



The Unitarian Universalist Church in Eugene
A Welcoming Congregation

APRIL 2007

Volume 10, Issue 4

W_e,

The Unitarian

Universalist

Church in

Eugene,

are a

compassionate,

welcoming

community

that promotes

spiritual growth,

ethical living

and social

justice

in our church

and in the

world.

Mission Statement

Sunday Services 9 & 11 am

April 1

CELEBRATION SUNDAY

10:00—12:00 noon at Lane Community College

Worship Associates: Al Landy & Marilyn Junkins

The Sanctuary Choir; Music Director, Tom Sears

Pianist, Lynn Smith

April 8

EASTER: Parables

Rev. Margaret Keip

Worship Associate: d. maria

The Sanctuary Choir; Music Director, Tom Sears

Pianist, Lynn Smith

Margaret and special pulpit partners will share stories with you this morning that skip across centuries and spin deep truths about life and resurrection.

April 15

“SIZE”

New Member Recognition

Rev. Margaret Keip & Cecilia Kingman Miller, Interim Ministry Team

Worship Associates: Membership Committee

Musician, Dorothy Clark

Cecilia will celebrate the new members joining UUCE this spring. Margaret will speak about the meaning of “size” to us all, personally and communally, and offer a magnificent ethic for life.

April 22

Ministerial Candidate

Worship Associates: The Ministerial Search Committee

The Sanctuary Choir; Music Director, Tom Sears

Pianist, Lynn Smith

April 29

Ministerial Candidate

Worship Associates: The Ministerial Search Committee

The Chamber Singers; Music Director, Tom Sears

Pianist, Jean Weick

**The Unitarian Universalist
Church in Eugene**

477 East 40th Avenue Eugene, OR 97405

541-686-2775 www.uueneugene.org

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From Your Interim Ministry Team:

I have been thinking about resources lately, and capturing a big-picture view of **greenness**.

Consider this newsletter in your hands. It contains a multitude of resources in microcosm. Perhaps you submitted an item or article. Recall all it entailed for you to write it, and then wrap in all that led to creating what it is that you wrote about. Departing your fingers it appeared next on the computer screen on Kim's church office desk, where she choreographed its dance with many others onto these pages, adding in an electronic flight to Susan Verner for editing. Then it heads in final form to the workhorse of a copier in the church's own little printshop, where a combined total of 5500 pages may take up to five hours to run. Then it's more time to collate, fold, label, and sort for mailing before hauling them off to the post office. Now here it is before your eyes, containing a month's worth of opportunities to fill your days with rich endeavors.

All are resources — the time people devote to creating good things and then producing and reproducing them, the paper, the ink, the energy costs, the equipment and its care, the skills applied and the attention given. Some resources we use and deplete; many resources are renewable, though nearly all have limits in the present moment. So, too, is this true of your own attention, time, energy, compassion, and good will.

Happily, joining together, folks can help each other, spell each other, refresh and renew. Share space when there's not enough, or take turns using it. We can team up together and create more—Go team! And we employ talented people to serve all we do.

Know, however, that right now your staff are limited and overstretched. Candee Cole, directing religious education, and Tom Sears, directing music, have each grown their programs well beyond the time they are hired for and simply must cut back to equitable workloads—or add staff for Candee and hours for Tom. Kim Harris, in our office, will need more support, too, for all she oversees and does.

It's all green. "We are meant to be green," enthused 12th century mystic, Hildegard of Bingen. And yet "it isn't easy being green," as Kermit the Frog sang to the little kid in each of us. So let us care for each other kindly as we answer that verdant call.

UUCE Calendar, continued

Sunday 4/22 <i>Candidating week</i>	9 & 11 am 12 pm	Sunday Services-Candidate RE/Minister Events	Sanctuary Church
Monday 4/23	4 pm 7 pm 7 pm 7:15 pm	All-Church Reception Chalice Choir Young Adults Fourth Monday Book group	Sanctuary Sanctuary Room 6 Cascade Manor
Tuesday 4/24	12 & 7 pm 6 pm	MSC (Ministerial Search Comm) Membership Committee	Church Social Hall
Wednesday 4/25	5:15 & 7 pm 6 pm 7 pm	Choir practice (Chamber & Sanctuary) SGM Steering (Strategic Planning Comm) SPC (Strategic Planning Committee)	Sanctuary Room 5 Breezeway room
Thursday 4/26	10:30 am 12 pm 2 pm 2 pm 6 pm	Newsletter mailing MSC (Ministerial Search Comm) Fourth Thursday Book Group Thundereggs OWL (Our Whole Lives)	Social Hall Church Betts Silver's home Tsunami Books26th & Willamette Room 5
Friday 4/27	12 pm 12 pm 12 & 7 pm 6 pm	MSC (Ministerial Search Comm) Women's Alliance Potluck MSC (Ministerial Search Comm) All-Church Potluck	Church Social Hall Church Sanctuary-Social Hall
Saturday 4/28	All day 4 pm	MSC (Ministerial Search Comm) All-Church Tea	Church Sanctuary
Sunday 4/29	9 & 11 am 1 pm	Sunday Services-Candidate Congregational meeting	Sanctuary Sanctuary
Monday 4/30	5:40 pm 7 pm 7 pm	Music Committee Chalice Choir Young Adults	Social Hall Sanctuary Room 6

