

UUC VOICE

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A Publication of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Woodstock

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REV. JAMES A. HOBART'S LAST SUNDAY

This Sunday, June 13th will be Jim Hobart's last Sunday with us. Since becoming our part time interim minister five months ago, Jim has worked with the Transition Committee, the Church Council and the congregation to set in motion our search for a new settled minister. Please stay after the service for coffee and snacks...to thank Jim for his work with us...and to wish him well.

REV. DAN LARSEN'S RESIGNATION SPEECH

This will serve as my formal resignation as Community Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Woodstock, effective Sept. 6, 2010. Between now and then I will offer my services to the Social Justice Committee of the church in order to strengthen our Community Ministry before I leave. This would include exploring new initiatives in the areas of immigration, public school funding, and housing foreclosures based on the priorities of the Social Justice Committee identified at our last meeting.

This is not a farewell speech, rather I am hopeful that sometime in the fall, after I leave the church as a Minister, we can celebrate together these past 20 years and properly say goodbye to each other. I also am not going to speak about those 20 years now or say what I think they have meant for myself and the church. Rather I want to take these few moments to talk about this past year and the Transition Plan. Then I want to say a word about my own professional plans for the future.

Two years ago I began to think about retiring as a full-time minister here. I realized that our church needed new ministerial leadership, more dynamic preaching and a "money" person who could bring in people and dollars. At the same time I wanted to make sure that our Community Ministry Outreach program continued to grow. So I suggested a Transition Plan whereby I would stay on as a part time Community Minister and we would recruit a new full time Senior Minister. But for several reasons the plan has not worked.

I am disappointed. I think it would have been an ideal way for the church to transition to a new form of ministry. But it turned out to be incompatible with the UUA's system of "interim" ministries. There did not appear to be enough money to support 2 ministers (although I have arranged separate funding for myself). It was assumed that no new minister would put up with a broken down, left-over minister, although that was never tested (and I personally still don't believe that to be true) and finally I know there has developed a general restlessness among the troops (that's you) that things were not working. So I finally decided it was best to clear the decks and resign, so the church could get off to a fresh start.

My concern is with the Community Ministry Program that we have built up together over the years, the groups we host, the programs we administer, and the voice we articulate to our communities. All of this not only needs to survive, but flourish and grow, and as a church we need to take responsibility to make sure that happens. We are known throughout McHenry County for 2 things, our choir and our outreach

into the community. We need to capitalize on that reputation and make sure those 2 things do not slip away.

My plan now is to return to consulting, this time with churches and other not-for-profits, including some of the groups that now use our church. For example, I will continue to work directly with groups like “Build a Dream” raising money for a school in a tiny village in Mexico, help with PADS, and work with the Woodstock Area Community Ministry on behalf of our Direct Assistance Program, not as minister or employee of our church but as an independent consultant and at no cost to the church, but at the same time helping to build the Community Ministry of our Church. I will also approach other churches who are interested in building a Community Ministry and Social Justice program, as well as other not-for-profits in McHenry County and elsewhere.

All of this flows from what I feel to be my purpose in life, first as a Presbyterian Minister, then with the Federal Government, as a private consultant, now here for the past 20 years and now again as an independent consultant. That is to bring a moment of compassion to those who are marginalized by society and justice to those who have not had the opportunities most of us have enjoyed. This is what I have tried to do in my life now for almost 50 years, what I have tried to do here for 20 years and what I will keep on trying to do.

Rev. Dan Larsen, Community Minister

PRELUDE

This coming Sunday is my final time leading worship and preaching in Woodstock.

Officially, I am your interim minister until July 14. However, I won't be coming to Woodstock unless there is an emergency. June 16-20, I'll be in Yellow Springs, Ohio, for the Antioch College Reunion and a meeting of the Alumni Board on which I serve. June 21-28, I'll be attending the UU General Assembly in Minneapolis, among other roles a ministerial delegate representing the UU congregation Of Woodstock. July 1-14, I'll be on vacation.

The Transition Team and the Council will see that there is ministerial coverage for emergency situations until your new full-time interim minister arrives in August or September. The Transition Team is now hard at work getting together the required paper work to apply to the UUA for an interim minister. They expect to have this material submitted by Friday, June 11. Then they will receive names for interviews.

