



# Summer Cuf Links

The Monthly Newsletter of the Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship  
A member congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association

A Welcoming Congregation  
Volume 08, Number 7

## From The Minister

### When to Call the Minister



Every so often, someone will approach me after the Sunday service with a sense of uncertainty and, after hesitating for a moment, ask if he or she can meet with me. Maybe there's a question in your mind about when you should "call the minister."

First, I invite you to call me when you are having a tough time and you'd like to have someone with you in heart and soul. Maybe there's a difficult aspect of your life, and you would appreciate the opportunity to talk it over with someone. Perhaps you're having trouble making sense of something, or a feeling you can't quite come to peace with. Perhaps someone is in the hospital or scheduled for a medical procedure; perhaps you have lost a family member or a friend. Perhaps you have a significant career decision to make. I do want to know what is going on, so that the Fellowship and I can be with you as you face these challenges of life.

Second, I invite you to call me when something good happens and you want to celebrate! Perhaps a new child has entered your family, and you wish to schedule a dedication ceremony to introduce him or her to the entire Fellowship! Perhaps you have received a promotion, or have met someone who touches your heart in a way that means very, very much to you. In these and other times of joy, the Fellowship and I want to celebrate with you, but that can only happen when we hear your good news!

Third, call me if you have a question or an idea for our Fellowship, especially if you aren't sure where to go with it. There are still some questions that I may not know the answer to immediately, but I have been around here long enough to know where to find

most of them! Feel free to call if you have a question about theology, religion, or religious history. Again, while I am not a walking encyclopedia, I am interested in learning with you. The same principle applies: I can serve the Fellowship better if I know what is on your minds!

Fourth, call me if you would like to learn about becoming a member, and you would like to have a quiet discussion about what membership means and how it works within the Fellowship. I'm always happy to have that kind of a conversation!

Always remember that you are not bothering me with your call. Each one of you - every member of the Fellowship and its larger community - is important to me! Only through dialogue can I know what is going on in your head and your heart. We are all part of the Fellowship's network of caring, but that network can only support us when we share the needs that we feel and the gifts that we possess with each other.

The best ways to reach me is to call me or email me. In an emergency, please call me at my home phone number (618-529-7808) at any time. If I am not home, or if the question is not urgent, please leave a message, and then call the Fellowship office (619-259-2439). Again, if I'm not there, please leave another voicemail message. You can also email me at [bsasso@juno.com](mailto:bsasso@juno.com).

In the meantime, whether you call or not, I hope you enjoy the beauty of summer!

Yours in the spirit, *Bills*.

# JULY SUNDAY SERVICES

held in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30 A.M.

- July 6**      **Russ Trimble: "A Sharing of Favorite Readings"**  
Russ Trimble will coordinate this informal sharing of special readings that have touched our hearts and minds in ways that have made a difference in our lives. All are welcome to attend, whether they choose to bring a reading to share, or not!
- July 13**      **Michael Batinski: "College of the Hills in Hardin County"**  
Guest speaker Michael Batinski, Professor of History at SIUC, will tell the story of Hardin County's "College of the Hills," a grassroots, cooperative educational initiative. This is a piece of local history that you won't want to miss! Bob Swenson will coordinate this service.
- July 20**      **Bill Sasso: "Parables of the Sky"**  
This will be an opportunity for the adults of the Fellowship to share in the learning of the children's "Summer Weeklong Awesome Program." As past year's program have examined water and fire, this year's focus was "air." How is air present in the great myths, fables, and parables of the world's religions? Join Bill and learn more - but probably not all! - about it! Our Social Action Sunday offering will go to assist residents displaced by the spring flooding at Cache Valley Assisted Living Center in Ullin.
- July 27**      **Bill Sasso: "The Experience of Worship"**  
As individuals, we may have different feelings about the word "worship," and as Unitarian Universalists, we offer each other the freedom to embrace this term or to set it aside. Nevertheless, we gather each Sunday morning, and in that gathering something happens that calls us both to return the following week and to move closer to our best selves.

