

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

THE LEADER IN US

I always look forward to the fall. It is a relief from the burdensome heat. It is a start of a new school year. And best of all is the start of a new church year.

The idea of covenant groups was new to Emerson two years ago. Rev. Krista Taves introduced Emerson to the idea of small groups meeting regularly to explore a theme of mutual interest, deepening the spiritual experience at Emerson as well as strengthening social ties. Now we have come around to renewing the covenant group experience by wrapping up old groups and renewing with a fresh start. The cycle begins again, as the reader can find beginning on Page 5.

So why join a covenant group? I got my nudge to join when listening to the radio. Tavis Smiley had a guest speaker, Vincent Harding, who was speaking on Social Justice in the 21st century. (listen [here](#)) He was remarking on how progress in social justice seemed to be bogged down in waiting for the next ML King or Gandhi. Harding commented instead that "We are the ones we are waiting for," that each has the capacity for leadership, and that looking for the next leader is delaying the real work in building a really democratic society. He asks, "Where is that leadership in me?"

Good enough, sign me up.
Tom Kibby



In This Issue:

- Rev. Krista Taves Page 2
- Leadership: My Turn Page 3
- Sunday Services Page 4
- Emerson Events Page 5-7
- Administration Page 8
- RE News: page 9
- Bulletin Board Page 11
- Calendar Page 12

KRISTA'S CORNER

MINISTER'S NOTES FROM REV. KRISTA TAVES



On the day that I write this article, the news has come out that the BP oil spill has been officially capped. There is little celebration around what we have been waiting for since late April, only a deep sigh of a relief and the deep somberness regarding the monstrous tragedy. The real work has only begun. This disaster will cost billions, in money and lives. It has destroyed livelihoods, ecosystems, and so much more we can only dimly understand at this time. There is a grand reckoning to be done.

Much has been made of the irresponsible behavior of BP. It is good to have this come before us. BP needs to be held accountable for what it has done. But what the media and politicians are not talking about is that we are all responsible for what has happened. We are all BP at some level. BP was motivated in its mismanagement because of our unquenchable need for oil, a need that has not dropped one iota since the disaster began.

In Unitarian Universalism, we focus much of our attention on our responsibility in affirming,

promoting, and respecting the interdependent web of all existence, of which we are a part. Some UUs see this as God, the Gods, the Goddess, or that which is greater than us, intuited but never fully understood. Some UUs see this in a naturalistic sense, as the universe, the earth, the natural world. Others see it as a web of right relationship to which we are accountable and to which we promise ourselves. These are all true and they all point to the same thing. Nothing is isolated from anything else. We are one in a deeper way than anyone can imagine. BP made foolish decisions motivated by greed. We all make foolish decisions motivated by greed. Our actions show that we assume that oil is a right, not a privilege, and this fuels the oil industry in making the kinds of decisions that we are paying for now. BP takes risks in where it drills, risks that include ecological and political risks. It drills for oil in some of the most inhospitable environments because we're running out of safe oil. It makes deals with politically questionable countries because we're running out of oil in stable political environments. Our assumption that oil is a right, not a privilege, makes these risks seem ordinary and understandable. And then, we only pay attention when the worst happen, and of course, it is very easy to look for a clear villain that allows us to externalize the blame and distance ourselves from it.

In some religions, being a person of faith means believing the right things. In Unitarian Universalism, being a person of faith means something quite different. What you believe is less important than what you do with your beliefs. How do you live them? Are you living in right relationship? Is your life in alignment with the god/s or teachings you profess to follow? This is what really matters.

The well is capped, hopefully for good. There is much work to do and it is not only the physical work of cleaning up the Gulf. We have a spiritual reckoning to engage, if we have the courage to engage it.

*In faith and service,
Rev. Krista Taves*

Minister's August Schedule

August 2-8 Wed, Thurs, Sat.
Aug 9-15 Wed, Thurs, Sat.
Aug 16-22 Wed, Thurs, Sat.
Aug 23-29 Wed, Thurs, Sat.
Aug 30- Sept 5 – Wed, Thurs.

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.

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

MY TURN

OBSERVATIONS FROM BOARD LEADERS

Editor's note: This church year will see the President's column replaced with a column from members of the Board or committee chairs. This month's contribution is from Shawna Lyonfields, who recently chaired the Focusing the Beacon planning committee.

