



Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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November 2004

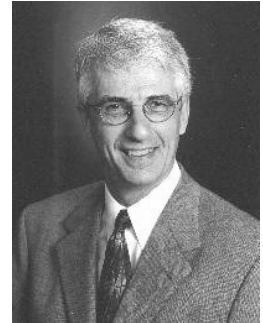
Vol. LII No. 3

The Forum

Richard's Reflections

Giving thanks has nothing to do with what produced the gift; it is, rather, a way of perceiving our life. Even in the midst of hurt and disappointment, when we see ourselves in a universe that gives us life and touches us with love, we praise.

— Raymond Baughan



Rev. Richard Venus

It must seem to those who suffer from heart disease, live amid violence, experience all that poverty brings, that words of gratitude are facile and short-sighted. In this season of thanksgiving I am reminded of all for which I am thankful; creaturely comforts, a loving family and friends, a religious community of caring folk. But I am also reminded that much of the world does not know these things. I sense that my comfortable life is an exception, rather than the rule. I read of children starving to death in many parts of Africa and the Far East. I know of families whose lives have been disrupted by terrorist acts. Illness and illiteracy stalk millions.

Such a grim report you must be saying, and I am saying that to myself. Yet I am reminded that not all people see themselves in "a universe that . . . touches us with love." In this season I am thankful of the too much I have, but I am also troubled by all those who have not.

I trust that by supporting this congregation, we are also serving those in need as we, in a myriad of ways, reach out beyond our doors. The UU Service Committee is one way Unitarian Universalists do reach out to those who will have little to be thankful for this season. We at MVUUF will collect money to support this worthy organization as we fill our Guest at Your Table boxes in January and February.

In addition, this month Dan Narigon and the other endowment trustees will be sharing information about our endowment fund. As we offer support to this fund, I ask that we see it not simply as supporting a building and its staff, but we realize that in caring for this church we enable it to fulfill its mission, which is to serve each other and the suffering people of the world.

Richard

VISION STATEMENT

We are a welcoming spiritual congregation encouraging one another on our personal journeys, embracing diversity, nurturing community, and working together for social justice. We actively promote the liberal religious principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Sunday Programs

Sunday, November 7 — 11:00 AM

An Authentic Patriotism Perhaps too much has been heard of politics in the past too many months, but this Sunday, Richard Venus will speak on how patriotism ought to be, not the kind preached by so many in politics today. Richard Donnelly is the worship associate. The choir will sing.

Sunday, November 14 — 11:00 AM

Everything: An Overview Don Heidorn will speak on the relationships between our evolving universe, science and religions. These new models help shed light on situations in our everyday life on both personal and worldwide scales. Laurie Shows is the worship associate.

Sunday, November 21 — 11:00 AM

THANKSGIVING DINNER An MVUUF tradition — this annual feast we celebrate together. The dinner follows an abbreviated service. Please bring a covered dish to share.

Sunday, November 28 — 11:00 AM

All The Questions You Ever Wanted To Ask The Minister Submit your religious questions in the box in the Gathering Space. Richard Venus will attempt to answer all your questions at this service.

Our Staff

The Rev. Richard Venus, Minister

Office Hours: By appointment (except Monday)

Hillary Gregg Wagner, Director of Music

Office Hours: By appointment

Barb Weber, Director of Lifespan Religious Education

Office Hours: Tue. 11 AM — 1:30 PM, Sunday Morning

Barbara Kelley, Office Manager

Office Hours: Mon.—Thurs., 9:00 AM—3:00 PM.

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MVUUF Board of Trustees

Jamie McQuinn
President

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Vice President

Scott Leonard
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Secretary

Gail Cyan
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Yolanda Crooms
Activities Trustee

Maureen O'Meara
Social Concerns Trustee

Laurie Shows
LRE Trustee

Rich Robinson
Membership Trustee

Joe Zimmerman
Operations Trustee

Highlights:

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Board Reports

Summary of the Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Board of Trustees Meeting held on October 21, 2004.

Meeting called to order at 7:06 PM by *Jamie McQuinn*.

