

MIAMI
VALLEY
UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
FELLOWSHIP

invites you to celebrate with us at a

DEDICATION SERVICE
of our new facility

4 P.M. Sunday November 9th 2003
8690 Yankee Street Dayton Ohio 45458

Guest Speaker
the Rev. Jill Mcallister
of the Peoples Church in Kalamazoo, Michigan

Reception following the ceremony



Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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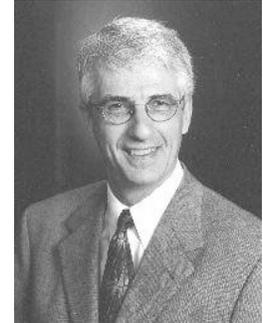
The Forum

Richard's Reflections

Jill McAllister, minister of People's Church, Kalamazoo, Michigan, will be our guest speaker at our dedication service that will be interfaith and commemorative on November 9th. This will be a time when we gather to dedicate and celebrate this special place of worship and learning and sharing.

A part of our annual Thanksgiving Dinner celebration November 23rd will be a time when we say thank you to all who have contributed to the creation of our new facility. No amount of words will ever say thank you enough to all of you who found the site, guided the planning, packed boxes, donated generously of your time and money, dug holes for trees, unpacked boxes, set up rooms, offered guidance about colors and materials, met over dinner, and lunch and in-between to plan and organize, organized and facilitated the capital campaign, and a zillion other things. On the 23rd I hope, in some small way, to say how much MVUUF and Unitarian Universalism is in your debt, and how you have created a very magnificent, inspiring place for now and future generations of UUs.

Please join in these services when we celebrate what we have done, and set our sights on the future.



Rev. Richard Venus

Richard

Dedication Service—Sunday, November 9th

A MVUUF tradition is when parents dedicate their children by offering their hopes and dreams for them and the congregation welcomes them and offers their support and care during a Sunday morning service. Any who wish to participate should call *Barbara MacFarland* in the church office. (436-3628)

OUR MISSION:

The Miami Valley Unitarian Fellowship, a Unitarian Universalist congregation, is a community of individuals who honor human diversity and respect religious differences, and is a supportive, accepting fellowship where people of all ages may grow spiritually, intellectually and emotionally, and create ethical solutions to social problems by sharing time, talents, and personal resources.

Saturday and Sunday Programs

November will include several special events, some which will seek to include visitors to the Fellowship, as well as dedicate our new building and say thanks to all those who helped make our new space a reality.

Sunday, November 2—11:00 a.m.

Bring a Friend Sunday. Members are asked to invite someone they believe might like to visit the Fellowship and get to know who we are and what we believe, or don't believe as the case might be. *Richard Venus* will speak on the theme of our free religious tradition, *Mark Kalafatus* will recite *No Man Is An Island*, and the choir will sing.

Saturday November 8—5:00 p.m.

As we prepare to dedicate our new spiritual home we will look at what dedication is and what we are dedicated to—ideals, practices, people.

Sunday, November 9— 11:00 a.m.

DEDICATION SUNDAY. Parents will bring their children they wish to have dedicated (see elsewhere for more information), *Richard Venus* will speak of “**The Promise We Offer.**” *Hillary Wagner* and *Susan Harris* will offer special music.

DEDICATION SERVICE—4:00 p.m.

An interfaith celebration of our new building. Jill *McAllister*, People's Church, Kalamazoo, will be our guest speaker, and representatives from Buddhist, Moslem and Christian traditions will participate. The choir will sing.

Saturday November 15—5:00 p.m.

Bring a friend to Saturday Celebration! This service is dedicated to the friend relationships we enjoy and what makes them work. Please stay for a coffee hour following this service.

Sunday, November 16—11:00 a.m.

Another Thanksgiving Story. *Richard Venus* will reflect on how some see Thanksgiving Day historically. There will be a neighborhood open house from 3-5 p.m. to welcome our neighbors to our new facility.

Saturday November 22—5:00 p.m.

Please bring a non-perishable food item to share with the ESP food pantry. We will create our own, original chant based on the things in our life we are grateful for.

Sunday, November 23—11:00 a.m.

THANKSGIVING DINNER. Our first in our new building. Sign up sheets are available in the gathering space.

Saturday November 29—5:00 p.m.

“Preparing for the holidays.” We will share both the joys and concerns about getting together with our relatives.

Sunday, November 30—11:00 a.m.

“All The Religious Questions You Ever Wanted To Ask The Minister.” *Richard Venus* will answer questions submitted by November 16th (there will be a questions box in the gathering space).

Our Staff

The Rev. Richard Venus, Minister
Office Hours: By appointment (except Monday)

Barbara McFarland, Office Manager
Office Hours: Mon.—Thurs., 9:00—3:00 p.m.

