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# In the BUUF

## Ministers

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(MOD Student Minister)

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## Planning for Growth

After meeting with Angela Merkert, Central Midwest District of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and discussing options with members of the board of trustees, BUUF President Tom Hackley developed a plan for growing our congregation. The plan includes Angela Merkert's recommendation that the congregation utilize the resources of a program developed and tested by the UUA, the Uncommon Denomination Program.



This fall, conduct three congregational sessions, probably moderated by James "Chip" Roush, the Meadville-Lombard Seminary student assigned to work with the congregation through the Ministerial Opportunities Development Program. The sessions would be part of and in conjunction with Chip's Sunday services. The first session would introduce the Uncommon Denomination Program as the model we follow. The second session would be a reality check on our situation, examining our strengths and weaknesses—both internal and external. The third session would be a congregational assessment.

The Uncommon Denomination Covenant would be signed and Tier 1 (In-Reach) efforts would begin to strengthen the support structure of the fellowship, with emphasis on those areas that most immediately touch visitors and new members: the religious education program, communications, and hospitality. Efforts would be made to assure the necessary resources for enhancing our most viable and visible program areas (RE, CO/SA, and Sunday services). Low-cost public relations and communications in the community would be used to draw attention to these

programs.

These efforts will lay the groundwork for developing and submitting a request for Chalice Lighter funds that would be submitted by the November 15<sup>th</sup> deadline. During the winter of 2005, we would utilize Chalice Lighter funds to begin to implement Tier 2 (Outreach) of the Uncommon Denomination Program.

During summer and fall of 2005, we will continue to implement Tier 2 utilizing Chalice Lighter funds with emphasis on increasing membership for the September beginning of the Fellowship calendar. Increased revenues from new members would begin to fund program expansion and continue the

## The Uncommon Denomination Program

The Uncommon Denomination Program was developed with the awareness that there are many people across our country who are looking for the kind of spiritual home UUism offers. Many people have been raised without a religious tradition. More and more people search for churches on the Internet and in non-traditional ways. Congregations increasingly want marketing materials and promotional aids to help them reach out and share their good news and want to welcome visitors more completely and intentionally.

The Uncommon Denomination Program links these two goals together and, with creative and market-tested media, offers them to congregations. The program provides resources to promote congregational health, growth, and vitality; to help congregations reach beyond their walls, to nurture spiritual development, helping all members deepen their faith, and to invite newcomers to join in.

The Uncommon Denomination Program draws on the best information on attracting and welcoming new

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## BUUF Calendar

### September

- 12—SUNDAY SERVICE 10:30 A.M.  
Beth Lefever. Opening service of the new year.
- 13—BUUF BOARD 7:00 P.M.  
Members are invited to attend. Contact Tom Hackley for agenda.
- 18—MOD WORKSHOP  
11:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.  
Roy Lundin, CMwDistrict consultant will facilitate the Ministerial Opportunities Workshop with James “Chip” Roush, Meadville-Lombard student minister. The workshop will begin with a review of earlier vision and goals and how we have done in achieving them. The second part, following lunch, will be setting goals for this year for the church and for Chip. This is a good opportunity for potential members and new members to learn about BUUF. Everyone is welcome to attend the workshop. If you would like additional information,

contact Tom Hackley, BUUF president.

- 19—SUNDAY SERVICE 10:30 A.M.  
James “Chip” Roush
- 26—SUNDAY SERVICE 10:30 A.M.  
The Reverend Dr. Roger Brewin.

### October

- 03—SUNDAY SERVICE 10:30 A.M.
- 10—SUNDAY SERVICE 10:30 A.M.
- 17—SUNDAY SERVICE 10:30 A.M.  
Beth Lefever
- 24—SUNDAY SERVICE 10:30 A.M.

#### NOTE

Because Chip’s schedule will be determined during the September 18th workshop, the schedule has been left open.

Several things are in the works, including a recognition of new members being planned by Virginia

## Bulletin Boards

Thanks to Charles Long, the bulletin boards are now installed on the wall in the dining area. Each board may be used for committee and/or Board news. Committee names or subjects (in block letters) will identify each board.

The boards may be easily removed in the event folks would like to work on their bulletin boards at home. We hope this will be a helpful way to organize our news and communications to members and visitors.

If any committee or group needs additional block letters or wishes to change the “heading” of their bulletin board—please see Tricia Johnson for cutout block letters.

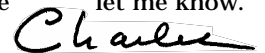
## Treasurer’s Report

The thanks to the careful and systematic record keeping, planning, and preparation by immediate past treasurer Rosalyn Reeder, the transfer of responsibilities from one treasure to the next was seamless. The new treasurer appreciated being given the knowledge that enabled him to begin the job competent and confident.

