

Stevens Point
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
November/December 2006 Newsletter



Presidents Report – Carol Weston

Thank you to all who made it to the Fellowship meeting on November 5th. We are in the midst of a very important process for this Fellowship. Your feedback and response to the draft vision statement and the strategic plan to obtain our vision is a key component to the process. Remember to return any edits, comments or corrections by Sunday, November 12th. Representatives from the Strategic Planning Committee will review all suggestions. The final draft with a ballot for a fellowship vote will be mailed out to members by November 19th. Ballots are to be returned to the Fellowship by December 3, 2006. Please contact Carol Weston if you have any questions.

Two new UU bulletin boards are now available to us in the church vestibule (by the coffee table)! We'll use these bulletin boards to post general Fellowship information as well as to communicate committee and member news. Please check out the new bulletin boards the next time you are at the Fellowship!

Treasurer Report

The Fellowship is in full swing, and it has been a very successful start of the year. Guest ministers, RE programming, administrative help, sanctuary decorations, and special music are just a few of the enhanced services occurring this year. Members of the Fellowship soon will be receiving statements regarding your pledges and payment thereon from the treasurer Ron Chapman. You may ask, "Where is the money spent?" It costs about \$1,000 a month to operate the Fellowship. Major expenditures are the rent which is \$200 a month (a bargain), speakers at about \$200 apiece, the administrative assistant's salary at about \$120 a month, childcare at \$75 a month, printing costs, and national and regional support. Other recurring items are RE supplies, programming costs, and telephone charges. If we ever acquire our own space, the rent or mortgage cost and utility charge will be much greater.

We have nineteen pledging units this year. Pledges range from a high of \$2,000 to \$50. The average pledge is \$586. Seven pledges are \$800 and over. Twelve pledges are \$600 and below.

Thanks to all of you who have made payments on your pledges so far. Some have been paid in full. Thanks also to all who have donated time, materials, and aesthetics to make our high quality services.

To keep the Fellowship running it is essential to pay your pledges in a timely fashion. We have never had to use our savings for operating costs and hope to continue this way. Please consider your contributions to the operation of the Fellowship one of your major donations.

If you have questions concerning the financial operations of the Fellowship do not hesitate to contact Ron Chapman or Julia Weiser.

Social Action Committee

The newly established Social Action Committee met on October 17th 2006. The Action Steps for Social Justice from the Vision for Growth were discussed and plans have begun to put some of these ideas into action. The committee members are: Mary Arnold, Michele Bjella, Clara Cleve, Joanie Hanson, Jenny Howard and Carol Weston. The next committee meeting will be on November 21, at 6:30 pm at Joanie Hanson's house, 1901 Clark Street, Stevens Point. Everyone is welcome to join us. If you have any questions you can call Joanie Hanson at 715-345-1250.

RE Update

Children's

Dorothy Ginnett will be sending out information on an upcoming children's RE storybook donation drive for SPUUF before the holidays. More information will be available soon. Thanks to the many dedicated children's RE volunteers for their service to SPUUF this fall. All members are encouraged to volunteer for RE. If interested, contact Dorothy to sign up for volunteer slots for winter and spring.

Adult

The class for the adult RE program has been re-scheduled for Sunday, January 14th at 9:15am. The class will be held in the basement of The Springs. The purpose of this session is to broaden one's awareness of UU history and provide some very practical experience that will make you increasingly effective when answering questions about your faith. You do NOT have to have attended previous classes to participate. Each session is individually designed. Child care is available during the class. Contact Steve Bjella for more information on the classes.

Collections for Community Organizations

This month's community Collections will be:

- November 12, Operation Bootstrap
- November 26, Second Harvest

In the month of October, over \$100 was given to Empty Bowls, and over \$70 for Second Harvest.

Member News

Stefan Shoup had hip replacement surgery on November 7th. Stefan is doing as well as can be expected this soon after surgery. Please keep Stefan and Jane in your thoughts, prayers and/or mediations as they face Stefan's rehabilitation and physical therapy on his hip.

Congratulations Jane Shoup on the great article in the November 10th, Stevens Point Journal regarding your classes in the UW Learning if Forever program. The article discussed Jane's class "Darwin and his 'Dangerous Idea.' The man, his theory and the continuing fallout." Feedback on Jane's class that other members who attended heard was "*Jane's class was one of the most organized and well presented classes they have ever attended.*" A copy of the article is posted on the UU Bulletin Board.

Committee Meeting Schedule

Board Meeting

Sunday, Nov 12th, 9:15 am. Basement of The Springs. All are welcome.

Social Action

Tuesday, Nov 21st, 6:30 pm Joanie Hanson's House, 1901 Clark Street, Stevens Point. Everyone is welcome to join us. If you have any questions you can call Joanie Hanson at 715-345-1250.