Barb Weber, Director of Lifespan Religious Education
Office Hours: Tue. 11—1:30 p.m., Sunday Morning

Hillary Gregg Wagner, Music Director
Office Hours: By appointment



MVUUF Board of Trustees

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This year our Sunday services will reflect the theme *Roots and Wings*.

Board Reports

The MVUUF Board conducted the following business when it met **October 16, 2003**, at the Fellowship. This was the first meeting of the Board of Trustees in our new building.

Present: **Kathy Mays**, President, **Judy Pickett**, Treasurer; **Mary Anne Frey**, Secretary; **Richard Venus**, Minister; **Jamie McQuinn**, PR Trustee; **Carol Vincent**, Activities Trustee; **Maureen O'Meara**, Social Concerns Trustee; **Bill Wilson**, Operations Trustee; **Barbara Czestochowa**, Membership Trustee; and **Laurie Shows**, LRE Trustee. **Kathleen Turner**, Vice President, and **Chuck Thomas**, Associate Minister, were not present. Also attending were **Carol Narigon**, **Dan Narigon**, **Rich Robinson**, **Gail Davidson**, and **Genevieve Harvey** (for part of the meeting).

- Received a written report and Income Statement from the Treasurer. The Treasurer also reported on Finance Committee planning for the 2004 Pledge Drive.
- Discussed progress made on Goals the Board set at its June 8, 2003 Special Board Meeting.
- Discussed arrangements for a thank you celebration for members who contributed to the new building in conjunction with our Thanksgiving celebration (November 23) and for a reception on November 9 in conjunction with our building Dedication.
- Determined that **Kathy Mays** would report to the Congregation on this Board meeting at the service on October 19.
- Received a report from the President on a letter to the judge and a form for the probation officer that we must submit in the **Teresa Neeley** case.
- Was reminded that Board-sponsored changes to our Bylaws that we wish to be voted on by the Congregation at its January 18, 2004 meeting must be discussed and voted on by the Board at its November 20, 2003 meeting.

Mary Anne Frey, Secretary

Membership News

Welcome new members:

Roberta & Jim Farinet	Cristina Barnette
George Henderson	Warlita Duvall
Sherry & Roger Davis	Alisha Dolbeer
Richard Donnelly	Akil Sharif
Scott Leonard	Mary Katherine Plas

Caring and Sharing

Please let **Lynn Haven** know if any member is hospitalized, suffering with an illness or recovering from an accident.

Orientation

Those exploring Unitarian Universalism and the Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship are invited to attend a monthly orientation session after the service on the third Sunday of each month. **The next orientation will be November 16.**

Barbara Czestochowa, Membership Trustee

Announcements

Update on the Teresa Neeley Case

On September 25th our former Office Manager *Teresa Neeley* plead guilty to one count of theft and three counts of forgery, which means that the case will not go to trial. She agreed to restitution in the amount of \$10,000.00, which will be paid in full at her sentencing on October 30th. Assistant Prosecutor Chris Delnicki feels that she will probably be given probation.

This has been a long and painful process, and I am grateful to those of you who helped make this happen, especially *Dick Rolfes* who worked closely with *Oakwood Detective Mike Jones*. I only hope that Teresa has learned from her mistakes and will choose a different path for her future.

Kathy Mays

Coffee Hour Coffee Bar Needs More Help

We now have our own custom designed UU Coffee Bar in the Gathering Space, and it is *great!* Supplies and equipment are **right there** behind the counter, and the brand new *easier to use* sink is just a few paces away. It makes helping with the Coffee Hour that follows the Sunday Service a simpler activity. Our thirsty Fellowship needs more wonderful people to help with either Preparation or Cleanup. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet at the coffee bar if you can assist (or contact *Bill Ross*).

New Chair Order

We will be ordering another 75 new chairs for the sanctuary on or before February 2004. A member has made a generous donation to make this happen. If you would like to order one or more chairs with a plaque, please e-mail or phone *Iris Carter* to place your order. The cost is \$110.00 per chair.

How many UUs does it take to turn off a light bulb? Maybe lots, if they don't know the intricacies of our new building.

Having the lights on dimmer switches is wonderful, but please note you need to be sure they are turned all the way off when you finish with them. They appear to be off when the slide is moved down. But they are in fact still on until you hear an audible click at the bottom. The bulbs will burn out quickly if they are left turned down but not off.

Scheduling, Keys and Phones

It's been a rough go, but I think we're finally settling into the new building. Over the past month, we've worked out some kinks and have learned from a few—well, more than that probably—mistakes. There have been plenty of questions about room scheduling and issuing keys, so I'll try to clear up some of the confusion.