Deadline for next newsletter: Friday, April 20 at 11 am Send newsletter submissions to: office@uueugene.org

The Unitarian Universalist Church

477 East 40th Avenue, Eugene, OR 97405

(541) 686-2775 www.uueugene.org

Send pledges and contribution checks to:

477 E. 40th, Eugene, OR 97405



Interim Ministry Team:	Rev. Margaret Keip & Cecilia Kingman Miller
RE Director:	Candee Cole
Music Director:	Tom Sears
Pianist & Kids Choir:	Lynn Smith
Board President:	Olga Turner
Newsletter Editor:	Susan Verner
Administrator:	Kim Harris
Office/DRE Assistant:	Sherry Cox
Sunday Morning Childcare:	Christine Rice & Jasmine Greene
Custodian:	Matt Kosanke

UUCE Calendar—April 2007

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sunday 4/1 <i>Palm Sunday</i>	10 am 7 pm	Celebration Sunday (No RE) CUUPS (Covenant of the UU Pagans) Full Moon	Lane Community College Sanctuary
Monday 4/2	7 pm	Young Adults	Room 6
Tuesday 4/3	5:30 pm 6:30 pm	Facilities Council RE Committee	Social Hall Breezeway room
Wednesday 4/4	5:15 & 7 pm 7 pm	Choir practice (Chamber & Sanctuary) Open Men's Group	Sanctuary Room 6
Thursday 4/5	2 pm 6 pm 7 pm 7 pm	Thundereggs OWL (Our Whole Lives) Executive Committee NVC (Nonviolent Communication)-closed	Tsunami Books26th & Willamette Room 5 Social Hall Room 2
Friday 4/6	6 pm	Interweave Potluck & Movie Night	Sanctuary-Social Hall
Sunday 4/8 <i>Easter</i>	9 & 11 am	Sunday Services	Sanctuary
Monday 4/9	7 pm 7 pm 7 pm	Chalice Choir Green Sanctuary Young Adults	Sanctuary Room 5 Room 6
Tuesday 4/10	10 am 6 pm	Archive Committee Membership Committee	Social Hall Social Hall
Wednesday 4/11	5:15 & 7 pm 7 pm	Choir practice (Chamber & Sanctuary) SPC (Strategic Planning Committee)	Sanctuary Breezeway room
Thursday 4/12	2 pm 6 pm 7 pm	Thundereggs OWL (Our Whole Lives) Board Meeting	Tsunami Books26th & Willamette Room 5 Social Hall
Friday 4/13	6:30 pm	Food for Lane County	Lane County Warehouse 770 Bailey Hill
Saturday 4/14	10:30 am	RE Volunteer meeting	Sanctuary-Social Hall
Sunday 4/15	9 & 11 am 9 & 11 am 12:30 pm 12:30 pm 12:30 pm 12:30 pm	Sunday Services-New Member Welcome Fair Trade Coffee Store Open Chalice Lighters Party (4th & 5th grade) Interweave Planning meeting Poetry Reading SPC (Strategic Planning Committee)	Sanctuary Social Hall David Atkin & Lori Maddox's home Breezeway room Library-Gallery Social Hall
Monday 4/16	7 pm 7 pm	Chalice Choir Young Adults	Sanctuary Room 6
Wednesday 4/18	5:15 & 7 pm 7 pm	Choir practice (Chamber & Sanctuary) Open Men's Group	Sanctuary Room 6
Thursday 4/19	2 pm 6 pm 7 pm	Thundereggs OWL (Our Whole Lives) NVC (Nonviolent Communication)-closed	Tsunami Books26th & Willamette Room 5 Gallery
Friday 4/20	11 am 7:30 pm	Newsletter submission deadline UUCE Singletarians	office@uueugene.org Social Hall
Saturday 4/21	9:30 am	Coordinating Council	Sanctuary

Rev. Margaret Keip & Cecilia Kingman Miller

I love these days when spring begins. No, it's not the appearance of tulips and dogwood, nor the sweet scent of daphne that buoys my spirits. As a baseball fan, it's Opening Day that heralds hopefulness. Baseball is about hope, springing eternal, rising in us with the return of warmth and light. It's about possibility-every team starts fresh, and any team might make it. It's also about resurrection-the team that lost last year might take the Series this year.

