





Vineyard UU Voice

News from the Unitarian Universalist Society
of Martha's Vineyard — "A Welcoming Congregation"

December 2011

Sunday Services, 11 a.m.

<p>Dec. 4</p>  <p>UU Explorer Sunday</p>	<p align="center"><i>"Justice-Making As a Spiritual Practice" - Jesse Jaeger, Executive Director UU Mass Action Network</i></p> <p>Join us for a stimulating exploration of how service, action and reflection knit together into an engaged spiritual practice.</p>
<p>Dec.11</p>	<p align="center"><i>"Association Sunday - 'Our Radical Creativity'" - Reverend Jill Cowie</i></p> <p>Join us for a celebration of excellence in our Unitarian Universalist ministry. Jack Street and Liz Loucks will share their reflections and Jill will follow with a sermon on "Our Radical Creativity." A portion of the offering will support scholarships, grants, continuing education and other projects that help religious professionals get the ongoing training they need to support thriving congregations. If you would like to make an on-line donation please go to http://uua.kintera.org/assoc_sunday2011. Chris Seidel's band, The Tashmoo Trio, will keep us rocking!</p>
<p>Dec.18</p>  <p>UU Explorer Sunday</p>	<p align="center"><i>"Light in Darkness" - 11:00 am - Reverend Jill Cowie</i></p> <p>A poetry-based service. Clark Myers and Jill welcome your poems and reflections on this time of year. Please contact Clark if you would like to participate.</p> <p align="center"><i>"Candlelight Service" - 5:00 pm - Reverend Jill Cowie</i></p> <p>Come celebrate the season in good cheer and company with song, music, prose, and the beauty of candlelight. A reception at the Grace Church Parish Hall will follow the service.</p>
<p>Dec.25</p>	<p align="center"><i>"Return of the Light" - Mary Gillette and Arlene Conroy</i></p> <p>Happily, the Winter Solstice is upon us. Come join us to celebrate the seasonal and spiritual aspects of the return of the light into our lives.</p>

Holiday Happenings

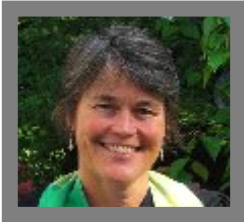
December 11, after services: help decorate the chapel. (See article page 7)

December 18, 5:00 pm: Candlelight service

Order your holiday poinsettias - see last page of newsletter for how.

UUSMV email address: uu.society.mv@gmail.com

NEW: Newsletter email address: uusmvnewsletter@gmail.com



Message from Jill

I want you to know that the highlight of my week is Sunday morning, the day we come together as a vital and loving community. I love looking out from the pulpit and seeing all of you, your warm faces, and I love feeling the energy we create when we are together. This was especially true of our dinner last Saturday at the Hebrew Center. A few of you asked that I share my remarks from that night, which were about my vision of the year. Here you go:

My vision is a subset of the vision this congregation has voiced over the years and had written down in a mission statement over ten years ago, which hangs on the wall of our sanctuary; a mission that lifts up the purpose of our coming together as a congregation. My understanding of this purpose is: To be welcoming of all, to embrace difference of race, class, gender, sexual preference, so that together we can deepen our sense of who we are spiritually, and broaden our sense of connection with each other and the community to bring about justice and peace.

Last year, we came together in five groups to talk about how we want to do this now and in the near future. It is difficult to summarize here all that was said, but the things I heard were a hunger for more dynamic and participatory worship and music, a desire for social justice that can engage everyone and that is flexible enough to follow the passion of individual champions, and the call to know more about our faith, our individual questions, and for opportunities to evolve spiritually together.

What is clear to me as a half-time minister is that what we do in each of these endeavors we do together mutually; we have a shared ministry.

