

## UUC VOICE

April 2nd, 2010

A Publication of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Woodstock

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### PRELUDE

We are approaching the three month mark of our time together as congregation and interim minister. With some experience with one another, I think it is time once again to emphasize the purpose of an interim ministry. I recently received a one-page paper entitled *So What Is Interim Ministry All About, Anyway?* Rev. Barbara Child of the UU Interim Ministry Guild and Rev. John Weston, UUA Transitions Director, prepared this brief introduction. I want to offer some of their observations.

*In the time between called ministers, the congregation has the rare opportunity to take advantage of a breathing space- to take stock of who you are now, how your programs are faring, what worthy challenges you face, and how you are getting on together as a community. It is a time to do whatever needs doing to get ready to welcome a new called minister with enthusiasm for the possibilities of new paths, new ways, new ideas.*

This week the Transition Team and I met Monday evening to discuss and to develop a plan to promote the goals of this interim ministry. You will be hearing about this plan in detail after it has been presented to the Church Council.

For now, I want to note that the Transition Team's and my specific program plans are in the service of the five broad goals of interim ministry spelled out by Barbara Child and John Weston. These are:

*to hold up a mirror so you can see some things you have had no particular reason to notice for a while;*

*to help you come to terms with your history, celebrating glories, grieving losses, letting go;*

*to work with your lay leaders and staff to unstuck stuck places and get the kinks and tangles out- in other words, to give the operating system a tune-up;*

*to enable you to experience a different model of ministry and worship so you can see that more than one style can be effective in meeting your needs and enriching your spiritual or religious life; and*

*to give you a chance to try out some new ways and greet your future in the spirit of adventure.*

I'm sure everyone has already noticed changes in many of the familiar ways of the UU congregation of Woodstock. You can expect more. Almost none of these are unplanned. Be assured it is just fine to discuss with me and the Transition Team your perspectives and responses. We welcome opportunities for dialogue.

James A. Hobart

### PLEDGE PACKETS

The pledge packets that you have received from Don Metivier needed to be in on April 1s, If you have not sent it in, please do so as soon as possible. You can drop it off in the church office on Sunday or you can mail it to the church. If you did not receive your pledge packet, please contact Don or the church office.

## PLEDGE DRIVE

As of last Tuesday, March 30th, 42 pledges have been received, totaling \$86,032. Below are the amounts of each pledge received:

\$15,600 - 10,000 - 6,500 - 6,000 - 5,000 - 4,000 - 3,840 - 3,120 - 2,500 - 2,400 - 2,100  
\$2,080 - 2,000 - 1,916 - 1,600 - 1,500 - 1,320 - 1,300 - 1,300 - 1,200 - 1,200 - 1,200  
\$1,000 - 1,000 - 900 - 810 - 800 - 780 - 720 - 644 - 630 - 624  
\$624 - 525 - 495 - 464 - 420 - 240 - 200 - 120 - 80 - 80

The above represents about 30% of the pledge packets which were distributed to pledge units (individuals, couples or families) and they are from working, retired and student members and friends. The average pledge is \$2,115.05; the mean is \$1,200. Additionally, 21 individuals have indicated that they would like to contribute another \$80 each to help pay Fair Share (national/regional UUA per member assessment) costs.

We sincerely thank those of you who have returned your pledges for your generosity and urge those who have not pledged to do so by this Sunday, April 4.

### **The Tree of Life Pledge Drive 2010**

#### ***My rest of the story***

By Janet Freund, Council Member, Chair, RE Volunteer

I came to this church in search of “organized” religion for my daughters. Like many of you I was raised Catholic, but over time realized I did not fit in. I was/am a person of great faith, and thought religion was something I would never find.

In April of 2008, after getting Julie settled in Spirit Play, I joined the adult service. As I sat in this beautiful, historic building with the sun streaming through the stained glass windows, I literally felt that every single word of Dan’s sermon was either spoken directly to me or about me. I was amazed by how good I felt, and while at church, none the less. When I picked up Julie from Spirit Play she said, “I love it here. Can we come back next week?” “Absolutely,” I replied. I officially joined the church two months later.

I know the goodness our church provides to the community. I see the goodness our church provides to our children. And, I feel the goodness our church provides to me.

Despite having no work, I have increased my pledge for the coming year by 20%. Please give generously so the good work of our church can continue.

“And the tree was happy.” Shel Silverstein, [The Giving Tree](#)

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

April 4th – Easter Sunday – “To Walk in Newness of Life”

Rev. James A. Hobart will be preaching. Tom Steffens and the Adult Choir will perform. There will be NO church school, but nursery care will be available.