First, keys. There is a masterful key plan in place that should ensure security of our new facility. It has 2 types of keys: one that opens exterior doors and one that opens interior doors. One exterior key opens JUST the front door, the family restroom (the men's and women's rooms are always unlocked) and the janitor's closet (off the women's restroom); the other opens ALL exterior doors, the family restroom and janitor's closet. One interior key will permit access to the office area (but not the individual offices) and meeting rooms; the other is intended primarily for staff and officers, as it opens the offices as well as other interior spaces. If you need a key, I'll need to know which areas of the building you'll be using so I'll know which key(s) to issue. Plus, the Building Use Committee decided it was appropriate to request a \$25 key deposit for the keys; refundable, of course, when the key is turned in. If you need a key, please let me know as far in advance as possible. I know lots of you work, so we can usually make arrangements for leaving a key/check somewhere that's mutually agreeable.

Now, meeting scheduling. The number and size of rooms available has changed somewhat dramatically from our Far Hills building. We have some rooms that are bigger and some that are smaller. For instance, the allowable occupancy for the Founder's Room is 25; the Library 18; the larger classrooms 16 and the smaller ones 11. The Sanctuary is rated at 300, and the Gathering Space somewhere around 50. When you request a room for a meeting, please keep these numbers in mind. We really need to try to match room sizes with groups to assure everybody space for their meetings. Your cooperation is crucial!

One last item: phones. Even if the office is locked, there are 3 phones available throughout the building. One is in the kitchen (right at the end of the coffee bar), one in the Library (to the left as you walk in) and one in the RE Prep room. These phones are for LOCAL calls only.

Barbara McFarland

Upcoming Events

Fall Retreat Thanks

Fifty-seven members and friends including 44 adults and 13 children attended the Fall Retreat at John Bryan October 4th. The weather was great and everything went well. I would like to thank my committee, **Genevieve Harvey**, my "right-hand woman" and to whom a lot of the success of the day was due, and **Lucy Kazyak** who took registrations and money and kept an accurate and complete report of everything.

I would also like to thank **Kathleen Pennington** who was in charge of lunch and who made excellent stone soup, and **Alysoun Reichard** who was in charge of dinner. Many volunteers helped with the meals, the preparation and the clean-up and also the cleaning of the lodge

The activities of the day included an opening by **Genevieve** and closing by **Joe Zimmerman** and hikes led by **Dean Latta** and **David Nolin**, a scavenger hunt prepared by **Phil Wise**, collages with **Claudia Bailey**, and rappelling led by **Scott MacKenzie**. The biggest glitch was that their coffee-maker didn't work, which was a disappointment to all the coffee drinkers.

Other activities are coming along. Small Dinner Parties are starting and Thanksgiving Dinner plans are under way. **Jennifer** and **Erik Hunter** have agreed to be in charge of Wassail Bowl, with **Jeannette** and the choir providing entertainment.

Carol Vincent, Activities Trustee

**The UU Who? Holiday Open House Bazaar
Saturday, Nov. 15, 2003 from 10 am to 3 pm**

Donations and workers urgently needed!
Sign up sheets in the Gathering Space

Everyone's participation is necessary to make this event a success

We will be renting space to vendors as usual. If you know of any craft artists you think might like to sell at our bazaar please let us know. We are also planning a consignment booth where those who might like to sell a few of their creations but don't have enough items to rent an individual space, may place their items for sale. Vendors may rent a table for \$20.00 or half a table for \$10.00. On the consignment table there will be a 10% commission on all sales. If you've made a few items you might like to sell please place them on our consignment table

As we have had in the past, there will also be resale spaces for donated items. This year three are planned. There will be a media table for books and magazines, and also music CD's, video games, software, puzzles, board games, etc. Another will be for items that are useful but no longer needed by their present owners. And a third will be for more exceptionally desirable items; antiques, collectibles, artwork, decorative items, furniture, and other items in excellent condition. We need donated items for all of these. (If you have an item for this area that you'd like to place on consignment rather than donate, please call.) We are counting on your donations

There will be delicious food available, as well as delectable baked goods, and other things to take home; nourishing chili and cornbread, beverages, etc. will be provided to consume on the premises. We need a lot of donations for this area; suggested items: cakes, pies, muffins, sweet rolls, breads, cookies, brownies, jams, jellies, vinegars, relishes, salsas, etc., festive holiday cookies are especially needed, we will put these in decorative containers for entertaining and gift giving

We are planning a special area for children to purchase small items, do craft projects, etc. while their parents shop the vendor booths. We need workers for this area

Santa has promised to be with us to talk with children about their holiday expectations and wishes. A photographer will be on hand to take pictures of Santa with the children.

If you have questions, would like to donate something, or volunteer, please contact **Alice Lizee**, chairperson, or **Linda Burnett**, volunteer coordinator.

