

A newsletter for Emerson Unitarian Universalist Chapel
A liberal religious voice in West St. Louis County www.emersonuuchapel.org

OUT WITH THE OLD...

The time has come for renewing that which is worthwhile and discarding the rest.

Take my sock drawer. It was with rare pleasure I removed the vintage pairs and replaced them with crisp, intact-toed, evenly colored and contemporary styled updates. Not exactly the stuff of Zen, but still satisfying.

Or consider the playground and RE wing. A lot of work went into these areas before, yet we once again came in with a fresh eye and pulled out that what was getting in the way of our main purpose, creating a safe and nurturing environment for our children. Walls were ripped out, carpet patched and walls re-painted. When finished a clean and enlarged space emerged from the old. Very satisfying.

My own time with Emerson is marking a turn. I have joined the Space Needs Committee and have a marvelous challenge ahead. But to make room for this new project I have to let go of a favorite old project, editing the *Emerson Emissary*. My thanks go to Lauren Lyerla who had agreed to take on the editing of this newsletter to allow me to move on to a new project. I hope this post will be as satisfying for you, Lauren, as it has for me. Please welcome Lauren when she begins here next month.

Tom Kibby



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KRISTA'S CORNER

MINISTER'S NOTES FROM REV. KRISTA TAVES



I've never been one for New Year's Resolutions. September has always felt more like a new year to me, with so many new beginnings. New Year's is like a stopping point in a process. You leave the normalcy of your life for a short while, only to return later, perhaps with new eyes for having some time or distance away from what you normally do.

Life at Emerson Chapel is like that. Things slow down the last couple of weeks before Christmas. Life doesn't stop; there are no endings. It is a pause while we attend to the rituals of the season that help us reconnect to the larger life force that is interwoven in all things.

We come to January to re-attend to those things we left for a short while in December, hopefully with new energy and fresh vision. This January we are holding our mid year congregational meeting. Generally this is a meeting where few decisions are made and the focus is mostly on reporting. This January is different, as the congregation is going to be asked to vote on a significant bylaws change. I realize that this may sound rather dull. The mention of bylaws often causes eyes to

glaze over and minds to wander. But I will beg your indulgence, just for the length of this article.

Bylaws are the rules we establish for our institutions so that they function in harmony with our values. Our congregation's bylaws ensure fairness and a healthy democratic process for making decisions. This is why it is important to review them from time to time, to ensure that they do what we need them to do.

Our bylaws set the minimum age for becoming a member at 15. They also limit the right to vote at congregational meetings and to serve on the Board of Trustees to members 18 years or older. At the time these bylaws were established, this seemed to make sense. The challenge is that our bylaws do not empower our youth to be full participants in our religious community. We have many youth who are deeply committed to Unitarian Universalism and want to give back to the church that is their moral and religious foundation. Half of our youth group have signed the membership book. They pledge. Many volunteer as much of their time as the adults do. They pay attention to the big issues that we're dealing with. They are informed. They want to have a voice in congregational life.

This is why the board approved to bring a bylaws change to the January meeting that would lower the minimum age for becoming a member to 14, which coincides with the age at which most of our youth complete The Coming of Age

Program, a mentoring process that supports them in engaging their identity as Unitarian Universalists and their commitment to our free church tradition. The bylaws change would also extend the right to vote at congregational meetings. It would not extend the right to serve on the Board of Trustees; in the State of Missouri, boards of non-profits have legal responsibility for the organization. Thus Board Members must be 18+.

The purpose of lowering the age and extending the right to vote is to affirm that our youth are full participants in this congregation, capable of making mature decisions and formulating opinions regarding the work of their church. They have the same vested interest in furthering the mission of our liberal religion, which is living into the promise of unconditional love and unending grace such that we are transformed and become agents of transformation for our world.

Only a vote of the congregation can amend the bylaws. This is why on January 23rd, after the worship service, the board will bring the proposed bylaw change to the membership. In order to ensure that all members can attend, there will be special programming for the children. If you are not a member of the congregation, you are more than welcome to attend and observe how we come together to do the work of our beloved community.

See you there.

Rev. Krista

LEADERS' CORNER

OBSERVATIONS FROM BOARD LEADERS

Our Third

Many of us are familiar with standard decision making models, how to take in data, analyze it and choose a solution from alternatives.

