



Michael Servetus Unitarian Society

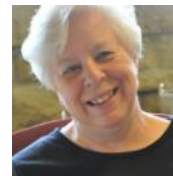
Volume 48, Issue 10

June / July 2015

Interim Thoughts

Dear ones,

June marks, effectively, the “end” of the “program year” for most congregations. Religious education for children winds down; the Annual Meeting has happened; the budget passed and the leadership turns their attention to the year ahead. This summer, like most summers for MSUS there will one service in July.



But this summer will be a little different. This summer we will be deciding whether to add a second service; this summer we will be considering how to implement a way of meeting the Vision of MSUS; this summer our social justice groups will be working on a plan to involve our membership in a new approach to community outreach and partnership; this summer our Sunday services will begin on August 22 with two “Seekers” services aimed at welcoming “church shoppers” and reminding the rest of us about the gifts and opportunities offered by MSUS. If you are in town, I hope to see you there!

In the meantime, we will have a time of “Sundays off”. But this is not a break from our faith. This is time to be “free range” Unitarian Universalists seeking new places to experience “transcending mystery and wonder”; to practice “justice, equity and compassion in human relations”; to engage creatively in “a free and responsible search for truth and meaning”. This is a time for stepping back from the ways in which our identities get tied to participation in this particular institutional version of Unitarian Universalism which we experience at MSUS. This is in the spirit put forward by Theodore Parker, one of the standard bearers of our Unitarian tradition when he wrote, “ Be ours a religion which like sunshine goes everywhere, its temple all space, its shrine the good heart, its creed all truth, its ritual works of love.”

My schedule this summer is as follows:

- May 23 - June 12 - Regular week off and vacation at Rainy Lake
- June 13 - June 20 - In Fridley, available for meeting Tuesday through Friday
- June 20 - 27 General Assembly, Portland Oregon
- June 28 - July 6 - Regular week off
- July 7 - 25 - Available for meetings Tuesday - Thursday and by phone and e-mail
- July 26 - August 10 - Vacation and regular week off
- August 10 - Basically back and available except for Mondays.

Beth will know how to reach me in case of emergency and I will intermittently and somewhat unreliably check my e-mail while I am on vacation.

Thank-you all for your presence and participation during this first interim year. I am excited by the ground we have tilled and the seeds that have been planted. I look forward to witnessing a full flowering in 2015-16!!

Love,
Karen

Children's Religious Education



As our church year draws to a close youth religious education attendance traditionally dwindles. In light of this, June will not have traditional Sunday lessons and teachers

- ◆ **First Sunday, June 7th,**
 - ◆ **4-8th** students tour the Minneapolis Institute of Arts with a Buddhist tour guide.
 - ◆ **1-3rd** students **will NOT have Sunday school**, but will attend the service on Hymn singing and the History of Hymns.
 - ◆ **Preschool-K** students will formally visit their adopted tree for the last time this church year.

- ◆ **Second Sunday June 14th**
 - ◆ There will be an all ages UU History class to learn about Reverends Norbert & Maja Capek, two Eastern European Unitarian ministers whose rituals and hymns are still practiced in Unitarian Universalist congregations today.
 - ◆ At **NOON**, After pot luck, there will be a short meeting to discuss preliminary religious education plans and changes for the 2015-2016 church year. RE Parents are **STRONGLY** encouraged to attend. Both paper and digital copies of the meeting agenda will be available June 7th.

- ◆ **Third Sunday June 21st**
 - ◆ Youth will attend the Flower Celebration service, **NO Sunday school**. The service will be multigenerational, designed so that everyone can experience and enjoy the many ways in which our congregation is a diverse community.

Christine Spiritwolf or a member of the Religious Education Committee will be contacting you over the summer to talk about religious education at MSUS. We want to hear your vision for our youth, brainstorm ideas for the coming year and beyond, and learn how you are able to support the MSUS religious education program in the 2015-2016 church year.

Teacher trainings will be held Saturday morning August 15th 9:30-11 am, and Sunday September 20. More information will come closer to the dates.

We are still recruiting Team Leaders for all of the Michael Servetus teaching teams. If you are happier working behind the scenes planning rather than teaching consider taking on a team lead position!