Maybe I'm just a sap, but I love the dream that is embodied at the beginning of the season. I love to see the rookies and the old hands come together to chase possibility.

Possibility awaits you now too, a dream unfolding as you move into the future. The hard work that you have done this year to prepare for a change in ministry, the blossoming plans to meet your space needs, the growing generosity among you-all these point to a vibrant and vital future.

As you move into the next stage of your life together, like any athlete, you must concentrate on the most important things and not be distracted. In church life these are our mission (our purpose) and our covenant (how we treat one another), the twin aims of religious communities. They are both "the ties that bind" and the guiding principles of our being together. Keep your eye on that ball, friends, for mission and covenant will carry you through to your dreams.

One of my favorite baseball poems (yes, there is such a thing, and not all of it sappy or strange) refers to the moment when a pitch comes and the batter must focus on the ball and swing, a millisecond after the ball leaves the pitcher's hand. The bat arcs through the air, the batter knowing only a given moment. So, too, this moment of stepping forward in church life. We can never know all there is to know. We can never foresee all the changes and challenges ahead-nor all the joys that await. But you can lead off with hope, with courage, with a firm and steady swing, knowing that you are ready for whatever comes this season-and all the seasons yet to come.

Happy Spring!

Cecilia

UUCE Announcements

Update On Our Search For A New Minister Candidating Week Will Be April 22nd -- 29th



By now we hope you've marked your calendars and are prepared to host our candidate to be our next settled minister! This will be an exciting week and will give all a chance to get to know the candidate. Keep in mind, this is the person we expect to set the tone of UUCE over the next few years as we grow and face other challenges. During this week, the candidate will be in the pulpit for two consecutive Sundays, April 22nd and 29th. The candidate will also spend the week getting to know us, meeting with the Board, with various committees, and with staff. There will be an all-church reception, an all-church potluck, and an all-church tea. Most of the candidate's meetings with committees will be open to everyone. Please try to attend at least one.

If all goes well, by the end of March or early April, the candidate will be selected and will have agreed to be called. We will announce this to the congregation just as soon as we can. Then we'll coordinate the candidate's wishes with our preliminary plans. The schedule will then be posted on our website and on uu-news, as well as on a bulletin board in the church. The Ministerial Search Committee will be calling on other committees, groups, and church members to help organize and run many of these events.

On Sunday afternoon, April 29th, members of UUCE will vote on the candidate at an important congregational meeting. Be sure to attend! A double-quorum of 40% of our membership, or about 150 members, must be present for a valid vote to call a settled minister.

For more info on the search process, talk to any one of us or visit our website <http://www.uueugene.org/Search.html> or earlier issues of the newsletter (January, page 8; February, page 5; March, page 3).

Your Ministerial Search Committee:

George Carroll
Julia Clark
Karen Gaffney
Gil Osgood
Suzanne Reynolds,
Bonnie Romane
Ken Ross

Thank you Newsletter Helpers: Darelle Baker, Phyllis Peara, J.K. Rowling, Bob Taylor, Sylvia Taylor, Chuck Adams, Joyce Salisbury, Barbara Greenley. Thank you Darelle for delivering the newsletters to the post office!

UU Connections Afar

Still Time to Book wUUrldis WhaleCoast Alaska Tour

Five Alaskan UU fellowships invite you to eco-cultural programs in "The Great Land" in June right after the Portland UUA General Assembly and in July, 2007. UUCE just got the brochure and they've just updated their website. The leaders are the Rev. Dick and Mary Weston-Jones; they've announced that because of the delay in alerting UU congregations and since this is the last year of this established program, the reservation deadline for reservations is now March 31st. Innovative eco-cultural programs include home stays and parties with UUs in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Seward, Juneau and Sitka, and travel throughout Alaska to see wildlife, the magnificent country, and to meet Alaska Native groups. Want more info or a brochure? Call toll-free 1-888, 998-8753, go to www.wuurld.org, or e-mail alaska@wuurld.org.