**JULY OPEN MINDS** held in the Fellowship Commons at 8:45 A.M.

**July 6**      **Stan Harris**, Geologist, Naturalist, Author and emeritus SIUC will share his reflections, experience, and wisdom.

Bob Lembcke and David Christensen, Coordinators of Open Minds have announced that Open Minds will end with this program and resume programming in the early Fall.

## President's Column



Jess Jobe said it so well on June 15<sup>th</sup>, during the Announcements on Sunday morning. She was thanking the Fellowship members for all their efforts to make the yard sale a success. The Fellowship made \$3525 that will be used for New Day Ministries, Zambia AIDS project and other social action needs in the coming fiscal year. She thanked those who set up, those who marked, those who assisted in sales, those who cleaned up, those who contributed and those who bought. That covers just about everybody! Thank you Jes!

This is my last column as President of the Fellowship. It seems like a long time ago that I started, but then, where did the time go? It has been a great part of my life! I have felt energized by the commitment of those I have worked with on the board and in other capacities. I am in awe of the generosity of time, talent, money and spirit that flows so freely in our community. For me, the reward was the satisfaction of doing and seeing the accomplishments. I suspect that is true for most.

I have received words of thanks throughout my time as president. They were appreciated and did

energize me to keep going. Material from the UUA talked about the need for, and the power of, saying thanks. I wish I could have followed that advice and said thank you more often.

I want to thank so many who have done so much for so long. Many of the contributions made are very obvious while others are behind the scenes. I will not attempt to list individuals as I am sure to miss as many as I name, but I will recognize a few activities I have seen that are a sampling of the many that go on daily.

For each activity, someone has to plan, publicize and deliver. Open Minds has been there every Sunday morning for anyone in the Fellowship, or in the community. There is high quality information and discussion, and it is all volunteer effort. To my knowledge, Open Minds has not used a dollar from the Fellowship budget over the years, but tapped into the wealth of experience of Fellowship members or community members.

Planned activities also take time and talent. Religious Education has a paid RE Director, but the bulk of what is accomplished is through volunteer efforts of parents and other members. They provide religious education to our children, plan parties and events and do whatever is needed for the children to have a stimulating and healthy environment. I have not seen much of the activity related to RE, but I know it is there by what is accomplished. Thank you Roy, for facilitating and thank you to the scores of members who make it happen every week.

Committee members on the Sunday Services, Music, Communication and Member Activities plan and assure a high quality to what we do. The Building and Grounds committee makes sure our building is taken care of through maintenance and repair. The Caring and Sharing committee makes sure someone responds to individuals and families in time of crisis and need, organizing volunteers to bring meals and complete other tasks as needed. There is a seamless network of time, talent and caring that addresses the needs of the Fellowship. This is Stewardship - taking care of the things that we value.

I would like to thank the members of the board who have been there in an official capacity. They have planned ahead to assure competent and continuous staff, well maintained buildings and financial stability for the Fellowship. It is from this base that all the other volunteer efforts can be so successful.

One last position I would like to recognize is the Fellowship Treasurer. We have had a succession of Treasurers who have worked hard to execute their responsibilities and left the Fellowship in a better place as a result. Dave Clarke invested much time to bring the fiscal practices into the new century. Ed Phillips has followed Dave in the last year, making sure that our financial processes are streamlined and clear. Both have used a Finance committee and been assisted by volunteers who counted money on Sunday morning and entered member contributions into the financial records. The Fellowship Treasurer commits a lot of time and energy. They are good stewards of our finances and I owe them a big THANK YOU.

Thank you. This cannot be said often enough.

There are so many more activities and volunteers that I did not cover in this column. This was a sample. Please look for the Annual Report that should be complete before the end of the summer. It will include all the activities and individuals who have given to make this Fellowship a dynamic and caring community. It will document why we continue to be a Breakthrough Congregation!

THANK YOU!

