



THE PIONEER

June-July 2011

Paper Pulpit

The Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates, Senior Minister

Have you ever had the feeling that things weren't quite right and no one would listen to you – or you didn't know where to go with your concerns? Has that ever happened here at UUSG? I'm betting that, for some of you at least, the answer is yes. And there is indeed someplace to go and someone to talk to if for any reason you're not comfortable coming directly to me.

There's not a community in the world that doesn't have stresses and disagreements and challenges. Right now, we've got a lot of practical matters to deal with – rebuilding our religious education program, following through with creating a new Long Range Plan, deciding what our staffing needs are and how to meet them for the coming year/years/decade(s), deciding what to do with the small plot of new land we've purchased, figuring out how to support our dreams. Underlying our response to all of these (and every other test of community and relationships that we will ever face) is our understanding of the key phrases in our Covenant: "promoting practical goodness," "aiding each other in our moral and religious improvement," "not as agreeing in opinion," "not as having attained...truth...or perfection," "seekers after truth and goodness." For our long-term health and effectiveness, the Covenant is our fundamental guide. As a community, we're regularly lifting up its different sections, exploring together how best to live out the promises and values implicit in those phrases.

To institutionalize the process, we have our **Committee on Ministries**. This group of 6 UUSG members meets regularly with me and any other professional ministry leaders to facilitate communications between professional staff and congregation, committees and other staff based upon the principles of compassionate communication and our UUSG Covenant. Their charge is *to strengthen the quality, effectiveness and health of our congregation's ministries. Committee members will work with the professional clergy to educate the congregation about ministry, clarify roles, and model healthy communications within caring relationships. Committee on Ministries members will monitor congregational life, support problem solving, coordinate periodic assessments, and facilitate communication among the clergy, the congregation and the Board.*

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These are the people you can go to if you're having problems, concerns, worries, conflicts or other issues with any aspect of UUSG life, including staff, including me. My preference is that we talk directly with one another when we find ourselves not agreeing in opinion, but I know that's not always easy to do. So if you have any concerns that you wish **someone** would raise with the Senior Minister, the Religious Educator, the Associate Minister, the Administrator, the Intern, the Board, or any other group or individual leading any aspect of our congregational life, please know that we do have a group of folks trusted by the rest of our leadership to help you bring your concerns forward. The Committee on Ministries as a whole and its members individually covenant to provide a safe place to raise questions, address problems, clear up misunderstandings and failed communications, and look for more ways to strengthen our shared ministries to one another and to the world.

Continued on page 2...

Or, in less “preachery” language, if you’re ticked off with the Minister, the Administrator, the Board President, or the chair of a committee, and you don’t feel you can approach that individual on your own, talk to a member of the Committee on Ministries. Whatever the issue may be, these folks will take your concern seriously and will know how to help move toward a healthy, appropriate resolution.

Their names are printed below, and there’ll soon be a bulletin board display in the Common Room with their pictures, in case you don’t know them already. Please talk with them about whatever might be on your mind. Honest, clear, respectful communication is essential for a healthy community. The Committee on Ministries is dedicated to keeping those lines open, to being sure we continue to listen and to hear one another, honoring our promise to help one another “in our moral & religious improvement” especially in those tricky situations when “not...agreeing in opinion” seems more a threat than the great strength it truly is.

Peace! **LB**

Members of the Committee on Ministries:

Deb Brod

Al Drover

Jim Frazier

Nancy Goodfellow

Tracy Rosenkrans, Liaison to the Lifespan Religious Education Committee

Ben Walker, Liaison to the Board of Directors

Contact information for each of these CoM members individually is listed in our Spring 2011 Directory. If you need a directory, please check with Katie Phillips to get a copy at church or a PDF emailed to you.

Religious Education Announcements

Upcoming LRE Events

- July 9-17 YRUU Habitat for Humanity Trip
- July 10, 11:00 am Coming of Age Program
- July 13, 7:30 pm Compassionate Communication Study Group
- July 14, 7:30 pm Small Group Ministry
- July 15, 7:00 pm Friday Flicks: “On the Edge”
- July 16, 3:30 pm Small Group Ministry
- July 17, 11:00 am Coming of Age Program
- July 27, 7:30 pm Compassionate Communication Study Group

Weekly Adult RE Opportunities:

Every Wednesday at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary:
UU Buddhism Meditation & Study Group

Coming of Age Program

This year’s program will be led by a dedicated and energetic team of adult volunteers: Jim Jenkins, Diane Peters, Marilyn James, Judith Calleja, Tom Peters, Lou Pierce, and Lisa Rittenberry.