The vision I bring to this ministry this year and my invitation to you is the creation of small covenant groups that provide intimate, safe, circles of trust, from which to share and explore the deeper questions and experiences of our faith. This vision builds on the strength of what we are now and our comfort and skill in being together in small groups. Between now and June, I invite you to participate in the development of these groups. There are many ways to go about it, and Peter Bowden, our district expert, will be helping us on January 7th to create what we want these groups to be.

As I look into the future, I look closely at our talents, our gifts, our needs and desires and know from all of these comes the inspiration to be what we have voiced ourselves to be.

Yours in faith, Jill

December
Caring Coordinator:
Martha Mezger
Hospitality Coordinator:
Sarah Shepard

Men's Group Meeting **December 3, 10:00 am**

The discussion subject will be: "Empowered by UUism." With the abundance of creedal religions in our culture what is it that the Unitarian Universalist experience gives you? We will also devote some time to discussing a project for the group to undertake in the coming months. Coffee and a light breakfast will be served.

The UUSMV Men's Group will meet at 10:00AM on Saturday, December 3rd at John Ebbs' home (Plan A) or at Tad Crawford's home. An announcement will be made before the meeting by email to the group, or check when you RSVP to Tad. Please let Tad know by phone or email if you plan to come.

Michael F. Kobran

Focus Group on Peace

To all interested in Peace in our world, nation, island, church:

The present upsurge of citizens' involvement across the world is a mass movement of historical proportions. In *Living Beyond War* Winslow Myers offers the need to "work at the grassroots level to introduce a new way of thinking and acting." How can we live with the constant threat of war?

As we look at what is happening across our globe, we know we need to give up war. Our weapons experts tell us that mass extinction is now possible. We must make war obsolete. Many groups throughout our world are involved in this endeavor. Please let us know if you wish to join a critical UUSMV focus group.

Jane and Roger Thayer



UU Explorers

December 4: The younger group, led by Triva Emery and Christine Ferrone, will be discussing peaceful and hurtful experiences. The older group, led by Vanessa West-Fink, will be talking about affirmation of self and others.

December 18: Both groups will be celebrating the winter holidays of Solstice, Christmas, and Chanukah.



Parish Committee News

At the Parish Committee's regular monthly meeting on Nov. 9th, topics covered included: (1) Sarah Shepard, Doreen Kinsman and Jill Cowie on strengthening the connection between the Caring Network and the minister, and the procedures of the Caring Network as it completes its tenth year of service to our congregation; (2) Ann Maley for the Member Moment, on her new volunteer assignment as the editor of the *Vineyard Voice* monthly UUSMV newsletter; (3) planning for the evening "Get acquainted/get involved" potluck event; (4) Tad Crawford, on the Growth Working Group. While liking what we heard, we realized that this is a big topic and one best considered at the January leadership retreat; (5) a possible permanent off-site but nearby permanent space for the Sunday morning Children's religious education (Sunday School) classes; (6) participating with other Cape UU churches in a Ballou-Channing District "Partners Learning Grant" program on congregational growth; (7) the beginning of detailed planning for the church-wide leadership retreat on Saturday, January 7th; (8) the upcoming Stewardship Training Seminar, on Saturday Dec. 3rd, midday -- mostly about conducting the annual every-member financial pledge canvas. Space is still available for attendees. (9) further arrangements for the visit of the Reverend David Gyero from our partner church in Transylvania; and (10) setting up a group to develop guidelines for how to spend funds from the Rev. Kenneth Smith bequest that are earmarked for fees for speakers. As you can tell, it was a busy and productive meeting.

Dick Mezger, Secretary



Interim Pledge Status and Year-End Contribution Statements Coming Soon

As of December 1, UUSMV will be 25% of the way through its current fiscal year (FY2012), which runs from September 1, 2011, through August 31, 2012. Therefore, in early December, I will send out interim statements of pledge status for FY2012. Statements will be sent to every pledging household. If you do not receive a statement that you expected to receive, please let me know.

In early January I will send out year-end contribution statements, which will include contributions, in addition to pledge payments, made to UUSMV from January 1, 2011, through December 31, 2011.