Change

As I compose this, it occurs to me that this common, ordinary word does not truly represent the greatness of its ideal. After all, it was the very desire for change that led to the creation of Emerson as a Beacon of Hope here in West County. However, there is no doubt that some see change in a different light. We observed this during almost all the conversations we had during the strategic planning efforts last spring. The well established members fondly recalled times when the church was smaller, more intimate and when the church community was even more closely connected. Newer members, recently entranced by Emerson, spoke of the need to grow, but were hesitant to change what they have recently come to love.

But, as we know, change is the only constant there is in life. All we can do is attempt to shape it, and hence, the importance of our vision,

mission and recently developed strategic plan. Still, I recognize some of what this year will bring may occasionally be uncomfortable.

Our challenge to deal with our discomfort with change reminds of a Yiddish story that I occasionally borrow for my own use... I ask you to imagine this: Take all your concerns, challenges and annoyances and put them all into a paper bag. Then imagine everyone else in the entire world did the same, and then piled them all into a huge mound. Think of how many bags there would be all piled up into a gigantic mountain of brown paper... Now, if you were told you could pick any bag to carry with you, because, admittedly, we all have our own bag we must carry, which would you pick?

When I pose this question to people, the vast majority claim they would scamper like crazy to find their original bag. Most people would not choose to carry another's baggage – and why?

Well, this is, of course, highly personal when applied to each individual and their own lives, but applied to Emerson and any concerns you may have about our growth and the

associated changes, the answer is quite simple. We are blessed here at Emerson to have developed such a community that our biggest burden to bare is to accommodate our growth while maintaining what we love and what we stand for. Our bag is tiny, manageable and there is no doubt we can do this. If we are deliberate, if we are careful, we know that it is possible to maintain the connections with each other, our culture and our desire for outreach. However, to do this we must change our governance model, we must deliberately grow new leadership and proactively draw upon the wisdom of those who have been here for many years.

I do hope that we can all remain committed to our vision, mission and the implementation of our strategic plan. No doubt there will be other pieces of paper that we will need to place in our brown paper bags as we go forward, but I, for one, would not trade bags with any other church.

Let us continue to grow and nurture each other.

Shawna Lyonfields

A MONTH OF SERVICES

All Sunday Services begin at 10:00 AM

August Services

Summer services are notable for their relaxed, informal nature. In particular they were lay-led (thank you to all who took a Sunday as Rev. Taves took a well-deserved break from the pulpit.) August kicks off our regular church year, and on Aug 1 we welcome Dr. Kathleen Nigro to our pulpit. A longtime Emersonian, we are all inspired by her messages.

The rest of August features a new series by our Minister, Rev. Krista Taves: Weaving the Fabric of Diversity. On this sermons series starting in August Rev. Taves writes:

We live in a society that constantly categorizes. We divide ourselves in so many ways - race, age, class, ability, education, sexual orientation, and more. Unitarian Universalists have a history of being very intentional about questioning these divisions. We try to see beyond them and recognize that this takes intentionality and focus.

In March 2010 our congregation embarked upon a social justice initiative called the "Love First Project." We asked ourselves, "How are we called to be in this world so that we are agents of justice?" One of the answers we came up with was to focus in a reflective way on diversity, educating ourselves so that we could be those agents of justice and change.

On August 8, Rev. Taves and the Love First Project will begin a six part series called

Weaving the Fabric of Diversity. Every worship service will focus on a different aspect of diversity and will be followed by an adult religious education session focused on that theme. We invite to participate as fully as you can in this informative and spiritually uplifting series.

August 1

"The Strawberry Fields Project: What if What Is, Isn't?"

Speaker: Kathleen Nigro
Kathleen invites you to consider the impact of perspective on the way you live your life. Perhaps if you change your thoughts, you can change your world.

Special Guest Music: Kevin and Theresa Horth

Pianist: Mark Pedigo

Adult RE: Claudia Hall, "Why is sexual orientation such an issue for religion?"

August 8

"Weaving the Fabric of Diversity I - Diversity as Spiritual Practice"

Speaker: Rev. Krista Taves

Guest Music: Kevin Horth and Blue 66

Pianist: Todd Painter

Adult RE: Love First Committee

August 15

"Weaving the Fabric of Diversity II – Disability and Ability"

Speaker: Rev. Krista Taves

Pianist: Todd Painter

Adult RE: Love First Committee

August 22

"Weaving the Fabric of Diversity III – Skin Color in America"

Speaker: Rev. Krista Taves

Pianist: Todd Painter

Adult RE: Love First Committee

August 29

"Weaving the Fabric of Diversity IV – The Way We See Age"

Speaker: Rev. Krista Taves

Pianist: Todd Painter

Adult RE: Love First Committee

Covenant Group Sign Up Begins Sunday August 8th!

