

# EMERSON EMISSARY

Volume 10, Number 5

May 2009

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



## Summer Services – What's the same, what's different

Exciting things are happening as we prepare for the summer months when I leave for vacation and study leave. While things slow down, they do not stop. Worship services continue every week, although they are much more informal.

The worship committee and I are always looking for ways to improve the quality of our programming and this year we're working on a new way to do summer services. They will remain lay led, but there will be an emphasis on creating a balance between the head and heart. Our summer services are often more intellectual, and there has been an expressed desire that there also be an intentionally spiritual aspect to our gatherings. For that reason, we are redesigning

## KRISTA'S CORNER

MINISTER'S NOTES FROM REV. KRISTA TAVES

our services to include some of the most beloved components of our traditional worship - chalice lighting, unison affirmation, joys and concerns, silence, and the offertory. Subjects will be chosen for their spiritual and intellectual depth. If you are familiar with the covenant group style of discussion, that is what we will be using.

There has also been the desire that we provide meaningful children's programming year round. Currently, only basic childcare is provided at summer Sundays. Not surprisingly, very few families come to summer services. For this reason, we will be offering Children's Chapel all summer to ensure that our children's religious nurture remain a priority year round. The children and adults will begin the service together, and the children will participate in joys and concerns before leaving for Children's Chapel.

I would like to thank the Worship Committee for their dedication to the spiritual and religious growth of everyone

who makes this their home. Worship is at the center of who we are and what we do, and we're all excited about the possibilities for this summer. If you are interested in leading a summer session, please let myself or someone from the Worship Committee know. We'd love to hear from you.

In faith,  
Rev. Krista.

### Rev. Taves Office Hours

Available by appointment:  
Apr 27 - May 3: We Th Sa Su  
May 4 - May 10: We Th Sa Su  
May 11 - May 16: We Th Su  
May 17 - May 24: Tu We Th  
May 25 - May 31: We Th Sa Su

### Pastoral Care

For emergency pastoral care please call 417-343-8657.

For regular pastoral care, please contact the Care and Concern Committee through the Church Office  
([office@emersonuuchapel.org](mailto:office@emersonuuchapel.org))

# LEIGH'S LINES

## President's Notes from Leigh English



### New Eyes

My company has a number of business sites in India and one of these is a research facility that I have had the pleasure of working with since its inception 10 years ago. I was there last week and had a very good time visiting with my colleagues, many whom have become friends over the years. During this trip my business associates and I went sight-seeing in and around Delhi. We found a guide named Sashen and took off for a tour.

The picture below is of the Akshardham temple complex—a truly massive modern temple opened in 2005. Sashen was not particularly pleased to show us the complex as he was ethically perplexed by the millions of Rupees spent to build it when at the same time millions of people were suffering in a million different ways. He was reluctant to point out the beauty of the place because of what could have been or in his mind what should have been. In fact, his ambivalence about the site was so pronounced that he had not even noticed the story line carved in stone along the base of the temple.

After walking around the site I told him that the sculpture of the Buddha was particularly beautiful. He responded that there was no statue of a Buddha anywhere on the site. Returning to the spot, I pointed out a carving of the Buddha in front of a great elephant. Sashen never noticed it. The Buddha was bigger than life and Sashen had visited this site with hundreds of tourists but never saw it. His concerns for how the money was spent created blinders for what was being communicated—in this case the reincarnation history leading up to the birth of the saint honored by this massive temple.

Our religious practice is all about the ability to see things differently. Inspiration, education, fellowship and service all impact how we view the world around us and what we want that world to look like. Much of what we see may be too easily discarded because it is perceived to be irrelevant, inconsequential or even immoral. What could have been or should have been stands in the way of our ability

to appreciate so many things. Our congregation invites in new eyes to tour the surroundings with us. Those who visit with us challenge us to see things differently and we challenge each other in the same way. Writings about different religious leaders are frequently punctuated by a disciple asking the leader: Who are you? The answers are frequently culturally bounded—meaningful but hard to interpret.

