



Westminster Chimes

Volume 2009 #14

July 22, 2009

Editor: Renée Bucklin

SUMMER SERVICES MEET IN FELLOWSHIP HALL 9:30AM

JULY 26

Jazz Sunday

Tom Stites, Howard and Bill Stone

AUGUST 2

The Moral and Inspirational Issues of Recycling and Building Green

George O'Loughlin,
President of Corporate Kindness

AUGUST 9

Rosie's Story Telling

Rose Pavlov

AUGUST 16

Life Visioning Principles – Michael Bernard Beckwith

Barbar Fuyat, Practitioner – Science of the
Mind Church

AUGUST 23

Mindfulness Meditation – Practice meditation throughout the day

Kristen Morelli

AUGUST 30

Nathan's Extravaganza

Nathan Desisto

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Ahhhhhh! It really DOES feel like summer. Hurray! Hope you are all basking in the warm weather and resting up for the fall.



Speaking of which - this fall, our Program Proposal meeting will be moved considerably earlier, to Sunday, September 20th, following one 10 a.m. service. This date change is essential so that our annual canvass can begin and end early enough to allow our energies to focus firmly on the Capital Campaign.

What does this mean for YOU? It means, if you are on a committee that has a budget, your budget is NOW DUE. Please review your budgetary needs for your committee, put your thoughts on paper, and mail or email them to John Searles. If he does not receive the wisdom of your committee's needs before mid-August, he will be required to do some guesswork so that the proposed budget can be emailed and snail mailed through the August Chimes in time to accommodate our by-laws and your need to review the budget prior to discussion. PLEASE SEND YOUR BUDGET REQUESTS IN. Thank you to all who adhered to the Strategic Plan's goal of submitting budget before the end of June.

Over the past three years, we have voted in various changes to our bylaws, apparently none of which had actually been incorporated into the office documents. Many thanks to Sandy Hopkins who went back through our bylaws, line by line, to add in all the approved changes. The office now has the correct document on file. If you would like a copy of our bylaws, amended as of May 17, 2009, please let us know. We would be happy to send you a copy for your summer reading pleasure. In the meantime, get those budgets in!

Faithfully,
Jan Searles, President

Dear Friends,

July 20, 2009

I am sitting by the still waters of a Finnish lake in Midsummer. I have spent a week visiting my mother and head home tomorrow. Your wonderful summer services are in full swing; gifts to share with each other. The summer lay led services and the summer children's program are ways you let your lights shine through the generations.

There is much I wish to share with you from General Assembly. I want especially to forward to you this from the UU Minister serving the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church.

“On Sunday, July 27th, 2008, a man walked into the sanctuary of the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church--and opened fire. Two dedicated Unitarian Universalists were killed: Greg McKendry, an usher, and Linda Kraeger, a member of Westside Unitarian Universalist Church. Six other people were injured. Every member of our two congregations was affected.

In the aftermath of that tragic morning, the surrounding community embraced us. We kept our hearts and our doors open, and love came rushing in from every direction.

*One year later, I remain deeply grateful for the countless hugs, cards, meals, and prayers that sustained us. I could not have known then that our commitment to love in the face of violence would inspire the Unitarian Universalist Association to launch the **Standing on the Side of Love Campaign**. I couldn't be more pleased, however, because experience has taught me that brokenness can only be healed with love.*

Unfortunately, our experience is not unique. People across the nation face exclusion, oppression, or violence because of their immigrant status, sexual or gender orientation, religion, race, political views, among other identities. Such dehumanization must be challenged. This campaign invites people of every faith and belief to stand together in the name of love. Our nation is at a critical moment, when our collective voice and action can heal families, towns, cities, states, and nations.

One week after the shooting, I returned to the pulpit to rededicate our sanctuary. I said, 'A man came into this space with a desire to do an act of hatred, but he has unleashed unspeakable amounts of love.' Join with me in that unleashing of love.”

