

THE PIONEER

August-September 2009

Paper Pulpit

The Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates, Senior Minister

It's always entertaining when folks comment about the "idealism" of clergy – we're all so kind, so caring, so open to seeing the good in everyone, and so utterly unrealistic! I'd like to think that the kind, caring, & open accusations have some grounding in truth. But unrealistic? No, friends. Ministers see too much of the shadow side of life (including our own) to be under any illusions about the realities of human capacities for greed, for envy, for indifference, for violence of all kinds. What led us into ministry rather than, say, law enforcement or Blackwater Worldwide (or whatever they're calling themselves now), is how much we've also been privileged to see of the generosity, the compassion, the empathy, the healing human beings both long for and demonstrate.

Those ideals are not empty dreams. One of my favorite passages from the Unitarian Universalist "scriptures" is Henry David Thoreau's comment upon his time at Walden Pond. He wrote, *"I learned this, at least, by my experiment: that if one advances confidently in the direction of one's dreams, and endeavors to live the life one has imagined, one will meet with a success unexpected in common hours.... If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost; that is where they should be. Now put the foundations under them."*

Our challenge is to put those foundations in place.

That's why UUSG will be focusing so intently on issues of Peace this church year. We'll be looking more closely at the Peacemaking statement our Social Justice Peacemaking subcommittee drafted last spring. At least nine of our service weekends will be on various peace themes. And on Monday, September 21, we'll join thousands and thousands of people around the world in observing the International Day of Peace.

While plans are still subject to change, we want to be sure everyone knows what the plan is – and I do hope that everyone who can be here on the 21st will be. So far, these are the events on the day's schedule at UUSG:

- 10-11am** Story Hour for preschoolers and their parents
- 11am-1pm** Sanctuary open for meditation;
Peace through Justice Opportunities
- 1-2:30pm** Commit to Knit (Shawls for peace) AND/OR
Listen to peace sermons from our UUSG library
- 2:30-3pm** Reading of names of casualties in Afghanistan
- 3-5pm** Watch and discuss movies: "Afghan Stories" and
"The Day After Peace"
- 5-7pm** Sanctuary open for meditation;
Peace through Justice Opportunities
- 7-8:30pm** Speaker Kathy Kelly: "Eyewitness to War, Witness to
Peace, at Home and Abroad". Social activist and coordinator of Voices
for Creative Nonviolence, Kelly has organized and participated in
nonviolent direct action teams in Haiti, Bosnia, and Iraq. Most recently,
she witnessed first-hand the effects of drone aircraft in Pakistan.

If you'd like to help with the Day of Peace observances, come to a Social Justice Committee meeting or chat with Jean Pierce in the Common Room after services. Let's live the life we have imagined – and call into being the best dreams of all people of good will all around our planet home.

See you in church! **LB**

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Religious Education Announcements and Upcoming Events

Church Year Begins: Teachers Needed!

It is that time once again! **We are preparing for our fall church school classes, and that means that we need YOU to sign up as teachers.** Whether you have children in the classes now, have in the past, might in the future, or simply enjoy the company of other people's children, this is your opportunity to serve our community and the children we cherish.

In order to offer the best support possible to our teachers and students, we require three or four adults to be on each teaching team; this allows the teachers to get regular breaks from the classroom and can make it less necessary to seek substitute teachers. **If we don't have at least three teachers on a team, we will either combine the class with another or cancel the class altogether.** We rely on you to support this ministry of the congregation, and look forward to another year with our teaching teams filled.

Our Teacher Planning Workshop is scheduled for Saturday, September 12 at 10am. We expect all our teachers, new and returning, to join us if at all possible. Participating in the workshop will offer you an opportunity to meet your teaching team, get comfortable with your classroom, learn what's new for the year, and begin your scheduling. If you are unable to attend, please contact Sandi Sumner, LRE Administrator, in order to get the information you need.

We're wrapping up our Spirit Play classes this month, and are pleased to have had a good teaching team for the summer. We're hoping to have full and enthusiastic teaching teams again this fall – please sign up on the LRE Board in the Common Room or contact Sandi Sumner (lre@uusg.org).

