
NUUSLETTER

NORTHWOODS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

A Beacon of Light in the Northwoods

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November 30,

Coming Sundays

Taking the Pulpit

Sunday, December 5, 10 AM, Annamarie Beckel, "The Spirituality of Writing."

Sunday, December 19, 5 PM Pot Luck & Evening Holiday Program, Terry Hoyt.

Sunday, January 2, 10 AM, Nancy Junkermann & Candice Zahn Cain, Projections for the new millennium.

Sunday, January 16, 10 AM, Non Violent Video in Honor of Martin Luther King

Sunday, January 30, 10 AM, Patty Buehler, "Hands"

Sunday, February 13, 10 AM, Rev Glenda Walker, UU Church, Wausau.

Adult Religious Education

Sunday, November 28, 10:30 AM, Philosophy and Religion in the Modern World, Video Lecture 8: "The New Testament: Life of Christ."

Sunday, December 12, 10:30 AM, Philosophy and Religion in the Modern World, Video Lecture 9: "Rabbinic Judaism: Israel and the Torah"

Sunday, December 26, 10:30 AM, Philosophy and Religion in the Modern World, Video Lecture 10: "Church Fathers: The Logos Made Flesh"

Sunday, January 9, 10:30 AM, Philosophy and Religion in the Modern World, Video Lecture 11: "The Development of Christian Platonism"

Sunday, January 23, 10:30 AM, Philosophy and Religion in the Modern World, Video Lecture 12: "Jewish Rationalism and Mysticism: Maimonides and Kabbalah"

Sunday, February 6, 10:30 AM, Philosophy and Religion in the Modern World, Video Lecture 13: "Classical Theism--Proofs and Attributes of God" •

Notes from the President:

I promised to share some of my experiences at Leadership school with you. Many are very difficult to articulate, but here goes--- While I was there I felt we were all under one umbrella. Heard that before? So have I, but I don't know how else to describe all of those individuals working together in agreement and disagreement, but harmony. Like we were all connected through our faith. Like we could take for granted each other's commitment to our UU principles, and not stop there. And the feeling was different from what we have in our Fellowship.

Maybe we had come the same distance in our journey. Maybe we had all passed the stage of rejecting what-came-before with its spiritual burdens. We were there, not to escape something, but because we believe in UU principles. That is a positive, strengthening force. And it is action oriented.

NORTHWOODS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP					
TREASURERS REPORT FY 98-99 FY					
FY ENDING 6/30/99					
	ACTUAL		BUDGET	VARIANCE	
REVENUE					
Pledging Units	20485		21450	-965	
Mid-Year Pledges	800		800	0	
Donations	1000		820	180	
Rummage Sale	305		0	305	
Debt Reduction Donations	100		0	100	
Concert Donation	35		0	35	
Stationary	20		0	20	
Bank Interest	<u>81</u>		<u>0</u>	<u>81</u>	
TOTAL REVENUE		22826		23070	-244
EXPENSES					
Program	1800		3500	1700	
Religious Education	1083		1700	617	
Adult Education	170		300	130	
Music	<u>302</u>		<u>400</u>	<u>98</u>	
LIFE LONG SPIRITUAL GR OWTH		3355		5900	2545
Dues	2463		2500	37	
Publicity	403		500	97	
Social Action	0		500	500	
UU Service Committee	<u>230</u>		<u>230</u>	<u>0</u>	
COMM PRES & DENOM SUPPORT		3096		3730	634
Newsletter	890		900	10	
Hosp/Coffee	21		150	129	
Membership	100		300	200	
Social Activities	99		100	1	
Libarary	0		50	50	
Office Expenses	<u>189</u>		<u>300</u>	<u>111</u>	
MEM GROWTH & SUPPORT		1299		1800	501
Mortgage	5321		5140	-181	
Addl Debt Reduction	500		600	100	
Natural Gas	428		400	-28	
Electricity	286		400	114	
Snow Plowing	315		375	60	
Telephone	370		400	30	
Insurance	377		375	-2	
Cleaning	73		150	77	
Memorial Garden	0		100	100	
Building & Grounds	<u>2300</u>		<u>2300</u>	<u>0</u>	
ORG GROWTH & DEVELOP		9970		10240	270
CONTIGENCY		650		900	250
BUILDING RESERVE		<u>500</u>		<u>500</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES		18870		23070	4200
EXCESS OR LOSS					
REVENUE	0	3956	0	3956	

