



Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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December 2004

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The Forum

Richard's Reflections

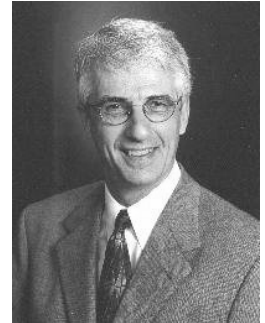
There have been several bitterly fought campaigns for the U.S. presidency, including those of Jefferson and Lincoln, to mention two of our finest commanders-in-chief. I suspect historians will add the most recent election to the list. Intense feelings were raised for both presidential candidates, and I might add, local candidates as well.

Feelings don't just go away when Election Day passes. The yard signs and the incessant TV spots are gone, but the joy, the hurt, the pain felt by the result remains. Many of us in the Fellowship were heavily involved in getting out the vote, supporting one or more candidates and I commend each of you who worked so very hard for the causes you care about. We can be proud of our work to defeat Issue 1, which has now become law.

What makes Unitarian Universalists somewhat unique is that we celebrate and honor diversity in many ways, but we don't always get it right. At times our feelings are so intense that we forget this principle of ours and in our eagerness to work for what we believe is right, we lose sight of this central tenet of our faith, the worth and dignity of every human being and our effort to work for truth and justice as we best can proclaim it.

I have blinders on when it comes to honoring those of the religious right who would deny rights to homosexuals or who condemn a woman's right to choose. I find it difficult to honor them as our principle suggests I should. I need to regularly remind myself that while I strongly disagree with their position, at the same time I respect them as fellow travelers on life's journey toward the truth.

As the New Year approaches, I resolve to honor those with whom I disagree and I invite each of you reading this to consider making the theme of 2005 the year of compassion for our neighbor. May this be a year rich with blessings for you and all you love.



Rev. Richard Venus

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.

December Services

Sunday, December 5 — 11:00 AM

Save the Children: More Than A Fund Richard Venus will lead this service and speak to the condition of children around the world. Mark Kalafatis is the worship associate. The choir will sing.

Sunday, December 12 — 11:00 AM

The Good That Christmas Is Richard Venus will reflect on the story of Jesus, the connections with this season and the importance, or lack thereof, of Jesus' life in our lives. The recorder consort will bring special music. Helen Geyer is the worship associate.

Sunday, December 12 — 7:00 PM

ANNUAL WASSAIL SERVICE Music of the season is the theme of this service, with special music by the choir. All in attendance will also celebrate with carols.

Sunday, December 19 — 11:00 AM

Solstice Join us as we mark the turning of the seasons and the coming of winter. As we anticipate the sun's return, we celebrate the darkness as a time of looking back and the return of the light as a time of looking forward. This will be an Alternative Worship Experience.

Friday, December 24 — 7:00 PM

Annual Candlelight Service Rick Wagner and Rick Lux will present a very special, original Christmas story. Following the service, all are invited to Richard and Marcia Venus' home for some Christmas cheer, firelight and warm conversation (details elsewhere in this Forum).

Sunday, December 26 — 11:00 AM

Who and When Forgives On this Sunday before we begin the new year, Richard Venus will offer thoughts about what forgiveness means, part of his series on traditional religious themes.

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

Jim Faulconer
Vice President

Scott Leonard
Treasurer

Carol Narigon
Secretary

Gail Cyan
Public Relations Trustee

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 November 18, 2004

Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM by *Jamie McQuinn*.

Present: *Jamie McQuinn*, president; *Jim Faulconer*, VP; *Yolanda Crooms*, activities; *Gail Cyan*, PR; *Rich Robinson*, membership; *Joe Zimmerman*, operations; *Scott Leonard*, treasurer; *Richard Venus*, minister; *Carol Narigon*, secretary; *Dan Narigon*, chair of the Finance Committee; *Hillary Wagner*, music director; *Genevieve Harvey*, Nominating Committee chair; *Dave Rengel*, visitor.

