

CUF Links

Monthly Newsletter of the Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship
A Welcoming Congregation
- a member congregation of the Unitarian Universalist association -

July, 2011

SUNDAY SERVICES

Held in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30 a.m.

7/3 Bill Sasso: "The Ideals of a Nation"

In the midst of the July 4th weekend, let us pause and acknowledge both the strengths and the weaknesses of our nation. As we explore them, we may come to a deeper appreciation of their interactions. Together, we will consider the ideals upon which our nation was founded, and the degree to which they have been achieved to date.

7/10 Bill Sasso: "Fifty Years in Association"

Fifty years ago, the Universalist Church of America and the American Unitarian Association merged to form our Unitarian Universalist Association. This year's General Assembly – the annual national meeting of UUs – will celebrate what we have accomplished, and acknowledge the work still to be done. Bill Sasso will share his impressions and insights from attending our General Assembly.

7/17 Darren Sherkat: "Some Uncomfortable Truths"

What happens when the free and responsible search for truth and meaning collides with religious teachings? CUF member and SIUC sociologist Darren Sherkat will explore how our cultural ideas and social connections can produce understandings which are at odds with the reality of human experience.

7/24 Hugh Muldoon: "Envisioning a Nonviolent Community"

The City of Carbondale's Human Relations Commission is working to envision Carbondale as a nonviolent community. As Chair of that Commission, Hugh Muldoon will share his sense of what that means, and how our Fellowship and we as individuals can support this effort. Ken Starbuck will coordinate this service.

7/31 Bill Sasso: "An Ethic of Interaction"

This year, our Religious Education program's Summer Weeklong Awesome Program (SWAP) will explore the topic of bullying and offer participants effective anti-bullying responses. Recognizing that this topic has relevance for adults as well, Bill will explore his own experience and insights about human interactions and relationships.

and coming up . . .

8/7 Stephen Pyle: "A Hospital Chaplain's Journey"

OPEN MINDS

8:45 a.m. each Sunday by the Fellowship Fireplace.

Contact Terry Elliot at elliott3434@gmail.com for more information on topics, TBA in this month's weekly bulletins, or if you would like to lead one of these Sunday discussions.



THE MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Dimensions of Growth

At our congregational meeting in May, we voted to endorse a new strategic plan, one that focuses attention on our growth as a congregation. To some of us, it may seem that congregational growth is easily measured by counting the number of people listed as members in our membership directory. That's true, because the number of members in a faith community is one dimension of growth, but it's not the whole truth, because there are other significant ways of understanding growth.

Loren Meade is a leader in the work of facilitating church growth. In his book *More Than Numbers: The Ways Churches Grow*, Meade recognizes "numerical growth" as one of four main dimensions of congregational growth. Do you have any idea what the others might be?

He calls the first of these "maturational growth." This dimension of growth relates to the religious evolution of the individuals within the congregation. How much do we, as individuals, grow in terms of our moral and spiritual identities? How much does the congregation provide resources that we can use for this growth? Does the faith community challenge, encourage, and support the growth of our individual religious identities?

He refers to another dimension of growth as "incarnational growth." This dimension has to do with the impact that our Fellowship has on the world around us. How does our participation here help to make the world a better place? This includes both the individual work that we undertake personally, as well as the ministries of the congregation to those in need, and our advocacy work on behalf of social justice, peace, and the environment.

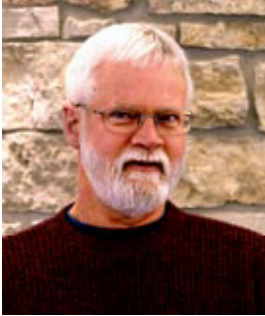
The fourth of Meade's four growth dimensions he calls "organic growth." This encompasses the changes that are needed within the institution if growth in the other dimensions is to be encouraged and sustained. For instance, sometimes it becomes necessary to identify new roles and processes, to redefine the responsibilities of and relationships between committees, staff, and elected leaders. This form of change and growth often creates an infrastructure within which growth in the other dimensions can take place.