Annual Thanksgiving Service And Potluck Dinner

Join us for this special Thanksgiving event!

Sunday, November 23, 2002
11:00 a.m.

Please sign up in the Gathering Space to bring food and volunteer.

Recommended donation:

\$7.00 per person, ages 12 to adult

\$4.00 per child, ages 5 to 11

Children under 5 free

\$20.00 maximum per family

Attention, Readers and Writers and Friends! You're invited to a book signing and writers' chat on Saturday, November 8, at 2 p.m. at Books & Company. Many of you are aware that my new young adult novel, *Uncommon Faith*, was five years (at least!) in the making. And many of you encouraged me through much groaning and complaining when I was just sure I couldn't get it finished. Now, miracle of miracles, it's out, and I'd love to have you come celebrate the blessed event with me!

Trudy Krisher

Covenant Group ReMix PARTY!

If you have been in a covenant group or want to be, we want to party with you! On **Sunday, December 7**, from 5:30-7:30 at the Fellowship, we will celebrate the connections built over the past 4-18 months and commence the new group formations. We want you to come if you have **BEEN IN** a covenant group or/ and if you **WANT TO BE IN** a covenant group.

We want to have sign-ups for new groups complete before the end of November, so if you are interested in being in a group, please pick up a sign-up form at your group meeting **OR** at the table in the gathering space (where you will see *Phil Wise* in a funny hat) after services in the month of November.

A soup supper will be provided by the existing covenant groups as they have their last "sit-down" together before joining new groups (or leaving the program).

If you want more information about Covenant Groups, contact *Genevieve Harvey* or check out the new section on the website:

<http://mvuuf.org/membership/cg.html>

Concerning Social Concerns

Social Concerns Committee

There has been a change in the time of the Social Concerns meetings. In order to accommodate more people, **our meetings have been moved to the second Tuesday of the month, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.** The next meeting will take place on **November 10th**, at MVUUF. Hope to see you there! If you have any questions, or would like more information, please call or email me.

Kate Santucci, chair

Helping Hands

The next lunch at the Other Place will be November 8. Please check the clipboards to see what food items are needed. You may also contact *Kate Santucci* for more information.

ESP Contributions

MVUUF members contribute to the Emergency Services Pantry to help persons who run out of food stamps or are unable to purchase necessities that food stamps won't buy. Canned goods and other non-perishable food items and disposable diapers (size 3 or larger) are always needed. Paper grocery bags with handles as well as other sacks are also always welcome. Place contributions in the purple bin, marked ESP, in the kitchen. Thanks!

Ellen Beck

UUSC Coffee Project

MVUUF is participating in the UUSC Coffee Project program with the coffee we serve during coffee hour, and through the sale of coffee for home use. Packaged coffee is on sale after Sunday service.

Upcoming Group and Club Meetings

MVUUF Book Club

The MVUUF Book Club meets one Wednesday each month at the Fellowship from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Those who wish to may come at 10:15 for some social time. All are welcome. For further information, call **Carol Vincent** or **Sylvia Wince**.

November 12

The DaVinci Code by Dan Brown

December 17

Icy Sparks by Gwyn Hyman Rubio. This will be a Christmas potluck and book exchange at the home of **Carol Vincent**.

Evening Book Discussion Group

The Evening Book Discussion Group will meet on **Tuesday, November 11th at 7:00 p.m. at Lucy Kazyak's** house to discuss *Blind Assassin* by Margaret Atwood. New participants are welcome. See **Ann Snively** if you would like more information.

The First Thursday Theological Society will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Founders Room on **November 6th**. We will continue our discussion of the ideas of **Ralph Waldo Emerson**. New participants are welcome. See **Ann Snively** if you need a copy of the background reading for the next meeting. Childcare can be arranged if requested in advance.

Young Adult Network (YAN)

Our November activity will be the Centerville Labyrinth. Time and Date to be determined. Contact **Alisha Dolbeer** for details or join our yahoo group at www.yahoo.com - group title is YAN

Smart Choices

Looking for a more positive approach to life? Discover smart choices in a group that is meeting **every Monday evening at MVUUF 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.** Come as you are. **The first session is October 5.** Everyone is welcome. Contact **Lynn Haven** for more information.

Poetic Insights

This group will meet at MVUUF at 1:30 p.m., **Nov. 30** (the last Sunday of each month). It is a group in which rough-draft, impromptu poetry or prose is written by the attendees after being given a general topic or stimulus. Those who wish to share what was written may do so. Everyone is welcome. Contact **Bev Wince** for further information.

Meditation Group

Join us Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:30 at the Fellowship for Meditation Group. We open with a reading from "Everyday Mind" and then sit quietly for 25-30 minutes. We then have a brief teaching and discussion referencing a myriad of world religious/spiritual paths, followed by a closing silent meditation. Sort of a pre-service centering if you will... All are welcome. Please contact **Calen Rayne** if you have any questions.