Upcoming Adult & Youth LRE Events

August 26, 7:00pm	Compassionate Communication Study Group
August 29, 6:30pm	New UUs Small Group Ministry
Sept. 2, 7:30pm	UU Paganism Study Group
Sept. 6, 1:00pm	UU Atheism/Humanism Study Group
Sept. 9, 7:00pm	Compassionate Communication Study Group
Sept. 10, 7:30pm	Small Group Ministry
Sept. 12, 6:30pm	Junior High Youth Group
Sept. 13, 1:00pm	Coming of Age Program
Sept. 16, 7:00pm	LRE Committee Meeting
Sept. 18, 7:00pm	Friday Flicks: "Blue Gold"
Sept. 19, 3:30pm	Small Group Ministry
Sept. 19, 6:30pm	Games Night!
Sept. 20, 1:00pm	Coming of Age Program
Sept. 23, 7:00pm	Compassionate Communication Study Group
Sept. 26, 6:30pm	New UUs Small Group Ministry

Weekly Adult RE Opportunities

Mondays, 7pm, in the Common Room:
"Still Living in the Present Moment"

Wednesdays, 7pm, in the Sanctuary:
UU Buddhism Meditation & Study Group

UU Buddhist Meditation Group

Have you ever been curious about walking meditation? If so, you are invited to give it a try on Wednesday, September 23, at 7pm in the UUSG sanctuary. Back by popular demand, the UU Buddhist Meditation and Study Group will watch a video about walking meditation, try the practice as a group, and discuss our experience.

The group meets regularly on Wednesday nights at 7pm in the UUSG sanctuary. To find out more, visit our website at <http://sites.google.com/site/uusgbuddhist>.

Paganism Study Group

The Paganism Study Group has chosen the next book for discussion. It is "The Earth Path: Grounding Your Spirit in the Rhythms of Nature" by Starhawk. The group is open to anyone interested in reading and discussing the relationship of ecology to Paganism.

We meet on the 1st Wednesday evening of every month; our next meeting is September 2 at 7:30pm at the church. For more information, contact Jill Brown through the office at office@uusg.org or 630-232-2350.

Another LRE Opportunity

Coming soon...Two OWL Facilitator Trainings

On Friday, October 2, from 10am to 9pm, and Saturday, October 3, from 9am to 9pm, UUSG will host Our Whole Lives (OWL) Facilitator Training for Grades 7-9 and 10-12.

On Friday, October 16, from 5pm to 9pm, and Saturday, October 17, from 9am to 9pm, the Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist in Palatine will host OWL Facilitator Training for Grades K-1 and 4-6.

This training provides an opportunity to:

- * Experience activities of the curricula as they were designed to be conducted.
- * Experience a supportive environment to practice skills and receive constructive feedback.
- * Get in touch with one's own feelings, opinions, experiences, and comfort level in facilitating a sexuality education program.
- * Connect one's sexuality and faith (as well as understand & accept others') in a nurturing environment.

If you are interested in attending OWL training for either age group (or both), please contact Sandi Sumner at LRE@uusg.org or 630-232-2350 x224.

Volunteer Headquarters

Social Hour: Learning the Ropes

If you've thought about hosting social hour but just aren't sure how it all works, you're in luck!

We have Social Hour Hosting Experts on hand each Sunday to show you how it's done. They'll teach you how to set up, run the coffee machine and dishwasher, and clean up afterwards.

It's easy, it's fun, you can still go to the worship service, and you might even make some new friends!

We're looking for Hosting Newbies to work with Hosting Experts on August 30 and September 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, and 27.

If you're interested in learning, you can sign up by going to <http://content.uusg.org/greeters-and-social-hour-hosts/> or at the Volunteer Opportunities bulletin board in the Common Room!

Volunteer Appreciation

We send our heartfelt appreciation to these volunteers:

Rick, Anne, & Thomas Veague; Jim O'Malley; and Kevin O'Neill, for their help at our Pizza Booth during Swedish Days (and we apologize for leaving you off of last month's list of volunteers!)

Shawn Thornton, for his help watering our property (when it hasn't been raining!)

Diane Peters and Molly MacKay Zacker, for providing food for Susan Knerr's memorial service on August 23

Volunteer Opportunities

If you have questions or want to get involved, talk to Katie!

Getting the Word Out The Communications Committee wants to continue sending out regular press releases to the local newspapers, but we need a few more writers.

The Next Generation of UUs Interested in teaching this fall? Details about how to sign up are available on page 2.

UUSG History Brochure We're looking for someone to put together a brochure about UUSG's history. We have the brochure template and all the historical info you could ever want—we just need someone to put it all together!

Filling In There are 2 bare patches of ground on the north side of the Sanctuary—we'd like to have them seeded.

Enhancing our Shared Worship Space

A Report of the Sanctuary Aesthetics Committee

The Sanctuary Aesthetics Committee has developed a plan for updating the interior of the sanctuary. This process started in 2008 when the Facilities Committee began looking for chancel chairs for the ministers and for new pew cushions. The committee heard from congregants about the desire for a complete update of the sanctuary interior. In September 2008, the ministers invited interested congregants to a brainstorming session which resulted in a number of possible ideas.

