

### **Minister's Annual Report 2008**

The Rev. Daniel S. Brosier

It has been a busy year (at times I have thought too busy) as the congregation has taken on a quite a few of projects. The list of these activities include:

Implementing the changes to the building that were suggested by the energy audit.

Creating new Mission and Vision statements

Hosting a Social Justice Workshop

Creating a more active social justice organization

Conducting a survey of the congregation

Burning the prairie

Hosting Fall and Winter Farmers' Markets

Funding a second Village Bank

Instituting the "Share the Plate" program

Raising \$1,162 for Association Sunday

Field testing a new adult curriculum from the UUA

Hosting another Prairie Fest

Offering Our Whole Lives (O.W.L.) to our Middle School aged youth

Offering "Movies That Matter" - short films on current events with discussion

Supporting an active and energized Sunday morning adult RE program

Creating more Pagan programming

Continuing to offer quality summer services

This past year we joyfully welcomed 9 new members into the congregation many of which have rolled up their sleeves and gotten involved. We were saddened by the death of our dear friend and long-time member Jim Burnidge. He will be missed.

Our average Sunday morning attendance (adults and youth/children) was 124

I am looking forward to the coming year.

### **Annual Report of the UUCE Care Team 2007-2008**

Respectfully submitted, Shirley Wolin, Team Leader

The Care Team is dedicated to coordinating the church's efforts in caring for our members and friends at significant or vulnerable times in their lives. Serving on the Care Team are Alesa Burbach, Henny Dubois, Marilyn Hendry, Alice Macy, Pat Pecho, Bonnie Schwank and Shirley Wolin. Our advisor is Dan Brosier.

This past year the team coordinated the personal delivery of many plants, flowers, prepared food etc. along with rides and other assorted services. The team also planned the reception for the memorial service for Helen Maxwell. This was difficult for us, but it was a true act of love for a good friend and former member of our team.

We annually update our neighborhood lists to accommodate new members and members who have changed addresses, along with the change in neighborhood coordinators. We continue to keep a list of medical equipment that is available for use by any of our members, such as a wheelchair, crutches, canes shower benches, raised toilet seats, and assorted medical supplies.

The members of the 2007-2008 Committee on the Ministry (COM) were Dan Brosier, Kathy Hislip, Ann Kremer, Brandi Talaga, Kathy Underwood, and Greg Ward.

This year the committee worked to meet the tasks identified in the mission statement created in the previous year. The role of the Committee on the Ministry is to support all aspects of the ministry of this church including the minister, DRE, staff, committees, teams, groups, and task forces. COM has worked to fulfill this role this year by:

- Creating and staffing (Sandy Webster) the Shared Ministry Coordinator's position
- Developing a yearly agenda to help COM focus on specific points of the mission statement
- Distributing Chair Training materials to all committee chairs
- Offering assistance to committee chairs who needed help fulfilling their duties
- Providing support for the minister and director of religious education
- Providing support for the minister and director of religious education's professional development
- Seeking two members of the congregation in leadership roles to attend Leadership School
- Planning a Leadership Retreat for fall 2008

### **Finance Committee**

Submitted by Alice Macy, Chair

The Finance Committee included the Treasurer, Joe Masonick; Finance Coordinator, Alice Macy; Financial Secretary, Carl Deitrick; Dan Brosier, Mike Moutrie, Phil Webster, and Sandy Webster.

The committee reviewed current finances at each meeting, and also reviewed the earmarked funds and oversaw the church's fundraising efforts: the Service Auction and the Annual Canvass. It developed a "dream budget" for the Canvass Committee, for the 15-month fiscal year 4/1/08-6/30/09, enabling the church's transition to a new July 1- June 30 fiscal year. Based on the results of the Canvass, the committee drafted a budget to submit to the Board and the congregation at the Annual Meeting.

### **Aesthetics Team**

Submitted by Henny DuBois ó Team Leader

Completed project follows:

Having the base and top of the lectern in the sanctuary upholstered This was completed with the coordination and efforts of Andy Carey and Dotty Carringi.