Please contact Christine at dre@msuu.org or in person Sunday mornings, with any questions or suggestions. Texting her cell phone is also a good method of contact 612-508-5213.

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President's Letter



Happy New Year!

Well, almost. And no, I am not confusing the "J" months and thinking this cold patch has brought us back to January. It is the end of the CHURCH year, and it's a time of wrapping up and for looking ahead. So, Happy New Year!

Part of our wrapping up process is the Annual Meeting held in May. What a wonderful turnout there was. It is so heartening -and encouraging- when so many of our congregation take the time to be involved. And not just once a year: we have many, many people who step up all the time, and that is key to a successful church. Kudos to all of you!

Also part of wrapping up the year is closing our financial books. Our incredibly efficient Bookkeeper handles this, but she needs our help: get your receipts in to her as soon as you can. These are both those that require reimbursement (remember to get the appropriate signature before submitting) and those that are "in kind" receipts.* If you haven't finished paying your pledge, please take a moment to do that as well.

Looking ahead: This year we will be looking at how we will be more deliberately implementing our vision statement. We will be addressing this in depth at the Board retreat in August, and will be talking with both committees and the congregation about what that looks like.

We will also be holding adult education this summer. One of the classes will be *Communicating and Social Media: Just How Does That Work?* Anna Paquette will be leading a class on the whats, how-to's, and whys of Facebook, Blogs, and Twitter (look for more on this soon). This class is aimed primarily at those folks who may or may not know what these tools are, but would like to learn more.

And wait, there's more! In August, Rev. Karen will be leading at least two Leadership skill Classes on Tuesday, August 18 and 25. These are for anyone who would like to learn new skills or hone existing ones, and remember, these skills are applicable not only for our church involvement, but in our everyday lives as well. Reverend Karen will be incorporating units from the UUA Tapestry of Faith Curriculum "Harvest the Power." Check it out.

And this is just the beginning of the year! I am looking forward to all the possibilities.

In Community,
Lisa

* Item of note: Whenever possible, PLEASE make your in kind donations *in addition to* your pledge, not in lieu of. We rely on your pledge in figuring and meeting our operational expenses.



Search Committee Headed to GA With Full Time Ministerial Position News

By Michele Wallace, Search Committee Co-Chair

The Search Committee will be sending three of its members (Kathy Burek, Merle DeNuccio, and Michele Wallace) to General Assembly in Portland, Oregon the last week of June. Our task is to make as many connections as possible to continue our “priming the pump” efforts to spread the word about our position. We are grateful for the offers of help in these efforts from Pat Ferrian, Lisa Monson-Hokenson, Scott Hokenson, Rev. Karen Gustafson, and Rev. David Breeden.

We are excited to be able to tell people that MSUS voted unanimously to move from a three quarter time position to full time at our Annual Meeting May 13. Kudos to everyone for being willing to take the leap! As one of the local ministers stated when told about the discussion, it shows that we have a real commitment to ministry.

As a part of the effort to get the word out about our position, we are drafting a brochure and business cards to hand out, and will have a touch of glam in the beauty pageant-style sashes we will be wearing (thanks to April Anderson’s help) to help advertise that we are in search (Merle vetoed wearing sandwich boards as too cumbersome and hard to take on the plane, and Michele vetoed T-shirts because she didn’t want to have five of the same shirt, or wear the same one every day).

For the brochure and for our congregational record coming up (more on the latter later) **WE NEED PHOTOS ASAP!** Please send in digital format to search@msuu.org. We will share whatever you provide with the 50th Anniversary commemoration effort so you don’t have to send to both of us.



Food That’s In...When School is Out! Friends, Fun and Food!



