous - to mention who joined us - to look at possible meeting sites
- to Clara Cleve and Karen Oleson for organizing and presenting another service, this one on "Spirituality"
- to Jane Shoup and Ron Chapman for playing hymns
- to Julia Weiser for hosting the goals setting meeting in October
- to Jenny Howard for hosting the membership meeting in October
- to Zach Shelton for the nicely formatted and readable newsletter
- to all of you who opened, closed, brought snacks, and cleaned up

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*To laugh often and much; To win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; To earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; To appreciate beauty, to find the best in others; To leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded.*

- Ralph Waldo Emerson



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--Julia Weiser

I have been pondering the question of Why do we attend services on Sunday? Most of us do not feel that we are compelled to come by g-d or church law as do some denominations. Wouldn't it be easier to sleep late, read the weekend papers, take a walk, or just relax on Sunday mornings? Many of my agnostic, atheist, Christian and Jewish friends do just that. I actually find this an attractive alternative to getting out on Sunday mornings.

Many liberal religious organizations are experiencing a decline in attendance and membership. I heard a statement from a member of a Methodist congregation in Wausau that when his church was constructed around 1967 they had 1600 members; now they have about 700. This building is modern and beautiful; there is a fantastic organ and organist. One might think that individuals might attend for the music and the artwork if nothing else, but their membership has declined by half in the last 30 years.

Our Fellowship members come from a variety of religions traditions and have many different beliefs. Most of us did not grow up in a UU congregation but have been attracted to our non creedal denomination that does not have "all the answers." Some of us still treasure our Christian, Jewish, and other backgrounds and find value in them; others do not. Many of our own family members still have many different religious beliefs. Our Fellowship includes atheists, agnostics, deists, Christians, Jews, pantheists, humanists, and probably many others. I hope they all feel welcome.

So if we do not have a creed and require attendance at religious services, why do we come together every week?

I think we all share some core values. I believe that we all share a desire for community and for support from a loving, caring group of people. We want an alternative to the

sometimes exclusive traditions from which we came. We enjoy the interchange of ideas that are presented in services, though we may not always agree. We enjoy thought provoking presentations from outside speakers and from our members. We recognize that there are many points of view and that we do not have the answers to many WHY questions. Some other religious groups feel they do have the answer. Those of you in attendance on October 10 heard Marci Reynolds speak about the inclusiveness of love as opposed to the exclusiveness of fear. I hope that we can still come together with love and open arms and respect the diverse views and traditions represented by our members. After all, we are the only UU congregation in town. We want to grow in numbers in order to have our own building and to call a minister. Before we can do this we need to keep our own members and realize that each one of us is important to the Fellowship.

The sixteenth century French philosopher Michel de Montaigne recognized many years ago that "There never were in the world two opinions alike, no more than two hairs or two grains; the most universal quality is diversity." I think this quote describes us pretty well. I hope we continue to cherish our diversity with kindness and thoughtfulness as we reach out to ourselves and to others.

I invite your comments and rebuttals.

Do you dream of inexpensive vacation travel to interesting destinations where you can stay in the homes of friendly people who share your ideals and are happy to provide directions and advice for their area?

The UU bed and breakfast directory UU're Home (formerly Homecomings) can fulfill your dream. For 27 years, we've provided a network of hosts in the United States (and a few abroad) who enjoy meeting new friends and who are happy to open their home to like-minded people.

Check out our website at [www.UUreHome.com](http://www.UUreHome.com), where entries are updated whenever changes are made or new hosts are added and you can charge a membership to your credit card. The 2006 edition of the annual paper directory will be available in April and can be ordered by send a check for \$18 (or \$23, along with your e-mail address, for both the directory and a year's access to the website) to UU're Home, 43 Vermont Court, Asheville, NC 28806.

You can also become a host and be listed in the directory. Contact us at 828-281-3253 or at [info@uurehome.com](mailto:info@uurehome.com), and we will gladly send you information about listing your accommodations.

NOTE: This ad does not constitute an endorsement by SPUUF – this information has been passed along as a courtesy.



# SPUUF

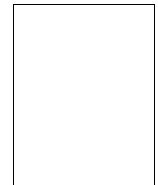
## November/December Calendar

<b>November</b>		
Sunday – 6 <sup>th</sup>	Arlene Heig	“Privacy – Enough Already!”
Friday – 11 <sup>th</sup> through Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Creating Joy	UU Women’s Connection - Fall Retreat at Lake Geneva
Saturday – 12 <sup>th</sup>	Circle Supper	Jane & Stefan Shoup are offering to host a potluck supper at their home in Big Falls. Don and Ann Wheat will be with us. Space is limited. If you wish to attend, please contact the Shoups.
Sunday – 13 <sup>th</sup>	Guest Minister: Don Wheat	
	Membership Committee	11:30 meeting at Odd Fellows
Sunday – 20 <sup>th</sup>	Moving Day	This day has been designated for our big move to The Springs.
	Program Committee	8:30 meeting at Odd Fellows
Sunday – 27 <sup>th</sup>	Cleaning Day	Clean and re-assemble Odd Fellows building
<b>December</b>		
SPECIAL NOTICE	Change of Venue	Beginning December 4 <sup>th</sup> , Sunday Services will be held at a new time -- from 11:00 – 12:00. This will also be our first regular meeting at The Springs Methodist Church located at 2820 Plover Springs Drive in Plover., where we have made arrangements to share the available space.
Sunday – 4 <sup>th</sup>	Covenanting Session	James Jaeger, a regional consultant with the CMWD. 10:00 – 1:00 at The Springs, includes potluck lunch.
Sunday – 11 <sup>th</sup>	Guest Speaker: Alice Keefe, Professor of Religious Studies	Service on Buddhism, Specific topic TBA
Sunday – 18 <sup>th</sup>		Intergenerational Winter Holidays Service

**Child care** will be available at all services. **Religious Education** is available for students 6 and up. Unless otherwise noted, Sunday meetings are at 10:00 AM at the Odd Fellows Hall — 2854 Church Street.

Please feel free to share your announcements (regarding just about anything) or other contributions with the community that receives our newsletter. Submissions are due on the second-to-last Sunday of the month. Contact Zach Shelton (mail@ZachOfAllTrades.net or 343-1302)

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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