Covenant Groups are small groups of 8 to 10 people who commit to spend a year focusing on a particular theme or subject. The goal of covenant groups is community building and spiritual growth. Seven new covenant groups will begin meeting in September. All groups meet twice in September. After that some meet once a month, others meet twice a month. Some groups meet through May, others will continue through Summer 2011 until new covenant groups begin in September 2011. Members and non-members are invited to sign up for covenant groups.

How does one join a covenant group? There will be sign up sheets in the Hearth Room beginning Sunday August 8th. The sign up sheets will include a short explanation of the group's focus, any materials you will need, and a schedule of meetings for the year. There is a limit of ten persons per group, including the facilitator(s). There will be a waiting list for each group should a spot open so please sign up for a group even if it is full. You may indeed be able to join the group if someone drops out before the first meeting. Registration for a group closes after its first meeting. You may join a maximum of two covenant groups, provided that you are able to fully commit the time needed for each group.

What am I committing to when I sign up for a covenant group?

You are committing to your own religious and spiritual growth. You are also committing to the group. All members covenant to make attending the meetings a priority. Regular attendance is the most important factor in developing group cohesiveness and creating the richest possible experience. There is also a small amount of homework between sessions. This can be a short reading, an exercise or a small project.

Finally, each group commits to one act of service to the congregation

Christian Practices

Facilitator: Claudia Hall

We all know Christianity has problems, so why has it endured for over 2,000 years? Explore the practices of connecting to the Holy that have made this religion meaningful.

Meeting: Every 3rd Monday, 6 pm. **Reading material:** *The Inclusive Bible by Priests for Equality* (a new translation of the Bible done by people who want to accurately convey the text, not make the Bible say what conservatives want it to).

The Tao of Spirituality

Facilitators: Mark Fish, Carrie Lang, Jason Lang

Our covenant group will provide an opportunity to learn more about Eastern spiritual traditions and their application in everyday life, with each meeting including silent meditation, discussion on concepts from traditions such as Zen, Taoism, and Buddhism, learning how to apply these

Meeting: Monday, September 13th, 6:30 - 8:00 pm at the Missouri Zen Center for Beginner's Zazen in Webster Groves; Thursday, September 23rd, 7 - 9 pm; Beginning October, 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 7 - 9 pm
Reading: *Tao Te Ching* (Stephen Mitchell translation); *Wherever You Go, There You Are* by Jon Kabat-Zinn; *Making a Change for Good: A Guide to Compassionate Self-Discipline* by Cheri Huber

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.

Meeting: 7:00 pm on the first and third Thursdays of each month.

Episodes of the Divine / Spiritual Experiences

Facilitator: Peggy Colwell

We will be sharing our own personal experiences, (Revelations, Visions, Visits by Angels and/or deceased loved one, 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. **Meeting:** We will meet the First and Third Tuesday evening, at 7 o'clock at Peggy Colwell's home, starting on

Programming and Events

Continued from Page 5

September 7 and 21. **Reading:** We will draw from a variety of sources, including Emerson's Essays, Essay IX, The Over Soul, and Essay X, Circles, and selections from the Bible, Koran, and *The Angel Letters* by Sophia Burnham.

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.

Meeting: the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7 pm at Emerson Chapel. There will be one extra meeting on September 23rd at the same time and place.

There is no required reading, but an extensive bibliography for supplemental reading will be provided.

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. Childcare may be provided based upon demand. This group will meet 2nd and 4th Saturdays, 2 p.m.

Women in Transition

Facilitator: Denise Livingston

Discussions of life's constant changes (careers, children, family, geography) with a

woman's perspective in a century that is very different from our mothers'.

Meeting: 2nd and 4th Monday evenings, 7-9 pm

Location: Alternating members' homes. **Reading:** None-just bring your experience, strength and willingness to share.

Love First Committee Takes Active First Steps

Emerson's social justice effort, Love First, continues to focus on two areas--social justice for LGBTQ persons ("LGBTQ" stands for lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and/or transgender persons, as well as those questioning their sexual orientation.) and reproductive justice.