List of on going projects follows:

- Purchasing seasonal attractive artificial flowers for the front of the sanctuary and through out the church. These are being rotated with the flowers we already have.
- Support and coordinate displaying art work in the gallery in the entrance hall to the sanctuary. Looking forward to having at least one church member's show this coming year.
- Coordinate plantings in the half barrels in front of the church. Plans are to replace the half barrels with resin planters which will do a better job retaining moisture.
- Find a new home for the seasonal swag which was over the door in the entrance hall.

List of projects in progress follows:

- Putting skirts around the permanent display tables in our Fellowship Hall.
- Replace and re-engineer the skirt/fabric at the coffee bar.
- Spring clean the closet for the Aesthetics Team.
- Some creative way to hide all the wires, etc., in the music area in the front of the sanctuary.

etty Carringi, Shirley Wolen, Mila Brinker, Kathy Hislip, Laurie  
re very helpful filling in for me during the year while I was

### **Annal Report for Unichords and Barn Bells**

Submitted by Margot Cusimano - Bell Diva

This year marks the 18th year of ringing for the Unichords and Barn Bells. We have 19 ringers - a very intergenerational group - ranging in age from 6 years old to really, really old. We ring about once a month for Sunday service, Christmas Eve and (this year) at one outside bell festival. Rehearsals for Unichords are Sunday mornings 9 AM to 10:30AM; for Barn Bells Wednesday evenings at 7PM. We ring on 4 1/2 octaves of Malmark Handbells and 3 octaves of Malmark Choirchimes. The bells and chimes are privately owned by the director, the tables were purchased by the church. Our biggest expenses are purchasing sheet music.

Group Goals/Mission/Reason to exist

1. To create beautiful music
2. To learn about bell techniques, music and bell lore
3. To have fun

### **CommUUnity Garden2008 Annual Report**

Submitted by Donna Askins. ó Garden Leader

At the time of this writing, we are in our third year of raising organic crops in raised beds on the church grounds. We have seven beds, each measuring 4'x8', built from timbers left over from building the church (previously, these were part of the 100-year-old dairy barn on our former property). Andrea Schmidlin generously kept the old timbers in her barn until they were called into use for this project.

We had our first planting on Sunday March 30. Pat Pecho, Deb Caruso, Donna Askins and Reve Rogers-Bottino planted seeds of spinach, two kinds of lettuce, and sugar snap peas. Very soon we will plant potatoes, and as the season warms, corn, watermelon, and tomatoes. MaryAlice Masonick is ordering more prairie plants from Kane County Soil & Water Conservation to plant around the perimeter of the beds. The garden will be beautiful as well as functional ó we will enjoy both "bread and roses."

To make watering easier this year, we plan to try a drip irrigation system, which will be paid for from previous and anticipated fundraisers. We hope to sell seeds and/or seedlings in May.

Also this year, we will try what we hope will be an improved method of distributing the harvest. "If you work a lot, take a lot. If you work a little, take a little." This honor system works well for the community garden of Stelle, Illinois, and we hope it will work here, too. People not physically able to garden are invited to donate a bag of compost or otherwise participate, such as in making seed tape or helping with the seed sale. Coordinator Donna Askins will make sure that all who desire to partake will have the opportunity to do so.

### **Board of Trustees**

Lydia Larrabee, President

The 2007-2008 year involved a number of new issues and tasks, as well as the on-going responsibilities of the Board. We held regular monthly meetings every month except July and held several retreat and special work meetings to carry out the work of the Board.

The Board follows a calendar for year-round monitoring of Church operations and policy compliance, including the annual congregational evaluation of Church performance this year. Other work included monitoring Church finances, handling personnel duties, and other standard business of the Board. In addition to these on-going responsibilities, the Board's role is to look to the Church's future. The Board focused several items on this year.

A major accomplishment of this year was the completion of the Vision and Mission process that gained us new statements. These will serve as the strong basis for new strategic directions and ultimately a new five-year strategic plan. The Board appointed Vision ó Mission Task Force provided the leadership to this all-Church effort; they used creativity and teamwork to gather all of our ideas and to craft new statements that reflect the

ject, the issues and the invitation for contributions out in front of  
lly thanks Anne Ward, Chair, Andrea Budasi, Ayla Halberstadt,  
son, and Kevin Sweeney for their service on this project.