That is a force we need to focus on--not new buildings, not play grounds, not anything physical. Worthy though those things may be, they are secondary. We need to grow, yes. But primarily we need to grow in spirit together. We need to be able to look at each other and know that we are truly on the same journey. At one of the meetings the Fellowship held to decide whether or not we should undertake a building, someone voiced the concern that the building would become too important and that we would lose our spiritual emphasis. Don't let's let that happen.

In an effort to help us to focus on our spiritual self, I am putting together a Retreat for early 2000 at Marywood in Woodruff. We will need to arrange for child care, because I think it is important for our congregational health that everyone participate.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Bob Dallapiazza has stepped forward to head the Building and Grounds Committee now that George Adams has resigned. George did a marvelous job, but I think he burned out from doing too much of the work himself. Our thanks to him! And now how about a promise to pitch in to help Bob?

Marie Adams has decided to retire from chairing the Social Committee. She did a splendid job, and deserves a big thank you. Pat Buehler will take on some of those responsibilities in her role as Membership Chair. It would be very helpful if someone would volunteer to set up the dinners. •

Treasurer's Reports

Ruth Erbs

Children's RE News

Dawn Holt

It's been an interesting month in R.E. The elementary school children have continued their studies in the We Believe curriculum. Thanks to Susan Knight who has filled in for Andrea while Andrea recovers from surgery.

The middle school youth spent time with Crystall Fisher who is a member of the Buddhist group in Rhinelander. Crystall talked about her faith with the class on a Sunday morning and returned a few weeks later to spend an evening teaching meditation. The class then continued on to increase their knowledge of Christianity. They are preparing themselves for their visits to the areas Catholic, Lutheran, and Evangelical churches in Dec., Jan., and Feb.

Youth Group

This year the R.E. committee has planned some monthly evening get-togethers for our

middle and high school youth. There was a Halloween party in Oct. and an evening of meditation in Nov. These monthly activity and social times will continue after the holiday season. Times, dates, and activities will be announced in Jan. If you are in middle or high school, bring a friend and come enjoy the fellowship of other youth.

Food Pantry

In December our R.E. children will put a box in the sanctuary for non-parishable food donations for the Minocqua Food Pantry. Please bring grocery bags filled with your donations.●

Long Range Planning Recommendations

The Long-Range Planning Committee (Myrle Wasko, Tim Kratz, Jerry Woolpy, and Dick Fields) makes the following recommendations to the Northwoods Unitarian Universalist Fellowship to be considered by the congregation, the board, and appropriate committees, over the next one to five years. Our recommendations are based on discussions at two meetings of the committee; extensive email and oral discussion among committee members; informal, ad-hoc discussions with individual members of the fellowship; discussions with consultants from the Central Midwest District; results of a questionnaire distributed to members and friends; and a meeting of the fellowship held on November 20, 1999. The committee also published an article discussing the issues it had identified as important in the fellowship newsletter. It has been the committee's goal throughout to engage in an open and thoughtful process in which all points of view were welcomed and considered. We hope the board and the fellowship find these recommendations useful in its long-range planning.

The committee identified three major issues requiring long-term planning: child friendliness, the need for a minister, and adequacy of facilities. These issues were considered in depth by the committee. A fourth issue, increasing our fellowship's social action activities was identified later in the process and, while clearly important, did not receive as much attention by the committee. The committee is aware that these issues are complex, interrelated, and controversial.

