

A newsletter for Emerson Unitarian Universalist Chapel  
A liberal religious voice in West St. Louis County [www.emersonuuchapel.org](http://www.emersonuuchapel.org)

## SEASON OF ABUNDANCE

They say you don't know what you have until you lose it. For me it is remembering you had it to begin with, or more to the point, appreciating it.

I was reviewing the closet when it was time to get ready for cooler weather. As I eyed my older jacket, the word "clunky" and "dowdy" kept surfacing, so I knew it was time to act. One of those newer wind-proof ski jackets would look much cooler than this old bomber. And I need all the style help I can get.

A review of on-line choices, a trip to the ski store and the mall all prepared me for my choice. I even mentioned what I was looking for to Mary. "A light ski jacket, You know, kind of like the one you have in our closet." "You mean like the one you bought last spring on sale?"

Sure enough I did find the perfect jacket already hanging in the closet, just my size. I had purchased it at an end-of-season sale in the spring and it was waiting for its inaugural wearing this fall. Shoot, the first trick of abundance is appreciating what lies at your fingertips already, not searching for the elusive rainbow.

This edition of the *Emissary* celebrates our own version of abundance within our community:

- Madrigal is a feast for the eyes, ear and palate
  - Holiday service for children of all ages
  - Rev. Krista Taves celebrates the transformation of poverty to abundance
- Now it is time to celebrate our abundance.  
*Tom Kibby, ed.*



*Lady Melissa and Lord Andrew,  
Madrigal Dinner 2008*

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### Important Dates in December

- Holiday Intergenerational Service Dec. 6
- Madrigal Dinner Dec. 11-12

# KRISTA'S CORNER

MINISTER'S NOTES FROM REV. KRISTA TAVES



## Setting a Larger Table

Last month, I spoke about our commitment to making room for all. We are theologically diverse and make room for many ways of being in this world. Our message is changing so many lives, that we are literally struggling on Sunday mornings to find room for all who come here in search of religious community. Our sanctuary is full, and sometimes parking is hard to find. I want to thank everyone who has responded to our request to sit further towards to the front of the sanctuary and to park in the back of our parking lot to make room for guests and latecomers. Your combined efforts have made a difference. Let's keep it up.

You will notice some changes in the next couple of weeks. We are going to increase the seating capacity in the sanctuary by setting up more metal chairs. We realize this is a temporary compromise, and there was talk at the November board meeting of having a pre-Christmas fundraiser to purchase more upholstered chairs. We decided that at this time of the year it is more important to serve those outside our community than to focus on our own comfort. In

the next month, our Sunday collections will go to the 100 Neediest Cases, a local fund for struggling families. We will commit ourselves to filling the red wheelbarrow in the vestibule with food for the local foodbank every single Sunday. We have adopted a family of seven and will provide them food and clothing for the month of December. On the last Sunday before Christmas and at the Christmas Eve service, our collection will go to the Ministers Discretionary Fund, which is available for people in our congregation who are struggling to make ends meet. If you find the metal chairs terribly uncomfortable, we encourage you to arrive early or to bring a cushion so that you can truly be present to the worship service.

We are setting a larger table in other ways. You will notice that on occasion there are two classes offered for adults during the Religious Education Hour. In the past there has only been one. Our numbers are growing, which becomes more has become possible. This has been challenging for some as it feels like we are dividing rather than coming together as a community. For some it is difficult to choose between the two classes because saying yes to one means saying no to another, sitting with some and not sitting with others. Growth is rewarding. It is also hard and always involves loss. Living our mission means saying yes to something bigger, but that always means saying no to ways that we have outgrown, and good-byes are often hard.

It is good to remember that we are moving into a season of abundance. The sunshine is less every day, and yet our homes will shimmer with beautiful holiday lights, more every night. During the Winter Solstice, fires will blaze to remind us of the coming sun. During Hanukkah, the temple flame remains miraculously lit for 8 days even though there is only one night's supply of oil. When no room is found at the inn, Mary and Joseph are welcomed in to a lowly stable and their son is greeted by angels, shepherds, and wisemen.