However, seldom are we taught about the psychological traps we humans often fall in when making a decision. In the face of all the changes occurring at Emerson, Jim and I thought it might be useful for our congregation to consider one of the most common, which we will amusingly call the "Keep on Keeping on" phenomenon or the status quo trap

Most decision makers display a strong bias towards alternatives that perpetuate the current situation. On a broad scale you can see this tendency whenever a new product is introduced. For example, the first automobiles essentially looked like the carriages they were replacing. The first electronic newspapers appearing on the web looked a lot like printed copies. There have also been many psychological experiments that documented our brains desire stay with what is familiar. I recall one study in which subjects were randomly given one of two gifts, either a mug or a chocolate bar. They were then told they could exchange the gift they received for the other gift. Statistics would predict half would have wanted to make the change. However, only 10% actually did. The desire to maintain the status quo is a powerful force.

Moreover, the more choices available, the more uncomfortable we become with switching. The more options that are made available to us,

the more likely it is we will cling to what we know. In an attempt to make this real, the research shows that if the space committee were tasked with choosing between staying in our current building or moving to one alternative location, the likelihood of a move would be higher than if they were given 10 alternative locations to consider. Why? Because choosing between multiple alternatives is much harder than choosing between two. Eventually the mind becomes fatigued and we retreat to what is comfortable.

This phenomenon is not limited to individuals. In fact, scholars in social anthropology have concluded in their studies of traditional, small scale societies, that they are consistently discovered to be paradigms of stasis. In fact, for many years it was thought that human group's tendency to maintain the status quo must not only be rational, but necessary for the continuity of social order and cohesion.

Many changes are occurring at Emerson. They are exciting, energizing and hopefully serve to move us forward in living our mission and vision. However, as we begin to digest these: Multiple RE offerings, Welcoming Congregation, Succession Planning, Program Council, Space Use Policies, and perhaps most taxing, the possibility of relocation, it is highly likely some of us will begin to experience change fatigue. Once change fatigue sets in, the more prone we are to advocating for the status quo.

So what are we to do about this? First, let me point out that,

in any decision making process, maintaining the status quo may very well be the best solution. What we are challenged to do is to deliberately choose to maintain the status quo because it is the best choice, not because it is comfortable. Keep the following in mind:

1. Remind yourself of Emerson's mission and vision how they would be served by the status quo. It may be that elements of the current situation are incompatible with our objectives.
2. Ask yourself if you would chose the status quo alternative if it were not the status quo.
3. If several alternatives are clearly superior to the status quo, recognize that we are actually more at risk for reverting to the status quo because it is easiest. Force yourself to choose one of the superior alternatives.
4. Never think of the status quo as your only alternative. Force yourself to identify other options and weigh them objectively.
5. Seek out and listen to those who embrace solutions that differ from yours, especially if you believe maintaining the status quo is the best solution.

Emerson is currently examining many exciting possibilities. Whether we embrace change or maintain what we know, we must do so deliberately and with our ultimate goal of holding true to our mission and vision in mind.

Shawna Lyonfields

RE VIEW

FROM JENN TAYLOR, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Before we lived here, we lived there: The Netherlands to be precise. Or Holland if that rolls off your tongue more readily. The experience of taking a family of five to live in a foreign land is replete with anecdote and story and oh-my-how-we've-grown tales, all of which I am happy to share in a variety of settings and in varying detail. But for purposes of this article I want to talk about the way a new year is announced in Dutch culture.

It is explosive.

In a country which regulates just nearly everything which can be regulated it seems obvious come to Old Year's Night that absolutely no rules apply. In the weeks preceding, fireworks are sold at the grocery stores, the plant nurseries and at vendors on the street corners. Selections include the benign hand held

sparklers and bottle rockets, but also include the kinds of things I do not know the names for and would hardly dare to guess the firepower behind. The fun (?) begins in the days prior to the 31st and it is not uncommon to have a firecracker thrown under your bike wheels as you cycle blithely down the lane. Nor is it odd to hear the rapid fire rhythm of hundreds of crackers set off together to reverberate off row house walls and narrow alleys. Come the last day of the year proper, the fire play is random but constant throughout the day.

Then midnight approaches.

The first event of a brand new year is a wonder, albeit a slightly-frightening-unbelievably-loud-wonder, to behold. After the initial shout: Gelukkig Nieuwjaar! and the standard three-kiss affectionate display for all in the room or at the party, the front doors of homes are thrown open wide and all pour into the streets where the name of the game seems to be DO IT FAST AND DO IT WILD. The fireworks are launched from the street, from the tops of trash cans, from the garden walls, from the rooftops, and the tops of cars. They are launched in frenzy; with an energy which, unless witnessed, cannot be believed. The result is a

cacophonous nightmare which is simultaneously terrifying and totally stimulating.