California Dreamin' Wine Country Excursions Offered by U U Fellowship of North Bay

—The UU's of Napa, California are proud to offer our third season of Wine Country Excursions, a delightful way to enjoy two of America's most scenic valleys, Napa and Sonoma. Tours are small and customized to focus on guest's interests, e.g. wine education and tasting, art, history of the region, gourmet dining, or exploring the natural beauty of the hills and valleys. Visits include a private room with bath and breakfast in the homes of our members. There's much to see and do!

In 2007 we offer excursions from mid-May through mid-October. Plan for two days of touring and a two or three night stay with all local transportation provided. Home hospitality without tours is also available. Our fees are below market for similar services; all proceeds are donated to our small fellowship. We have limited openings, so contact us now for details. Iris Barrie, (707) 265-6926 or barrie001@comcast.net.

Fun In The Sun! Eliot Institute, the Northwest's much loved UU summer camp, has sessions in June, July and August. The July session, at Sebeck on the Hood Canal, is full for this year, but space is available for the late June session, on Lake Okanagan in B.C. and for August at Sebeck. Come and enjoy! For more info, call 206-374-2497 or visit EliotInstitute.org

Our Church Family

UUs Play Nicely Together—On March 10th performers of all talents and ages gathered at our All Congregation Talent Show (A.C.T.S.) to share their passion among friends. Musicians, poets, magicians and storytellers played, sang, recited and tricked their way into our collective heart. It was truly an evening of family fun, and performers were rewarded with a warm and well-deserved applause from an appreciative audience. Many of us agreed that the card tables, intended to create an informal, cabaret-like-atmosphere, made the room too crowded. As this event has become increasingly popular, next year we will be challenged to accommodate everyone comfortably without turning the evening into a concert venue. Thank you to emcee Dianne Watson for her sweetness and witty repartee between acts. Thank you, also, to the Music Committee, chaired by Pat Hendricks, who sponsored A.C.T.S., and to Connie Newman's Shared Ministry Group for help with cleanup and food preparation. Bravo All!

UUCE Connections

EMAIL CONNECTIONS

For the selection of local UUCE email lists available, visit <http://lists.uueugene.org/mailman/listinfo/> and consider the "from the heart" topics on UUCE-Share or the political discussions (and bad jokes) on UUCE-Chat. Click on the list title for the subscription page for that listserv, or ask for help at webmaster@uueugene.org UUCE WEBSITE INDEX

Appreciations

Thanks To Our Generous Auction Donors

We had many vendors in our community who gave gift certificates, gift baskets, tickets, and much more. We hope you will thank them, maybe even send them a note of thanks if you bought their item. They are dunned by everyone, so when they give to UUCE, it is important to let them know they're appreciated. Don't forget they helped us raise money, about \$10,600. They are the Midtown Market, Eugene Symphony, and the Eugene Concert, Chorale, Jiffy Market, U of O Dance Dept., U of O Music Dept., Newman's Fish Market, Trader Joe's, LCC Dance & Theatre Dept., Schnitzer Art Museum, U of O Museum of Natural History, Pioneer Museum. Eugene Emeralds Baseball, Papa's Pizza (Barger), Hollywood Video (Barger at Beltline), Mucho Gusto (Valley River), Marie Calendar's, See's Candy, Lane Forest Products, Shelton McMurphy House. --Judie Hansen and Sue Craig



Don't Miss Crucial Congregational Meetings

On April 29th, following the second service and "candidating week," the congregation will vote to accept or reject the candidate proposed by the Ministerial Search Committee for our next settled minister. That decision requires a quorum of 40 % of the church membership, or 144 voting members.

Following that, on May 20th, you'll be asked to make two other important decisions that will affect the future of the church.

First, the Strategic Planning Committee will present the following resolution for approval: The Congregation of UUCE resolves to vigorously pursue finding and obtaining a new location for our physical church in accord with our UU principles.

Second, the Nominating Committee will present the following slate for two-year terms on the Board of Trustees:

Vice President: Sarah Hendrickson

Secretary: Suzanne Whaley

Members at large: Amber Alexander, David Atkin, Holly Garrow, and Eliot McIntire (finishing the term of Pat Christgau, who has resigned)

You must be present to vote. Plan to stay the critical hour it may take.