One incident of this genre that I have enjoyed because it is so accessible places the Buddha's disciple Arjuna asking the question: Who are you? The Buddha responded "I am awake".

It is a hard act to follow but a responsibility we take on with each other; with our open minds and hearts. May this week find you awake to many new possibilities with many new eyes.

*Grace and Peace,  
Leigh*



## A Month of Services

All Sunday Services begin at 10:00 AM

**May 3—**

### **“Coming Out Whole”**

Rev. Khleber Van Zant  
National Coming Out Day is in October, but it's important to remember its significance year-round. Millions of people have chosen to live their lives as 'out and open' - mostly wanting to know they're not alone in this world. Isn't that what we all want? Without it, we might as well all be strangers. Khleber is minister of the First Unitarian Church of Alton; Krista and Khleber are participating in a 'pulpit exchange' this morning.

**Musicians:** Khleber Van Zandt, Guitar

**Adult RE:** Khleber Van Zandt

**May 10**

### **“To Everything There is a Season” [Youth Pew]**

Rev. Krista Taves.

Once a year, we honor those students who are transitioning into adolescence and young adulthood. We give them our blessing as they move into the next stage of life. This is one of the most touching and heartwarming services of the year. A special highlight is the opportunity for our Grade 8's to present their personal belief statements, or credos.

**Musicians:** Emerson's Children's Choir

**Adult RE:** Informational meeting on proposed budget FY10, hosted by the Finance Committee

**May 17**

### **“Question Box Sermon”**

Rev. Krista Taves

Questions are at the core of Unitarian Universalism. Our

questions frame what we're looking for and what we consider to be important and worth valuing. Do you have any burning questions you're just dying to ask? This is your chance. You will have the opportunity to submit your deepest theological or existential questions to the Worship Committee Question Box (available beginning May 3rd). During the service, questions will be drawn from the box and will determine the subject of Rev. Taves' impromptu message!

**Musician:** Camille Herman, Soprano

**Adult RE:** No RE, Congregational Meeting

**May 24**

### **“The Gods I Don't Believe In”**

Rev. Claudia Hall

We have all been exposed to religion as a tool of hate, prejudice, and violence. Yet we know there is also good in all religions. How can we reclaim our religious past in ways that are positive, while acknowledging the challenges religion and belief face in the modern world? Claudia is the founder of Progressive Faith Ministries, an emerging outreach to service people and their families. She is an aspirant for fellowship with the UUA, hoping to broaden her ministry outreach, and has been a member of Emerson for almost one year.

**Musician:** Roger & Roy Hessling

**Adult RE:** Review of Past year Adult RE and planning next year

**May 27**

### **“Wednesday Vespers: Ease”**

Rev. Krista Taves

Summertime, when the living is easy... "Ease" is the magic word in the last Vespers of this church year. We'll be focusing on those things that help us to slow down and smell the flowers.

**May 31**

### **“Flower Communion”**

Rev. Krista Taves

Bring your favorite flowers - as many as you wish - for this unique Unitarian tradition that was created by Norbert Capek, a Czechoslovakian Unitarian minister who died in the Holocaust because of his belief in religious freedom and human rights. This time-honored ceremony celebrates our diversity and affirms the act of giving and receiving as a central religious and spiritual practice.

**Musician:** Ron McGowan, Piano

**No RE:** Church Picnic



The Emerson family welcomes Anna Covert in our most recent child dedication

# Plant and Yard Sale Saturday, May 9 8-1



**Emerson Chapel**  
**73 Strecker Rd**  
**Ellisville, MO**  
(1/2 mi. north of Manchester)

#### From our gardens to yours!

St. Louis-tested and literally home-grown, we are offering perennials from the gardens of Emerson Chapel members and friends to the Ellisville community. We expect many types of hostas, ferns, periwinkle and several surprises!