All the while fire is exploding overhead and underfoot, neighbors call out Happy New Year and greet each other with the friendly three kisses--right cheek, left cheek, right cheek--for one and all. Everyone laughs and smiles. Everyone groans about the noise and the craziness. Everyone thrills over this very Dutch way to bring it in. (Lest you begin to think that it's all over in a moment I feel compelled to point out that noise and chaos is the lullaby still echoing in the streets well past 3:00 a.m.).

So, this is what I'm thinking about as another Old Year closes and a New Year begins.

Let's start it with a bang.

Jenn Taylor

A MONTH OF SERVICES

All Sunday Services begin at 10:00 AM

January 2

"Good and Evil"

Speaker: Barbara Brown

If UUs don't believe in sin, do we believe in virtue? If we believe that evil doesn't exist in the world, why does our first hymn ask that "may nothing evil cross this door?"

Pianist: Todd Painter

Adult RE: Barb Brown

Using the sermon as the springboard for reflection, we will ask: Has goodness/evilness ever touched your life? If you didn't have bad luck, would you have no luck at all? Does your life feel blessed/lucky?

January 9

"World Religions I – Pluralism with Respect."

Speaker: Rev. Krista Taves

This is the first in a multi-part sermon series on world religions. We will be exploring the perils and possibilities of integrating different religious concepts into our belief

Special Guest Music: Worship Band

Pianist: Todd Painter

Adult RE: Claudia Hall, "How Other Faiths Understand Jesus"

January 16

"World Religions II – Judaism"

Speaker: Rev. Krista Taves and The Emerson Singers

This is the month of Shevat in the Jewish calendar. According to Jewish tradition, in the month of Shevat, Moshe, or Moses, begins to speak to the people of Israel to prepare them for their journey out of exile and into their new homeland. What can his words offer us today as we celebrate Martin Luther King Day?

Special Guest Music: James Beale, guitar

Pianist: Todd Painter

Adult RE: Claudia Hall, "Universalism"

January 23

"Roe v. Wade Service – Youth Pew "

Speaker: Rev. Krista Taves and Rev. Rebecca Turner.

Unitarian Universalists have stood behind a woman's right to make choices about her body for more than 100 years. Rev. Taves is joined by Rev. Turner as we honor the groundbreaking decision that made reproductive choice a private matter. Rev. Turner is the Executive Director of Faith Aloud: The Religious and Ethical Voice for Reproductive Justice.

Special Guest Music: Pam Triplette, trio

Pianist: Todd Painter

Adult RE: Mid Year Congregational Meeting; no Adult Ed/RE session

January 30

"World Religions III – Christianity"

Speaker: Rev. Krista Taves

January is the month of Epiphany in many Christian traditions. Its scriptural basis is the visit of the Magi to the baby Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew, whereby Jesus' "divinity" was "revealed" to them. Today, an epiphany is more often understood as a major realization, an "aha" moment. Both concepts have much to offer us.

Special Music: Amy Camie, harp

Adult RE: Claudia Hall, "Liberal in a Conservative World"

Minister's January Schedule

Jan 3 - 9: We, Th, Sat

Jan 10 - 16: We, Th, Sat

Jan 17 - 23: We, Th, Sa

Jan 24 - 30: We, Th, Sat

Jan 31 - Feb 6: Study leave

Feb 7 - 11: Unitarian Universalist Ministers Institute, Monterey CA

Pastoral Care

Rev. Taves is available for non-emergency pastoral care on the days of her office hours. She is available for emergency pastoral care 24/7.

Unitarian Universalist Wings Continues in January.

UU WINGS, an adult religious education course offered by Rev. Krista Taves, begins in September. If you have recently begun attending Emerson Chapel, have completed our introductory series UU Roots, or are a longer term member seeking intentional spiritual exploration, this is an excellent group for you. You may join the class at any time during the year.

In this religious education class, participants:

- Become familiar with a broad and inclusive definition of spirituality—one that includes those who do and don't affirm the existence of spirit or deity
- Evaluate their experiences of the spiritual during turning points in their lives and during day-to-day living
- Learn methods for being attentive to their spirituality
- Consider the value of spiritual practice, in any variety of forms, as a means to deepen faith and enhance the quality of everyday living
- Participate in the spiritual practices of speaking and listening with respect
- Explore a vocabulary of reverence drawn from the Unitarian Universalist hymnbook *Singing the Living Tradition* and its supplement, *Singing the Journey*
- Articulate thoughts, feelings, and longings in authentic ways, and develop their

understanding of the spiritually healing value of such authenticity

- Explore possibilities for deepening experiences of spirituality for themselves and for others in the context of their Unitarian Universalist congregation

To register please contact Randy Whitman, Office Administrator at office@emersonuuchapel.org.

