

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

FOCUSING THE BEACON ADOPTED

At the Annual Congregational Meeting on May 16th members voted unanimously to approve the Strategic Plan developed by the Focusing the Beacon Team. The following is an excerpt from the plan:

Our Theological Center Unitarian Universalism is a transformative religious tradition. We advance transformation through mutual covenants with one another, based on love and trust, and our own individual covenants with the divine. We are called to find meaning together, to help and care for one another, and to serve the common good, so we can all connect with something greater than ourselves. We do this by providing the highest and best opportunities for engaging worship, collaborative learning, and social action, as echoed by our very mission statement; indeed, our recommendations are founded on these defining elements. Moreover, we offer a plan that we believe makes possible the aspirations set out in our vision statement. To be that beacon, remain on the path to wholeness, and really make a difference in the world, we must do everything we can to nurture the unique contributions and gifts that our members can provide, not only to our Emerson community but to the world beyond our doors. Our growth will continue to provide ever more broad and deep ways of realizing our full potential, but only if we ensure the quality of the resources that support such hope and

promise. Very intentional consideration of the ways we can achieve and maintain the strongest and most robust of leadership resources and facilities going forward informed our recommendations throughout. We recognize that change is a fundamental part of institutional growth, just as much as change is a necessary part of personal and spiritual growth. We are also aware that change is never easy, but neither is our calling, or our vision. We call it transformative work, not transformative play. It is to that end that we aspire, and offer this plan.

The complete plan is on our website:

<http://www.emersonuuchapel.org/documents/FTB.StrategicPlan.2010.pdf>

If you do not have internet access and would like to receive a printed copy of the plan, please contact the church office and a copy will be mailed to you.

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KRISTA'S CORNER

MINISTER'S NOTES FROM REV. KRISTA TAVES



I write this final newsletter article before the beginning of summer with a sense of profound gratitude and appreciation for this congregation and its stunning successes this year.

On May 16th this congregation reached a threshold. For the first time in its 25 year history, Emerson Unitarian Universalist Chapel passed a budget that completely funds full time ministry from pledge income. This has been the dream of the Chapel since it began in 1984. Earlier times of full time ministry, including four years with Rev. Leonetta Bugleissi in the early 1990s, and two years with me, were subsidized, either by the Unitarian Universalist Association or a small group of generous members. Never before has the congregation as a whole been able to completely support full time ministry.

Until now. We are emerging from one of the most successful pledge drives this congregation has ever seen. We reached an all-time high of almost \$160 000 in pledges. The generosity of members and friends to pledge their

money and time to this chapel is impressive. The commitment of the Canvass Team, composed of Linda Giddy, Dorothy Newell, Barb Brown and Lisa Parnell was unwavering. Their team of canvassers was unmatched. The support of the Board of Trustees was solid.

It has indeed been heartwarming for me to see this congregation's commitment to professional ministry. Many of you have come to me personally and asked me to see this accomplishment as an affirmation of my work. I would ask you also to see this accomplishment as an affirmation of you. You are the stewards of this congregation and our liberal religious tradition.

This canvass was not only about me. Your generosity allowed us to restore our Administrator's hours and are paying her what she is worth. We have also restored our Pianist to his previous level of pay. While we were not yet able to restore our Director of Religious Education's hours, we have restructured the position to ensure that we have realistic expectations of what is possible with the hours offered. Our children's religious education will become more fully a cooperative endeavor that nurtures and strengthens parental commitment and involvement. We have also restored funds to worship and religious education and many other areas of congregational

life. All this happened because of you.

In the end, church life isn't about budgets or staffing or programs, it's about real people with their religious and spiritual needs. Ultimately, it's about our mission to serve our world.

On behalf of all the staff, we offer you our heartfelt appreciation and thanks. May our service be worthy of your trust and generosity.

*In faith,
Rev. Krista Taves*

Minister's Summer Schedule

June 1 - 18: Study Leave
June 19: Emerson Chapel Leadership Retreat
June 20-23: Pre-General Assembly, Minneapolis MN
June 24 - July 24: Vacation
July 25 - 30: Study Leave
August 3: Resume office hours

Pastoral Care

If you have an emergency pastoral care situation between June 1 and June 24, and July 24 and July 30, please be in touch with Rev. Krista Taves through the church office, 636-256-7393.