In identifying these four dimensions of congregational growth, Loren Meade's point is not that any one of them is most important, but rather to help us realize that growth in each of these dimensions encourages and supports growth in all the others. Conversely, if we focus our efforts on a single dimension, we will most likely limit our success.

As we embark upon the work of our new strategic plan, I hope you will join me in thinking about growth in the broader sense that Loren Meade offers us!

Yours in the spirit, Bill Sasso

FROM THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DIRECTOR



While the teacher was telling the story she had the kids draw pictures of whatever they wanted. The teacher was telling the creation story, and she just happened to mention that “on one knows what god looks like,” to which a 6 year old, who was furiously drawing replied, “if you’ll give me another minute, they will!” Another time, a little girl was on her front steps crying when a neighbor saw her and came to offer aid. The little girl explained that her kitty had just died, and the neighbor said “don’t worry, your kitty is in heaven with Jesus.” The little girl looked puzzled and said “what does Jesus want

with a dead kitty?”

I love how kids can be so literal, and so totally honest. It makes for some very teachable moments, for sure, and also very funny memories.

A little experiment I’ve been observing over the past few years, which started when I attended a meeting of other religious educators, involves people sharing what they remember about their early religious education experience. Without fail, some could remember specific events or lessons, but far more could remember exactly HOW they felt. This is something I try to emphasize during our teacher orientation each year, that the children are going to be far more affected by how the classroom feels, than by the details of any lesson. If the class feels safe and loving, where their attendance is celebrated, and where they can ask any question they want, that’s what they will remember.

I want to be sure to thank our teachers who made memories with our kids this past year. What a great group they were, and I look forward to the coming year with great excitement. As always, the religious education program is available to those who want to spend some time teaching, learning, and having memorable times with the children and youth.

And this summer, August 1st through 5th, we will be having our weeklong awesome summer program, from 9AM to noon. If you have a few hours during that time, come by and lend a hand. It would be nice to know in advance that you are coming, but it’s not required. The program’s theme is Peace-Making, and How to Deal With Bullying. We hope you will feel free to join the children and their teachers, and that your experience will be enriching to you as well.

Sincerely, Roy Sumner

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ideas for Growth! Want to explore ideas for the continued growth of our Fellowship? Join Bill Sasso and other CUF leaders at 7:30 pm, Wednesday, July 6th, to view a DVD about different forms of successful congregational growth, followed by conversation about how the approaches presented relate to our congregation’s context and resources! All are welcome to participate! For more information, contact Bill Sasso at bsasso@juno.com or 618-529-2439.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, Cathy Kline

Summer Meetings - The Board will not meet in July or August. The first official meeting for this fiscal year will be Thursday, September 8 at 7:00 pm.

Work continues - Board members will work throughout the summer on several projects; writing a Chalice Lighters Grant, addressing the Strategic Plan tasks assigned to the Board and initiating a discussion on the development of a Memorial Garden.

Mark Your Calendars - Sunday, September 18 immediately following the service a potluck will be held concurrent with a Program Activity Fair.



HIV/AIDS PARTNERSHIP IN ZAMBIA

-Submitted by Carla Feldhamer on June 11th:

This month I would like to introduce you to my friend, Edina. She lives in the township of Makalulu, just outside of Kabwe, Zambia. Makalulu is the second largest and poorest township in Africa....Soweto, South Africa being the first.

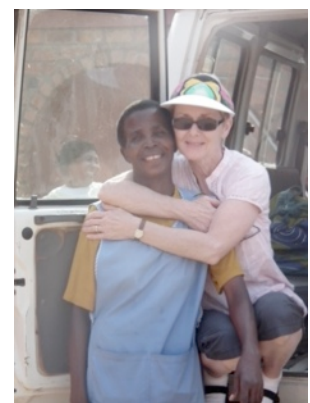
Edina has been a volunteer for Ranchhod Hospice since it opened in 2003, caring for AIDS patients admitted from the community. When Chililalila Center was opened as an outreach area in her own village of Makalulu, she was given the job of assistant cook and teacher. She also provides care to persons who are ill in her own community, and notifies the hospice if they need special care or assistance from them. Edina has lost multiple family members to AIDS, including 2 of her own children, sisters, brothers, and most recently her husband last summer. She and her husband were extremely active in Makalulu, providing education on HIV/AIDS, counseling and other services. Despite all of her personal grief and losses, she shows up each day to provide loving care to the children and also support the “grandmothers” who are doing income-generating activities. She bravely perseveres with a smile and lots of hugs.



