



C U F L i m k s

The Monthly Newsletter of the Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship

A Welcoming Congregation

a member congregation of the unitarian universalist association

Volume 09, Number 3

THE MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Connecting to Our Larger Movement



Here in Carbondale, we can feel pretty far away from the rest of the Unitarian Universalist movement. In a physical sense, that may be true, since even the two closest congregations – Mt. Vernon and Cape Girardeau – are each an hour away. Yet we are connected, with them and with UUs throughout the nation and beyond, by our commitments to celebrating religious freedom and to liv-

ing our values. We are connected in spirit, and in practice, as we work together with UUs hundreds of miles away. For instance, later this month, our Middle School class will spend a night outside, sleeping in cardboard boxes, to get some sense of the experience of the homeless, and to raise funds for relief of homelessness in our area. In doing so, they will connect with members of congregations throughout our Central Midwest District, all participating in the “No More Turning Away” anti-homelessness project.

We connect through our travels as well. As I write this, several members of our Fellowship are on their way to the International Convocation of UU Women in Houston, Texas. Because of their connections to us, their presence there connects us to all the other ICUUW participants, and to the congregations from which they come.

At the end of April, our Central Midwest District will hold its annual meeting (called “District Assembly” or “DA”) near Milwaukee, Wisconsin from Friday, April 24th to Sunday the 26th. Our banner will be mounted on

the wall, indicating our presence and connection with the other eighty congregations of our district, stretching from Michigan’s upper peninsula to the southeastern section of Missouri. The theme of this year’s assembly is “Leadership in Times of Profound Change,” and the two candidates for UUA President, Rev. Laurel Hallman and Rev. Peter Morales, will speak at a candidates forum on Saturday afternoon. Delegates representing each congregation will consider and vote upon the business of our district, and report in on their respective participation in “No More Turning Away.” If you might be interested in attending this event, you can learn more about it at the District website: <http://www.cmwd-uua.org/content/>

Only a few months later, our annual national UU meeting, known as “General Assembly” (or “GA”), will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, at the end of June. This year delegates from our congregations will elect a new UUA President, endorse positions on social justice issues, and conduct the other business of our Association of congregations. In addition to business meetings, there are workshops and programs on all things UU, and an exhibit hall where information and other goods are easily available. Every UU ought to make the trip to GA at least once. This year, it begins Wednesday evening, June 24th, and continues through Sunday evening, June 28th. If you think you might like to spend a June week in Salt Lake City with about five thousand Unitarian Universalists, you can get more information at www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/

We are connected with a larger movement that stretches across this continent, and has an impact on that continent. When one of us shows up, we strengthen these connections.

Yours in connection, *Bill S.*

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SUNDAY SERVICES

Services begin at 10:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall

March 1 Kathy O'Laughlin: "Eleanor Roosevelt's Ethic"

As we celebrate Women's History Month, Kathy will explore the ethical values of Eleanor Roosevelt, a significant figure in our national history. We will review Eleanor's life and work, culminating in her leadership in the passage of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Fellowship Choir will sing Stephen Foster's "Hard Times Come Again No More."

March 8 "Our Social Action: Connections Moving Outwards"

This service will consider examples of our Fellowship's social justice work, and how the work we do influences our own lives as well as the lives of others. A special guest, Mary Chidgley, founder and director of our partner AIDS Hospice in Zambia, will share her thoughts as well. We'll also hear speakers involved in Rainbow Café and the "Feed My Sheep" lunch program. Bill Sasso will coordinate this service.

March 15 Christian H. Moe: "The Drama of the Illinois Riverboats"

Come and enjoy Upriver and Down, a Readers Theatre dramatization of 19th century Illinois riverboat history, by Christian H. Moe, author and compiler. Five performers enact scenes of riverboat history and story, supplemented by period songs sung by performers and chorus. Music, arranged by Charles Maxwell, will be played by David Clarke and the Unitarian Folk Orchestra.

March 22 Bill Sasso: "Correspondence with Lincoln: Abe's Religion"

Was Abe Lincoln a Christian, or a "christian," or a humanist, or just a plain old infidel? We'll continue this year's series of services exploring Abe's personality and values, in this attempt to identify his religious understandings and commitments. Could he turn out to have been a Unitarian or a Universalist? This is your chance to find out!