The program has its first class on July 10 and culminates with the Coming of Age worship service on October 23.

LRE Committee Meeting Dates

- July 11, 7:30 pm
- August 1, 7:30 pm

Anyone interested in youth or adult religious education is welcome to attend.

More LRE Announcements

Summer Church School—NOT

Ah, summer! We should be slowing down, but sometimes it seems that our lives get even more hectic. With that in mind, the LRE Committee regrets having to cancel our Spirit Play church school classes that were scheduled for July and August.

Many thanks to Jennifer Klein, who had signed up to teach, but we simply don't have enough adults signed up to make the classes happen this summer.

Children of all ages are invited to remain with their parents in the Sanctuary during our summer worship services. If sitting (relatively) quietly in the Sanctuary is a bit much for your child(ren), remember that you can also hear the service in the Common Room.

We'll have childcare available for childcare through kindergarten or age 6.

Enjoy your summer and we look forward to starting up church school again in the fall!

Fall Church School

Teacher sign up is going well! For those adults interested in teaching who have not yet signed up, you may do so on the LRE bulletin board in the Common Room or online at <http://content.uusg.org/teacher-sign-up/>. Adults interested in substitute teaching are also encouraged to sign up now.

The first teachers' meeting, for all volunteers, will be Monday, August 29, 7-8pm. Classes begin on Sunday, September 18 and run through Sunday, May 27, 2012. Please add these dates to your calendar.

Parents will want to register their children prior to the first class on September 18 as all youth attending classes will need to be registered. All necessary forms (Registration, Emergency Info, and Consent-to-Treat) can be accessed at <http://content.uusg.org/church-school-registration/>.

Also, please watch for information regarding a beginning-of-the-year parent meeting.

Munch & Learn Lecture Series

The Munch & Learn Series is on hiatus for the summer.

We will start up again with a talk on September 18th with Kate Frazier teaching us about "Attracting Birds to Your Backyard."

Our famous UU author, Deb Brod, will be the guest speaker on Oct 9.

YRUU Habitat for Humanity Trip

This year's youth Habitat for Humanity trip, July 9-17, will involve 22 teens and 8 adults from our congregation.

Check the UUSG Facebook page during that week for updates on the build project and how our youth are ministering to those in need.

Super Summer Salad Supper

Who? UUSG Members, Friends, and Children

What? For a Salad Buffet Supper

Where? In our Common Room at UUSG

When? 6pm on Saturday, July 30

Why? Just for fun!



Look for the sign-up sheet in the Common Room to add your name to the salad ingredients.

Those who wish to attend will get an email of reminder and at that time you will know about how many will be attending and thus how much of your food offering to bring.

Hope to see you there!

Clip 'n' Save: Summer Services

We have a full schedule this summer—here's what happening when!

- July 3 Lindsay will speak on "Patriotism Revisited."
- July 10 Lindsay will speak on "Drifting" and the importance of "not-doing."
- July 17 A special guest, the Rev. Lynne Garner, will be in the pulpit.
- July 24 Folk musicians Susan Urban and Phil Cooper will bring the delights of February Sky to our Sanctuary.
- July 31 Lindsay will speak on "Curiosity" and ongoing religious education.
- August 8 Dean Malambri & Friends will lead a musical celebration.
- August 14 Our Board President, Bill Pokorny, will be in the pulpit.
- August 21 Lindsay will speak on "More Big Ideas."
- August 28 Monica Jenkins will lead the Poetry Service entitled "Spiritual Inspiration."
- Sept. 5 Lindsay will have the pulpit for the Sunday before Labor Day and will speak on "When I Grow Up."
- Sept. 11 This is the weekend of Geneva's Festival of the Vine, a weekend when downtown parking is abysmal and our attendance has matched it! So we're moving Homecoming Weekend and instead will have an informal potluck brunch at the church (9:30am-12pm) and our Homecoming Picnic at Wheeler Park at 12pm.
- Sept. 18 Homecoming Sunday! We're back to 9:30am and 11:15am services.