Another initiative focused on the future is a pilot program of the Unitarian Universalist Association and the Central Midwest District designed to assist churches of our size to increase the vitality and growth of all areas of church life. The Board and the Executive Team accepted the offer to participate and created a team of seven members (the Growth and Vitality Team) to represent the church and to bring back the information and techniques back to the congregation. This group participated in 3 day-long retreats, worked with a consultant, and is expecting in the near future to offer a workshop to involve the Congregation in the process.

Another major effort by the Board this year was negotiations with T-Mobile on their proposal to rent a small section of land next to the Cingular cell tower. This is still in process, but is close to wrapping up. When this is completed, the Church may benefit from some regular rental fees.

The Board has successfully made the transition to the Policy Governance model, and is working to fine tune it to UUCE. The major area the Board focused on this year is creating a better system for Trustee transition and for providing more support and training for new Presidents.

The Board is a group of dedicated hard-working members with whom it has been a pleasure and honor to serve. They are all very conscientious and committed to serving the Church. I am very grateful for all the contributions of all the Board members who so generously give of their time and energies to insure the well-being of this community.

### **Annual Report of Religious Education (RE) Council 2007-2008**

Submitted by Debbie Whiston-Garman, Council Chair

Director of Religious Education: Kathy Underwood

RE Council Members: Debbie Whiston-Garman, Council Chair, Jessica Frost, Karen Courtney-Leyba, Vickie Kilgore and Brandi Talaga

### **Religious Education for Children and Youth**

The religious education program serves children and youth from birth through high school in six classrooms and a nursery. There are 47 children and youth registered in the program, and 16 who attend regularly that are not registered for a total of 63 participants. We have 14 teachers and have used 5 volunteers as teacher assistants. Two professional childcare workers staff the nursery. This year the focus of the program was on our Judeo-Christian Heritage.

Our goals for 2007-2008 were:

1. Foster a commitment to social action.
2. Increase young people's involvement in worship services.
3. Involve young people in the pledge drive.
4. Contact parents at least once between October and December regarding their child's experiences.
5. Begin all classes with chalice lighting and end with an age-appropriate ritual.
6. Implement the Chalice Circle model once per month during the church year.
7. Communicate to teachers, parents, and young people the connections between the material/subject being taught and the theme or pillar.

### **Work Accomplished by the RE Council:**

- Implemented Social Action activities for all ages
  - Heifer International- children collected \$200 and purchased one goat, three rabbits, and one flock of chicks
  - Youth assisted at the soup kitchen
  - Collected books for the Community of Readers program
  - Collected items monthly for the food pantry during Chalice Circle

Adopt-A-Highway  
d in Bowl For KidsøSake  
teach RE curriculum

- Teacher Orientation offered in the fall
- Chose curricula to reflect the theme of Judeo-Christian Heritage
- Began monthly Chalice Circle program
- Continued to include øKudosø in the newsletter to recognize those contributing to the RE program
- Implemented 7 sessions in the summer of 2007
- Youth Participated in the services by
  - Offering
  - Chalice Lighting
  - Reading of Who We Are
  - High School Youth led service
- Held an Easter Egg Hunt
- Coordinated multi-generational activities
  - Birthday Potluck celebration
  - Mystery Match program
  - Family movie ø Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat
- Social Activities for all age groups
  - Outing to Goebbertø Farm for all ages
  - Preschool-2<sup>nd</sup> grade sledding at Randall Oaks
  - 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade swimming at The Centre
- Developed an RE budget for the 2008-2009 year and submitted it to the finance committee
- Recognized teachers for the fall and spring semesters

#### Ongoing Activities and Projects

- Planning Teacher Recognition Ceremony at the end of the year
- Continuing to look for strategies and opportunities to incorporate youth into Sunday services
- Program evaluations planned for May with teachers, students and families
- Social Activities for various age groups
- High school fundraising for suicide prevention

#### Adult Religious Education

This church year the Adult Spirituality Program started with two sessions each Sunday morning with a 12-session of Building Your Own Theology and parallel sessions of 6 week classes on a variety of subjects. While there were concerns that we would not have enough attendees for two classes, both sessions were well attended. Beginning in March, both groups were consolidated into one in order to run the Spirit In Practice beta program, which has been very well received.