The Fridley Public School District is participating in the **Summer Food Service Program**. Hot meals are available to all kids age 18 and younger at no cost. To eat, just show up. Meals will be provided at the following sites and times:

Fridley High School Cafeteria, 6000 West Moore Lake Drive, Fridley 55432
Meals Served 11:30- 12:15 Monday - Thursday
June 10 - July 14, 2015

Hayes Elementary Cafeteria, 615 NE Mississippi Street, Fridley 55432
Meals Served 11:45 - 12:15 Monday - Thursday
June 10 - July 14, 2015

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

MSUS Women's Book Group

The MSUS Women's Book Group is a gathering of female MSUS members and friends who meet the first Saturday of each month to discuss women-authored books. The group alternates between fiction and non fiction works recommended by one or more of the members. **Contact Lois Burnett to be added to the email list.** Meetings are 9:00 AM in the Club Room at 20 Windsor Lane;

JUNE MEETING: June 6, 2015

-Book for discussion: Fiction. ***The Host***, Stephanie Meyer

-Treats will be provided by: Patty Finnemore

JULY MEETING: July 11, 2015 (NOTE DATE CHANGE!!)

-Book selected: Non Fiction - ***Too Close to the Falls***, by Catherine Gildiner

-Treats will be provided by: TBD



HOSPITALITY TEAMS

A HUGE thank you to the hospitality team captains for 2014-15 church year! Ron Bullard, Sandy Beltrans, Andrea Zander, Marti Reckdahl, Laurie Young, Doug Root, Marie Phillips, and Anna Paquette did a great job of organizing hospitality for the Sundays that each team was assigned.

April Anderson will take over "captainship" of the team that Marie Phillips lead this year. Ron Bullard is looking for a person to take over his team. Are there others who are ready to come forward, or ready to move out of the leadership position?

All 2015-16 team captains or representative should plan to attend the Hospitality Teams meeting on Thursday, June 18 at 7:30 pm. Rev Karen will join us to share her observations of our hospitality work this past year. I hope you will bring your questions/comments and/or suggestions for changes to share at the meeting.

The 2015-16 calendar will be available that night so all will have opportunity to pick dates and negotiate with other teams.

I will need your help on June 7th at MSUS for hospitality. By sheer coincidence, several of the members for Ron's team will be out of town that date, as will I. I will supply food - likely muffins - but we will need help with greeting/ushering and clean-up. Please call/email me if you can help out that day: carlotta.stomberg@gmail.com or 763-784-0186.

Carlotta Stomberg

Hospitality

Join MUUSJA & MN Interfaith Power and Light for The Tar Sands Resistance March!

Join MUUSJA and our friends at Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light on Saturday, June 6th at the Tar Sands Resistance March in St Paul, MN! We'll join together with friends from across the region to send a clear message: keep toxic tar sands out of America's Heartland, protect clean water, clean energy, and a safe climate! **As people of faith, we'll be bringing our moral voice to this movement moment. Will you join us? [More information here.](#)**

Where: March starts at Lambert Landing – Shepard Road and N. Sibley Street, St. Paul, MN 55102
March ends at the State Capitol Lawn – 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, St. Paul, MN 55155

When: Saturday, June 6th, 2015 at 12 PM

Interested in carpooling?? Contact Connie Metcalf 763-571-3596



Social Action Committee - June 2015

At the Annual Meeting in May, the Social Action Committee presented reports from the general committee, as well as the two Social Justice Task Forces, focused on Economic Justice and Environmental Justice respectively. Check out your Annual Meeting packets to see the exciting work we have done this past year, as well as our ambitious plans for the coming church year.

For the May Second Sunday Special Collection, we raised \$345 for the **International Women's Convocation (IWC)**. The IWC enables women to achieve their human rights, including access to economic opportunities, health care and security, education, and political expression. Their dedicated network of individuals and organizations representing Unitarian Universalists and women and men of progressive faith is taking direct action to improve women's lives. Learn more at <http://intl womens convo.org>.

In other Social Action news, more than a dozen MSUS members and friends helped deliver **Meals on Wheels** the week of May 18-22. Meals are picked up at Unity Hospital and delivered to folks in the area of Columbia Heights and Spring Lake Park. Thanks to everyone who made time to help out our neighbors. If you would like to participate in the future, please contact Merle DeNuccio at merled@visi.com.

