



Fellowship Focus

Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Elkhart

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1732 Garden Street ~ P.O. Box 584
Elkhart, Indiana 46514-0584
574-264-6525
www.uufe.org

January 2008

President

Leslie Sackett
lastruth@aol.com
(574)293-8518

Interim Minister

Rev. Dr. Laurie E. Proctor
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Minister Emeriti

Rev. Dr. Gordon D. 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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January 6

9:30 – Adult Forum

**Youth RE: No RE
Adult RE: No RE**

10:30 – “There Isn’t Always Enough Time To Do What You Want” – Dr. Proctor

A sermon for the New Year about time and our relationship to it. Loose plate recipients: Elkhart Drug Free Partnership

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

January 13

9:30 – Adult Forum

Youth RE: Taproots

Adult RE: Healthy Children – Healthy Planet

10:30 – “Tell Us the Dream” – Dr. Proctor

This morning as we celebrate the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. with a sermon; it is time to dream again. Loose plate recipients: Elkhart County Women’s Shelter

January 20

9:30 – Adult Forum

Youth RE: Taproots

Adult RE: Healthy Children – Healthy Planet

10:30 – “Wild Utterances, Evil Eyes, and Letters to God: A Few Thoughts on the Peculiarities of Prayer” – Dr. Proctor

Each Sunday, we dutifully “meditate,” but do not “pray.” This morning I offer a few thoughts on the latter which, at least in some ways, may not be so different the former. This morning’s service includes Candles for Joys and Concerns and will be followed by the monthly potluck.

Loose plate recipients: Planned Parenthood of Indiana

January 27

9:30 – Adult Forum

Youth RE: Taproots

Adult RE: Healthy Children – Healthy Planet

10:30 – Guest Speaker

This morning, we welcome to the pulpit, Nancy Bugajski, one of our newest members. She’ll share some of the insights to Islam gained during the ten years she live in Egypt. Loose plate recipients: PFLAG

February 4

9:30 – Adult Forum

Youth RE: Taproots

Adult RE: Healthy Children – Healthy Planet

10:30 – “The Courage of Job” – Dr. Proctor

Job is one of the most fascinating and most difficult characters found in the Hebrew Scriptures. This morning I offer a few thoughts on his predicament, which is not unlike ours, at least, at some points in our lives.

From the Interim Minister's Desk



I write at the midpoint between Christmas and New Year's. I have not yet posted my holiday missives and still have a couple of packages to mail. I did much better with holiday planning and preparation when I was retired, and even last year, only a few months out of retirement, I was ahead of things, but this year I returned to my old ways. Some time ago, when I learned that the Twelve Days of Christmas began on Christmas Day, I decided to accept the fact that I would be among those whose celebration began on December 25 and continued through the New Year. It isn't a bad decision for a minister given that most of us are responsible for services on Christmas Eve. (In Fort Wayne, the last of our two evening services was at 11:00 PM, so I did not even get home until Christmas Day.)

This is one of my favorite times. I enjoy the lull between the holidays and always look forward to the New Year. I will make my resolutions and look at the blank pages of my new calendar (this year's is Japanese gardens) with a sense of anticipation. If this year proceeds like others – and there's never any guarantee – sometime in the middle of the year, I'll wonder what happened to all my resolve, but will continue to muddle through.

I do know that 2008 will mark a significant change in my life and in that of your congregation. Midyear, I will be returning to the retired life, although I'm not sure that the term "retired" really applies to me. Like some colleagues, I prefer to think of it as a redirection of professional energies with more flexibility in scheduling. It will allow me more time for writing, gardening and for being "Gran" to Jac who if Homeland Security moves with some speed (no guarantees here either) will be living in the United States with his mum and dad in late spring or summer.

By the time we part company, you will be on your way with (it is hoped) a newly-called and settled minister, and will be seeing your building plans taking shape.