Summer Summary

Worship Services

Through September 4: summer schedule of one service on Sundays at 10am

September 11: Intergenerational Potluck and End-of-Summer Celebration Picnic at Wheeler Park

September 18: return to our regular church year schedule—2 services on Sunday at 9:30am & 11:15am

Church School

During the summer, all children are invited to join us in the Sanctuary for our worship services.

Church school classes will begin on Sunday, September 18.

Staff Travels & Vacations

Lindsay: on vacation August 1-9, at Hypnotism Convention August 10-18

Katie: on vacation July 1-4 (and other dates to be decided)

UUSG on Facebook

Have you "liked" us on Facebook yet? Check out our page by going to www.facebook.com/uusg1.

We encourage everyone to comment on the page!

If you have something you'd like posted, send it to Ben Walker.

Chauffeur Needed for Loveseat

The youth room in the basement recently got some great new furniture! But we're having a little trouble finding a new home for the loveseat that they're no longer using. If you'd like to take it (or can take it to Goodwill), help yourself!

Social Justice News

Helping Out

The Social Justice Committee is looking for a few good people who would like to:

- (1) Mentor youths at the Illinois Youth Center. This is a new program which we would like to initiate in the fall of 2011. The purpose would be to meet with an individual boy on a regular basis to share an interest and discuss their dreams and goals. Serving in the role of a “big brother” or “big sister,” you will help him develop confidence that you believe in his ability to pursue reasonable goals.
- (2) Knit dark blue caps for IYC boys—these will be given in the Christmas gift bags.
- (3) Help plan the 2011 International Day of Peace celebration in September.

To volunteer for any of these projects, or to suggest other activities for Social Justice to pursue, please contact Jean Pierce at 630-232-2350.

July 15 Friday Flick: “On the Edge”

At 7pm on Friday, July 15, Diane Nilan will join us to lead a discussion following her latest film, “On the Edge.”

Filmed with the help of Dr. Laura Vazquez from NIU, the film tells the stories of seven women who struggled with crises which led to homelessness. Currently, they are contending with shame and anxiety of their situation while they struggle to return to independent lives with the help of a fragile support network.

Join us for what promises to be an enlightening evening viewing and discussing a recently-released film that has been nominated for a number of prizes.

Get Folksy at UUSG’s Summer Folk Fair and Concert on Saturday, July 23

From 6pm until 8pm, enjoy family-friendly music by Steven Keefe, creative crafts, a riveting raffle, filling food, lawn games, and a costume contest. Then, from 8pm until 10pm, stay for a February Sky Folk Concert in the Sanctuary.

Come as you are, or dress up in folk finery (however you define that). You are invited to enter a folk costume contest for \$1. A panel of 3 highly-trained roaming judges will award a gift basket to the most far-out folksy get-up.

Bring a blanket so that you can picnic on the lawn or eat inside while enjoying a \$6 sack lunch. Beverages will be sold. Yummy cake will be available for free.

Feeling lucky? Purchase a raffle ticket and win green products or crafts.

Browse tables where vendors display hand-made crafts, fair trade items, and green products.

Proceeds from the concert will benefit the UUSG Illinois Youth Center project. Advance tickets for the February Sky Concert are \$10 for adults & \$5 for children under 13. At the door, \$15 for adults & \$10 for children under 13.

Is your Piggy bank empty? Come to mingle with other folks and enjoy free cake - we'll be happy to see you!

Contact Katie (office@uusg.org or 630-232-2350) if you want to purchase advance tickets, sell your wares from 6pm to 8pm and or would like to help with the event.

More Social Justice News

Recruiting Service Volunteer Participants (RSVP)

Thank you to everyone who volunteered at Batavia Community Garden on June 18: Ann Drover, Sarah Jonke, Maureen McKeough, Jean Pierce, Pat Riordan, Ben Steskal, and Betsy & Claire Zinser.

August 2011: Batavia Community Garden

We'll return to Batavia Community Garden in August to learn about sustainable gardening techniques while providing fresh produce to the Interfaith Food Pantry. People of all ages are welcome to join us at 311 W. Main Street in Batavia, 9am on August 20. We will also be signing up to return to the garden at various times the week of August 20. To sign up and find out what tools you should bring, please contact Jean Pierce or Betsy Zinser. Also, check out the *Batavia Community Garden* site on Facebook!