Please let me know if you have any questions or suggestions. Thanks.

Mimi Davisson, UUSMV Treasurer

From the President "Including Everyone"



"Make new friends, but keep the old; one is silver and the other gold." Girl Scout Song

Whenever we assemble, as we did recently for the Getting Acquainted-Getting Involved evening, I feel excited because I value our connection as a group. While I appreciate we can be spiritual all by ourselves, there is a kind of spirituality that only happens when we are together -- it is the "and" in the "I and Thou" of Martin Buber. Without you, there is no "and" for me.

One thing I love about who we are at this very moment, no matter who we may become in the future, is that we are a small group, and can be together face to face in church on Sundays and in gatherings like that one. The vision I bring in my new role at UUSMV consists of only one thing: to include everyone -- to include everyone in whatever way they want to be included. I think we have a unique opportunity as a small church to explore what it means to include everybody. While we may recognize each other's strengths, weaknesses, quirks, passions -- because we know these things -- still we work to be together. Can we work to include everyone?

I envision that what we learn here might be important for understanding how to include everyone in communities, in governments, in the world -- a planetary challenge of our time. I think we can take our vision of what a better world might be like and manifest a still invisible vision, make it tangible, make it real in the world. When I bring the invisible to visible as I dance, that vision comes partly from the outside and partly the inside. I express what I hear in the music, what I see in my fellow dancers, what I feel in my heart and what I have learned through long hours of practice. Now, as I listen and watch and feel what we are envisioning as a group, what we might manifest as a church community, I am dedicated to learning how to respond, how to make it tangible. And if I haven't gotten your beat quite right, it is because I don't know how yet, but I am dedicated to learning! It is my hope we can practice together.

Janet Holladay

Red Stocking Fund

Last year, our congregation sponsored a 6-year old boy for the Red Stocking Fund. This year, we'd like to try to sponsor two children (or more!) if there's enough interest. Each Red Stocking child is given wrapped gifts of necessities, such as a winter jacket, mittens, pajamas and one outfit. They're also given a toy that they've been wanting. These gifts not only help to spread joy this holiday season, but they help families get their children properly dressed for the cold weather. Donations in any amount will be used to purchase gifts on our child's wish list. We'll also need help wrapping the items and delivering them to the Red Stocking Fund. If you'd like to participate, please contact me by mail or phone.

Lyndsay Famariss



In Our UUSMV CommUUnity

Our thoughts and prayers are with **Mev Good, Diane Jetmund and Peter Palches** who have had recent painful losses of family and friends.

And our healing wishes are with **Tom Hale** who has recently been hospitalized, and is home again. It's great to see you on your feet!

Sarah Shepard

To Sarah Shepard, Johanna Kobran and Celeste Stickney for a wonderful job in hosting David Gyero, the minister from our partner church in Transylvania.

To the dozens of helpers who cleaned up the chapel and its yard. They look beautiful. To the organizers and the participants of our gathering at the Hebrew Center. We had a wonderful time.

To Susan Desmarais, who co-led *The Chosen Faith* discussion group; we had fun.

To all those who supported the Thanksgiving Dinner drive.

For all those who picked up "A Guest at Your Table" box; there are more if you need one!

To the participants in the Thanksgiving skit. It was wonderful.

To the Choir for their gift of beautiful song.

To Brie Bingham for her awesome job on our Facebook page, check it out.

To Vanessa West Fink as our photographer extraordinaire!

To Betty Burton for her exceptional message from the pulpit.

Thank You

Minnesingers at the Neighborhood Convention



On Tuesday, December 6th at 10:45 AM, the Neighborhood Convention will host the MVRHS Minnesingers under the direction of Janis Wightman. The United Methodist Church of MV (in the Campground) will be our hosts. We are invited to bring our sandwich/salad, and our hosts will provide beverages and desserts. This is a tradition and much enjoyed by all.