Love First is launching six sessions of Weaving the Fabric of Diversity, a Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) anti-bias, religious education series for adults and youth, on Sunday, August 8. Successive sessions will be on Aug. 15, 22, and 29, and on Sept. 19 and 26. Minister Krista Taves' sermon on each of these dates will work in tandem with session topics. She will do a general introduction of the series on Aug. 8, and on successive dates she'll cover ableism, racism, ageism, and classism, and then conclude with a sermon on becoming a more inclusive congregation. An interactive session after each service, from about 11:15 a.m. to 1 p.m., will match the sermon topic. Co-facilitators will be Katie Jones and Shawna Lyonfields. Participants are not required to attend all sessions, but they should plan to attend at least

the first two sessions and the closing session. The series is offered free of charge, but donations toward the cost of supplies, will happily be accepted. (Please specify such donations are for Love First.) You may sign up in the Hearth Room or by calling the Church Office, (636) 256-7393. Please specify if you need childcare, which will be provided as needed.

This series will be a precursor to The Welcoming Congregation, a UUA program for congregations interested in becoming more welcoming of bisexual, gay, lesbian, and/or transgender persons. The session on Sunday, Sept. 26, will be both a closing session for Weaving the Fabric of Diversity and a kick off for The Welcoming Congregation, to be held throughout the fall.

Previous activities this summer included organizing a UU group to attend The State of Marriage, a performance piece focusing on the Show Me Marriage Equality bus program, which offers transport to local same-sex couples wanting to be legally married in Iowa. (The four Love First members who attended the performance thoroughly enjoyed it!)

In addition, Love First organized a booth representing the four St. Louis area UU congregations at Pride St. Louis 2010, on June 26 and 27, in Tower Grove Park. (The congregations helped staff the booth, provided prizes for those taking the UU-LGBTQ-IQ Quiz, and each contributed \$100 to cover the \$400 booth application fee.) Approximately

Continued from Page 6

300 persons visited the booth; 18 asked to be added to stl-uu-lgbt-plus@googlegroups.com; and 10 were interested in the LGBTQ Chalice Circle (covenant group) beginning at First Unitarian in Alton. Several Love First members also attended "Worship in the Park," led by Rev. Khleber Van Zandt V, minister, First Unitarian, Alton, Ill.; and joined the some 35 persons in the UU group marching in the Pride Parade.

Potential upcoming activities include inviting couples who have taken the Show Me Marriage Equality bus to Iowa to a worship service and a celebratory reception afterward. Also being considered are ideas for a regional family-life workshop for LGBT parents, with age-specific breakout sessions for their children.

Love First usually meets at 7 p.m. on the last Wednesday of each month in the Hearth Room. It will meet on July 28 and August 25. All are welcome to attend and/or to be added to emerson-uu-love-first@googlegroups.com.

Nancy Belt

New Pianist Enriches Emerson Services

As you may know, Ron McGowan, Emerson's pianist for the last few years had announced that he would not be returning to play for us this fall. A search committee was formed to find a replacement for Ron, and was comprised of Phyllis MacLaren, Katie Jones, and Kevin Horth.

After placing several ads on various websites, the committee conducted interviews and auditions. One candidate truly stood out and made the committee's decision an easy one.

We are very pleased to introduce Todd Painter as our new pianist at Emerson. Todd studied at Truman State University, where he majored in music. Todd spent seven years with the local rock band The Urge, touring the country with them playing trombone and keyboards. Over the last ten years, Todd has played and filled in with various rock, jazz, and other various groups around the area, and has also spent time composing his own original material.

Todd is very anxious to get started at Emerson, and will be at the piano for Krista's first service after the summer break on August 8th. Todd is married with 4 children and works full time as a database administrator for the Bryan Cave law firm. He and his family are looking forward very much to getting involved at in our liberal religious community here at Emerson. He is also looking forward to an expanded role in the music program as we grow as a church.

Todd and his family reside in Fenton, MO.

Marketing & PR

Emerson's Communications Team!

As we announced last year, we have done a web redesign based on our webpage usage. Your marketing/communications

team hopes you like the improvements. However, because it was based on how it has been used, not how you might like to use it, as part of this year's strategic planning, our IT communications group (headed by Mark Fish) will be looking into some focus groups to see how Emersonians would like our website changed.

