

**Stevens Point  
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
September 2007 Newsletter**



**Presidents' Report** – *Julia Weiser*

We had some wonderful potluck discussions this summer. Thanks to Clara Cleve, Carol Weston and Bill Hettler, and Jim and Rae Canfield for hosting the group. It was great to taste the variety of local produce and food for the meals. We had some good discussions after listening to some taped comments from the UUA. Everyone had a chance to participate. Thanks to Michele Bjella and the Green Sanctuary committee for presenting information on local initiatives – from the Farmshed movement to the eco municipality meetings. Hopefully we will hear more from these groups this year.

I am hoping to print some short bios in later newsletters. I hope to feature everyone in time. Sometimes we do not get to know our more seasoned member or our newer members so this is a chance to learn more about one another. I ask you some questions about when you joined the Fellowship and other items, please help me.

**Pot Luck with Water Communion**

We'll be starting off our weekly Sunday morning services with a pot luck at Pfiiffner Park in downtown Stevens Point on Sunday, September 9th. The pot luck will start at 11:00 am. We'll meet at the gazebo located between the band shell and the Pfiiffner building, right on the Wisconsin River. (The Pfiiffner building is located on Franklin Street.) Please bring a dish to pass, your own eating utensils and a beverage.

We will incorporate a "Mingling of Water Communion" with the pot luck. This is a traditional UUA ceremony that celebrates the coming back together as a community. Please bring a small container of water with you that represent your "travels" this summer.

**Welcome Anne Abel! Membership Services Consultant**

Over the summer, the board hired Anne Abel as our new membership services consultant. Anne will be responsible for communications to Fellowship members, will support the work of the program committee to coordinate weekly services and will work closely with the board and committee chairs to ensure good communication between our committees and members. Here is a brief introduction from Anne!

*"I am still "new" to the Stevens Point area, having moved from out of state. In truth, Chicago will always be my "hometown" no matter what my physical location. Mom raised her girls to be open minded about "other" faiths, and encouraged healthy curiosity. This position promises to offer intellectual and spiritual opportunities to further define my core beliefs. I have one twenty-something son, living here as well. We both miss his Dad, a key figure throughout so much of our lives. He lost his battle with cancer two years ago. I believe we are both still adjusting to the vision of a future without him. I look forward to meeting the SPUUF members in the near future (transportation is an issue- for now). My background has been mainly some form of financial/business officer; generally the companies were small and much of the "grunt" work was mine alone (big grin here). When we meet, you will realize that I do not exaggerate when I say my experience spans several decades and many job descriptions. I look forward to applying my accumulated knowledge to the challenge before me. I hope this gives some small picture of the person you chose."*

## Committee News

### Religious Education (RE)

Kelly and Dorothy selected a wonderful curriculum for next fall entitled "**Spirit of Adventure: UU Identity.**" Here's a link to the curriculum information <http://www.uure.com/spirit.html> This interactive curriculum uses active play to teach the seven UU principles via the themes of sports, medicine, food, science, building, exploring, holidays and web of life. The first class of the religious education will start at 11:00am on Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Information for Visitors:** SPUUF Services begin at 11 a.m. on Sundays at The Springs Methodist Church. Children attend the first 10 – 15 minutes of service with their families and listen to a children's story, then they go downstairs to the RE classroom for their lesson with our volunteer teachers. Parents are always welcome to visit the RE classroom, especially as their children adjust to a new classroom environment.

Please try to arrive early when you first visit, so that you can introduce yourself and your children to the RE volunteer teachers before the service. You will be requested to fill out a short information/contact form on your first visit to the RE classroom, so that our volunteers can begin to learn your child's name and also be advised of special needs (learning challenges, allergies, etc.). This will also allow us to contact you with RE updates.

**Childcare:** A babysitter is available in the Nursery Room for younger children (infant – kindergarten age). Children generally attend the first 15 minutes of services with their families and then go downstairs to the nursery. Parents are always welcome in the nursery room, especially as their children adjust to a new environment. There is a speaker system in the nursery, so you can listen to the service.