I have appreciated the opportunity to serve and to work with many of you during the all-too-short time between January 15 and July 14. I wish there had been the opportunity to get to know more of you.

The Woodstock congregation has been through many changes during the 145 years since its founding in 1865. You now reach another time of transition. I am confident you have the resources of people, and skills, and experience to take advantage of the new opportunities opening up before you.

I wish you all the very best as you continue your journey!

James A. Hobart

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

June 13th – “Farewell and Fair Forward” Rev. James A. Hobart will be preaching. Please stay afterwards to wish Rev. James Hobart a fond farewell.

June 20th – ‘FATHER’S DAY SERVICE’- ‘A LITTLE EMPATHY’- Rev. Dan Larsen will be speak, lighting a candle for fathers and children – Joan Coleman’s representing cancer survivors - Hannah Rapp on Immigration - Tom Steffens “My Old Man”- and non-perishable food for the Food Pantry

June 27th – “BARN SERVICE AT THE TINKLERS’S”- We hope you’ll join us at Peter and Kathy Tinkler’s barn; 11314 McConnell Rd (1 mile east of Rt. 14) in Woodstock.

“Moving Forward, With Purpose” Last year the theme of the Barn Service was “Journeys”, and we all shared some of our life’s journeys and what we’d learned from them. This year that theme will be expanded to examine our dreams for the journey our church will be on as we move toward a new settled ministry. We hope you’ll join us as we explore this idea, and share your visions and hopes for the future of our church. Please bring a flower for the flower wheel, (a Barn Service tradition) and a dish to pass for the potluck lunch directly following the service.

July 4th - NO WORSHIP SERVICE

Summer services will led by various members and friends of the congregation.
Service leaders for July are;

July 11th - Larry Dille will lead.

July 18th - Kemberly Dailey-Johnson will lead.

July 25th - Lorna Gladstone will lead.

COMMUNITY MINISTRY NEWS

****THIS SUNDAY JUNE 13TH - BUILD-A-DREAM BENEFIT**** - from 6:00 – 8:00pm at the church.

We are hosting a Pot-luck dinner for “BuildaDream” Project, raising money for a school in the small town of El Vaquero, Mexico. We will show a video of the school and provide more details about this project. Anyone interested in learning more about Build A Dream please plan to attend.

You and your family are invited to join us for an informational and enjoyable evening to learn more about the BuildaDreamProject and become involved with assisting those in need. Please bring a dish to share! Dinner’s purpose: To learn about and support the mission of fulfilling Dreams!

BuildaDream is a McHenry County charitable organization helping those underserved by society. Our goal is to build for the future, serving humanity with love and respect. Our Mexico ministry is centered on the children of El Vaquero, a middle school with fantastic teachers and motivated children who need assistance with basic necessities.

We provide scholarships that enable these children to stay in school through the high school level providing the opportunities of a good education. In the community we look to improve living conditions through clean water and helping with basic housing needs. Feel free to bring a friend!
PLEASE RSVP BY June 12. For more information: Contact Linda Baumert at (815) 245-1478 or via email at buildabledreams@aol.com

Turning Point - Turning Point has partnered with the Home of the Sparrow and has secured 3 apartments for women and children who have been victims of domestic violence and ended up homeless. We are looking for some furniture so we can move our families in as soon as possible. Carla Peltier with Home of the Sparrow is the contact person; email cpeltier@h-o-s.org and her cell is 815-790-7940. Home of the Sparrow does have a truck that they can use to pick up items. They need the following furniture;

2 kitchen tables and 4 chairs
1 couch
0 twin beds and one crib and mattress
4 bedroom dressers
Table and/or floor lamps

Social Justice Committee – The next meeting of Social Justice Committee will be on Tuesday, July 6th. All are welcome.

Family Suppers – We are continuing our Family Suppers. If you know any family that needs a free meal please invite them to come.

