

**Stevens Point**  
**Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**  
**October 2006 Newsletter**



**Presidents Report - *Julia Weiser***

It has been a great beginning for the Stevens Point Unitarian Universalist this fall.

I have been excited at the Fellowship meetings and services I have attended, although I have been and will be gone quite a bit this fall. I am especially encouraged by the increasing number of children joining the Religious Education program. This is partly attributable to the hard work and dedication of Dorothy Ginnett who is committed to providing a high quality program for the youngsters. If our fellowship is to grow and thrive, we need the energy and enthusiasm of young families. Those of us who have adult children or none at all need to realize that the success of the religious education is the responsibility of all of us, so please volunteer to teach a Sunday or two. We will be taping the services and sermons upstairs, so you will be able to listen to some of those.

I was also delighted to hear that the 40<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration for the Fellowship was so successful. Sometimes we get discouraged when things do not go smoothly for us, but the fact that the Fellowship has been around for 40 years is a testament to our determination to offer a religious liberal alternative in our community.

I was encouraged last week to see the return to our services of some of the UWSP students. They seemed very enthusiastic about in the program, and I hope they continue to join us on Sunday mornings (which is a hard time for students to be out and about!).

Lastly, looking at the schedule of presenters we will have this fall, it appears there will be something for everyone. Remember that we are a lay led group with a variety of guest speakers, so the service will vary from week to week. That is one of our strengths. We will also be starting a Religious Education program for adults on October 1. Thanks to Steve Bjella who has volunteered to get this started.

**Thank You for a Great Celebration!**

The Fellowship had a great 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday bash on Sept 10<sup>th</sup>. A BIG thank you goes out to Nancy Stevenson for sharing the history of how this Fellowship can be, Michele Bjella for getting the charter framed, Clara Cleve for the decorating the sanctuary, Carol Weston for planning the service, Mary Arnold for helping with the Water Communion, Vince Heig for the beautiful flowers, Steve Bjella, Ron Chapman, Adam Hettler, Billy Hettler, Katie Magee, Tristan Koepke, Katie Anstett-Dekker and Gretchen Solinger for providing special music and all other members and friends who helped make the celebration special. The beautiful framed charter is hanging in the vestibule of the church, by the sanctuary doors. Next time you're at the Fellowship make sure you stop and admire and read over the vision our founding members had for this Fellowship.

**Joint Social Action Committee**

Members of the UU Fellowship and The Springs are interested in forming a joint Social Action Committee. The specific goals of the committee will be decided by the members of the committee, with the intent of developing common projects that members from both churches can work on together. Ideas already discussed informally by representatives of both churches are:

- collections of donations for community projects/organizations
- use of and selling of Fair Trade Coffee

- becoming a “green” sanctuary
- supporting Second Harvest

The first meeting of a joint committee will be scheduled in October. If you are interested in getting involved, **please call Joanie Hanson at 715-345-1250**. Joanie has volunteered to coordinate the first meeting of the combined committee early in October.

## **Collections for Community Organizations**

The board voted to initiate a community outreach program: twice a month collection of cash or donated items during services to provide support for local projects and organizations. We'll try to follow a schedule of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of every month. Donations gathered on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday each month will rotate between various local organizations. Donations gathered on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday will always be a collection for the Second Harvest Food Pantry program.

In September \$48 was collected for the Green Circle Trail Improvement Fund. October's donations will go toward:

- Oct 8<sup>th</sup> Empty Bowls Prevention projec
- Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> Second Harvest

## **Committee Meeting Schedule**

### **Strategic Planning**

Sunday, Oct 1<sup>st</sup> at 12:30 pm the strategic planning committee will met at Joanie Hanson's house immediately after the church service. Joanie will provide lunch. The focus of the meeting is “Growth the Membership.” Committee members are asked to review the DVD from the UUA on Breakout Congregations before the meeting.

### **Program Committee Meeting**

The next Program Committee meeting is October 8<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 am. Contact Clara Cleve, 715-341-4791 / [ccleve@choiceonemail.com](mailto:ccleve@choiceonemail.com) if you would like to volunteer to lead a service this winter / spring or if you have suggestions for speakers and programs.

### **Board Meeting**

The next SPUUF board meeting is Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 am. in the library at The Springs. Please send any agenda items to the board by Wed. Oct 18<sup>th</sup> .

