

**Stevens Point**  
**Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**  
**March 2007 Newsletter**



**Presidents' Report** - *Carol Weston*

March Madness – we have our own March Madness in this Fellowship, it's called Canvass Time! We've been known to be visited by Fortune Tellers, sing crazy songs, do a little jig and partake in a bit of magic. I don't know if we have anything crazy planned for this year, but regardless we'll be sure to have a few laughs, some great food together and a good time. This Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup> kicks off our month of canvassing. This is a very important time period of reflection as well as looking forward toward next year.

The results of the canvass set the direction for the Fellowship for the coming year. Our canvass consists of three components:

- Survey on how well you think the current fiscal year is operating
- Gift and Talent form for signing up for volunteer tasks for next year
- Pledge card for making a financial commitment to the Fellowship

The Board relies heavily on the information from the canvass to determine budget and program needs.

PLEASE consider thoughtfully what your role in the Fellowship will be next year AND your financial commitment. No task or volunteer duty is insignificant. Everything outlined in the Gift & Talent form is important. Your financial support is incredibly important if we are to continue to support guest UU ministers and expand the administrative assistant position. We need **YOUR** commitment and involvement in the Fellowship to keep us moving forward toward reaching our Vision of what is possible for this UU Fellowship within this community.

Please contact Julia or Carol if you have any questions. THANK YOU!

**New Member Welcome**

Time to celebrate - we have six people joining the Fellowship this spring! Please give a warm welcome to:

- Rae Canfield
- Carolyn Greenlee & daughter Danielle
- Sarah Mickelson and son Tate
- Kelly Mortenson and Ron Tschida and children Joey and Erin
- Bev Pede

This Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup> we will welcome those new members who are able to attend into the Fellowship. A separate New Member Welcome ceremony will be held for those people who cannot attend on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Stand up and cheer and welcome Rae, Carolyn, Danielle, Sarah, Tate, Kelly, Ron, Joey, Erin and Bev!! We're glad you're here!**

## District Assembly

District Assembly is a little over a month away. This year's District Assembly is in Oakbrook, Illinois, April 13-15. The theme of the Assembly is "Congregations Alive! Embodying a Story that Matters." The keynote will be given by Alice Mann, author and senior consultant with the Alban Institute.



Conference tracks for this year's Assembly are:

- Music
- Lifespan Faith Development
- Leadership Development
- Ecology / Environment
- International

A full program booklet with session descriptions is available online at:

<http://www.cmwd-uua.org/pdfs/DA2007-brochure.pdf>

Funds were allocated in this year's budget to help defray some of the costs for attending this conference. Hurry - check your calendars, and contact Carol or Julia if you think you would like to attend!

## Social Action Committee

The Second Harvest Food Pantry schedule for March is: March 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>. There is a sign up sheet on the UU bulletin board in the church vestibule. Volunteers are always needed. Contact Joanie Hanson if you have questions. The Food Pantry is located at 2820 Post Rd, Plover. The Tuesday schedule is:

- Set up 4:30 – 6:00 pm
- Food distribution 6:00 – 8:00 pm
- Close 8:00 – 9:00 pm

Volunteers are needed for any shift or for the entire evening.

## Community Events

### Interfaith Peace Action Group

The Wausau UU Church through its Social Action Committee is spearheading a regional PEACE action group to promote peace issues in North Central Wisconsin. This is an ecumenical effort. All faith backgrounds are welcome. The Committee will start with a brainstorming session with all interested church representatives.

Contact Jim Maas at [jamaas2001@yahoo.com](mailto:jamaas2001@yahoo.com) if you are interested in learning more about the PEACE Action Group. Or contact the Wausau UU at 715-842-3697.

### Choices for Sustainable Living

Thursday, March 8, 6:30 PM in the Pinery Room at Portage County Library.

This is a group study course developed by the Northwest Earth Institute, a non-profit organization in Portland, Oregon. Phyllis Perry from the Center of Environmental Education located at UWSP indicated the meeting will introduce the course, topics to include: Call to Sustainability, Sustainable Communities, Food, Living, Ecological Principles, Ecological Principles and Visions of Sustainability. Church groups and other small groups have found this format works well for their interests and needs. If one decides to take the course, you can purchase the course book for \$20.00. Contact: Phyllis Perry, 344-5379 with questions about the course. If UU members wish to attend as part of a UU group, please call Michele Bjella at 345-9779

### Climate Counts – It's 2056 Planet Saved!

Here is a short 4 minute inspirational movie that provides a glimpse into an alternative future from Climate

Counts. Click on one of the links provided in the top right hand corner of the page to view the movie.  
<http://www.climatecounts.org/>

### **American Red Cross Blood Drive**

There is an American Red Cross Blood Drive at St. Paul's United Methodist Church on Thursday March 8, 2007; 11 am – 6 pm. There is a shortage of blood at this time so it is extremely important that the Red Cross have a successful blood drive and collect enough units to meet the needs. For appointments call 344-4052

### **Point of View**

*Point of View is the member section of the newsletter. Information shared in the Point of View is diverse and does not reflect the official position of the Fellowship on any topic. The intent of this section is to provide a forum for sharing all points of view on spiritual, religious and other issues which relate to our 7 Principles, in order to facilitate continued personal search for truth and discussion among members and friends.*

Here is a link to an article by Rev Jane Rzepka, Senior Minister Church of the Larger Fellowship, March 2007 Quest Magazine; regarding the relevance of UU in today's society.  
[www.clfuu.org/quest/2007/03/index.html#rzepka](http://www.clfuu.org/quest/2007/03/index.html#rzepka)

*“Our task now is to do what we can to advance reverence for life and deepen the promise of love. Let us dedicate ourselves to the thinking, researching, practice, and learning that will bring more love into the world.”* By Rebecca Ann Parker, president, Starr King School for the Ministry.

Adapted from *Blessing the World: What Can Save Us Now*, published by Skinner House in 2006, and available through the CLF library

Both contributions this month were submitted by Carol Weston; contact her at 715-345-1735 if you have questions or comment on these submissions.

### **CMwD News**

- April 13-15 District Assembly, Oakbrook II. “Congregations Alive! Embodying a Story that Matters”  
<http://www.cmwd-uua.org/pdfs/1206-DA-flyer.pdf>

### **Do You Remember When?**



*Making cider Thanksgiving Intergenerational*



*RE Class, circa about 1978*



*UU Orchestra Christmas Eve*

### Schedule of Services

Date	Service
3-4-07	"The Criminal Justice System" Mike Houlihan
3-11-07	"Strange and Wondrous Partners" Rev Sarah Oelberg,
3-18-07	"Ways to Think about Dying" Jean Rumsey
3-25-07	"Reflections on My Trip to China" Julia Weiser
4-1-07	Rev Jody Whelden, Madison topic TBA
4-8-07	Rev Glenda Walker, Wausau topic TBA
4-15-07	"Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is" Rev Don Wheat
4-22-07	Earth Day Intergenerational
4-29-07	Rev. Dottie Mathews, Appleton UU Topic TBA

### Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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Services are held at The Springs, 2820 Plover Springs Dr., Plover, WI 54467  
Services and religious Education start at 11:00 a.m. Sept through May  
Childcare is available  
Summer services are individually scheduled.



# **The Uncommon Denomination**