Minutes of the October 21, 2004 minutes were approved as written. (*Gail* moved; *Yolanda* seconded.)

- Heard a report from the Nominating Committee on nominees to be presented to the congregation at the January congregational meeting.
- The treasurer and Finance Committee reported we are operating in the red and need to make some changes to our budget and expenditures. The Board will hold a special meeting on December 2 at 7:00 PM to hear recommendations from the Finance Committee.
- Approved a policy on political campaign activities in the Fellowship. (See box, next column.)
- Approved the governance and committee structure manual presented by the Governance Committee.
- With great sadness, heard that Barb Weber has given her resignation, effective May 2005. The Personnel Committee will set up a search committee.

Complete minutes of the meeting are available on the bulletin board.

Respectfully submitted by *Carol Narigon*, Secretary.

MVUUF Directory

Updates to our directory are underway. If you missed updating at the Fellowship in the past month, please contact the office with corrections or additions to your information, including new email addresses. Call 436-3628 or email admin@mvuuf.org.

MVUUF Policy

To be in compliance with Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3), MVUUF shall not engage in, directly or indirectly, the following political campaign activities: endorsing, supporting, or opposing any political candidate; permitting a church trustee, pastor, other officer, employee, or representative to use his or her position, or the reputation or resources of the church, to endorse, support, or oppose a candidate or make any statements to encourage its members to vote for or against a particular candidate or party; contributing to or fundraising for the campaign of any candidate, party, or PAC; permitting the facilities, name, reputation, or resources of the church to be used by a candidate, party, PAC, church member, or others to support or oppose a candidate; distributing partisan voter guides or other candidate information that favors or disfavors a particular candidate or party; and any other activity that intervenes or otherwise supports or opposes a candidate.

Source: George R. "Chip" Grange, Stephen H. King, and Stephen S. Kao, attorneys with Gammon & Grange, P.C., McLean, Va., which serves as legal counsel for the Southern Baptist Ethics & Liberty Commission.

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 December 19.**

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

The Board of Trustees has scheduled a special meeting on Thursday, December 2, 2004 at 7:00 PM to discuss the status of our current year budget and expected income and expenses. All board meetings are open to all members. If you have any questions or concerns to be discussed, they should be submitted to a trustee before the meeting and will be addressed as time allows. The next regularly scheduled Board of Trustees meeting is on Thursday, December 16 at 7:00 PM in the Founder's Room.

Announcements

2005-2006 MVUUF Trustee Nominations

The Nominating Committee respectfully submits the following candidates for terms to begin after installment at the congregational meeting in June 2005. The vote will take place at the January 16 Congregational Meeting. Look for brief bios of these individuals in the January Forum and on the bulletin board above the nametags in the coming weeks.

President: Barbara Czestochowa
Vice President: Jim Faulconer (second one-year term)
Secretary: Carol Narigon (second one-year term)
Treasurer: Scott Leonard (one-year term, following mid-term appointment in 2004)

Lifespan Religious Education: Laurie Shows (served two year term, and can be elected for one more year in this position)
Social Concerns: Kate Santucci

Endowment Trustee: John Bierman (3-year term)
Nominating Committee: Jamie McQuinn, Vinnie Marshall (3-year terms)

The Nominating Committee:

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

MVUUF Christmas Dinner

Please join your MVUUF family for Christmas dinner on December 25. We will gather around 1:00 PM and plan to eat at 2:00 sharp. Phil Wise roasts a delicious turkey every year, and the rest of us bring potluck dinner to share. (Phil and Joe also wear wonderful frilly aprons, but you didn't hear it from me.) You'll find the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Space. Signing up will help us know how many chairs to set up, but if you don't sign up, and you find you'd like to be with us that day, please do come and share dinner and friendship. If you'd like more information or would like to help or RSVP, call or email Carol Narigon.