Thanks to those who paid their pledges in advance, cash flow is not a problem. An average of \$1,700 per month has been pledged for the fiscal year; during the first two months \$6,735 was received.

The year, however, will be a fiscal challenge. In addition to a budget with a \$1,948 deficit, budgeted income includes \$2,590 from additional pledges and \$3,000 from Chalice Lighter funds. How this challenge will be met is one of the things that will be considered during the September 18th Ministerial Opportunities Development (MOD) Start Up Workshop.

If at any time during the year you have questions or need information about your contributions or BUUF income and expenses, please let me know.



Charles Long, treasurer  
E-mail charles-long@earthlink.net

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(Uncommon Continued from page 1)

people and on practices that enhance congregational involvement and vitality. In addition there are a wide variety of media resources tailored for congregational use and at various levels of financial commitment.

Because the needs and capabilities of congregations are quite different, the program is divided into three tiers. Tier 1 is about developing a strong relationship among all parts of the congregation toward the goal of reaching out to those yet outside the door. It is about being proud of being a Unitarian Universalist, about knowing how to share our own individual “elevator speeches” about what we believe and who we are. Tier 2 is about building outreach, raising awareness in the community about our faith and inviting guests to visit. These resources are available to congregations whose boards have reviewed and endorsed the program and allocated sufficient

funds. The congregational cost is largely determined by the marketing plan and the cost of buying media in the area. Tier 3 is designed as a major marketing campaign for congregational clusters and large congregations ready to commit significant funds.

The users of any of the three tiers are provided (1) an overview of the program, its goals, guidelines and covenant; (2) a series of guest/newcomer welcoming tools, (3) assessment tools for analyzing guest and newcomer welcoming and follow-up patterns; (4) a Public Relations Manual; and (5) a variety of materials using “The Uncommon Denomination” design and theme, including: newsletter masthead, stationery layout (letterhead, envelope, mailing labels), lapel button and name tag designs, order of service covers, yellow pages/community directory ads, opportunity to order bumper stickers already produced and available for purchase, t-shirt

## CO/SA's Summer of Voter Registration

The most active Community Outreach & Social Action (CO/SA) Committee program this summer has been the Voters Involved in America a non-partisan voter registration and education project. VIA's mission is to give every voting age person in Benton Harbor and Benton Township an opportunity to change his/her community through informed voting.

Besides registering voters two mornings a week at the Family Independence Agency, several retail sites in Benton Harbor have also been covered by VIA Volunteers. BUUF members, Marion Steward and Fred Lighthall have joined Benton Harbor residents to register voters in both those areas.

In addition Fred has recruited and trained 5 neighbors and friends to do voter registration which has insured consistent coverage and added days that registration is done at VIA to 4 days a week. Marion and Fred have been terrific, enthusiastic volunteers. Give them a pat on the back and a big hug when you see them.

The BUUF board formally approved VIA's joint-effort agreement with Project Vote which has enabled VIA volunteers to contribute \$1.50 for every correctly completed voter registration form to the BUUF-VIA fund paid by Project Vote. This means that VIA has earned approximately \$400 to date. Project Vote is a non-partisan, national voter registration and education program, funded by ACORN, the Association for Community Organizational Reform Now. VIA has also done other fundraising outside of BUUF, including writing a grant to the UU Social Responsibility Fund (no decision as yet).

CO/SA co-chairs Gloria Weberg and Emily Bettencourt, along with other VIA volunteers and Project Vote workers, have covered most major community events this summer. The VIA Community Task Force met at least monthly throughout the summer. The VIA brochures at BUUF list the names of the community leaders and volunteers on the task force. They

are a terrific group of active members of the Benton Harbor community and it has been both an honor a pleasure working with them.

VIA's big effort was the August 14, Hip Hop Voters Rally and Concert. CO/SA wishes to thank the following volunteers and Project workers who put in hours of work to make this event a success: BUUF members, Renee, Jordan, Dion Kauffman, Tom Hackley, Gloria Weberg, Harvey Johnson and Emily Bettencourt; Task Force Members, Rose Hunt-Redd, Charlotte Omohundro, Sr. Rita Schaffer, Jamie Alexander, Rev. Harold Hampton; and a number of VIA, League of Women Voters volunteers and Project Vote Workers including Tyrone Hitchcock who drove Emily all over Benton Harbor to post fliers.

The turnout was very disappointing but the importance of registering to vote and voting as well as VIA's mission was well publicized on radio, 99.1FM, and the news media. In addition we have good video and CD coverage that we hope to air on public access television. In critiquing the turnout, we believe the major problem was the publicity not reaching our target voting age population soon enough. Twenty-20 hindsight tells us fliers in every door and more than two weeks of word-of-mouth publicity may have made the difference. We count this as a good learning experience, although an expensive and exhausting one.