If you have an emergency pastoral care situation between June 24 and July 24 please leave a message with Office Administrator Randy Whitman and someone will be in touch with you shortly.

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

CAMILLE'S LINES

OBSERVATIONS FROM BOARD PRESIDENT CAMILLE HERMAN



President's Farewell

June is bustin' out all over
and isn't it beautiful?

I am happy to report we had a very successful Annual Congregational Meeting unanimously passing our Healthy Church Budget which restored Krista to full time ministry, increased Randy's hours back to 16, and raised everyone's pay to current UUA Fair Compensation standards. We were also able to put some money back into our programs and, through our mortgage refinance, will have funds to address our water/basement problems. Thanks to the Canvass committee headed by Linda Giddy and Dorothy Newell for their excellent efforts. Thanks also to the Focusing The Beacon Team (Shawna Lyonfields, Andy Dickson, Mark Fish & Jeff Giddy), for the excellent Strategic Plan which also passed

unanimously. Minutes from the meeting are elsewhere in this issue.

Thanks to everyone for being so supportive and giving of your time, talent and treasure. We are grateful for all of it. In the coming year, Claudia Hall has agreed to serve as our Volunteer Coordinator. She will be matching up those hours you pledged with the groups/committees that need your kind of expertise. I will remind you that grocery certificates will be sold after service every Sunday, or you can send Randy a check and she will mail them to you, or arrange for pick-up. Also, our expenses continue at the same pace through the summer months, so please keep you pledges coming as you have been. Putting them on automatic payment from your bank is an easy way to do this.

A big thank you to the members of the DRE Search team: Barb Brown, Greg Keller, Marilyn Ortinau and Soledad Villagomez for finding us new DRE Jenn Taylor.

It's time for me to say farewell as President of the Board of Trustees. I want to

thank this year's board – Jim Lyonfields, Nancy Russell, Marilyn Ortinau, Becky Langrall, Melissa Grizzle, Larry Foresman & Charlie Lewis for an outstanding year of service and support. My thanks also to Krista for her participation and guidance with the board, and me, throughout the year. The next issue's column will be from incoming president Jim Lyonfields.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer.

*Yours in Spirit,
Camille*

A MONTH OF SERVICES

All Sunday Services begin at 10:00 AM

Summer Services

These services are more informal and are lay-led, as our minister is on study break and vacation with her family. We are delighted to announce that we will have congregational singing this year, otherwise the format is the same as last year where the services are facilitated discussions on a particular topic. Topics are listed below, we look forward to seeing you there!

June 6

"Baseball, Mom, and Apple Pie: Re-visioning Summer"

Facilitator: Lisa Parnell
Special Guest Pianist: Mark Pedigo

June 13

"Respect for All Life: What Do UU's Mean by That?"

Facilitator: Claudia Hall
Special Guest Pianist: Nancy Belt

June 20

"Fathering and Fatherhood: What Do These Words Mean?"

Facilitator: TBA
Special Guest Pianist: Mark Pedigo

June 27

"Our Roots Are Showing: Work and Productivity"

Facilitator: Mark Fish
Special Guest Pianist: Mark Pedigo

July 4

"Independence and Interdependence: American Ideal and UU Heritage"

Facilitator: TBA
Special Guest Pianist: Nancy Belt

July 11

"A Cup of Cold Water: Compassionate Living"

Facilitator: Claudia Hall
Special Guest Pianist: Nancy Belt

July 18

"A Life Well Lived: What Makes a Life Complete?":

Facilitator: Barb Brown
Special Guest Pianist: Nancy Belt

July 25

"First Fruits: Does When We Do Things Matter?"

Facilitator: Lisa Parnell
Special Guest Pianist: Mark Pedigo

Facilitators Needed!

We still need people to facilitate on June 20 and July 4. The ENTIRE script of the service is provided for you, all you need to do is read from the script and keep the discussion on track with the questions provided. To sign up, please contact Claudia Hall, Worship Chair at worship@emersonuuchapel.org

Mark your calendars!

