

CAMILLE HERMAN TO TAKE LEADERSHIP POSITION AS BOARD PRESIDENT

Emerson Chapel was saddened to learn of the departure in August of Leigh English for his new business position in India for two years. This meant his resignation as Board President at Emerson after six months of leadership through times of difficult budget decisions. (Thank you, Leigh!)

But with his departure comes welcome news of the election of Camille Herman as President of the Board of Trustees of Emerson. The Nominating Committee had engaged the search upon receiving Leigh's resignation, and had secured Camille's acceptance this July.

Camille comes with experience of serving a two-year term Emerson as Board President from 2001-03. That was also a time of financial transition as the congregation had engaged in a challenging capital building project that resulted in the construction of our new sanctuary. Camille also has served in leadership roles in UU congregations in Texas & Wisconsin.

Since stepping down as Board President in 2003 Camille has remained active in the Emerson congregation by serving as Director of the Emerson Singers for five years and as chair of the Publicity Committee and annual Madrigal Dinner, just to name a few. Emerson members will be familiar with her regular publication of *This Week at Emerson* e-mails keeping the congregation current on activities and events.

Camille's Notes –

It is with pleasure and excitement that I accept the presidency of Emerson for the balance of this church year. I believe we are going to have a great year! I am looking forward to getting to know all of the new members and reacquainting myself with some of you "older" ones. I had to take a few steps back from my Emerson involvement while caring for my mother and I feel a little out of touch, a situation I hope to quickly remedy. Leadership has some challenges to look forward to that, if we can meet them, will continue the growth of this awesome church and enable us to return Krista to full time ministry. One of our biggest challenges is getting more leaders! To help with that, I will be speaking to all of you personally to find out your dreams and desires for Emerson and what you can do to help us achieve them. Feel free to call me at home at any time, or e-mail me with your thoughts, concerns, ideas, and suggestions. I promise to always listen to you.

*Yours in Spirit,
Camille*

KRISTA'S CORNER

MINISTER'S NOTES FROM REV. KRISTA TAVES



Faithfulness During Times of Change

We are starting this church year in a different position than we ended it just two months ago. There will be some adjustments as my position has moved from full time to three-quarter time. Lauren Lyerla, our Director of Religious Education will move from 60% to 40% time, and Randy Whitman our Office Administrator moves from 16 hrs a week to 12. Not unlike many non-profit organizations, we have been forced to tighten our belts as a result of the recession. I have no doubt that in time these cuts will be reversed, but right now, we are going to do the best we can to move forward.

What does this mean, concretely? I will be away one week a month, a bit more than that on five Sunday months. Lauren Lyerla is going to depend on volunteers to do some of what she used to do. So will Randy Whitman. We are all going to need to be more creative in order to provide the same quality of service, if not the same quantity. I

trust that when you are called on by one of these individuals to help out, you will say yes, and when you experience us backing away from work we used to do, you will see this not as a sign that we care less about the church or about you, but that we are respecting and embracing the reality of our new situation.

The economic recession is asking all of us to be creative. Much of what we used to count on has become flimsy and we are examining what really matters. We're getting back to the basics.

This month I'll be offering a three part sermon series – "The Essence of Faithfulness." The root of "essence" is literally "the basic element of anything." What is the basic element of faithfulness? This is a central question in Unitarian Universalism. With our emphasis on freedom and diversity, we often wonder what it is that holds us together. What makes us a faithful people? What is our basic element?

One year ago, at the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association, I attended a workshop where the presenters shared their understanding of the core of Unitarian Universalism to a packed house hungry for an answer. They based their presentation on a selection of scripture from the Hebrew

Bible: "He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:7-8). Given that we are now a theologically diverse denomination, they distilled it to mean this: We are to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly.

This month, we will be exploring how to make this real in our lives. For those who wish to explore further, I will be offering two evening sessions - Tuesday August 11 and Tuesday September 1 - to discuss the sermons in more detail.

In faith,
Rev. Taves

Rev. Taves Office Hours

Available by appointment
August 3 - 9 We, Th, Sa, Su
August 10 - 16 Tu, We, Th, Su
August 17 - 23 OFF
August 24 - 30 We, Th, Sa, Su

Pastoral Care

If you wish to meet with Rev. Taves she can be reached at minister@emersonuuchapel.org or 417 343 8657. She is available 24/7 for Emergency Pastoral Care. She is available for non-emergency pastoral care the weeks she holds office hours.