The World: A Discussion

The Denomination Affairs Committee wants to begin a discussion of the current issues of the UU World in our congregation. The plan going in, is to use the questions in "What in the World" printed near the back of each issue as a starting point for each discussion. We would have our first discussion after January 1, 2005.

The things that need to be decided now are when and where to hold the meetings. How long and how often should the meetings be held? If those who are interested in this discussion will contact Chuck Thomas with those answers that are workable for them, before the next newsletter deadline, then we can announce a start time in the next newsletter. Leslie Woodward and/or Chuck will facilitate the discussions to get us started. Once the group is established, we can modify the frequency/length of meeting, and/or the selection of topics to be discussed according to what seems best to the majority.

Forum Deadline

The deadlines for upcoming issues of *The FORUM* are December 13 and January 17. Please submit your articles to Barbara Kelley (admin@mvuuf.org). 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.

Free Legal Consultation

Attorney *Mark Kalafatas* is available at the Fellowship on Mondays from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Please call the Fellowship office, 436-3628, to make an appointment.

ESP Pantry

MVUUF members contribute to the Emergency Services Pantry to help people who need food and other necessities. 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!

Discretionary Fund Collection

Each year the offering taken at the December Candlelight Service goes to the minister's discretionary account which is used to assist members and non-members who are in financial need. The fund has provided food, partial utility and rent payments, diapers and other clothing. Once it was used to help defray the cost of a visit to the doctor.

Because some do not attend the Candlelight Service, it has been recommended that the opportunity to contribute be extended beyond the service. Therefore, envelopes to make a contribution will be available on the Sunday before and the Sunday following Christmas.

Thank you for your generous gifts to this fund. Through this account, you have made visible our Unitarian Universalist call to care for the neediest among us.

—*Richard Venus*

New Year's Eve Party

There will be a fabulous **New Year's Eve** party on December 31 (did I have to say that?) at the Fellowship, where we plan to have a lot of FUN bringing in the New Year. This will be a let-down-your-hair, something for everyone event with a lot of general UU craziness, which you can either watch from a safe distance or participate in whole-heartedly. Any way you cut it, LAUGHTER and FUN will be the goal of the evening. More details and surprises will be posted in the coming weeks. Contact me with ideas or to volunteer to help out.

—*Gail Cyan*

Thanks!

Thank you to all who volunteered to help with the Thanksgiving Dinner! We appreciate your help in making this annual tradition a success!

Christmas Eve Gathering at the Venus'

All are invited to Richard and Marcia Venus' following the December 24 Candlelight Service, for the annual party with holiday treats and conversation by the fireplace.

MVUUF Health Fair

Sunday

December 5, 2004

9:00 AM

Founder's Room

You are invited to the MVUUF Health Fair on Sunday, December 5, 2004 at 9:00 AM. The fair will feature care and information from the Kettering Medical Center's Wellness on Wheels Program.

- Ultrasound Bone Density Check for \$10.00
- Cardiac Risk Assessment * for \$15.00 (this includes cholesterol, blood glucose and triglyceride levels, blood pressure screening and a cardiac risk questionnaire).

The sign up sheet is in the Gathering Space. Please call *Pam Strohmeyer* for more information.

* Note: Please don't eat or drink anything except water before your cardiac risk assessment. Breakfast will be provided after your blood is drawn.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Smart Choices

This group meets the second and fourth Monday evenings at 7:30 at the Fellowship. 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.

The group will meet Monday, December 13 for a Christmas skit by *Laurel Herminghausen* and *Jan Campbell* (Laurel's daughter). The topic for December 27 will be announced later. The January 10 meeting will feature an arts and crafts project led by *Diane Dover* and *Ann Rismiller*.

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*.

First Thursday Theological Society

The First Thursday Theological Society will meet at 7:30 PM in the Founders Room on December 2. We will continue our discussion of how best to articulate our UU faith. New participants are welcome. Copies of the articles we will discuss are available from *Richard Venus*. Contact Richard Venus or *Ann Snively* if you would like more information.