Vision Casting meeting at Emerson, Wednesday August 18th, 7:00 p.m. This event will serve to help everyone involved on Sunday mornings at Emerson to know what is planned for the 2010-2011 church year, and will help us kick off our fall ministries with a fun time! If you are in any way involved with Sunday mornings at Emerson (or just want to know more about what we are planning for this year) then come on out! Snacks and childcare will be provided.

New Covenant Groups to Begin in September

We are pleased to announce that seven new covenant groups will begin in the fall. Registration starts Sunday August 8th. Maximum registration per group is ten people, including facilitators. Groups will begin meeting in September and will continue until the following summer. This is an excellent opportunity for spiritual exploration, personal growth, and friendship building.

Christian Practices Facilitator: Claudia Hall

We all know Christianity has problems. So why has it endured for over 2,000 years? Theological disagreements aside, there are certain practices that have enabled billions of people to connect to the Holy. Come covenant with us to explore the impact of Christian practices and time-honored traditions on your spiritual journey.

The Tao of Spirituality Facilitators: Mark Fish, Carrie Lang, Jason Lang

The Tao of Spirituality covenant group will provide an opportunity for its members to learn more about Eastern spiritual traditions and their applications in everyday life. Our meetings will include silent meditation, discussion on concepts from Eastern traditions such as Zen, Taoism, and Buddhism, learning how to apply these concepts and sharing personal experiences along the way.

Men's Spirituality Facilitator: Sam Faith

The Men's Spirituality Covenant Group will explore the spiritual

issues of men in our society and culture. Some themes, readings and activities may be drawn from sources such as Iron John, Real Boys, Constructing Masculinity, Guyland and Masculinities. The group will meet at 7:00 pm on the first and third Thursdays of each month.

Episodes of the Devine / Spiritual Experiences Facilitator: Peggy Colwell

We will be sharing our own personal experiences, (Visions, Visits by Angels and/or deceased loved ones, Voices that gave us comfort, enlightenment and more) which were much more than ordinary everyday happenings. We will discuss the meanings of these events and what effect they have had on our lives. Join us for an interesting and meaningful covenant.

Journaling Our Life Stories Facilitator: Karyl Howard

Through the use of simple and guided journaling techniques, we will put the stories of our lives into words and then share them with each other within the covenant group setting.

The process of writing creates a record of who we are for our families and it allows us to reflect on our experiences, values, choices and strengths. Through the sharing of these stories and insights with the group, we will create connections with each other and work toward the establishment of a sense of community

UU Parenting Facilitators: Susan Bell and Nancy Fish

This covenant group will focus on parents as spiritual guides. Join us for meaningful

discussion, friendship, support, and spiritual growth as parents of children growing up in the UU religion. The meeting schedule has not yet been set but childcare may be provided based upon demand.

Women in Transition Facilitator: Denise Livingston

This covenant group will focus on women in any stage of transition in their lives, providing a supportive and empowering place for each member to explore their hopes, fears and questions of what lies ahead in their personal journey.

Love First Committee Takes Active First Steps

Love First, Emerson's social justice group, now is actively working for equality for LGBTQ persons and for reproductive justice. Its members helped organize and strongly supported a potluck dinner for LGBTQ UUs and friends area wide, held at First Unitarian in Alton and attended by about 30 persons, and it's gearing up to participate in St. Louis Pride Fest, as well as to offer two education series for Emerson--Weaving the Fabric of Diversity and The Welcoming Congregation. Love First members also are joining minister, the Rev. Krista Taves, in being a faithful presence for those entering Hope Clinic in Granite City for abortion-related services. All in the Emerson community are welcome to join the group. To receive group e-mails, send request to emerson-uu-love-first@googlegroups.com. Our next meeting is 7 p.m., **Wednesday, June 9**, in Emerson's Hearth Room.

Nancy Belt

Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting

Emerson Unitarian Universalist Chapel

May 16, 2010

11:30 AM – PM

President Camille Herman called the meeting to order at 11:35 AM.

Rev. Krista Taves read the opening words.

Camille appointed Barb Brown Parliamentarian. [suggested revision in brackets]

A quorum was established.

