



May 18, 2008 -  
May 31, 2008

## Calendar

### Sunday, May 18

9:00 Worship Service  
9:00 Canvass Committee  
9:15 Care Network Ministry  
10:00 Women’s Spirituality Group  
10:15 RE Steward Celebration  
11:00 Worship Service

### Monday, May 19

\*\*\*\*\* Zen (Call office for time.)  
9:15 Joyful Parenting SGM

### Tuesday, May 20

7:00 Board Meeting

### Wednesday, May 21

9:00 Staff Meeting  
4:00 Admin. Relations Committee  
7:00 Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, May 22

\*\*\*\*\* Zen (Call office for time.)  
9:00 Newsletter Crew  
6:00 Mysticism Sm. Group Ministry

### Friday, May 23

6:30 AA Men’s Group

### Saturday, May 24

### Sunday, May 25

9:00 Worship Service  
9:00 Membership Committee  
10:00 Women’s Spirituality Group  
11:00 Worship Service

### Monday, May 26

\*\*\*\*\* Zen (Call office for time.)

### Tuesday, May 27

10:00 Wisdom Wanderers  
10:00 Small Group Ministry

### Wednesday, May 28

9:00 Staff Meeting  
7:00 Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, May 29

\*\*\*\*\* Zen (Call office for time.)

### Friday, May 30

6:30 AA Men’s Group

### Saturday, May 31

9:00 First UU House Tour

## Newsletter News

Next deadline for the **last newsletter** of the church year: Monday, May 19, 2008 @9am covering June 1 - Entire Summer. You can view the newsletter and the year’s schedule on our website: [www.uusociety.org](http://www.uusociety.org).

## Meet Elaine!

Everyone is invited to a dessert reception for our new assistant minister, Elaine Bomford, on May 17 from 6-8 PM in the Parlors. Come as you are and stay for as long as you like. Children are welcome! Elaine will be leading Summer Services on July 6 and July 20 so be sure to put those dates on your calendar.

## In My Heart

One day on my way to work I stopped at the convenience store on the corner of Pearl and Pine Streets. As I paid for my pint of milk, the elderly gentleman behind the counter said something I’ve never forgotten. Instead of “Have a good one,” or “Have nice day,” he asked me, “Are you going to have a good day?” It took me a moment or two to respond. His greeting felt like a challenge. It was up to me. Was I going to have a good day? The storekeeper’s question stayed with me the whole day. It made me feel as if someone really cared about what kind of day I was going to have. Maybe the man spent his day connecting with his customers in a meaningful way.

Do you ever wonder how our routine greetings originated and how we are affected or affect others by them? The most common greeting among us is, of course, “How are you?” to which people usually reply, “Fine, how are you?”

As some of you know, I have been dealing with a bout of shingles in my eye. It’s been a learning experience for me. I realize how difficult it is to respond “Not so good” when someone asks how I am, not as much because it’s an admission of vulnerability; it’s more about putting the other person in the difficult position of wanting to know what they can do.

When my younger son, who lives at a distance, wanted to know what he could do about my shingles, I said that he could pray. I didn’t mean to put him in an awkward position because I knew that prayer was not a familiar form of discourse for him. But in this case, he was moved by compassion to say with surprising readiness, “I will.” He continued to muse on how his prayer might be received. “Well, there’s an unfamiliar voice,” he could imagine hearing some celestial voice saying, he told me.

Some Unitarian Universalists do not relate to or feel comfortable with the traditional notion of prayer. For me, prayer is a way of responding to a larger reality or loving presence in my life, one to whom I give thanks and from whom I draw strength and courage. Years ago, theologian Bernard Cooke described this kind of prayer as simply “response to presence,” whether that be presence in nature, in a loved one, in community or in someone who cares if you are going to have a good day.