Please indicate if you will be needing childcare. There is a suggested freewill offering of \$10 per family to cover the cost of childcare.

Dates:

Wednesdays. 7-9 p.m. Jan. 19, Feb. 16, Mar. 16, Apr. 20, May 18.

You may join this class at any time.

Our Unitarian Universalist Roots – An Introduction to Unitarian Universalism Feb 13, 20, 27 (11:30-1:00pm)

Rev. Krista Taves will be offering another round of "UU Roots", an introduction to Unitarian Universalism and Emerson Chapel, starting late October and running into November, after the service. This 3-part class is open to everyone, but we are extending a special invitation to recent visitors to Emerson - this is an excellent way to learn more about our denomination, and our church, as well as meet others who are also new to Emerson Chapel.

The three-session series will be held at Emerson after the

regular Sunday services on November 14th, November 21st and November 28th from 11:30am-1:00pm. The first session covers the history of Unitarian Universalism; the second explores UU theology; and the third and final session covers Emerson Chapel's 25-year history as well as its structure, governance, and programming.

We urge you to attend all three sessions to get the most out of the experience, but you're still welcome to participate in one or more if you cannot make all of them.

Please call the church office or email

office@emersonuuchapel.org

by October 25th if you plan to attend (and if you'll be needing child care).

There will be a one-time, free-will donation of \$10 (per couple) to cover expenses, including child care.

We hope you'll be able to join us!!

Jeff Gidday

Chair, Welcome Committee

Love First in the New Year

Now's a great time to create a "Top 10" list of Emerson's social justice activities in 2010 and to look forward to new possibilities for making a difference in the world in 2011.

Carrying out the mandate of the majority of some 20 people organizing the Love First effort last spring, the primary focus so far has been on supporting equal rights for sexual minorities. Early in June, several members of Love First attended The State of Marriage, a hilarious and poignant play focusing on the Show Me Marriage Equality Project, which transports same-sex couples to be legally married in Iowa. Later in June, at the St. Louis Pride Fest (one of the largest in the U.S.), Love First organized a metro UU booth supported by all four UU churches in the St. Louis area. And we participated in the related UU worship service and the UU contingent in the Pride Parade. The results? Wonderful energy from the diverse mix of sexual minorities and allies participating—some for the first time—and good visibility for UUism, since most of the hundreds of visitors to the booth, in Tower Grove Park, hadn't heard of it before.

Now, Emerson youth are eager to make an even stronger UU presence at St. Louis 2011 Pride and are busily creating t-shirts for the UU contingent to wear in the parade. (You can look forward to being asked to buy a t-shirt and wear it in the Parade!) Several youth and adults also have attended statewide summit meetings sponsored by Promo (Personal Rights of Missourians) to tackle issues such as bullying in schools and teen suicide prevention.

In July, two members participated in a very energetic

and well-attended counter protest of a rally in Clayton by the National Organization for Marriage, which opposes same-sex marriage.

Within the past six months, two workshops—Weaving the Fabric of Diversity and The Welcoming Congregation—have been offered via 18 Adult RE sessions at Emerson. More than 50 members and friends attended sessions on overcoming discrimination based on race, age, gender, ability, and/or sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI). A frequent comment thread was, "I felt I was pretty accepting and didn't have much to learn from the sessions, but I was surprised, at almost every session, at what I did learn—about others and especially about myself."

Love First also helped choose the four charities to receive, on a quarterly basis, all undesignated offerings in Sunday morning collections. In 2010, they have been Promo and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee; in 2011, they'll be Faith Aloud, K-9 Rescue & Rehab, and others to be determined. In addition, Love First members have played a major role in collecting and delivering food and clothing to Feed My People and Circle of Concern. (The number of donations increased dramatically this year, thanks to great generosity of Emerson members and friends.)

Committee members also will be supporting the V-Day production of A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant and A Prayer: Writings to End Violence Against Women and Girls," led by Camille Herman and Barb Brown for performance at Emerson on Feb. 25 and 26. Proceeds will go to Lydia's House in St. Louis, which offers transitional housing, spiritual and emotional support and advocacy for abused

women and their children. (More information on this appears elsewhere in this newsletter.)