The Family Suppers will now run on through the end of September for PADS, DAP, Latino Outreach, and other persons who could use a free meal. Dinners are from 6:00p.m. – 8:00p.m Wednesday evenings. Donations will be accepted. Our church members are invited to come and join us for food and to help out. Call Joe Blanco 847-814-1385

Dan Larsen
Community Minister

MEN'S GROUP

On Tuesday, June 22nd the Men's Group will meet at Bob Tirk's. We will have a happy hour at 5:00p.m. and dinner at 6:00p.m.. Come early and stay late. I will be doing some dutch oven cooking from my Scouts cook book. We will have Wood Badge Jambalaya (Troop 81 Northeast Pennsylvania Council) with Shrimp (not pre-oil shrimp) and Road Kill Jambalaya for those who don't like shrimp (Still looking for just the right possum. Hope I find one soon so it can fully ripen). I will have adult and soft beverages. If you wish bring an appetizer but not necessary. Our address is 1513 Rhett Place, Woodstock. Call if you need directions. Please RSVP 815-334-8050 or bobtirk@aol.com

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT DISCUSSION GROUP JUNE 13

The Old Testament commands us to "honor thy father and thy mother".

We're all adults. Is one meaning of 'adulthood' the ability for each of us to get past our youthful thoughts/hang-ups about our father? On balance, what kind of a man was he? What made him the way he was? What was your relationship with him? Why did you relate in such a manner? Was this relationship something that was hard to get over... something you cherished...or something in-between? Are you like your father in any way? What did you learn from your father?

Bring your questions and stories of your father at 9 AM this Sunday morning, June 13. We'll meet in the kitchen in the church basement for another lively discussion.

CHURCH BBQ

A special thanks to Jeff and Fiona Stilson, for organizing and being the "heart and soul" of our church BBQ. It is now our annual event that we will look forward to each year.

TEN DIRECTIONS ZEN GROUP

Effective June 7th, the Woodstock Zen (Ten Directions) group will meet on Mondays at 7:00p.m., instead of Tuesday evenings. Thank you, Sam Jones.

GREEN SANCTUARY

As we won't be selling coffee over the summer I would like to put an order together for those who would like coffee. People can contact me at Nubian51@aol.com if they would like some whole bean fair trade coffee at \$11/one lb. bag. Thanks, Margaret Fox-Hawthorne.

USHERS

Ushers are an important part of our Worship Service. We are looking for people who would be able to volunteer, once a month or once every two months, especially for the coming 2010-2011 church year. We would like to have a training session soon; the ushers collect and count the Sunday offering.

If you are interested, please contact Carol Alfus, from the Worship Committee at Alfus@att.net or call at 815-338-2449.

COFFEE, TREATS AND FLOWERS

Please check the sign-up sheet in the social room. We are still looking for people to volunteer! Thank you.

LETTER TO CONGREGATION

This is a letter that Chris Meehan read during the Spring Congregational Meeting:

An Open Letter to the Universal Unitarian Church of Woodstock
From Chris Meehan...a human being who believes in the universalism of this church

Our congregation is now engaged in a search for a new minister to lead us; as well as a larger discussion about just which course we shall set.

There are really 2 churches that exist at our location: the first church is no less than the total accumulation of spiritual beliefs from all of human-kind; in all the millennia since we first became aware of something greater than ourselves. We are unique in that we respect all traditions and beliefs so long as they seek divine goodness.

The Temple of this first church is ALL SPACE; it's DOCTRINE Acts of Love, it respects DIVERSITY and a BELIEF in DIVINE LIVING. These are Beautiful and precious sentiments. We all love this about our congregation and it comforts and reassures us each week. The Freedom of Belief & Respect for All Traditions shall survive as the FOUNDATION of what we celebrate each week; what we are relieved and gratified to find in each other.

I pray the Search Committee will seek, above all, to preserve this.

I stated before the congregation that Dan Larsen embodies these human qualities perhaps better than anyone I ever met. Dan: you have been recognized by this gathering as a compassionate, decent man. What better qualities are there to lead the first church?

There is a Second church though, and it exists to serve the First. This second church is a building, the budget, contributions of money, committees of people, and all the worldly trappings which are absolutely essential to the functioning of this group of people who mean well. This second church is all too often mistaken for the first though.