Board Of Trustees Endorses The Strategic Planning Committee's Recommendation

At the March Board meeting, The Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) presented a report on their work, their findings, and their recommendation to the UUCE congregation. The SPC reported that its members voted unanimously to recommend that the church acquire another location better suited to our growing congregation. After questions and discussion, the Board of Trustees expressed its sincere appreciation for all of the hard work of the SPC and voted unanimously to support the SPC's recommendation to the congregation.

Our April adventure with 'Joys and Sorrows' begins on Easter Sunday

We'll bring the candle tree back into sanctuary circle, to light 'Candles of Community' for joys and sorrows you provide to us no later than Saturday noon of a given week, via a message to the ministers voice-mail at (541) 743-0640. Please be sure to leave your name and phone number, so we may reach you if we need to clarify or confirm. This venture will continue each Sunday through April 28th.



New Member Sunday Is April 15th

For those of you interested in becoming voting members of UUCE, please allow us to introduce you at church on April 15th during both services. If you're interested, sign up soon at the greeter's table in the church lobby or in the Social Hall.

Dedication Ceremony For Little Ones

We will celebrate and welcome infants and young children into our church family as part of the Sunday services on Mothers Day, May 13th, but only if there are families of little ones desiring this special ceremony. Please e-mail Rev. Margaret (revmargaret@msn.com) or Candee Cole (uucedre@excite.com) or speak with either one of us before May 3rd

Music in April

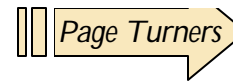
April 1– Sanctuary Choir and Chamber Singers, *Make Our Garden Grown*
from *Candide* plus 2 favorites from a bygone era

April 8– Sanctuary Choir, *Your Voices Tune* – Handel
Ave Maria – Fran Biebl's beautiful motet for double-choir

April 15–Doroty Clark, pianist

April 22–Sanctuary Choir, *Riversong, A Celtic Celebration* - with our own Irish band
Kyrie – a contemporary setting of this classic text by Rene Clausen

April 29–Chamber Singers, *Walk softly* – an early Shaker anthem
Ubi Caritas – “where there is charity, love is there”



The Fourth Monday Book Group will meet on April 23rd at 7:15 p.m. at Cascade Manor. The book is *Providence of a Sparrow: Lessons from a Life Gone to the Birds* by Chris Chester. Questions? Call Mavis Thomas at 434-4123.

The Fourth Thursday book group will meet on April 26th at 2:00 p.m. at the home of Betts Silver. We will discuss *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* by Lisa See. Questions? Dorothy at 345-9114 or penmit@juno.com.

A Brief History of UUCE, continued

This is the third and concluding column on a brief history of our church.

Rev. Nelson led the church actively through all the civil rights protests, including the Selma march with Martin Luther King Jr., when the church sponsored his trip. He wrote books, pamphlets, organized the town clergy for social justice, and led the fight to get rid of a large cross erected on top of Skinner Butte.

Our next minister was also an activist and well known in UUA circles, Rev. Bob Swain. He was also interested in Eastern Philosophy and was with us until 1970. After Swain left however, we had another who wanted to give orders rather than share with us. He left. This led to another round of bad feelings and an interim minister, Eileen Karpeles, who helped us heal. A new minister, Sally Bryan, came in after that. Much of the church furnishings as you see it today dates from that time. Yes, the blue carpet, lectern, and pottery chalice between the doors are that old. She also began the Welcoming Congregation program. Another small controversy arose toward the end of her ministry however, and it took us two interim ministers, Pingeles and Hansen, before we were ready for another settled minister. The church was virtually reorganized during that time (constitution, bylaws, stewardship, music, etc.) and as a result began to grow again.

This time, we hit on the right combination with Carolyn Colbert coming to us for eight years. She instituted new leadership, many programs such as small ministry groups, adult RE, and worship associates, and gave us faith in ourselves. The church under her grew to 350 members and is the second largest in the Northwest. When Carolyn left, we gave her the title of Minister Emeritus, only the second time such a title was bestowed by your church in almost a century.

We will soon know who our candidate is for settled minister. That person will help us change from a small pastoral church to a program church.

Food for Lane County Needs UU'all! Friday, April 13th at 6:30 p.m.

770 Bailey Hill Road

Hunger is scary—you can help end it. Just wear a hat or ponytail, bring a jacket, and wear close-toed shoes. And YOUTH, ages 14 and up, we would love to have your energy and enthusiasm. Volunteers are needed every weekday evening, so you don't have to wait for the official UFO night. Questions? Diane Wooldridge at 342-8071 or woolietoys@msn.com



Help Us Celebrate National Poetry Month, Sunday, April 14th at 12:30 p.m.