Celebrate the abundance, and let not fear keep us from embracing it and nourishing its sacred possibility.

*In love and hope,  
Rev. Krista.*

## Rev. Taves Office Hours

Available by appointment  
Nov 30 - Dec 6: We Th Sa Su  
Dec 7 - 13: We Th Sa Su  
Dec 14 - 20: We Th Sa Su  
Dec 21 - 27: We Th  
Dec 28 - Jan 3: Sa Su

## Pastoral Care

If you wish to meet with Rev. Taves she can be reached at [minister@emersonuuchapel.org](mailto: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.

Visit Rev. Taves at her [Facebook](#) site!

# CAMILLE'S LINES

OBSERVATIONS FROM BOARD PRESIDENT CAMILLE HERMAN



## Memories

Well – here we are in December, the last month of the calendar year and by the end of the month, halfway through our church year. I'm sure we will all spend some time this month looking back at 2009 and making plans for 2010. It's a month where we make yummy things to eat, put up decorations that represent old family traditions and new traditions that we want to start. At the Herman house, most of the decorating starts the day after Thanksgiving, and is finished (I hope) by that Sunday. We've had some decorations for more than 40 years – and some that are as new as our 2009 vacations. Many years ago I started bringing back a Christmas ornament every time we visited a new place. Over time, these "memory" ornaments have replaced most of the glass ones on the tree. It's fun to take them out each year and reminisce.

This year we are giving a Photo Book to our children for Christmas – Mom &

Dad's 2009 Highlights. We asked several years ago for REAL pictures of our grandchildren – not on CD. This will be the 3rd year for us to receive them and we decided to give them each one and share a bit more of our lives with them. Of course, the highlights are either times spent with them and their families, vacations, or special days for us – but as we get older, the need to reach out in as many ways as possible becomes more pressing. We know that our grandchildren will have pictures to look at after we're gone.

Hearing a loved one's voice is also very important. I had an "aha" moment the other day when I realized the reason I was so happy when one of my children called was because the sound of their voice triggered all those warm fuzzy Mom feelings inside of me. The sound of my mother's voice could cheer me up when I was feeling down, even if we never discussed my problems. A lover's voice in your ear always brings a smile. The hello from a friend can turn a sad day into a happy one. Remember how being on the receiving end makes you feel and turn it around and give someone else the pleasure of your voice this holiday season and all year through.

At Emerson, we are making memories and sharing our lives as well. There are

activities for everyone from the oldest to the youngest. Some of them are internal – Children's Holiday Skit and Make-It, Take-It. Some are an opportunity for outsiders to come into our beautiful space - Sundays & Christmas Eve Services, the Madrigal Dinner, our adult religious education programs. And some show our care and concern for the community around us – sponsoring a family from Feed My People, keeping the Red Wheelbarrow filled with food for Circle of Concern, Sunday collections for the Post Dispatch 100 Neediest Cases, the Mitten Tree for Circle of Concern, and our Sunday before Christmas & Christmas Eve offerings for Krista's Minister's Benefit Fund to help our own members/friends in times of need.

I urge all of you to take advantage of the richness of our offerings and share yourselves, your smiles, your voices with those you love and with all of us at Emerson. In spite of the economy, we have much to be thankful for and much to look forward to. I feel very blessed to know many of you very well and I look forward to knowing more of you in 2010. May you all have a very blessed and happy holiday.

*Yours in Spirit,  
Camille*

## A Month of Services

All Sunday Services begin at 10:00 AM

### **December 6** **“Children’s Winter Program”**

Holiday-themed play produced by the Religious Education program.

Special Music: Children’s Choir  
Ron McGowan, pianist  
Adult Education: Rev. Krista Taves: Everyday Spiritual Practice Series: Part III  
“Spiritual Partnerships”

### **December 13** **“1 + 0 = 8”**

Rev. Krista Taves

As people of faith we claim to stand with those who are oppressed. How well are we doing? In honor of Hannukkah, when a day’s worth of oil burned for 8 days, we will celebrate the transformation of suffering and scarcity into love, abundance, and justice for all.