The Jefferson Bible: A New Discussion Group

At age 77, Thomas Jefferson, after two terms as president, did what he'd been thinking about for two decades: he created a book of moral lessons drawn from the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Jefferson had Bibles in Greek, Latin, French and English. He cut out and pasted what he considered pertinent to make a book, *The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth*, which has become known as the "Jefferson Bible."

The Smithsonian bought this Bible from Jefferson's great granddaughter in 1895. In 2009 it was discovered that the binding was damaging the pages, and a yearlong conservation effort was undertaken, resulting in original loose folios with cutouts pasted on by Jefferson himself. From November 11 to May 28 it will be on display at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. The Smithsonian Channel will air a documentary, *Jefferson's Secret Bible*, in February 2012. (More info at Americanhistory.si.edu/jeffersonible.)

Does this pique your interest? If so, join the Jefferson Bible Discussion Group. Reverend Cowie, Sarah Shepard, Arlene Conroy, and others have already expressed interest. Together we will read and reflect on the life of Jesus of Nazareth as told in the Jefferson Bible. Class sessions will be Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm beginning in January. Registration cost for the book is \$16.00. To participate, email Lori Shaller at uu.society.mv@gmail.com or sign up on the bulletin board in the back of the sanctuary. Exact dates will be established to best meet the needs of those who sign up!

Sarah Shepard

Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard

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Vineyard Haven, MA 02568

Phone: 508-693-8982; Email: uusmv@uusmv.info
Website: www.uusmv.info

Rev. Jill Cowie – Minister
Carol Loud – Music Director
John Gorman – Choir Director
Lori Shaller – Administrative Assistant
Ann Maley – Newsletter Editor
Lori Shaller – Newsletter Publisher
Mimi Davisson – Past Newsletter Editor
Judith Neeld – Newsletter Editor Emerita
Mary Miller and Katharine Colon – Proofreaders

Who Are These People?

While dusting the UUSMV bookshelves recently, I found a wonderful collection (four or five albums) of photographs. They contain pictures of UUSMV events spanning the last several years.

We need to find a temporary archivist who would go through these albums and add names of the persons photographed, as well as the dates and reasons for the occasions. It would be timely if it could be done now before we forget who people are. We all know how frustrating it is to come across photographs at a later date and go through the "who was that?" process. If you would be willing to put names to these faces, please contact Janet Holladay or me. Thanks.

Sarah Shepard

What is PFLAG? What is a “Welcoming Congregation”?

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard is an official Welcoming Congregation, and our affirmation, adopted September 2004, is in our directory. The Welcoming Congregation (WC) program has helped Unitarian Universalists understand the ways our practices, language, and faith culture can make Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) people feel excluded, and how to take active steps toward welcome and inclusion instead. To read more about the process and information about a Welcoming Congregation, please follow the following links online: Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations>social justice>LGBT Welcome and Equality>Welcoming and Inclusive Congregations.

Since the 70's the rainbow flag has become recognized the world over, including by the international congress of flag members, as the symbol of the gay and lesbian community. Color has long played an important role in our community's expression of pride. In 1979 Gilbert Baker of San Francisco designed and made a flag with stripes of six colors: red, orange, yellow, green, blue and purple, representing the diversity of our community. These colors represent respectively: life, healing, sun, nature, art, spirit. Our community encompasses people from all backgrounds, races, colors, ages, national origins, abilities, and genders. Older symbols are the pink triangle that gay men and the black triangle that lesbian women were forced to wear in the concentration camps of WWII.



Buddhist Study and Sitting Group

I have a large supply of video tapes that represent the three different wings of Buddhism. It is my dream that people who subscribe to all the varieties represented on Martha's Vineyard, namely, Theravada (the most ancient), Mahayana (from the far east, taught now as Ch'an in China and Zen in Japan) and Vajrayana (Tibetan) can sit all together at least a few times a year and begin a dialogue on behalf of understanding, fellowship and all of the principles of the teachings of the Buddha. In Pali the word "Buddha" means "one who has awakened to the true nature of reality." Buddhism teaches us to look into our own minds, hearts and bodies for our wisdom and truth. Meditation aids us in doing that.