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*. Our December 15 discussion on *The Giver*, by Lori Lowry will be a potluck dinner at the home of Carol Vincent. Our January 26 discussion will be on *Dreams from My Father*, by Barack Obama.

CineManiacs—Sunday Evening, December 12

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. After the movie we'll meet in the Neon lobby cafe for fellowship and a discussion. Everyone is welcome to join us - friends, family, colleagues. If you have questions call *Trudy Krisher* or *Lindy McDonough*.

Drum Circle

Due to the holidays, the MVUUF Drum Circle will not meet in December. See you next year!

Poetic Insights

The Poetic Insights group will now meet at the home of Bev and Sylvia Wince on the last Sunday of each month. Upcoming meetings are scheduled for December 26 and January 30 at 1:30 PM. The meetings are usually finished by 3:00 PM. All are invited to attend. If you have any questions, contact *Bev Wince* or *Sylvia Wince*.

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.

Evening Book Discussion Group

The next Evening Book Discussion Group meeting will be Tuesday, December 14 at 6:30 PM at Alice Lizee's house for a meal and discussion of *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America* by Barbara Ehrenreich.

In January, we will meet on the 26th at Lucy Kazyak's home at 7:00 PM to discuss, *When I Lived in Modern Times*, by Linda Grant. This book is a winner of the Orange Prize, an award that recognizes novels by women. New participants are welcome. Contact *Ann Snively* if you would like more information.

Concerning Social Concerns

Holiday Sharing

It's time for Holiday Sharing! This year, we are supporting three different projects with our holiday donations. The first project is RISE (Raising Internal Self-Esteem), an intervention program run by Planned Parenthood that is designed for at-risk girls between the ages of 13 and 17. We will provide gifts for ten young ladies at their holiday party on December 14.

Our second project is to provide food for a holiday party for five girls who are currently incarcerated at Oberlin Youth Services in Springfield. Planned Parenthood is teaching a Comprehensive Sexuality Education class for them, and would like to have a party on December 21. These young women are very limited on what sort of gifts they are able to receive, so we thought treats would be the best option.

Our third project will be to bring back the **Mitten Tree!** Please bring in mittens and gloves (all sizes are needed), and hang them on the tree in the Gathering Space. We will then hand out what we have collected at the Other Place. This is a great way to get our children involved in social action!

Please make a donation as soon as you can. The young women in these programs appreciate it more than you can imagine, and anyone who has been to the Other Place knows how much something like a pair of gloves can help. The Social Concerns Committee meets on the fourth Monday of the month at 7:00 PM at the Fellowship. If you have any questions, please contact **Kate Santucci**. Have a blessed holiday season!

We Want Your Blood!!

Just when you thought Halloween was over, we will be re-visited by some nice ghouls in white gowns on **Saturday, December 18 from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM for the MVUUF Blood Drive**. The Social Concerns Committee hopes to see a good turnout. Blood donations decline during the holiday season — let's reverse this trend by offering a few precious minutes and a pint of precious blood cells to help save lives. **Every blood donor will receive a complimentary long-sleeved T-shirt**, courtesy of the Community Blood Center. Please note that certain underlying medical conditions and prescription drugs may disqualify some people from donating. If you have questions, please contact Bonnie Bazill-Davis.



Music Notes From Hillary



“Every culture casts up its most intense and eloquent statements on the eternal mysteries and beauties of existence—on life, death, love, fear, anger, solitude, ambition, pleasure, pain and such. These statements are delivered through manipulations of time, sound, visual impressions, touch, language, space, bodily movement, and other communicative gestures which are so common to the culture that the senders and receivers agree, consciously and subconsciously, on the vocabulary, grammar, and syntax of the symbolic language of the art form.

That is what “art” is...glorious and powerful expressions of the deepest human attitudes.”