Between now and then, I have work to do. The Board of Trustees has charged me with leading an effort to shape the handbook of policies into something that is easily accessible. As of now, it is a collection of bits and pieces of minutes and actions by past boards. Wisely, the board has decided that it doesn't want to keep reinventing the wheel, but instead to use the work of those that went before. Strangely enough, I look forward to this kind of work; I'm one of those people who likes bylaws. I am a firm believer that these underlying documents shape congregational life and become an expression of our beliefs and values.

The congregation has its work, too. As you will read in the board report, a building committee has been formed and will begin meeting very soon. They are charged with taking the dreams in the strategic plan and making them real so that you can sign with a contractor by December 31, 2008. It is exciting just to think about it, and even though I will not be with you as you literally lay the foundation for your future, I will continue to read about your progress in the Focus with great interest.

We have a good six months yet together, and miles to go before then.

With best wishes for 2008,

Laurie

What's Happening at UUFU?

Mark your calendars for these events.

January 24

Bob Milne Encore Performance



Bob Milne and his Rag-time and Boogie-woogie Piano will be back at UUFU on January 24 at 7:00 PM. Mr. Milne has been called the best ragtime/boogie-woogie pianist on this planet. For further information, contact David Stokely. If you can't make the Thursday performance, Mr. Milne will also appear at the Berrien UU Fellowship the evening before. Call Beth Lefever for information.

Recorded Music Listening Group

The Recorded Music Listening Group will meet on Sunday, January 20 at 5:00 p.m. at the home of Ken and Deb Ingelfield.



Fellowship Fun & Frolic January 11 Movie Night

"Being There" the 1979 movie directed by Hal Ashby and starring Peter Sellers, Shirley MacLaine, Melvyn Douglas, and is the movie for your viewing pleasure. One reviewer wrote, "Sellers is in top form as are the supporting cast--the sheer farce of it all makes the improbable seem probable--and as a vehicle for political/social commentary it ranks as one

of the best dark comedies ever made." Contact Jim Todd for further information.

Newsletter deadline

January 15

Mark your calendars for the 15th of every month as the new deadline for the Fellowship Focus. The day of the month

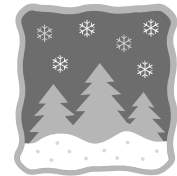


will change, but not the date.

We prefer that items be submitted by email to UUFU's office at

uufe@juno.com. Hard copy can be placed in the box on the table below the mailboxes.

Thanks for your cooperation.



Snow Days

For the first time in many years, a Sunday service at UUFU was cancelled because of weather. It was the opinion of your interim minister (who was snowbound in Fort Wayne), your president, and the chairs of both Worship and Arts and the Religious Education Committees that this was the best decision given road conditions. At the December meeting the board adopted a policy that **if it is snowing or icy and travel is not recommended for vehicles other than emergency vehicles, services will be cancelled.** If there is any doubt in your mind, please check TV and radio for the official word on cancellations. We will do our best to get the word out quickly via local media and email.

News from the Board of Trustees

At the meeting on December 19, the Board of Trustees took the following actions:

- ◇ Heard a report from the search committee about the status of the search.
- ◇ Approved the expenditure of \$3,500 to fund a project presented by the archives and history committee to preserve UUFÉ's important documents. The project will convert records such as meeting minutes, financial records and official UUFÉ publications in digital (CD) and microfilm form.
- ◇ Gave Jim Raudabaugh and Dan Watson the OK to investigate purchasing a new computer for the office as well as high-speed Internet service for the building. Both would be paid for by an anonymous donation.
- ◇ Appointed Jim Barnes as UUFÉ's representative to Church Community Services.
- ◇ Reviewed the list of five people who have agreed to serve on the building committee.
- ◇ Believing that the committee needs at least one more person, the board decided to announce at the next service an invitation for interested people to apply before January 10.
- ◇ Considered a contingency plan should the current settled minister search result in no settled minister being found. After a long discussion, the matter was tabled until the January meeting.