If you have a question or an opinion about why we meditate, drop a note in the meditation mailbox at church or send it to me. Your thoughts could become the basis of a dialogue. We meet Saturdays, 2:30-4:00 pm. Jo Rice

New UUVoice Editor Ann Maley Shares a Member Moment

As the new editor of the *UU Voice*, I asked the Parish Committee for guidance on two issues. The first was about deadlines for submission. In October, items continued to arrive more than a week after the deadline. There is limited time I can devote to this work, and I don't think we should ask Lori to rework the layout of the pages repeatedly. The PC supported upholding the stated deadlines. Articles submitted after the deadline will be included in "This Week at the UUSMV" if appropriate, and in the following month's newsletter if still relevant. One may also request a notice in the "Announcements" section of the Order of Service. I know there will be exceptions, such as when a meeting or decision occurs just after the deadline and needs to be reported immediately. In those cases, if we are alerted to the situation beforehand, Lori and I will try to reserve a space for that report. I am sorry to sound so rigid, but this is the only way I can do this. I hope you will all understand.

The second item was about the purpose of the newsletter. I believe it exists to alert us to events originated by or sponsored by the church, with a short description and the time, place and contact person involved. That seems clear. It is also clear that this is not the place for political views. Everything in between is less clear. I may find a submission interesting, or expressing a point of view that I share, but that is not UU society news. When can we assume something is a society-wide belief or interest? The PC told me "You're the editor, and you must determine where the cut-off point is."

So I will try, with kind intentions and an attitude that I hope will not be too crabby, to get your newsletter edited for you each month. It is a joy to see all the enthusiasm and creativity that characterizes this community.

Fall Chapel and Grounds Clean-up - C'est Fini!

Yes, there were complaints of sore backs that evening, but everyone agreed after the traditional harvest table lunch that this was a great way to spend a Saturday morning on a fine fall day in November. Jeanne Hewett's homemade soup was a treat, along with warm baguettes and a couple of rounds of Camembert brought by Pamela Street, then a nice French red and a round of toasts. Sarah Shepard organized the inside cleaning as usual and was assisted by Dorie Godfrey, Laura Beebe, Lucinda Sheldon, Barb Cushman, and Mary Miller. Liz Loucks's outside crew included Jack Street, Steve Engh, Tad and Judy Crawford, Stephanie Michalczyk, Debbie Dean, and Brad Purvis. The congregation thanks all those who pitched in.

Family to Family Holiday Dinners

Once again this year, UU's responded generously to the appeal to provide local families with a Thanksgiving supper with all the trimmings at \$25 per family. A total of \$775 from 26 members and friends was collected and presented to the Vineyard Committee on Hunger. This equates to 31 dinners. Betty Burton tells us that a total of nearly 170 meals were distributed, so we can say that UUSMV was responsible for almost 20% of the entire program. And once again this year, we were the largest single group donor.

This is the kind of pat on the back that feels especially good as we sit down on Turkey Day with friends and family to enjoy our own Thanksgiving dinners, thinking of all those other less fortunate families enjoying theirs. This is just to remind you that we will be giving out December Holiday meals on December 14th. I hope you can again support a Vineyard family by contributing \$25 for the meal. This will almost cover the cost of the meal. We will be giving out a turkey, 5 lbs. of potatoes, 4 lbs. of apples, 4 lbs. of oranges, 1.5 lbs. of onions, 1 lb. of carrots, 1 dozen eggs, stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, turkey gravy, and pumpkin pie mix. For questions, email me. Please make your check to Vineyard Committee on Hunger and indicate it is for the Family-to-Family program. Send it to VCOH, PO Box 4685, Vineyard Haven, MA 02568.