Attendees from that meeting joined with representatives of the Facilities Committee in early 2009 to form the Sanctuary Aesthetics Committee: Jim Jenkins, Sherri Casterline, Beth Wray, Maureen McKeough, Elba Karim, Sharon Hansen, Rev. Adam, and Deann Alleman. Over several months of discussion, this group developed an overall concept for improvements that will update the look of the sanctuary interior and enhance the experience of worship and celebration that takes place in this space while preserving its historic traditions.

Using a book suggested by Adam ("Your Building Speaks"), the committee initiated discussions about:

- 1) What goes on in the space? How does the space communicate meaning related to the events and experiences associated with it?
- 2) Are there things that bother or annoy us? What are they?
- 3) What symbols, in addition to the flaming chalice, are or might be appropriate for our congregation? What do or might they convey?

These discussions affirmed the importance of the sanctuary space for worship, contemplation, reflection, celebration, communication, education, and a sense of tradition. The space communicates meaning by being peaceful, quiet, simple, and rich in the history of our congregation. However, the space is lacking in cohesion among its elements and colors, is overly plain and austere, and lacks an inspirational focus other than the flaming chalice, which is rather lost against the red curtain. There is some concern about an over-emphasis on the historic aspects at the expense of current life experiences. The red curtain serves an important function for the acoustics of the room but currently adds little to the visual aesthetics of the room.

The recommended plan incorporates the symbols and historic elements of the sanctuary with some enhancements to provide a more cohesive, updated look. The simple changes will provide some visual focus while enhancing the beautiful windows, the simple elegance of the pulpit and the pews, the piano as the focus of the music that is such an important part of our worship and celebrations, and will also highlight the chalice and its stand that are our own unique artistic symbols.

The changes will happen in stages over time as we continue to grow in our understanding of how our shared space can enhance our shared experiences and as the funding sources become available for each planned stage. Painting has been completed and the other initial steps will be put in place in the next few weeks. These include replacing the valance, adding panels in front of the red curtain, and enhancing the crown molding around the upper walls.

The walls, ceiling, and window frames have been painted using no-VOC paint in new colors chosen for a brighter and warmer appearance. The valance holding the red curtain will be rebuilt to provide for two additional hanging rods so that two layers of fabric hangings can be hung in front of the red curtain. Initially these will be neutral, sheer panels that can cover the entire red curtain or be placed in differing configurations.

(continued on the next page)

Enhancing our Shared Worship Space (continued)

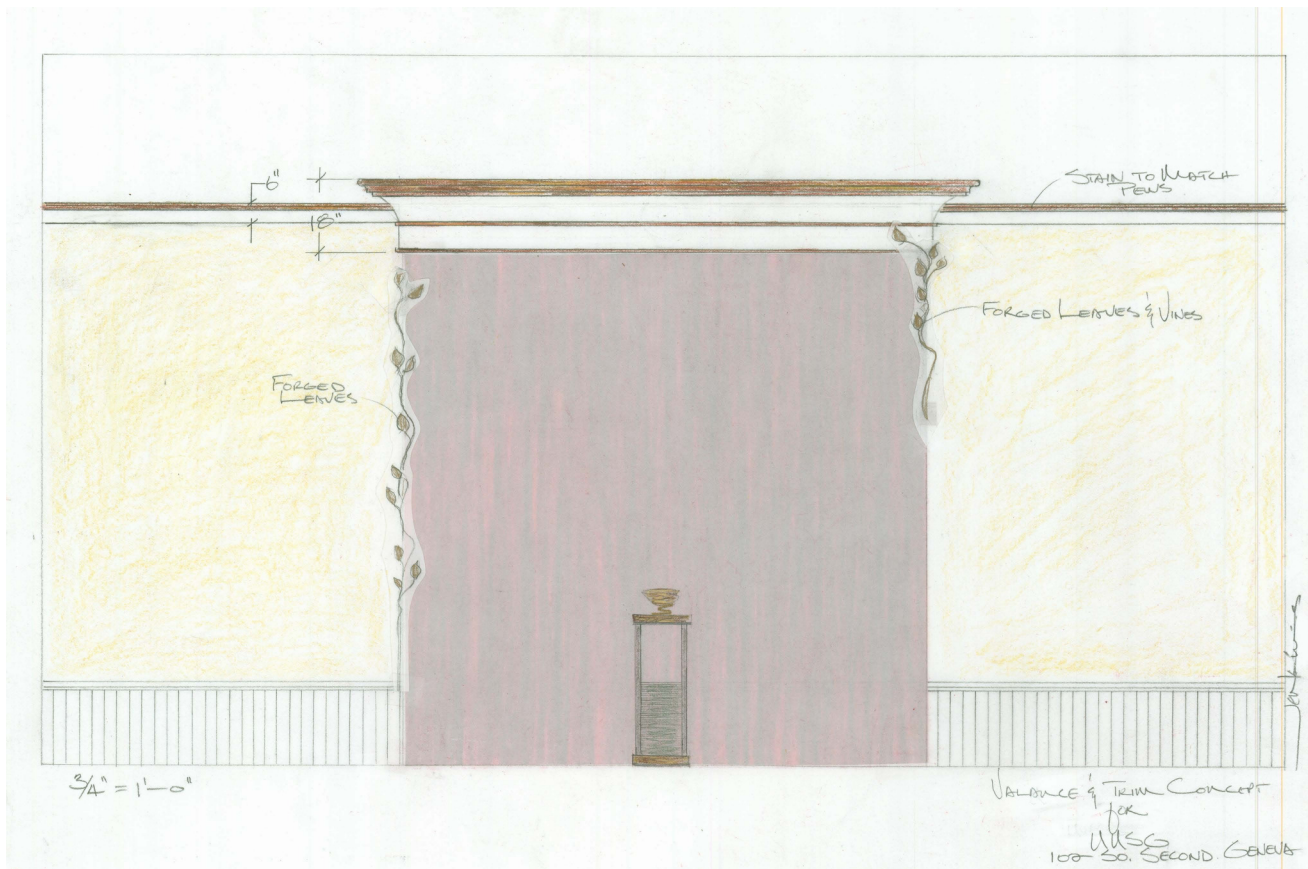
When possible, a special panel will be created to hang behind the chalice and its stand thus providing a backdrop that highlights these special elements. Additional hangings will be chosen for seasonal or special occasions. The newly designed valance and hanging system will include two removable metal hanging sculptures that repeat the branch and leaf designs in the windows and the "Change for a Change" stand.