VIA will continue to register voters until Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> and to support Project Votes door-to-door get out the vote drive through September with small Saturday neighborhood events and telephone calling.

CO/SA meets Thursday, September 2nd at BUUF at 9:00 A.M. to begin planning for fall and winter. This will include jump-starting the Welcoming Congregation project with a meeting at Hobart and a series of articles in future newsletters on the Together In Faith conference that CO/SA and BUUF members attended late Spring.

CO/SA is looking forward to expanding the committee's membership, so please contact Emily or Gloria Weberg. It's a great committee to walk your talk and have fun too.

**Editor's Note:** Check out the article on CO/SA's winning the



The PFLAG Saint Joseph/Berrien County proposal for a presentation at the October 19, 2004, Berrien County ISD's method and materials day has been accepted. This will be the fourth consecutive m&m Day presentation by the chapter.

This year the presentation will be two two-hour workshops on what teachers can do about homophobic attitudes and behavior. Larry Feldman M.D. (Psychiatrist) and Sandra Feldman M.S.W. (Psychotherapist) will be the workshop presenters.

The chapter's Safe School Committee is working to establish PFLAG Safe School Liaisons in the area schools. Safe School Liaisons are teachers, counselors, administrators, or staff members who are supportive of LGBT and questioning students.

The chapter is also supporting efforts to establish the Women's Community Association (WCA) Out and Affirmation Center (OAC) for Berrien County teens who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered (LGBT) or who have questions related to their sexual orientation. An open house for the WCA OAC is scheduled for October 22nd.

The chapter's fiscal year ends September 30th and chapter members are being asked to renew their memberships—and non-members are being asked to become members. Election of chapter officers will be held at the September 12th meeting.

Chapter meetings are held from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. the second Sunday of each month. Parents, families, and friends of lesbians and gays are welcome to attend.

The Berrien Unitarian Fellowship supports the local PFLAG chapter by providing the meeting place, a place to receive mail, and

"The wiser mind mourns less for what age takes away than for what it leaves behind."

—William Wordsworth,  
*The Fountain*



# Adult & Child Religious Education



## Greetings

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer! Somehow it feels like I missed summer since it never felt really hot to me. But I can definitely tell that Fall is on the way!!

In our family, Fall means getting back to a routine! School, homework, football, tennis, soccer and golf fill our days and nights. And what fills our Sunday mornings? RELIGIOUS EDUCATION at BUUF!

I'm ready! Our BUUF Teachers are ready! I hope you are too! It has become our tradition at BUUF to begin the new church year with our Intergenerational Water Ceremony. This will take place on September 12<sup>th</sup>. Our second BUUF tradition has been to kick start the year with a little fun and games and socializing time to get reacquainted at our **End of Summer Bash on September 19<sup>th</sup>**.

There's lots of information and details included in the following RE sections, so make sure you read on and get your calendars out. You and your family won't want to miss anything!!

Sincerely,  
Renee Kauffman  
Director of Religious Education

## Quote

*Education is the point  
at which we decide whether we love  
the world enough  
to assume responsibility for it.*

—Hannah Arendt

## RE Vision

The purpose of the Berrien Unitarian Universalist Fellowship religious education program is to provide:

- A sense of community
- Knowledge of UU history
- An understanding of world religions
- A spiritual sense
- Connection with nature<sup>54</sup>
- Social action
- A grasp of how to talk about UUism with other children

—Adopted by the RE Committee  
January 2000

## Special Events

**September 12<sup>th</sup>** is our Intergenerational Water Ceremony. This is a timing of sharing and reflecting on our summer travels. Kids can participate (as well as adults) by bringing a water sample from the places they've been to this summer. Don't worry if you forgot to get an actual sample, your stories are what's important! Did you swim at a favorite pool? Spend lots of time gardening? Or travel to the ocean? Whatever your journey was we'd love to hear about it. And we can't wait to see you again!

**September 19<sup>th</sup>** will be our **End of Summer Bash** at BUUF. This will be our 3<sup>rd</sup> year having an End of Summer Bash. We usually set out some outdoors toys and if the weather is warm (around 70 degrees or warmer) bring your bathing suits and I'll set up the slip and slide! This is a great way to have fun with each other before we start learning new stuff. Some of us will have already connected during some of these summer picnics, but for others, this will be our first time together since the end of May. I can't wait to see everyone and hear all about your summer adventures!!

**September 26<sup>th</sup>** will be our first day back in the RE rooms! This year things are going to be a little different. The Preschool room will now be the Preschool and Kindergarten room. The middle room will now be for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders, and the farthest room will be for 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders. The first day of RE class is important for all kids to attend. During this class we will develop a classroom covenant (class rules) and talk about why it's so important to be respectful to others (it's one of our Unitarian Universalist Principles). We will also talk about all the fun things we hope to do and learn about this year! Please don't miss this important day.