*Jerry Molumby*



# From the RE Director

Long ago and far away, there was a Unitarian Universalist Fellowship that closed its doors each summer. It didn't have air conditioning, and most of its members were employees of the big University. When the University ended the winter term, many of the families went on vacation, and the Fellowship sat empty until the fall, and it was sad.

Today that Fellowship has been open each summer for the better part of 10 years, and the children that come have many wonderful things to do. The children are happy, and their parents are VERY happy.



This summer the children take part in a one-room style class, and they get to meet a different adult each week. The adult leader tells the children

of trips they have taken to far away, and very different, places. The leader brings maps, and stories, and pictures, and parts of sails from ships they were on, and they teach children some foreign words. The children get to decorate the parts of the sail they are given, and they get to take them home for a souvenir. They have drawn the boot of Italy, and decorated it with the jewels of their choosing.

The building is cool and comfortable, and there is a playground nearby that the kids and adults can play on. Sometimes the adult leader brings a snack for the children, which is like the food they would eat if they were in China, for example, and it is great fun. The children get to see the dresses that would be worn by the women in China, and they get to take turns telling about trips they themselves have taken.

And while the children now have a place to be together on Sunday mornings, adults are also welcome to come and visit with them. The kids think the more the merrier and they enjoy meeting new adults, and making friends with the children that come to visit. The children are happy, their

parents are VERY happy, and we think the building is happy, too.

Also, in July, from the 7<sup>th</sup> through the 11<sup>th</sup>, the children can come to the SWAP (summer week-long awesome program). We meet from 9AM until noon, and this year the theme is AIR. More information will be distributed about this program soon, so keep your eyes and ears open, and we hope you can join us. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please call Roy at 687-3118.

Happily,  
Roy Sumner, DRE

## Notes of Gratitude



**BIG YARD SALE...BIG THANK YOU.** At the risk of missing anyone (sincere apologies if I have) and on behalf of Carla Feldhamer,

thank you to the following individuals for all their help with this year's yard sale prep, sales and cleanup: Cheryl Schmit, Yo Presley, Carolyn Davis, Kathryn Jaehnig, Vennie Anderson, Mary Campbell, Debbie Czarnopys-White, Jan Eisenhard, George Feldhamer, Janet Harris, Thelma Herschbach, Cathy Kline, Chris Mack, Miriam Link Mullison, Clara McClure, Astrid Mosely, Helen Nall, JoAnn Nelson, Kathy O'Laughlin, Ed Phillips, Susie Phillips, Toby Saken, Joe Schmit, Joyce Shepherd, Kris Summers, Nila Tanner, Natalie Trimble, Heather Petty -Weston, Kari Feldhamer, Brian Stinchfield, Bob White, Chris Wissmann, Melanie Bray and Miranda "Whose Last Name I Did Not Catch". ☺

Thank you also to all those who donated items for the yard sale, purchased items from the yard sale, sacrificed space and to those who just tolerated the yard sale. That should cover everyone in the Fellowship and then some! Thanks to everyone, \$3525.49 was raised for social action. One third will go to the Ranchod Hospice partnership, one third will go towards the work of the New Day Prison Ministry and one third will support the general, usually local activities of the social action committee. If you have suggestions for a social action service project or contribution, please

contact Jess Jobe and please feel free to join the Social Action Committee.



And a Lemonade Stand Too...The RE program earned \$31 with a lemonade stand at the Social Action Yard Sale. Thanks to Angela Chen, Matt Schlesinger and Nick and Natalie Schlesinger for

selling lemonade and treats. Sale customers and volunteers benefited from the stand!

## Social Action

by Jess Jobe

Social Action Sunday Collections resume in July. Sunday, July 20's Sunday collection will benefit displaced residents of the Cache Valley Assisted Living Facility in Ullin. The facility was badly damaged in spring flooding and the low-income residents lost many personal items, furnishings and clothes as they were temporarily placed in other area nursing homes and assisted living centers. Checks can be made payable to River to River Corporation. River to River is a not for profit corporation with several assisted living facilities serving lower income seniors in Southern Illinois. Fellowship member Toby Saken serves on the board of River to River and has been involved in the cleanup and renovation efforts at the Ullin facility. The social action committee donated \$200 from its account to Cache Valley residents in the spring.

