

Stevens Point
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
October 2007 Newsletter



Presidents' Report – Carol Weston & Julia Weiser

And we're off and running!!!! After the long summer break, it takes an enormous amount of energy and planning to start off the Fellowship year. Before the first service at The Springs, a team of volunteers worked hard two mornings, cleaning the basement and preparing the child care room for use. We haven't finished the childcare room but we're making progress. We are in contact with the Springs and we will work together to complete the remodeling of the childcare room. Those who helped get the building ready for use were: Julia Weiser, Joanie Hanson, Vince Heig, Chuck Rumsey, Bev Spencer, Carol Weston, Barb Kiser and Beverly West.

Volunteer leaders of the Fellowship have worked hard to ensure a successful start: the Board has taken care of the details of this year's contract with The Springs and are working on our space needs; Dorothy, Kelly and Carolyn have gotten the children and youth religious exploration classes started; Joanie and Michele have gotten the Social Action/Green Sanctuary Committee organized; and Clara, Carol and Anne have gotten the first two months' services organized. This is a "working" Fellowship and your involvement in the process is key to our success!



Steve Bjella at our opening picnic!

Our September services have been diverse, challenging and filled with a sense of community. If September is reflective of the entire year, we will have another successful, meaningful and growing year together!

Pictures of the SPUUF picnic are available at:
<http://robsuncle.smugmug.com/gallery/3459312#194413945>

IN SWEET FIELDS OF AUTUMN - A Fall Musical Celebration - OCT 14TH

Join us as we welcome **The Sass! Trio** to help us celebrate a Harvest Home: saying a fond goodbye to Summer and reflecting on the winter to come. The service will be participatory in format and will include traditional hymns, sing-a-longs, readings, guided meditation and a bulb ritual, all to celebrate autumn. Bring an Autumn Harvest fruit, food or decoration to church (e.g. apples, corn, wheat, squash, acorns, autumn leaves, pine cones, etc.).



Members of the *The Sass! Trio* are: Susan Urban, Sandy Andina & Kate Early

Join us for a **pot luck lunch after the service, 12:00 – 1:00 pm**. Please bring a dish to pass and your own eating utensils.

Fellowship Celebrates Naming Ceremony



On September 23rd, the Fellowship celebrated the 1 year birthday of Tate David Mickelson with a Dedication / Naming Ceremony. Tate was born on September 21, 2006. Present were Tate's parents; Sarah and Ian Mickelson, grandparent, uncles, aunts and cousins! Sponsors for Tate were Joe Tucker, Tate's uncle and Angela Poth, a close family friend. Pictures of the Dedication Ceremony are available online at: <http://robsuncle.smugmug.com/gallery/3528444#199444249>

Committee News

Board Meetings

The October board meeting is Sunday, October 14th at 8:45 am at Clara Cleve's house; 2401 River Bend, Plover, WI. Fellowship members are encouraged to attend board meetings. Send agenda items to Julia or Carol by Wed., October 10th.

There is an open position on the board. Dave Johnson needed to resign his Member At Large seat on the board. If you would be interested on serving on the board the remainder of this fiscal year, please contact Julia or Carol.

Religious Exploration (RE)

Sunday morning religious exploration classes for children in 1st through 6th are off to a great start. Volunteers to lead an RE lesson are needed. Topics and volunteers for the month of October are:



- Oct 7th, "Clara Barton, Founder Red Cross" – Jenny Howard lead instructor
- Oct 14th, "In Sweet Fields of Autumn" - Intergenerational Service
- Oct 21st, "Saving Lives & First Aid – Bill Hettler lead instructor
- Oct 28th, "Day of the Dead" – Julia Weiser lead instructor

Contact Dorothy Ginnett, 715-341-6318, or Kelly Mortenson, 715-295-0306 if you can volunteer to lead an RE class in November or December.

Youth Discussion Group

The teens have selected "*Sacred Threads – An Asian Religions Curriculum for High School Youth.*" This curriculum introduces high school youth to some of the basic concepts, beliefs, and practices of major Asian religions, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Shintoism, Zen, and various folk religions. The goals for participants are

- Identify basic characteristics of Asian religions, and how they are similar to and different from each other;
- Understand aspects of these religions which are also a part of Unitarian Universalism; Explore how these religions are or are not relevant to the participants' own lives.

The next meeting of the Youth Discussion Group is Sunday, Oct 7th .

Contact Carolyn Greenlee, 715-343-1876, if you would like to learn more about the curriculum or if you would be interested in volunteering to lead a class.