March 29 Bill Sasso: "The Circles of Sharing"

How does our sharing change us? How do we receive as part of the very act of giving? Do we see ourselves as benefactors, beneficiaries, or both (or neither)? Bill will take on these questions, and others that help us consider where and how the generosity that supports our congregation originates, and what role(s) we may have in carrying it forward.

And coming up . . .

April 5 Steven Low: "The Lessons of Passover"

Stephen Low, Director of the Jewish Federation's office in the Metro-East area, will visit to share with us his reflections on the meanings of Pesach, the Jewish holiday also known as Passover. Commemorating the deliverance of the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt, the Pesach story can have power and meaning for all of us. Bill Sasso will coordinate this service.

A Note From the Editor

Greetings! This issue of CUF Links may look a little different. Joe Robbie had an offer he couldn't refuse and is once again in Saudi Arabia. Good luck Joe in your new position! We will miss you.

So, for this month, I am filling in as interm editor.

The deadline for the April issue of CUF Links will be **Thursday evening, March 26th**. You may leave items for the Newsletter in the CUF Links box in the Fellowship office or email me at: yo@astrosleuth.com or Melanie at: carbondaleuu@verizon.com Pictures are always welcome!

CUF LINKS HARD COPIES are available at the Fellowship on the visitor table for anyone who would like this convenience.

Please take one! We now print as many as needed.

Yo Presley

News Flash!!! Cheryl Robinson has generously volunteered to be the new CUFL editor. She will begin with the April issue, so please note her email address and send all newsletter items to her: cherrob1@msn.com Thank you Cheryl!!!

CUF Links is published once a month by the Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship, 105 N. Parrish Lane, Carbondale, IL 62901
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carbondaleuu@verizon.net -- Yolana Presley, interm editor
The Rev. William Sasso, Minister

FROM THE OFFICE

by *Melanie Bray*



Is this really the month of March already?

I love when everything around us starts to “wake up” after a long winter. It will be nice to see our surroundings start to turn green and blossom with Spring colors. This is also the time of year that spring break occurs and I will be taking time off to head south to Florida with my

daughter. The office will be closed on March 6, 9, 11 and the 13th. Joan Juul has graciously offered to do the Bulletin on March 11th during my absence. Please send items to the office email just like you always have, at carbondaleuu@verizon.net.

I have been invited to work with the new Communications Planning Group that is forming at the Fellowship.

Our mission is to develop a 3-5 year plan for Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship which outlines how we can communicate with our membership, potential members, and the larger community/region that we serve. I am excited to offer my input and welcome any and all feedback from congregation members and fellowship friends in regards to how you would like to see our communication process proceed in the near future. Let me know what you like about the current ways that we communicate with you (bulletin, CUF Links, bulletin board, online calendar...) and any of your suggestions about what might work better.

As always, please continue to update the office with all of your changes in your personal information and/or email addresses. A current membership directory is always available in the sermon racks.

I hope that you all enjoy the awakening of Southern Illinois!

~*Melanie*

Emergency Management Planning at the Fellowship

Sometime this Spring you will see some new posters go up on the Fellowship walls and receive invitations to learn more about Emergency Management Procedures. The ad hoc Emergency Management committee has been working hard to tailor a set of procedures and guidelines for our building, which will be useful in times of emergency. While our building has many important safeguards built-in, the Board of Trustees felt that more needed to be done to safeguard our members in the event of an emergency. Many topics were discussed from evacuation of the building to emergency supplies. Watch for more information and invitations to training dates soon.

During the course of these meetings our Congregational Nurse, Vennie Anderson, recommended that we purchase an Automated External Defibrillator. The Board agreed with this recommendation and we now have an AED on site.

In conjunction with this purchase, Vennie has organized

a series of **CPR (Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation) certification classes to be offered in March at CUF**. These are stand-alone, three-hour classes, each resulting in CPR certification, including training in the use of our newly purchased AED (Automated External Defibrillator). Instructor will be Bob Loftus, adjunct faculty at John A Logan, who has 37 years experience as an AHA certified CPR instructor. Dates of the classes are: *Sat. 3/7 3-6 pm, Sun. 3/8 1:30-4:30 pm, and Sun. 3/15 1:30-4:30 pm*. Cost: \$2 (two dollars) per person. All classes will be held in the CUF Commons. CPR mannequins will be on tables, so kneeling will not be necessary. Sign-up sheet available at CUF on back table in Commons or call Vennie Anderson, 549-5352 for more information. Please plan to take advantage of this opportunity by attending one of the classes.