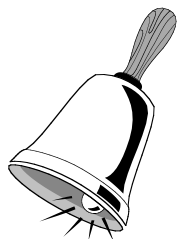
If you go to this link, standingonthesideoflove.org, which was launched at GA, you will be able to sign the following pledge and have it sent to the UU congregations in Knoxville:

I believe in the inherent worth and dignity of every person. No one should be dehumanized through acts of exclusion, oppression, or violence because of one's identities, including immigrant status, race, religion, gender and sexual orientation, or political view. I pledge to stand in solidarity with people whose humanity is demeaned just because of who they are. I will stand, speak, pray, march and live on the side of the love.

Wherever you are, I pray that you have sweet days, soft night times and safe slumbers this summer. Blessed peace be with you now and all times.

In good faith and with love,

Rev. Barbara



Religious Education News & Calendar

Renee Pierre

Religious Education Coordinator

401-884-5933 (W)

CHILDREN'S SUMMER R.E. PROGRAM

During the summer months, the children at Westminster will be learning about the earth - the home we share with all living things, and how we can behave in caring ways for our world. We are planning many interesting lessons, hands-on activities and some earth-centered songs. These activities are appropriate for children ages 4 to 12.

We have a core group of volunteers to co-lead these classes, but are looking for a few more who can share their love of the earth with our children. No teaching experience is required. A co-leader orientation will be held in early June for all volunteers.



If you are interested in having your child participate in the program, or can co-lead a class, please contact Natalie Aubin.

SUMMER POT LUCK DINNER AT THE MARCHANT'S

Date: Saturday, August 15th

Time: 5:30p.m.

Alice and Hal will provide beverages and place settings. Please call Alice to let her know what course you would like to bring.

CALL FOR MT. KATAHDIN HIKERS

Dan Aubin is planning on hiking Mt. Katahdin in Maine July 23rd through 25th or 24th through 26th and wants to know who is interested in joining him. Please call or email Dan if you would like to join him.

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER ALL WOMEN WELCOME

We meet every Thursday evening.

Setup/Meeting: 7:00 to 7:15 PM

Announcements: 7:15 to 7:30PM

Program: 7:30 to 8:45 PM

Place: Fellowship Hall

Our Mission/Statement of Purpose is to enhance and encourage:

* Spirituality * Support of each other

* SOCIAL JUSTICE * PERSONAL EMPOWERMENT NEW BUILDING CAPITAL CAMPAIGN GEARING UP

Bev Burgess and I (Abby Addington-May), your Co-Chairs of the Capital Campaign Committee, have been quietly working in the cool of this early Summer to lay the groundwork for this Fall's Westminster New Building Capital Campaign. I am personally very excited about both the vision of a new, purpose-built, eco-friendly, Fellowship Hall as well as the process that will bring it to fruition – a process that will be educational, motivational, and fun. The Capital Campaign itself provides a great opportunity for fellowship. Bev and I look forward to working with you all in one capacity or another over the course of this fall's Campaign and ultimately celebrating our success together at its conclusion on December 6th. Stay tuned.....

VERMONT B&B WEEKEND

Fifteenth Annual B&B Weekend offered by the UU Church of Rutland, VT. Enjoy the beauty of Vermont, UU hospitality, and a choice of guided activities: hiking, nature walk, kayaking, bicycling, antiques/arts, cider making historic tour, soaring tour, touring historic sites and quaint towns, and much more. Registration by August 15, \$275 (single) and \$475 (double). After August 15, \$325 (single bed) and \$525 (double bed).

For more information contact uufoliagevermont@yahoo.com or (802) 353-7969.

For brochure/registration, go to

<http://fallweekend.wordpress.com/> or the UU

Church of Rutland website: www.rutlanduu.org

AMONG OURSELVES



JUNE & JULY'S CHARITY OF THE MONTH – OIKOCREDIT

Westminster shares unrestricted cash placed in our collection basket 50/50 with a different charity each month. With approval from our minister and Board of Trustees, the Share the Plate Committee has selected *Oikocredit* for the month of June.