## **All Fellowship Meeting**

The board has scheduled a Fellowship meeting, in lieu of a service, for Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. The Strategic Planning Committee will present the DRAFT Vision Statement / Strategic Plan to the membership for feedback and to answer questions. **The Fellowship meeting will start at 11:00 am.** The Strategic Planning Committee will take the feedback received from the membership for further refinements of the Vision Statement. A final version of the Vision Statement will then be sent to the membership for a vote. Contact Carol Weston if you have questions about the Vision Statement or the voting process.

## **News of Past Student Minister**

Some of our members might remember Dennis McCarty, a student minister who worked with our Fellowship 4 or 5 years ago. Dennis recently wrote an article for *Quest*, the magazine of the Church of the Larger Fellowship. His article, podcast and picture are posted online at:

<http://www.uua.org/clf/quest/2006/06/index.html#mccarty>

## **Second Harvest Food Pantry**

The Second Harvest Food Pantry schedule for October is: Oct 10<sup>th</sup> and Oct 24<sup>th</sup> .

The Food Pantry is moving to the old Ira's Oak Furniture building at 2820 Post Rd, Plover. The Tuesday schedule is:

- Set up 4:00 – 6:00 pm
- Food distribution 6:00 – 8:00 pm
- Close 8:00 – 9:00 pm

Volunteers are needed for any shift or for the entire evening. If you cannot volunteer your time, donations of food and/or money are also needed. Checks can be made to "Second Harvest Food Pantry." The Fellowship will collect for the Food Pantry during our Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> service. Please contact Mary Wright at 341-5655 if you have questions on the program.

## **Name the Newsletter**

Your help is needed!! We are a very creative group of people and it is time we have a more catchy identifying newsletter title for this publication! Let's have fun with this! Submit your ideas for a "new and improve" newsletter name to Julie Weiser or Carol Weston. Call or email Julia 715-344-7769 [weiserj@charter.net](mailto:weiserj@charter.net) or Carol 715-345-1735 / [cweston@charter.net](mailto:cweston@charter.net)

## **Community Action**

### **Empty Bowls**

On Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, join the residents of Portage County in support of the Empty Bowls project. Empty Bowls, is a fundraiser for the Hunger Prevention Partnership, which has raised nearly \$43,500 in the past four years. This year organizers hope to serve as many as 1,000 people. Stop in at SPASH between 11:00 am – 1:30pm., have a delicious bowl of soup for lunch and know you're making a difference in Portage County.

### **November Referendums**

Two referendum questions are scheduled at this November's general election:

- an advisory question on the Death Penalty
- WI Constitutional Amendment on Definition of Marriage

A legislative brief on both referendums is posted at: [www.legis.state.wi.us/lrb/pubs/wb/06wb12.pdf](http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lrb/pubs/wb/06wb12.pdf)

On Oct 22<sup>nd</sup>, Greg and Cindy Chelcun are presenting to the Fellowship on the Definition of Marriage amendment. The UUA has taken a strong position opposing any attempts to discriminate against individuals based on gender orientation. <http://www.uua.org/news/freedomtomarry/index.html> Fair Wisconsin, an advocacy group opposing the change in marriage definition has information posted on their website: [www.fairwisconsin.com/](http://www.fairwisconsin.com/)

Unfortunately, we were not able to schedule a speaker on the death penalty question before the November vote. At the General Assembly In 2000, the UUA issued a statement of immediate Witness to end all death penalties. That statement is posted at: <http://www.uua.org/actions/immediate/00death-penalty.html>

Resources on the advisory death penalty referenda are:

- Witness to Innocence <http://www.witnesstoinnocence.org/>
- WI Council of Churches <http://www.wichurches.org/publications/deathpenaltyresources.html>

## Environmental Film

A special showing of the new film documentary, "Who Killed the Electric Car" is scheduled at the Big Picture movie theater in Appleton, WI. <http://www.bigpicturetheater.com/>

"WHO KILLED THE ELECTRIC CAR?" chronicles the life and mysterious death of the GM EV1, examining its cultural and economic ripple effects and how they reverberated through the halls of government and big business." The film was an official selection of the 2006 Sundance and Tribeca Film Festivals. Information about the film is available at: <http://www.sonyclassics.com/whokilledtheelectriccar/>

## Justice Works Community Walk / Run

Justice Works is a new 501 (C)(3) organization dedicated to fostering forms of justice that strengthen and heal the communities of Portage County. In order to spread the word about the organization, a "Run For Justice 5/10 K Walk/Run" has been scheduled for Saturday, October 21, 2006. If you would like more information about the race and the organization please visit its website: [www.justiceworksltd.org](http://www.justiceworksltd.org) .