September 2011: Northern Illinois Food Bank

To kick off the new church year, we're looking for 30 UUSG members and friends to join us for a 9-11am Youth Shift on Saturday, September 24 at Northern Illinois Food Bank. In addition to adult volunteers, teens and children ages 8 and up are invited with a parent/guardian. Volunteers will sort and pack food and other necessities for people in need in northern Illinois. We will meet at Northern Illinois Food Bank (600 Industrial Drive, St. Charles) at 8:45am. For more information about NIFB, please see:

<http://www.northernifoodbank.org/>

Date	Location	Ages	Requirements	Activities
August 20 9:00am	Batavia Community Garden	All ages	See above	Gardening for the Interfaith Food Pantry
September 24 9:00am	Northern Illinois Food Bank	8 and up with a parent	Closed-toed shoes	Packing food for distribution to local food banks

Pottawatomie Habitat Update

There is some optimism that a local house to rehab will become available over the summer! When this milestone is realized, we want to ensure that UUSG has a line-up of willing volunteers to help work on Saturdays.

If you have not already done so, please let either Nancy Goodfellow or Hal Schulman if you would like to join in this rewarding social justice program.

There is not a requirement for prior experience or to work any specific number of days. In fact, the more volunteers we have on the roster, the easier it is to have ongoing representation without overburdening any one individual. Besides volunteering to work on the house, there is always a need to help provide lunch for the workers. Please also feel free to contact Nancy or Hal with questions and/or other items.

Giving "Beyond Our Walls"

In June, we collected \$929 for Planned Parenthood. For more than 90 years, Planned Parenthood has worked to improve women's health and safety, prevent unintended pregnancies, and advance the right and ability of individuals and families to make informed and responsible choices.

Even More Social Justice News

Getting Sassy

Shop The Sassy Fox Consignment Shop for fun and to benefit the Green Construction Scholarship Fund. Mention UUSG every time you shop there and tell your family and friends to do the same!

Visit them at 323 Walnut Street in St. Charles or online at www.TheSassyFox.com.

- now open 7 days a week
- greeting cards \$1
- new purses & jewelry 10% off
- candles & home accessories
- Better than Filene's

\$75 has been added to the Green Construction Scholarship so far. The May 11th UUSG Sassy Fox party was attended by: Kevin Beyer; Doreen Christiani; Lisa Gades; Vohny Moehling; Jenny Montgomery & friends; Rhonda Robinson; Rej, Riley & Heather Rooney; Donna Staley; and Marie Taylor. Thanks for braving the severe weather warnings to make the party a fun night! Special thanks to Pam Schnell who shopped the previous night prior to leaving on vacation. Doreen and Rhonda were thrilled with their drawing prizes. Let's do it again!

Chocolate for Sale!

Fair Trade chocolate is for sale in the Common Room—yum!

Proceeds benefit the Illinois Youth Center in St. Charles and Equal Exchange/Fair Trade. Contribute to improving a boy's life while enjoying a healthy treat.



Social Justice Action Alert:

Rep. Hultgren's Climate Denial Threatens Our Food Supply

Extreme floods, droughts, storms, and fires seem to be everywhere. And among their many devastating impacts is their threat to vital food crops.

Floods and droughts last year were responsible for massive crop failures across Russia and Australia. This year, it's France, Germany, and crops across the U.S. that are being wiped out.

As the New York Times reported earlier this month, climate change is literally contributing to the destabilization of our food system.

So it's shocking that 238 members of the House of Representatives, including Illinois Rep. Randy Hultgren, were more concerned with casting a vote to deny that climate change is affecting our planet than to implement a new, common-sense policy to help prepare for global warming, and plan for ways to prevent disastrous disruptions in our food supply.

Let's tell Rep. Hultgren: Stop denying the reality of climate change and putting our food security at risk. To automatically sign the petition please go to the following website:

http://act.credoaction.com/campaign/extreme_weather_food/?r=8267&id=23239-2309303-Xt_2zux

Thank you for fighting dangerous climate denial!

Tracey McFadden, for the Social Justice Committee

Swedish Days Pizza Booth Results

A HUGE thank you goes to Bob Atac and Tom Russo, who coordinated the fundraiser this year and worked many, many hours in the Pizza Booth! We couldn't have done it without you.