Also, on **September 26<sup>th</sup>** we will be having a Teacher Dedication during the Sunday Service. A Teacher Dedication is an important way we can honor those in our community that volunteer their time to be with our children!

## Children's RE Program

This year's Religious Education experience will be focusing on learning about Unitarian Universalism with a heavy focus on our 7 Principles. We will be utilizing the We Believe curriculum as well as supplementing some new curriculum along with the old! More details about specific lesson plans will be featured in the next newsletter (after the teacher's workshop).

## Parents

This year RE will be trying a new technique for distributing and collecting RE enrollment packets (Parent Packets). Throughout the month of September, RE enrollment packets will be available on a table by the Preschool-Kindergarten Class during coffee break.

I will be available to answer any questions and hear any suggestions you may have regarding the upcoming year. You will be welcome to fill out the necessary paper work during coffee break or you may take the information home to review.

I hope to have registration/enrollment packets from each family by the end of September. September can be a busy and confusing time with the beginning of school. I hope that this will be easier for families than mailing them to you and hoping you remember to bring them on Sundays.

One last reminder to parents! I want to congratulate all the families who participated in RE last year. I believe the biggest contributing factor to our success was regular attendance. I don't take that factor lightly! With 4 boys of my own, I know what a challenge regular attendance can be!!

So, THANK YOU for making RE and BUUF important in your families' lives and I'd like to encourage you to continue to supporting RE by your child's regular attendance. Developing our spirituality is as important as developing our intellectual and physical selves.

## Chalice Children

Our Chalice Children program will begin in October. The Chalice Lighter program is one in which children who are interested can fill out an information sheet about themselves. Those sheets are kept on file and used to introduce the child to the congregation. The child is introduced on the specific Sundays they have been scheduled to light our Flaming Chalice. This is a tradition we do during the beginning of our Sunday Service.

The Chalice Lighter forms will be available at the table where you pick up your enrollment packets. This has been a wonderful program and is a favorite amongst the children. As much as I may think I know the children, I always learn something new, and their wisdom is often far beyond my own! I'll start scheduling children in the order in which I receive the forms (so get your child's in right away).

## Haiku

From the poetry service conducted by Joanna Woodruff on August 8th.

For beauty a face  
Needn't wear any lotion  
It needs just a smile.  
—Heartha Whitlow

The dawn is coming  
But my bed invites me still  
When shall I arise?  
—Heartha Whitlow

Raindrops on the roof  
Are soothing as I slumber  
The dawn will be clean.  
—Heartha Whitlow

The sky is bright blue,  
and I am very happy  
for I will play golf.  
—Marian Steward

Sun shines on the land  
bright with flowers and grass  
warming hearts of all.  
—Dorothy Long

Goldenrod a weed.  
Chrysanthemum a flower.  
Who decided this?  
— Charles Long

## Becoming Member of BUUF

Becoming a BUUF member is quite easy. If you are eighteen or older, you become a Voting Member by signing the membership book and completing the Affirmation and Pledge form to affirm the purpose of the Fellowship and to pledge financial support. The affirmation asks you to affirm this statement:

The purpose of Berrien Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is to foster spiritual development and individual freedom of thought and belief, to seek truth, to promote justice and the democratic process in human relations, and to nurture each other through acceptance, respect and compassion. The Fellowship declares and affirms its special responsibility to promote the full participation of persons in all of its activities and in the full range of human endeavor without regard to race, color, sex, disability, or handicap, affection or sexual orientation, age, national origin, or political orientation, and without requiring adherence to any particular interpretation of religion or to any particular religious belief or creed.

The amount of the pledge is for you to determine. Once the membership book is signed, membership is renewed annually by completing the form to affirm the purpose and to pledge financial support.

Two other categories of membership are available. Associate Member and Youth Member. If you are eighteen or older, you become an Associate Member, by signing the Affirmation. A pledge is encouraged but not required. Associate Membership is maintained by signing the Affirmation annually. The requirements for becoming a Youth Member are the same as those for the Associate Member except that the person must be fourteen to seventeen years old.

Voting members receive the *UU World* magazine, are eligible to vote at the annual meeting, and can be elected to the board of trustees. Most people become members to associate with people who, at least in part, define



(L-R) Eliza Sarra, Emily Johnson, Larkin Johnson, Emily Sarra hang around waiting for lunch to be served at the picnic provided in lieu of the August 15th service by Harvey and Tricia Johnson. (photo by Sue)

(L-R) Marian Steward and Bea Takeuchi at the potluck hosted by Tom Hackley and Emily Bettencourt on August 29th. (photo by Heartha Whitlow)