This year we began the "Movies That Matter" series with film and discussion on mid-month Wednesday evenings. Attendance varies depending on the topic and other meetings occurring in the same hour.

Overall attendance at all Adult Spirituality programs is up from last year and the variety and depth of material has given members more choices to meet a variety of interests and needs.

Paganism 101 was also offered this past year, with øgraduatesø forming a new covenant group øFellowship of the Pagan Spiritø.

#### Director of Religious Education Annual Report - 2008

Our program continues to evolve each year. This year, the Religious Education Council and I began the Chalice Circle program. This program is on the first Sunday of the month. The purpose is to give young people an opportunity to experience and learn some of our worship rituals, as well as spiritual practices such as prayer and meditation, in an engaging manner with their peers.

The Religious Education Council will be having a retreat in June to evaluate our program and set new goals for the coming church year. We continue to look at ways to bridge the gaps between various age groups- socially as well as spiritually.

week, with some times of the year requiring more hours than

- Continued to maintain all records and supplies regarding the RE program
- Coordinated monthly Chalice Circle program
- Coordinated the Our Whole Lives program for 7<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> grades with the Unitarian Society of Geneva
- Provided teacher training and support, including the purchase and maintenance of supplies and books and regular teacher meetings
- Wrote 8 lessons for 6<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> class based on their interest in Earth-Centered Spirituality and Russia
- Attended Executive Team and Program Council meetings
- Worked with the Canvass Team to involve young people in the pledge drive
- Worked with the Youth Ministry Team to continue programs for youth
- Continued the "Today in RE" announcement in the order of service, as well as monthly columns in the newsletter
- Sent weekly emails to parents on upcoming activities
- Helped visitors and new students feel welcomed in our program
- Conducted background checks and interviews for volunteers
- Continued participation in the Chicago Area Religious Educators group
- Continued participation and leadership in the Liberal Religious Educators Association (LREDA)
- Attended General Assembly in Portland, OR
- Coordinated two summer sessions and ensured the coordination of the other five
- Coordinated the winter intergenerational service
- Recognized volunteers in the order of service, the newsletter, and in worship services
- Maintained communications with parents, children, youth, and volunteers
- Served as a member on the district's Congregational Growth and Development Council
- Attended Professionals' Day at District Assembly
- Helped maintain the book cart

Submitted By,  
Kathy Underwood

## **Social Justice**

### **Social Justice Council**

Andrea Schmidlin, Social Justice Coordinator

In our ongoing efforts to revitalize Social Justice programming at UUCE we held a Social Justice Empowerment workshop on February 29 through March 3, 2008. It was facilitated by two trained facilitators from the UUA's Office for Congregational Advocacy & Witness. The workshop was attended by 30 people from the church. Following the workshop, a new Social Justice Council was formed. The Social Justice Council members include Andrea Schmidlin, Coordinator; Dan Brosier, Consulting Member; Bob Jackson, member; Diana March, member; Steve Stultz, member; Ron Gole, member.

The Social Justice Council programs for 2007-08 included the following:

- Interfaith Food Pantry
- Women Cooking for Women
- Larkin Center Group Home sponsorship
- Green Sanctuary Committee
- Village Bank
- CROP Walk
- Equal Exchange Coffee, Tea, and Chocolate sales



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## Annual Report of the Green Sanctuary Committee - April 2008

**Green Sanctuary Committee (GSC) Membership** is currently at 11 members, including Jack Berry, Gordon and Sandy James, Alice Macy, Joe and Mary Alice Masonick, Elizabeth Olson, Stacey Reynolds, Dave Segel, Day Waterman, and Phil Webster.

**Chairperson:** Elizabeth Olson, from April to November, and Mary Alice Masonick from November to March.

**Services** Periodic services are held with an environmental theme, including an annual Earth Day service.

**Information table** in Fellowship Hall provides information to raise awareness of environmental concerns, free handouts including the helpful "Green Tips", rotating display boards, and more.