Ron McGowan, pianist  
Special Music: Neal Shukla  
Adult Education: Susan Stafford, Part III of UU Principles

### **December 20** **“In the Dark Mid-Winter”**

Rev. Krista Taves

On the darkest day of the year, the ancestors lit bright fires to remember that the sun would indeed return. On this Winter Solstice we affirm that all things die and all things are born again. There must be an emptying to be filled with new life.

Special Music: Walden Pond  
Ron McGowan, pianist  
Adult Education: Rev. Krista Taves: Everyday Spiritual Practice Series: Part IV  
“Body Practices”

### **December 24 5:30 PM** **Christmas Eve Service:** **“Santa Claus and Jesus Christ”**

Rev. Krista Taves

Two big guys, two big hearts, one profound message for humanity.

### **December 27** **“Sharing the Christmas Story”**

The Worship Committee

Join us for a service of reflections and memories as we share with each other what Christmas means for us. *This service follows our Summer Service format.*

### **New RE Offerings**

**December 6**  
during the RE Hour  
**“UU Christianity”**  
Come join us to take a new look at the world’s largest religion. This month, we are looking at the two Christmas stories found in the Gospels. For example: Did you know that wise men and shepherds did NOT appear together in the Bible? See why each of these very different stories was written and what meanings we can find in them for today.

**Beginning January 10th**  
during the RE Hour  
**“The “lost” Gospels:**  
**a multi-part series on esoteric Christianity”**  
What are the ‘lost Gospels?’ spoken of in books and movies like “The DaVinci code?” Why were they written? Why were they suppressed? Are they spiritually valuable for modern people? Answers to these questions and more in this once-monthly RE series.

### UU Wings

If you have recently begun participating in our church life, this is the course for you. Perhaps you come to church on Sundays, you've joined a club or covenant group. You're just starting to make friends and to get a feel for Unitarian Universalism.

Or, perhaps you've been around Emerson for a while and have lost touch. Life happens, and sometimes we are taken in different directions, and when the time is right, we come back to the places we need to be.

Or, perhaps you're looking for a place to deepen your spirituality, your sense of connection to god or the divine, and to develop a more intentional spiritual practice for your life.

We have one remaining session. If you missed the previous sessions you may join the group at any time. To register for the course contact [office@emersonuuchapel.org](mailto:office@emersonuuchapel.org).

Please let us know if you require childcare. There will be a freewill offering of \$10 per person to cover the cost of materials and babysitting.

### December 3 Wings Set Me Free: Hopes, Dreams, and Expanding Vision

This workshop invites participants to envision the next chapters of their spiritual journeys and to affirm one another's hopes and dreams.

### Coming This Winter Principled Commitment: A Program for Couples offered by Rev. Krista Taves.

This program is for adult couples of all sexual orientations who have made vows or pledged to spend their lives together. Principled Commitment provides avenues for growing in faith while nourishing a committed partnership.

**Topics include:** Covenant, Humility, Trust, Dignity, Generosity, Connection, Play, Collaboration, Commitment, Love, Faith and Celebration.

Six Thursdays. January 7, 14, 21 February 4, 11, 18, all are 7-9 p.m. Register at [office@emersonuuchapel.org](mailto:office@emersonuuchapel.org) by January 4. Please let us know if you will need childcare. Registration: \$15 (note: if the registration fee would be difficult for you, please be in touch with Rev. Taves. Financial ability should preclude no one from participating in this class).

### Chalice Lighters



You may have noticed this symbol on some name tags and wondered about it. Chalice Lighters is a program of our district (Central Midwest District). It allows congregations to request special funding up to three times a year for specific types of programs within their congregations.