LEIGH'S LINES

President's Notes from Leigh English



St. Andrew's Church in Bangalore, India is a Scottish Presbyterian Church founded to serve the Scottish soldiers early during the British rule of the country. It is a very large church with a number of excellent projects to improve the lives of those disenfranchised from basic social and physical infrastructure. Sheila is Presbyterian, so it is not too strange that we ended up there this past Sunday. My attendance at her Presbyterian church is an occasion usually reserved for special Christian holidays or special musical events when Sheila is performing, but in a foreign country far away from home, it seemed reasonable to participate in our religious lives together.

Over the years I have become a much better guest while visiting other churches—much more tolerant and genuinely understanding of others' faiths and customs, avoiding rolling my eyes or verbally groaning at creeds, prayers, and the words of the songs—actions frequently accompanying my participation in a creedal

Christian Churches in days gone by. I was mentally prepared to glean whatever message might be presented to me.

It was Globalization Sunday (I had never heard about this before) and the guest speaker, a member of St. Andrews and a faculty member of a local Christian seminary, was introduced to us as an expert on globalization. His message was very clear. In a sentence: Globalization brings both great blessings and great dangers. It is not a good or evil in and of itself but a process that cannot be assumed to be good or bad. In his opinion, the good is readily accepted by most but the bad is not commonly challenged. From the professor's perspective and I believe the data bear him out, the impact of globalization has been to create an expanding middle class but it is also straining both physical infrastructure and the business infrastructure required for just human relationships.

Strained physical infrastructure in India is immediately visible at every turn. The cities are exploding with people, the roads are severely overcrowded and poorly maintained, the water and air quality are poor. At the same time, the people are generous, concerning, loving, caring and in every way hospitable. Globalization has not

distracted from the affection shown to guests.

Neither telecommunications nor access to information guarantees justice. In India, globalization accentuated the fractures in just business relationships. For example, crops resistant to insect pests are a great technical accomplishment, but the extreme desirability of these seeds created an opportunity for illegitimate loan sharks to steal land from the farmers who neither understand nor could afford hyper-inflation traps set for them by financing scoundrels. Honest and reputable financial institutions are a part of the infrastructure that technological achievement did not necessarily bring along with technology. There are many examples of this kind where technical achievement is implemented with lagging associated business infrastructure. I dare say it is the usual process everywhere throughout history, the difference being the rate of technical change compounding this infrastructure fissure. Reputable businesses and the government are working extremely hard to provide equitable loan opportunities and crack down on the unscrupulous lenders. While the financial crisis impacted all of us, the daily financial crisis of the poor makes them far more susceptible to thievery (unless of course you were a client of Bernard Madoff).

Weaknesses in India's physical infrastructure and the social business infrastructure cry out for corrections. Government response is always anticipated but always slower and less than anticipated. The development of business associations and formal business relationships driving to correct disparities is also happening but at a plodding rate. Church and civic organizations must participate and they do, but the intensity of the problems overwhelms any one volunteer organization. Finally, individuals must participate, each doing their civic duty to improve their surroundings and looking out for others.

Unfortunately, governments, business, private organizations and individuals all moving to address infrastructure concerns sounds like a Pollyanna pipedream to me, but if in listing out all of the possibilities we are left with despair, something more is required or we just go on our merry way to hell with all of the problems. The missing piece for me is the energy created from projects building community, and community building the linkages between people that motivate and drive change. Those communities must recognize and celebrate their achievements or they will grind themselves to the ground--burn right out! Sheila will be volunteering for an organization that creates a home for

abandoned Dalit women. They live there and participate in learning skills applied to daily needs and production of hand crafts that are then sold outside of India through a simple supply chain. The skills eventually become sufficient for these ladies to create an economic support system for themselves and their families. The program "graduates" empowered women with sewing machines and other tools for creating a living. The Monsanto laboratory I will direct adopted a school just 1 Km from the laboratory. Donations in time, talent and financial resources from the scientists provide training, awards for academic achievement and gifts of capital improvement to school's physical infrastructure. I want to believe that caring beyond ourselves is a core need we all share. Given even a modicum of conscience, we find ways to give back. This is the seed, the energy that will correct for the inequities in infrastructure.

Emerson had to work hard in 2008-2009 to maintain its own structural integrity and I am still delighted that it did so. Even during the depth of an injurious recession, we found ways to give to others and build weakened social infrastructures in our own back yard. As I move on to my next career assignment I know the congregation will continue to heal its internal structure and re- discovery the delight that comes from service to others. The opportunities are endless

and if at any time the critical mass does not seem to be there on the home front, reach out to the church next door. They may get to things through processes and theology that are strangely different but there are opportunities for shared resolve. I dare say that there is no stranger a bed fellow than the Scottish Presbyterian Church in India that I will likely support in their service projects. Anything we do to heal the social and physical infrastructure of broken relationships will create a catalytic energy for more—even if one has to learn to avoid rolling the eyes and groaning out loud.