**Webpage** Development of our own page within the UUCE web site, with Todd Underwood's help, for the purpose of promoting coming events, ours and others. We can also discuss ongoing programs, accomplishments, and green opportunities for activism. This could be a recruitment tool for both GSC and the church. The UU Ministry for Earth provided us with the new Green Sanctuary logo.

**Green Corner** columns in monthly newsletter: faith-based environmentalism, the outcome of the energy audit, bottled water, LED light displays, energy audit update, rain barrels, green travel.

**Energy conservation** We have continued to recommend setting the five programmable thermostats at 45 degrees when the church is unoccupied, in order to conserve natural gas, electricity and money and to reduce our emission of greenhouse gases.

Converting existing incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs continues.

We are promoting the use of conservation stickers for light switch plates encouraging lights to be turned off when appropriate. 200 CFL bulbs were purchased, wrapped and given to the congregation as holiday gifts during a December service.

**Fair Trade Coffees, Teas, Chocolate Sales** Ongoing sales of fairly traded, organic coffees, teas, and chocolate through Equal Exchange/UUSC Coffee Project. Proceeds benefit the Social Justice Fund (see separate report).

**Recycling** Batteries and printer cartridges are collected at church for safe disposal or recycling. The church has a long standing recycling program for paper, cardboard, plastic, glass and aluminum.

**Composting** Composting of coffee grounds and produce waste is made possible by the compost pail under the kitchen sink, the compost bin outside by the shed, and members who empty and rinse the pail.

**Energy audit** We solicited for bids, selected an auditor and had a professional energy audit done in April 2007. Since that time, we have been incorporating the energy saving suggestions provided. John Porterfield was paid half of the total expense, \$1950. The remainder was not paid because a final report was not received as stipulated. Initial findings included some major heat loss gaps in the outer structure, which will be filled with expandable foam by volunteers from the congregation.

**Adopt-A-Highway** Semi-annual litter pick ups along 1 1/2 miles of Highland Avenue occur through Kane County's program. The youth participate in the spring clean up, while the fall event is done by adults. Road signs at each end of the section of road identify UUCE as the organization responsible.

**Winter Farmers Markets** The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> winter farmers markets were held in December 2007 and March 2008.

**Green cleaning products** Research on "non-toxic" cleaning products for use at the church. Some of the products in question would be our hand soap, dish soap, window cleaner and general cleaners. We will continue doing research before making a final decision on Shaklee or any other new products. Green Seal identifies environmentally-friendly cleaning products.

**Opportunities for activism** Various action alerts were promoted regarding legislation involving energy and climate.

**Wind Energy Certificates** Annual purchase of Wind Energy Certificates (at \$2.50 per 100 kWh block) funded by special collection at 2007 Earth Day service.

**Carpooling**, especially of committee members attending meetings, and to the Haniflsøpicnic in June.

**Membership recruitment** Several potential committee members have been invited to attend meetings.

**MPG Contest** was developed and held over the summer of 2007, with results presented in the fall.

**A Bike To Church** was held on the day of our last regular church service in June.

ed to raise awareness of concerns related to bottled water, to  
as an alternative.  
ter farmers markets were held in December 2007 and March

2008.

**Budget request \$300.00.**

**UU Ministry for Earth** We renewed our annual Congregational Membership for \$100.00.

**Equal Exchange UUSC Coffee Project  
April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008**

The UUCE congregation continues to purchase organic, fair trade, shade-grown coffees, teas and chocolates through Equal Exchange and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee Coffee Project. The proceeds of the sales benefit the UUCE Social Justice Fund.

Ten product orders were placed during the year, totalling \$2302.70 paid to Equal Exchange. We are not charged sales tax due to our tax exemption. Shipping is free on orders of 4 or more cases, so the majority of orders have met that minimum. Sales totaled \$2655.94. The difference of \$353.24 was deposited in the Social Justice Fund.

Twelve types of coffees, 3 types of tea, hot cocoa, and several types of chocolate bars have been made available for purchase during the past year. The table below lists the products, quantities ordered, costs, and selling prices for the period from 4/1/07 through 3/31/08.