In 2011, you'll have a chance to join additional Love First programs on the drawing board. Welcoming Congregation activities—some educational, some social—will continue to evolve. And, at the Annual Meeting, in May, members will have the opportunity to vote on whether Emerson should ask the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) to certify it as a Welcoming Congregation.

New social justice priorities, such as reproductive justice, also will be considered. If you'd like to help with ongoing plans, by joining the Love First committee and/or the Love First Google Group, which features very lively, engaging e-mail dialogue on social issues, you're invited to e-mail lovefirst@emersonuuchapel.org or call the church office.

Nancy Belt, co-chair, Love First

Trivia Night

Trivia Night is set for Saturday Jan 29, 2011. Doors open at 6pm trivia starts at 7. Silent auction, dessert auction, 50/50, and more. \$20 per person. Tables seat 8.

The event will be a fundraiser for new chairs in the chapel. Consider donating items for the silent auction: home movie stuff, candy, nuts, popcorn, etc.

Please contact Lisa Parnell at fundraiser@emersonuuchapel.org or call her at home (see directory on-line) to reserve your table. Also coordinating Trivia Night are Chris Gamlin, Mark Fish, Jeff Giddy, Susan Stafford, Tom Lyonfield and Logan Giddy

Bibliophiles wanted!

Lauren Lyerla is looking for a team of people to help with a very time-limited project: cataloging and reorganizing Emerson's library. If you have just a few hours to spare and know your way around a simple spreadsheet, please contact Lauren.

The goal: for each book in our library, let's capture the title, author, publisher, year of publication and book number, and determine which library category is most appropriate. If several people can each record this information for a small part of our collection, we will be able to catalog all our books in a short period of time. Then we will be able to combine our records into a comprehensive, usable, searchable database.

The final stage of this project, then, will be to re-shelve the books into their proper sections by category. (After that, the weekly maintenance of the library should not be too burdensome, and could be handled by Lauren, though she wouldn't say no to ongoing helpers.)

Elizabethan Evening Is Great Success!

Our 9th Annual Madrigal Dinners were a rousing success! Over 2 nights, we served more than 150 guests (1/3 non-Emersonian's) plum puddings, pork tenderloins, sweet potatoes, green beans & chickens! (If you attended on Saturday.) This was accomplished through the efforts of more than 45 of our members and friends, including many of our youth, who set-up, cooked, served, and cleaned up. A very BIG THANK YOU goes out to one and all. There were many of you who cooked, served, and attended the

dinner as a guest. A fantastic effort was put forth by all. Numbers will be in at the end of the month.

I will not attempt to list everyone, as I'm sure I would leave someone out. However, special thanks to Sally Armontrout, Barb Brown, Ann Kehler, Tom Kibby & Jo Myers for going above & beyond this year to work behind the scenes to ensure "the show went on" as planned. A big thank you to Robert Terhune & Laura Davidson, and Jason & Carrie Lang our outstanding Lords and Ladies.

A special "thank you" from me to all who stepped up to take on extra tasks when I was ill. It is this kind of unified effort that reinforces why Emerson is so important in my life. The love and support from friends like you help to make life worth while.

*Thank you,
Camille*

Emerson to take part in V-Day 2011!

**Auditions held Jan. 4th & 5th
7:00-9:00 pm**

**Audition will be a cold reading from the script
Parts for women & men**

On February 25 & 26, 2011, Emerson will present "A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant and A Prayer: Writings to End Violence Against Women & Girls" - A groundbreaking collection of monologues by world renowned authors and playwrights, edited by Eve Ensler and Mollie Doyle. These diverse voices rise up in a collective roar to break open, expose, and examine the insidiousness of violence at all levels: brutality, neglect, a punch, even a put-down. There are pieces included by and for men.

Beneficiary Charity will be Lydia's House
(www.lydiashouse.org).

Their Mission

Lydia's House works in faith to end domestic violence by being a place of healing and voice of hope for abused women and their children."

Their Services

- They are the only agency in St. Louis that provides
- Transitional housing in safe, confidentially-located, furnished apartments,
- Up to 24 months to recover from abuse and build new lives, and
- Support services tailored specifically to the needs of domestic violence survivors.

Their Impact

- 100% of the residents who have completed their stay with Lydia's House express an increased sense of safety, well being and self-esteem.
- 85% of the departing residents have completed their educational, training, and/or employment goals while living at Lydia's House
- 60% have completed their secondary goals (legal, medical, parenting, self-care, etc)
- 80% of the women complete economic self-sufficiency classes and 50% open Individual Development Accounts
- 95% of the departing residents have secured safe, affordable housing independent of the person who was abusing them.