Present: *Jamie McQuinn*, president; *Jim Faulconer*, VP; *Yolanda Crooms*, activities; *Gail Cyan*, PR; *Laurie Shows*, LRE; *Rich Robinson*, membership; *Joe Zimmerman*, operations; *Maureen O'Meara*, social concerns; *Scott Leonard*, treasurer elect; *Richard Venus*, minister; *Carol Narigon*, secretary; *Dan Narigon*, chair of the Finance Committee; *Barbara Kelley*, office administrator; *Hillary Wagner*, music director; *Dave Rengel*, visitor.

Minutes of the September 2004, meeting were approved as written. (*Laurie* moved; *Rich* seconded.)

- *Dan Narigon* distributed financial reports and updated us on the year-to-date financial picture of the Fellowship.
- Approved *Scott Leonard* as our new treasurer. Welcome, Scott.
- Approved running an ad opposing Issue One in conjunction with Cross Creek Community Church, a UCC church, and made a plan to solicit donations to pay for the ad and names to run in the ad.
- Made a decision that ChaliceLight Gallery art work will remain on the sanctuary walls during all Fellowship functions.
- Approved November as "Endowment Fund Focus Month."
- Decided to hold a Saturday visioning workshop in January.

Carol Narigon, Secretary

Membership News

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. **Our next orientation will be November 14** (moved up a week for Thanksgiving).

Caring and Sharing Committee

We are in need of volunteers to visit members who are ill or recovering from an accident. Volunteers will take food and/or flowers and follow up with the individual, as well as keep the congregation informed of the member's progress. Please contact *Julie Bragg* if you would like to be on this committee. If enough folks volunteer, we hope members will only have to visit once a year.

Rich Robinson, Membership Trustee

Calendar Updates

A complete revamping of the Fellowship calendar is underway. We want to be sure every group and event is included. Please contact either Barbara Kelley (436-3628 mvuuf@copper.net) or Gail Cyan to confirm your dates – recurring meetings as well as special events. We will need to know the contact person and phone, the room reserved and any other details you have. Please let us know your information even if you think we already have it. Thanks for your help!

MVUUF Directory

Updates to our directory are underway. If you miss updating the clipboard during services, please contact the office with corrections or additions to your information, including new email addresses. Call 436-3628 or email mvuuf@copper.net. And hurry!

Announcements

Items Needed

The Activities Committee needs a good used DVD player. Contact *Gail Cyan* if you can help.

Thank You, Bill Ross

Many, many thanks to *Bill Ross*, who for the past two years has overseen the Sunday coffee making and cleanup. *Karen Evans* has graciously volunteered to assume this responsibility. Please sign up to help her!

—*Jim Faulconer*

Free Legal Consultation

Attorney *Mark Kalafatas* is available at the Fellowship on Monday evenings from 7-9 PM. Please call the Fellowship office, 436-3628, to make an appointment.

Successful MVUUF Craft Bazaar

Thank you to the many, many people who helped make our annual Craft Bazaar, held October 23, a huge success! Our net profit for this annual event was more than \$2,300. We are grateful especially to helpers *Linda Wysong, Vinnie Marshall, Dave Rengel* and *Bev Wince*. A special thank you goes to the craft bazaar organizers *Rita Reeve, Judy Rengel* and *Sylvia Wince*. We would not have had such a successful event without the help of each and every person who participated. Thanks!

Earlier Deadline for Forum

The Forum deadlines have been changed to a week earlier. The deadlines for upcoming issues of *The FORUM* are November 15 and December 13. Please submit your articles to Barbara Kelley (mvuuf@copper.net). If additional time is needed, please let us know—we'll do our best to accommodate you. The deadline for the Sunday bulletin is 12:30 PM 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.

In Memoriam

Nancy Thomas died October 3 from complications in her battle with lymphoma. She was in Omaha in the midst of a most promising treatment when her system was overpowered by a very strong infection. Once the infection hit, she went very fast and suffered minimally. She was happy being where she was and getting the treatment and care she wanted and deserved.

Nancy, our family, and I appreciated all the cards of support she received from the MVUUF community; they helped her more than you can know. Since her death, our family and I are grateful for all the sympathy you have given. I cannot name the names because I don't know all of them, but many people worked to make the memorial service and the reception easy and comforting for us. Thank you! Your caring support and cards have been so helpful as we begin our struggles with the loss of a dear wife, mother, grandmother and sister-in-law. Sharing the pain with the community makes our portion a little easier to bear.