<b>Products Ordered</b>	<b># Cases</b>	<b>Cost/Case</b>	<b>#/Case</b>	<b>Cost/Pkg.</b>	<b>Selling Price</b>
<b><i>COFFEES</i></b>					
Organic French Roast Bean	7	\$31.50	6/case	\$5.25	\$7.00
Organic French Roast Drip	4	\$31.50	6/case	\$5.25	\$7.00
Organic Breakfast Blend Bean	3	\$31.50	6/case	\$5.25	\$7.00
Organic Breakfast Blend Drip	13	\$31.50	6/case	\$5.25	\$7.00
Organic Mind Body & Soul Bean	1	\$31.50	6/case	\$5.25	\$7.00
Organic Mind Body & Soul Drip	13	\$31.50	6/case	\$5.25	\$7.00
Organic Decaf Bean	1	\$37.50	6/case	\$6.25	\$8.00
Organic Decaf Drip	8	\$37.50	6/case	\$6.25	\$8.00
Organic Columbian Bean	3	\$31.50	6/case	\$5.25	\$7.00
Organic Colombian Drip	3	\$31.50	6/case	\$5.25	\$7.00
Organic Love Buzz Bean	1	\$31.50	6/case	\$5.25	\$7.00
Organic Love Buzz Drip	1	\$31.50	6/case	\$5.25	\$7.00
<b><i>TEAS</i></b>					
Organic Green Tea	9	\$15.00	6/case	\$2.50	\$3.00
Organic Earl Grey Tea	0	\$15.00	6/case	\$2.50	\$3.00
Organic English Breakfast Tea	3	\$15.00	6/case	\$2.50	\$3.00
<b><i>HOT COCOA</i></b>					
Organic Hot Cocoa	1	\$22.80	6/case	\$3.80	\$4.00
<b><i>CHOCOLATE BARS</i></b>					
Organic Mint Chocolate	2	\$27.00	12/case	\$2.25	\$2.25
Org Dark Chocolate w/cocoa nibs	1	\$27.00	12/case	\$2.25	\$2.25
Organic Milk Chocolate	1	\$27.00	12/case	\$2.25	\$2.25
Org. Dark Chocolate w/ Almond	1	\$27.00	12/case	\$2.25	\$2.25
Org. Very Dark Chocolate Bars	2	\$27.00	12/case	\$2.25	\$2.25
Org. Chocolate Espresso Bean	1	\$27.00	12/case	\$2.25	\$2.25

Submitted by Mary Alice Masonick

## 2008 Annual Report for: Women Cooking for Women (WCFW)

“Women Cooking For Women” hosted monthly potluck dinners to raise awareness and money for different causes and projects that support women.

A meeting was held in September to decide on the programs for the year. The number of participants ranged from 8 to 20, and we collected between \$80 and \$200 for the various causes. The dinners were open to all women, 13 years of age and older, and were held the first Friday of the following months:

October \* ó An open discussion about women’s health, relaxation, recreation, etc. was held.

Participants brought items for the food pantry.

November ó Third anniversary of WCFW. We revisited past stories and programs and donated money to the Village Bank.

January ó Kim Cecil was the speaker for our third “Night of Passion” (a woman may present and have funds donated for a topic she is passionate about). Money was raised for the Elgin Community Crisis Center.

February \* ó Frieda Anderson presented the history of the Quilt Group at UUCE and pictures of all the past quilts that have been made. Participants joined the quilt members and sewed, ironed and cut cloth for the next quilt to be raffled in December. Money collected will be added to this year’s quilt raffle donation to the Food Pantry.

March ó Gabrielle Lyons spoke about Project Exploration in Chicago. She focused on “Sisters for Science” which is an after school group for girls to learn about science while developing leadership skills. Money collected went to Project Exploration.

April \* ó Tabussum Haleem from the Organization of Islamic Speakers, Midwest, gave a presentation on “Women in Islam.”

May ó WCFW combined with the book group to read and discuss, Kabul Beauty School by, Deborah Rodriguez.

(\* best attended programs)

Submitted by,  
Laurie Kieseewetter