Thanks again, Betty Burton and Jack Street

Sewcial Action Knitwork

The Sewcial Action Knitwork will continue to meet once a month through the winter. The next meeting will be Tuesday, December 6, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. at Laura Beebe's. Bring your needlework or come to work on some unfinished projects in the Knitwork's stockpile.



UUSMV Caring Network Celebrating Its 10th Anniversary!

The Caring Network was established in 2001 with the mission of being a focal point for enlisting congregational members to provide help to other members when they are experiencing bereavement, illness, transition or other difficulties in need of support. This effort is intended to complement, not replace, the pastoral care given by the minister and the informal network of caring friends in the congregation who regularly help each other.

One member each month is the Coordinator for that month, arranging that whatever services are needed are provided, whether cards of caring, meals, rides, babysitting, etc. on a short-term basis. We urge use of already available island resources, such as Meals on Wheels, and professional counseling when needed as this is beyond our area of expertise. Help is confidential when appropriate and always individualized.

We celebrate and thank those who have taken a month of responsibility during the last 10 years.

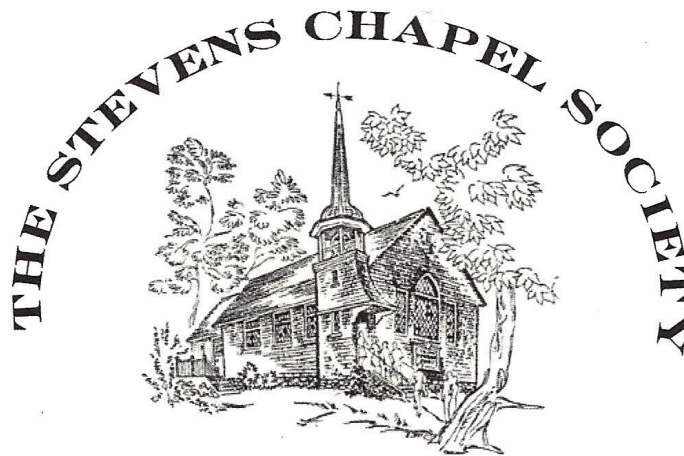
We welcome suggestions and anyone who would like to participate. Contact Sarah Shepard.

Growth Working Group Meeting

During its November meeting, the Parish Committee endorsed our initial efforts to support the spiritual, organizational and numeric growth of our congregation, building on all that UUSMV accomplished during Jill Cowie's first year with us.

At the next meeting, on Sunday, December 11 at 9 am, we will begin by viewing the first of a series of on-line courses given to us by Peter Bowden, the Ballou Channing District's growth consultant and Amy Friedman's husband. We will also work out the details of our Charter, based on the guidance we received at the Parish Committee. All are invited and welcome to participate.

Tad Crawford



FAQs

UUSMV Friends of the Island Food Pantry

The Island Food Pantry and the families who depend upon it are grateful to the following UUSMV members who canvassed for food during October and November: Steve Myrick, Betsy Buck, Mimi Davisson and Steve Engh, Tad and Judy Crawford, Dorie Godfrey, Johanna Kobran and Jack Street.

Friends of the Food Pantry has been one of UUSMV's most impacting social action programs ever. Right now, additional volunteers are badly needed. Contact Jack Street to find out how easy and rewarding this can be.

Deck the Halls, Deck the Halls, Deck the Halls

Join us after the service on Sunday, December 11, for a light lunch and decoration party for the chapel in preparation for the Candlelight Service on December 18. We will be trimming the tree, decorating the wreaths for the front doors, and hanging garlands and window decorations. Note: a bit of ladder work is involved in the garland hanging, so a few tall elves would be great to have around.

Q. What exactly is the purpose of The Stevens Chapel Society?

A. It's a way to recognize and honor UUSMV members who, through a bequest from a will or trust, make a commitment to help "keep the flame burning" for future generations.

Q. Isn't it a hassle to set up a bequest like this?

A. It's easy. While planning or updating a will, simply tell your advisor that you want to leave something to UUSMV. A few sentences is all that's needed.