On another note, many of you have loaned Nancy books, mostly mysteries. I'm afraid I have no idea who you are or what you loaned her. If you would please call me with titles, I will find them and return them to you as she planned. She loved mysteries but had very little time or inclination for reading during her treatment.

Thank you each again. It is so valuable being in community.

—*Chuck Thomas*

November Is Endowment Fund Focus Month

All churches rely on money to encourage growth, to fulfill programming needs and to further the mission set by the congregation. Financial health is determined by the operating fund, cash flow reserves and the endowment fund. The balances and budgets are reported to the Board on a monthly basis and to the Fellowship at our semiannual congregational meetings. This article will focus on the least well-known, and probably most misunderstood, portion of the Fellowship finances: the endowment fund.

The Fellowship established, supports and manages an endowment fund for a number of reasons. Operating funds, capital reserves, and endowment funds are three legs of one stool upon which a healthy and mature organization balances its work and service. Endowments guarantee longevity and emergency assistance, and sometimes provide additional monies for building projects, funding social justice projects or establishing a permanent arts program—necessities that cannot be funded by the general revenue provided annually by the congregation's pledges from members and friends. Creating and administering an endowment fund is one of many ways to care for Unitarian Universalism, a free faith, in a covenanted community of people. Unitarian Universalism is a gift we have received from others. We sit in the shade of trees we did not plant. The trees help us and rely on us and we are the gardeners, the trustees, the stewards who will ensure that the trees are healthy and growing for the next generation to enjoy and “husband.”

As religious people who cherish freedom, search for truth, and work for justice and mercy in the world, the trees of our free faith will be our legacy. Good stewardship of financial resources is a very important part of the ethical and religious development of individuals and groups.

MVUUF is blessed to own an endowment fund of approximately \$79,000. We owe a deep debt of gratitude to the contributors to the endowment fund. Approximately half of the endowment fund came from the assets of First Unitarian Church. The remainder has come from individual contributions, including our most recent contribution from the estates of John Gower. We are thankful for his generosity and foresight.

This year we will increase the visibility of the endowment fund. The first task will be to determine the Fellowship's priorities. According to our current bylaws, the purpose of the endowment fund is “to further augment the principles, objectives, program and purposes of the Fellowship by providing a suitable receptacle for the receipt, management, investment and distribution for the Fellowship...”

We need to be more directive and enthusiastic in our desires for the endowment fund. Is it to be a source of funds for social outreach, expansion of our building, supporting the establishment of another UU congregation in the Miami Valley, or other worthy projects? Do we have a target goal for the principal or do we want to just grow it as large as we can? What should we invest in? Should we worry about returns at the expense of social consciousness or should we sacrifice returns to know that we don't invest in anything or any company that we may find objectionable? Do we do good with the money we invest or do we do good with the income from the money we invest? Our current funds are in the Vanguard group, a low-management-fee, mutual fund investment company. The funds we have are balanced between growth and income and perform in line with the other large mutual fund companies.

November has been designated by the Board and the Endowment Trustees as Endowment Fund Focus Month. November is an ideal month to conduct personal financial review and planning prior to the end of the annual tax year. As you look at your personal financial plans please consider contributing to the endowment fund or recognizing the importance of Unitarian Universalism by including us in your estate planning. We will be planning an annual seminar and party to thank past contributors and to help current members and friends with their personal and estate financial planning.

Thank you all for your continued support of the Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. We will be good stewards of the legacy left to us by those who went before and endeavor to increase and expand that legacy for those who follow.

—Dan Narigon

Candidates Needed

The nominating committee will be submitting candidates to fill the positions of President and Social Concerns Trustee for the term beginning in July 2005. We are now asking for recommendations for consideration. If you are interested yourself or would like to recommend someone else, please give us a written recommendation. We would appreciate knowing the person's name, who is nominating him or her and any relevant information that the nominating committee should consider. It would also help us to know whether the person you are recommending has expressed an interest and/or willingness to serve.

