



# The Banner

November  
2003

625 North 6th Street  
Burlington, IA 52601  
Phone: 319-753-1895

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Burlington

Sandra Ingham, Minister

## November Sunday Services

NOVEMBER 2 -- Today is *All Soul's Day*, a "High Holiday" for Unitarian Universalists. On this day, we honor *all* the ancestors, not just those who have attained sainthood. (All Saints Day is November 1.) In commemoration of All Souls Day, we will pay homage to some of those upon whose shoulders we stand. We will hear voices in addition to mine because I have asked a few of you to speak about an ancestor who influenced your life. -- Rev. Ingham

NOVEMBER 9 -- "Three Little Letters" But, it's amazing how much trouble the three letters G-O-D cause. Unitarian Universalists are often reluctant to use those three letters together. For one thing, so many awful things have been done in the name of God. For another, some of us simply do not believe in a god or at least not in God in the traditional sense. And, finally, most of us want to know what a person means when they use those three letters. Who gets to choose what the "correct" meaning of G-O-D is? And why are UUs so often maligned and even persecuted for their concerns about those three little letters? -- Rev. Ingham

*P.S. Remember the potluck this afternoon at 4:00 PM in Nauvoo.  
Details can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.*

NOVEMBER 16 -- "Famous Women You've Never Heard Of!" Well, they should be famous and we should have heard of them. This morning you *will* hear about some of them -- Unitarian and Universalist women who were ministers of congregations *right here* in Iowa and Illinois many years ago. These women worked under difficult circumstances, to put it mildly. And they did this work practically in our back yard. I intend to make them come alive for you today. You won't want to miss this service! -- Rev. Ingham

NOVEMBER 23 -- "Giving Thanks -- No Matter What" It is easy to be thankful when our lives are going well, but how often do we remember to give thanks when the going gets tough and we are struggling through difficult times? On this Sunday before Thanksgiving, you are invited to share your stories of times when something bad or sad happened to you, only to end up being something you were thankful to have experienced. -- Rev. Ingham

NOVEMBER 30 -- "Humanist Manifesto III" - Rick Johnson

Note: The Minister or leader reserves the right to change or modify the topic, depending upon new ideas or circumstances.

## FYI - FYP

*For Your Information - From Your President*

Remember in the "Wizard of Oz", when Dorothy and her entourage finally arrived at the Emerald City to discover that the Wizard was not really a wizard? But he did manage to show them that they already had what they were looking for.

I thought of this when our visitor on Sunday, Maryanne LaGuidre, a liaison from the Prairie Star District, referred to the meeting house as a beautiful old building. Her UU group in Dubuque does not have a facility of their own. I realized this is a good time to take account of what we do have, not what we don't have.

We have a building in a lovely location to call home, we have 70 some members with an average Sunday attendance of half our membership. (That's a high percent-

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## FROM THE MINISTER . . .

Sometimes, the shorter days and longer nights of late October and the approach of November put me in a pensive mood, a mood that focuses my thoughts on the inevitability of loss. But, I am "weather-driven" and as I write this column, it is difficult for me to give much serious thought to loss and the too-soon-coming bleakness of winter days. After all, the temperature hit 80 yesterday and promises to be in at least the mid-70s today. The sun is shining. My bicycle beckons. I'm still wearing shorts. Who cares about winter and life's inevitable losses?

And yet, and yet....the words from my favorite Mary Oliver poem, "In Blackwater Woods", keep going round and round in my head.

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2 FYI - FYP (continued)

age, compared to many churches). Virginia says about 10% of our members sing in the choir, which is well above average; more than 50% of our children attend RE regularly. At our last youth group, 80% of our potential youth attended. We have a UU group in Keokuk. Rick says pledges were up 10% and we have a full time minister.

We are obviously a dedicated and giving group, but a small group. We don't have a big pool of volunteers to draw from, so everyone has to do something - and in fact almost everyone *is* doing something to contribute to the workings of the fellowship. There is not much room in the fellowship for those who listen to the minister's talk, then slip out the back door. Everyone is needed to help reach our goals and everyone's efforts are appreciated.

Our situation is that we need to get very serious about fundraising if we want to maintain a full time minister, as many people have indicated. We have several volunteers ready to serve on a fundraising committee and they need a leader and support from us.

We've *talked* the last several years about a fundraising committee and now is the time to do it.