April 11th – Earth Day Service

The Green Sanctuary will conduct the service on this day. Church School will resume and nursery care will be available.

April 18th – “Where Do We Go from Here?”

Rev. James A. Hobart will speak. The Woodstock Congregation and I have spent three months together getting

acquainted during this interim ministry. What comes next?

## QUAFF AND KARAOKE

Join us on Sunday, April 11th for "Quaff and Karaoke" 5:00 – 8:00 pm in the Social Room.

Quaff–verb (used without object) - 1. To drink a beverage, esp. an intoxicating one, copiously and with hearty enjoyment.

Karaoke- Kara - (Missing) OKe - (Band)

Please join us for another fun church party as we Quaff (maybe not copious amounts, but enough to boost your confidence) and Karaoke (or bring your band, even if it is your nephew and his kazoo)!

Bring an appetizer and your favorite beverage to share! Children are welcome and will have their own snacks and activities downstairs in the church. Child care will be provided and donations to the Youth Group (providing child care) would be appreciated. Please RSVP to the Church Office 815-338-0731.

## SUNDAY /JUNE 6TH--FUNDRAISING BBQ

The 2nd annual fundraising BBQ is to be held, as last year, at the Main Pavilion at Emricson Park, Woodstock on Sunday June 6th, catered by 'Famous Daves' and organized by Jeff and Fiona Stilson. Tickets will be going on sale soon and if anyone would like to donate a raffle prize please contact Fiona and Jeff through the church office. We need any good unused, unwanted gifts and particularly we need gift cards for stores, restaurants, etc. Please contact the church office 815-338-0731 or [office@uucowoodstock.org](mailto:office@uucowoodstock.org) Thank you!!!

## ADULT DISCUSSION GROUP

The Adult Discussion Group will not meet this Sunday, April 4. We will next meet on Sunday, April 11, and our discussion will be informed by J.D.Salinger's 1950's classic "The Catcher in the Rye".

Catcher was banned by many schools and libraries when it first appeared in the 50's. What made it so threatening? How did the 50's and 60's differ from today...religiously, socially, economically, and politically? Are the questions raised in the book still relevant today?

Pick up the book at your local bookstore, read it and join us in the Parsonage at 9 AM Sunday, April 11, for another lively discussion.

Should you have questions, please call Don Metivier at 815-334-0015.

## BLOOD DRIVE HERE AT UUC

On Tuesday, April 27th, from 2:00p.m. to 6:00p.m.our church will be sponsoring a Blood Drive. Would you like to be hero? By donating just one pint of blood you could help as many as three patients in need. At our blood drive, our goal is to collect 25 pints of blood, which potentially can help 75 people.

Any healthy person 17 or older (16 with parent's permission) whose weight is at least 110 pounds may be eligible to donate blood at the drive. Even if you can't give blood, you can still help by assisting with the drive (we will need some volunteers the day of) or by encouraging others to donate.

Give Blood. It's Safe. It's simple. It saves lives. We thank you for your support and hope to see you there. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please contact Karen Stowe at 815-338-0731 or [office@uucowoodstock.org](mailto:office@uucowoodstock.org)

## COMMUNITY MINISTRY NEWS

In each issue of the Happenings/VOICE, I will be sharing information about our "Community Ministry" the program whereby we reach out to the community and the world through social services, social action, religious and spiritual outreach, and the arts and cultural events.

### **Spanish Speaking Group**

Today, we're asking for anyone who might be interested in learning/brushing up on their Spanish with an eye toward possibly working in our Latino Outreach Program.

We want to start a class on Mondays, between 4-5 pm in conjunction with our support group and financial assistance programs.

If you would like to know more, please come to the church between 4:00p.m. and 5:00p.m. on Monday and get acquainted with the Latino Outreach Program.

### **Food Pantry**

Also, we need to renew our commitment to the Woodstock Food Pantry. Audrey Stanowski is one Board member and we are looking for a volunteer to serve as our second Board member. We would also like to start up a regular schedule of donations of good. Audrey and I will be planning that in the near future.

### **Social Justice Intern**

Leah Tanabe, a student at Northern Illinois University and a visitor to our church, is going to be a summer intern in our Community Ministry program. She will be working with several of our groups to gain experience as she prepares for a degree in social work. We welcome Leah to the life of our church.