INTERWEAVE

INTERWEAVE, a support/discussion group for GLBT people and their allies, is now meeting on a new night. The group meets on the **third Wednesday** of each month (September through May) at 7 p.m. in the Founders Room at the Fellowship. For information, contact **Joyce Gibbs**.

Aikido Group

Aikido is a defensive, Japanese martial art with deep, spiritual aspects. Classes are open to all at the Fellowship and are led by **Greg** and **Katie Reese**. They take place on **Mondays** (6:45-8:00 p.m.) and **Saturdays** (9:45-11:00 a.m.). **Beginners are welcome and there is no charge to MVUUF members who want to participate in the sport but not get a ranking in aikido.**

For those who do wish to be ranked, introductory classes are \$62/month and general classes are \$42/month. The fee permits unlimited attendance of classes at the Fellowship and at the Yellow Springs dojo (school) in Yellow Springs, plus the opportunity to receive formal rankings in aikido.

🎵 *Notes from Hillary*

Hello everyone, and happy fall. It's my favorite season. I always start thinking ahead to the holidays at the first sign of frost and since we've had that...! I am working on the Christmas eve service and would like that to be the premiere performance for all of the Fellowship string players. The first rehearsal will be held on Saturday November 8th from 3:00 till 4:00 pm. We will pass out music and practice tapes at that time. Students should bring their instruments. If you are unable to attend please contact me as soon as possible to make arrangements to get a packet. We will set up future rehearsals at that time so it is very important that you try to get your little string players to the first rehearsal if it is at all possible. Contact Hillary for more information. (musicdirector@mvuuf.org)



Hillary Wagner
Music Director

A Major Musical Event at MVUUF!!!!

We are honored to present nationally acclaimed singer and storyteller *Sparky Rucker* to MVUUF.

Pete Seeger says "*Sparky Rucker is unique! He'll make you glad to be alive and struggling.*"

Sparky and Rhonda Rucker have appeared at

- National Folk Festival- Scotland
- Smithsonian Folklife Festival
- National Conference of the Center for Black Music Research and College Music Society
- Old songs festival- New York
- Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
- International Childrens Festival- Wolf Trap Farm Park
- A Prairie Home Companion- NPR
- Carry It On- PBS
- Morning Edition- NPR
- Mountain Stage- NPR
- And countless other venues.

Plan ahead for **Sunday December 7 at 2:00 pm** at our own Fellowship. Concert series is \$5 per person with a maximum of \$15 for a family. You do NOT want to miss this concert event!

Please mark your calendars now for these outstanding performances! You won't want to miss them.

Sunday December 7 Sparky and Rhonda Rucker

Sunday January 18, 2004 Nationally-touring singer/songwriter **Peter Mayer** in concert. See **Genevieve Harvey** for details; she's done all the work on this one! I, for one, don't plan to miss it!

Sunday, April 18, 2004 WIND IN THE WOODS They will be performing renaissance music in authentic costumes. It is a show not to be missed! For more information see <http://members.aol.com/windinwood/>



Sparky and Rhonda Rucker

Healing the World — One Meatloaf at a Time

I recently succumbed to pressure to cook a meatloaf for lunch at 'The Other Place,' a shelter in Dayton where current and former Fellowship members prepare and serve a meal each month to the homeless. Now, this is a stretch for me as I don't eat beef and my meat cooking skills are, truth be told, underdeveloped.

You wouldn't think that feeding the hungry is controversial, but I've heard it said that providing meals for the homeless and stocking food pantries simply perpetuates the problem. The argument goes that by providing direct aid, we allow our legislatures to turn a blind eye to the true extent of the problem of hunger in America.

Now, the people making these arguments are good, compassionate folks who believe in working for social change. It's just that they disagree on the nature of the work that should be done. They advocate lobbying congress and pressuring our government to aid the poor, through living wage legislation, job training, and other programs.

So who is right? Which group has chosen the right path to fighting hunger? The answer is, of course, both.

Unitarian Universalist author and minister Richard Gilbert describes four opportunities for churches to engage in healing the world: a) meeting immediate needs; b) social justice education; c) witnessing against injustice; and d) working for systemic change.

Serving lunch at The Other Place meets immediate needs — feeding empty bellies. Working for systemic change by lobbying congress is a more complicated and long term project. But both methods of fighting injustice are valid in and of themselves.

Different people are called to serve in different ways. This is sometimes, though not always, related to their personalities and acquired skills. Often it is a matter of time — a new parent or a small-business owner, for example may have little time to serve others.

But real synergy can happen when you apply these concepts to work within congregations. You see, the same problem can be addressed in different ways by different people within the same congregation, each with their own call and skills.