Social Action

The Social Action Committee met on Sept 12th. Committee members set the following goals for this year:

- Provide one meal each quarter for the House of Peace
- Continue with Highway Cleanup
- Sponsor two families for the Holiday Basket program
- Support the work of the Green Sanctuary by:
 - a. encourage members to bring their own mugs to church each Sunday
 - b. promote car pooling between members
 - c. set up recycling containers at church
 - d. support and promote community activities such as ICE
 - e. create a Fellowship statement of support of "green" philosophy

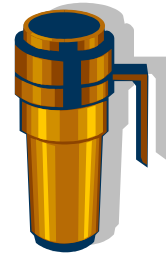
The committee also established the following monthly Community Collection schedule:

- Sept 23rd – Empty Bowls
- Oct 21st – JusticeWorks
- Nov 18th – Family Crises Center
- Dec 9th – Second Harvest

Green Sanctuary

Have you noticed the recycling basket in the vestibule right outside of the sanctuary doors? Please remember to recycle the INSIDE order of service information from the weekly program. The outside covers we reuse every week. Covers can be left on the rear table in the sanctuary or on the snack table.

BRING YOUR OWN MUGS TO SERVICE. In an attempt to reduce the amount of paper and/or Styrofoam waste we produce, and help with the clean up time each Sunday, we encourage everyone to bring their own mugs for use during the social coffee-juice time after the service.



NEED A RIDE TO SERVICE?

Do you live in the Stevens Point/Plover metropolitan area and find it difficult to get to a service by yourself or would be interested in car pooling? Would you find it helpful if someone picked you up to give you a ride to church? Would you be willing to help pick up members and friends who might need a ride in order to attend a service? If the answer to either of these questions is YES, contact Jenny Howard at 715-341-5805 / jmhoward@core.com . Jenny will compile a listing of who needs a ride and who can give a ride and will help connect people with each other.

Upcoming ICE workshops:

- October 13 - Energy-saving Actions for Renters and Homeowners, with Jeff Knutson Portage Co Library
- November 9 - Livable Neighborhoods, with Cathy Dugan, Portage Co Library
- December 8 - (proposed) Composting and Vermiculture, Portage Co Library
- January - (possible) Planning Your Vegetable Garden, Portage Co Library

We hope you can support the work of ICE by attending a program or two. Please contact Michele Bjella, 715-345-9779 / michelebjella@yahoo.com for additional information on these upcoming programs or ICE.

Community Events

"Wisconsin Hunger Summit," Thursday October 4th, 2007, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, Holiday Inn and Convention Center, Stevens Point, WI. Register now for the WISCONSIN HUNGER SUMMIT, A statewide action planning forum for all Wisconsin residents interested in working to reduce hunger in our state. Sponsored by the Wisconsin Food Security Consortium, the goal of the Summit is to bring together everyone involved in hunger prevention in Wisconsin as we take the next steps in reducing hunger in Wisconsin!! Registration is Required and Space is Limited! To register or for more information, please visit: <http://www.wisconsinfoodsecurityconsortium.org/hungersummit.cfm>

20th Annual "Festival of India," Sat Oct 6, 3:00 – 7:00 pm, Stevens Point Area Senior High

The event, presented by SHAMA, Inc., attracts people from throughout the state and offers Indian performers and cuisine as well as workshops on Indian crafts, cooking, music, clothing and religion. Workshops will begin at 3 p.m., dinner begins at 5 p.m., and stage performances begin at 6 p.m. Proceeds benefit SHAMA Inc., created at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP) to support income generation training for Indian women and related projects such as loans for self-employment, education for children, village development and ecological farming practices, adult literacy, HIV prevention and reproductive health education and the Himalayan Gaddi Women's Self-Help Society. Tickets purchased in advance are \$13 for adults, \$8 for students and children, and free for children ages five and under. Tickets at the door will be an additional \$2. Additional information available at: <http://www.uwsp.edu/news/pr/chFestofIndia07.htm>

John McCutcheon Concert, Marshfield, Oct. 6

John McCutcheon, five time Grammy Nominee is coming to First Presbyterian Church Marshfield for a Concert for Peace, October 6 at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Ticket Costs: \$15 adults (advance), \$17 adults (at the door), \$10 children-college (advance with ID for students), \$12 children-college (at door with ID for students). To purchase tickets, phone (715)384-2484 or write: Rev. Scott Marrese-Wheeler, First Presbyterian Church, Marshfield, WI 54449. John will participate in worship (9:30 am) and lead a special forum on non-violence and forgiveness on Sunday, October 7.

“Saving Christianity From Empire ” October 12-13th. The 2007 Nonviolence Conference, sponsored by the Wisconsin Council of Churches. The conference theme is and it is being held at the Country Springs Hotel on. Additional information is available at the website www.wichurches.org under events.