We are also extremely grateful to our Day Managers and Assistant Day Managers, who kept the Booth stocked with pizza and worked hard to make this fundraiser a success:

Bob Atac
Mary Swanson
Tom Russo
Pat McGleam

Linda Burke
Amy Brink
Anne Veague
Bob Swanson

Jim O'Malley
Jim Frazier
Jim Burke
Rick Veague

And last but not least: to everyone who worked at the Booth, THANK YOU!

Mark Alleman
Lucy Thelin Atac
Sam Atac
Melissa Auer
Katie Baar
Larry Bartoszek
Trish Beckjord
Kevin Beyer
Dan Bottoms
Sandy Bottoms
Jill Brown
Bob Brubaker
Judith Calleja
Doreen Christiani
Grace Christiani
Bev Coe
Peter Coe
David deCoriolis
Al Drover
Ann Drover
Barret Galauner
Brenda Galauner
Joe Giamberdino
Nancy Goodfellow
Sharon Hansen

Fran Hart
Jude Hoecker
Sara Hoerdeman
Amy Hong
Marilyn James
Jim Jenkins
Monica Jenkins
Deb Johnson
Sally Jones
Audrey Jonke
Eric Jonke
Mary Jonke
Sarah Jonke
Paul Justis
Steve Justis
Jordan Karim
Zia Karim
Karin Kemp
Tom Lichtenheld
Gloria Mansfield
Alice Martin
Tracey McFadden
Barb McKittrick
Dane McKittrick
Kathy Meier

Jan Miller
Vohny Moehling
Craig Moore
Rose Moore
Jeanne Neltner
Kevin O'Neill
Linda O'Neill
Susan O'Neill
Glenda Peck
Cindy Peterson
Lily Phillips
Lou Pierce
Ellie Radvanovsky
Rhonda Robinson
Nancy Russo
Chris Schulman
Hal Schulman
Bill Scown
Jeannie Scown
Don Smith
Nancy Smith
Cynthia Spiegel
Doria Spiegel
Sophia Spiegel
Llona Steele

Lynn Steele
Nancy Steinke
Ben Steskal
Benjamin Stibal
Christopher Stibal
Jeff Stibal
Sue Stibal
Gail Tattersfield
George Tattersfield
Pam Tilbrook
Michael Trejo
Renée Tomell
David Tomell
John Towell
Cindy Vacek
Dana Utroska
Glenn Vallone
Kim Vallone
Pat Ward
Ed Wehling
Ruth Wehling
Elliott Welsh
Thea Welsh
Dick Yingst
Kat Zimmerman
Ben Zinser

Pizza Booth Stats

Amount of Money Raised for UUSG: \$5837

Amount of Money Raised for Our Youth's Habitat for Humanity Trip in July: \$254

Number of 2-hour shifts: 133

Number of Volunteers: 110

Number of Slices of Pizzas Sold: 3,032

Number of Drinks Sold: 1,374

Volunteer Headquarters

Volunteer Appreciation

We send our heartfelt thanks to:

Judith Calleja and George Hickman, who helped out with the reception for the Memorial Stones Dedication Service

Our June Greeters: Kevin Beyer & Lisa Gades, Lynn & Llona Steele, and Doreen & Grace Christiani

Our June Social Hour Hosts: Dick & Shirley Yingst, Jeannie & Bill Scown, Vohny Moehling, and Ellie Radvanovsky

Do you know someone who should be thanked? Let Katie know! She can be reached at 630-232-2350 or office@uusg.org.

Shopping for UUSG

If you shop at Dominick's, you could earn money for UUSG!

Next time you're there, ask to have your Dominick's card attached to the UUSG scrip account and UUSG will get a 1-4% rebate on all your purchases. Or register your Dominick's card today by grabbing your card and going to www.escrip.com.

Since we joined this program last year, UUSGers shopping at Dominick's have earned us \$168.39!

Coffee in August

Many thanks go to David & Renee Tomell, Tracy Paszkiet, Dick & Shirley Yingst, Jeannie & Bill Scown, Sherri Casterline, and Bob Atac for stepping forward to host a social hour in July so we can have coffee (and probably a few cold drinks, too!) next month.

Moving on to August...