Take, for example, fighting hunger in greater Dayton. MVUUF already addresses this problem by feeding those in need through "The Other Place" and the Emergency Service Pantry. Using Gilbert's model, we could also address hunger through education, witnessing and working for systemic change. We could hold education forums for ourselves and for the greater community to educate ourselves on hunger in Ohio. We could bear witness when we hear of injustice, working alongside other communities of faith in greater Dayton as they directly face the results of unemployment, underemployment, and the plight of the working poor. We could lobby for systemic change to fight hunger by writing letters to congress supporting living wage legislation or joining coalitions that pay a lobbyist to advocate for human worth and dignity.

You get the idea. Not everyone is called to fight injustice in the same way. Whether feeding a hungry child, educating against racism, witnessing for abolishing the death penalty, or lobbying for reproductive rights, all work for the good contributes to the good of the world. As Thich Nhat Hanh says "Take one thing and do it very deeply and carefully and you will be doing everything at the same time." And that includes baking meatloaf.

In faith,
Leslie Woodward
MVUUF Peace and Justice Intern

Leadership School Learnings...

We all change and grow from meeting challenges, both as individuals and as a community. Just as muscles need to be stressed to develop, so do we as people. Complacency does not lead to improvement. If we are not tested, we do not grow.

On the other hand, muscles will not grow stronger if they are overworked. They will only be damaged, and tears or strains may develop. A good trainer, whether in the gym or in a classroom, knows that it is important to match the difficulty of the strain to the ability of the person. Appropriate tension, adequate rest between trials and sufficient nourishment are all needed to encourage growth.

According to Ronald A Heifetz, author of *Leadership Without Easy Answers* (The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1994), one of the most important jobs of a true leader is to regulate distress. It is vital in leading a congregation or a committee to know when to challenge the members. Asking hard questions and encouraging folks to live out difficult answers is part of what keeps us growing.

The other part is supporting those same people when they are struggling. Recognizing good efforts, highlighting successes, and applauding positive steps are also necessary parts of leadership.

The difficulty, of course, is deciding when to do what. True leaders titrate their challenging and supporting to match the state of their group. Sometimes a harder push is needed. Sometimes a softer response bears more fruit.

Being able to assess the state of a group requires sensitivity and, at times, an ability to change tactics as we go along. This can be difficult since pushing comes more naturally to some and supporting more naturally to others among us.

No leader gets this right all the time. What is important is that, in our leadership, we stay mindful of the need for balance and strive to meet the needs of our group at any particular time.

Barb Weber

Lifespan Religious Education

Thoughts From Barb....

Life in our new Fellowship home is slowly settling into a new and busy routine. Almost all of the boxes have been unpacked and we are getting better at figuring out where things are.

Now is a good time to look around and notice that, although much of the labor of the move is coming to an end, there are still many people working very hard to keep our programs running. So many of our volunteer hours these past months have been focused on packing, unpacking, cleaning and planting (not to mention getting the church built in the first place). Even more hours, however, go into the day-to-day functioning of the place.

Please take the time to tell the people who help on a regular basis that you notice and appreciate their contributions. Being told “thanks, what you do matters to me” can make a lot of difference in how we all feel.

Many of you have told me through the years that you think the Religious Education program is going well. I very much appreciate your saying that; it helps me in many ways to know you think I am doing a good job. (I also want to know how you think we can improve. Please tell me your ideas!)

I wonder, however, how often you tell our teachers you appreciate them. There are certainly rewards to teaching, as described in another article in this Forum. But the people who teach our Youth Religious Education classes give up the opportunity to attend service on the days they teach. We entrust them with our youngest and most impressionable UU minds. Each one plans interesting and thought-provoking lessons. Our teachers are vital to the life of the Fellowship.

I invite everyone, especially those with children, but others as well, to stop in to the YRE classrooms before or after class. Find out who is teaching. Take note of the wonderful things that happen there. Say thanks. Maybe ask if there is a way you could help support the teachers’ efforts.

The teachers, and I, will be grateful.



Barb Weber
Director Of
RE

Barb Weber

Caregiver Wanted

We are once again looking for someone to watch over our youngest members. If you know someone (neighbor, relative, worker from your child’s day-care...) who might be interested in this paid position, please pass that information on to us.

Spooky Thanks

The Fellowship’s annual Intergenerational Halloween Party was held on October 25. Many thanks to those who planned this “spooktacular” event. Chairs *Helen Geyer* and *Paul Gibb* were helped by *Traci Wheeler*, *Barbara Moreda*, *Bonnie Davis*, *Rita Cyr*, and *Dionna Fowler*. Thanks also to all who donated food for the hungry ghosts and goblins!