“Empty Bowls”, Sat Oct 20 – 11:00 am – 1:30 pm Stevens Point Area Senior High (SPASH)
[Empty Bowls](#) is a community project to raise money for local hunger prevention efforts. For \$10 you get to choose a bowl created by local potters, community members, and students. These bowls are each unique and a great keepsake! You then fill it with soup donated by local restaurants. The meal includes bread, beverage, and desert. The event also features a raffle, entertainment, clowns for the children, and a pottery demonstration by a local professional potter.

”Leave No Child Inside,” Oct 18th – 20th Country Springs Hotel. The Wisconsin Association of Environmental Education presents its Midwest environmental education conference, features Richard Louv author of “Last Child in the Woods, Saving our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder.” Mr. Louv will explain the trends a generation of children growing up with virtually no contact with the outdoors and the impact this is having on them. The conference registration packet is available online at: <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/waee/Events/FC2007/PDF/RegPacket.pdf>
Additional information on the conference can also be found at: <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/waee/Events/fall07.htm>

Step It Up 2 National Day of Climate Change – Nov 3

This is a grass roots, citizens effort to bring attention to the global climate change, and educate elected leaders on this issue. Our local **Community for the Earth (ICE)** will coordinate efforts here in Central Wisconsin. More information will be coming from our Green Sanctuary Committee.

Information on this national effort found at: <http://www.stepitup2007.org/article.php?list=type&type=26>

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.

“Harvest” from October 2007 **Quest**, a publication from The Church of the Larger Fellowship.

The last tomatoes in the garden are clinging to the vine, doing their best to ignore the change in season. It is my neighbor's garden, and because these are not my tomatoes, I can afford to be philosophical about them. It occurs to me that the basic strategy of these vegetables is a mistaken one. The biological winners will be those that accepted their fall with grace weeks ago, when the ground was still warm and welcoming. Next year they will be the ones to produce new seedlings.

What is it, I wonder, that keeps these last fruits hanging on? Is it hope? Fortitude? Perseverance? Or just a bad sense of timing? Timing is essential to the art of living: knowing when to hang in there and when to let go, when to struggle and when to surrender, knowing how to recognize the seasonable changes of our lives. May we be blessed with the wisdom of good gardens.



By Gary Kowalski, from **Green Mountain Spring and Other Leaps of Faith**, published by Skinner House in 1997. Submitted by Carol Weston; contact her at 715-345-1735 if you have questions or comment on this submission.

CMwD News

- **“Heart to Heart”** relationship enrichment program, Nov 2-4, 2007 <http://heart.mn.ex>
- **UU Women Fall Conference, Celebrating 25 Yrs, “Feel the Rhythm”**, Nov 9-11, 2007 A printable PDF flyer on the retreat is available at: http://www.uuwomensconnection.org/PDFS/UUWomensConn_07_flyer.pdf
- **UUA Petition for Peace – Keep Up the Momentum!**
Join Rev. Sinkford’s call and 25,000 other Unitarian Universalists who call for an end to the war. The online petition is available at: <http://www.uua.org/news/newssubmissions/45402.shtml>

In the week following Oct 10th, arrange a meeting at the local office of your Senator. Make sure your Senators know about the petition and Rev. Sinkford's advocacy and, most importantly, let them know how you feel about this war. Find your Senators' local offices are at www.senate.gov and read our tips for setting up and conducting in-district lobby visits at <http://www.uua.org/leaders/leaderslibrary/advocacytips/26869.shtml>.

Our History



Intergenerational Service, making apple cider, Nov 2000

Schedule of Services

Date	Service
10-7-07	“Why Meditate” John Buzza
10-14-07	“In Sweet Fields of Autumn” The Sass! Trio
10-21-07	“Universalism: An American Home Grown Religion” Rev. Jody Welden
10-28-07	“The Many Ways of Wisdom” Rev. Scott Prinster
11-4-07	“Moses, The Early Years: The Courage to Speak Up and Act” Jerry Woolpy & Tara Reed
11-11-07	“The Language and Practice of Reverence- A Part and Apart” Rev. Jody Welden
11-18-07	<i>Intergenerational Guest at Your Table</i>
11-25-07	TBA
12-2-07	Rev. Sarah Oelberg
12-9-07	TBA
12-16-07	Intergenerational Holiday Service
12-23-07	TBA
12-30-07	No Service
1-6-08	TBA
1-13-08	Rev. Bobbie Groth Topic TBA
1-20-08	Martin Luther King Intergenerational Service
1-27-08	EE Focused Service
2-3-08	Rev. Darrel Richey Topic TBA

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

P.O. Box 361

Stevens Point, WI 54481

www.spuuf.org

info@spuuf.org



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