Later, a new stand for the ring and two additional stands similar to the chalice stand will be added to provide changeable display options in front of the curtains and hangings. These stands, along with the new hanging system, will allow for flexibility with possible displays of symbols, sacred texts, and visually appealing items related to the seasons, the focus of the worship, or other events taking place in the space.

As soon as possible, the chancel chairs will be recovered and new pew cushions will be installed. Eventually, the carpet will be replaced and the floor will be repainted or finished as natural wood.

The funding for the first phase (improvements to the valance, hanging system, and crown molding) is being covered through generous donations from UUSG members. The painting is part of planned facilities maintenance from the Building Improvement Fund (BIF). Jim Jenkins and Lee Bernard are designing and constructing the new valance, hanging system, and crown molding. A display will be available soon in the Common Room showing the planned improvements.

We believe that these improvements will enhance the historic simplicity of the sanctuary while emphasizing the warmth and thoughtful engagement of our time together in this sacred space.



Social Justice News

“Some Like it Hot” Chili Supper

Save the date! Mark your calendar now for a Chili Supper at 6:30pm on Saturday, November 14. UUSG Chili Chefs will be invited to showcase their favorite recipes. Prizes will be awarded for (1) the Best Example of Universalist Chili (having universal appeal), (2) Containing the Most Unique Ingredient(s), and (3) the Best Vegetarian Entry.

The event will benefit “Feed My Starving Children.” Childcare will be provided. Look for details in upcoming Pioneers.

Friday Flick: “Blue Gold: World Water Wars”

“Blue Gold: World Water Wars,” a recently-released award-winning documentary, will be shown in the Common Room at 7pm on Friday, September 18. Winner of prizes at 2009 film festivals in the U.S., Canada, and Europe, the film follows worldwide examples of people fighting for their basic right to water, from court cases to violent revolutions to U.N. conventions to revised constitutions to local protests at grade schools.

Who is responsible? Corporate giants, Wall Street investors, corrupt governments, and us. Most importantly, the film shares ideas that will work to help the world avoid an epidemic. Join us to view and discuss this important film.