--- Karla

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*From the Minister (continued)*

The poem begins this way. "Look, the trees are — turning their own bodies into pillars of light... Every year everything I have ever learned in my lifetime leads back to this: the fires and the black river of loss whose other side is salvation, whose meaning none of us will ever know." Much as I love autumn, this is the season of loss, the time of year to contemplate, even appreciate, loss and try to put it in its proper place.

There are many kinds of losses. There is the loss experienced in sporting events. If you're a lifelong lover of baseball as I am, then you can't avoid loss in this sense during October. Someone has to lose before those last two teams emerge to compete in that Fall Classic, the World Series. This year, I found the losses to be heart wrenching, since neither the Cubs nor the Red Sox survived the playoffs.

But these are "Lite losses". Although it may appear that I take baseball quite seriously, I understand that it's just a game. (This attitude is subject to change if the Pittsburgh Pirates ever get to the playoffs again!) No, the kind of loss that accompanies sporting events is not important at all. It can't be compared to loss of a loved one or loss of our youth or loss of possessions in a house fire or any such traumatic losses.

Then there is loss in the sense of something less, something decreasing. I am thinking specifically of loss of membership and commitment to institutions. Most mainstream religious organizations are losing people. I

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thought we UUs were growing. Thus, I was surprised when our Prairie Star District Resource Liaison Maryann Caudill-LoGuidice, who was visiting us on October 19, said that Unitarian Universalists have lost significant numbers of members over the past few years. I was under the impression that we are a growing institution. So, that's another kind of loss, one that, if true, I would find very sad. But, we can do something about this kind of loss. We can recruit members. We can be proud of who we are and what we believe. We can share this with others and be assertive, aggressive, "out there" when it comes to convincing more people to join us on Sunday mornings.

Finally, there are the everyday losses that I talked about on an October Sunday. I said then that I don't think we do justice to these everyday losses. We don't take the time to appreciate them and to realize the role they play in our lives, the effect they have on our mental well-being. I am working on this, trying to contemplate everyday losses from different perspectives, and then deliberately letting them go.

Driving back from visiting family recently in Pennsylvania, I was almost to the top of a hill on a two-lane beautiful country road when over the crest of the hill came a pickup truck -- in my lane. I didn't think that I had any time to react, but I must have had a split second because I moved over onto the shoulder as far as I could. The driver of the truck moved over the other way. We missed each other by inches. After muttering several expletives -- I would swear the truck driver was using a cell phone -- and shaking my head in disbelief, I was overcome with relief. We had narrowly avoided a head-on crash.

Suddenly I thought to myself, what exactly was your problem with sadness and leaving and losing? You still have your life, don't you? And you had a great time visiting family and friends and you had absolutely perfect bicycling days with your sister.

I will take those everyday losses, even the traumatic ones, and learn to appreciate them as long as I still have life itself. I have wonderful memories -- thank you universe. I will live in the moment. I will keep in mind the end of that Mary Oliver poem. "To live in this world you must be able to do three things: to love what is mortal; to hold it against your bones knowing your own life depends on it; and, when the time comes to let it go, to let it go." May you treasure every moment of November! -- Sandy

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We extend a warm welcome to Scott Diehl, who recently signed our membership book.

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Ann White and Mim & Doc Van Winkle announce the birth on Oct.20 of Zoey Elizabeth Kirkpatrick. This is Ann's great-grandchild and Mim & Doc's grandchild. Daughter Nora and the baby are happy & healthy. Congratulations!

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

It feels good to have the number of volunteers for teaching that have agreed to help. Thank you for sharing your time and knowledge. Eighteen time slots have been filled and twenty remain.

Teachers in October were Sue Holm, Nancy Montrone, Heather Strait and Morgan Toal. Principle #6 was covered with a biography of Adlai Stevenson. Halloween around the world was discussed. Teachers for November are Rick Johnson (Nov. 2 & 9), Karla Mundt (Nov. 16), Heather Strait (Nov. 23) and Nancy M. (Nov. 30).

The end of the Calendar printed last month has been modified: April 25 - TBA

May 2 - Flower Communion

May 9 - Make gifts for teachers

May 16 - TBA

May 23 - Present gifts to teacher volunteers

May 30 - Wrap up.

--Nancy Montrone

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## COUNCIL NEWS

Well, it had to happen sometime, the October council meeting was actually short and to the point. The Treasurer, Rick, reported that our current PSD dues have been paid in full and that so far, so good for this fiscal year's budget. Sandy reported that the Youth Group IS up and running, and that she is looking to begin several adult RE classes and a meditation group in the coming months.