Q. I know I should have a will, but in the meantime are there any other ways to leave a gift?

A. Yes. Just add UUSMV to the list of beneficiaries on a life insurance policy or, say, as a beneficiary to an IRA.

Q. What if I go ahead now but change my mind later (or my circumstances change)?

A. A bequest is revocable at any time until your death.

Q. Can I specify how my gift is to be used by UUSMV?

A. Yes. You can identify a specific program or project, make it contingent on certain events, or make it unrestricted.

Q. Can I become a member of The Stevens Chapel Society but remain anonymous?

A. Of course.

Contact Jack Street, Tad Crawford or Esther Hopkins to discuss any other question you may have and/or to get your legacy planning started.

Donations to Transylvania UU Church

If you would like to make a donation to Rev. David Gyero's UU congregation in Transylvania (Romania), please write your check to 'UUSMV', put 'Transylvania Church' in the memo line, and mail to UUSMV or put in the Sunday offering plate. Donations will be mailed in mid-December, so please get your check to the chapel by December 11. Thanks.

Mimi Davisson

Contact People From the
“Get Acquainted - Get Involved”
Evening

Social Action:

Friends of the Island Food Pantry – Jack Street
Living Beyond War - Jane Thayer
Smile Train - Ethan Fink

Worship & Music

Choir - Diane Purvis
Coordinating UU Guest Minister Services – Dorie Godfrey
Small Covenant Groups – Tad Crawford
Meta Theme - Reverend Jill
Music – Carol Loud, Director
Telling A Story from the Pulpit - Nancy Cox
Worship Committee - Nancy Cox

Lifelong Learning

Adult Lifelong Learning - Dorie Godfrey
Insight Meditation – Jo Rice
UU Explorers – Maddie Maccaferri

Stewardship

Cultivating a Culture of Stewardship – Reverend Jill
Stevens Chapel Society – Jack Street
Year-round Bed & Breakfast – Sarah Shepard

Facilities

Chairs Work Group –Chris Seidel
Facilities Planning Work Group – Dick Mezger/
Ewell Hopkins

Committees & Other Work Groups

By-laws & Policies Work Group –Peter Palches
Committee on Ministry – Clarke Myers
Finance Committee – Mary Miller
Growth Work Group – Tad Crawford
Ken Smith Speaker fund – Mimi Davisson
Membership (including Sunday Hospitality, Caring Network) – Sarah Shepard
Potlucks – Celeste Stickney
Men’s Group – Tad Crawford
Newsletter – Ann Maley
Parish Committee – Janet Holladay
Special Receptions – Betty Burton
Theater Group – Judy Crawford
Trustees – Debbie Dean
Website Work Group – Brie Bingham
Welcoming Congregation & PFLAG – Rita Brown
Women’s Group – Jeanne Hewett
Year-long Congregation-wide Event Planning – Janet Holladay

Letter from UUSMV
“Sister Congregation”
Minister Reverend
David Gyero



Dear Friends at UUSMV!

Warm greetings from our home in Kolozsvar, where we returned from the village after the Sunday service. I want to confirm with you that I arrived home safe and sound on last Wednesday, just in time for the 7th birthday party of our daughter Rebeka!

The family, and the congregation in Kolozs, was very happy to have me back, after the 2-weeks leave to the US. My overall time in the States was very good, I've met with many old friends, and I made some new ones. My visits to the islands - both Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard - were the highlight of the trip. They promise to be a wonderful addition to the partnership of our congregations.

But I am back home now, ready to move on with all kinds of duties. My first job continues to be director of administration at our church headquarters. I do have way too much on my plate in this job, for instance, the meeting of our Synod is coming up fast in early December where we ordain 16 young ministers, men and women, to the service of our church. Of course, I will continue to minister the Unitarian church in Kolozs as well. We will go to the village every Friday, stay there until Sunday, and enjoy the many gifts of the place, its people and its nature. We look forward to moving back to the parsonage in early December -- we would like to spend Christmas again in our old-and-new home.