Over the summer, we will once again be collecting backpacks and school supplies for disadvantaged students in Fridley Schools. This year, we are looking to collect 50 backpack's worth of supplies for the **Fridley Back to Schools Resource Fair** on Saturday, August 22. Email Brock Ray at socialaction@msuu.org for a complete list of the needed supplies that will help students kick-start a good school year. No time to shop? No problem. Simply add your check – with the subject line *Fridley School Supplies* – to the collection basket any Sunday. Collected funds will be used to buy more backpacks and supplies for the event. Thank you in advance for your help!

Proceeds for the June Second Sunday Special Collection will benefit the racial justice work of the UUA's **Standing on the Side of Love** campaign. Standing on the Side of Love's racial justice work is committed to "connecting the dots" between oppression and privilege as it relates to race. Standing on the Side of Love is committed to supporting intersectional approaches to justice making rooted in a racial justice analysis. Learn more at <http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org/racial-justice/>.

Music "Notes"

As we start to wrap up another church year at MSUS, the music program keeps on going. Our Spring Concert featured the musicians of MSUS and their friends. A huge thank to all the MSUS musicians who worked so hard preparing for this concert, and thanks to Ron Bullard for his Riverchase Barbershop Quartet, to Bob Randall's brother for being a part of the Revolving Doors, and to the youth who sang in "Do, Re Mi". And thank you to all of you who attended and supported our great musicians!



Sunday, May 30, four of our musicians are heading to Duluth to take part in St Mark's AME Church's annual scholarship fundraiser. Bruce Van Bronkhorst, Bob Dakin and Marie Phillips from Chalice Quartet will be joined by Robin Gonzales (who has sung at our church) to sing two songs, and Kate Burek and Bruce from Delphi Jazz will perform three songs. Chalice Quartet performed there last year and were impressed by the great efforts St. Mark's AME Church puts into the Duluth community.

The MSUS Band will again participate in the Fridley parade, Thursday, June 25. We would like some families to walk with our "float" to carry the MSUS banner and to hand out dog treats. We also invite anyone who would like (and who we can fit into our float) to join us as we play. We will rehearse before church, Sundays, June 7 and 21, at 8:30 AM at the church.

There will be summer "open rehearsals" open to anyone interested in performing with our band and/or choir. Both groups will rehearsal at church. Please join us for these rehearsals - and bring a friend to sit in with us.

The dates and times are:

Summer Choir Rehearsals: Wednesdays, July 8 and August 12 at 7:30 PM.

Summer Band Rehearsals: Sundays, July 12 and August 9, starting at noon

Have a great summer and keep on singing and playing and applauding!

Musically yours

Bruce Van Bronkhorst

Getting-to-Know-UU Party - August 8th



Join Bruce and Marie in their Big Backyard at 3:00 pm on August 8, 2015, to get to know [lots](#) of people who have made or are making MSUS their home church.

Talk with first-time visitors, engage in a theological discussion with long-time or new members, and get to know everyone in between, including our minister.

Be sure to bring a potluck dish to share, burgers or chicken or a vegetarian delight for the grill, and a lawn chair (or two).

Bruce and Marie will provide soda pop, coffee, water, plastic ware, paper plates, buns, condiments – and yard games.

Don't miss this annual party to start the new church year [with a bang!](#) Call Bruce or Marie at 763-535-4877 for directions or more info.

The Sunday Morning Experience—What Are We Looking For?

The Search Committee survey results show clearly that MSUS members consider the Sunday Morning service one of the most important areas of a minister's responsibility. "Presenting stimulating and challenging Sunday services" was ranked first or second by over 60% of the respondents to our recent survey as an important function for our minister. Further, 51% of respondents would like the minister to preach 3 times a month, and 41% would like the minister to preach twice a month.

The survey results tell us that the Search Committee needs to have a deep understanding of what would constitute a "stimulating and challenging Sunday Service", if we are to present a candidate that meets our members' expectations. In order to find out more about those expectations, the Search Committee will be offering 4 focus group sessions for MSUS members to talk with each other, and with us, about what we mean by "stimulating and challenging" services.

Focus group sessions will take place on these dates and times:

Saturday, June 13, 10:00—12:00

Sunday, July 19, 12:15—2:15 (following our July service)

Wednesday, August 5, 7:00—9:00

Sunday, August 23, 12:15—2:15 (following our August service)

Signup sheets will be available in the Social Hall starting this Sunday, or respond by email to search@msuu.org. Please let us know if you will need child care to participate.