Child Friendliness: There is strong consensus among the fellowship that being child- and young-family-friendly are important goals. However, there is some disagreement as to our current state of child-friendliness and how much of our resources should be allocated to this area. Some feel that providing adequate facilities for families with young children will result in increased growth of our membership. Others point to the relatively small numbers of young children currently in our fellowship and express concern over whether additional facilities are necessary at this time.

The committee makes the following two recommendations:

We recommend that the Children's RE Committee in consultation with others as they see fit write a job description for a paid, part time staff person to help with our efforts to become more child friendly possibly including planning, managing outings, and seeing to the care of toddlers as well as more general Fellowship duties. This job description should be submitted to the board and eventually to the congregation for consideration.

We recommend that the congregation take short-term, modest steps to improve our child friendliness, including acquiring toys and arranging space downstairs for toddlers, announcing accommodations for toddlers, and possibly providing staff to support them during services. We recommend that the board charge the Children's RE Committee to make specific proposals to this end and to request appropriate funding in the next fiscal year's budget.

Need for a Minister: The various options available to our fellowship range from a full-time minister to part-time shared minister to student minister to no minister at all.

We recommend that, at this time and with our current membership and financial base, we should not pursue the option of a minister other than perhaps a student minister. Monies for a student minister are already in the current budget of the program committee.

We recommend that the board suggest the Program Committee continue its annual evaluation of the need for a student minister to meet the spiritual and programmatic needs of the fellowship in their planning and budget development process.

Adequacy of Facilities: Perhaps the most controversial issue before the fellowship is whether our facilities are adequate to support the current and future needs of the fellowship. The committee found strong opinions both in support of and against expanding our present facilities. The committee feels that the current lack of specific options for improving our facilities and the costs associated with these options hinder informed discussion and evaluation of this issue.

We recommend that an ad-hoc committee be constituted to explore plans for new facilities and share them with the congregation. The committee should be given authority to request a modest budget in the next fiscal year to contract with an architect or other suitable professional to better inform us of our options. We make this recommendation noting that there are serious reservations and no consensus to build at the present time, nor is building a priority of many members of the congregation at the present time.

There does appear to be consensus among the fellowship that there are small improvements that could be made immediately. We recommend that the Building and Grounds Committee, and others that they or the board may ask to help them, be asked to explore ways that we might make our present sanctuary more hospitable, particularly as it involves softer lighting and bringing the feeling of the outdoors inside.

Social Justice: With due respect for our regular Highway 47 Clean up, our work at the Food Pantry, our collection for the Salvation Army, and the many actions of individuals in the fellowship, we recommend that the Social Justice Committee be encouraged to involve more of the congregation in a project or projects that help the less fortunate in our community and further identify ourselves with helping. (Note that this recommendation, though important, arose in the recent discussion session with the congregation and was not on the questionnaire or part of the article published by our committee so it has not received as much of our attention as the others.)

These recommendations may be considered in planning by individuals and committees as they see fit and will be on the agenda of the annual meeting at the discretion of the board. •

NUU Food Pantry Helpers

Our Fellowship distributes food to the needy, Tuesday, December 7th from 10 to 1 PM at the Minocqua Community Building. To help call 356 2428 and ask for Paul. •

December Bell Ringers

Our Fellowship will be ringing the bell to collect for the Salvation Army again on weekends around Christmas, December 17 & 18, and 22 & 23, from 10 to 6 PM. If you want to get in on the social action, call Paul, 356-6276. •

Joys & Concerns

We are glad to hear that our friends Pat Harrington and Andrea Billings are healing from surgery.

Thanks to the Hoyts, Chip Wulff, Jerry Woolpy, Patty Buehler, the Waskos, Paul Baunstein, and Joyce Barnes for helping with the NUU highway cleanup in October.

Thanks to Myrle Wasko, Dawn & Cora Holt, Tim & Amy Kratz, Joyce Barnes, Chip Wulff, and Paul Baunstein for ringing the Salvation Army bell over the Thanksgiving weekend. They raised \$1480.

