



# Fellowship Focus

Unitarian Universalist  
Fellowship of Elkhart

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1732 Garden Street ~ P.O. Box 584  
Elkhart, Indiana 46514-0584

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

## December 2007

### **President**

Leslie Sackett  
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(574)293-8518

### **Interim Minister**

Rev. Dr. Laurie E. Proctor  
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### **Minister Emeriti**

Rev. Dr. Gordon J. Gibson  
Rev. Robert T. Dick

### **Office Administrator**

Kim Chaple  
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(574)264-2565  
Hours: 8:30-12:30  
Tuesday & Thursday

### **Childcare**

Lizzie French

### **Sunday Mornings at UUFE**

#### **9:30 – 10:15 All in the RE House**

Tender loving childcare for Infants and Toddlers  
Classes for Children  
Adult Programs

#### **9:30 – 10:15 In the Meeting House**

Adult Forum

#### **10:30 – 11:40 In the Meeting House**

We gather as a community of all ages for the Sunday service. Following the covenant, the adults in the congregation sing the children and youth on their way to activities in the basement classrooms. Tender loving childcare for Infants and Toddlers is offered in the Toddler's Room downstairs.

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### **December 2**

#### **9:30 – Adult Forum**

**Youth RE: Pageant Rehearsal**

**Adult RE (DIY)**

#### **10:30 – “Beyond Categorical Thinking”**

Brought to you by the Search Committee, the BCT program works with Unitarian Universalist congregations to promote inclusive thinking and help prevent unfair discrimination in the ministerial search process. The Reverend Paul Langston-Daley and Jo Ann Dale, trained facilitators, will be with us for the service and the **Potluck and Workshop** which follow. During the workshop, opportunities for conversations and reflection for the congregation to identify issues related to identity. In the process, congregations explore some of these biases, learn more about the search process, and begin to think about next steps, such as further consultation, education, or training beyond the BCT program. Childcare will be available during the Workshop. Loose plate recipients: **Silent Samaritan Fund of the Samaritan Center.**

**The Unitarian  
Universalist Fellowship  
of Elkhart is a welcoming  
community  
encouraging religious  
freedom, nurturing  
individual, spiritual and  
ethical growth,  
celebrating diversity, and  
promoting a just and  
sustainable world.**

## Sunday Mornings at UUFE, cont'd

### December 9

**9:30 – Adult Forum**

**Youth RE: Pageant Rehearsal**

**Adult RE: Jesus for the Non-Religious**

**10:30 – “Congratulations, It’s a God!” – Dr. Proctor**

In this season focused on the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, we Unitarian Universalists are often confronted with the question of what it is we celebrate. This morning’s sermon’s explores a possible response by looking at the myths around Jesus. During the service we will welcome in new members. Loose plate recipients: **Elkhart Civic Theatre.**

### December 16

**9:30 – Adult Forum**

**Youth RE: Last minute Pageant Preparation**

**Adult RE: Jesus for the Non-Religious**

**10:30 – “Saint Margaret, Saint George and the Dragon”**

Join the Sunday School and numerous helpful adults for our second pageant Sunday. This play adapted by an old friend of Dr. Proctor’s has a surprise ending that perfectly fits the spirit of the holidays. Remember that there is no potluck today. Loose plate recipients: **Envirocorps.**

### December 23

**9:30 – Adult Forum**

**No Youth or Adult RE**

**10:30 – “Home for the Holidays” – Dr. Proctor**

A sermon about maintaining one’s sanity and good spirits at this time of the year. Loose plate recipients: **Midwest Museum of American Art.**

### December 30

**9:30 – Adult Forum**

**No Youth or Adult RE**

**10:30 – “Are we a Religion, and If So, What Are We Gonna Do About It?” – Beth Lefever**

In this service I will be responding to the often heard accusation that Unitarian Universalism is not really a religion, and suggesting ways we might effectively apply our way of being religious to the bumps and bruises of a hurting world. Beth is a member of our congregation and is studying for the UU ministry; she serves the Berrien UU Fellowship part-time as Religious Leader. Loose plate recipients: **Elkhart County Drug-Free Partnership.**



## From the Interim Minister's Desk

A few weeks ago, I found myself sitting on the floor playing with my grandson, pounding on something, putting shapes in holes, or building with giant Legos. I had the vague sense that I should be doing something else, maybe something more important. And then I realized that there was nothing else more important that I could be doing at that particular time. It was a wonderful feeling and a good lesson.