**Roddy**

## Upcoming Sundays

### May Worship Theme: Competition

*Our economy is driven by competition. Sports idols strive for the gold. Religions compete for converts in the spiritual marketplace. When is competition a healthy stimulus that encourages us to excel, and when does excessive rivalry foster feelings of envy, jealousy and ill-will? Gary and Roddy reflect on this month’s worship theme.*

### Sunday, May 18, 9am & 11am

**“Failure”** In keeping with this month’s theme of competition, Gary will speak this morning on the great constant of human experience. While all of us strive to excel, most of us find ourselves failing to measure up to our own and other’s expectations more often than not. How do we handle losing? Coming in second place or farther down the pack?

### Sunday, May 25, 9am & 11am

**“A Final Sermon”** This morning Roddy will attempt to summarize “everything you wanted to know about...what she has learned from her being with you and from our life together in community.” She will not take offense if the Burlington Marathon prevents you from being present.

### Sunday, June 1, 9am (1 service only)

**“The Question Box”** Gary’s remarks this morning will be based on questions he receives from the congregation. Want to know how to rear perfect children? Why God permits evil? Or how you can still be religious, even if you don’t believe in God? Please email your queries (metaphysical, historical, personal, socio-political) to [gary@uusociety.org](mailto:gary@uusociety.org) at least one week prior to the service. Our annual congregational meeting will follow the service in the sanctuary, with childcare provided. Members only can vote, but all are welcome to attend and participate in this important gathering.

### June 8, 11:00am (1 service only)

**“The Wheel of Life”** Join us for an intergenerational celebration of the transitions within our community—births, graduations, weddings and unions, deaths and farewells. (If you or your children are receiving degrees this spring, please let Gary know, [gary@uusociety.org](mailto:gary@uusociety.org).) This service will be followed by Roddy’s retirement party on the lawn, with bouncy castles for kids and dignitaries aplenty. Please bring your very best dish to share for the potluck.



## Message From Martha



The interesting thing about *trust* is that to build it, someone first has to extend it. Someone has to muster the courage to take a risk of potential hurt, disappointment, or failure. But that same extension of trust is also the *only* way to build bonds of community that realize the positive results of care, assurance, and success.

This time each year, in Religious Education, we reaffirm the bonds of trust we have in one another's participation in our RE Cooperative. Like a stone mason who must periodically repoint a foundation with fresh mortar to keep it strong and solid, we remind everyone to consider their involvement in this community and what kind of volunteer stewardship they can provide to support our children's and youth's programming.

Families currently registered in RE should have recently received a mailing including next year's "Children's Registration & Religious Education Cooperative Stewardship" form, which we ask that you return to the RE office by June 8th. With that form I extend trust to you! Your committed presence here, and that of your children, brings liveliness to our Sunday learning!

The RE Committee and I have made thoughtful changes to the structure of teaching stewardship next year. The kinds and sizes of teaching roles are more clearly defined now. Classes will be taught in two semesters, each semester having a trio of teachers who rotate the roles of leading, assisting and taking a Sunday off. Additionally, each class will have one permanent sub available all year and one-two Classroom Helpers to assist as needed. Explanations of these and other roles, along with the time commitment needed, are provided in the registration forms, on the newly updated "Religious Education Stewardship Opportunities" brochure, and depicted on the large bulletin board in the Community Room.

The trust that we *extend* to one another ultimately has to be *received*. Every "Please" that elicits a "Yes" is like a foundational stone secured with fresh mortar. I understand and accept that there are times for some families, when they are not able to make a regular commitment to volunteer stewardship. I trust, however, that in the long run, "Yesses" will always far outweigh "Not right nows." We all give what we can, when and how we can, because Unitarian Universalism is so irresistibly compelling. Our RE Cooperative is as strong as our collective strength, and as vital as the trust we extend and the trust we receive.

In Us I Trust!

Martha

## 2008 UU House Tour

Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 31, for our first UU House Tour. On the tour we have Katharine Monstream's home and studio; Carol MacDonald's, who made the banners in the meeting house sanctuary, home and studio; UU board president, Jerry Packard & life long designer Merl Grossmeyer's home; Kathy & Tom Swartwout's condo on the Lake; Peter Clavell and Betsy Ferries' home; Susan Ramie's home in the country; something new, Co-Housing on East Avenue; something historic (c 1871), "painted lady", Debi Hron's home, studio and garden; something different, Ellie Byers' home; something steeped in UU history Sylvia and Clem Holden's home; and lastly something big, Kurt Moody and Mark Westergard's home, the former home built by Antonio Pizzagalli.