The UUCE poetry groups have chosen April to celebrate their five-year anniversary. Come join us for a poetry reading on Sunday, April 14th at 12:30 p.m. in the library/gallery, off the Sanctuary. Bring a poem(s) to read, and a brown-bag lunch, if you like, or just come to listen. Questions? Cindy Pitcairn at 344-5379 or lucindap@comcast.net.

Colliding Rivers / Waterfall Hike, Saturday, April 14th at 8:00 a.m.

Note--Two of the sites are wheelchair accessible

This is a 4.2 mile, moderate hike. Colliding Rivers is the confluence of Little River and the North Umpqua on the west end of Glide on Hwy 38. It is a unique place on the globe where the swift, deep waters of the North Umpqua River funnel into a water chute and meet the rapids of Little River head-on. We will view the river, then head east for a series of waterfall hikes. Bring a sack lunch, water, rain gear, and sturdy footwear. We will need carpool drivers. Please—no dogs! We will leave from the church parking lot. The hike is limited to 12 participants, ages 18 and up. Sign up with Diane Wooldridge at 342-8071 or woolietoys@msn.com

Men's Group Potluck, Sunday, April 15th at 6:00 p.m. in the Social Hall

All men are welcome to bring your favorite dish to share and join in our conversation. Questions? Contact Jack Stevens 689-1620, jkstevens1@juno.com

All-Church Potluck on April 27th

6:00 p.m. Note the date change to the fourth Friday of the month, in order to coordinate with Candidating Week. All members and friends of UUCE are welcome to meet and talk with the candidate. In support of our Green Sanctuary effort, please bring your own service and a dish to share. Volunteers to help set up and clean up are appreciated. Questions? Call Phyllis/Ed Peara, 684-8285.



Be A UUCE Delegate To UUA General Assembly

This year we have a wonderful opportunity to attend the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly in our Portland, June 20th – 24th. Come be a part of what's happening that's important for our faith and our world. Since GA is so close to us this year, we hope to have a good representation from our congregation. There is extensive information about GA, how to register, and housing at the GA website: <http://www.uua.org/ga/prog.html>. Or you can check it out by going to our church website and clicking on the link to GA. <http://www.uua.org/ga/>

The UUCE Board of Trustees is looking for seven responsible voting members of our congregation to represent us as delegates. The job of a delegate is to attend meetings, examine issues before the convention and to vote on those issues. You might ask why you should get involved.

"Why bother? Because you can, because if you are reading this, you are among the fortunate of the earth who can read and see and do something about what you read and see. You're reading this most likely as a Unitarian Universalist, so at some point in your life you've signed on to a faith of high expectations, a faith that is tough to practice because it takes so much practice. So here you are, about to participate as a congregational delegate in an assembly of congregations that hold some amazing power to make a positive difference in our congregational communities and even our global community. We do this in worshipful community, questioning community, celebrating community, and caring community that bears social witness and practices social conscience."

The board has asked Sally DeCou to collect information about those interested in filling this important role. If you are interested, please send her answers to these questions by email at sdecou@comcast.net

How long have you been a voting member of this congregation?

How are you currently involved in the church?

Why do you think you would be a good delegate?

If you just want to attend GA and would like to connect with others from UUCE attending, let Sally know that as well. We will be putting together a temporary list serve so those who want to connect about rides or housing will have an easy way to contact each other.

Church Care Committee Is Reincarnated

It must be Spring! Here at UUCE we are reviving our important Care Committee. Many thanks to those who have gone before, especially to our many members and friends who simply care for those in our congregation, yet will never be on the Committee. Please continue this wonderful spirit. It is what makes us such a vibrant and caring congregation. At present we are setting up Neighbor Groups. So far we have about 43 people who have agreed to be the contact person.

Here is how it will work: You have been, or will be contacted by phone. This call will be to see how things are going with you, and to inform you that you can choose to be part of a neighborhood of UU's. Obviously, the folks in your neighborhood tend to be close to where you live. In some parts of Eugene, this is easy, in some parts more difficult, and for those who live near Monroe, Marcola, Salem and Creswell....well, often you are it! After that, you may decide to get together as a group for a potluck, a small service project, an outing in the park--whatever. It'll be up to you, not your contact person, to make your group whatever you want it to be. If you'd like to be a leader of one such group, or if you have any input, please see any of us. Many thanks to Betty Boyce, Jean Coberly, Audrey Maslin, and Erik Fisher for all their past help with this committee.

