



# The Searchlight

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia, Missouri

2615 Shepard Blvd., Columbia, MO 65201 • 573-442-5764 • [www.uuchurch.net](http://www.uuchurch.net) • Volume 54, Issue 7, March 2015

## Worship Services

March 2015

*Services begin at 10:30 a.m.*

**Sunday, March 1**

**“Five Dollars is Five Dollars”**

**by Rev. Greg Ward**

**– Stewardship Team**

When faced with making decisions over necessities, not luxuries, do we understand our resources? How does the spirit respond with generosity and grace while feeling the trepidation of tender moments of the past? Are we trapped in doubt? Your Stewardship Team will share the UUA 2014 Stewardship Award Sermon by the Rev. Greg Ward.

**Sunday, March 8**

**“Truthiness”**

**Rev. Molly Housh Gordon**

In the age of “truthiness” and spin, the rigorous pursuit of truth becomes more important than ever. But is truth something we can find, once and for all? Join us to explore the search for truth with insights from philosophy, science, and more.

**Sunday, March 15**

**“Spring”**

**Green Sanctuary Team**

Celebrate the emerging season and the beauty of our earthly home with our Green Sanctuary Team.

**Continued on Page 4**

## Our March Worship Theme:

# Truth

*As Unitarian Universalists, we affirm and promote...*

*A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.*

– Fourth Principle of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Where do we look when we search for truth? Does truth exist outside us somewhere, in the material world? Does it exist within, amid our own experience and perception of reality? Or does it emerge somewhere between, where inner meets outer?

As Unitarian Universalists, we are committed to searching for truth, but words become slippery the moment we seek to define what truth itself might be. Perhaps it is only the search itself we can count on, as the ground of truth shifts and moves beneath us.

This month in worship, we will explore the many aspects of a search for truth – philosophical concepts of Truth and truths; contemporary scientific understandings of how we perceive reality; psychological hypotheses about why we lie to ourselves and others; and theological musings on the great mystery of the known and the unknown.

All the while, we continue to commit ourselves to the search for truth and meaning, slippery though it may be.

See you in church!

Rev. Molly

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# Stewardship 2015



Our 2015 Stewardship Campaign got off to a good start on Sunday, Feb. 15, with pledges from 30 pledgers totaling \$68,540 by the end of the day – and after worship on Feb. 22, we had 57 pledges totaling \$109,385. Many thanks to our early pledgers!

**We've got a long way to go, however, to meet our goal of pledges from *all 170 potential pledgers* and our target of \$260,000.**

Dennis Murphy's lovely campaign banner in the Greeting Area, shown above, perfectly captures our theme of “All Together Now” – we are all in the same boat, all stewards of this beloved church, and all responsible for its well-being, preservation and forward movement.

The Stewardship Team is very serious about this year's goal of 100% pledging. For the current fiscal year, one in five of our potential pledgers did not pledge, limiting our ability to budget effectively and plan ahead for the growth we're experiencing.

So we ask those of you who haven't pledged before but routinely put money in the offering basket to pledge at least the amount you would put in the basket over a year's time. **All pledges make a difference!**

And we're asking those of you who routinely pledge to consider increasing your pledges.

We calculate that if overall pledging by current pledgers increases by about 20%, and if we achieve 100% pledging, we will see an overall increase of about \$50,000, which would meet our need of \$260,000 for 2015-16.

For more information about where pledge dollars go, the financial needs for 2015-16, and factors to consider when pledging, see the next page.

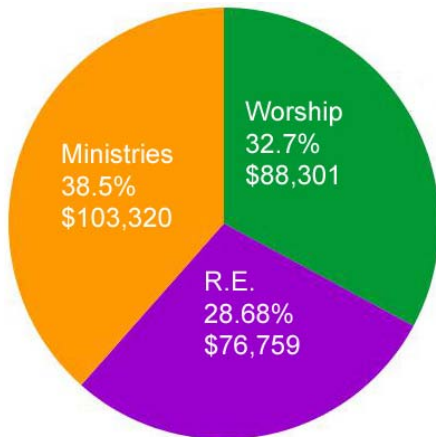
In spirit and service,  
Steve Scott, Stewardship Chair

**Pledge online at [http://uuchurch.net/stewardship\\_2015-online\\_pledge\\_form.htm](http://uuchurch.net/stewardship_2015-online_pledge_form.htm)**



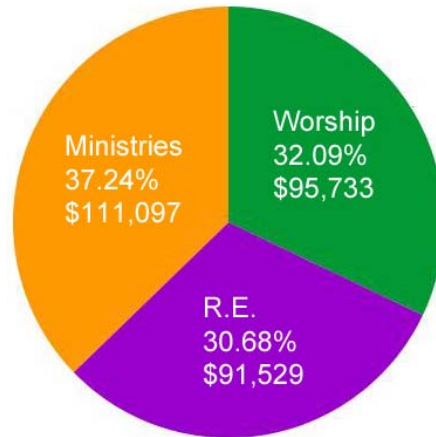
# Where Does Your Pledge Money Go?