I thank all of you for allowing me to be away a couple of times a year to spend time with Jac. Not only have you allowed me time away, you have oohed and ahed over the photos.

Now that I am back and recovered from jet lag, I have been thinking about how best to use the remainder of my time with you. It was somewhat startling to realize that we are fast approaching the midpoint of this congregational year, which means that I have just over six months with you.

The past year-and-a-half has been amazing; there is absolutely no marking time with this congregation. You have a new mission statement, one that is much more descriptive of this group. The long-range plan, which was developed with the input of many members of this congregation and a lot of work by the planning committee, especially its chair Greg Koehler, is one of the best I have ever seen. It was adopted as a guiding document for the next five years, and as David Ball told those gathered for the congregational meeting, will be a real draw for potential ministerial candidates.

Even before the plan was adopted, the board had met one of the major goals: the hiring of an office administrator. Kim Chaple has been on the job for just over two months and we can already feel the difference. No longer do the worship associates have to spend hours putting together the orders of service. These folks, Ken Clayborn, Genee Crump-Campagnoli, Rose Fournier, and David Stokely, should be thanked profusely for taking up this job – often a thankless one – during the interim period. They certainly make my work easier and their attention to detail, makes the Sunday services better for us all.

Kim's presence has also reduced the piles of mail that have been accumulating in corners, and this month, she (and I) have taken on the Focus. You will note some differences. We don't have access to the same software as Jess Koscher, nor do we have her artistic ability. Our goal is to produce a newsletter that is informative and clear. To that end, both Kim and I will appreciate your feedback, especially as we experiment with email distribution (an experiment born out of necessity this month.) This month's Focus offers a starting point and will continue to evolve.

Worship and Arts is trying some changes with the services this year. Ingathering and the Blending of Waters was moved to the end of August. The seder was retired in favor of an ethnic bread communion, which I understand was quite beautiful and moving. This year's Christmas Eve Candlelight Service has been moved to an earlier time (5:30) to allow people and families to attend without breaking into other activities that many have planned for the evening. I appreciate the openness with which the congregation has welcomed (tolerated?) these changes. As several people have said, "If we don't try, we'll never know."

I offer you the very best during these holidays. May they bring you whatever you most need whether it be peace and quiet or raucous, joyous celebration or some of both. I look forward to welcoming in the New Year with you.

With fondness,

Laurie

## What's Happening at UUFU?

### Mark your calendars for these events.

**December 24**

### **5:30 - CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**

As is the custom, we gather to rejoice in the in the magic of this night. We'll sing carols and listen to the stories both new and old. Please note the new time.



### **Bob Milne Encore Performance**

Bob Milne and his Rag-time and Boogie-woogie Piano will be back at UUFU, Thursday evening, January 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **Fellowship Fun & Frolic**

The Holiday Tamale scheduled for December 15 has been postponed until later in the year when it will morph into the Whole Tamale.

Remember to mark your calendars for the **January 11 Movie Night**.

### **Calling All Singers**

The UUFU Choir will meet each Saturday morning at 10:00 AM in the Meeting House to rehearse for the Christmas Programs.



### **Recorded Music Listening Group**

The next meeting will take place at the home of Doris Stickel and David Stokely, 511 James St., Elkhart, at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 16.

### **Dinner Out**

In this busy time of year, not wanting to add another event to your calendars, "dinners out" have been suspended until early 2008.



### **Newsletter deadline December 15**

Mark your calendars for the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month as the new deadline for the Fellowship Focus. The day of the month will change, but not the date. This change is to ensure that we'll have items early enough that the Focus can be sent out soon after the monthly board meeting. Thanks for your cooperation.

### **Holiday Cards for Jail Inmates**

Bring your extra holiday cards to the Meeting House where Bea Tarara will be collecting them until December 16. Please put them in the basket in the foyer. Stamps are also appreciated.



## Lifespan Religious Education News

The Committee met on November 11 and established these officers: Martha McLaughlin, chair, Linda Arbogast, secretary, Dan Watson, treasurer, and Laura Snow, liaison to the Ministerial Search Committee. "Roots and Shoots," a program of the Jane Goodall Institute, has been chosen for the children's Sunday School curriculum.

The children will present a holiday program at the **Intergenerational Sunday Service on December 16**. Rehearsals will be held the first two Sundays in December, from 9:30 to 11:30.

**Ongoing activities** for the children during the 10:30 worship hour were discussed, emphasizing that there will always be two adults present for these activities.