### Seeking Input About Future Social Action

**Sunday collections:** Please send your suggestions for future Social Action Sunday collections to Jess Jobe at [jesj62901@yahoo.com](mailto:jesj62901@yahoo.com) by August 1. A schedule of collections will appear in a future CUF Links.

## Announcements

**ROUNDTABLE READERS** will meet in July on Sunday the 27th, at noon. Our topic is poetry. You are invited to bring a favorite poem to share, whether from Shakespeare or Wordsworth, T. S. Eliot or e. e. cummings, Emily Dickenson or Mary Oliver--or what have you?

**MINISTER'S OFFICE HOURS:** During the summer, Bill Sasso's regular office hours will be Wednesday, 9 to 11 a.m. and Thursday, 3 to 5 pm, and by appointment. Please call before coming over, because Bill is sometimes out of the office for meetings, pastoral visits, or other commitments. To schedule a time to get together with Bill, please email [bsasso@juno.com](mailto:bsasso@juno.com) or call 529-2439. Thanks!

**PSI SYMPOSIUM** does not meet during the summer. The first meeting will be in September. Date of the meeting will be published in August.

**YOGA FOR ZAMBIA** is temporarily disbanded.

**HUMANIST GROUP:** July 9, 2:00 PM." Expelled: No Child Left Behind" Janet Harris, educator offers her perspectives on the controversial educational mandates. For additional information call Bob Camp 351- 0083.

**HUMANIST ROUNDTABLE** will meet July 23, 2:00 PM. "A Way to Look Within," Joy Price short video of Nobel Laureate Thich Nhat Hanh explanation of meditation ,demonstration and guided practice of Theravedic Meditation.. a stress buster with many life enhancing/ saving benefits. Bring a friend Call Bob Camp 351- 0083 or Joy Price at 457 2405.

**HOMECOMING WATER CEREMONY!** As you travel during the summer, please try to bring home either a small sample of water -- an ounce or two is plenty!If it should prove to be a challenge to bring water (e.g., due to travel regulations), try to bring a small rock or stone. We'll use these in our homecoming water ceremony on Sunday, September 7th. And please note that, as part of our effort to raise environmental consciousness in Green Sanctuary initiative, we will work with a new approach to the ceremony this year! Watch for more details as the date draws nearer!

**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS TRANSGENDER SUPPORT GROUP** Meetings are the 2nd Monday of every month at the Fellowship 7:30-10:00 pm. Contact [krissysummers@hotmail.com](mailto:krissysummers@hotmail.com)

**BUDDHISM PRACTICE AND STUDY GROUP:** Our next Sunday meeting is at 7:30 pm on August 17, the third Sunday of August, at the Carbondale Fellowship.

**ANNUAL REPORTS** Please send your Annual Reports to the office before July 15th. Email Melanie at [carbondaleuu@verizon.net](mailto:carbondaleuu@verizon.net).

~From the Editors~  
Hope you are having a great Summer!  
Deadline for August CUF Links  
is **July 25th**  
Thanks, Yo and Melanie

## ~From the Summer CUF Links Editor~

You probably have noticed a big difference in this edition of your newsletter. Normally, there are no newsletters published in the Summer months, but this year we decided that this would be the perfect time for me to learn the process of "building" the newsletter under the watchful eye of Yo Presley (who is looking forward to a short break).

I have chosen to use a different, less restrictive format that saves time and yet conveys all of the information that is desired and needed by our members. I will try new things and become more creative with each new edition. As always, I welcome your feedback.

The August CUF Links deadline will be on Friday, July 25th. Please send your information to [carbondaleuu@verizon.net](mailto:carbondaleuu@verizon.net) or call the office at 529-2439.

Thank you for your continued support and have a safe, happy Summer!

~Melanie