## Friends of UUA Phonathon

As a supplement to periodic mailings, Friends of the UUA will be conducting a fundraising phonathon beginning the week of October 9th and continuing through mid- November. Outreach Associates, a telemarketing firm located in Pittsburgh, will be phoning members who are currently active Friends of the UUA to ask them to renew their support and to consider becoming Sustaining Friends. As individual members of the UUA you may choose to donate or not choose to donate. Our Fellowship does give \$1785 to the UUA through our fair share. You can also call (617) 948-6525 to leave a message to ask to be placed on the "no call" list or to share a comment directly with a UUA staff member.

## Point of View

*Point of View is the member section of the newsletter. Information shared in the Point of View is diverse and does not reflect the official position of the Fellowship on any topic. The intent of this section is to provide a forum for sharing all points of view on spiritual, religious and other issues which relate to our 7 Principles, in order to facilitate continued personal search for truth and discussion among members and friends.*

**At One** by Victoria Safford - Submitted by Carol Weston

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.

**Victoria Safford** is a minister at White Bear Unitarian Universalist Church, St. Paul, Minnesota. Excerpted from "At One" in the meditation manual *Walking Toward Morning*, published by

Skinner House books in 2003, and available from the CLF Library ([www.clfuu.org/library\\_or\\_617-948-6150](http://www.clfuu.org/library_or_617-948-6150)). This excerpt appeared in the September 2006 Quest Magazine.

Contact Carol Weston at [cweston@charter.net](mailto:cweston@charter.net) or 715-345-1735 if you have questions or comment on this submission.

### Dates to Remember

- Oct 1<sup>st</sup> 12:30 pm Strategic Planning Committee Meeting Joanie Hanson's House.
- Oct 8<sup>th</sup> Program Committee Meeting, 9:15 am The Springs
- Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> Board Meeting
- Nov 3-5 "[Heart to Heart](#)" A couples' Enrichment Weekend \$360 / couple, Koinonia Retreat Center, South Haven, MN
- Nov 5<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 am All Fellowship Meeting On Vision Statement and Strategic Plan
- Nov 10-12 "My Body – Live, Love Laugh" UU Women's Connection Fall Conference, Williams Bay, WI. Contact [rhi\\_connection@yahoo.com](mailto:rhi_connection@yahoo.com) or [Cecilia\\_haasis@yahoo.com](mailto:Cecilia_haasis@yahoo.com) for more information.
- Feb 23-25, "Roots Hold me Close, Wings Set Me Free" Woman Spirit 2007, Women and Religion Committee of the CMwD. Tecny, IL. More information at: <http://www.womenandreligion.org/>

### Schedule of Services

Date	Service
10-1-06	WI Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies, Eric Yonke
10-8-06	Journey to Selma: Continuing the Call for Racial Justice", Rev Daryl Richie James Reeb UU
10-15-06	"Engaging Our Theological Diversity" Richard Olsen Wausau UU
10-22-06	"Proposed Marriage Amendment WI Constitution" Cindy and Greg Chelcun
10-29-06	"End of Life Issues through a UU Perspective" Jim Jaeger First UU Madison
11-5-06	All Fellowship Meeting
11-12-06	Rev. Paul Beckel Wausau UU Topic TBA
11-19-06	Intergenerational "Thanksgiving - Guest at Your Table" Service
11-26-06	Rev Scott Prinster, First UU Madison, Topic TBA
12-3-06	TBA
12-10-06	Rev. Paul Beckel, Wausau UU Topic TBA
12-17-06	Intergenerational Winter Holiday Service
12-24-06	Christmas Eve Service With The Springs
12-31-06	No Service

**Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**

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Services are held at The Springs, 2820 Plover Springs Dr., Plover, WI 54467

Services and religious Education start at 11:00 a.m. Sept through May

Childcare is available

Summer services are individually scheduled.



**The Uncommon Denomination**