### Youth Discussion Group

Calling all teens! A new monthly youth discussion group is forming. Carolyn Greenlee has agreed to coordinate the class. It will be an opportunity for the youth to discuss some of their emerging ideas on what religion means to them, allow them the chance to practice articulating their current beliefs and encourage personal exploration on human/spiritual issues. The discussion group's first meeting is scheduled for Sunday, Sept 16<sup>th</sup>. The youth will attend the first 15minutes of the service, and then will break out to their discussion group to determine the focus and format for the group.

### Green Sanctuary

Green Sanctuary Committee members are playing a key development role in the new **Interfaith Community for the Earth (ICE)**. ICE formed last spring and has representatives from a large number of our community's religious organizations. The UUs are just one of many in ICE. A common thread of thought among group members is the recognition of the connection between the health of the planet with an individual's spirituality. Michele Bjella is heading up the effort from our Fellowship. **Thanks Michele!!** The mission statement of ICE is "*We are people of many faiths working together to educate ourselves and others as we advocate sustainable practices for the well-being of the Earth.*"

Upcoming workshops that ICE will present are:

- September 8 - Natural Alternatives to Lawns, with Dan Dieterich, Portage Co Library
- Sept 10 at NOON brown bag talk "Simple Living and the Holidays: How do we keep it simple during the big events in our lives?" , Frame Church
- Sept 10 at 6:00 talk: Creating a Sustainable Life: Avoiding the Consumerism/debt spiral, with potluck afterwards provided by ICE, Frame Church
- October 13 - Energy-saving Actions for Renters and Homeowners, with Jeff Knutson Portage Co Library
- November 9 - Livable Neighborhoods, with Cathy Dugan, Portage Co Library
- December 8 - (proposed) Composting and Vermiculture, Portage Co Library
- January - (possible) Planning Your Vegetable Garden, Portage Co Library

We hope you can support the work of ICE by attending a program or two. Please contact Michele Bjella, 715-345-9779 / [michelebj@yaho.com](mailto:michelebj@yaho.com) for additional information on these upcoming programs or on ICE.

## Community Events

### First UU Church of Wausau Building Dedication

The First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau, will be having a weekend of church dedication activities and celebrations September 8 and 9, 2007. After extensive fundraising, planning and construction, their new amazing addition will be ready for use by their congregation and community.

Open house activities to celebrate their wonderful new renovation are scheduled from noon to 5:00pm on Saturday, September 8. There will be tours, crafts, music, refreshments and storytelling. Story times are at 12:00, 1:00 and 2:00 pm. A special church dedication service is planned for Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. This will be followed by more open house activities until 3:00 p.m.

Pictures have been posted showing the progress of the church addition at:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/maaskeeto/FirstUUConstruction?authkey=MS0JjiBEH90>

### “Eat Local” Challenge - Spend 10 percent of your food budget on local food for 10 days



The purpose of the challenge is to raise consumer awareness of the advantages of local food, including quality, freshness and variety. Consumer interest in local food continues to grow and Wisconsin is in a position to take advantage of the trend. **The state ranks third** in the nation for number of farmers' markets, behind California and New York; boasts numerous CSA's, or community supported agriculture farms; and enjoys a growing number of restaurants, grocers and businesses active in providing local foods.

For a directory of local food distributors, go to [www.SavorWisconsin.com](http://www.SavorWisconsin.com) and search by region, product or business; you can also link to the Eat Local challenge site.

Here's how it works:

- 1 – Visit [www.cias.wisc.edu/eatlocal](http://www.cias.wisc.edu/eatlocal) and sign up for the challenge.
- 2 – Track your local food spending.
- 3 – Share your results through the local food survey.

For more information on our local efforts contact John Sheffy Outreach Program Manager, Global Environmental Management Education Center, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (715) 346-4244 / [John.Sheffy@uwsp.edu](mailto:John.Sheffy@uwsp.edu).



### Walk for Hope – Suicide Prevention Fund Raiser

“Walk For Hope” is a 3 mile non-competitive fitness and leisure walk intended to bring awareness to suicide prevention in Portage County. This year's walk is scheduled for Saturday, September 15th, in conjunction with [Suicide Prevention Week](#).