A Month of Services

All Sunday Services begin at 10:00 AM

August 2
“Is There Life After Death?”

Rev. Claudia Hall

What happens when we die is the subject of much debate in every religious tradition. Many people of faith are conflicted about this subject, and nobody can give a certain answer. Come and hear what our UU faith has to say about this topic that touches all of us [This is a follow-up from the question box sermon]

Special Music: Ron McGowan

August 9
“The Essence of Faithfulness I: Do Justice”

Rev. Krista Taves

For many in our society, justice and retribution mean the same thing. But for others, justice is much larger than that. It is a way of being that permeates everything you are. What does this mean in a Unitarian Universalist context?

Special Music: Pam Triplette, accompanied by Ron McGowan.

August 16
“The Essence of Faithfulness II: Love Kindness”

Rev. Krista Taves

Kindness is such a gentle word. In our often harsh world, we can easily confuse kindness with weakness. And yet, it is one of the most powerful acts of faithfulness.

Special Music: Blues 66 Band

August 23
“Pondering”

Kathleen Nigro

Kathleen returns to give her annual end-of-summer sermon, this one focusing on what is really important in life.

Special Music: Kevin & Theresa Horth.

August 30
“The Essence of Faithfulness III: Walk Humbly”

Rev. Krista Taves

Humility is one of the most misunderstood words in our religious landscape. It has been abused, often misused to keep us in places of powerlessness. No more.

Special Music: First UU Choir & Musicians

Look Ahead:
September 13.

Water Communion Service

This intergenerational service invites you to bring water from a place that has symbolic value for you. During the service all are invited to pour their water into a communal bowl, a symbol of the interrelatedness of all things.

Rev. Taves’ Upcoming Sermon Series
“Unitarian Universalist Theologians from 1525 to 2010”

MARK YOUR CALENDAR..

Unitarian Universalist Preaching 101

Claudia Hall, Chair of the Worship Committee, will be offering both introductory and intensive classes on how to prepare and deliver a sermon. Participants will write a sermon and quite possibly, have the opportunity to preach it on a Sunday morning! Watch for more information later in the summer.



KRISTA AND LAURIE JOINED THIS SUMMER

The wedding ceremony took place at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda in Ruthven Ontario Canada on July 4, 2009. Officiating was Rev. Christine E. Hillman, a friend and colleague of Krista's. The reception took place at the farm of Willie and Luise Taves, Zion Acres Farm, Wheatley, Ontario. There will be a reception at Emerson sometime in the fall. Watch for details as the entire Emerson community is invited.



With Ana Taves, Krista's 94-year-old grandmother



With Krista's parents, Willie and Luise Taves



Laurie and Krista with Laurie's nephew Kiefer Mecham who walked Laurie down the aisle.

RE VIEW

Lauren Lyerla, DRE

Dear Emerson UU RE Families,

We always say time flies when you're having fun. This is always most clear to me in the fall: where did summer GO? In just a couple of weeks, my son will be back in school. A few weeks after that, and we'll be back to regular Religious Education classes after our weekly worship service. (Service is at 10, Religious Education classes are at 11:15, starting in September.)

In the past eight weeks, Emerson's young people have enjoyed Summer Sunday presentations on a variety of topics: yoga, storytelling, art, mountain climbing, scuba diving, sign language, and nature, as well as a Summer Solstice celebration. I am grateful for everyone's contribution, and for the families who participated in this latest evolution of our Religious Education program. I hope it continues to grow and that next summer's sessions will be equally interesting and even better attended.

In August, instead of Religious Education classes, we'll ease back into our regular Children's Chapel programming. Children will spend the first half of the worship hour in the Sanctuary, then come to the Hearth Room for chapel.

Our full schedule returns the following month. In the meantime, I am very busy planning our calendar for the 2009-10 Religious Education program, setting up classes, and recruiting teachers. It is important for planning purposes that we have accurate information from families about

the number of children that will be attending, and their ages, as well as any health or behavioral concerns. Each family should have received an email from me requesting registration information for each child. If you have not sent that info back to me yet, please do so right away!

Let's make this a great year, everyone. Our program only works if we all work together – staff (me), volunteers, parents, and children. If you aren't teaching, please plan to help in the classrooms often. And please plan to bring your child to class as often as possible. With everyone's consistent attention and support, we can create an environment wherein our young people can explore their beliefs and values.