We need this input by noon on **Sunday, November 7**. Please get your recommendation to any member of the committee by email, air mail, or in person. Board members must have one year of membership at MVUUF before taking office. It is preferred that the candidate for President have board/governance experience, ideally at MVUUF. For more information about a board position, you may want to check the governance section of the mvuuf.org website or talk with a member of the Board.

The Nominating Committee

Iris Carter
Gary Courts
MaryAnne Frey
Genevieve Harvey, Chair
Laurel Herminghausen
Mike Nelson

Upcoming Meetings and Events

CineManiacs—Sunday, November 14

If you're wild about art films, join us the second Sunday of each month at The Neon Movies for a 5—5:30ish showing. Since The Neon Movies schedule is sometimes rather last-minute, the title and time will be electronically sent on the Thursday prior to the Sunday event and perhaps announced at the Sunday service on the day of the outing. After the movie, we'll meet in the Neon lobby cafe for fellowship and a discussion. Everyone is welcome to join us — friends, family and colleagues. If you have questions, call Trudy Krisher or Lindy McDonough.

— *Lindy McDonough*

We've Got the Beat!!!

The MVUUF Drum Circle meets on the third Monday of each month. Come join in as we celebrate rhythm in a non-threatening and accepting environment. If you have never touched a drum before but yearn to try, this is the place for you. This is a great opportunity to let your creative juices flow, and feel the meditative as well as rejuvenating qualities of rhythm and chant. Recent meetings have included opportunities for improvised chant and moving in rhythm to our drumming. Who can tell what excitement awaits this month? Join us on Monday, November 15 from 7:00 to 8:30 PM.

Poetic Insights

The Poetic Insights group will meet next on November 28 at 1:30 PM, in the Library. We usually finish by 3:00 PM. All are invited to attend. If you have any questions, contact *Bev Wince* or *Sylvia Wince*.

MVUUF Annual Thanksgiving Feast

Join us for our traditional Thanksgiving Feast at the Fellowship following an abbreviated service at 11:00 AM on November 21. Start reviewing your favorite family dishes and plan to bring a dish to share — if you bring ham or turkey, you will eat for free! There will be plenty of volunteering opportunities for the event so watch for the sign up sheets during service and in the Gathering Space. Check the upcoming bulletins for additional details. Call *Yolanda Crooms* for more information.

Upcoming Group and Club Meetings

MVUUF Daytime Book Club

The MVUUF Book Club meets one Wednesday each month at the Fellowship from 10:30 to 11:30 AM. 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 17

The Devil in the White City, by Erik Larson

December 15

The Giver, by Lori Lowry (This will be a potluck dinner at the home of Carol Vincent.)

January date TBA

Dreams from My Father, by Barack Obama

Evening Book Discussion Group

The Evening Book Discussion Group will meet at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, November 9 at Ann Snively's home to discuss the *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel. New participants are welcome. Contact Ann Snively if you would like more information. Future meetings are:

December 14

Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America by Barbara Ehrenreich (at Alice Lizee's home).

January 11

When I Lived in Modern Times by Linda Grant (at Lucy Kazyak's home).

First Thursday Theological Society

The First Thursday Theological Society will meet at 7:30 PM in the Founders' Room on November 4 to explore the topic "*What Do I Say after I Say I'm a UU?*" Please join us for this discussion. You do not need to have attended previous sessions to participate. Contact Richard Venus or Ann Snively if you would like more information.

INTERWEAVE

INTERWEAVE, a support/discussion group for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender (GLBT) people and their allies, meets on the **third Wednesday**, September through May, at 7:00 PM in the Founders' Room at the Fellowship. Contact Joe Law.

Women of a Certain Age

For women over 55, Women of a Certain Age will meet on the second and fourth Sundays of the month at 9:30 AM in the library. For information call *Marilyn Faulconer* or *Barbara Czestochowa*.

Voluntary Simplicity Study Group

Voluntary Simplicity has started and we have a full group! Anyone else interested in being a part of a future Voluntary Simplicity Study group, please sign up on the bulletin board in the Fellowship hallway. There are also several study groups that will be offered if there is enough interest (including deep ecology and sustainable living). For more information, call *Linda Yoder*.