Lifespan Religious Education News

9:30 Sunday RE for Children and Youth

January 13, 20 & 27 – “Taproots”

Chris French and Dan Watson are the facilitators for this program developed by the Jane Goodall Institute, whose mission is to foster respect and compassion for all living things, to promote understanding of all cultures and beliefs, and to inspire each individual to take action to make the world a better place for people, animals, and the environment.

10:45 Sunday Activities for Children and Youth

Every Sunday after the children and youth leave the service, they engage in a special activity. It can be an art or craft, an exploration of the outdoors or even drumming. **Needed are volunteers for this activity time.** You may supply your activity or one will be supplied – your choice. Long-time teacher Lee Sones will be there to assist. Please sign up on the clipboard in the foyer.

9:30 Sunday Adult RE

January 13, 20 & 27 – “Healthy Children – Healthy Planet”

“We could never have loved the earth so well if we had had not childhood in it.” – George Eliot

Come join with thousands of others all over the USA who are “changing the world one conversation at a time.” One of several available from the Northwest Earth Institute, this discussion series addresses the pervasive effects of how advertising, media, and our consumer culture can influence a child's view of the world. Topics include: cultural pressures, family rituals and celebrations, advertising, food and health, time and creativity, technology and the media, and exploring nature. While this series will be of particular interest to parents and grandparents, because each of us was a child once, exploring these topics can help in understanding how our own attitudes about nature have been shaped. If you would like to join in the discussion, please contact Krista Bailey or Dr. Proctor for the collection of readings.

Committee News

Ministerial Search Committee

Thank you to all who helped us make the “Beyond Categorical Thinking” service and workshop a great success. As a congregation, we are, of course, open-minded and non-judgmental, and this workshop helped us articulate that. The workshop also has helped us with the search process, and confirmed to prospective candidates what a great group of people we are!

With the BCT workshop, and the strategic plan, there is concrete evidence that we have our act together.

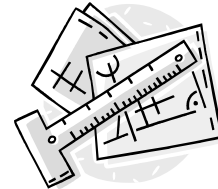
As we reach the end of 2007, the search committee is very busy exchanging packets, and interviewing prospective ministers. Our congregational packet is very impressive, and we invite you to peruse a copy in the UUFÉ foyer. We will be planning pre-candidating weekends to happen in the first part of 2008. Stay tuned!

Social Justice Committee

Sunday January 13, 9:00AM – 1:00PM;
Broadway Christian Food Service. See Jim McConnell if you want to help with this outreach project.

Building Committee Forming

The long-range 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 before January 10.



Around the Meeting House



Looking for some Good Books?

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

The Divine Matrix by

Gregg Braden

Disappearance of the Universe by Gary Renard

Your Immortal Reality - Gary Renard

Two by Bishop John Shelby Spong: *Rescuing the Gospels from the Fundamentalists* and *Jesus and the non Religious* Spong

The Assault on Reason by Al Gore

Mindfulness in Plain English by Venerable Helepolá Gunaratona

Aztec Autumn by Gary Jennings

The Jesus Papers: Exposing the Greatest Cover-Up in History by Michael Baigent

A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini

Reading Lolita in Tehran by Azar Nafisi

Library Notes:

The following books have been donated to the fellowship library - *Pale Blue Dot: a Vision of the Human Future* by Carl Sagan; *A Short History of Nearly Everything* by Bill Bryson; *Maybe (Maybe Not): Second Thoughts from a Secret Life* by Robert Fulgum; *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho; *Palestine: Peace not Apartheid* by Jimmy Carter.

Careline

Doloris Cogan was discharged from EGH on Friday, Dec. 14. Phone calls are welcome. Please call ahead if you plan to visit her, to ensure that she is available. Doloris, you just keep on taking care of yourself!

