

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Owensboro

March 2012



DuWayne Keenan, Congregational President

Rev. Dr. Claudia A. Ramisch, Minister

CHARITY COLLECTION: CANNED GOODS FOR THE PANTRY @ THE SOCIAL SERVICES OFFICE

Caregiver's Lunch:

Tues, 6 March @12n

RSVP by 3 Mar to
hermitstuff@bellsouth.net

Reminder:

Board Meeting changed
to Monday 5 March
@ 6:30 pm
Chalice Center

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR!

VEGGIE FEAST: An Alternative Lenten Meal

Presented by UUCO At Trinity Episcopal Church
On Ford Ave.

FRIDAY, 23 MARCH 2011

SERVING 5:30-7:30 pm

\$8 Adults/ \$4 Children

\$25 for Carryout Four Pack

(CARRYOUT DOES NOT INCLUDE DRINKS)

Cash or Check Only

FOR TICKETS: LINDA (570-0323) or TRINITY (684-5326)

MENU TO INCLUDE

**Main Dishes: Spinach Lasagna, Enchiladas, Potato Masala,
Beans & Rice, Tossed Salad & Breads
Included: Coffee, Lemonade & Cookies
Mac & Cheese for Children**

Chalice Circle Offerings Will Continue

Chalice Circles are small group sharing offerings that include chalice lighting, deep check-in (joys and concerns,) discussion of a spiritual topic and panning for social action. Our first such offering was part of the Standing on the Side of Love campaign and didn't have the requisite number of sign-ups. However, Circles will continue to be offered. Watch for one in early April! This excerpt is from the UU Small Group Ministry Quarterly Journal. It describes the practice of directed personal sharing in "deep check-in." This practice relies on confidentiality and is key to building small group trust.

Directed Check-In: Connecting Through Personal Sharing

Susan Hollister & Christine Trigeiro,
UU SGM Quarterly Winter 2010 Facilitator's Toolbox

Has this ever happened? Half of your group members have checked in and the next speaker tells about eating at a new restaurant with good friends. The person next to her checks-in, saying he's eaten at that restaurant, and describes his meal. A member across the circle, who has already checked-in, asks where the restaurant is and suggests the whole group go there together. Yikes, check-in has been hijacked!

Check-in is the first opportunity in the session for members to start connecting with one another. While others listen deeply, each person shares from the heart and mind what meaningful thoughts, feelings, or insights have occurred since the last meeting. It is part of the process of developing trust and intimacy in covenant groups that grows and expands over time. Each person uses "I" statements to describe what they have been thinking about lately, the situations they have "left behind" to be there with the group, the joys they've had or anticipate, or the concerns or heavy feelings they are carrying. The above scenario expresses some pleasure, but not much that would be meaningful for the group to know about that person's feelings or thoughts. It was a restaurant review, but could just as easily have been a travelogue. How can we explain deeper sharing to new groups or guide a group back to personal check-ins?

Here are several ways:

- Spell out expectations in program's guidelines or the session plans. i
- include a statement in your group covenant and to review it now and then, reminding the group of the purpose of check-in.
- Have the facilitator model an impersonal versus a personal check-in. Ask group members to think about their check-in ahead of time. What might they want to share that would allow the group to know more about them?
- Let your group know it's okay to gently bring each other back when check-in veers toward events and away from thoughts and feelings.

Excerpt from: *Spring*
by Celia Thaxter

The alder by the
river
Shakes out her
powdery curls;
The willow buds in
silver
For little boys and
girls.
The little birds fly
over
And oh, how sweet
they sing!
To tell the happy
children
That once again 'tis
spring.

**SPRING ARRIVES:
20 MARCH**

We bathe your palms
In the showers of wine,
In the crook of the kindling,
In the seven elements,
In the sap of the tree,
In the milk of honey,
We place nine pure, choice gifts
In your clear beloved face:
The gift of form,
The gift of voice,
The gift of fortune,
The gift of goodness,
The gift of eminence,
The gift of charity,
The gift of integrity,
The gift of true nobility,
The gift of apt speech.



Traditional Gaelic Prayer



Rev. Ramisch will take her two-week block
of vacation from 8 -21 March.
She will use 3 of 12 study days 29-31 March.
(She is on call during study time.)