Congratulations to Eric Boustead for his help in trying to restore peace to Lakeland Union High School.

Belated Congratulations to the September Lakeland Union High School Athletes of the Month, Amy Holt for tennis, and Jean Polfus for cross country.

Thanks to the many folks who participated in the pleasant and free exchange of ideas

at the Long Range Planning meeting, Friday, November 19

Many friends gathered together at the Fellowship for our annual Thanksgiving feast thanks to the careful organization of Patty Buehler and our various culinary artists. •

Announcements:

Do you have a son or daughter in college in Milwaukee or know other UU young adults in Milwaukee? The First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee is starting up a campus/young adult group and is looking to identify UU young adults in the area, and particularly those at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. If you know of someone who might be interested, please call Cindy Landrum, intern minister at the First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee at 414-273-5257 or e-mail her at clandrum@execpc.com.

Women, Wisdom and Wellness...Making Connections Sponsored by the Women and Religion Committee of the Central Midwest District of the UUA. Jan 28-30 in Milwaukee at the First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee. Margot Adler is the keynote speaker. Contact Diane Reupert for brochure. 282-5400.

WUURSHIP means, "Why Unitarian Universalists Respect Spirituality, Humanity, Individuality, & Peace." Young adults, 18 to 35, are encouraged to participate in this organization created exclusively for them in the Central Midwest District . Weekend-long gatherings geared to young adults will be held in January and May. E-mail CMWDUUYAN@YAHOO.COM for more information.

Mark your calendar for the Central Midwest Annual Assembly 2000 taking place in Appleton, WI from April 28-30. Our theme is "Music: Our Unifying Spirit." Keynote speaker will be Carolyn McDade (Composer of "Spirit of Life"). Our guest artist is Trevor Stephenson, 18th and 19th Century keyboard artist. There will be many workshops built around the musical theme. Several workshops designed by and for the youth of the district will also be offered. Registration brochures will be mailed in January. Registration deadline is March 31, 2000. Cost is \$55.00 per adult and \$75.00 for late registrations. •

For a Dandy Prize

What well known UU from Rhinelander, has a letter in the current issue of World? (See page 8) •

NUU Views

Question: In a recent interview in front of our Fellowship “Ralph Waldo Emerson” corroborated the pledge of our new member recognition ceremony that love is central to our religion. What did Emerson mean and what do we mean by love in this sense?

Answer from Dick Fields: Love has many meanings. There is love for one’s spouse, parents, children and other family member. There is love between friends, love of life, love of country, love of tradition, love of one’s religion and love of God. All love situations are not the same. It is relative easy to express love to family members and things and more difficult to express love to a friend. When is the last time you told a friend you loved her/him?

What is love as expressed by Emerson in his recent interview? I believe Emerson was talking about spiritual love. Spiritual love is a moral conviction shown through compassion, respect, kindness, forgiveness, empathy, and helpfulness to others. This is expressed in part in the Northwoods UU Fellowship Mission Statement and in the UUA Principles. This is what I believe Emerson meant by love being central to our religion.

Answer from Terry Hoyt: As I grew up in the Joliet Universalist Church I had two clear messages instilled in my belief system: 1) "Love is the doctrine of this church", and, 2) "God is love". I have never questioned the importance of these messages or what they meant. The Buddhist Loving Kindness Meditation is one way of expressing the meaning of the love we talk about. I often use the thought of love while taking in each deep breath. There is no more positive thought that I can have.

When we hear the message, "Love your neighbor as you love yourself.", we can connect with the spiritual meaning of love. I've often conceived the "kingdom of heaven on earth" as that perhaps unachievable result of having love everywhere. The "love" I speak of is the joyous spiritual interconnection I feel with all people, creatures and things here and everywhere. •

Next NUUSLETTER Deadline, Sunday, January 16, 2000.

Northwoods UU Fellowship Newsletter
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