Let's remember our UUFЕ'ers who are not able to be in their homes. **Mark Feller** is "holding his own" at Valley View Nursing Home in Elkhart, where he has been living for about one year. Mark enjoys getting cards. Mark's dad, Ernie Feller suggests sending Mark's cards to Ernie, who will take them to Mark and help him open them. Ernie's address is Ernest Feller 99 Roxbury Park Goshen, IN 46526.

Let us also remember **Pat Bryan at Holy Cross Care & Rehab Center** 17475 Dugdale Drive South Bend, IN 46635. Pat has been unable to attend UUFЕ services for a long time, but enjoys staying in touch with her UUFЕ family. Greeting cards are a way of letting her know she is important to us. Pat's positive attitude and sense of humor helps her cope with being away from people she cares about and who care about her.

Dr. Jack Ivy who is at Greencroft in Goshen also appreciates hearing from his UUFЕ family. Send Jack's cards to Shirley Ivy, 1633 Magnolia Ct. Goshen, IN 46525. Shirley will read them with him.

Dr. Peter Carney continues his recovery at Greenleaf Living Center. He was injured in an automobile accident. Dr. Carney's address at Greenleaf is 1201 East Beardsley, Room 814, Elkhart, IN 46514

If you know of any other people you would like to bring to the attention of the CARE Committee, please email me at macpegcook@msn.com or call me at (574) 825-5716.

In Our Thoughts

We offer our sincerest condolences: to **Chuck Brugh** whose sister, Susie Snyder, died on November 30; to **Loree Holderman**, whose mother, Daisy Borah died recently; and to Judy Darnel, who also lost her mother.. **Matt Tschetter** and **Heidi Rupley** have been rocked by the loss of Matt's job. Please know that you are all in our thoughts.

Take a Bow

The December 23 morning service and the Christmas Eve Candlelight service were both enriched by the singing of the choir. We thank **Doris Stickel** for leading the choir and the following for singing in same: **Carolyn Andersohn, Peg Cook, Karen Fisette and her Aunt Lynn, Beth Lefever, Martha Pickrell, Priscilla Rauser, David Stokley, and Jim Todd. Linda Arbogast** both sang and accompanied the service and the choir. **Bill Schmidt** stepped in on Christmas Eve to work the sound system and thereby saved the minister's voice.

The pageant, "*St. George, St. Margaret, and the Dragon*," was a delight. Thanks to the actors and the crew behind the scenes: **Sarah Weigold, Stephen Pelton, Noah Pelton, Destiny Hightower, Ceridwyn Snow, Madlean Koehler, Anna Chambers, Jim Victor, Elena and Victoria Mark, Dan Watson, Laura Snow, Jenny Bartlett, Cameo Victor, Genee Crump-Campagnoli, Martha McLaughlin and Jim Todd**, who accompanied the pageant.



Birthdays

Because we unwittingly didn't get in the December birthdays, a happy belated birthday to the following:

Geneele Crump-Campagnoli – 12/1

Francisco Avila, Gloria Carney, & Roger Snow – 12/3

Cara Lawson-Ball – 12/6

Patty French – 12/13

Ron Gill – 12/14

Dale Kern, Marty Ludlow, Lee Sones, Howard Trumbull – 12/19

Alison Dolezal – 12/24

Jini Rueff – 12/25

Elena & Victoria Mark – 12/28



Meet Our New Member

Priscilla Rauser grew up in Jackson, Michigan. Her father was an atheist and her mother never expressed any religious convictions. "My neighbor started taking me to Sunday School at an Episcopal Church and I sang in the children's choir. After she became disenchanted with the Episcopal Church, she did not attend church for many years. After moving to Detroit, Michigan, she was lonely and began attending the Methodist Church, where she also sang in the choir. Priscilla describes the thing that appealed to her about a church was the opportunity to sing. "Music has been my salvation all through my life. After each rehearsal, I felt refreshed." Priscilla sings in our choir. Priscilla explained that as an atheist she often felt isolated. "You just don't go around saying you are an atheist." She is relieved to be part of a religious community where "I can say what I really feel." She is 87, twice widowed, and has two daughters and a son (who died at 19), two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren

UUFЕ Roots

Governing Council Meeting,
January 18, 1968

We have a record of the board meetings of that time, thanks to Shirley Ivy, who served as secretary of UUFЕ from 1966 to 1970.