If you have questions, please contact Kathy Burek (kpburek@comcast.net) or Michele Wallace (mrewallace@mwap.us)

Join MUUSJA and the Twin Cities Area UU Congregations for the **2015 Twin Cities Pride Festival and Parade**, taking place on June 27-28, 2015!



PRIDE
TWIN CITIES

MUUSJA NEEDS YOUR HELP! In order to make this year's UU participation in Pride a success. Volunteers are needed to help create our "sUUper hero" puppets, representing our UU values in creative character form; to march in the Ashley Rukes Pride Parade on June 28th at 11am; and to staff our booth all day on Saturday, June 27th and Sunday, June 28th!

If you're interested in representing our inclusive, affirming faith to the larger Twin Cities community in any of these ways, please contact MUUSJA Executive Director Ashley Horan at muusja1@gmail.com or by phone at : 651.769.3062

June & July 2015 Services

June 7, 2015

Speaker: David Weiss

Service Leader: Marie Phillips

You Are What You Sing: Rehearsing our Faith in Hymns

Special Music: Delphi Jazz—and You, the MSUS Congregation!

Hospitality: Ron Bullard's Team

Theologian, poet, and hymnist David Weiss will reflect on the “alchemy of text and tune”, the way that hymns shape us because we invest our own breath in their words. Along with hearing his reflections, we will have an opportunity to sample some of the welcome-themed and justice-oriented hymns David has written, both through congregational singing and special music offered by some of our own members. Come and make a joyful noise this Sunday in our beautiful and acoustically beautiful sanctuary.

June 14, 2015

Speaker: Rev Karen Gustafson

Service Leader: Carlotta Stomberg

But We Do Go Home Again

Special Music: Kannani

Hospitality: Doug Root's Team

Potluck follows the Service

As the season of vacation and reunions and visits to families arrives, expectations abound. We are often drawn to traditional places and seasonal relationships only to find them changed, for better or for worse, from what we expected. We are often confronted with our unchallenged images of the meaning of “home” either as a place we spend more time or a place to which we return. Let us reflect together on the meanings of home and change. The female trio Kannani will be performing Glory Bound by Ruth Moody for Special Music.

June 21, 2015

Speaker: Christine Spiritwolf

Service Leader: Lynne Schumann

UU Flower Communion

Special Music: Delphi Jazz

Hospitality: Ron Bullard's Team

Norbert Capek, founder of the modern Unitarian Church in the Czech Republic, first created the flower celebration in June of 1923. Come share in this uniquely Unitarian worship ritual. Celebrate the diversity of human experience. Honor our uniqueness and our coming together. Bring a flower to help create our congregational bouquet.

July 19, 2015

Speaker: Brock Ray

Service Leader: Marie Phillips

Creativity: Embracing the Spark of the Divine

Potluck follows the Service

Unitarian Universalism calls each of us to build our own theology through the free and responsible search for truth and meaning. This is, fundamentally, a creative pursuit – a quest not just of self-discovery, but a positive act of design. Yet few of us understand the creative process, worrying that only a few possess the ability or that, at best, we must wait for the muse to strike. The good news is that the creative process – and thus the ability to develop our own authentic theology – is knowable and repeatable. Our own Brock Ray will discuss the fundamental principles of creative problem-solving and how we can use the creative process to faithfully engage our spiritual goals.

JUNE 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Community Use Rentals Music Events Meetings	1	2	3	4	5	6 Women's Book Group 9 AM (offsite) MEMBER RENTAL 12- 3PM
7 Band 9 AM Services 10:30 AM Delphi 12 PM Member Rental 3PM	8	9 Chalice Singers 7:30 PM	10 Choir 7:00 PM	11 String Band 7:00 PM	12	13 Search Com Focus Grp 9:00 AM
14 Flag Day Services 10:30 AM	15	16 Chalice Singers 7:30 PM	17 Choir 7:00 PM	18 Ramadan begins	19	20
Pottluck 11:30 AM Second Service Task Force 12:30PM Delphi 12:30 PM Mem. Rental 3 PM Sun Nt Book Club 7:15 PM (Offsite)				String Band 7 PM RE Committee 7:30 PM Hospitality Team Leaders 7:30PM		
21 Father's Day June Solstice Band 8:30 AM Services 10:30 AM Mem. Rental 3 PM	22	23 Worship Committee 7:30 PM	24 Bd of Trustees 7 PM Choir 7:00 PM	25 MSUS Band in Fridley 49er Parade starts at 6:30 PM	26	27
28	29	30				
Mem. Rental 3 PM						