Coffee will be available in August only if all of the August hosting slots are filled by July 31. Sign up today online at <http://content.uusg.org/greeters-and-social-hour-hosts/>.



Thanks for helping us continue to make UUSG a welcoming place!

If you have any questions or concerns about social hour, please contact one of the chairs of the Hospitality & Fellowship Committee, Judith Calleja and Cindy Vacek.

June & July Music

Thank you to our June Musicians: Sandy Anderson-Cordogan, Jane Welsh, Tracey & Kristin McFadden, and Karen Mooney!

July brings some other special music: Cynthia Spiegel & family, Tracy Rosenkrans & Clarke Bearrick, Lynn Fisher McCanne, Ben Walker, Alexander Cordogan & Sandy Anderson-Cordogan, Ryan Thornton, and Dean Malambri. And the folk duo February Sky will be doing a concert on July 23 (see page 5 for details) as well as a worship service on July 24.

Please contact Tracy Rosenkrans (music@uusg.org) if you or someone you know would like to sing or play—please share your talents!

Where's Augustus?

Have you been taking your Flat Augustus on trips? Has he been to Europe, helped in your garden, or taken a ride on the bike path?

Wherever he's been, send your pictures to office@uusg.org!

Green Corner

Getting Green

Have you been wondering what the Green Sanctuary Committee is all about?

Come discover what our growing group is up to with numerous activities at church and elsewhere: exploring, learning, teaching, giving service, having good times. It's all related to the planet home we share and to our deep commitment to care for its well being.

The Committee meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month, at 7:30pm, in the Alcott Room of Pioneer House.

If you're interested, we'd enjoy having your fresh ideas & input over this summer and into our fall calendar of green church events and beyond.

Please keep reading the Green Corner in the Pioneer & the UUSG website (<http://content.uusg.org/green-sanctuary-committee/>) for updates on what's happening & when.

Want more info? Call Nancy Goodfellow or Ann Drover.

Tips of the Month

- #1** **Another reminder** that the Tri-Cities waste removal companies will pick up your household batteries if in a bag placed on top of your trash. If you're not in the Tri-cities, call your own company to see if they already accept them, or sweetly suggest that they do so.
- #2** The **Geneva Green (Farmers') Market**, located at N. River Ln. and Hamilton, is open on Thursdays from 7am to 1 pm, from June 4 to October 29. Their products are locally grown, community supported, and minimally processed. You'll find fresh vegetables, fruits, cheese, frozen beef, fresh flowers, and many more healthy food items there.

Butterfly Walk at FermiLab

Everyone's invited to a Butterfly Walk at FermiLab on Tuesday, July 19th, at noon!

Why not join Green Sanctuary Committee and others for the free walk being organized for UUSG family members (over 6 years old and up) & friends? It will be led by Tom Peterson, a Fermilab engineer who is also an acclaimed butterfly specialist in the area.

Walks last an hour, include prairie and woodland butterflies, and are presented several times every summer—often different butterflies every time. A group can have as many as 20 or more sightings of different species of all sizes! On the 19th, we may be very lucky—and among the first—to see the newly introduced Baltimore Checkerspot. Rarely found in the suburbs, it's now settling into its new home at Fermi where its essential food and reproductive plants (turtlehead and mullein foxglove) can be found.

Tom needs to know how many are coming, as the group should not get too large—18 is about max. So as soon as possible, please let Jeannie Scown know if you think you may be coming. Information about carpooling or where to meet at Fermilab will be emailed or sent to you. We hope you can join us on this delightful walk!

Telescope Viewing & Talk

Later this summer, we'll have a chance to explore the night sky (date TBD)!

We'll start with a talk and slide show at church, presented by Tom & Diane Peters, and learn about what can be seen, light pollution, etc.

A week or two later, we'll carpool to Peck Farm where the Fox Valley Astronomical Society will share telescopes and explanations with all of us at their Star Party.

Stay tuned for more information!

More Green News

Dandelions on the Run

It's about time for a lawn care service. We've all recently been alerted to our church front lawn weed infestation of clover, dandelions, and other rapacious fellas.

Consequentially, in addition to gathering solution ideas from members, the Green Sanctuary Committee has launched a search for a GREEN company that will provide for initial grass fertilization and start an eco-friendly program of weed control of the church lawn areas.