2014-15 Program Budget



Ministries per week – \$1,986.92  
 Worship per week – \$1,698.10  
 R.E. per week – \$1,476.13

Projected 2015-16 Program Budget



Ministries per week – \$2,136.48  
 Worship per week – \$1,841.02  
 R.E. per week – \$1,760.17

## Program Budget Notes

**Ministries include:** Social Action Team and activities; small groups; church service groups; adult religious education; Young Adult Group; OWL; public relations/website; and related costs for staff, facilities and administration.

**Worship includes:** Worship services; music program; and related costs for staff, facilities and administration.

**Religious Education includes:** Children’s R.E. program and related costs for staff, facilities and administration.

## 2015-16 Needs

- With the impending retirement of Lisa Fritsche as Director of Religious Education, we are seeking to make the DRE position nearly full-time from September through May and part-time from June through August. This alone will increase our pledging need by about \$9,000.

- Other staff and administrative expenses are projected to increase by about 5%.

- We have drawn on now almost depleted reserve funds the past two years to meet pledging shortfalls, and we need to rebuild a reserve to cover unanticipated expenses.

Based on these projections, we estimate we need total pledges of \$260,000 for 2015-16, a \$50,000 increase over current pledges.

## Considering your pledge amount

The amount you pledge is your personal decision based on your financial resources and needs. Please consider the following information when deciding on your pledge:

### Current Fiscal Year Pledges

	No. of Pledges	Pledge Range
Top 25% of total pledged	10	\$4,100 to \$9,000
Next 25% of total pledged	16	\$2,030 to \$4,000
Next 25% of total pledged	30	\$1,380 to \$2,004
Next 25% of total pledged	73	\$40 to \$1,320

The current pledge distribution is very bottom-heavy, which can cause serious shortfalls when people in the top 50% of the total amount pledged reduce their pledges or no longer pledge for some reason. Thus, the Stewardship Team urges pledgers to move into a higher pledge range if they are able.

**All pledges make a difference!** A pledge of only \$1 per day (\$365/year) from the 20% of potential pledgers who have not pledged before, together with a 20% increase in pledges from current pledgers, would meet our 2015-16 needs.

For more pledging guidance, see the UUA Suggested Fair Share Contribution Guide on the pledge cards and on a handout available in the Greeting Area.

# March Worship Theme: *Truth*

## Wise Words

“In a time of universal deceit – telling the truth is a revolutionary act.” – George Orwell

“There is no truth. There is only perception.” – Gustave Flaubert

“I’m for truth, no matter who tells it. I’m for justice, no matter who it’s for or against.” – Malcolm X

“The greatest enemy of any one of our truths may be the rest of our truths.” – William James

“A thing may happen and be a total lie; another thing may not happen and be truer than the truth.” – Tim O’Brien

“Truth is tough. It will not break, like a bubble, at a touch, nay, you may kick it all about all day like a football, and it will be round and full at evening.” – Oliver Wendell Holmes

“The truth is rarely pure and never simple.” – Oscar Wilde

“Truth, like gold, is to be obtained not by its growth, but by washing away from it all that is not gold.” – Leo Tolstoy

## Want to reflect further? Check out these resources...

*Truth, Beauty, and Goodness Re-framed: Educating for the Virtues in the Age of Truthiness and Twitter* by Howard Gardner

*The (Honest) Truth About Dishonesty* by Dan Ariely

*Blink* by Malcolm Gladwell

Ted Talk by Marco Tempest, “The Magic of Truth and Lies”: [www.ted.com/talks/marco\\_tempest\\_the\\_magic\\_of\\_truth\\_and\\_lies\\_on\\_ipods?language=en](http://www.ted.com/talks/marco_tempest_the_magic_of_truth_and_lies_on_ipods?language=en)

Radiolab Podcast, “Deception”: [www.radiolab.org/story/91612-deception/](http://www.radiolab.org/story/91612-deception/)

Radiolab Podcast, “The Fact of the Matter”: <http://www.radiolab.org/story/239470-the-fact-of-the-matter/>

## March Worship

Continued from Page 1

Sunday, March 22

“Two Truths and a Lie”

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

Why do we lie, to each other *and* to ourselves? Is it sometimes right or good to lie? And might even our lies contain something of the truth? Join us to consider the meeting point of deception, delusion, fiction, and belief.