Sue Craig, Chair, Norma Landy, Jean Coberly, Bob Coleman, Martha Osgood, Eve McConnaughey, and Laura Stevenson



Estate of Mind

After filing your taxes, this may be a good time to do a little estate planning. Consider one of the simplest and most rewarding gifts that you can make to Unitarian Universalism: a bequest in your will or other estate plans to our church. Stewardship in our congregation means that in addition to yearly pledges, members should consider supporting UUCE by leaving a gift to the Endowment Fund. It can be as simple as matching your usual pledge. Most of us want to provide generously for the organizations we cherish. Any size bequest in your estate plan can ensure this congregation will remain vital for generations to come. If you have already included this congregation in your estate, please let us know. We would be honored to acknowledge you as a member of the Legacy Society.

--UUCE Planned Giving Committee

Safety Alert From Our Facilities Council

We've had a couple of car break-ins in our parking lot and along the curb in front of the church. Do not leave items out in clear view in your car and make certain your doors and trunk are locked. With spring here, we will have church windows inside and out professionally cleaned. In addition, UUCE will extend impaired mobility parking. The building is apparently shifting; we're taking a look at this and will arrange for an engineering report. Soon we will hear from RE about their required playground upgrades.

UUCE EVENTS

Come Swing with Soweto Gospel Choir

On Tuesday, April 3rd there will be a wonderful choir from Africa in town to share their unique and grand music. Do join us, as we receive this gift from such dear people, the Soweto Gospel choir. The concert will be at the Hult Center at 7:30 p.m. To buy a ticket for \$21.50, please call Phyllis Kesner at 684-4495. The quantity is limited. Come join a great group of music lovers for this uplifting performance!

First Friday Movie Night and Potluck on April 6th

The Times of Harvey Milk (1983)

This documentary portrait of San Francisco's first openly gay politician, city supervisor Harvey Milk, might not have been made but for the tragic circumstances of his death. Milk was murdered on Nov. 27, 1978 when Dan White, a former city supervisor desperate to regain his post, entered City Hall and gunned down both Milk and San Francisco's mayor, George Moscone. The film describes Milk's accomplishments and his exceptional popularity. Winner of an Academy award for Best Documentary Feature, this film was released while White was serving his sentence. Paroled in 1984, White committed suicide the next year. Narrated by Harvey Fierstein.

Hike Spencer Butte on Easter, Sunday, April 8th at 12:15 p.m.

This is a two-mile, moderate hike. We will head up the steep western side of the butte for views of the coast range, ending in a rock scramble at the peak. Meet outside church by the bench. We will need carpool drivers. Bring a sack lunch, water, sturdy footwear, and a raincoat. Hike is limited to 12 participants. Please—no dogs! Sign up with Diane Wooldridge at 342-8071 or woolietoys@msn.com.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – MAY 20 – A VOTE FOR OUR FUTURE

On May 20 after the second service, our congregation will vote on the following resolution.
A simple majority vote (over 50% of at least a quorum) is needed to pass the resolution.

THE RESOLUTION:

“The Congregation of UUCE resolves to vigorously pursue finding and obtaining a new location for our physical church in accord with our principles.”

Why the Strategic Planning Committee endorses a “YES” vote on the resolution:

Your Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) recommended this resolution to the Board of Trustees, who placed it on the agenda for the May 20 Congregational Meeting.

The SPC believes our church will be best served by finding a new location. We have outgrown our present building and site. Our current church building has housed our congregation for over 45 years. We want our new building and site to serve the congregation for at least the next 50 years. We believe it is part of our charge to pass along the church – which is so much more than its building – in better shape than we found it, to people we do not know and people not yet born.

This beautiful building is in many ways near the end of its useful life. To stay even the same size, we would have to undertake many major renovations and remodeling, or raze it and build new. We need to have the space we need for worship, children and adult RE, gatherings, meetings, and offices, as well as the necessities: adequate kitchen, bathrooms, library, and storage. For the number of people we are now and even more for the people we will be, we require a much larger building. If we doubled or tripled our facility size by renovating on site, we would have a totally different building, barely recognizable to those of us who love it now.

The best way to preserve our beloved building will be to pass it on to another congregation or group of the right size to use it and who will rehabilitate and cherish it.

If we built a new building on this site, we would max out the site. We would destroy the present building and change this natural environment that we cherish in order to turn it into space we can use, and we would have no space left to grow. To invest all the money, time and effort in

a new building that cannot accommodate more new UUs is not prudent stewardship. It fails to match our values of aesthetic setting, environmental sustainability, and being a welcoming congregation.