Darwin Day 02/07/09
Celebrating 200 years since the birth of Charles Darwin.

Look alike contest participants:
the young, old and supplementary!

FROM THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DIRECTOR



We are the children of the Fellowship

We are the Fellowship of tomorrow

BUT

We are also the Fellowship of today.

We feel a part of the Fellowship:

When we are asked to take part,

When we get praise for doing something,

When we are called by our names,

When we are sharing the load of the mission.

We do not feel part of the Fellowship:

When we are not taken seriously,

When we are ignored,

When big words are used, and we don't understand them,

When we are asked to be "cute" for you,

When you call us by our brother's or sister's names,

When we are not invited to do the things we can do.

We think you need us because:

We are fun, enthusiastic, energetic, creative, warm, caring, smiling people,

We can help you play and enjoy yourselves.

We are competent, and we are your future.

We think we need you because:

You have answers.

We need your examples,

We need your care and support,

And of course we need your money.

You make the group, we join.

We are all part of the cycle.

Soon we will be adults, too.

We want you to know that we care about the problems in this world
and we want to help.

Believe in us as we believe in you!

Together we will make a family that can help heal the world.

Children at B.C. Conference, 1987 (modified)

Sincerely,

Roy Sumner,

Director of Religious Education

(~ I thought you might like this, and maybe for some of you, remember it.)

March Social Action Update

by Jess Jobe

The **Social Action Sunday Collection** for March is set for *Sunday, March 22* and will benefit **Rainbow Café**. Rainbow Café offers a “safe space for high school age gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth in Southern Illinois.” See the following article for more information. Checks may be made payable to: Rainbow Café

Are you starting to think about your spring cleaning yet? Here’s a heads up that the **CUF Social Action Yard Sale** is set for *Friday, June 12 and Saturday, June 13* at the Fellowship. Early in June, we will begin accepting donations of gently used clothes, toys, books, cds, furniture, housewares, linens, etc. (Sorry, we cannot store donations prior to June. Look to future CUF Links about when to donate and how to help!)

And speaking of cleanup, it’s time for **spring highway cleanup**. We’ll clean up our Adopted Highway spot (Stan

Harris’s “Big Rock”) located on old Highway 13 between Pump House Road and 127, on *Saturday, March 21* at 9 a.m. Meet at the Moose Lodge on Old 13/Murphysboro Road. We need more volunteers please! If you need further details, please contact Jess at jesj62901@yahoo.com or 549-2653. In the event of rain, we will reschedule for a later date.

Feed My Sheep March Volunteers: Thanks to everyone who helped at Feed My Sheep in February. We are getting pretty good at this and energetic volunteers make all the difference. For our March 3 Feed My Sheep duties, our experienced chefs Al Babbitt and Bob White will lead the way. Other frequent volunteers Frank Nall and Joyce Daisy will be joined by Thelma Herschbach, Pat Maxwell and Bill Rose. Big Cookie Monster Thanks to the High School RE class, who made batches and batches of delicious chocolate chip cookies for CUF’s February Feed My Sheep day!



Rainbow Café began operation in September of 2000 as a joint venture between the Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship and Carbondale’s Church of the Good Shepherd. Rainbow Café is a drop-in youth program, open Friday evenings from 7 – 10 p.m.

The purpose of Rainbow Café is to provide a safe and welcoming environment for high school age gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender youth, their friends, and those questioning their orientation, by creating a space where they are affirmed and offered non-judgmental support and access to personal, community, and spiritual resources. Rainbow Café, the only gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender youth support program operating in Illinois south of Springfield is located in Carbondale but youth from the surrounding areas come to Rainbow Café. While most of our youth come from southern Illinois, we have had youth come from as far as Evansville, Indiana and Kentucky. During its eight years of operation, we have opened our doors to hundreds of GLBT youth. RC has a paid, part time manager (10 hours a week), a volunteer staff (averaging 20 volunteers at any given time), and a 12 member volunteer Board of Directors.

On a typical evening at Rainbow Café, anywhere from 5 – 15 youth will drop by and sign in, supervised by the manager, and two trained volunteers sharing various activities. Check-in occurs early in the evening to see how everyone is doing, often followed by discussion of a topic affecting GLBT youth. They might then decide on playing a board game, watch a movie, listen to music, or just hang out and chat. There will always be pizza and snacks, and special treats for occasions like birthdays and holidays. The evening ends with a check-out to see what everyone enjoyed and what they might like to do next week. One youth described Rainbow Café as “...a place that helped me come out as well as helped me understand that it’s okay to be gay. Rainbow Café is one of the coolest places I have ever been.”