YRUU, the Senior High Youth Group, meets from 6:30-8:00 on Sunday evenings. It is open to all youth from ninth grade through 20 years old. Recent events include ice skating, getting-to-know-you time, and a discussion of *Elizabeth Nguyen’s* experiences this summer at Seeds of Peace, a program that promotes understanding between Israeli and Pakistani youth. For information about upcoming activities, contact *Don Kazyak*.

Please help!

We are looking for some help in keeping our shiny new building clean and inviting. Although Jesse, our custodian, will do the heavy cleaning, we do not have the budget to pay him to do all the light cleaning we need. Particularly, we would like someone to give the RE classrooms a once-over on a regular basis. Even though children and teachers pick up their rooms on Sundays, they sometimes could benefit from having toys and tables washed or shelves organized.

If you have an hour or so to give to this task on a regular or occasional basis, please let *Barb Weber* know. Thanks!

Note to participants in Sunday morning Adult RE:

If you have children in childcare, please collect them at 10:45 when your class ends and make sure they get to the story in the sanctuary. The morning stretches long for youngsters and having some contact with parents can be helpful. This will also reduce confusion as new children are arriving and will allow YRE teachers to prepare their rooms for their lessons. Thanks!

**Religious Education Teachers
Dinner and Workshop
Friday, November 21, 2003**

MVUUF members commit to teaching religious education classes for many reasons. Many of our teachers are parents, taking seriously their responsibility for their children's religious upbringing and sharing their gifts with other youth in our program. Others teach so they themselves can learn more about Unitarian Universalism. Still others may teach for love of children and the joy they personify in the world. Of course, each of our teachers weaves together aspects of all of these reasons to explain their call to teach RE.

To all of our teachers, past and present, we send our heartfelt thanks. We can never truly repay you for the work you do with our children. But that won't stop us from trying!

Please plan to join us for a special dinner and workshop where we will attempt to feed your souls as well as your bodies. After a sumptuous meal, MVUUF Peace and Justice Intern Leslie Woodward will lead us in exploring the idea of teaching as a spiritual practice. Can teaching religious education become a path leading toward a deepening of our own lives and sense of the sacred? How can we create a space in our classrooms where, as Parker Palmer writes, "a community of truth is practiced?"

Mark your calendars today and look for your invitation in the mail. And again, thank you for this most important work that you do.

In faith,
Barbara Weber
Lifespan Religious Education Director

Women's Group News

Women's Group will meet from 9:30—10:50 in the Founders' Room, to discuss relationships, our current topic.

Men's Group

Men's Group meets the first Sunday of each month at 9:00 a.m. for fellowship and discussion. All men age 16 and older are welcome to attend.

Childcare can be provided if requested in advance. Contact **Richard Venus** for more information.

COOT (Continuing Our Own Theology) meets monthly on the first and third Mondays at 7:00 p.m. The group gathers to discuss theological issues and share ideas and fellowship (and occasionally have a good dinner). Newcomers are welcome.

Community Class

The Community Class is a group that meets every Sunday morning at 9:30 - 10:45 a.m. in the MVUUF library for fellowship and thought-provoking discussion. A chance to let your hair down, speak your mind or say nothing at all, without criticism. Up close and personal. Please join us!

Sunday, Nov. 2 9:30 a.m.

"Peak UU Experiences." Looking back over our long or short histories in UU communities, we'll share some of our most outstanding, uplifting, enlightening Unitarian Universalist moments.

Open Forum

Sunday, Nov. 9 9:30 a.m.

"Politics in the Pulpit." In these United States, what right does a minister, rabbi, mullah or priest have to express his/her political views during a religious service? Does it conflict with the concept of separation of church and state, or is it a matter of freedom of speech?

Moderator: **Jim Faulconer**

Sunday, Nov. 16 9:30 a.m.

Werner Erhard's Landmark Education - Cult or Social Breakthrough? A look at the contemporary version of the EST movement of the 1960's and 70's. Is it an effective means to personal happiness or a money-making scheme that preys on lonely people?

Moderator: **Lindy McDonough**

Sunday, Nov. 23

NO CLASS MVUUF Thanksgiving Celebration

Sunday, Nov. 30 9:30 a.m.

"Family Secrets." We'll examine the widespread phenomenon that often leads to shame and isolation - why it happens, who it effects, the harm it can cause, and how to overcome it's negative influence on our lives.

Moderator: **Linda Kimmel**

Painless Profit for the Fellowship

New Grocery Certificate Coordinator

After working with the grocery certificate sales for almost four years, I was ready for a break and **Cindy Brooks** graciously agreed to work with the scheduling.

I would like to thank all those who have helped with this important fund-raiser.