The Committee's **next meeting** will be Sunday, December 9, at noon. Interested persons are always welcome.

### Sunday Adult RE

#### **December 2, 9:30: DIY**

This morning, waiting in the parlor of the RE House will be two videos: one is an interview with Thomas Berry, the other on science and religion put out by the Union of Concerned Scientists. Those gathered can choose which they want to see.

#### **December 9 & 16, 9:30: Jesus for the Non-Religious**

In this season filled with birth narratives of Jesus of Nazareth, we'll begin a brief exploration of the facts behind the myth. John Shelby Spong's very readable book gives title to these two Sundays. A brief excerpt will be available the week before, but if you are really interested, you might want to purchase the book yourself.

**December 23, 30 & January 6: No 9:30 programs during the winter break.**

## News from the Board of Trustees

Here are the highlights from the Nov. 28 meeting of the Board of Trustees:

1. The board discussed formation of the Building Committee to manage achieving the goals set out in the Strategic Long-Range Plan. Board members planned to contact a number of prospects and also planned to invite self-nominations.
2. Rev. Proctor reported that the December Fellowship Focus would be e-mailed to all members with an e-mail address and mailed to those who do not have email, so that everyone will receive the newsletter in a timely manner. (The newsletter deadline had been pushed back from its usual day.) The board discussed the possibility of transitioning to e-mail delivery of the newsletter on a permanent basis, depending on feedback.
3. Patty French reported that Nancy Bugajski has agreed to be the department coordinator for the Social and Community Concerns Department, the new name for the Social Action Department.
4. The board approved minor changes to the Endowment Committee's policy.
5. After a presentation by Rod Liechty, the board opted to join the National Religious Campaign Against Torture as an "endorsing" member.

## Committee News

### New Names

What was the Social Action and Service Department is now **Social and Community Concerns**. The new department coordinator is **Nancy Bugajski**. (We thank Krista Bailey for her able leadership of this department during the past year.) What was the Social Action Committee is now the **Social Justice Committee** and you can read about what they are doing below.

### Social Justice Committee

*Mission: To put our UU principles into practice by addressing pressing social concerns of the greater community. We will be visibly active by providing opportunities to work together in service.*

### Second Sundays are Social Justice Sundays!

All interested people are invited to attend. Next meeting: December 9 from Noon – Noon:45 Meet in forum room at UUFÉ. Let's get in the habit of meeting on the second Sunday of even numbered months. The Broadway Christian food crew, one of the ongoing social justice projects, meets on the odd numbered months on the second Sunday. Seems like a good way to keep us consistent. Although the committee will meet on second Sundays in February, April, June, August, October, and December, subcommittee or special project groups may meet at other times to plan or evaluate events.

### Calendar of Events

**Habitat Wednesdays:** As a follow-up to the successful and very fun Women Build that took place in July, the 1st Wednesday of the month will be an opportunity for men and women to volunteer as a group of UUs on a Habitat for Humanity project. Times and locations will be provided in each month's newsletter by Laura Snow.

**Sunday January 13, 9:00AM – 1:00PM:** Broadway Christian Food Service. See Jim McConnell for details.

### We're on Our Way! News from Long-Range Planning

At the special congregational meeting called to consider the long range plan, the vote was overwhelmingly in favor of adopting the plan as a guiding document for the next five years. At that same meeting we adopted a new mission statement that more accurately reflects who we are and who we want to be. (Read it on the first page of this issue.) Many, many thanks go to Greg Koehler and the rest of the Long-Range Planning Committee for their work in gathering comments from the congregation and integrating it into a workable plan.

The plan requires that we form a committee to move the building plans forward. This group will take the project from the design phase into construction. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact any member of the board.



### Membership

This fall more than seventy members participated in eleven **small group dinners**, making this one of the most successful efforts ever. All were encouraged to sign up with a host whose home they had not previously visited. Committee members Joan Clayborn and Connie Stamper made certain that all members and friends were contacted and we thank them for that. For those who missed out, Doloris Cogan is offering a **make-up dinner** on Friday, January 18. Please phone her (262-1647) if you are interested in attending. Connie and Joan are owed another thanks for the work they did in putting together the successful **Roots** session. Four people (Mary Ann Carroll, Priscilla Rauser, Katrina Wilson, and Brad Dobbs) attended.