One of our volunteers, John, attended Rainbow Café as a high school student. For him the Rainbow Café acted as a beacon of acceptance. Finding his way to Rainbow Café came at a time of uncertainty in his life and offered him a place to be comfortable with himself and his newly realized sexual orientation. Rainbow Café offered a social network where he was able to make friends & easily relate to other youth with common experiences. John hopes his experience as an RC alumnus will help him be a role model to the youth, having been in their shoes himself. He is interested in helping identify possible self-led fundraising activities with the youth that reflect their interests.

CUF MONTHLY MEETINGS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming:

LIFESAVERS ALL-CHAPTER CELEBRATION (dinner and program with live auction): *Saturday, March 14th, at the DuQuoin American Legion Hall.* Lifesavers is a peer-support, suicide, and crisis-prevention program developed to train young adults to be caring listeners in their interactions with their peers. Tickets are \$25; \$15 for students. For more information, contact Laura at 618-615-5753 or HPKSL2@hotmail.com or Judy at 618-529-5578 or lifesaversjudy@verizon.net.

HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS: In support of the Central Midwest District focus on homelessness, our high school and middle school students will create a cardboard city. *On Friday, March 20,* our students will sleep overnight on the Fellowship grounds in cardboard boxes, in order to raise awareness of the issue of homelessness. We will have activities for the youth from 4PM until Saturday morning, focusing on homelessness and things that can be done to help. One of the things YOU can do, is to financially sponsor the youth that will be participating. The funds collected will go to organizations locally that provide support to the homeless. The youth will have sponsor sheets for you to sign up on and show your support, and they will be distributing more information about this event - - so keep your eyes and ears open regarding this opportunity to support our youth and make a difference concerning the problem of homelessness. If you have any questions, please contact Sandy Charlson at 457-2685.

OWNING YOUR RELIGIOUS PAST is an interactive workshop in which participants re-examine their past religious connections. The program includes both group sharing and private exploration, and will take place from 7:30 to 9 pm, Tuesdays, *March 24th to April 14th.* For more information, or to register for the program, contact Bill Sasso at bsasso@juno.com or 618-529-2439.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ISLAMIC INTELLECTUAL HISTORY FOR CONTEMPORARY MUSLIMS, *Wednesday, April 1st,* (time TBA) at the Fellowship. Dr. Mohammad Fadel, of the University of Toronto Faculty of Law, notes that "Education in the Muslim world has radically changed as a result of modernization programs adopted by Muslim political and cultural elites beginning in the 19th century. One of the consequences of these reform programs has been a pronounced decline -- if not outright collapse -- of interest in the theoretical Islamic sciences such as theology (kalam) and ethics (usul al-fiqh). As a result, educated Muslims, unless they attended seminaries (and attained advanced training there), can only engage religious texts in a naive, quasi-literalist fashion. Muslim reformers, therefore, generally engage in a strategy of 're-reading' revelation in order to advance their goals rather than, for example, arguing that the reforms are good and desirable in themselves. I believe that his strategy at best leads to inconclusive results and at worst undermines the Islamic credibility of reform projects. An alternative reform strategy is possible, I believe, if modern Muslims take the problems posed in traditional Islamic theological and ethical discussions and apply them to contemporary problems. My paper will explore how this alternative strategy might work." All are welcome to attend. For more information, contact SIUC Professor Hale Yilmaz at yilmaz@siu.edu or (618)453-7870.

Ongoing:

BUDDHISM STUDY & PRACTICE GROUP *This group meets on the first and third Sundays in the Fellowship Commons at 7:30 PM. For more information: www.shawnee-dharma.org or Judy Carter at 529-3110.*

March 1. Meditation, Chanting, Study, Discussion in a free flowing format. Everyone welcome.

March 15. (ditto above)

CIRCLES OF RENEWAL, *This group meets every third Wednesday of the month, at the Fellowship, from 7:30 to 9 pm.*

March 18. Each month we will use music, prayer, readings, and silence together to create a spiritual focus. This intentional experience is open to all who come in respect and trust. For more information, contact Bill Sasso at bsasso@juno.com or 618-529-2439.