With the likelihood of using such a service, we now have three organic and hybrid companies under consideration, and unless we have other better options, we'll plan soon to begin a sustained treatment program.

Summer Weeding

Trusty volunteers are still needed for regular weeding through the summer until we decide our preference of management and/or a non-toxic treatment kicks in and healthy grass takes hold. The company needs its client members to keep up maintenance between service dates.

So, please consider signing up for 1 or 2 weeks of weeding over the summer. You can sign up in the Common Room or online at <http://content.uusg.org/summer-weeding/>.

The Church and the Green Sanctuary Committee send you their heartfelt thanks!

Beware of...

Meanwhile, folks, be wary of using Round-up, made by Monsanto. Recent studies revealed at least one of their "inert" ingredients is anything but inert and can kill human cells, particularly embryonic, placental, and umbilical cord cells.

"Inerts" are solvents and preservatives added to pesticides. Health studies have mainly focused on Roundup's active ingredient Glyphosate, while the inerts were largely overlooked.

Treating Weeds at Home & Church

The latest findings on what to do about weeds most often include the advice "Just pull them out."

"Do not use ANY chemicals because they're all bad," the University Extension Service recently stated. The Extension did agree, though, that a stronger grade of vinegar (Menard's or Home Depot) would be acceptable for temporary relief, carefully sprayed on broadleaf weeds.

For sure, even the Green Sanctuary Committee's dandelion/broadleaf extractor is fun to use, but it won't work well on the current present nuisance of clover. Many have found BurnOut II Organic or Nature's Avenger quick action sprays to work the most effectively on weeds and still be safe for health of humans, soil, and waterways.

Many Thanks Go To:

- Al Drover, Ann Drover, Nancy Goodfellow, Jeanne Neltnor, and Llona Steele for helping with the brush removal project led by Mary Zaander on April 9. This group removed small trees and large vines in the Geneva River Park all morning that beautiful day. Great job!
- Llona Steele and Sally Jones for weeding the UUSG grounds in May.
- Kathy Meier, Ro Maziarz, Shawn Thornton, and Trish Beckjord for weeding the UUSG grounds in June. Weekly weeding keeps the beds and the lawns looking much better. Good work, everyone!

Lay Ministers

As our church is growing in numbers, we have established a program to expand the reach of our pastoral ministry. Our Lay Ministers are selected, trained and supervised by our Senior Minister, Dr. Bates, and by Peter and Bev Coe (licensed psychologist and counselor, respectively), who also serve as advisors to our program.

Lay ministers DO NOT provide therapeutic counseling. They offer active listening and presence for those who might feel abandoned, confused or frightened during life's more difficult times (serious illness, death, divorce, job loss, etc.) - or who simply need someone outside the immediate circle of family and friends with whom to talk confidentially.

Our Lay Ministers are:

Mark Alleman, Lay Ministry Coordinator

Helen Hawkins (emerita)

Jim Jenkins

Elba Karim

Kathy Meier

Pat O'Malley

Tammy Thompson

You can reach our Lay Ministers by sending an email to LayMinisters@uusg.org.

Taste of New UUs

Are you new to UUSG? Want to learn more about us and Unitarian Universalism?

Then join us for a "Taste of New UUs," offered Sunday, July 10 from 11:15am to 2pm, immediately after Sunday worship. A light lunch will be served.

Please RSVP by contacting Katie (630-232-2350 or office@uusg.org) or by signing up on the "Taste of New UUs" sign-up sheet in the Common Room.

Circles of Life

Joy and best wishes to newlyweds Emily Smith & Steve Clark, Lizzie Garland and Chuck Kuntz, Carrie Thomas and Evan Pierce, & Amanda Cornell and Jacques Slaiher. Lizzie and Evan are "UUSG kids"—celebrating their weddings here at their church was a special joy!

Our thoughts and prayers go out to everyone who is dealing with tough times right now.

And if life is feeling awfully hard for you right, please remember that you can always contact our Lay Ministers for a bit of help.

Church Safety & Security

Please remember to lock up the church if you are the last one leaving after a worship, meeting, or event. Staying attentive keeps everyone safe!

Requesting Reimbursement

If you spent money on behalf of UUSG this year and forgot to request reimbursement, please do so by June 30.