Edina and Mrs. Piri, Cook at Makalulu Children's Center.



Drumming on a pail at the Library dedication.



Carla and Edina, September, 2010.

NEWS FROM OUR FRIENDS IN KABWE, ZAMBIA:

Submitted by Carla Feldhamer June 23:

We have recently received news from our HIV/AIDS partnership in Zambia that there are some major changes happening due to funding and management issues. We have been in close contact with Mary Chidgey, the founder of the program. She lives in Ireland now, but returns to Kabwe 2-3 times a year and spent several weeks there in May of this year. Following is news that she sent following her May visit:

*"It has been a very different trip. On arrival I found everything closed. Regina, the German Nurse, and Nurse Kayola were at the Hospice, but the gate was locked so no one allowed in, so sad, no kids, no community or anything. **Regina and Nurse Phelda are hoping it will reopen towards end of August**; Regina is keen to get accreditation from the Zambian Medical Council so maybe there might be some medicines etc... from the DHMT (District Health Management Team). We embarked on a big painting and tiling event. **Once the men's toilet was cleaned and scrubbed it looked ok so we decided it would be better to buy paint and tiles etc. and pay for Brian Musonda to do the work. I used the funds that CUF sent for this project.** By the time I left, the hospice was looking very good but sadly empty for the time being. The Toyota land cruiser was parked there with bald tires, untaxed and uninsured, I bought the tires, taxed and insured it and my husband, Dave, did a big service, changing oil and filters etc..."*

*The Hospice children's centre is closed. Chililalila, our outreach center, is also closed but the children are hanging around, so I bought Soya flour, sugar etc... and Nurse Cherie is giving them porridge each morning. **The feeding programs for the children are running well.** Hopefully the centers will reopen full time at the end of the summer.*

*The HBC (Home Based Caregivers) are without support so I immediately contacted Nurse Janet Mumba and asked her to work with them as a volunteer (I gave her a small stipend) so that we could upgrade the medicines available to the sick in the community. **Nurse Janet goes to a designated area each morning and visits clients who are very sick and unable to visit the clinic. There have been several lives saved through this initiative already. Janet is very good and committed, and I will send money at the end of July to buy further medicines etc... I also put this same initiative in place in Makululu.***

*I visited several others of the outreach projects including Kangombe; I have given medicines to the HBC (Home Based Care) in each of the projects. Betty Kafula is working very well at Kangombe Outreach. The group from Ireland has built a super two-room classroom that is now in use. **This is a very successful project; they feed the children every day.** They will have about 80 bags of mealie meal. The goats are multiplying and the oxen bought in October are working well.*

Sables, the street orphan program has reopened. Our small Irish org, Zamda, will run Sable on a reduced staff of three plus a full-time volunteer from Ireland. The volunteer, Eoin, will arrive late August and stay for 12 months. He is a teacher and has been to Kabwe before so knows how things are. The Christian Brothers have also expressed an interest in taking on Sable in the future, as this is the work they are involved with in Zambia.

The family planning program at Chililalila is also still functioning well, led by Nurse Cherie.

The children's school fees have been paid until the end of December. By that time we will be clearer on the future of the Children's centers.

Regarding funds in place in Kabwe, everything, and I mean everything is spent. By March there wasn't enough money available to buy food for the patients; there was a good stock of medicines in place.