We are exceedingly excited about this community building and fundraising event and filled with gratitude to those extending their home. Tickets at \$25 will go on sale Sunday May 11. Call Deborah DeLadurantaye at 999-3464 for free delivery.

## Economic Stimulus Checks: Keep 'em In Vermont and Help Support Our Society!

An initiative sponsored by [KeepItInVermont.org](http://KeepItInVermont.org) is now underway asking Vermonters to support the state economy by spending their stimulus check on Vermont products and services. We think this is a great idea! And, as they say, one good idea leads to another: With our church still facing a budget deficit for the upcoming fiscal year, why not help by giving a portion of your stimulus check to our Society?

Please consider giving whatever you can. Even just 10% from members receiving rebates could raise over \$10,000 - helping us restore programs and services that are being cut. Simply write a check to FUUSB, mark it Stimulus Rebate and drop it in the collection basket or send it to the church office. Like all gifts to the church, it's tax deductible. Many thanks in advance!

## UUA General Assembly

If you would like to be a delegate representing our Society at the UUA General Assembly this June 25-29 in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, please contact Gary, so that your name can be presented to our Board. Details about the program, registration, and lodging can all be found online at [www.uua.org/events/generalassembly](http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly).

## Spectrum Mentoring

Mentoring is a great way to give back to your community! Spectrum Youth and Family Services is a community-based social service agency working to improve the lives of homeless and at risk youth for over 35 years. One of our many services that help the lives of at risk youth is our Mentoring Program. Research shows that mentored youth are less likely to begin using alcohol, to do drugs or to drop out of school. A mentor can make a huge difference in the life of a child.

The Spectrum Mentoring Program matches responsible adult volunteers with adolescents between the ages of 11 and 21. Mentors and their mentees meet or talk at least once a week and assist youth in achieving their educational goals, building self confidence, exposing them to new experiences and simply just being a friend. There are hundreds of youth in the Chittenden County still in need of a positive adult role model.

Please join us as we try to match every child in need of a mentor with a caring role model and friend! For more information about becoming a mentor, please contact Deanna Cameron [Dcameron@SpectrumVT.org](mailto:Dcameron@SpectrumVT.org) or 864-7423 ext. 343.

## Golf Tournament & Silent Auction

This event is scheduled for Monday, May 19, 2008, and will benefit the Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program. It will be held at the Vermont National Country Club in South Burlington. Registration & catered lunch begins at 11am, shotgun start at 12:30 pm, BBQ & Awards at 5pm and Silent Auction Results @5:30 pm. Hole-in-one prize: A C30 Volvo along with other contests & prizes. For more information go to: [www.LadiesFirstVt.org](http://www.LadiesFirstVt.org) or call Chris Barron at 802-264-9419.

## Seeking Volunteers

Help is needed at the Ethan Allen Homestead Museum. The museum is now open for the 2008 Season. Come join the fun, meet new friends and learn something new. We will train you to be a tour guide or gift shop cashier. For details, call 802-865-4556.

## Summer Services

Summer Services will begin on June 15 with our annual Father's Day Service. Three dads from our congregation will speak about their fathering experiences and Stephen Rainville will sing. We'll celebrate the Summer Solstice on June 22 with Summer Music and Poetry. Have you written a poem or short prose piece you'd like to share? How about reading one of your favorite summer poems? Do you play a musical instrument or sing? Welcome summer by sharing your