—Simon Anderson

The music committee has been making plans for next year's musical events. In order to help them achieve their goal, they will be presenting a short survey on Sunday, December 5 and are asking that the congregation fill it out during the announcements. The information collected will direct their efforts for 2005-06. Committee members are Kathy Brown, chair, Joyce Cameron, Jack Fenic, Karen Remsberg, Julie Bragg, Ralf Grisard, Mike O'Brien, and Hillary Wagner. Please contact any of these people with questions or ideas. Ask Kathy Brown, committee chair for a survey blank to complete if you will not attend services on December 5.

The annual **Wassail Service** will be on **Sunday, December 12 at 7:00 PM** at the Fellowship. The choir has a wonderful holiday concert planned. Please bring a dessert to share. For more information, contact Jeanette Filbrun or Hillary Wagner.

A notice to all (that includes children) flute players: we will have the first meeting of the flute choir on Saturday, January 15 at 10:00 AM at the Fellowship. If you play the flute (even a little), you are welcome to join in. We will arrange the music so that even the youngest players will be able to participate. Also, if you are friends with a flute player from the community, please feel free to bring them along! If you have any questions, please let me know.

In harmony—Hillary

Lifespan Religious Education

Thoughts From Barb....

After almost eight years as your Director of Religious Education, I will be resigning in May. This has not been an easy decision. Working with you and for you has been one of the great privileges of my life. But the time has come, for the good of both the Fellowship and myself.



*Barb Weber
Director Of
RE*

I believe it is a good time for the Fellowship to make this transition. It is time to give serious consideration to the Fellowship's staffing needs. I strongly recommend that you use this opportunity to move toward a staffing pattern that will lead MVUUF toward becoming the 500-member congregation we say we want to be. This means two things.

First, I urge you to hire either a Minister of Religious Education or an Assistant Minister who will have religious education background and responsibility. I believe the Fellowship needs and deserves someone with strong seminary training and religious education expertise to help guide our program into the future. I also urge you to increase the hours available for this position by at least ten hours per week, to a three-quarter time position, and to create a plan to move to a full-time position in the future.

Studies show that adequate staffing is one prerequisite for growth and that it leads to increased membership and pledging. My first contract called for the Director of Lifespan Religious Education position to become full-time within five years. That was seven years ago. Creating our new building interrupted that plan. As we grow into our new space, now is the time for more professional support to guide the Fellowship's increasing program needs.

I also believe this is a good time for me personally to make this change. I need to return to being just a member of a congregation. I need to attend services and be spiritually nurtured by my church. Unfortunately, for a year or so after my resignation, it will not be MVUUF that I attend. Ethically, I must remove myself from the life of the Fellowship to make room for my successor to develop the program in her/his own way. According to those who have been there, when one has been a professional in a church, it is almost impossible to stay during the transition and create the space necessary for this to happen.

And so, in May, I will be leaving for a while. I know this is a good decision. I am, nonetheless, filled with immense sadness at the thought of going. I will miss you and this, our beloved community, so very, very much. But, as many of you know, much of my ability to do this job through the years has been due to my oft-repeated mantra: We will have what we need when we need it. As we move into the future and through this time of transition, I can only say,

May it be so,
Barb

Please Register

We are still lacking Youth Religious Education registration forms for a number of our children. If you have not completed one THIS FALL, for your children (infant through 12th grade/age 18), 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.

Where's the Rug?

The Worship Committee, with the recommendation of the Youth Religious Education Committee, is changing the format of the Story for All Ages on Sunday mornings. Beginning December 5, children will sit with their families during the beginning of the service.

This change will give the sanctuary experience more of a sense of families worshipping together, something many of our parents miss. Also, the increasing numbers of children make it more difficult to guide and monitor them when they are in a mass on the rug.

On some Sundays, the speaker may choose to have the children come forward to see pictures of a story, but we hope that having them sit with parents for the chalice lighting and opening will enhance the worship experience for all.

As always, we are interested in your thoughts. Please let us know how this change affects your experience of our Sunday Services.