Kabwe staff were given notice on April 27th. The only people kept on were Nurse Cherie and Nurse Phelda Kayola and Anderson at Sable. From my arrival I worked with Dr. Jack, physician administrator of Kara Counseling in Lusaka, under whose umbrella Ranchhod Hospice falls, to get money for the Kabwe staff. I went to meet the chairwoman for the Kara trustees on my last day there to appeal for the staff salaries owing and also for some relief and recognition of the human impact of all this on our clients. I brought the list of 16 people who have died and a list of people sick at home who should be in the Hospice. Deaths included Bupe in Chililalila and Peter Mwanawasas mother. I then told her that the staff were meeting on 1st June to

write to Kara Counseling to pay what is owed in one week or they would go to the labor officer and from there to legal Aid for assistance. This impacted on her and within 5 minutes of me leaving the meeting she had mailed Jack to pay the salaries immediately, I haven't yet heard how much they got, they are due holiday pay and a % of their gratuities. (I heard this week that the staff has been paid what they were owed.)

The Busy Bees, and other grannie income-generating groups are continuing to meet and are in need of supplies...small glass beads, fabric, yarn and other sewing and knitting supplies. The Fig Tree cafe has agreed to sell their work there. They have to start at the beginning again.

Regina is very good and is doing her best to support Phelda who is now coordinator, she is hopeful that the hospice will reopen. I feel that as the Hospice does not belong to Kara maybe with agreement from Bali Ranchhod, who donated the land, they could go forward with another organization. I think we have to wait and see if there is any progress over the next few months.

If you have goods for Busy Bees, Home Based Care or Kangombe you can send them to: Regina Jesse, Ranchhod Hospice, Box 81257, Kabwe. Please mark clearly which group are the boxes intended for. reginajesse1971@yahoo.de.

I am hoping to hear from Regina this week with news of what is happening in Kabwe, but as far as I know apart from Cherie and Phelda all other staff have been let go. The chairwoman of the board of trustees informed me that when services in Kabwe are resumed, all staff will be interviewed and decisions will be made as to whom will be reemployed, until then there is little we can do apart from supporting the Hospice in the Home initiative, The Orphan Feeding Program, and the grannie groups. I feel we have to see what happens over the next few months and then maybe decide on the way forward for us all, including the library.

Arabella Stuart, (an Irish med student) will be in Kabwe in July, so I am sending Euro1,000 to Regina to restock some meds for HBC.

Love to all. Mary"

If any of the fellowship members or friends have questions, please contact either Debbie Czarnopys-White at 618-787-2929 or me, Carla Feldhamer, at 618-201-4947. We are very sad at this turn of events, and deeply hope that it is temporary. We see the needy faces of the children, patients and staff in our minds and it is heart breaking. Unfortunately, funding for HIV/AIDS internationally has reduced, and many programs are facing shortages. Our partnership of caring is even more important at times like this. If any of you would like addresses of persons to write to let us know. We also want to collect sewing, knitting and beading supplies. Money from our yard sale will be sent through Mary Chidgey, to help pay for medicines and food for the children.

CUF REGULAR PROGRAMS & MEETINGS

CUF MEN'S ALLIANCE This group meets on the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at CUF. Meets this month on July 14. Emphasis is on men supporting each other through life's milestones and ongoing challenges. For more information, please contact Bill Rose at 351-1474, or Charles Ruffner at 687-2819.

WOMEN'S GATHERING This group meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at CUF. Meets this month on July 2. This time it will be "show and tell", and we encourage all attending to bring something to talk about which will be inspirational for us all. It can be writing, artwork of any medium, or whatever the presenter would like to share. New member and friends are always invited, and may appreciate a ride or word of encouragement to come. Join us for this wonderful fellowship of women! Contact Cathy Kline at 559-7599 or klinejc@earthlink.net for more information.

New Humanist Forum This group meets on the third Sunday of each month at 12:15 in the sanctuary. Meets this month on July 17. For additional information, contact JoAnn Nelson at joannnelson1928@gmail.com or Bob Camp at terrinina@gmail.com.