#### From our homes to yours!

Many categories of gently-used and still serviceable home items, including housewares, decorative items, toys, furniture, CD's and sporting goods.

Find us at [emersonuuchapel.org](http://emersonuuchapel.org)  
Look for our Book Sale in November!

## Plant and Yard Sale 2009

The Third Annual Plant and Yard Sale will be held at Emerson Saturday May 9 from 8 AM until 1 PM. All Emerson members and friends are asked to help make this year's event even more successful than the last. Here's how:

- Donations from your shelves and closets are needed. Gently used but no longer needed items will be accepted for the Yard Sale (actually held in the Sanctuary!). Best selling items last year were house wares, kitchen wares, children's toys and books, tools and sporting goods. Call Tom Kibby if you are considering donating large items like furniture. We cannot accept clothing or electronics. See other announcement for plant donations.

- Bring your items for donation to church the week before May 9. The earliest that

items can be stored is May 3 after service.

- Come help sort items for the sale. Sorting parties are set for Wednesday May 6 in the evening (Tom Kibby coordinating) and during the day Friday May 8.

- Come help run the sale. Two shifts are needed, 8 until 12 noon to assist guests, and noon until about 3 to clean up. The sanctuary must be completely set up for service the next day!

Come help Emerson and have fun with your fellow UU's!

### Plant Sale News

Spring is an excellent time to divide many perennials, so get out your spade and get started! Just pop your extras into an old plastic or clay pot, or pick up some small peat pots at a garden center, and drop them off at Emerson. Marilyn Ortinau will keep them watered until the sale. While you're at it, look for other gardening related

supplies, decorations, implements, etc., that you no longer need. If you have an artistic streak, we'd love to have original garden art or furniture--I'm thinking decorated pots, flags, stakes, wind chimes, benches, trellises, birdhouses, feeders, or lawn ornaments. If you want to donate something really cool, we could even raffle it off! Use your imagination! The Garden Shop will be the first thing people see when they arrive, so let's give them a reason to stop & shop!

## Daytimers Club

The next Daytimers Club will be held Thursday May 14, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. The monthly Daytimers Group is now permanently meeting on the second Thursday of the month. Bring a brown bag lunch and be ready for good conversation.

## Tree Toppers Needed

Emerson is in need of volunteers to help cut-down, cut-up, stack, and chip the dead trees on the Emerson lot. For those of you who don't know, we have 3.6 acres to maintain with lots of soft maple, and box elder trees, which have mostly died, or have dead limbs. A few dead crabtrees also need to be cut down.

Would you be interested in helping us with this sizable project. Additionally, if you know anyone else that might help.

Please let Sally Armontrout know if you can help, and what days of the week and or timing is best.

## Religious Education

### RE VIEW

Lauren Lyerla, DRE

Dear Emerson UU Religious Education Families,

Summertime at Emerson is moving to a whole new level! The regular church year is drawing to a close, but this summer we are offering something new to families, and I hope you will be a part of it. Rev. Krista Taves and I have been hard at work planning meaningful summer programming for all ages.

Families will start together in the Sanctuary, but children will be "sung out" earlier in the hour than they are during the regular church year. They will have most of the hour in the Hearth Room for a fun and interesting program led by a member or friend of Emerson. For example, Senior Youth Group

member Luke Hansen will lead a percussion workshop one week, and Senior Youth Group member Ian English will share his scuba-diving experiences another week. I anticipate an exciting summer full of discovery for our young people.

These sessions will all be enriched when we have a vibrant community of children participating. Please plan to bring your family to Emerson as many Sundays as possible over the summer.

Sessions are being designed for preschool through 5th grade, in the expectation that the worship service taking place in the Sanctuary will address the needs of middle school and high school youth. Youth are welcome to join the children's program in the Hearth Room, but we ask that they act as helpers for younger

children if they do. The Nursery will be staffed with a paid teen for the infants and toddlers.