Aikido Group

Aikido is a defensive, Japanese martial art with deeply spiritual aspects. Classes are open to all at the Fellowship and are led by *Greg* and *Katie Reese*. They take place on Saturdays (9:00-10:30 AM) and some Monday evenings. Contact the Reese's to confirm times. 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.

Social Concerns Committee

The Social Concerns Committee meets on the fourth Monday of the month at 7:00 PM at the Fellowship. ALL are welcome! Please come with your energy, motivation, and a dessert to share. See you here! - *Kate Santucci*.

The Sacred Epic Of Evolution: Bridging Diversity, Inspiring Celebration, Empowering Great Work



We had an excellent turn out for Michael Dowd's presentation, *The Sacred Epic Of Evolution: Bridging Diversity, Inspiring Celebration, Empowering Great Work*. The turn out was particularly impressive considering the timing conflict with the Kerry rally.

Michael is an impressive speaker and his message was extremely well received by all the attendees. He presented a new way of looking at our world, one filled with hope based on realistic expectations.

If we are willing to open our minds for a few minutes, it turns out the world makes more sense than most of us had ever imagined. He gave us something to think about. Thank you, Michael!

—Don Heidorn



Thanks!

Thank you to all the Fall Retreat volunteers and participants! Special thanks go to **Genevieve Harvey** for organizing the event and to **Gail Cyan** for creating a wonderful stone soup experience. Many thanks to those who led the group activities and volunteers for set-up and clean-up. Finally, special gratitude to those who participated—the warm feeling of community will not be soon forgotten!

—**Yolanda Crooms, Activities**

Movie Night is November 20 at 6:30 PM

Come to the Fellowship for Movie Night on November 20 at 6:30 PM. This month's movie is ***Life As A House***, (Rated R for language, sexuality and drug use—124 minutes, starring Hayden Christensen and Kevin Kline.)

In a last-ditch attempt to reconstruct his life, George Monroe tears down his house, and goes to work designing and building a new dream house. As the structure is erected, the complications of George's life come to the fore. But George is determined to build this new house, even if it means refurbishing his entire life. What begins as a way for George to redeem his own bruised dreams turns into something much bigger than he ever imagined, and something far stronger than just a shelter.

A very spiritual and uplifting movie! Pizza orders will be taken right before the start of the movie. The cost is \$2 or \$5 including half of a pizza.



Music Notes From Hillary



Musician **Jim Scott** brings a ***Musical Celebration of the Earth*** to the Fellowship on **Saturday, November 6 at 7:00 PM**. The music committee at MVUUF is pleased to present acclaimed acoustic guitarist Jim Scott. Jim will perform an evening of his songs of peace and the environment. With insight and more than a little humor, Jim Scott makes his case for harmony in the world with a jazz / world folk music styling and some great guitar technique in accompaniment. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children, with a family maximum of \$30.

Known to many as the voice on the Winter Consort's "Common Ground," Jim's musical output runs from lyrical songs, and instrumentals, to choral compositions. He has performed in the company of luminaries of the jazz and folk worlds. Pete Seeger said of Jim's guitar virtuosity "(Jim is) some kind of a magician." Paul Winter said of his long time collaborator, "His music sings of the life spirit."

His most recent project has been compiling "*The Earth and Spirit Songbook*," an anthology of songs of earth and peace and he has added many of these songs to his concert repertoire. From this widely varied background, Jim considers himself a contemporary folk artist in the sense that folk music represents people with a positive and hopeful spirit.

"Folk music follows a long tradition of social commentary," Jim said. "It's the voice of the people. That's what I like to think I'm representing." His musical, *The Tree and Me*, has been staged at colleges in New York and Michigan. He also performs for kids and has written songs with elementary school classes. His "*Big and Little Stuff - Songs for Kids*" marks his fifth recording of original songs released on CD. He's taught at numerous colleges, including Oberlin College in Ohio, and conducted workshops throughout the country.

"My messages are of ecology and social conscience, but also of optimism," Jim said. "I believe in the power of song and self-expression for change." For information about the concert, call Hillary Wagner at 436-3628.

Lifespan Religious Education

Thoughts From Barb....

I have been thinking about what draws us together to this place, about what makes the Fellowship matter to all of us.



*Barb Weber
Director Of
RE*

The answers to that question are as varied as is the congregation. But I think this past month has brought to awareness some of those answers.