JULY 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Community Use Rentals Music Events Meetings	1	2	3	4 Independence Day
5	6	7	8 Committee Restructuring 6:00 PM Choir 7:30 PM	9 Ministerial Search 7:30 PM	10	11 Women's Book Group 9 AM (offsite)
12 Band Noon	13 50th Anniversary Committee 7PM	14	15 Committee Restructuring 6:00 PM	16 Membership Com 7:30 PM	17	18
19	20	21	22 Newsletter Deadline	23 Worship Com 7:30 PM	24	25 Music Committee 9:30 AM (offsite)
Services 10:30 AM Potluck 11:30 AM Search Com Focus Grp 12:15PM AM	50th Anniversary Committee 7PM					
26 Parents' Day	27	28	29	30	31	

Michael Servetus Unitarian Society
6565 Oakley Drive NE, Fridley, MN 55432

Phone: 763-571-5229
E-mail: office@msuu.org

Submissions for the Newsletter need to be emailed to office@msuu.org. Deadline for August Newsletter is noon, July 22, 2015.

Announcements for Order of Service: need to be emailed to office@msuu.org no later than Thursday evening; if a late breaking event causes you to miss the deadline, hand your legibly written announcement to the Service Leader no later than 10:15am.

MSUS is a vital and vibrant congregation where religious liberals of different religious, political and social beliefs can join in loving community to explore religious and ethical questions and serve the community beyond our walls.

The mission of Michael Servetus Unitarian Society is to:

Promote Unitarian Universalist traditions of liberty and respect, justice and compassion, and the use of reason; empower our members in their search for meaning by fostering intellectual and spiritual growth; support our members in living ethical lives based on integrity and service; celebrate together and minister to one another in good times and bad; and work, as individuals and as a congregation, to improve the larger community and our natural environment

2014—2015 Board of Trustees	President: Lisa Monson-Hokenson	Trustees: Christopher Greene
	Vice-President: Kate Burek	Connie Metcalf
	Recording Secretary: Laures Young	Anna Paquette
	Treasurer: Gerald Wichmann	Jennifer Ray
		Chad Snyder

Minister:

Rev. Karen J Gustafson RevKaren@msuu.org
Office hours are flexible to meet the needs of the community.
Please call 763-571-9697 to schedule appointments.

We're on the Web!
MSUU.org

Office Administrator / Bookkeeper:

Elizabeth Hughes Hitomi office@msuu.org
Office hours are Wednesday 12 - 4 pm, most Fridays from 8 - 11 am and Sunday from 10:30 - 11:30 am. if you need assistance outside these hours, please email office@msuu.org

Director of Religious Education:

Christine Spiritwolf DRE@msuu.org
Office hours are Sunday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.
Please check with Christine before stopping in.



A Member of the
Unitarian
Universalist
Association of
Congregations

Music Director:

Bruce Van Bronkhorst music@msuu.org
Please contact Bruce by email.

50th Anniversary

By Barbara Hughes, Historian

The 50th Anniversary of MSUS is June 1, 2016. A 50th Anniversary Steering Committee will coordinate a variety of activities/ events throughout 2016 to recognize the church's life and accomplishments.

Several subcommittees will handle selected tasks:

- Invitations
- Memorabilia
- Music
- Oral/Video History
- 50th Anniversary Book
- Special Programs

Everyone can find a role and help. Sign up for your interest area on the yellow sheets at church or contact Barbara Hughes at uubarb@aol.com or call 763-571-6182.

A church-wide mission-related project will also be part of the 50th celebration so if you have suggestions please forward them to Barbara Hughes; they could be in social or environmental justice, community activity, denomination support, etc. What is your passion?