SISTERHOOD OF STITCHERS *This group meets weekly on Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m., in the Commons area. All are welcome, from persons learning knitting or stitching crafts to those well practiced and knowledgeable. Come to work on your projects, learn from others, share your ideas, and enjoy the camaraderie! For more info, contact Pam Jacobini at PJacobini@siumed.edu or Gloria Smiley at smileyspins@yahoo.com.*

CUF DRUMMING GROUP *This group meets on the third Saturday of each month at 2:30 p.m. in the Commons. Meets this month on July 16. For more information, contact Debbie Czarnopys-White at bdcw@frontiernet.net.*

MINDFULNESS MEDITATION *This group meets every Saturday in the Fellowship Commons from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. If there are other activities scheduled in the Commons, we meet in the RE area. For more information, contact Joy Price at 457-2405 or joyfully2356@yahoo.com.*

THE AWAKENING HEART DHARMA GROUP *This group meets every Sunday in the Fellowship Commons at 7:00 P.M. Insight Meditation, study, and discussion in a free flowing format. Everyone welcome. For more info, visit www.shawnee-dharma.org or contact Jo Kilmer at kilmer@shawneelink.net.*

DREAMWORKS *This group meets the first Sunday of each month in 06 (RE wing) at 12:00 noon. Meets this month on July 3. According to Jeremy Taylor, "all dreams come in service of health and wholeness". Using Taylor's technique, we will share our dreams, and discuss one or two in depth. Contact Nillofur Zobairi, cadfael07@yahoo.com or Janet Harris, jelizah1949@yahoo.com for more info.*

ROUNDTABLE READERS *This group meets on the fourth Sunday of the month after the Sunday Service at Noon. Meets this month on July 24. The topic is poetry sharing. All are welcome. Please bring one or more poems that appeal to you or have special meaning for you. The meeting agenda also includes book selection. Email your nomination(s) to Pat Elsaid at peelsaid@yahoo.com, with as much lead time as you can, so an email ballot can be prepared in advance of the meeting. The previously announced title, When a Crocodile Eats the Sun by Peter Godwin, a memoir set in the former British colony of Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe, will be discussed in August. Available in paperback, it can be obtained by special order from Barnes and Noble at the list price of \$15, or online at discounted prices from under \$2, used. **Note:** This title is **not** available through the public library system, SILNET.*

SCIENCE IN SOCIETY *This group meets some Fridays of the Month in the Fellowship Commons at 5:00 PM.*

Contact Gina Paul at 351-1064 or rpaul@siumed.edu if you have questions.

VIDEO CIRCLE *This group meets on the third Friday of each month in the Fellowship Commons at 7:15 PM. Meets next on July 15. For more information, contact Amy Weber at amyweber1@msn.com.*

UNITARIAN FOLK ORCHESTRA *practices at 10:00 a.m. Saturdays, at the Fellowship. For info contact Judy Aydt at aydt@siu.edu.*

Submitted by Green Sanctuary: Green Home Health Festival, Missouri Botanical Garden

The Green Homes & Great Health Festival on Saturday, September 24, merges the EarthWays Center's 10th annual Green Homes Festival with the Garden's Healthy You/Healthy Planet Festival. The event combines a celebration of sustainable living with the resources of Siteman Cancer Center, Barnes-Jewish

Hospital, and Washington University School of Medicine. Bring your home improvement ideas and talk with over 100 green product and service exhibitors. Discuss your health questions with BJC doctors and other professionals. Enjoy local foods, yoga and tai chi, live music, and solar car races. Take advantage of free health screenings and shop the Green Marketplace. Help paint a Metro bus, and explore the giant inflatable human colon! Learn from expert workshops and talks about the many ways that plants, air, water, soil, and energy sustain our homes, our health, and our planet. The Green Homes & Great HealthFestival is included with regular Garden admission. Submitted by Green Sanctuary.

CUF LINKS HARD COPIES are available at the Fellowship on the visitor table.

Deadline for August CUF Links:Monday, July 25.

Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship,
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www.cuuf.net, carbondaleuu@frontier.com
The Rev. William Sasso, Minister

***“Let us be grateful
To people who make us happy;
They are the charming gardeners
Who make our souls blossom.”***

- Marcel Proust