Peace Observance: Monday, September 21st

UUSG will join people throughout the world in celebrating the International Day of Peace on September 21st. The following events are planned:

- 10-11:00am** Story Hour for preschoolers and their parents
- 11am-1:00pm** Sanctuary open for noontime Meditation and Peace through Justice Opportunities highlighted in the Common Room
- 1-2:30pm** Commit to Knit (Shawls for peace) and/or Listen to stirring peace sermons that have been delivered at UUSG
- 2:30-3pm** Reading of names of casualties in Afghanistan
- 3-5:00pm** Watch and discuss movies: “Afghan Stories” and “The Day After Peace”
- 5-7:00pm** Sanctuary open for meditation and Peace through Justice Opportunities highlighted in the Common Room
- 7-8:30pm** Speaker: Kathy Kelly: “Eyewitness to War, Witness to Peace, at Home and Abroad”. Social activist and coordinator of Voices for Creative Nonviolence, Kelly has organized and participated in nonviolent direct action teams in Haiti, Bosnia, and Iraq. Most recently, she has witnessed first-hand the effects of drone aircraft in Pakistan.

Giving “Beyond Our Walls”

In July & August, we collected \$1278 for Freedom from Hunger, an organization that brings poor women in 17 countries a powerful combination of microfinance, health education, life-skills training, and health protection to help them achieve a sustainable, self-help end to hunger. Freedom from Hunger is now empowering more than 600,000 families to break the cycle of hunger and poverty.

In mid-August, Jim Jenkins and Katie Phillips wheeled 5 very heavy bags of coins over to the State Bank of Geneva. Our “Change for a Change” tree collected \$1159.23 for Feed My Starving Children. Many thanks to everyone who gave their coins (and paper money!) to this cause. Jim has created a new Change tree and we’ve begun to collect for our next recipient, Operation Support Our Troops Illinois.

A Little More Social Justice News

Recruiting Service Volunteer Participants: Fall RSVP Schedule

Thank you to our July volunteers who played BINGO with residents at Geneva Care Center: Kevin Beyer, Joanne Erickson, Lisa Gades, Jeanne Neltner, Jean Pierce, Shawn Thornton, and Mary Watters. We had a great time and hope to go back again in the spring!

On September 19, from 2 to 4pm, we will be packing nutritious meals for hungry children at Feed My Starving Children (FMSC). Students in third grade and up are welcome with a parent (1 adult for every 3 students). More information can be found at <http://www.fmsc.org>.

On October 24, from 8:45 to 11:00am, we will be participating in a special "Youth Shift" event at the Northern Illinois Food Bank. Students age 8 and up are welcome to volunteer with a parent (1 adult for every 5 students). More information can be found at <http://www.northernilfoodbank.org/>.

Sign up for these RSVP opportunities on the Social Justice bulletin board in the Common Room, register online at <http://content.uusg.org/rsvp-program/>, or contact Lisa Gades through the office at office@uusg.org or 630-232-2350.

Date	Location	Ages	Requirements	Activities
Sept. 19 2-4pm	Feed My Starving Children 555 Exchange Ct. Aurora, IL	3 rd grade & older	Closed-toed shoes; parent to accompany students K-12	Package nutritious meals that will be shipped to hungry children
Oct. 24 8:45- 11am	Northern Illinois Food Bank 600 Industrial Dr. St. Charles, IL	8 & older	Closed-toed shoes; parent to accompany students under 14	Sort and package food for distribution to food pantries

Social Justice Action Alert

Tell Your Senators to Support the Paycheck Fairness Act: It's Common Cents!

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, even today, women who work full-time still earn, on average, only 78 cents for every dollar men earn. The figures are even worse for women of color. African-American women still only earn 63 cents and Latinas only 52 cents for each dollar earned by a white male. But it's not just cents we're talking about. Chronic wage discrimination can deprive a woman of between \$700,000 and \$2 million over her career. The effects of wage discrimination follow its victims for a lifetime.

The Equal Pay Act of 1963 was intended to close this pay gap. Unfortunately, due to loopholes and weak remedies in this law, the pernicious pay disparities persist. And now, as unemployment rates skyrocket, families depend on women's income more than ever, making pay equity even more critical to families' economic security and the nation's economic recovery.

The Paycheck Fairness Act, S. 182, makes several common sense changes to strengthen the Equal Pay Act and puts in place enforcement tools needed to make real progress on pay equity. The House of Representatives has already passed the Paycheck Fairness Act, and now, your help is needed to let the Senate know that working families cannot wait any longer. Especially in this economy, there is an urgent need to take action to ensure that women can receive equal pay for equal work by passing the Paycheck Fairness Act. It's only common cents.

We need your help to close the wage gap for women. To send a message to your senator, please go to: <https://secure.aclu.org/site/Advocacy?id=1469&pagename=homepage&page=UserAction>

Tracey McFadden, for the Social Justice Committee

Green Corner

Trade in your showerhead

(from www.greentips.com)

Standard showerheads can pump out an amazing amount of water. If your showerhead has the power to peel the soap from the bathroom walls, it may be time to look for an upgrade! Even if you can take a shower quicker than anyone in the neighborhood, that showerhead is shooting out water at a rate of 5 to 7 gallons per minute.