**First Unitarian Universalist  
Society**  
**862-5630**

*Gary Kowalski, Minister*

*Roddy O'Neil Cleary,  
Affiliate Minister*

*Jerrold Packard,  
Board President*

*Martha Dallas, Director  
of Religious Education*

*David McFeeters,  
Facilities Manager*

*Wayne Schneider,  
Music Director*  
*wayne.schneider@uvm.edu*

*Christina Fulton,  
Society Administrator*

*Kathleen Kemp,  
Administrative Assistant*

*Email: [office@uusociety.org](mailto:office@uusociety.org)  
Web Page: [www.uusociety.org](http://www.uusociety.org)*

writing, reading or musical talent. Look for the complete list of Summer Services in the next newsletter. If you'd like to coordinate a Summer Service, (we need coordinators!!!), contact Bridget 879-5409 or email [bmeyer1038@aol.com](mailto:bmeyer1038@aol.com).

## New UU Blog

Could America's Founding Fathers get elected today? What would they say about the flap over Jeremiah Wright? How would they view current issues like prayer in schools or assisted suicide? Anyone interested in learning and talking about religion in the revolutionary era and today is invited to visit my new blog, <http://revolutionaryspirits.blogspot.com>. I'd love to hear your questions and comments. Gary Kowalski

## Artist Pick Up!

If you had work in the All Congregation Art Show, please retrieve your material, which is being temporarily stored in Gary's very small office. Thank you for participating, and for promptly picking up your prints and paintings.

## Interweave Potluck

Please join us May 11, at 12:30 downstairs in the Sofia Fahs Community Room for the last Interweave Potluck of the year! Interweave is an informal social gathering for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning (LGBTQ) folks, and our friends and families. All are welcome! Please plan to join us for a fun time!

## Sublet Needed

Two Unitarians (gay male couple) in South Carolina looking to relocate to Burlington. We have a well behaved pug

and a cat. We are looking for a place to sublet for a couple of months to get our bearings before we buy. Not looking to share an apartment. Love to garden and love streams. Thanks for any leads! Lanier at:

[sweeneylan@yahoo.com](mailto:sweeneylan@yahoo.com)

## Vermont Interfaith Action Statewide Training Event!

Vermont Interfaith Action is sponsoring a three-day training workshop in the basics of faith-based community organizing from Thursday to Saturday, September 18-20 at Gove Hill Retreat Center in Thetford, Vermont. Mark your calendars now! This training is being customized to meet our needs in Vermont to bring our values and convictions into the public square. Topics include "how to" build relationships, identify self-interest, speak faithfully in public, frame an issue, conduct policy research, hold elected officials accountable, develop local organizing teams, and involve clergy. If you're new to VIA or a long-time leader who has not had the opportunity to attend the PICO national training, this event is for you!

The workshop will begin with dinner Thursday night and go through lunch on Saturday. The cost will be \$120 per person for two nights of lodging, linens and towels, and all meals. The retreat center is in a beautiful wooded setting with horseshoes, volleyball, and other recreational opportunities available. To register, call or email Amity at the VIA office: (802) 651-8889 or [office@viavt.org](mailto:office@viavt.org). Sign up now, space is limited!

## Committee on Ministry News

The members of the Ministry Committee for Gary will not be holding a formal forum this year for members to give direct feedback to Gary about his ministry. Members of the congregation are encouraged to contact any of the committee members if they wish to provide feedback about Gary's ministry. Committee members and their contact information: Andrew [Mack/amack@bsdvt.org](mailto:Mack/amack@bsdvt.org), Carol MacDonald, [cesmart@verizon.net](mailto:cesmart@verizon.net) or 862-9037, Becky Peterson, [Peterson@champlain.edu](mailto:Peterson@champlain.edu) or 860-0658

## Writing Our History

Do you have old letters, sermons, diaries, or other documents pertaining to the history of our Society floating around your attic? Elz Curtiss has been commissioned to write an official history of the First UU Society, to be ready for publication to celebrate our bicentennial in 2010, and is scouring the area for primary sources. We have a story that deserves to be told and passed on. Please, if you have historic documents in your possession, let Elz know. Elz is a graduate of Columbia with a Masters in Divinity from Harvard, and a member of the UU Historical Society. Call her at 652-1141 with any

information.