Emerson Chapel has been a lucky recipient a couple of times (first when we bought our property and needed to put a fence around the parking lot to meet Ellisville requirements; next to help fund our first office administrator). Currently, most requests are to provide growth to a congregation in very specific ways. A "Call" on behalf of the congregation is made to all Chalice Lighters in the district. As a Chalice Lighter we covenant with other CLs to provide \$10 per call (that is, three times each year) to assist other congregations. It is one way to assist other UUs in our district who are helping to grow UUism. If you would like to learn more, I'd love to talk with you about this great program. If you would like to become a Chalice Lighter, I would be pleased to put a CL on your name tag! Contact me anytime at [chaliceLIGHTER@emersonuuchapel.org](mailto:chaliceLIGHTER@emersonuuchapel.org)  
*Barb Brown,*  
*CL Ambassador*

### Preaching Workshop Dec 5th: Part 2 of Emerson's Lay Speaker's Series.

Participants will develop an entire sermon from start to finish, and plan a worship service around it. Class meets at Emerson on Saturday Dec 5th, 9 am – 12 pm. RSVP required. Contact [worship@emersonuuchapel.org](mailto:worship@emersonuuchapel.org) for more information and to sign up!

## BREAD SERVICE AND SERVICE PROJECT



DRUMMING  
CIRCLE  
PERFORMS;  
CONGREGATION  
PITCHES IN FOR  
SACK LUNCHES  
DONATED TO  
SALVATION  
ARMY  
Nov.22, 2009

*Photos by Bob Layne*





# Celebrating the Season

## Sunday, December 6 - Religious Education (RE) Classes Holiday Program (skit).

This service is always a delight for one and all. It will be followed by "Make It/Take It" activities during Children's Religious Education..

**Adult Religious Education:** Everyday Spiritual Practices Part III "Spiritual Partnerships" – Sanctuary, Rev. Taves  
**New Adult Religious Education Class** – UU Christianity: "The Two Christmas Stories" -  
Hearth Room, Claudia Hall

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## Friday, December 11 & Saturday, December 12 - 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Madrigal Dinners

This is our biggest fund raiser (after canvass) and is an all church effort. It is a 3-hour dinner theatre performance including music by the Greenleaf Singers and members of the St. Louis Recorder Society, a four course dinner, belly dancing, a play and general merriment. We need people to attend – and bring their friends, to cook, serve, clean-up. Please buy tickets and/or sign up to work after church this Sunday or contact: [Madrigal@emersonuuchapel.org](mailto:Madrigal@emersonuuchapel.org).

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## Making Christmas a Little Warmer: For You and for Others

The Religious Education Committee is organizing the "adoption" of a family of seven that is living below the poverty line. This adoption is organized through "Feed My People." They most urgently need food, but also need clothing ("Feed My People" has provided their clothing sizes). Sadly, toys come in a distant third!

- The preschool class is adopting the 5 year old
- The 1st - 4th grade class is adopting the 6 year old
- The 5th - 7th grade class is adopting one of the preteens
- The Senior Youth Group is adopting the teenager
- The parents and the other preteen have been adopted by some of our Covenant Groups.
- If you are not a parent in our RE Program or a member of one of our Covenant Groups, please contact DRE Lauren Lyerla at [dre@emersonuuchapel.org](mailto:dre@emersonuuchapel.org) to learn how you can help!

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## Sunday, December 13 - "1+0=8" - Rev. Krista Taves

The story of Hannukah. We will celebrate the transformation of suffering and scarcity into love, abundance, and justice for all. Special Music – Neil Shukla

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## Sunday, December 20 - "In the Dark Mid-Winter" - Rev. Krista Taves

On this Winter Solstice we affirm that all things die and all things are born again. Special Music: Walden Pond

**Adult Religious Education:** Everyday Spiritual Practices Part IV "Body Practices" – Sanctuary, Rev. Taves

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## Christmas Eve Service - 5:30 - Santa Claus and Jesus Christ" - Rev. Krista Taves

Two big guys, two big hearts, one profound message for humanity. The offering will be taken for the Ministers Discretionary Fund and is used to support those in our congregation in times of need.