In discussing committees, it was agreed that all of them should have at least 3 to 4 members to avoid overwhelming any one individual, so recruitment efforts will continue. The Chairs committee has made a list of priorities and is looking at catalogs, finding \$100-110 per chair to be a likely price range. Sandy is working on several media-related Membership endeavors. The new Hospitality monthly rotation has been running smoothly with plenty of volunteers.

The Fundraising committee has a chair (Heather Strait) and will soon hold its first meeting, so get all your wonderful ideas together now before someone else claims them!

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## THE COUNCIL

President-	Karla Mundt
Vice president-	Beryl Shahan
Secretary-	Heather Strait
Treasurer-	Rick Johnson
Members	Gary Gidley
at	Fritz Goeckner
large-	Ruth Lindeen

## NOVEMBER SPECIAL EVENT!

We will join our Keokuk friends for a POTLUCKK at 4:00 the afternoon of Nov. 9th, at Lillian Snyder's home, 530 Winchester St., Nauvoo. Winchester is on the far east side of Nauvoo. Coming from the east, on highway 96, there is a big curve, and Winchester is at the end of that curve. There are small signs for a winery and the Icarian museum. Turn south. Don't miss this unique opportunity to spend time with the folks from Keokuk and the chance to have Lillian give us a tour of the Icarian museum and show a videotape of her work.

## NOTICES

The women's book discussion group is reading *Red Water* by Judith Freeman. This historical fiction focuses on three of the wives of a prominent Mormon in the late 1800's. The group will meet on Nov. 8th at 2 PM at the home of Virginia Garnjobst. Call Mim at 754-1176 for more info.

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There will be no Youth Group meeting on November 26th. This is Thanksgiving eve.

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A RIVER CITIES UU SERVICE AND CELEBRATION will be held sometime in May or June. Preliminary planning for this exciting event will occur on Sat, Nov. 15, at 10:30 AM at the UU church in Davenport. Sandy is going to this meeting and would like to have two or three others go with her. Please talk to Sandy or Karla if interested.

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If you have forgotten to bring a bit of fabric to the fellowship for the proposed quilt, there is still time. Call Karla at 752-0010 for more information.

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Sue Prochazka, a member of our Keokuk group, will be walking a marathon to raise money for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and must raise \$3500 by Nov. 15. Cash, checks or credit card are accepted and can be mailed to Sue Prochazka, 2737 Plank Road, Keokuk, IA 52632.

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## CONGREGATION MEETING

On October 19, after the regular service, a brief special Congregational Membership meeting was held to confirm the Minister's contract for this fiscal year. The council had approved it, and sent it as a privileged motion to the congregation, based on the presentation by the Ministerial committee. The motion passed, including a 5% raise in pay, bringing the salary closer to that recommended by UUA for a congregation of our size.

Discussion focused on the need to increase our income and membership in order to continue to support a full-time minister.

## CALENDER for November, 2003

- Sat 1 - Needlenuts 4 PM (call Melinda at 753-2489 for details)  
Sun 2 - Choir 9:30, Services 10:30, Religious Education 10:45  
2 - Salvation Army dinner served  
Thur 6 - Weight Watchers  
Sat 8 - Women's Book Discussion Group at Garnjobsts 2 PM (Call Mim at 754-1176)  
Needlenuts 4 PM (call Melinda at 753-2489)  
Sun 9 - Choir 9:30, Services 10:30, RE 10:45  
Potluck dinner with Keokuk at Lillian Snyder's in Nauvoo 4:00 PM  
Tue 11 - PFLAG 6:45 PM  
Wed 12 - Youth Group 7:00 PM  
Thur 13 - Weight Watchers  
Sat 15 - Needlenuts 4PM (call Melinda at 753-2489)  
Sun 16 - Choir 9:30, Services 10:30, RE 10:45  
Wed 19 - Council 7:00 PM  
Thur 20 - Weight Watchers  
Sat 25 - Needlenuts 4 PM (Call Melinda at 753-2489)  
Sun 23 - Choir 9:30, Services 10:30, RE 10:45  
Keokuk Services 3:00 PM (Christian Science Reading Room, 423 Main St.)  
Thur 27 - Weight Watchers  
Sun 30 - Choir 9:30, Services 10:30, RE 10:45

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