Youth Interface

Notes for and about our Youth (Senior High)

This is a quick, but action-packed update for our youth, with lots of information for your calendar!

Once again, we'll be kicking off the church year with a Sr. Youth Barbecue. It will be at Krista's house, Sunday, August 16, at 4pm. Our goals are to reconnect after the summer, and to brainstorm Youth Pew topics for the coming church year. I'll send out an invitation very soon via email and facebook, with directions and details.

Youth Pew dates are set: September 27, October 18, November 1, December 13, January 17, February 21, March 7, April 18, and May 2. We'll continue to set these up as events on facebook to help spread the word each month.

Last year, Krista taught your Religious Education classes after almost every Youth Pew. This year she is organizing her teaching time differently. Instead, you'll get concentrated bursts of Krista in October and January! She'll teach your classes on October 4, 11, and 18, December 13, and January 3, 17, and 24. Youth Coordinator Barb Brown and I will be working together to make sure we have interesting stuff in the works for the rest of the church year, as well. I am also pleased to announce that Susan Stafford has volunteered as a teacher for Youth this year!

Lastly, please make sure you have the Fall Youth Conference (Fall CON) on your calendar: it will be Nov 6 – 8, held in Evanston, IL, at the Unitarian Church of Evanston. The theme is "Here CONs the Sun." Please let me know via email (dre@emersonuuchapel.org), facebook (facebook.com/dre.lauren.lyerla), or phone call if you have suggestions for any of the following: a second teacher for youth group, any community service / Youth Making a Difference projects you'd like to try, anything in particular you want to learn about this year.

Lastly, a reminder: if you are on facebook and have not yet "friended" my professional profile, do look me up at facebook.com/dre.lauren.lyerla. It's a great way to keep up on all the latest news.

*In peace,
Lauren Lyerla, DRE*

Administration

MONEY MATTERS

Melissa Grizzle, Treasurer

As we set out into our new fiscal year and I head into this new adventure as Emerson's treasurer, I want to take a moment for many necessary THANK YOUs!

First of all, thank you to Susan Bell for her willingness to step in at a very difficult time in the financial life of Emerson. Thank you, Susan, for your dedication and hard work. I want to say thank you to Lynn Murdoch and Leigh English as they both transition out of their leadership roles with Emerson because of work assignments in other countries. Both of you have been very helpful in starting me off on a strong foot.

A huge thank you to Peggy Colwell, who is also relinquishing her duties as assistant treasurer. Your tireless amounts of hours have been such a critical piece in Emerson's financial process over the past number of months. Thanks for helping me get started, now go enjoy those grandchildren! And also, to Randy Whitman for her wonderful collaborative spirit. Randy, I really look forward to working with you this year.

The other set of thank you's goes out to so many wonderful members and friends of the congregation whose dedication to Emerson has been phenomenal as we've been working through these tough financial times. Thank you to those of you

Finances as of June 30, 2009		
	Budget	Actual
Pledge Income	\$ 144,805	\$ 153,739
Other Income	\$ 38,656	\$ 37,350
Total All Income	\$ 183,461	\$ 191,089
Total Expenses	\$ 183,461	\$ 191,552
Net Income (loss)	\$ 0	\$ (463)

who made additional pledges in the 2008/2009 year to help us be able to meet all our financial obligations. Thank you to those of you that gave of your time to fill the void in services we could no longer afford to hire. Thank you to our wonderful staff who have remained so dedicated as they personally feel the effects of our current financial health. Thank you to all of you who have helped us start the 2009/2010 fiscal year off strong by ensuring your pledges got to us this summer even when you didn't. Because of everyone's commitment, we were able to pay all of our June obligations, finish the year close to balanced (see box), and be well-positioned for a strong start to our new fiscal year.

I am really looking forward to being your treasurer. In my day job, I spend a great deal of time doing many of the same tasks asked of me in this role. With my comfort in this area, the great transition given to me by those moving on, and the supportive people with whom I'll continue to work closely, I know I can make a positive impact in the

life of Emerson. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or if there is something specific you would like to have included in my regular communication to the congregation.

Here's to the church year ahead of us...may it be strong and full of growth, for each of us and for Emerson.

In Peace,
Melissa Grizzle
Treasurer

treasurer@emersonuuchapel.org

RANDY'S DESK

**Chapel Administrator's
Notes – Randy Whitman**

Office Hours- beginning July 1

M, Th, F: 9:00 - 1:00

In May we welcomed 10 visitors. In May this generous congregation donated total of \$337.46 to Heifer International. Thank you notes from previous outreach gifts are posted on the bulletin board in the Hearth Room.