1. Minutes of the September and January Congregational meetings: Correction in the January minutes: The number of visitors is 25 each month, not each Sunday. Linda McAffrey moved that the minutes of the September and January Congregational Minutes be approved. Susan Stafford seconded the motion and it passed by voice vote.
2. Statement of Church Finances – Melissa Grizzle, Treasurer: Melissa presented the FY 10 – 11 budget, which proposed restoring the minister position to full time, restoring our pianist to his previous pay rate, and offering our Office Assistant fair wage compensation. We are ending the fiscal year in a strong position. [Moved by committee.] Camille asked for a voice vote to approve the budget, which passed unanimously.
3. Presentation of the Strategic Plan, Shawna Lyonfields, FTB Chair: Committee member Mark Fish discussed Emerson's growing

infrastructural needs as the justification for a move toward developing a "Program" level church. Shawna reviewed the additional recommendations within the Plan and fielded questions from the Congregation. On June 19, there will be a leadership retreat during which we will need to look at our governance model and the vision for worship and spirituality as a Program level church. The idea will be to deliberately work the Strategic Plan in the service of mission. Camille restated that by endorsing the Strategic Plan we are not saying that we are doing everything exactly as recommended; rather, the Plan is contains recommendations for how we move from a Pastoral to Program church. [Moved by committee.] Camille asked for a voice vote to accept the Plan which passed unanimously.

4. 2009 – 2010 Recognitions: Camille presented Lauren Lyerla with a gift in thanks for her very valued 4 ½ years of service as this Congregation's Director of Religious Education. Children's RE Chair, Laura Davidson, presented Lauren with an additional gift of thanks for their work together. Lauren recognized members who taught children's RE this past year. Jim recognized committees that are showing increasing initiative this year: The FTB committee, the DRE search committee, the Canvass committee. Jim recognized all Committee Chairs with a round of applause for their leadership. Jim recognized the supporters of committees with a round of applause. Jim recognized our new Director

RE, Jenn Taylor. Jenn addressed the Congregation about her qualifications, excitement, and appreciation for the position. Jim recognized outgoing Board members Larry Foresman, Becky Langrall, Charlie Lewis, and Nancy Russell. Jim recognized Camille for her work in guiding Jim's steps as the new Board President.

5. Incoming Board Candidates: Camille introduced the incoming board members to the congregation and outlined their qualifications and experience: Nancy Fish, Lisa Parnell, Michael Warren, Les Armontrout. [Moved by Nominations Committee,] Camille [asked] that these individuals be accepted by the Congregation as the new Board members, which passed unanimously by voice vote.
6. Election of new at-large-members to the Nominating Committee. Camille acknowledged the work of the nominating committee and asked for approval of incoming new members, Becky Langrall and Denise Livingston.

Camille presented the President's Overall Award for 2010 to Pat Baker.

Krista read the closing words.

Camille adjourned the meeting at 1:02 PM

*Respectfully Submitted,
Rebecca Langrall, Secretary
Emerson Board of Trustees*

Annual Meeting



President of the Board Camille Herman



Camille Herman and outgoing Director of Religious Education Lauren Lyerla



Chair of Religious Education Committee
Laura Davidson with Lauren Lyerla



Camille Herman with Overall Award
Recipient Pat Baker



Newly elected Board members Les Armontrout, Michael Warren, Lisa Parnell, Nancy Fish

FINANCIAL SUMMARY APRIL 2010			
Apr-10	Actual	Budget	Variance
Pledge Income	\$13,235	\$11,512	\$1,723
Expenses	\$10,766	\$11,463	(\$697)
Fiscal Year-to-Date			
Pledge Income	\$128,734	\$115,125	\$13,609
Expenses	\$114,635	\$114,857	(\$222)
	April	YTD	
Contributions to Monthly Charity	\$217	\$2,631	
Grocery Certificate/Esript Income	\$364	\$3,176	

FUND RAISING UPDATE

Three major fundraising efforts for Emerson were completed in May. Through efforts of Emerson members and friends a total of \$2317 was raised. This money will go to the general fund of church operations, and helps support programming and facilities upkeep for the coming year. A special thanks to all who participated in these events.

The Fifth Annual Plant and Garage Sale held May 8 sold donated used items and re-potted annuals from Emerson homes to the public. Thanks go to all who participated in donating, organizing and staffing the event: Tom, Sally, Marilyn, Les, Dorothy, Peggy, Terrell, Pam, Phyllis, Ken, Betty, Carrie, Nancy, Susan, Nancy, Jo, Debbie, Lauri, Brian, Marcy, Rus, John, and especially to Rich for hanging out at church for four hours waiting for the charity pick-up, only to move the stuff to the barn! A total of \$785 was raised, including \$220 from the plant sales. This was another successful event!