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## Sunday, December 27 - "Sharing the Christmas Story"

Join us for a service of reflections and memories as we share with each other what Christmas means for us. This service follows our summer service format.

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## KEEP THE RED WHEELBARROW FULL

This is our ongoing project to provide food for the Circle of Concern Food Pantry. Please remember to contribute generously.

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## GROCERY CERTIFICATES ARE ON SALE

Every Sunday in the Hearth Room after the service. They make great stocking stuffers, gives to service people, etc. Remember to get some for the people on your lists.

**RE VIEW**



Lauren Lyerla, DRE

Dear Emerson UU RE Families,

December is an action-packed month in the Religious Education Program at Emerson UU Chapel. We're starting off on December 6th with our annual RE Holiday Program – sometimes called the RE Skit. Our children are excited to present this worship service to you. After the worship hour, instead of regular classes, our Children's RE Program will have several different stations at which kids can make ornaments or other holiday-themed crafts. We will need some volunteers for these stations – please let me know if you can help.

The other two big things going on this month are both related to social justice. First of all, we have our Mitten Tree in the vestibule again this year. You are invited to bring mittens, gloves, hats, slippers or warm socks, scarves, earmuffs or any other cold-weather accessory and hang it on our tree. We will pack these items up on December 20th for delivery to Circle of Concern, where

they will help keep our neighbors warm through the cold winter.

Secondly, the RE Program has orchestrated the "adoption" of a family that has been living below the poverty line, through Feed My People. Let's make Christmas a whole lot warmer for this family of seven. Each classroom is sponsoring a child, and I am working with other individuals and groups in the church to sponsor the other three family members (parents and one preteen). The family has an urgent need for food and clothing. Toys, of course, would be nice, but are a luxury. All donations need to be delivered to Emerson by December 13th for delivery to Feed My People. If you have any questions at all about this program, please contact me at [dre@emersonuuchapel.org](mailto:dre@emersonuuchapel.org).

Lauren Lyerla

**Religious Education Hour for Children and Youth: December 2009**

December 6  
Senior Youth Group: Explore personal ethics with Susan and Harry.  
All other grade levels: Make & take holiday crafts, one station in each classroom.

December 13  
Preschool-Kindergarten: Celebrate giving.  
1st – 4th: Exploring Principle 3: We learn & grow together.

5th – 7th: Focus on holidays, and select another religion to learn more about in coming weeks.

8th: Discuss Youth Pew topic with Claudia Hall.  
Senior Youth Group: Youth Pew, then discussion following with Krista and Max.

December 20  
Senior Youth Group: Explore personal ethics with Susan and Harry.  
All other grade levels: Pack up Mitten Tree donations and make Christmas cards to give with them.

December 27  
No Religious Education hour activities – Worship hour only.

**Youth Interface**  
*Notes for and about our Youth (Senior High)*

We went to CON and are now making plans for Spring CON (April 23-25, 2010 in Springfield, IL—MARK YOUR CALENDARS now and plan to attend!) We are likely to need two adults as more youth will be planning to attend Spring CON as our 8th graders bridge to Youth Group.

Attendance in November (which is not finished as I write this mid-month) was amazing considering all the homecoming events that have taken place. We averaged six (6) per Sunday.

In November, we finally began work on BYOT:

## Administration

Ethics and will continue our work on Ethics into December.

Additionally, we continue Youth Pew discussions. All is well and exciting in Youth Group!

I am delighted to work with our youth and their parents as we continue to build a strong and vibrant program.

*Barb Brown,  
Youth Coordinator*

### PR/Communications/ Marketing

Our average website access is highest on TUE and WED (31 and 32 hits/day "HPD"; unlike SAT and SUN of just three years ago. Also, it is highest early in the month compared to end of month (30 HPD vs 26 HPD). The average user who accessed our site is an MSN user using Windows XP and Moxilla/Firefox to surf the web. Websearches most often occurred using Google, or through our association's "find a congregation near you" search. Third in the "how do they find us" is St. Louis Wedding. This month, we also had some searches off Facebook. Other searches that helped someone find us were the searcher simply searching "UU" and "St. Louis" and "non denominational churches" and "St. Louis".