“At Oikocredit, we believe the world’s poor can build better lives for themselves – if only given the chance. And our experience proves this. By no choice of their own, 1.5 billion people in the world live in poverty. They don’t lack ability. They lack opportunity.

“We provide that opportunity. Through financing, the poor gain vital access to credit. With it, they are able to generate income, support their families and sustain their communities. It is a formula that has been proven time and time again.

“At Oikocredit, the loans we provide to around 500 microfinance institutions have touched hundreds of thousands of families in some 70 countries all around the world. That’s a difference you can count on.

“Discover how you can help make a real difference – one life at a time.”

For questions about Sharing the Plate, please contact a member of the Committee: Kristen Morelli, Bill Stone, Celia Humphreys or Nathan DeSisto. To make a charitable organization suggestion, please fill out a Nomination Form located in our mailbox, and available on our website.

Phyllis Shapiro sent the following: “I finally settled in here on July 15. It's really beautiful and peaceful where I am, and I am so glad to be just 5 miles from children and grandchildren. Gizmo (my dog) is adjusting and hasn't tried to run away back to R. I. (YET !!!).

SHARE THE PLATE LOOKING FOR MONTHLY SPONSORS

Are you on a committee with a month that’s especially meaningful to you? Would you want to “adopt” a month to sponsor the Share the Plate charity?

If you are on a committee that’s interested in adopting a Share the Plate month, please contact any member of the Share the Plate Committee (Kristen Morelli, Bill Stone, Celia Humphreys or Nathan DeSisto).

As a reminder of how Share the Plate works, Westminster shares unrestricted cash placed in our collection basket 50/50 with a different charity, approved by the Committee and the Board of Trustees, each month.

The Share the Plate Committee is also interested in recommendations for individual charities. To make a charitable organization suggestion, please fill out a Nomination Form located in our mailbox, and available on Westminster’s website (www.westminsteruu.org). For questions about Sharing the Plate, please contact any member of the Committee.

WESTMINSTER CALENDAR

| | |
|------|----------------------------------|
| 7/23 | 7:00 PM WOW (FH) |
| 7/26 | 9:30 AM Summer Worship (FH) |
| 7/29 | 6:00 PM Buddhist Meditation (FH) |
| 7/30 | 7:00 PM WOW (FH) |
| 8/2 | 9:30 AM Worship FH) |
| 8/5 | 6:00 PM Buddhist Meditation (FH) |
| 8/6 | 7:00 PM WOW (Top of the Bay) |
| 8/9 | 9:30 Worship (FH) |
| 8/12 | 6:00 PM Buddhist Meditation (FH) |
| 8/13 | 7:00 PM WOW (FH) |
| 8/14 | 7:00 PM Young Adult Movie (FH) |
| 8/16 | 9:30 Worship (FH) |
| 8/19 | 6:00 PM Buddhist Meditation (FH) |

WESTMINSTER CONTACT INFORMATION

Westminster Unitarian Church welcomes all individuals without regard to race, color, physical challenge, sexual orientation, age, or national origin.

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Church Office: | 401-884-5933 |
| Fax Number: | 401-885-2710 |
| Minister: | Barbara Fast |
| minister's study: | 401-884-3561 |
| Religious Ed Coordinator: | Renee Pierre |
| Music Director: | Nonetta Shatakhtsian |
| Office Administrator: | Judy Brown |
| E-mail: | westminsteruu@verizon.net |
| Website: | www.westminsteruu.org |
| Summer Office Hours | No regular days- phone messages and mail checked twice weekly. |

WESTMINSTER WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

To volunteer, write your name on the schedule in Fellowship Hall, or contact Judy Brown, the Office Administrator.

The Caring Circle is Here to Help You

If you have experienced a setback that has left you or a family member ill, or in need of meals, visits, rides or other help, please contact Nancy Rieser or Rev. Barbara Fast (phone 401-884-3561).

CHIMES DEADLINES



DEADLINE: August 13th
MAILING: August 19th

If you prefer to have the Chimes e-mailed to you, please contact Judy Brown in the Church office weekdays between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.