In addition to actors for the performances, we need several support teams for promotion, ticket sales, reception, and charity liaison. If you are interested in helping, please contact director, Camille Herman at drama@emersonuuchapel.org

**January's Recipient of our Offertory:
Faith Aloud: The Religious and Ethical Voice of Reproductive Justice.**

Faith Aloud is a non-profit interfaith organization that supports reproductive justice for every person. It's central purpose is to eliminate the stigma of abortion. To that effect, Faith Aloud lobbies for reproductive justice in the state of Missouri and offers free nationwide pastoral care to women who are considering an abortion or have had an abortion. We have supported Faith Aloud for many years and our minister currently serves as President of the National Board. Faith Aloud's Executive Director, Rev. Rebecca Turner, will be joining Rev. Taves in the pulpit on January 16th.

The following is Faith Aloud's belief statement:

We believe :

- That the love of God induces strength, not shame.
- That families are created in many ways.
- That all persons desiring to be parents should have the right and opportunity to do so.
- That no one should be forced into pregnancy, parenthood, or narrowly defined parenting roles.
- That abortion, adoption, and parenting can all be good moral decisions.

- That the sexual experiences of consenting adults are not open to government inspection, opinion, and legislation.
- That all persons have a right to privacy.
- That all persons have a right to education and employment without discrimination based on gender, pregnancy, or sexual orientation.
- That all persons have the right to choose the life they want to live, responsibly within their community.
- That no person should ever be forced into contraception, sterilization, or abortion.
- That all young people should have access to comprehensive sex education.
- That all people should have access to reproductive and sexual health information and services.
- That sexually transmitted infections are not a result of moral failure, and the best medical information, prevention, and treatment should be available to all.
- That sex is a glorious component of the human experience, a gift of the Divine, to be expressed with respect, responsibility, and joy.
- That God's love is available in all of life's complex decisions.

**Feed My People:
Adopted Families Report**

Jim and Shawna Lyonfields and Barb Brown are pleased to report that both families adopted by Emerson will have a happy holiday season thanks to the generosity of Emerson Chapel. In addition to the clothing items and games, and various luxuries, we were able to provide many boxes of food. We thank everyone for their gifts and our outreach to our two families.
Barb Brown

**Marketing & PR
Emerson's Communications**

We have continued using the Activities This Week poster in the Vestibule together with ETC (in vestibule for pick-up) to explain to guests our weekly activities and an explanation of them. Website usage continues to increase (see chart).

*In joyful service,
Camille Herman & Barb Brown,
Co-chairs Marketing/PR/*

Space Issues Task Force

The members have met to draw up preliminary drafts of a needs assessments for future space and have reviewed financials of various options. Next steps include drafting a Program Statement outlining these space needs. This will be presented for review at the Mid-Year Congregational Meeting in January. While no vote will be sought, this document will be offered for information and discussion.

Tom Kibby

Comparison of Website Usage 2008, 2009 and 2010 Access by Unique Web Guests *Dec '10 reporting date is of 12/16/10					
Jul-08	399	Jul-09	417	Jul-10	505
Aug-08	321	Aug-09	491	Aug-10	606
Sep-08	430	Sep-09	495	Sep-10	682
Oct-08	467	Oct-09	505	Oct-10	744
Nov-08	421	Nov-09	523	Nov-10	913
Dec-08	435	Dec-09	581	Dec-10*	579*

Religious Education Hour for Children and Youth: December

3-5's Joy Hungerford &
Debbie Baumel, teachers

The Chalice Children class brings in the New Year with lessons about:

2 Jan: Helping (church is a place where we learn to help others)

9 Jan: The Jigsaw Puzzle (church is a place for many different people)

16 Jan: Snack Celebration (church is a place for families)

30 Jan: Snow! (church is a place to wonder and ask questions)

6-7's Chris Gamelin & Tom Kibby, teachers

Our Super Heroes I class will wrap up their studies on UU Super Heroes in early January and meet the best and the brightest of the Bible People. Class sessions include:

2 Jan: Pete Seeger (Singing out for justice and a clean world)

9 Jan: Celebrating ourselves as Super Heroes (It's a costume parade!)

16 Jan: Moses (as a baby)

30 Jan: Moses (as a grown man)

8-10's Rommel Villagomez & Amanda Ozersky, teachers

The Super Heroes II class brings their study of Bible People to a close and opens the book for UU Super Heroes in the first month of the year. Lessons awaiting are:

2 Jan: Christmas People II (the story behind the Christian holiday)

9 Jan: Celebrating ourselves as Super Heroes (a memory book craft)

16 Jan: King John Sigismund (the only Unitarian King!)

30 Jan: Theodore Parker (Give a little whistle—and always let your conscience be your guide)

11-13's Melissa Cynova &

Harry Shukla, teachers

Our Compass Points class continues their journey and marks the path with their questions:

2 Jan: Wise Guys (great sages of history)

9 Jan: Where Does our Congregation Stand? (an interactive poll of our members' beliefs)

16 Jan: What Would Jesus Do? (who is Jesus and how do we know what we know about him?)

30 Jan: Transitions (exploring the ideas of change and growth)

SPECIAL NOTES:

No regular classes held on 23 January, but all RE children will be engaged in meaningful learning and activities with DRE, Jenn Taylor while parents and caregivers attend our Congregational Meeting.

Youth Interface

YOUTH (14-18) start the year off right with reflection, discussion and breakfast on January 2nd. In the weeks following, our youth and minister work together to create a worship service for presentation on 13 February. All youth encouraged to attend the Congregational Meeting on 23 January. Important changes to our bylaws regarding Youth membership rights will be on the agenda for congregation approval.

Curricula Sundays:

Jan 2: Resolution/New Year;

Vicki Martin, teacher

Jan 9: Worship, Krista Taves, teacher

Jan 16: Worship, Krista Taves, teacher

Jan 23: Youth Pew Sunday Congregational Meeting, Krista Taves, teacher

Jan 30: Worship, Krista Taves, teacher

Spring Youth Conference 2011

The Central Midwest District is pleased to announce that this spring Countryside UU Church of Palatine, IL will be hosting spring youth CONFERENCE on April 1-3, 2011.

The conference will have limited registration of 200 youth and registration information will be coming soon in 2011. In order for our youth (14-18 yo high school youth) are able to attend, please return permission slips once these are available.

Administration

Emerson UU Chapel Board Meeting 11/10/2010 – Held at Emerson UU Church – 7:00PM

Closing Words: Camille
Adjourned at 9:50PM.

Present: Jim Lyonfields (Co-President), Krista Taves (Pastor), Les Armontrout (Board Member), Nancy Fish (VP Elect), Marilyn Ortinau (VP), Michael Warren (Secretary), Camille Hermann (Board Member), Melissa Grizzle (Treasurer)

Welcome and Chalice Lighting

Questions from Reports: No questions from report outs on DRE, Minister, and Program Council.

Approval of Minutes and Consent Agenda :

Unanimous Approval of Previous Minutes and Consent Agenda.

Financials: Melissa Grizzle

Net loss for October, but surplus for year. Overages from timing of payroll taxes and benefits hitting ledger. New member pledges will be reflected in future month income. Expenses are budgeted for future snow and ice removal.

Learning Moment - Minister in a Program Church:

Ian Evanson
Roles of Minister, Board, PC in a family, pastoral, and program sized congregation.

Old Business:

Creation of Committees/Task Force:
Long Term Space – Approve Charge: Examine all considerations for physical space that meets congregational needs for next 15-20 years.
Approved.

Building Committee:

In process of identifying Committee. Camille to utilize list of interests and work towards designating Committee Member on Duty for each month.

Donating the Plate Communication Plan:

Introduced in Strategic Plan, November Newsletter, TWAE, Love First Communications, and in-service at Bread Communion.
Proposed Amendment regarding Youth

Membership:

Proposal to allow youth membership at 14 years of age or older. Pledges to be approved by parent or guardian. Youth members may vote at congregational meetings, but not be voting members of the board. Approved for Congregational vote.

Administration

MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2010			
FINANCIAL SUMMARY			
NOVEMBER 2010	Actual	Budget	Variance
Pledge Income	\$ 10,583	\$ 13,324	\$ (2,741)
Other Income (inc. Grocery Cert.)	\$ 1,704	\$ 486	\$ 1,217
Expenses	\$ 13,753	\$ 14,193	\$ (441)
Fiscal Year-to-Date			
Pledge Income	\$ 74,322	\$ 66,618	\$ 7,704
Other Income	\$ 3,694	\$ 2,431	\$ 1,262
Expenses*	\$ 80,334	\$ 75,716	\$ 4,619
	NOV	YTD	
Hymnal Dedication Income	\$ 1,113	\$ 2,638	
<p>*Actuals include \$5900 being paid from refinancing cash for building improvements (not included in operating budget). This was the drainage project completed in September. Targeted budget for all projects is \$9500.</p>			

Treasurer's Notes

Thank you to all for your commitment to your financial support of Emerson. We are ending this calendar year strong and poised for a great second half of our fiscal year. Look for your tax statement in January and please contact myself or Randy Whitman in the office with any questions.