We believe we can find a new site – land or an existing building – that will meet our needs and match our values. We will be able to use “green” building criteria in site selection and construction or remodeling. We will be able to create a uniquely beautiful building of an appropriate size to welcome all who want to join our denomination. The design can be flexible enough to meet our needs – imagined and unimagined.

As an example, meeting rooms, classrooms, and social hall could be designed adjacent to one another, allowing for flexible combinations into infrequently needed large areas. A larger space will allow our congregation to host events important to the larger community. A more central location will reduce our environmental footprint and make us more accessible to communities we want to involve in our activities. Not least, given the total costs and inconveniences of occupying a building during construction, we can continue to use our existing building while constructing or remodeling a new church facility on a different site.

What a “YES” vote means:

In essence, a “YES” vote is a mandate to look for a property other than the one we now occupy that will meet our current and future needs.

By passing this resolution, we commit ourselves as a church to a serious, vigorous search for the best new location we can find. We want a location in accord with our values, which include that it be centrally located and accessible to public transportation, bicycles, and pedestrians. We want it to be beautiful and

environmentally sensitive. We expect to build or remodel with “green” principles in the forefront, including but not limited to energy efficiency and use of environmentally and socially benign materials. We expect to look at lifespan costs and efficiencies. Many of us will be actively engaged in the search for the best location, whether that is bare land, a portion of a larger development (which could offer benefits such as shared parking), or an existing structure that can be renovated.

When the best new location we can find is identified, we will have another congregational meeting and vote whether to purchase a specific site. A property purchase decision will take a super-majority vote of the congregation. We hope that a purchase decision could take place next year. The present vote, on May 20, 2007, is a vote to proceed in that direction, and takes only a simple majority.

SPC Recommendation:

The members of the Strategic Planning Committee, some of whom have been working regularly and intensely on this issue for over three years, unanimously support this resolution.

Strategic Planning Committee Members:

Linda Anson, Larry Cummings, Betty Hosokawa, Elliot McIntire, Gretchen Miller, Diane Wooldridge, Bonnie Phipps (*ex officio*)

Just a few FAQ's:

Not everyone has been able to attend all of the past cottage meetings SPC has held in the past two years to inform the congregation. Much of that information can be found in our five reports to the congregation, which are available both in the pamphlet rack and on line at

www.uueugene.org/SPC.html

We have included a few key “Frequently Asked Questions” below:

Why can't we build a parking garage or underground parking facility? Cost and aesthetics. The cost for structured parking is \$70 per square foot. Surface parking is \$8 per square foot. Underground parking would require venting and an elevator. Construction would destroy the surface vegetation. Parking garages tend not to be particularly attractive and would impact the neighbor's view. All significant alterations to the existing site would require approval from the neighborhood.

How many parking spaces do we really need? Actual counts during this church year have shown we have a full lot (58 vehicles), plus another 100 cars parked off street for our second services. As we continue to grow the need will increase. The architect's schematic design was based on city code requirements, which requires 120 spaces for a sanctuary seating 350. This is clearly inadequate even now. With future growth the parking crunch would become much worse. As attendance rises to 350 at the largest service, we will require at least 210 parking spaces if we make no changes to our transportation practices and continue to have two services. If we reduced vehicle usage to 2/3 of present levels – if an additional 1/3 of attendees arrived without their own car – we would need 140 spaces. One thing we know for certain is that easily available parking has a direct impact on church growth – it is another way we make visitors feel welcome.

Why can't we park at Safeway? The building owner is amenable to a short term agreement, but is not interested in writing the long term lease we would need.

Would we lose all of the trees if we stayed at our current site? Most of the natural area would be covered by the new building and parking, leaving very few trees.

Why not split into 2 churches? The number one priority expressed by the congregation in the Dream Catcher meetings is staying together as one community. In addition, successful splits in this district have all involved large “mother” churches whose current membership (after splitting) numbers at least twice our current membership. We currently have 361 members. That means we would have to have over 1200 members right now. A church smaller than about 300 will have difficulty supporting a professional staff, and will offer fewer programs. In the Dream Catcher meetings, the congregation told us we want more programs and that we value a professional staff. Also, the “sending congregation” must commit to sending many of the hardest working, most organized and dedicated people to start the new church, helping it find a location and build or renovate, and get started. The sending church must financially support the receiving church for a number of years.