By switching to a low-flow showerhead (2.5 gallons per minute), you can save a staggering 600 gallons of water per month.

Fix That Water Leak

from www.thedailygreen.com

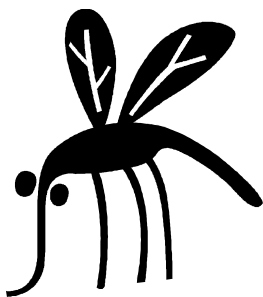
Fix that leaky pipe or faucet, and you'll be amazed at how much water you can save.

Let's face it. We've all ignored those small, slow drips from a bathroom faucet or kitchen sink at one time or other. After all, how much water does it really waste?

When you factor in the steady, 24/7 dripping over any length of time, the answer is "plenty." Then think about all the faucets dripping elsewhere in your neighborhood, the country, the world. Leaks really do matter.

If you use the Drip Accumulator calculator on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Website, you'll see that a single slow leaky faucet dripping 30 drops per minute wastes 3 gallons per day, or the equivalent of 27 baths per year. The USGS also estimates that many of our toilets leak approximately 22 gallons of water per day.

So here's one easy eco-friendly thing: fix that leak.



Natural Bug Spray

Use a nontoxic, natural bug spray instead of a chemical sprays to help protect you and wildlife from the harmful effects of toxic insecticides. There are many non-toxic, natural bug sprays available for sale. Products containing either a soap solution or a citrus-oil based solution are good choices.

For a list of natural bug spray products, visit <http://www.thedailygreen.com/environmental-news/latest/natural-insect-repellents-460608>.

Use Power Strips

(from www.greentips.com)

Remember the days before power strips? Those huge bundles of wire that you could find behind everyone's TV? Of course, back then it was only 3 plugs because we simply did not have so many gadgets. In fact, it's those gadgets, the reason that power strip came to be, that are wasting so much of our energy in the home today.

It is estimated that 5 - 20% of a home's electricity is wasted on powering devices that are not even being used. Fortunately, there are some really cool systems on the market that can control this power consumption, but most of us do not have the money for these systems.

Do you really need to see the time on your DVD player while you are at work? Of course not, so start small. Pick up one or 2 power strips and get them plugged into places where you have electronics. When you leave in the morning, click the power off.

Paint It Green

More than 850 million gallons of indoor and outdoor paint was sold for use on residential, commercial, institutional, and industrial buildings in 2005. The main environmental issue with paint is that much of it contains volatile organic compounds (VOCs). VOCs create ground-level ozone pollution and carry potential health risks. Buying low- or no-VOC paint will release fewer or no VOCs into the air when you paint.

For more information on painting green, visit <http://www.greenyour.com/home/home-improvement/paint/tips/buy-low-or-no-voc-latex-paint>

A UUSG LGBT Get-Together ASAP

Over the past year, a number of people have asked if we might offer an opportunity to give all our LGBT folks a chance to get together, say hello, and discover just how many of us there are at UUSG. So, here's an opportunity to do just that!

On Friday, September 25th at 6pm, we'll be having a potluck supper for our LGBT members and their families. William Elbert and Bruce Fackler will be helping to organize things, and we hope that our LGBT members and friends will come for a night of food, fun, and fellowship.

Please contact Katie Phillips at 630-232-2350 or office@uusg.org to let us know if you'll be joining us – we hope to see you there!

Circles of Life

We send our loving sympathy to Andy Montgomery, whose dad died in July. On August 23, we celebrated the life of UUSG Susan Knerr with a memorial service in our Sanctuary. Our hearts and prayers go out to Barry, Julie, and Phil.

We're pleased to report that Jordan Pierce has been accepted at Northwestern for their Masters program in Quality Assurance and Regulatory Sciences. As you can imagine, Jean & Lou are very pleased for him!

We've received word from South Carolina—Susan Conant's been busy! If you'd like to see what she's up to, check out her website at www.conantpoint.com/susanconant.

Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody: A Reminder About Our Shared Space

This is a little story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody.

There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it.

Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it.

Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job.

Everybody thought that Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it.

It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

Getting Back to Normal...

We continue our summer schedule of services (10am on Sundays) through September 6.

On the weekend of September 12 & 13, we return to our regular 3-service weekends (Saturdays at 5pm, Sundays at 9am & 11am) with our Homecoming Celebrations!



Going Behind the Scenes

Have you ever wondered what happens at Council Meetings or Board Meetings?

These meetings are open to anyone who's interested. The Councils (which is a meeting of the Committee chairs, vice presidents, ministers, and administrative staff) meet on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm. The Board meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm.