I am still in the process of matching summer Sundays with presenters. If you have something you would like to share with our children, please let me know. I would love to have artists leading hands-on creative sessions, and world travelers sharing stories and souvenirs from their journeys. And as always, in keeping with our Safe Congregations Policy, we will have two adults in the Hearth Room (this will require additional volunteers).

Questions and suggestions are welcome! Contact me at [dre@emersonuuchapel.org](mailto:dre@emersonuuchapel.org).

*In peace,  
Lauren Lyerla, DRE*



Happenings at Emerson in April:  
Ice Cream Sundae  
Packing lunches for the Salvation Army



## Religious Education

### Youth Interface

Congratulations to Emerson and Eliot Chapel Senior Youth Groups for a successful CON last month!

Now that you've caught up on your sleep again (I hope!), the next big event for youth is Youth Pew on May 10. During that service, we honor the 8th Graders with a Coming of Age ceremony, and the 12th Graders with a Bridging ceremony. After the service, we'll have a party downstairs in the Youth Group room to officially welcome the 8th Graders as fully-fledged members of the Senior Youth Group, and to wish our Seniors good luck as they graduate out of the Youth Group. Next year will bring many new adventures for Ian, Luke, Taylor, Nancy, Katie, and Mariam.

Special Note: Ian and Luke are planning to help out with our new summer programming for kids this year! Ian will share his experiences scuba-diving, and Luke will lead a percussion workshop. Do you have a talent or special base of knowledge to share with Emerson's young people? Also needed are sitters for the Nursery (infants and toddlers), which pays \$10 per week. Contact me at [dre@emersonuuchapel.org](mailto:dre@emersonuuchapel.org) or via my facebook account (DRE Lauren Lyerla) if you're interested!

*In Peace,  
Lauren Lyerla*

**Children and Youth  
Religious Education is  
every Sunday from  
11:15 until 12:15**

### Religious Education Hour for Children and Youth: May 2009

#### May 3

Preschool - PreK: We can be angry without hurting others  
K – 2nd: Working it out  
3-5th: Louisa May Alcott, writer.  
Junior Youth Group\*: UU Rosaries  
Senior Youth Group\*: A famous UU, and how he or she lived UU values.

#### May 10

Preschool-PreK: Cooperating means helping each other.  
K – 2nd: The web of humankind.  
3rd – 5th: Fun with sUUpper Plays.  
Junior Youth Group: Mother's Day  
Senior Youth Group including 8th Graders: Youth Pew, followed by party in the Youth Group Room.

#### May 17

No Religious Education classes due to Congregational Meeting. Childcare will be provided.

#### May 24:

Preschool-PreK: We give thanks for our year together.  
K – 2nd: Time for celebration.  
3rd – 5th: Culmination and Celebration.  
Junior Youth Group\*: Closing Day.  
Senior Youth Group\*: Final session of Articulating Your Unitarian Universalist Faith, celebration.

#### May 31

No Religious Education: Church Picnic!

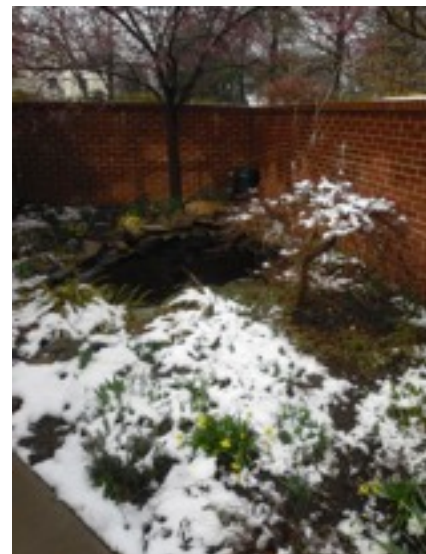
\* 8th Graders have a choice: they may elect to go to the Junior Youth Group class/activity or the Senior Youth Group class/activity.