I am preparing a presentation with pictures, to share my US experiences with the members of our congregation in Kolozs, most likely over a tea party one of these upcoming Saturdays. I will keep you posted, and also, will stay in touch about how to take our relationship forward from here.

Thank you, once again, very much for your many gifts that you shared with me over my time on the island. I am a very fortunate minister to have a congregation like Kolozs, and to have a partner church like UUSMV. I wish you all a wonderful thanksgiving holiday later this week!

Love from David and the family

***DEADLINE FOR JANUARY NEWS-
LETTER IS DECEMBER 15th, NOT
THE 20TH, because of Christmas.
Thanks! Ann Maley***

WOMEN’S GROUP

Even in this holiday month, the women’s group will meet on the first and third Thursdays. On Thursday, Dec. 1st the meeting will be held at the Chapel, 2-4pm. On Thursday, Dec 15th, we'll meet at Martha Mezger's new home.

Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard

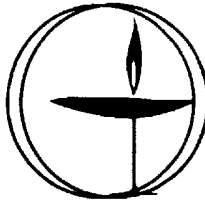


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Phone: 508-693-8982 Email: uu.society.mv@gmail.com Website: www.uusmv.info

Rev. Jill Cowie, 617-697-0922, RevJCowie@aol.com

Caring Coordinator:
Hospitality Coordinator:

All Activities Held at UUSMV Stevens Chapel Unless Otherwise Noted

Sunday	Mon	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Fri.	Saturday
 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Reverend Cowie's days on-island have bold borders. Please call her to schedule an appointment. </div>				1	2	3
				2:00 pm: Women's Group 6:00 pm Choir rehearsal		10:00 am: Men's Group Meeting 12:00-3:30 pm: Stewardship Training Workshop, Howe's House, West Tisbury 2:30-4:00 pm Buddhist Study and Sitting
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11:00 am - "Justice-Making As a Spiritual Practice" - Jesse Jaeger UU Explorers 		5:15 pm: Worship Committee Meeting	3:00 pm: Reverend Cowie's office hours	6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal		2:30-4:00 pm Buddhist Study and Sitting
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
11:00 am - Association Sunday - "Our Radical Creativity" - Reverend Cowie 12:30 pm: lunch and decorating for candlelight service			3:00 pm: Reverend Cowie's office hours 5:00 pm: Parish Committee Meeting	6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal Deadline for January newsletter submissions		2:30-4:00 pm Buddhist Study and Sitting
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
11:00 am - "Light in Darkness" - Reverend Cowie 5:00 pm: Candlelight Service 6:30 pm: Holiday Party at Grace Church  UU Explorers		12:00 pm: Lunch with Reverend Cowie at Waterside Marketplace, Main Street, Vineyard Haven 5:15 pm: Worship Committee Meeting		6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal		2:30-4:00 pm Buddhist Study and Sitting
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
11:00 am - "Return of the Light" - Mary Gillette and Arlene Conroy				6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal		2:30-4:00 pm Buddhist Study and Sitting



Order Holiday Poinsettias

UUSMV will be decorating for the holidays with poinsettias provided by members and friends. To order a poinsettia(s) please send your name, the number of plants you want, the preferred colors, the dedication to be included in the December 18 Candlelight Service program, and payment of \$18 per plant to UUSMV Treasurer, PO Box 1236, Vineyard Haven, MA 02568. Checks should be payable to UUSMV Flowers. Preferred colors are not guaranteed, but an effort will be made to honor preferences.

Payment for orders must be received by Fri., Dec. 9, 2011

Please plan to pick up your poinsettia(s) after the Dec. 18 service. Plants left at the chapel will be delivered to members and friends who are not able to attend the Candlelight service.



Deadline for January Newsletter

* * * * * December 15 * * * * *



UUSMV
PO Box 1236
Vineyard Haven, MA 02568