## UU Summer Camps

Looking for a family get-away in the woods or at the beach, with meals prepared and no dishes? Or a women's spirituality retreat? Or a stimulating conference on science and religion set on a picturesque Atlantic isle? Learn about the opportunities to relax your body and refresh your spirit at Unitarian Universalist summer camps, from Ferry Beach and Starr Island in Maine to Rowe Camp in Massachusetts and Unirondack in Northern New York, by visiting <http://www.uucamps.org>.

## Services Available on CD

For your convenience, you may check out a CD of any worship service. If you cannot attend services for any length of time due to illness or injury, let us know and we can either mail you a CD or a written copy of the sermon while you are away. Also, most all sermons are available on our website [www.uusociety.org](http://www.uusociety.org). Questions? Call the main office at 862-5630.

## UU Library Closing for Summer

Once again, our UU Library will be closing for the summer months, as we prepare for a very special year ahead. The last day to check out books from the library (upstairs and downstairs) was May 4, 2008. Please return all books to the library by Sunday, June 1, 2008. I have enjoyed serving you as UU Librarian and wish to thank all those who, in so many ways, have supported our library within the past year. Have a great summer! I am already looking forward to re-connecting with everyone in the fall!

Sincerely,

*Rebecca Anderson, Librarian*

## GoodSearch and GoodShop

What if every time you shopped online a percentage of the sale went to the First UU Society?

Welcome to GoodShop! More than 100 great stores including Gardner's Supply, The Body Shop, Travelocity, Land's End, Target, Macy's, The Gap, Best Buy, PetSmart, and Staples have teamed up with GoodSearch to do just that.

The next time you're looking for a new book, computer, DVD, pair of shoes or clothing, go to GoodShop first.

It's simple. No username or password is required. Just designate your favorite charity (**First Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington**), click on the store's logo from the GoodShop site and then shop as you normally would.

You'll get the same great prices, but every time you place an order, you'll be

supporting the First Unitarian  
Universalist Society with donations that  
average around 3% of the sale but can  
exceed 20%!

**First Unitarian Universalist Society**  
**152 Pearl Street**  
**Burlington, Vermont 05401**  
**(802)862-5630**  
**www.uusociety.org**

Non-Profit  
Organization  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit No. 119  
Burlington, VT  
05401

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

**!!! YOU'RE INVITED !!!**

**RODDY'S RETIREMENT PARTY**

**A GATHERING FOR ALL AGES**

Sunday, June 8 at noon

Music, food, and children's activities,

Please bring a savory dish for all to share.

Card shower: Cards with your remembrances and wishes for Roddy  
will be gathered and presented to her.

To contribute to a retirement gift for Roddy, please send your contribution check, made out to  
Women's Alliance, to Lois Holbrook, 425 Locust Hill, Shelburne, VT 05482  
Questions or suggestions? Call Bridget, 879-5409 or Susan, 872-9707

## **Annual Meeting**

The members of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington are hereby warned of the Annual Meeting to be held at the meeting house on Sunday, June 1, 2008.

Member Registration: 8:30 am to 9:00 am

Worship Service: 9:00 am to 10:00 am (note: Only one worship service will be held this day)

Annual Meeting begins at 10:15 am sharp

Social Hour to follow

Agenda:

1. Call to order. Dedication of Annual Report
  2. Opening
  3. Approval of minutes from 2007 Annual Meeting
  4. Introduction of board members
  5. Annual report of the minister – Gary Kowalski
  6. Annual report of the board president – Jerrold Packard
-

7. Report on new assistant minister – Ministerial Selection Committee
  8. Revisions of the society's by-laws (the by-laws revisions may be obtained from the church office upon request)
  9. Nominating Committee – committee's nominations; floor nominations; discussion; voting
  10. Treasurer—presentation of FY 2009 budget; discussion; voting
  11. Other business that may be presented by membership
  12. Announcement concerning Roddy's retirement
  13. Closing
  14. Adjournment
-