THE DREAM WORKSHOP. *This group meets the first Sunday of each month in 06 (RE wing) at 12:00ish.*

March 1. **NO Meeting** -on vacation – we will inform you when program begins again.

HUMANIST GROUP. *This group meets on the second Wednesday of each month in the Fellowship Commons at 2:00 PM*

March 11, "The Matrix trilogy : A Meta -myth for our times" This is a presentation and discussion facilitated by R. Michael. Fisher:,Ph. D. Dr. Fisher presented a related program on February 20, Video Circle which featured the movie "The Matrix," a science fiction film, which some say is a theology/philosophy for the future. We hope you attended. The film was produced in 1999 by the Wachowski Bros. There is something for everyone in this film which played to massive audiences. (Google Matrix to find out more)

HUMANIST ROUND TABLE. *This group meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month in the Fellowship Commons at 2:00 PM*
March 25, "World Cities and Megacities: Centers of Global Power and Poverty." presented by Bob Harper. The global system---not just business, and culture--- is centered, not in countries, but in huge cities; global poverty is also centered there. We will look at the pattern of these cities and their interconnections. Discussion will follow Bob's presentation.

PSI SYMPOSIUM. *This group meets the second Sunday of the Month in Room 06 at Noon*
March 8. We will start with a pot luck at noon and the program will begin at 12:30pm.

ROUNDTABLE READERS. *This group meets on the fourth Sunday of the month in Room 05 after the Sunday Service at Noon*
March 22. Discussing books of our own choosing, whether fiction or nonfiction. All interested are welcome. For more information, contact Janet Levie (phone 618-833-4971).

SCIENCE IN SOCIETY. *This group meets some Fridays of the Month in the Fellowship Commons at 5:00 PM.*
 Contact Gina Paul at rpaul@siumed.edu or 351-1064 if you have questions.

SISTERHOOD OF STICHERS. *This group meets every Tuesday in the Commons at Noon.* Currently discussing various charity projects and offering fellowship for all who love needle crafts. Contact Elaine Seymour: sapodedo@gmail.com if you have questions.

SOUTHERN IL TRANSGENDER SUPPORT GROUP. *This group meets the second Monday of the month in the Fellowship Commons at 7:30 PM.*

March 9. Monthly meeting. Contact Krissy Summers at krissysummers@hotmail.com for more information.

SUICIDE GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP: *This group meets the second Tuesday of each month at the Fellowship, at 7:30 pm.* Judy Ashby, MS, LCPC, facilitates this group for those who have lost a loved one to suicide. This group offers a safe and understanding conversation about loss and healing, as participants open their hearts to grief. For more information, contact Bill Sasso at 529-2439 or bsasso@juno.com.

VIDEO CIRCLE *This group meets on the third Friday of each month in the Fellowship Commons at 7:15 PM.*

March 20. We will view a selection of films from the Big Muddy Film Festival(s). Mike Covell will host. Contact Amy Weber at amyweber1@msn.com with questions.

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS



Barbara Lesar will celebrate her 90th birthday this month! Everyone is invited to stay after the Sunday Service on *March 22nd* to celebrate this important milestone. Please join her in celebrating an extraordinary life. Her talents and energy are in no small part what has made this Fellowship what it is today.
Happy Birthday Barbara!

Close to the Bone an exhibit of Drawings by Hilary Chandler and Ceramics by member **Darby Ortolano** will hold its closing reception on Saturday, *March 28, 2009* from 6:30pm - 8:30pm at the Joni Beth Bailey's Gallery on Walnut Street, across from the Jackson County Courthouse in Murphysboro, IL The show can be seen M-F 9-5 from February 3rd until March 27th.

Chris Bauer has ended a 12 year musical sabbatical. If you have not yet heard Chris perform, save the date of *March 23, 6:00 PM* when she will be singing at the Rustle Hill Winery. If you can't make that date be sure to attend the Fellowship Stewardship Dinner *April 4, at 5:30PM* where

Chris will perform. For more information, Chris has a MySpace page: www.myspace.com/christina8bauer where you can listen to selections of her songs.

JoAnna Johnson stopped through Carbondale briefly on her way to New York City to participate in "Me Me Me," the sixth New York edition of PooL, an annual independent art fair. "Me Me Me" opens on *Friday, March 6th* and runs until *Sunday, March 8th*. This is an exciting new opportunity for JoAnna and we wish her much success. JoAnna's work can be seen on her Facebook page.