Jane Cammel has been an important behind the scenes worker. She has come to the Fellowship every week to check over the Sunday sales, make sure income and outgo of certificates tallied up, correct errors and prepare a monthly report for the Finance Committee. Jane also ordered certificates from the stores, picked them up and bundled them for easy selling. Many thanks, Jane.

Jane will be leaving this job since the new building location makes it difficult for her to continue. If you would like to have this job, please talk with **Jim Hudson** or **Cindy**. It's a good volunteer job in that you can work at a time that suits you and it's not terribly time-consuming. Jane and I would be happy to help with any training involved.

Sellers over these years have been:

Mary Ellen Beardmore, Ellen Beck, Cindy Brooks, Kathy Brown, Jane Cammel, Diona Fowler, Mary Anne Frey, Sue Hudson, Trudy Krisher, Lindy McDonough, Barbara Moreda, Mike Nelson, Maureen O'Meara, Catherine Queener, Elfreda Purkey and Bonnie Thompson. They have earned my great appreciation for their reliability and excellent records. Rarely has anybody missed their scheduled turn. Rarely have there been errors. Many, many thanks.

A core group of the above people have agreed to sell certificates this year. They will take one Sunday a month or switch with a partner every other month or every other quarter or however they work it out. Substitutes are always appreciated. If you would like to be a substitute, please talk with Cindy.

Ruth Rowley

****WE RECOMMEND THAT ALL FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES BE BROUGHT TO THE MVUUF BOARD OF TRUSTEES.****

Deadlines Approach

The deadlines for the upcoming issues of *The FORUM* are November 20 and December 18. Please submit your articles to **Laurie Shows**.

The deadline for the Sunday bulletin is 12:30 p.m. on the preceding Monday. If you plan to use the building for any reason, please schedule with the office. Not all building use is listed in the calendar published in our newsletter. Private use, building maintenance or other unannounced events may already be scheduled. Also, please be sure you have scheduled your event on the official calendar before you begin promoting your activity.

Thanks!

Barbara McFarland, office manager

MVUUF GROCERY CERTIFICATE ORDER FORM

Dorothy Ln: \$5 \$10 \$20 Total

Kroger: \$10 \$20 \$50 Total

Your Name _____ **TOTAL** _____

Please make check or money order payable to: MVUF or Miami Valley Unitarian Fellowship. Send this order form along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: MVUF, 2001 Far Hills Avenue, Dayton, OH 45419

MIAMI VALLEY UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship Calendar for November 2003

Additions? Corrections? Changes?
Please notify Barbara McFarland ASAP.

*** Schedule of Regular Sunday Offerings***

9:30 a.m. Adult RE: Community Class Room 10
9:30 a.m. Women's Group

11:00 a.m. Service & Youth RE

6:30 p.m. YRUU

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 *See above for regular offerings* 9:00 a.m. Men's Group 9:30 a.m. Meditation Group	3 6:45 p.m. Aikido Group 7:00 p.m. Continuing Our Own Theologies 7:30 p.m. Smart Choices	4	5 7:30 p.m. Choir	6 7:30 p.m. First Thursday Theological Society	7	8 9:45 a.m. Aikido Group 11:30 a.m. Helping Hands lunch at the Other Place 5:00 p.m. Saturday Celebration
9 DEDICATION SUNDAY *See above for regular offerings* 9:30 a.m. Meditation Group 4:00 p.m. Dedication Service	10 6:45 p.m. Aikido Group 7:30 p.m. Smart Choices	11 7:00 p.m. Evening Book Discussion Group at Lucy Kazyak's 7:30 p.m. Social Concerns 8:00 p.m. Renaissance Band	12 10:30 a.m. MVUUF Morning Book Club 7:30 p.m. Choir 7:30 p.m. Earth Circle	13 6:00 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting	14	15 9:45 a.m. Aikido Group 10:00 a.m. Holiday Bazaar 5:00 p.m. Saturday Celebration
16 *See above for regular offerings* 9:30 a.m. Meditation Group 11:15 a.m. ORIENTATION 3:00 p.m. MVUUF Open House	17 6:45 p.m. Aikido Group 7:00 p.m. Drum and Poetry Circle 7:00 p.m. Continuing Our Own Theologies 7:30 p.m. Smart Choices	18 7:30 p.m. Recorder Consort	19 7:00 p.m. INTERWEAVE 7:30 p.m. Choir	20 6:30 p.m. MVUUF Board Meeting	21	22 9:45 a.m. Aikido Group 5:00 p.m. Saturday Celebration
23 *See above for regular offerings* 9:30 a.m. Meditation Group	24 6:45 p.m. Aikido Group 7:30 p.m. Smart Choices	25 7:30 p.m. Beginner Recorder Ensemble	26	27	28	29
30 9:30 a.m. Meditation Group 1:30 p.m. Poetic Insights						