Carpet Cleaning Scheduled

The building will be closed on Friday, August 28 and Saturday, August 29 for carpet cleaning. If you must enter the building, please remove your shoes before doing so.

Staffing & Meetings on Labor Day

The office will be closed and all staff off on Monday, September 7 in honor of Labor Day. Meetings that would normally meet on that day have been canceled.

Time & Talents Interest Inventory

Since we rely primarily on volunteers to keep UUSG up and running, we ask that our members and friends take a few minutes to fill out a survey to let us know what their gifts and interests are.

As needs arise for particular skills, you may be contacted by a committee chair, committee member, clergy, or staff member. If you're not able to help when called, feel free to say "no." There will always be more opportunities in the future!

You can fill the survey out online at <http://content.uusg.org/time-talents-interest-invento/> or get a paper copy by contacting Katie in the church office.

Have You Noticed?

The interior of our Sanctuary has been painted! Our painter used environmentally-friendly no-VOC paint. For details on the aesthetic updates in the Sanctuary, please read the article on pages 4 & 5.

How to Get PAID to Volunteer...

Make a few extra bucks while helping out the littlest UUs! We're looking for a couple more reliable childcare providers for weekends during the services and weekday evenings.

If you'd like to join our group of rotating providers or know someone who might be a good fit in our nursery (do you have a fantastic babysitter you could share with us?), please talk to Katie in the office.

Although we're particularly looking for regular help, please also let us know if you can be called on short notice when we have a vacancy.

Save the Date!

You're invited to join us!

Annual UUSG Fall Picnic

Sunday, September 27
1pm at Wheeler Park

Got Questions? We're adding to our **FAQ [Frequently Asked Questions]** page for our website. Are there practical, easy-answer, obvious-to-the-initiated-but-not-so-obvious-to-newcomers questions you'd like us to include? Please send your suggestions to Katie at office@uusg.org. Want to see what questions we're already answering? Find out at <http://content.uusg.org/frequently-asked-questions/>.

Our calendar is provided on the next page, and is current as of August 26 2007. For the most up-to-date calendar information, please visit our Website Calendar – go to www.uusg.org and follow the links to the Interactive Online Calendar. You can download a printable version if you like; the Calendar site has the instructions.

NEXT PIONEER DEADLINE

The deadline for submission to this monthly newsletter, the PIONEER, is generally 9:00 a.m. on the third Friday of the month.