What did people access once on our website? Almost every page was accessed, but top pages were Homepage;

Monthly Finances as of October 31, 2009			
October 2009	Actual	Budget	Variance
Pledge Income	\$ 13,735	\$ 11,513	\$ 2,223
Expenses	\$ 14,224	\$ 11,455	\$ 2,769
<b>2009 YTD</b>			
Pledge Income	\$ 61,164	\$ 46,050	\$ 15,114
Expenses	\$ 45,463	\$ 45,821	\$ (358)
	<b>October</b>	<b>YTD</b>	
Contr. To Charity	\$ 151	\$ 919	
Groc. Cert. Income	\$ 362	\$ 1,125	

About Sunday; Sermon Index; UU Beliefs; Minister Mainpage; New Members; Visit Emerson; About Emerson; and About Rentals.

Our website is important to guests finding us, and gauging by usage of our website, important for them to know before they reach us where rooms are, parking is located, and what to expect once they find us, not just what they will hear on Sunday morning. I hope you enjoy our website, and use it often.

*Barb Brown, Chair  
Marketing/PR/  
Communications*

### RANDY'S DESK

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

**Office Hours- M, Th, F:  
9:00 - 1:00**  
(except Dec 24 and 25)

In **October** we welcomed 11 visitors. Our October outreach donation of \$150.76 was designated for Circle of Concern.

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](mailto:office@emersonuuchapel.org)

Comparison of Web Site Access					
Jul-07	NA	Jul-08	399	Jul-09	417
Aug-07	NA	Aug-08	321	Aug-09	491
Sep-07	113	Sep-08	430	Sep-09	495
Oct-07	407	Oct-08	467	Oct-09	505
Nov-07	349	Nov-08	421	Nov-09	tbd

### Emerson Chapel Board of Trustees Meeting November 10, 2009

**Present:** Camille Herman (President), Melissa Grizzle (Treasurer), Rebecca Langrall (Secretary), Jim Lyonfields, Nancy Russell (Vice President), Rev. Krista Taves.

#### **Approval of October minutes**

#### **Consent Agenda** – Approval of Reports

- President
- Minister
- Program Council
- Director of Religious Education
- Treasurer

#### **Financial Update/Report** – Melissa

The Board reviewed:

-actuals and year-to-date figures from the October budget

-new form for recording the weekly offering to encourage consistent record-keeping

-Melissa recommended engaging a Quickbooks accountant to put in 2 - 5 hours a month to do data entry to allow us to expedite translation of financials from one system to another, so that Stephen could still function as an outside auditor of our books. The total cost to the church would still be under the current fee of \$275 a month. We will need to write a new job description for Stephen, as well as a new contract. Nancy moved to accept Melissa's proposal and Jim seconded. It passed unanimously.

#### **Old Business**

**Review of Goals** – Camille acknowledged that we are headed in the right direction. We have some new committee chairs; care of the chapel is much improved.

**Review of new "Dashboard"** and other ideas for monitoring financial and other aspects of membership data.

**New Board Policy Concerning Unbudgeted Income** The Board discussed a policy for how to handle new pledge amounts and gifts earmarked for specific purposes. New pledge amounts will not be kept in operating funds, but placed in savings against possible emergency expenses and income shortfalls. Jim moved that the policy be accepted with revisions. Melissa seconded the motion, which passed by voice vote.

**Member Emeritus Status** Nancy moved that we accept the new Board policy on Member Emeritus Status. Jim seconded the motion and it passed by voice vote.

#### **Progress on Sustaining Membership**

**Committee** Camille shared an idea for a virtual

committee to develop ideas for social activities – a kind of social think tank.