Program Committee Meeting

The next Program Committee meeting is Sunday, Dec 3rd at 9:30 am., basement of The Springs. Contact Clara Cleve, 715-341-4791 / ccleve@choiceonemail.com if you would like to volunteer to lead a service this winter / spring or if you have suggestions for speakers and programs. A full schedule of services and opened Sunday's are posted on the UU website: <http://spuuf.org/calendar.htm>

Second Harvest Food Pantry

The Second Harvest Food Pantry schedule for November is: November 14th & 28th. 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 has moved to the old Ira's Oak Furniture building 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. If you cannot volunteer your time, donations of food and/or money are also needed. Checks can be made to "Second Harvest Food Pantry." The Fellowship will collect for the Food Pantry during our Nov 26th service.

Name the Newsletter

Your help is needed!! We are a very creative group of people and it is time we have a more catchy, identifying newsletter title for this publication! Let's have fun with this! Submit your ideas for a "new and improve" newsletter name to Julie Weiser or Carol Weston. Call or email Julia 715-344-7769 weiserj@charter.net or Carol 715-345-1735 / cweston@charter.net

Holiday Intergenerational Service

Mark your calendars for our traditional Holiday Intergenerational service, Sunday Dec 17th at 11:00 am. Come prepared to share your family's holiday traditions, sing a few songs, eat some great food and enjoy some "good cheer" this holiday season. More information on the service will be available in December.

Community Events

"The Place of Faith in Today's World"

The Philosophy Department and College of Letters and Science present "[The Place of Faith in Today's World](#)," a panel discussion with Donald Fadner, Karin Fry and David Chan; moderator is Corinne Dempsey. Wed. Nov. 15, 128 Collins Classroom Center, 4-5.

10th Annual Prepare Ye Concert – Sunday Nov 26th 2:00 pm St Bronislava Parish, Plover, WI

Come to this community celebration of Thanks to honor Interfaith volunteers who enable the elderly, disable, and families to remain independent and connected to their communities. There will be a free will offering collected at the concert to benefit Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers. Every \$1 collected will receive a \$.50 match from Thrivent Financial. The concert will include musical performances by: Monteverdi Master Chorale, WI Master Chorale, Interfaith Children's Choir, Disciples of Newman Center, Harpists, Dancers and many more! If you are unable to attend but would like to offer your support, please send your gift to: Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers of Portage County, 1100 Centerpoint Dr. Suite 301, Stevens Point, WI 54481.

World AIDS Day – Dec 1st "[Prevention that Empowers](#)"

Environmental Education

The [Earth Policy Institute](#) has an article on the use of grain for automotive fuel by Lester Brown: "[Exploding U.S. Grain Demand from Automotive Fuel Threatens World Food Security and Political Stability](#)." The Earth Policy Institute's "*is dedicated to providing a vision of an environmentally sustainable economy – an eco-economy – as well as a road map of how to get from here.*" Lester Brown.

Environmental Film

Here is a link to a short, 4 minute movie on that provides a more environmentally optimistic option for the future. If you go to the website, midway down the page there is a link in green entitled "four minute movie." http://makower.typepad.com/joel_makower/2006/04/renewus_a_clima.html

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 an article by Rev. Rosemarry Bray McNatt, Fourth Universalist Society, New York, NY: "[Love Changes Everything](#)." It is her sermon given June 22, 2006 at a worship service at the General Assembly in St. Louis, Missouri. It appeared in the November 2006 "Quest" periodical from the UUA Church of the Larger Fellowship.

Contact Carol Weston at cweston@charter.net or 715-345-1735 if you have questions or comment on this submission.

CMwD News

- Nov 10-12 "My Body – Live, Love Laugh" UU Women's Connection Fall Conference, Williams Bay, WI. Contact rhi_connection@yahoo.com or Cecilia_haasis@yahoo.com for more information.
- Feb 23-25, "Roots Hold me Close, Wings Set Me Free" Woman Spirit 2007, Women and Religion Committee of the CMwD. Tecny, IL. More information at: <http://www.womenandreligion.org/>

Schedule of Services

Date	Service
11-12-06	Board Meeting, 9:15 am
11-12-06	"Reason, Skepticism, Cynicism, Personality Disorders, and Paranoia," Rev. Paul Beckel
11-12-06	Community Collection Operation Bootstrap
11-19-06	Intergenerational "Thanksgiving - Guest at Your Table" Service
11-21-06	Social Action Committee Meeting, 6:30 pm Joanie Hanson's House
11-26-06	"Reclaiming the 'L Word': What it Really Means to Be Members of a Liberal Religion" Rev Scott Prinster, First UU Madison, Topic TBA
12-3-06	"The Power of Kindness," Clara Cleve
12-10-06	Rev. Paul Beckel, Wausau UU Topic TBA
12-17-06	Intergenerational Winter Holiday Service
12-24-06	Christmas Eve Service With The Springs
12-31-06	No Service
1-7-06	TBA
1-14-07	Rev Craig Schwalenber, First UU Milwaukee, topic TBA
1-21-06	Intergenerational Martin Luther King Service
1-28-06	TBA
2-4-06	"Creating Sacred Spaces," Katja Marquart
2-11-06	Intergenerational Music Sunday

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

P.O. Box 361

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www.spuuf.org

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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