Please keep the office updated with current phone, address and e-mail Randy can be contacted by calling the chapel office at: 636-256-7393 or by e-mail at:

office@emersonuuchapel.org

Readers Circle

Our group of book lovers doesn't meet in the summer, but enjoys lazy months of reading whatever we choose. However, we do have the reading list for our SEVENTH year, starting off in September with "The Memory Keeper's Daughter" by Kim Edwards. The complete list is posted on the Emerson website or available by e-mail. Contact Pam Foresman to get on the Readers Circle e-mail reminder list, or for more information. Happy reading!

Emerson Worship Band seeks members.

Have you ever wanted to be in a band? We are creating a worship band to accompany hymns approximately once a month. All musicians are welcome as are all instruments. We are seeking especially guitar (acoustic and electric) and bass. Be in touch with Rev. Taves (minister@emersonuuchapel.org) if you are interested.

Green Thoughts

Summertime is often a time for grilling. Here are some ideas for more eco-friendly barbecues. Charcoal grills contribute to ground-level ozone (smog) more than other grills as well as releasing more carbon monoxide, soot, and particulates than other cooking methods. If you use natural gas in your home, you can often hook a gas line to your grill. If that is not feasible, propane burns cleaner than charcoal. If you must use charcoal, use lump charcoal instead of briquettes which have coal dust and other additives. You can also use hardwood briquettes from sustainably managed forests. Instead of lighter fluid, which contains volatile organic compounds, try a chimney charcoal starter or an electric starter. The cleanest method is a solar stove which needs neither charcoal nor cooking fuel.

Susan Stafford

Emerson Emissary

Serving the members and friends of Emerson Unitarian Universalist Chapel. Editor: Tom Kibby
All submissions are due by the 18th of each month. All groups are requested to send their meeting notices monthly to ensure their accuracy. Send to:
newsletter@emersonuuchapel.org

Published by Emerson Unitarian Universalist Chapel
73 Strecker Rd.
Ellisville, MO 63011
emersonuuchapel.org

a nonprofit organization incorporated under the laws of the State of Missouri and a member of the Central Midwest District of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations cmwd-uua.org and uua.org

To be removed from our mailing list, please call the chapel office or email the administrator at office@emersonuuchapel.org

July 27th marks the one-year anniversary of the tragic shooting at a Knoxville, Tennessee Unitarian Universalist (UU) church that killed two members.

The Knoxville congregation's commitment to love in the face of violence inspired the UUA to launch Standing on the Side of Love--a grassroots, community-based public advocacy campaign to engage faithful responses when people face exclusion, oppression or violence on the basis of their immigrant status, race, religion, political orientation, gender or sexual orientation, or any identity.

Read an [Open Letter from Rev. Chris Buice](#), minister of Tennessee Valley UU Church, Knoxville TN and learn how you and your congregation can get involved with Standing on the Side of Love. Sign and Circulate the Pledge to Stand on the Side of Love now!

AUGUST

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
30	31					1
2 Service 10AM	3 Womyns Web 7PM	4	5 Movie Matinee* Men's Group 7PM	6 Daytimers 11AM Spiritual Journey CG 7PM	7	8
9 Service 10AM Living the Journey-St. Charles 2PM	10 M&Ms 7PM*	11 Wyse Womyn 1:30PM*	12 Caregivers 7:30PM*	13 Daytimers Club 11AM	14	15
16 Service 10 AM	17	18	19 Men's Group 7PM	20	21	22
23 Service 10 AM	24 M&Ms 7PM*	25 Wyse Womyn 1:30PM*	26	27	28	29

Upcoming events:

- Womyn's Web Retreat, Innsbrook, August 28-30;
- Water Communion Service, Sept. 13

All events occur at Emerson unless noted with an *
 Child care may be provided to any Emerson Sponsored event, please call the Chapel office.
 Confirm with Covenant Group (CG) leader for meeting location and time.

Emerson Covenant Groups Invite New Members.

Emerson's Covenant Groups, our program of small group ministry, welcomes new members. Groups of up to ten people meet once or twice a month with a focus on deep listening and sharing personal experiences. Prepared session plans are used to guide each session, with topics such as forgiveness, gratitude, or saying good bye. Groups also do service projects for the church and community. Participants find that they get to know themselves, and often others, more deeply in these small groups. For more information about specific covenant groups, please see the church [website](#) or pick up a copy of the Emerson Program Guide at the visitor table. If you are interested in joining a covenant group, please email office@emersonuuchapel.org and we will be in touch with you.



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EMERSON EMISSARY

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A newsletter for Emerson Unitarian Universalist Chapel
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