## BENEFIT CLOTHING SALE

On Friday, April 30th, at 8:00a.m. – 6:00p.m. and Saturday, May 1st 8:00a.m. – 2:00p.m. There will be a clothing sale to benefit school children in El Vaquero, Mexico. Our Youth Group is helping support this project. The sale is in need of gently used spring/summer clothing, towels, sheets and blankets; which be dropped off at the church – to be stored parsonage youth room. Please contact Mary Fleming 815-814-2054 [tobeus@gmail.com](mailto:tobeus@gmail.com) or Linda Baumert 815-245-1478 [buildabledreams@aol.com](mailto:buildabledreams@aol.com) if you can help set-up on Thursday, during the sale or clean-up on Saturday. Thank you!

## PLEASE SUBMIT ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE BULLETIN

We are also asking any of our members who have personal news they would like to share with the congregation (birth of a grandchild, illness of a family member, graduation, etc) also send those to the church office. These personal announcements will be included on the insert under the heading of "Milestones".

It is hoped that having a written copy of announcements each week will provide us all with an easy reference on upcoming events. Likewise, we hope the "Milestones" feature will share our joys and concerns will help us stay more connected as a church family.

We are asking that individuals or groups who have announcements please email them to the church office [office@uucofwoodstock.org](mailto:office@uucofwoodstock.org) by Wednesday to be included in an insert in the following Sunday's Bulletin.

## SPIRITUAL READING GROUP

The Spiritual Reading Group will be meeting on Wednesday, April 7th at 7:00 p.m. in the parsonage. The current book being read is "Soul of the Citizen" by Robert Loeb. Everyone is invited to attend

## BLUE LOTUS WORKSHOP

**Join us for this lively discussion on how to create happiness through understanding.**

**Bhikkhuni Pannavati**, co-abbot, spiritual director and co-founder of Embracing Simplicity Hermitage in North Carolina, is ordained in both the Theravada and Mahayana (Ch'an) traditions. She is also a former Christian pastor, Taoist monk and initiated yogi, with a doctorate in religion. Ven. Pannavati's insight comes not just from study, but deep commitment to practice and understanding of the central truths in the various spiritual traditions. While doing her own work, her great wish is that we each seize the essence of this human life to attain enlightenment for the sake of all.

She was a 2009 recipient of the Outstanding Women in Buddhism Awards and she has traveled several times to Thailand working with and ordaining Thai female monks. At the same time, her commitment to activism in her home community has led to creating living space, hope, and jobs for homeless youth and teenage mothers in North Carolina. At the hermitage in Hendersonville, Sister Pannavati has carved out a literal home for these young people as well as a spiritual community for local sangha members and visitors from around the world.

**Sister Pannavati's workshop on Saturday, May 1, from 5-7 pm, will be a talk, discussion, and group meditation. Her humor, insight and expansive thinking will take you on an adventure you don't want to miss! The topic:**

### **When We Believe in Things We Don't Understand, We Suffer!**

Once the Buddha addressed his disciples thus: "Friends, it may be that seekers belonging to other sects will ask you what is the purpose of leading a spiritual life under the Buddha?"

The disciples remained silent.

Then the Buddha himself gave the answer: "You should answer them, 'It is to understand things that should be fully understood that we lead a spiritual life under the Buddha.'"

**Join us for this lively discussion on how to create happiness through understanding.**

Place: Unitarian Church, Dean Street, Woodstock, Ill.

Time: May 1, 2010. Saturday, 5 – 7 p.m.

Cost: The suggested offering is \$20.00 per person. This *dana* will be a contribution towards Ven. Pannavati's traveling expenses and will also be a gift towards the building fund of Blue Lotus Temple in Woodstock.

Registration will be limited to space available.

Mail your registration check to Blue Lotus

520 Devonshire Lane #8

Crystal Lake Il 60014

For more information, call Blue Lotus Temple at 815-444-8915 or visit the website: [www.bluelotustemple.org](http://www.bluelotustemple.org)

## LOST AND FOUND

Once a month, we will be cleaning off the table in the social room that has been serving as the lost and found. If there are any items belonging to you on this table please take them home.

## IT TAKES YOU TO TANGO!

Lora Cantele is looking for a minimum of 10 couples who would like to learn how to Tango. "Tango, created by the many cultural expressions of immigrants to Argentina over a century ago, is today a world movement. In Chicago, 20 years ago, Jorge Nideas was a pioneer of the introduction of Tango to this City."