Reimbursement request envelopes are available in the hallway just outside the south Common Room door.

Requests must be received by June 30.

The End of the Fiscal Year is Coming!

If you haven't finished fulfilling your 2010-11 pledge commitment yet, please try to do so by July 1. And if you're not able to meet your commitment, please let

our Assistant Treasurer, Jim O'Malley, know so we can prepare for the end of this church year.

Exchanging Books & Ideas

Did you know that UUSG has a book exchange? Located in the Conant Room by the James Street door, the exchange is open to anyone--take or leave a book.

JULY 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 No Services This Weekend <i>Senior Minister on Study Leave</i> Swedish Days 9:30 AM Coming of Age Volunteer Training (meeting off-site)	27 9:00 AM PIONEER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	28 1:00 PM Staff Meeting	29 <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 6:00 PM Pioneer Mailing Prep 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	30 End of 2010-11 Church Year <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i>	1 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i>	2 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i>
3 <i>Congregational Administrator Off Today</i> 10:00 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 10:00 AM Worship Service; Social Hour at 11:00 AM	4 Independence Day <i>Office Closed</i>	5 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Sacred Harp Singing 7:30 PM Program & Administrative Councils	6 <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	7 <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i>	8 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i>	9 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> UUSG Youth Depart on Their Habitat for Humanity Trip!
10 10:00 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 10:00 AM Worship Service; Social Hour at 11:00 AM 11:00 AM Coming of Age Program 11:00 AM Finance Committee Meeting 11:15 AM "Taste of New UUs" Mini-Orientation Session 11:15 AM Social Justice Committee Meeting 7:00 PM 2nd Sunday (Story Tellers) Covenant Group	11 1:30 PM Women's Guild 7:00 PM Reiki Discussion Group 7:30 PM LRE Committee Meeting	12 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Board of Directors	13 <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM Compassionate Communication Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	14 <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> 7:30 PM Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting 7:30 PM Small Group Ministry 7:30 PM Write Time Writers' Group	15 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM Friday Flicks	16 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 3:30 PM Small Group Ministry
17 UUSG Youth Return From Their Habitat for Humanity Trip! 9:00 AM Hospitality & Fellowship Committee Meeting 10:00 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 10:00 AM Worship Service; Social Hour at 11:00 AM 11:00 AM Coming of Age Program 11:30 AM Visitors & Newcomers Mini-Orientation Session 11:30 AM Welcoming Congregation Team Meeting 7:00 PM Reiki Share	18 7:00 PM Music Summit	19 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Reiki Share 7:00 PM Sacred Harp Singing	20 <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	21 <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i>	22 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i>	23 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 8:00 PM February Sky Concert
24 10:00 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 10:00 AM Worship Service; Social Hour at 11:00 AM 10:45 AM Communications Committee Meeting	25 9:00 AM PIONEER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	26 1:00 PM Staff Meeting	27 <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 6:00 PM Pioneer Mailing Prep 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM Compassionate Communication Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	28 <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i> 9:15 AM Simple Living Circle 7:30 PM Write Time Writers' Group	29 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM 5th Friday Fellowship	30 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> 6:00 PM Super Summer Salad Supper
31 10:00 AM Big Ideas Covenant Group 10:00 AM Worship Service; Social Hour at 11:00 AM 11:00 AM Coming of Age Program	1 <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i> 7:30 PM LRE Committee Meeting 7:30 PM Technology Committee Meeting	2 <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i> 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Sacred Harp Singing 7:30 PM Program & Administrative Councils	3 <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i> <i>Senior Minister's Day Off</i> 7:00 PM UU Buddhism Meditation and Study Group 7:30 PM GAS AA	4 <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i> <i>Senior Minister's Sabbath</i>	5 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i>	6 <i>Congregational Administrator's Day Off</i> <i>Senior Minister on Vacation</i>

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Our Staff

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minister@uusg.org

Office Hours: by appointment

Katie Phillips, *Congregational Administrator*

office@uusg.org

Office Hours: Sunday-Thursday, 9am-2pm

Our Covenant (written in 1842)

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 character, but as seekers after truth and goodness.

Our Mission Statement

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.

— adopted by the congregation May 19, 1996

The next Pioneer deadline is July 25, 2011 at 9am. Please send all articles to BOTH office@uusg.org AND minister@uusg.org.