The next deadline for articles is **Friday, September 18, at 9:00 a.m.**

SEPTEMBER 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 10:00 AM Worship and Summer Church School (K-5); Social Hour at 11am	31 <i>Associate Minister's Sabbath</i> 7:00 PM AA Group Meeting 7:00 PM Adult RE - "Still Living in the Present Moment" 7:00 PM Steeple Walk Planning Meeting 7:30 PM Technology Committee Meeting	1 3:00 PM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM Bilingual Special Education Program 7:00 PM Sacred Harp Singing 7:30 PM Program & Administrative Councils	2 <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 12:00 PM "Healthy Habits" Group 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA 7:30 PM UU Paganism Study Group	3 <i>Associate Minister's Day Off</i> Senior Minister's Sabbath 7:00 PM Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm) 7:15 PM WomenSpirit Rising	4	5
6 10:00 AM Worship and Summer Church School (K-5); Social Hour at 11am 1:00 PM UU Atheism/Humanism Study Group	7 <i>Associate Minister's Sabbath</i> Labor Day <i>Office Closed</i> 7:00 PM AA Group Meeting	8 3:00 PM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM Bilingual Special Education Program 7:30 PM Board of Directors	9 <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM Compassionate Communication Study Group 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	10 <i>Associate Minister's Day Off</i> Senior Minister's Sabbath 7:00 PM Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm) 7:30 PM Small Group Ministry	11	12 10:00 AM Teacher Planning Workshop 5:00 PM Worship (childcare available for young children); Social Hour at 6 PM 6:30 PM Junior High Youth Group
13 9:00 AM & 11 AM Intergenerational Worship; Social Hours at 10 AM & NOON 10:00 AM Commit to Knit 10:15 AM Ministry of Hospitality Meeting 10:30 AM Finance Committee Meeting 11:00 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 12:30 PM Membership Committee Meeting 12:30 PM Social Justice Committee Meeting 1:00 PM Coming of Age Program 1:00 PM Private Christening Service 2:00 PM Lay Ministers' Meeting 7:00 PM 2nd Sunday (Story Tellers) Covenant Group	14 <i>Associate Minister's Sabbath</i> 1:30 PM Women's Guild 7:00 PM AA Group Meeting 7:00 PM Adult RE - "Still Living in the Present Moment" 7:00 PM Reiki Discussion Group	15 3:00 PM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM Bilingual Special Education Program 7:00 PM Reiki Share 7:00 PM Sacred Harp Singing	16 <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM "Healthy Habits" Group 7:00 PM Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting 7:00 PM LRE Committee Meeting 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	17 <i>Associate Minister's Day Off</i> Senior Minister's Sabbath 7:00 PM Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm) 7:15 PM WomenSpirit Rising	18 9:00 AM PIONEER deadline 7:00 PM Friday Flicks: "Blue Gold: World Water Wars"	19 <i>Associate Minister Off</i> 9:00 AM CMwD Board Meeting 2:00 PM RSVP: Feed My Starving Children 3:30 PM Small Group Ministry 5:00 PM Worship (childcare available for young children); Social Hour at 6 PM 6:30 PM Games Night!
20 9:00 AM & 11 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hours at 10 AM & NOON 9:00 AM CMwD Board Meeting 11:00 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 12:30 PM Communications Committee Meeting 1:00 PM Coming of Age Program 7:00 PM Reiki Share	21 <i>Associate Minister's Sabbath</i> 10:00 AM International Day of Peace Observance 7:00 PM AA Group Meeting 7:00 PM Adult RE - "Still Living in the Present Moment"	22 First Day of Autumn 3:00 PM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM Bilingual Special Education Program 7:00 PM Hypnosis Information/Intake Session	23 <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 6:00 PM Pioneer Mailing Prep 7:00 PM Compassionate Communication Study Group 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	24 <i>Associate Minister's Day Off</i> Senior Minister's Sabbath 9:15 AM Simple Living Circle 7:00 PM Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm)	25 6:00 PM LGBT Potluck Dinner Get-together	26 9:00 AM Yellow House Artists Membership Meeting 3:30 PM Worship Associates' Refresher Course 5:00 PM Worship (childcare available for young children); Social Hour at 6 PM 6:30 PM Small Group Ministry
27 9:00 AM & 11 AM Worship & Church School; Social Hours at 10 AM & NOON 11:00 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 12:15 PM Worship Associates' Refresher Course 1:00 PM UUSG Annual Fall Picnic	28 <i>Associate Minister's Sabbath</i> 7:00 PM AA Group Meeting 7:00 PM Adult RE - "Still Living in the Present Moment"	29 3:00 PM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM Bilingual Special Education Program 7:30 PM Last Tuesday Group Hypnosis	30 <i>Associate Minister at UUA Meeting</i> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	1 <i>Associate Minister at UUA Meeting</i> Senior Minister's Sabbath 7:00 PM Youth Outlook (youth can begin arriving at 6:30pm) 7:15 PM WomenSpirit Rising	2 <i>Associate Minister at UUA Meeting</i> 10:00 AM OWL Training	3 9:00 AM OWL Training 1:00 PM Committee on Ministries Meeting 5:00 PM Worship (childcare available for young children); Social Hour at 6 PM

<p>Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates — <i>Senior Minister</i> minister@uusg.org</p> <p>Rev. Adam Robersmith — <i>Associate Minister</i> associate.minister@uusg.org</p> <p>Katie Phillips — <i>Congregational Administrator</i> office@uusg.org</p> <p>Sandi Sumner — <i>LRE Administrator</i> LRE@uusg.org</p> <p>David deCoriolis, <i>Board President</i></p> <p>John Brennan, <i>Treasurer</i></p> <p>Bill Pokorny, <i>Board Secretary</i></p>	<p>Our Covenant (written in 1842)</p> <p><i>Being desirous of promoting practical goodness in the world, and of aiding each other in our moral and religious improvement, we have associated ourselves together — not as agreeing in opinion, not as having attained universal truth in belief or perfection in</i></p>
<p>The Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva 110 South Second Street P.O. Box 107 Geneva, IL 60134-0107</p> <p>Church Office: 630-232-2350 Church Email: office@uusg.org Church Website: www.uusg.org</p>	<p>Our Mission Statement</p> <p><i>The Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva is a diverse, welcoming community which endeavors to make its Covenant a living reality. We provide religious education and opportunities for spiritual growth. We encourage individual and mutual responsibility as together we work to be a liberal religious voice in the community and a force for compassionate social justice.</i></p> <p>— adopted by the congregation May 19, 1996</p>
	<p>The next Pioneer deadline is September 18, 2009 at 9am. Please send all articles to BOTH office@uusg.org AND minister@uusg.org.</p>

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We'll pass your message along.

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