In 1968, our leaders truly kept our young church going on a shoestring. That evening, president Roger Gosling noted that the current balance of funds was about \$2,000. Fifty dollars was approved for snow removal, the cost of one plowing being \$4. A board member also promised to look into remedying the insufficient heat in the children's basement classrooms.

Realizing the need to grow, the board approved Roger's suggestion of a ceremony welcoming new members at a Sunday service, as well as announcements clearly communicating how to become a member. In fact, the first UUFЕ long range planning committee presented several topics for study that night. They envisioned directional road signs, future expansion of the building, carpeting, and improvements in the parking lot and playground -- all of which would happen, eventually. Just a few months later, working within the July-to-June fiscal year newly adopted by the board in February, a congregational canvass succeeded in raising increased funds, with which we hired Forrest Whitman as our first settled minister.

Also at this meeting, the board voted for a policy that "beverages served in the Fellowship House be non-alcoholic." This vote brought some controversy at the next meeting on February 15, when three UUFЕ members spoke in favor of reversing the policy. At a specially called meeting February 21, the board reaffirmed it.

Competence at the helm of UUFЕ is a fine tradition!

The Larger Community

The **Reverend Dr. Gordon D. Gibson** is to take part in the observance of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary on January 21, 2:30 PM. The main speaker Malinda Berry will provide an introduction to the life, thought, and activism of Dr. King.



Words of Dr. King:

Human salvation lies in the hands of the creatively maladjusted.

In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.

Nothing in the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity.

It may be true that the law can't make a man love me, but it can stop him from lynching me and I think that's pretty important.

LaCasa needs volunteers at Roosevelt Center!

LaCasa is ready to begin work at the former Roosevelt Elementary School, but first we need to remove cabinets, bulletin boards, blackboards, etc. We are looking for volunteers to help on Saturday, January 5 and Saturday, January 12, from 8:30–noon. Please plan to help us at 215 E. Indiana Ave on either or both of these days. Our building staff will be there to organize the equipment removal. No construction skills or pre-registration are necessary—just come and be an important part of the new Roosevelt Center! For more information, contact Kate Ireland at 533-4450



The Larger UU World

Winter Institute - February 8 - 10, 2008: Can We Build the Beloved Community through Political Action?

Explore the potential and the limitations of democratic processes for creating the beloved community. During two days of lecture and discussion, consider the kinds of political activities effective in building community and how this political work is connected with the institutional life of the church. This workshop will be led by **Dr. Melissa Harris-Lacewell**, Associate Professor of Politics and African American Studies at Princeton University and author of "Barbershops, Bibles, and BET: Everyday Talk and Black Political Thought."

Fees for the Institute are \$130 for students; \$190 for all others (not including lodging). For more information, [visit our website](#), or [email](#). Registration closes January 15.

Civil Rights Bus Tour: March 22 - 30, 2008

Join Rev. Dr. Gordon and Judy Gibson as they take you on a tour of significant sites of the Southern Civil Rights Movement, offering a journey of experiential learning where you will encounter the sites, sounds, and especially the people who worked to create change during this revolutionary time in our country's history. The course is offered for credit for seminary students, but non-students are encouraged to audit the course, too.

Enrollment for credit will be limited to 15. An additional 15 seats on the tour will be available to the general public. Registration is on a first-come basis and is due no later than January 18, 2008. Please note that this year the course runs across Easter weekend. Participation for the entire eight days is required for those seeking academic credit and is strongly encouraged for all others. See the link on our home page for more information about this course: www.meadville.edu.

This course was offered in 2006 and was a life- and ministry-changing experience for all of the participants. [For an account of that trip, please visit our website.](#)

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