#### **New Business**

**DRE Search Committee:** Members are: Co-chairs Pam Foresman & Greg Keller, and Barb Brown and Marilyn Ortinau.

**Strategic Planning Committee** – Based on input from the Kindling the Flame and Committee on Ministry surveys, the committee would clarify the path to fulfill our mission. Board was asked to brainstorm on charges for this committee. Members to be chosen and voted on at next board meeting.

**Approval of Committee Chairs** Becky moved that the Board approve Laura Davidson as Chair of the RE committee and Jeff Gidday as co-chair of the Welcoming committee. Jim seconded the motion and it passed by a voice vote.

**Chairs for the Sanctuary** The sanctuary is built for 150. We have been using folding chairs to accommodate attendees in excess of the 110 for whom there are regular chairs. The Board will revisit the question again after the first of the year, when we have reviewed attendance patterns.

#### **Youth Lock-In**

Barb Brown and Lauren Lyerla will be writing a policy about Lock-Ins at Emerson Chapel.

#### **Other Business**

Camille asked the Board to determine which Sundays Krista will not be in the pulpit and be sure that a Board member is available to act as a greeter on those Sundays.

Camille reminded the Board about the need to close all interior doors and lock all exterior doors.

The Board discussed plusses and changes we could make to have an even better outcome for our meetings.

Jim shared the closing words.

Camille closed the meeting at 9:53.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Rebecca Langrall*

*Secretary, Emerson Board of Trustees*

*Synopsis by Camille J. Herman, President*

## No more CHAOS –

### Thank You!!!

#### An update from the President.

In the September newsletter, I wrote about CHAOS –the *Can't Have Anyone Over Syndrome*- that seemed to be the order of the day. I asked everyone to take personal responsibility for making sure we always look good. And – I'm happy to report – we are conquering CHAOS. Thanks to all of your efforts, Emerson is looking really good all the time. Please keep up the good work.

In addition, we have a sign-up sheet on the shelf under the bulletin board for volunteers to clean the church every other week. Last time I looked, we had names through Jan. 31. We need more people to sign up. In case you're wondering what's involved – here is the checklist sent to all workers.

#### RE Wing:

- Clean bathroom floors & fixtures (4 baths: hall, large RE classroom, back hallway, basement)
- Vacuum rugs start in the back and work forward
- Dust all rooms

#### Hearth Room/Kitchen/ Nursery

- Clean kitchen floor and counters
- Wipe out microwave
- Put all dirty dishes in dishwasher
- Dust all surfaces – straighten shelves
- Vacuum carpet – place chairs in a pleasing arrangement

#### Vestibule/Sanctuary

- Vacuum (mop if necessary) floor (check under rugs & in corners for “critters” )
- Wipe down drinking fountains
- Clean bathrooms – check behind doors and in corners
- Dust and vacuum sanctuary

#### In General

- Empty all trash cans – including RE wing, especially nursery – place new plastic liner bags in each
- Remove all trash to outside containers
- Remove recyclables to correct container outside

#### FYI

Beginning in January, the hall closet just off the Hearth Room will contain environmentally friendly cleaning materials. In December, please bring your own. Consider using vinegar and water. There is a large bag of baking soda

under the kitchen sink donated to be used for cleaning sinks or sprinkling on rugs to freshen.

We have a vacuum that is very heavy located in that hall closet. You might want to bring your own if it's a light one.

If you are cleaning when any of the staff is there, please offer to empty their trash, vacuum their office, etc.

On average, it will take 2 adults, 2 hours to clean the whole church.

On behalf of the board, let me thank you for all you give so generously. We very much appreciate your time, your talent and your treasure. Together we are Emerson Chapel.

*Camille J. Herman,  
President*

#### Note:

**Pat Everett** is coordinating the general cleaning of the Chapel. Please contact Pat directly by e-mail [cleaning@emersonuuchapel.org](mailto:cleaning@emersonuuchapel.org) or sign up in the Hearth Room to volunteer.

**Reader's Circle**

Readers Circle doesn't meet in December, so use this extra time to read our January selection, "The Worst Hard Time: the untold story of those who survived the Great American Dust Bowl" by Timothy Egan. Our 2010 book list is posted in the Hearth Room and on the Emerson website. Contact Pam Foresman for more information. See the list of books we are reading for this year ([link](#)).