## Around the Meeting House

### Careline

**Bill Clark**, long time Unitarian Universalist and member of this congregation, since 1989, died at his home on October 27. Due to failing health for the past several years, Bill was unable to be physically present with his UUFE family, but those of us who knew him will remember his sense of humor and participation in our fellowship. We offer our condolences to his wife, Thelma and to his children. A memorial service will be held at the Meeting House on December 8 at 2:00 PM. **Thelma Clark** was in an automobile accident within a week after the death of her husband, Bill Clark. She reports the doctors told her it would take about 6 weeks to heal from her injuries in her shoulders and knees. **Shirley Ivy**, who recently had some repair work done on a hip replacement reports she is thrilled to be able take a few steps without using her walker. She reports she has some pain, but it is manageable. Shirley appreciates all of the cards that were sent to her. She also sends a huge "Thank You" for all of the birthday cards that were sent to Jack.

### Final Tally for CROP Hunger Walk

Our UUFE walkers raised just over \$1100 dollars for the CROP Walk on October 6. In addition to those mentioned in the November Focus, Rachel Koontz also walked for UUFE. A big thanks to all those who walked and those who generously supported them with donations.

### Thank Yous

To all who helped on the Workday and a special thanks to Jim Victor who organized it all.

Jim tells us that our dishwasher has died and gone to appliance heaven. If you know of a kitchen being remodeled thereby liberating a workable machine, let Jim know and we will provide a loving home.

### Our UURoots

December, 1997

Ten years ago we were blessed with a team of ministers: the Rev. Gordon Gibson, who had come to UUFE in 1985, and would serve till his retirement in 2005, and student intern Phlox Laucher, later ordained at UUFE and minister to UU churches in Billings, Montana and Pittsfield, Mass.

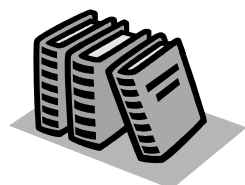
The *Fellowship Focus* described a fine variety of services that December. Gordon addressed us on "Interdependence." The Worship and Arts Committee presented "Christmas Through the Eyes of Robert Fulghum and You," seeking information from us about our own Christmas traditions through a questionnaire in that issue. Phlox, women's group members, and the "Hard Core Carolers" offered a Winter Solstice celebration. The annual Christmas Eve service featured carols, candle-lighting, poetry and stories, as well as Gordon's ever-popular reading of "The Grinch." And after Christmas, Gordon and Phlox presented a service of reflection looking forward to the New Year. As a sideline, our congregation enjoyed the annual adult Christmas party, complete with "white elephant" gifts, at the home of Brian and Pat Weigold.

Phlox, in her "Phlox-ophizing" column, reflected on prayer as an "act of pausing, however it's done..." and Gordon, in his "Ministerial Musings," commended us for our work for many worthy causes, comparing the impact UUFE has on the wider community to falling leaves that etch patterns into the snow, "not heavy and oppressive, but making more of an impression ... than one might expect from something no larger than it is."

## Shop on Amazon.com?

Webmaster Greg Koehler writes: Not only is the UUFEE web site ([www.uufe.org](http://www.uufe.org)) a source for information, it is now a way UUFEE can earn a little extra money. If you shop on Amazon.com, please keep in mind that a portion of your purchase can go to benefit UUFEE. By clicking on the Amazon.com link at the bottom of the UUFEE web site ([www.uufe.org](http://www.uufe.org)), up to 6% of the total purchase (not just books) you make on Amazon will go to UUFEE. Just remember, the Fellowship only gets the commission when you click on the link from the UUFEE web site.

## Looking for some Good Books?



If so, here are some books that come recommended by fellow members:

- *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* by J. K. Rowling
- *The Divine Matrix Bridging Time, Space, Miracles and Belief* by Gregg Braden
- *The Indigo Children; New Kids have Arrived* by Lee Carroll and Jan Tofer
- *The Prisoners of Combine D* by Len Geovannitti
- *The Heart of Christianity* by Marcus Borg
- *American Fascists; the Christian Right and the War on America* by Chris Hedges
- *Infidels* by Ayaan Hirsi Ali
- *Aztec* by Gary Jennings\*
- *The Places in Between* by Rory Stewart\*
- *Born Divine: The Births of Jesus & Other Sons of God* by Robert J. Miller
- *The Prince Of The Marshes and Other Occupational Hazards of a Year in Iraq* by Rory Stewart\*

\* Books available at the Elkhart Public Library.