Pull Tabs Are Still Needed

Our Ronald McDonald House is about two-thirds full. Won't you bring in beverage pull tabs to help us reach our goal of filling it? Our Youth Religious Education participants collect pull tabs from beverage cans for the RMH, a "Home Away from Home" for families with children in local hospitals. Last year, RMH earned \$8,000 from the salvage value of the aluminum tabs.

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!

Covenant Groups Still Going!

We have a number of Covenant Groups (CG) that have been together for a year now, and we are beginning to look toward new group formation. Due to timing, holidays and group consensus, we continued this term for CGs for over a year, but the next term will be one year.

We will begin sign-ups in January for new groups, which will begin meeting in March 2005. If you are interested in more information regarding Covenant Groups or in joining a group now or in March, please see the membership section of the website (www.mvuuf.org) or speak with Genevieve Harvey or Barb Weber. We will devote our Sunday Service on January 23 to trying out the Covenant Group model so that people who have not been involved can get an idea of how these groups spend their time together.

What is a Covenant Group?

A Covenant Group consists of 8 to 12 people who commit to meet regularly to support each other on their spiritual journeys. While they are not therapy groups, they may feel therapeutic because of the listening and support members share with one another.

What is the purpose of a Covenant Group?

The goal is to bring people into right relationship with each other and the larger world by deepening relationships, exploring spirituality, and creating and committing to a covenant with one another. This is about a creating a more intimate community within a community, where people can get to know one another better than may be possible without a small group.

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**.

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. Up close and personal. Please join us!

Sunday, December 5

"The God Gene" This discussion is based on an article in the October 25, 2004 issue of TIME magazine about a provocative study that explores the possibility that religion is a product of evolution.

Moderator: **Tom Brown**

Sunday, December 12

"Communicating for Change." How do we communicate effectively with people we disagree with? What works and what doesn't work.

Moderator: **Jim Faulconer**

Sunday, December 19

"Our UU Christmas Traditions." How do we as Unitarian Universalists celebrate the Christmas holidays? We'll share our personal and family stories and recount the holiday festivities of the various UU churches and fellowships we have attended. Our new UU friends and members can share their holiday experiences from other religious communities.

Moderator: **Carol Vincent**

Sunday, December 26

"Our Personal Highs of 2004." Looking back over the past year, we'll share significant personal events, achievements, breakthroughs, lessons or activities that enriched our lives momentarily or for the long term.

Moderator: **Lindy McDonough**

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

Anyone 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**.

**MIAMI VALLEY UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
December 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 7:30 PM Choir	2 7:00 PM Special Board of Trustees Meeting 7:30 PM First Thursday Theological Society	3	4 9:00 AM Aikido Group
5 *See above for regular offerings* 9:00 AM Health Fair 9:15 AM Men's Group 6:30 PM YRUU Senior High Youth	6	7 7:30 PM Choir	8 7:30 PM Choir	9	10	11 9:00 AM Aikido Group
12 *See above for regular offerings* 9:30 AM Women of a Certain Age 5:00 PM Cinemaniacs-Neon Movies 6:30 PM YRUU Senior High Youth 7:00 PM WASSAIL	13 7:00 PM Smart Choices	14 6:30 PM Book Discussion	15 10:30 AM Book Club 7:00 PM INTERWEAVE 7:30 PM Choir	16 7:00 PM Board of Trustees Meeting	17	18 9:00 AM Aikido Group 9:00 AM Blood Drive
19 12:15 PM ORIENTATION 9:15 AM Men's Group 6:30 PM YRUU Senior High Youth	20	21	22 7:30 PM Choir	23	24 7:00 PM Annual Candle Light Service	25 Christmas Day 1:00 PM Christmas Dinner
26 *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	27 7:00 PM Smart Choices 7:00 PM Social Concerns	28	29 7:30 PM Choir	30	31 New Year's Eve Party	