(continued from page 7)

members, or speaker series. If you are interested in assisting with any of these fundraising ideas, please let me know.

Thanks to those who have submitted their pledge cards or were able to assist with additional funds to meet the current fiscal year's obligations. Although it may appear as if the pledge request has grown, after understanding our current financial situation, the Finance Committee and Board of Trustees have reached a conclusion that we will not rely on fundraisers and rental income to pay for our mortgage and salaries of our staff. This may also mean that we will have to look for creative ways to provide a full service church within the financial constraints of lesser income in the year ahead. But although the budget process will be a little more painful this year, together we will be a stronger congregation as a result of the process.

*Susan Bell*  
[treasurer@emersonuuchapel.org](mailto:treasurer@emersonuuchapel.org)



## Administration

### RANDY'S DESK

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

#### New Office Hours M,W,Th,F: 9:00 - 1:00

In April this generous congregation donated a total of \$303.15 for PROMO (Personal Rights of Missourians) an advocacy group for LGBT persons. In March we welcomed 12 visitors.

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)

### MONEY MATTERS

Susan Bell, Treasurer

The informational meeting held in early April may have been an eye opener for some of the attendees but in some ways the chapel finances are just a microcosm of the current economic picture. It is important to note that although the expenses have remained in line with the budget, it is the income that has declined in the form of other income streams. Some of the income streams that we had counted on to supplement pledge income, such as rental income and grocery certificate income have declined as a result of the recession. The important item to note is that our finances are always open to anyone. Granted, some of the details can be overwhelming and although I may not be able to provide an immediate detailed answer, I will always research your question and come back with the necessary information.

### Finances as of March 31, 2009

	2009	Year to Date
Pledge Income	\$ 12,537	\$ 110,710
Other Income	\$ 828	\$ 32,682
Total All Income	\$ 13,365	\$ 143,392
Total Expenses	\$ 17,135	\$ 151,776
Difference	\$ (3,770)	\$ (8,384)

One item that may need further explanation includes the treatment of grocery certificate income. The financials provided at the informational meeting only disclosed \$1,353 in certificate sale income compared to \$4,680 budgeted as income for the entire year. The amount of income is the actual income received during the first six months of the year. Beginning in January, the accountant chose to report the certificate income in a different manner. We purchase the certificates from funds in our savings account at 95% of the face value. For example, we pay \$4,750 for \$5,000 in grocery certificates. Our lovely ladies (hey, guys, you can have your turn at the card table making certificate sales as well!) then sell those coupons at face value and increase our cash assets by \$250. The \$250 is used to pay our bills. But for reporting purposes, the \$250 will no longer be shown as actual income. That is not to say that we don't want our members to stop buying certificates, but rather that the sales are building up our cash assets which would be shown on a balance sheet rather than an income statement. The cash generated for the first six months of the fiscal year is still approximately

\$1,000 below the projected sales.

Another area with a change in reporting is the funds taken in on Sunday that are payable to our monthly charities. These are funds that are received and are immediately a liability since we owe the charity those funds. Previously the amount was placed on the income statement as both income and expense. That will no longer be the case going forward.

As a result of the informational meeting, a variety of expense reductions were proposed including eliminating the ad in the Wedding Guide, eliminating the weekly Post Dispatch ad (only one visitor during the past year listed the Post as their source of information for finding Emerson), deferral of UUA dues until pledge income rises, elimination of the cleaning service for the remainder of the year. Not all of these expenses have been cut, but anything is a possible target for the upcoming year. In addition, it has been suggested to eliminate the monthly charity split resulting in greater income.