The Emerson Chapel sanctuary was rented for a wedding on May 15, raising \$500. Thanks to Camille for organizing, and to all who cleaned the sanctuary from the weekend events before.

The artwork displayed this spring in the sanctuary was offered for sale by Mark Fish. Joining the effort were member-artists Marcy Saphian and Phyllis MacLaren. A wine and cheese reception and silent auction were held May 16 after the Annual Meeting, and the proceeds were donated to the church. A total of \$1,052 was raised in the event. Thanks to the artists and the members of the Aesthetics Committee for an outstanding job!

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.

RANDY'S DESK

Chapel Administrator's Notes – Randy Whitman

**Office Hours- M, Th, F:
9:00 - 1:00**

In **April** we donated \$162.38 to PROMO, Personal Rights of Missourians, an advocacy organization for LGBT rights.

We welcomed six visitors in April.

Please keep the office updated with current phone, address and e-mail. The directory can now be accessed on our web site (password protected).

Randy can be contacted by calling the chapel office at: 636-256-7393 or by e-mail at: office@emersonuuchapel.org

Bulletin Board

Welcome to Jim Lyonfields and Jenn Taylor

Jim will be assuming the duties of President of the Board of trustees this summer. The new Board will elect the additional officers at their first meeting of the new members.

Jenn was selected by a search committee and accepted as our new Director of Religious Education. Jenn worked with outgoing Lauren Lyerla this May to assure a smooth transition in RE activities for the fall.

Members and Friends of Music:

Special Music for Sunday services at Emerson is now being scheduled for the next church year. Let us know if you have suggestions or are interested in scheduling yourself or a friend. musiccomm@emersonuuchapel.org

Womyn's Web

Womyn's Web will be held at Shaw Nature Reserve on Monday, June 7th at 7 p.m. If you would like to carpool, please be at the church no later than 6:15 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

Green Thoughts

Here are the Facts about 4 Egg Myths:

1. The only difference between a brown and white egg is the color of the shell, which is merely a reflection of the breed of the hen. There aren't any differences in nutritional quality, flavor, or cooking characteristics.
2. Free Range, Free Roaming, Hormone Free, and Raised without Antibiotics are not regulated and are therefore meaningless. There is no guarantee that the hen that laid the eggs ever saw the light of day—it may have spent time outdoors, but the labels don't mean anything.
3. Organic eggs may or may not be healthier, depending on the chicken's diet. Eggs from chickens that ate grass and insects (raised "on pasture") contained higher levels of omega-3 fat, and vitamins E, A, and in some cases D. Look locally to guarantee healthy eggs.
4. Egg substitutes often have added stabilizers, thickeners, vitamins, carotenes, and, sometimes, spices and can cost about twice as much as real eggs. Read the labels before buying.

Susan Stafford

Kudos to...

- **Phyllis MacLaren** for coordinating our special music for Sunday services
- **Camille Herman** for stepping in to the vacated position of Board President and leading so ably (again!)
- **Focusing the Beacon Team** for a well thought out road map for our community
- **Grounds and Building** people for making Emerson sparkle inside and out for the wedding
- **Jo Myers** for flowers each week
- **Aesthetics & Art Committee**
- **Plant & Yard Sales teams**
- **All of our RE teachers**

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

Kick Back This Sumer! No Emissary for July

There will be no newsletter produced in July. Also our *This Week at Emerson* will become *This Month at Emerson*, that is the e-mail announcements will be distributed monthly. Both our minister and RE director will be seen less in June and July.

However note that several features of chapel life continue through the summer: our chapel administrator will continue her schedule, Sunday services will still meet at same time, and pledges will still be needed and welcomed on schedule.

For myself, I am taking in as many World Cup games as possible! So kick back!

Tom Kibby



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.



OFFICERS

President
Camille Herman
VP/Program Council
Marilyn Ortinau
Secretary
Rebecca Langrall
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

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

EMERSON EMISSARY

Congregation established 194
A newsletter for Emerson Unitarian Universalist Chapel
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