Would you consider donating your old *UU World* magazines to the Chapel. We can give them to visitors to help them learn more about UUism. Just leave your past issues in the vestibule on the shelves.

**For Care & Concern**

If you know of someone in need of food, transportation, a visit, or a phone call – please notify Administrator Randy Whitman in the church office – 636.256.7393.

**Green Thoughts**

- Here are several eco-friendly tips for the holidays:
- Look for new LED lights which use less electricity, burn brighter, and are more durable. Put your lights on a timer for additional savings.
  - Look for Holiday cards printed on recycled paper or purchase cards that raise awareness about causes you support such as the National Wildlife Federation, UNICEF, or our own Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.
  - Holiday wrapping paper often cannot be recycled. Make your own wrapping paper by stenciling or decorating plain recyclable paper. Use evergreen or holly instead of ribbon.
  - Choose a real tree over an artificial one. Artificial trees are made from PVC, plastic, and other nonbiodegradable materials. Buy your trees from local tree farms. The Missouri Christmas Tree Farm Network ([www.christmas-tree.com/real/mo/](http://www.christmas-tree.com/real/mo/)) lists local vendors. St. Louis County will recycle your trees into mulch after the season is over.

Let's all help the environment, which is a gift everyone appreciates.

*Susan Stafford*

**Hear Ye! Hear Ye!**

*Announcing the Lord and Lady of the Manor for this Year's Madrigal!*

Friday: Lord Mark and Lady Nancy Fish  
Saturday: Lord Steven and Lady Katherine Jones

**Kudos to...**

- **Susan Stafford** for volunteering to spend the weekend at CON with our Youth Group.
- **Emerson Singers and Camille Herman** for getting our holiday off to a good start.
- **Everyone** who made food for the Salvation Army
- **Stan and Camille Herman and Tom Kibby and Mary Murphy** for cleaning the chapel this past month
- **Sally and Les Armontrout and All Workers** who cleaned the parking lot and grounds in November

If you'd like to nominate someone for KUDOS, please send their name(s) to: [newsletter@emersonuuchapel.org](mailto:newsletter@emersonuuchapel.org)

**Womyns Web Meets**

Womyn's Web will be held on Monday, December 7th at 7pm. Please bring a snack, treat and/or beverage to share. If you are not currently on the email list for Womyn's Web but would like details more information, please contact Susan Gottlieb at [Womynsweb@emersonuuchapel.org](mailto:Womynsweb@emersonuuchapel.org) The December meeting will be held at Nancy Fish' and it will be a White Elephant exchange. Bring a wrapped gift you did not purchase to exchange.

# DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Movie Matinee 12N Men's Group 7PM	3 Daytimers 11:30 AM UU Wings CG 7PM	4	5
6 Service 10AM	7 Womyns Web 7PM	8 Wyse Women 1:30PM* CG Living the Journey @Em 6:30 PM Board Meeting 7PM	9 Walden Pond 7PM	10	11 Madrigal Dinner 6:30	12 Madrigal Dinner 6:30
13 Service 10AM	14 M&Ms 7PM*	15	16 Men's Group 7PM	17 Walden Pond 7PM	18	19
20 Service 10AM	21	22 CG Living the Journey @Em 6:30 PM	23	24 Candle Light Service 5:30 PM	25	26
27 Service 10AM	28 M&Ms 7PM*	29	30	31	1	2

**Upcoming events:**

- Circle Suppers\* Feb 6/7
- Youth Spring Con\* Apr 23-35

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](mailto:office@emersonuuchapel.org) and we will be in touch with you.



## OFFICERS

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## 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](mailto:newsletter@emersonuuchapel.org)

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To be added or removed from our mailing list, please call the chapel office or email the administrator at [office@emersonuuchapel.org](mailto:office@emersonuuchapel.org)



EMERSON EMISSARY

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