In Peace & Joy,

Melissa Grizzle

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.

One Person's Food is Emerson's Support

Stop by the Hearth Room during coffee time to purchase your grocery certificates. How does this work? You purchase certificates to purchase food at Dierbergs, Whole Foods or Shop 'n Save in the amount you might normally spend. As part of the grocers' community giving, they contribute 5% to Emerson. Schnucks uses a slightly different process, and their giving varies by the amount you spend, but they also participate.

Want to know more? Stop by and talk with one of our knowledgeable women who give their time each Sunday to make this happen. See them at the card table in the Hearth Room. We all want to support Emerson, it is our shared community. You don't spend more for your food, and you support Emerson; how easy is that!?

RANDY'S DESK

Chapel Administrator's Notes – Randy Whitman

**2011 Office Hours-
Mon, Wed, Thur, Fri:
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

In November we welcomed twelve visitors.

Our membership directory is available on our website and is updated monthly. Please be sure we have your 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

V-Day Production Auditions

January 4 and 5, 7-9 PM, Emerson
Cold script reading from the monologue.

A Belated Thank You

..goes to Steve Jones for his photos of the Social Justice Sack Lunch project that appeared in the December *Emissary*. Thanks, Steve!

Womyn's Web

Womyn's Web will be held at THE CHURCH on **Monday, January 3 at 7 p.m.** 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 more information, please contact Susan Gottlieb womynsweb@emersonuuchapel.org

UU B&B Directory

For thirty years, the UU bed and breakfast directory, UU're Home, has provided a network of hosts in the US and abroad who enjoy meeting new friends and who are happy to open their home to like-minded people. You can also become a host and be listed in the directory. Contact us at info@uurehome.com, and we will gladly send you information about listing your accommodations.

More Kudos to...

- **Nancy Belt** for directing the pickup choir at Christmas Eve service.
- **Todd Painter and Nancy Belt** for sharing their musical talent with the congregation this month.
- **Mark Fish** for the fanfare fun at Madrigal dinners.

Kudos to...

- **Barb Brown** for stepping up to take a coordinating role for this year's Madrigal Dinner
- **Dave L'Hommedieu**, friend of Shawna Lyonfields, for donating time to fix a few things around the chapel.
- **Tom Kibby** for a job well done as newsletter editor (*I just cut and paste these, I promise, ed.*)
- **To the dedicated crew** who "hung the greens" to decorate for the holidays
- **Emerson Singers** for their Dec. 19 Music Ministry
- **Randy Whitman** for all her behind the scenes help in 2010
- **Jo Myers** for lovely flowers every Sunday
- **Carol Jose** and helpers for our Social Hour
- The **Women in Transition** covenant group for sharing their time and fantastic organizing skills last month and transforming the storage spaces for RE resources and supplies.
- The **RE children** for a job well done in the RE service on December 5th.
- **Our congregation** for the generous donations to Circle of Concern. Nearly 100 bags of warmth (mittens, hats and scarves) were delivered in December along with handmade cards by the RE children.
- Our newly formed **Children's Chapel ministry team** for their enthusiasm and joy in working with our RE children each week!
- **Joy Hungerford and Rommel Villagomez** for joining the RE teaching team.
- **Madrigal organizers** and behind the scenes players for the magnificent fun for all!

JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
30 Service 10AM	31					1
2 Service 10AM	3 Womyns Web 7PM	4	5 Movie Matinee 12N	6 Daytimers 11AM	7	8
9 Service 10AM 7PM Drum Circle	10	11	12 UU Wings 7PM EUUC Board 7PM	13	14	15
16 Service 10AM	17	18	19	20	21	22 Program Council 10AM
23 Service 10AM 11:15 Mid Year Congregational Meeting	24	25	26 Love First 7PM	27	28	29 Trivia Night 6:30 PM

Upcoming events:

- Spring CON for youth UU's, April 1-3, Palatine, IL

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.



OFFICERS

President
Jim Lyonfields

VP/Program Council
Marilyn Ortinau

Secretary
Michael Warren

Treasurer
Melissa Grizzle

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 (except no newsletter published in July). All groups are requested to send their meeting notices monthly to ensure their accuracy. Send to:

newsletter@emersonuuchapel.org

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EMERSON EMISSARY

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