“Walk for Hope” will begin at Saint Michael's Hospital with registration running from 9:00-9:30AM and the walk beginning at 9:45AM. The [walk route](#) will take participants through the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point Campus toward Piffner Park to enjoy the scenery from the 38<sup>th</sup> annual *Art in the Park*. Participants will exit the park to enter historic downtown Stevens Point where they can stroll by local shops and classic homes. Participants will then be routed back to Saint Michael's Hospital to enjoy food and beverage.

[Click Here to Download a Walk For Hope Registration Form.](#)

[Click Here to Register for Walk For Hope On-Line!](#)

### “Taking It to The Streets” September 1, 2007; 9:00 am

The Justiceworks 7 mile run/walk benefits the Justiceworks program. Justiceworks, LTD is a non-profit community justice organization dedicated to advancing policies and practices of justice that create right relationships in the communities of Portage County. Additional information is available at:

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

## **American Cancer Society Walk-Run, September 16, 2007**

The American Cancer Society Walk-Run is a 5 k and one-mile kids walk. Registration opens at 10:30am, kids walk/run starts at 11:30. Registration are accepted online at [www.acswalkrun.org](http://www.acswalkrun.org)

## **Step It Up 2 National Day of Climate Change – Nov 3**

This is a grass roots, citizens effort to bring attention to the global climate change, and educate elected leaders on this issue. Our local **Community for the Earth (ICE)** will coordinate efforts here in Central Wisconsin. More information will be coming from our Green Sanctuary Committee.

Information on this national effort found at: <http://www.stepitup2007.org/article.php?list=type&type=26>

## **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.*

“View from a Tree” from July/August 2007 Quest, a publication from The Church of the Larger Fellowship.

*“I never want to be so busy that I don’t notice morning rain on cobwebs, a snail wondering up the side of my house and heading towards the roof, a baby trying to catch its own toes...I’m going to pause and say, “Good morning spider, thank you for weaving such silver perfection outside my front door. Hello there, snail. I hope you enjoy the view when you get to the top. If you look over towards the two big red chimneys you should be able to see Dun Laoghaire from there.” It’s been a long time now since I climbed a tree, so I’m going to. I’m going to get the 42 bus out to the woodlands in Malahide and find a nice easy one. When I get to the top I’m going to stay there for a while and listen, and I’m not coming down again until I hear a seagull scream. ”*



By Rev. Bill Darlison, Bublin Unitarian Church, from his sermon, “*The Many-Splendoured Thing*”

Submitted by Carol Weston; contact her at 715-345-1735 if you have questions or comment on this submission.

## **CMwD News**

- Heart to Heart relationship enrichment program, Nov 2-4, 2007 <http://heart.mn.ex>
- UU Women Lake Geneva Fall Conference, Celebrating 25 Yrs, “Feel the Rhythm”, Nov 9-11, 2007 A printable PDF flyer on the retreat is available at: [http://www.uuwomensconnection.org/PDFS/UUWomensConn\\_07\\_flyer.pdf](http://www.uuwomensconnection.org/PDFS/UUWomensConn_07_flyer.pdf)

## Our History



Intergenerational "Guest at Your Table" Service, Nov 2006

## Schedule of Services

Date	Service
9-9-07	Pot Luck and Water Communion
9-16-07	Rev. Glenda Walker - <i>"The Problem of Man's Knowledge: an open letter to Richard Dawkins, Steve Harris, Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell."</i>
9-23-07	<i>"Principles, Palestine, and Peace"</i> Jim Maas
9-30-07	<i>"Why local foods?"</i> – Jeremy Solin
10-7-07	<i>"Reflection on Buddhism"</i> John Buzza
10-14-07	<i>"Musical Salute to a Fall Harvest"</i> Susan Urban
10-21-07	Rev. Jody Welden Topic TBA
10-28-07	Rev. Scott Prinster Topic TBA
11-4-07	<i>"Moses, The Early Years: The Courage to Speak Up and Act"</i> Jerry Woolpy & Tara Reed
11-11-07	Rev. Jody Welden
11-18-07	Intergenerational Guest at Your Table
11-25-07	TBA
12-2-07	Rev. Sarah Oelberg
12-9-07	TBA
12-16-07	Intergenerational Holiday Service
12-23-07	TBA
12-30-07	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**