Fundraising ideas, in addition to the scheduled rummage & plant sale, include a youth dance or social event, t-shirt sale with artwork from one of our

## Bulletin Board

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) is delighted to announce the release of two highly-anticipated reports, which together address the future of Unitarian Universalist ministries to young people. The Youth Ministry Working Group Report and the Mosaic Project Report, now available online, each provide concrete steps that Unitarian Universalists must take to build multigenerational, multicultural faith communities that nourish and serve members of all ages and identities in the new millennium.

The Youth Ministry Working Group's report offers a comprehensive set of recommendations for youth ministry at all levels of our Association—from the local congregation to the national headquarters staff. The goal is to create a youth ministry that is spiritually deepening, faith developing, inclusive and anti-oppressive, a ministry that provides multiple pathways for youth involvement in congregational life. A complete copy of this announcement is available at:

<http://www.uua.org/leaders/announcements/133025.shtml>

### Green Thoughts

In 1973, the speed limit dropped to 55 mph. And despite the fact that speed limits in many areas have increased to 70 or more mph, 55 remains an ideal number in eco-friendly circles. The reason has to do with drag. Drag is the resistance an object has as it travels—resistance to the wind and friction from the road. The greater the amount of drag, the more energy it takes for that object to move. And the greater the amount of energy a car uses, the greater the amount of gasoline it needs to do it. For most cars, speeds above 55 mph increase the drag to the point that fuel efficiency begins to decrease. Speeding up from 55 to 75 mph can decrease fuel efficiency by as much as 20%. So next time you need to go on the expressway, consider slowing down. Save some gas and some money.

*Susan Stafford*

No *Emerson Emissary* in June. See you in July!

### 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)

Published by Emerson Unitarian Universalist Chapel  
73 Strecker Rd.  
Ellisville, MO 63011  
[emersonuuchapel.org](http://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](http://cmwd-uua.org) and [uua.org](http://uua.org)

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

The Finance Committee is having another informational meeting during the adult RE time on May 10. The purpose is to review the budget that will be voted on at our May 17 annual meeting.

--Lynn Murdoch

The Music Committee is scheduling Special Music for next year. If you would like to make music for us one Sunday or suggest a musician, please email Phyllis MacLaren.

The Aesthetics Committee has enjoyed hanging exhibits in our Sanctuary this year. We would like to continue by scheduling a Fall, Winter and Spring exhibit. If you have work that you would like to hang in the Sanctuary, please let Marcy Saphian or Phyllis MacLaren know.

# MAY

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Service 10AM Rev. Van Zant	4  Womyns Web 7PM	5	6 Movie Matinee*  Men's Group 7PM	7  Spiritual Journey CG 7PM	8 Sorting for Plant and Yard Sale 11-7	9 Plant and Yard Sale 8-1
10 Service 10 AM Rev. Taves	11  M&Ms 7PM*	12 Wyse Womyn 1:30PM*  Living the Journey - Emerson 6:30PM	13	14 Daytimers Club 11AM	15	16
17 Service 10 AM Rev. Taves  Congregationa l Meeting 11:15	18  Readers Circle 7PM	19	20  Caregivers 7:30PM*	21	22	23
24 Service 10 AM Rev. Hall	25	26 Wyse Womyn 1:30PM*  Living the Journey - Emerson 6:30PM	27  Wednesday Vespers 7PM	28	29	30
31 Service 10 AM Rev. Taves Flower Communion Church Picnic						

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

President  
Leigh English  
VP/Program Council  
Nancy Russell  
Secretary  
Rebecca Langrall  
Treasurer  
Susan Bell  
Assistant Treasurer  
Peggy Colwell

**EMERSON EMISSARY**

Congregation established 1994  
A newsletter for Emerson Unitarian Universalist Chapel  
A liberal religious voice in West St. Louis County  
73 Strecker Rd, Ellisville MO 63011  
636.256.7393  
<http://EmersonUUChapel.org>  
[office@emersonuuchapel.org](mailto:office@emersonuuchapel.org)



Emerson Unitarian Universalist Chapel  
73 Strecker Rd  
Ellisville, MO 63011