Facebook UUs Have you heard? At my last count, *at least 30* Fellowship friends and members were on Facebook. It is a fun way to stay in touch with each other and waste time telling each other silly life tidbits. But its also a way to reveal a little more about yourself and share writing, poems, ideas, hobbies, photos, and art. I'm now back in touch with several folks who've moved far away and that is a joyful thing. Just go to www.facebook.com and sign up!

OPEN HOUSE RECEPTION FOR MARY CHIDGEY

EXCITING NEWS!!!! Mary Chidgey, the founder and manager of Ranchhod AIDS hospice and orphan care program in Kabwe, Zambia, will be in Carbondale from March 1st-March 8th 2009. **On Saturday evening, March 7th there will be an open house reception at the home of Carla and George Feldhamer in honor of Mary.** Hospice of Southern Illinois and the Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship have been involved in a partnership with Ranchhod since 2003. The partnership has involved fundraising for medicines and other supplies, starting a program to pay school fees for the orphans, several visits by persons from HSI and The Fellowship, sewing nightgowns, collecting and sending supplies and speaking locally to raise awareness of the HIV/AIDS pandemic globally as well as here in Southern Illinois.

Mary is an amazing Irish nurse who has lived in Kabwe with her husband, David, a farmer. She has devoted the past 7 years to insuring that persons affected by HIV/AIDS in her community receive adequate testing, education, treatment, food and love and comfort. She has helped to lessen the stigma that goes along with the diagnosis of HIV/AIDS.

She has set up a family planning clinic so that the women of Kabwe have a choice regarding childbearing. She has done fundraising to build a clinic and pre-school in one of the outlying villages. She has reached out to donors to help pay the staff and caregivers that work at the hospice. Mary has been THE ADVOCATE for HIV/AIDS in Kabwe. She has been involved with the African Palliative Care Association speaking at national conferences.

I could go on and on...I hope that you will be able to visit with Mary while she is in Carbondale and to attend the Sat. eve. reception. Drinks will be provided... if possible please bring an appetizer or dessert to share.

March 7th, 7:00 pm-10:00pm Please RSVP
623 south Wedgewood Lane, Carbondale, Illinois
618-457-8606 (H) 618-201-4947 (C) hospice88@aol.com



STEWARDSHIP AT THE FELLOWSHIP

by Jerry Molumby

We are preparing for the annual Stewardship Drive, which is rapidly approaching. The theme of this year's Stewardship Drive is "2010: A Fellowship Odyssey." We are on a journey, with a rich past and a bright future.

Last December, the congregation prioritized the focus for the coming year. Two issues were clearly defined: Create a strategic facility plan to include an assessment of equipment, space, signage and maintenance needs; and Create/implement a comprehensive communications plan.

This is our plan for growth, built on top of an already dynamic congregation. We have so many activities/services in so many different areas that everyone can find at least one that appeals to them/meets their needs. The prioritized areas actually support the current programs and services, making them more visible and organized.

There is one more focus that should be in every year's goals, to increase membership. We know how well this Fellowship meets our needs. We know how much talent and energy is available to make a difference in the community, locally, regionally and globally. But, how many do not know of us and what potential this Fellowship has to enrich and transform lives? Who knew how many potential UUs were in Cape Girardeau or Mt. Vernon areas until someone started a Fellowship in each town.

The purpose of the Annual Event is to celebrate who we are and set the stage for members to make a commitment

to support the Fellowship in the coming year. Carla Feldhamer, Gloria Smiley and Chris Bauer are heading up the **Annual Event scheduled for Saturday, April 4th.** They have planned an evening of fun and great food. This is an event not to miss!

Members may select from a variety of methods for making their commitment. Small groups will be led by a team of trained stewards who will discuss the needs of the Fellowship, answer any questions and ask for a pledge. Members may request that a steward come to meet with them individually to discuss their pledge, providing a more intimate atmosphere for making their pledge. Or, members may also wish to make a pledge in another way which better meets their needs. We ask that members be as informed as possible about what the Fellowship means to them, what it currently offers, what it plans to do and what it needs to be able to grow.

You will receive materials in the coming month explaining Fellowship needs. The board has drafted a budget that reflects the needs of this Fellowship, and projects a spirit of abundance. This is the spirit that has triggered the tremendous growth over the last 15 years and earned the Fellowship recognition as a Breakthrough Congregation by the UUA.

Watch for more information. Ask questions. Have fun at the Annual Event.