What changed? We simplified the front page by providing the main four areas of usage as navigation links on the left side. These will take a web-guest to a landing page to help the web-guest to decide in which direction to browse next. Also, on the navigation buttons, we hope you will see a new search feature. Additionally, thanks to Jason Lang, we will soon have a dynamic photo slide show on several pages to demonstrate exactly how full-of-life our congregation really is.

Finally, we are looking into strategic communications and how this might look for our community this year. If you have ideas, please let one of us know.

In faith and service,

Camille Herman and Barb Brown, Co-Chairs
Team: Mark Fish, Tom Kibby, Jason Lang, and Michael Warren

Our Unitarian Universalist Roots – An Introduction to Unitarian Universalism

Rev. Krista Taves and the Welcome Committee will be offering a three part introductory series, Our Unitarian Universalist Roots, in the month of August. The three sessions focus on UU history, UU

Programming and Events

Continued from Page 7

theology, and congregational life. These classes are a great way to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and Emerson Chapel as well as make friends and feel more at home in the congregation. If you are new to Emerson or considering becoming a member of Emerson, you are encouraged to take this class. Sessions are August 8, August 15 and August 22 after the worship service from 11:15 to 12:30. Childcare will be provided upon request. Please register for the class with the church office at office@emersonuuchapel.org.

Unitarian Universalist Wings to begin in September.

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. Sept. 15, Oct 20, Nov. 17, Dec. 15, Jan, 19, Feb. 16, Mar. 16, Apr. 20, May 18.

You may join this class at any time.

Sermon Writing 101:

This three session class will introduce people to the basics of preaching, including what a sermon is and how to find your voice in the pulpit. All participants in the series are given the ability to preach a service at Emerson!

The first session is Saturday, September 11, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Chapel. RSVP is required, but anyone age 16+ may attend. Send RSVP to

worship@emersonuuchapel.org

Mark your calendars!

Vision Casting Night

Wednesday, August 18 is Vision Casting Night! Join us from 7-8 pm in the Sanctuary as we enjoy light refreshments and hear the vision of Emerson surrounding the Sunday Morning Experience. From the time a person turns into our parking lot to the time they leave after RE, we want them to have a seamless, inspiring and uplifting experience. YOU ARE A PART OF THAT!

If you are involved on Sundays, whether as a musician, speaker, leader, teacher, greeter, welcome person, worshiper or anything in between, you will not want to miss this night! Find out all the new things that are coming as we implement Emerson's Strategic Plan this Fall. Give your input for ways to make a good thing even better. See you there!

RE View



Dear Emerson Families-

Writing this article for the Emissary is a first for me, among so many firsts as I get my feet wet in the position of DRE at Emerson Chapel. I am glad to meet you here in this format. We've had a busy summer full of fun programming during Children's Chapel in June and July. Big thanks go to Melissa Grizzle, Laura Davidson, Mark Fish, Phyllis MacLaren, Emily Covert, Shawna Lyonfields, and Amanda Orzersky for sharing their talents with the children this summer! Also, thanks to our 'second adults' for giving time to hang with us too. You are each appreciated deeply.

Children's Chapel returns in its normal time and place beginning in August. Krista and I are working to coordinate the message for Children's Chapel with her messages from the pulpit to create a unified church message each Sunday. I am excited about that and about the plans taking shape for that time together with the children. I am eager with anticipation for it all to begin!

Please watch your mailbox for registration materials for the first

semester of Religious Education classes for 2010-2011. We have a great set of curricula ready for all ages and it will be another meaningful year of learning and fun for the children of Emerson Chapel. Grown-ups, please consider the way(s) you are willing to support the R.E. program this year as there will be something for you in the registration packet as well! I am really looking forward to working with you this year to make our program a strong and viable one for everybody.

Here's hoping your final weeks of summer fun are filled with happiness and good times. I am looking forward to the return of the sweet faces of Emerson's kids and the families who love and support them.

*Warm regards,
Jenn Taylor, DRE*

Religious Education Hour for Children and Youth: August

RE Hour begins September 12, 2010
Please mark your calendar and join us for the Activity Fair on this day.

Children's Chapel is held in the Hearth Room as part of the worship service on Sunday mornings beginning again in August. Please join us there.

Registration for Religious Education classes commences in August. Please watch your mailbox for more information.

Youth Interface

Hello to our wonderful youth!
Welcome to the end of summer! As you prepare for the return to school, please mark your calendar for our annual BBQ with the minister. Sunday, 29 August. More information to follow.

Join us for good eats and good conversation as we bond, play and plan for the coming youth year.
See you all then!