Maestro Nideas is offering Tango lessons to members of our church. I am looking for ten couples who would be interested in a series of 8 weekly classes. If you are interested, but don't have a partner, let me know! A portion of the class fees will be donated back to the church!

If you would be interested, please contact Lora Cantele at 815-814-1444 or [cantele@ameritech.net](mailto:cantele@ameritech.net) for more information.

## ANNUAL CAMPING TRIP!!

Please save the date! We have reserved dates for our annual Rush Creek Church Camping trip! Please mark your calendars for June 24<sup>th</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup>. We are asking for a contribution of \$10 per tent to defray the cost of the group camping area, as well as to have an idea of how many people we'll have. I have no doubt that both wine and chocolate will be present. Please contact Heather Madaus for more information. 815-509-7862

## NEED HELP WITH ODD JOBS?

My name is Katie Clark-Johnson, a recent grad from Luther College in Decorah Ia. I have a major in Elementary Education and will be teaching 1<sup>st</sup> grade in Bangkok, Thailand beginning in August of this year. Until then I am unemployed and living at home with my mom (Marcia Johnson) and Annette. I am available for anything on the list below and beyond!

Dog Walking

Tutoring (I have a reading specialty)  
House sitting  
Yard work  
Babysitting / child care  
Or any other odd jobs you may need help with.  
Please contact me at 815-353-8095 or my home number is 815-337-0297.  
Thank you!

Katie

## GIFT-CARDS STILL AVAILIABLE

By participating in purchase of gift cards you can help to raise money for the church.

The process is simple; you choose the gift cards you want to order and fill out a form provided at church. Drop off the form and cash or check (payable to UUC of Woodstock with gift card on the memo line) to Heather Madaus or Whit Sears after church on Sundays, or mail it to the church by Monday. You will receive your orders on the following Sunday.

The church makes \$ by purchasing the cards at a discount and you get the face value of your card! Please consider helping us by planning your weekly expenses for fuel, groceries, entertainment, and gift-giving from this list!

Please contact Heather Madaus for online ordering instructions or with further questions at [heathermadaus@sbcglobal.net](mailto:heathermadaus@sbcglobal.net) or at 815-509-7862.

## NEW EVENT CALENDAR PROCEDURE

Here is an outline of the new procedure for requesting use of church space for activities other than your normally scheduled meetings. We hope this will take care of any difficulties we were having keeping the calendar organized.

All requests for activities at the church will be handled through the office. If space is requested for meetings or activities other than regularly scheduled meetings, a Church Use Request Form will need to be filled out. Once the Request Form has been received, availability will be checked by church office staff and if the time/date is available the event will be entered into the online calendar program and the door calendar. As soon as the event is on the calendar, a confirmation email or phone call will be issued to the requesting person. Requests can also be made in person or by phone with Lori or Karen in the office during regular office hours. Requests should be made as soon as possible to ensure availability

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 2010 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association will be held June 23-27 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

This is the closest GA to Chicago in some time so let's take advantage of the low travel costs.

We are entitled to 2 Ministerial delegates (Rev. James Hobart and Rev. Dan Larsen) and up to 5 member delegates.

If you are interested please contact the church office or go directly to the General Assembly website,

[www.uua.org/ga](http://www.uua.org/ga)

Let's send a full delegation in June!

~~~General Assembly Invite

If anyone is planning on attending GA who needs a place to stay is welcome to stay at my (cozy) apartment. I was a member at the UUC for a number of years and now live about 15 minutes from the Convention Center. I am

planning on attending GA as a volunteer so I could assist with driving arrangements as well. Contact me at 952-567-3486 or [saracadiz@mchsi.com](mailto:saracadiz@mchsi.com) for more information.

Sara Cadiz

#### DISTRICT ASSEMBLY

The annual assembly of the Central Midwest District of which we are a part will be held in Wheeling, Illinois at the Westin North Shore Hotel, Friday April 30th to Sunday, May 2nd. If you would like to attend, be a part of our district, and attend some useful educational seminars, please contact the church office 815-338-0731 [office@uucowoodstock.org](mailto:office@uucowoodstock.org)

#### OFFICE SCHEDULE

Lori Burns and Karen Stowe share in the secretarial duties at the church office. Office hours from

Monday, 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. – Lori Burns  
Tuesday, all day – Janet Burns, Bookkeeper  
Wednesday, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. – Karen Stowe  
Thursday, 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. – Lori Burns  
Friday, 10:00 – 1:00 p.m. – Karen Stowe

“MAY YOU BE WELL, HAPPY AND PEACEFUL.”