We have had times of celebration together, when we have laughed and applauded. We have also shared great losses with some of our members.

We have worked to make the world a better place. We have argued over how best to do that.

We have watched movies and listened to sermons and made music together.

We have been stirred by new thoughts and touched by memories of past times.

We have watched young ones grow and worried over those among us who are moving into old age. We have, of course, drunk coffee, and talked and talked and talked.

We have sometimes sat in silence, as our spirits have spoken through the quiet.

We have been a community. And we have, indeed, been drawn together.

In this season of Thanksgiving, may we be mindful of all that we mean to each other, and may we let each other know the caring that is in our hearts.

May it be so,
Barb

Please Register

If you have not yet registered your children (infant through 12th grade/age 18) for Youth Religious Education, please take a moment to do so. It is vital that we know of any health issues (allergies, etc.) your child may have. We also want to be sure we know how to contact you if we have any questions or special needs for your child's class. Registration forms are available in the RE prep room.

No School on November 21

There will be no Sunday School on November 21, when we will all gather together for Thanksgiving Service and Dinner.

Men's Group

Men's Group meets the first and third Sundays of each month at 9:15 AM for fellowship and discussion. All men age 16 and older are welcome to attend.

Women's Group

Sunday 9:30 – 10:45 AM, Founders' Room

For the next couple of months, we are discussing the book, "*Soulful Living: The Process of Personal Transformation*," a wonderful exploration of our spirituality and how to use it to engage more fully in our lives. All women are welcome. Contact Christina Rowe to order a book. For more information, contact Shirley Dobson or Gayle Gyure.

YRUU

Young Religious Unitarian Universalists, our senior high youth, meet from 6:30 to 8:00 on Sunday evenings. All ninth graders through 20 year olds are invited to join this group. Activities are planned by the young people with Don Kazyak and Yolanda Crooms serving as advisors. Social action, spirituality, learning through new experiences and, of course, fun are what this group is all about. So watch the bulletin for information about specific activities and come join us!

Help Wanted

We are still looking for a few people willing to spend one hour every six weeks or so helping the RE staff during service. You would help set out snacks, fetch supplies, and be an extra pair of hands, while the staff member would deal with any crises that develop.

Seeing the interest and involvement of our young people on Sunday mornings is eye-opening. Working with the part of our congregation that is dedicated to Youth Religious Education is inspiring. Contact Barb Weber if you'd like to see what this is all about.

Smart Choices

This group generally meets the second and fourth Monday evenings at 7:30 at the Fellowship. In November *only*, we will meet the first and last Mondays. The Smart Choices group will do something that we feel is a smart choice for ourselves-- either physically, emotionally, mentally, or just for fun.

The sessions are open to all who wish to participate, on a drop-in basis. There are no dues or requirements. Come regularly or come when the mood strikes you. No need to call anyone; just show up.

Monday, November 1: (Note: this meeting will be on the *first Monday* instead of the second Monday.) **Kathleen Pennington** will show us how to arrange the wild flowers we picked together last month. The results of our efforts will be the decorations for the tables for our MVUUF Thanksgiving Dinner.

Monday, November 29: (Note: this meeting will be on the *last Monday* instead of the fourth Monday.) We are going to meet at Laurel Herminghausen's house to wrap 50 presents she gives to friends and family. We can use some help!

Monday, December 13: **Laurel Herminghausen and Jan Campbell** (Laurel's daughter) will do a Christmas skit for us, in costume.

Community Class

The Community Class is an adult group that meets every Sunday morning from 9:30—10:45 AM in the kindergarten classroom 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, November 7

"Election 2004 Follow-Up" Just five days after the Presidential election, with its possible hanging chads, voter intimidation, computer crashes, voter fraud, legal challenges and recounts, we'll analyze what happened on November 2nd and celebrate and/or mourn the results. Moderator: **Dave Rengel**

Sunday, November 14

"Be it resolved: Frivolous and junk lawsuits filed by untrustworthy ambulance chasing shysters for low-life plaintiffs promote significant and positive social progress." Perhaps contrary to what political ads suggest, attorneys are NOT making a shambles of the medical profession and our American way of life. We'll talk about it. Moderator: **Roger Davis**

Sunday, November 21

NO COMMUNITY CLASS Come and enjoy our traditional Thanksgiving Feast at the Fellowship following a short service at 11:00 AM.