## Meet Our New Members

**Mary Ann Carroll** signed the membership book on October 21. An Elkhart native, Mary Ann graduated from Elkhart Central High School in 1944. She is mother of four sons and grandmother to nine. For twenty-five years, she worked at Rinko International in New York City researching in the area of business communications and played a prominent role in publishing *Purity and Power*. Mary Ann enjoys all forms of art, loves theater and music, and says that ballroom dancing is her favorite form of exercise.

While in New York, she attended an interfaith fellowship and had been looking for a religious community with a similar religious sensibility. About UUFEE, she says: "I am thrilled to have found this fellowship. I like the open-mindedness, the way a person can be him- or herself; say what they genuinely feel and believe. I can feel the warmth and camaraderie. I love the forum. I like the architecture of the building."

**Nancy Bugajski**, who officially joined us on November 4, is a former UU from Santa Rosa, California. Nancy's spiritual journey began with her upbringing in the Roman Catholic Church, and led her to begin work toward a Master of Divinity degree. She served three years as a licensed United Methodist pastor. Along the way, Nancy spent ten years living in Egypt where she learned to speak Arabic and gained an understanding of Islam. She has two grown children and is currently working as a substitute teacher in Special Education and hopes to become a full-time paraprofessional with Elkhart Community Memorial High School Special Education Program. She has written liturgy and is a published poet. For the past ten years, her hobby is doing research on the "Sacred Feminine." Mary has already jumped into the life of our fellowship by accepting the position of Department Coordinator of the Social and Community Concerns.

## The Larger Community

### Change of Venue for the Venerable Wu Ling

All events, including Monday 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM meditations, will now meet at Venerable's home, 2017 Raintree Drive, #1, Elkhart in the Hunter's Pond Development. Venerable has created a beautiful, serene meditation room in her home. Venerable Wu Ling can also be contacted through her website [www.abuddhistperspective.org](http://www.abuddhistperspective.org) or by email at [shiwuling@amitahba-Publication.org](mailto:shiwuling@amitahba-Publication.org). For further information, including directions to Venerable's apartment, please call Cameo Victor at 574/295-8753.

### Caring for Loved Ones in Later Life

*A Free Lunch & Learn Series for Persons Who Are Caring For Aging Loved Ones.*

*All meetings are held at the Sailor Community Center on the campus Hubbard Hill Estates,  
8070 CR24 West, Elkhart, Indiana 46527*

*Please call 574/284-2644, ext 119 or 1-800-552-7928, ext. 119  
one week before to assure a reserved, complimentary lunch*

**Friday, December 7, 12:10-1:30**

#### When is Hospice Appropriate and What Is Palliative Care?

Hospice offers palliative care and provides a variety of programs and services to preserved the quality of life for those with advanced diseases. Learn what kinds of care hospice provides, how to know when your loved one may benefit from hospice care, and how to arrange for services.

**Friday, January 4, 12:10-1:30**

#### Death the Final Stage of Growth

Death is a natural part of life. Understanding and accepting death can help caregivers through this difficult process. Learn what you can do to contribute to a good ending for your loved ones and foster a spiritual connection with them in the transformative experience of dying.



### Songs of Soul

If there is light in the soul, there will be beauty in the person.  
If there is beauty in the person, there will be harmony in the house.  
If there is harmony in the house, there will be order in the nation.  
If there is order in the nation, there will be peace in the world.

\_ Chinese Proverb



**S O S (Soup of Success) Special Shopping Days  
"Build Your Own Gift Basket!"**

**Wednesday, December 5, 4-8 PM**

**Saturday, December 8, 9:00AM - 1:00PM**

Church Community Services

629 South Third Street, Elkhart, Indiana

We have dozens of gourmet goodies, hundreds of container options and thousands of holiday embellishments all lined up in our workshop ready to be turned into amazing holiday gifts! We love to see the faces of our customers when they come in to shop and leave with gorgeous gifts. Your purchase of SOS products benefits local women working toward self-sufficiency. We will be designing baskets through December 21 and will be available for private shopping. Please call 574/523-1551

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**Tea with Ruth & Friends**

**Saturday, December 1, 1-4 PM**

**Living Faith Fellowship Church**

**2601 Benham Avenue, Elkhart**

Benefiting Church Community Services

and its Soup of Success Program

Suggested donation: \$5 and a non-perishable food pantry item.

A children's tea will be available for the young ones.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Elkhart  
P. O. Box 584  
Elkhart, IN 46515-0584

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