The sad part is that this is where acrimony often creeps in. We never experience strife over the first church, only the second. We invest not only our spiritual belief and hope, but our treasure in these 2 churches, and so it is natural that our passions are aroused.

Unfortunately, a few lose sight of the one for the other. We must be grateful for the people who are willing to perform the labor of this second church; without them we would meet in the Gazebo of the Woodstock City Square; and we would not be able to provide the shelter we do to those less fortunate than ourselves. To them I say that God works through the second church the same as through the first; to say less is to demean God. All who act in the spirit of the first church in their official actions are as much ambassadors of goodness as any saint or priest who ever lived.

I urge everyone to consider the spirit of the first church, and to recognize the practical necessity of the second church. And most of all to remember that those who have the courage to act as leaders of the second church need to feel we value their contributions. Remember: they seek the divine will the same as when we all convene as the first church. Without each of them we shall be the poorer.

SPECTRUM SUMMER CAMP

I just wanted to say thank you to those who provided support to this youth. I'm working with access the Spectrum Wilderness Camp. He left on June 1st at 8:00a.m. in the morning with two camp counselors. This is a very brave act on his part, entering an unfamiliar and challenging environment with complete strangers for 30 days in hopes of gaining insight and positive direction in his life. We are still in need of donations for the camp. So far we have \$1600.00 of \$3000.00.

This is a 30 day program sponsored by Southern Illinois University, where he could learn responsibility, asset building, and other skills needed to get his life on the right path. (Cheryl Niemo has been working with a 19 year old Latino man from McHenry who is working to transition into a better life by escaping a gang he is currently a part of. He has been working with a team of professionals to enhance his mental health but the hope is to get him into the Spectrum Summer Camp).

Checks can be made out to SIUC if anyone would like to help. Information about the camp can be found at www.ton.siu.edu If you would more information regarding the Spectrum Summer Camp, please contact Cheryl Niemo at 815-347-3171 or cmeniemo@gmail.com or at 224-422-7431

UUC SOCIAL CIRCLE - ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tango - NEW DATES - Now's the time, to get on your dancing shoes and learn to Tango! We need 10 lively couples to make this church fundraiser happen. The lessons are \$199 per couple, with part of the fee going to the church.

Classes will be held on Wednesday night beginning Mid July through August for a total of 8 sessions. The times will be from 7:00 pm-8/8:30 pm (usually 1 hour, but if we're on to something may go an extra 15-30 minutes). Couples, partners and singles are welcome! Lessons will be held in the Social Room at the church. To sign up, just call or email Lora soon with your intention of joining. Min/Max 10 couples/12 couples. Tell your friends! cantele@ameritech.net or 815-814-1444

UUC CAMPING TRIP - Rush Creek reminder: Our annual summer camping trip to Rush Creek in Harvard is just around the corner! We have reserved the group campground for tent camping and will share a joint fire pit. We invite you to join us for one or all of the evenings:

Thursday 6/24: Wine and chocolate night

Friday 6/25: Sing-along night. We'd like to invite all of our musicians, regardless of your ability level to join us for a night of music around the campfire.

Saturday 6/26: Drum night? Do we have enough drums and drummers? Let's find out!

Stay for all three days and nights or just come for a day or an evening.

Due to an increase in Conservation District prices, we are asking for a donation of \$10 per family. Please RSVP to Heather Madaus at heathermadaus@sbcglobal.net or call her at 815-509-7862.

OFFICE SCHEDULE

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

For the week of June 14th to the 18th, Lori will not be in the office:

Monday, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. – Karen Stowe

Tuesday, all day – Janet Burns, Bookkeeper

Wednesday, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. – Karen Stowe

Thursday, -closed

Friday, 2:00p.m.- 4:00p.m. – Karen Stowe

Office hours for the week of June 21st to the 25th will be:

Monday, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. – Lori Burns

Tuesday, all day – Janet Burns, Bookkeeper

Wednesday, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. – Karen Stowe

Thursday, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. – Lori Burns

Friday, 10:00 – 1:00 p.m. – Karen Stowe

“MAY YOU BE WELL, HAPPY AND PEACEFUL”