FINANCIAL SUMMARY JUNE 2010			
Jun-10	Actual	Budget	Variance
Pledge Income	\$9,633	\$11,512	(\$1,879)
Other Income	\$287	\$0	\$287
Expenses	\$13,246	\$11,463	\$1,783
Fiscal Year 2010			
Pledge Income	\$148,377	\$138,150	\$10,227
Other Income	\$11,744	\$0	\$11,744
Expenses	\$138,833	\$137,561	\$1,272
	June	YTD	
Contributions to Monthly Charity	\$132	\$3,097	
Grocery Certificate/Esript Income	\$368	\$3,910	

TREASURER'S REPORT

As I work to bring FY2010 financials to a close, I am quite pleased as to the steps we have been able to take this year towards more financial stability. As the preliminary numbers here show, we were over \$10,000 ahead of budget on pledges, driven by the growth in membership that occurred this year. The \$11,000+ in other income included chapel and youth fundraising along with Emerson's portion of splitting the plate. Thank you to everyone that made Emerson a priority this past year. All of our gifts and sacrifices have definitely made a difference.

In the final weeks of the fiscal year we closed on the refinancing of our mortgage, moving our loan from Westbridge to Commerce Bank. We secured at 5-year fixed rate of 6.25% with a 20-year amortization that allows us to pay more to principal on a monthly basis than we had been. We also have proceeds from the loan of approximately \$11,000 that will be used for

urgent building repairs in the coming months, with any cash remaining to go to saving for future building emergencies. This cash is not included in the income on the chart.

Thanks to everyone who has continued to make pledge payments throughout the summer. It is greatly appreciated! In these months of transition between fiscal years, it is very helpful if you note on your check or autopayment to which fiscal year your pledge payment should be applied. If it is not noted we will apply it to the year it was received, so if you made payments in July that you wanted applied to last years pledge, please let me know.

In Peace
Melissa Grizzle
Treasurer

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

**New Office Hours-
M: 9 - 3; Th, F: 9 - 2**

In May we welcomed 22 visitors and sent \$248.10 to Heifer International.

Our June outreach donations of \$66.60 are for a Unitarian Universalist Service project

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

Cross Walk for Kids Day August 1

Parents, the youth RE Committee and Ground Committee are combing their efforts to make a new crosswalk, across the parking lot to the playground (on the north side of the barn, and down the path) to increase the kids safety. We want to use your kids footprints to create the walk. Please save your kids old pair of tennis shoes as we are going to have a paint walk, where the kids use their old shoes to create footprints inside the new crosswalk.

Date: August 1

Time: RE hour

Snacks and beverages will be provided during this event.

Thanks to you all

Sally Armontrout

Pre-Start-up Work Day August 28

The new church year means cleaning the chapel of all the accumulated weeds and such that were neglected over the summer. Come join us to make Emerson shine inside and out. We start at 9 am and will finish by noon. Bring your tools and pitch in!

Green Thoughts

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

Susan Stafford

Kudos to...

- **Pat Baker, Mark Fish & Jim & Shawna Lyonfields** who provided muscle and pickup truck to move the copier, office furniture & supplies from the Faith Aloud office to the Chapel in June.

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

First U Church Religious Education Assistant Position

First Unitarian Church is hiring a Religious Education Assistant. The person in this position will support the Sunday School program by helping with curriculum preparation and administrative details. The position is part-time (11 hours per week) and requires presence on Sunday mornings. The ideal candidate is someone with strong organizational skills, an ability to work with children and has an affinity with liberal religious values. For the full job description please contact office@firstuustlouis.org.

AUGUST

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1 Service 10AM	2 Womyns Web 7PM	3	4 Movie Matinee 12N	5 Daytimers 11AM	6	7
8 Service 10AM Covenant Group Sign- up	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 Service 10AM	16	17	18 Vision Casting 7PM	19	20	21
22 Service 10AM	23 M&Ms 7PM*	24	25 Love First 7PM	26	27	28 Pre-Start-Up Clean-up 9-12
29 Service 10AM	30	31	1 Movie Matinee 12N	2	3	4

Upcoming events:

- Children's RE begins

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

Emerson Covenant Groups Invite New Members.

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



OFFICERS

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VP/Program Council
Marilyn Ortinau
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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

Emerson Unitarian Universalist Chapel
Congregation established 1944
A newsletter for Emerson Unitarian Universalist Chapel
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