Sunday, November 28

"Death with Dignity." How do you ensure yours or a loved one's right to die with dignity? What does the organization "Death with Dignity Alliance" do? What are our choices at the end of life? What are the rights and responsibilities for terminally ill patients? What does Ohio say on this subject? Our moderator will share a sample letter to her physician. Moderator: **Sherry Davis**

Pop Tops for Children's Charity

Please join our Youth Religious Education (YRE) participants as they "Pull for the Ronald McDonald House (RMH)." YRE is collecting pop tops from beverage cans for the RMH. The RMH is a "Home Away from Home" for families with children in local hospitals. The RMH receives salvage value from the pure aluminum tabs; this past year they earned \$8,000. Please bring and add your pop tops to the cardboard "house" in the Gathering Space.

The children are also donating money from their chapel collection to this cause. Please talk with your youngsters about the Ronald McDonald House and help them remember to bring a donation and pop tops. Children's offerings are taken during chapel on the second Sunday of each month as well as in weekly classes.

Thanks!
Thanks to all who helped with the Halloween Party!
We appreciate your help in making this annual
tradition a big success!

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. Dry goods and other non-perishable food items and disposable diapers (size 3 or larger) are always needed. 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!

\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ FOR THE FELLOWSHIP

You can help the Fellowship with your grocery purchases—and it won't cost you a cent!

Do you have your new Kroger Neighborhood Reward Program card yet? Are you registered in Dorothy Lane Market's Good Neighbor Program? Do you have a Meijer's Community Rewards Program card? These programs return money to the Fellowship when you purchase groceries (and other items). Check with the grocery certificate sales person in the Gathering Space or call the office at 436-3628 for more information.

MVUUF GROCERY CERTIFICATE ORDER FORM

Dorothy Lane: \$10 \$25 Total _____

Kroger: \$5 Total _____

Your Name _____ Your Telephone _____

Please make check or money order payable to: MVUUF or Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Send this order form along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: MVUUF, 8690 Yankee Street Dayton, OH 45458

**MIAMI VALLEY UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
November 2004**

* Schedule of Regular Sunday Offerings*
9:30 AM Adult RE: Community Class
9:30 AM Women's Group
11:00 AM Service & Youth RE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7:00 PM Smart Choices	2 7:30 PM Voluntary Simplicity Group	3 7:30 PM Choir	4 7:30 PM First Thursday Theological Society	5	6 9:00 AM Aikido Group 7:00 PM Jim Scott Concert
7 *See above for regular offerings* 9:15 AM Men's Group 6:30 PM YRUU Senior High Youth	8	9 7:30 PM Worship Committee Meeting 7:30 PM Voluntary Simplicity Group	10 7:30 PM Choir	11	12	13 9:00 AM Aikido Group
14 *See above for regular offerings* 9:30 AM Women of a Certain Age 12:15 PM ORIENTATION 5:00 PM Cinemaniacs-Neon Movies 6:30 PM YRUU Senior High Youth	15 7:00 PM Drum & Poetry Circle	16 7:30 PM Voluntary Simplicity Group	17 7:00 PM INTERWEAVE 7:30 PM Choir	18 7:00 PM Board of Trustees Meeting	19	20 9:00 AM Aikido Group 6:30 PM Movie Night
21 Annual Thanksgiving Feast	22 7:00 PM Social Concerns	23 7:30 PM Voluntary Simplicity Group	24 7:30 PM Choir	25 Thanksgiving Day	26	27 9:00 AM Aikido Group
28 *See above for regular offerings* 9:30 AM Women of a Certain Age 1:30 PM Poetic Insights 6:30 PM YRUU Senior High Youth	29 7:00 PM Smart Choices	30 7:30 PM Voluntary Simplicity Group				

THE FORUM is published monthly and sent to members and interested friends who may request a complimentary three-month subscription. Beyond that time, friends wishing to continue to receive THE FORUM are asked to send \$20 to cover expenses to MVUUF, 8690 Yankee Street Dayton, OH 45458, to the attention of the office manager.

THE FORUM



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