Sunday, March 29

“The Wisdom of Uncertainty”

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

Socrates tells us that “the only true wisdom is in knowing you know nothing.” As Unitarian Universalists, how do we pursue our search for truth and meaning with adequate regard for the great mysteries of life? Join us to encounter the unknowable.

## Minister’s Monthly Challenge:

*Examine your core truths...*

Spend some time this month considering these questions:

- What are some of the truths that you live by?
- How, if at all, have those truths changed?
- What guides you in establishing something as true in your life?

Yours Truly,  
Rev. Molly

Unitarian Universalist Church of



Columbia, Missouri

# Forum for March 2015

9 a.m. Sundays

*The UU Forum, an adult discussion group open to the public, meets on Sundays from 9 to 10 a.m. Conversation and light refreshments are offered along with the discussion. Childcare is offered at no charge in our nursery. If you have ideas for a program or would like to make a presentation at Forum, contact the coordinator, Bill Clark, at 573-474-4510.*

## **Sunday, March 1**

Jessica Macy, Director of the Boone County Council on Aging (BCCA), will discuss the essential services and volunteer assistance provided by the agency to the elderly in our community.

## **Sunday, March 8**

Kathy Thornburg, MU Professor Emerita of Human Development and Family Studies, will share her observations of expanding interest in early childhood at the state and federal levels.

## **Sunday, March 15**

Melissa Carr, Director of the Daniel Boone Regional Library, will discuss the new services at the library that promote lifelong learning. She wants to hear how the library can better address community needs as it develops a long-range strategic plan.

## **Sunday, March 22**

Elaine Blodgett, president of the Missouri League of Women Voters, will present an overview of current issues and events at the state level for this service organization.

## **Sunday, March 29**

Jan Stock, Executive Director of Rainbow House, will speak about Rainbow House programs and other local community concerns.

## **Introducing your DRE Search Team**

As we prepare for the summer retirement of Lisa Fritsche, our beloved Director of Religious Education (DRE), we have been working hard on transition planning. Your R.E. Team and I have spent the fall gathering input and doing our own discernment regarding the future of our program. Here are some of the priorities that have emerged:

- Expand the DRE position as much as is possible at this time – from 25 hours/week 10 months of the year to 35 hours/week from September to May and 10 hours/week from June to August.
- Add to the position oversight and support for our high school age youth program and seek a candidate who enjoys working with teens and understands our philosophy of youth leadership development and youth-led curricula.
- Emphasize our growing focus on multi-generational community building, including multi-generational worship, multi-generational fellowship, and support to families raising UU kids.
- Emphasize our mission of radical welcome and our desire to become increasingly accessible to individuals of all ages, abilities, learning needs, and experiences. Seek a candidate conversant in varying curricula and pedagogies to this end.

We have now gathered a Search Team that will partner with me in a search process for our new Director of Religious Education. We will be advertising the position nationally and regionally, and we are also very open to local candidates. By March 1, we plan to have the position posted and to be accepting applicants.

**Members of your DRE Search Team are:** Carol Arnold, Heather Carver, Joe Collins, Adele Dorman (youth member), Kadie Elmore (youth member), Tracey Milarsky, and Dennis Murphy.

Please do not hesitate to be in touch with me or one of our search team members if you have questions or comments about our hiring process!

In Faith,

Rev. Molly

[minister@uuchurch.net](mailto:minister@uuchurch.net)

573-442-5764

## **Updated church website coming soon**

Our current church website, launched in August 2011, is undergoing a complete redesign that will be unveiled in the next couple of months. The updated site will use the Wordpress web publishing platform, which will allow for much greater interactivity.

The existing content will be repackaged in a cleaner, easy-to-navigate format.

Included on the new site will be a minister's blog, an R.E. news blog and a general news blog, all of which will automatically feed new posts to our public Facebook page.

The Wordpress system will allow multiple people to update the site as needed and enable us to host our own calendar and sign-ups instead of relying on external websites for those functions.

# News and Information

## **Second Annual Trivia Night to Benefit Honduras Work a Great Success**

The second annual trivia night put on by the Honduras Covenant Group on Jan. 24 was attended by more than 100 people. The evening included a chili contest, a silent auction, fair trade sewing cooperative items for sale, and a bar. The winning table won tickets to the Ragtag Cinema donated by Tracy Lane. Joelle Quoirin, the chili contest winner, won an apron.

The trivia night raised \$3,600! Most of this money and the money raised through the Faith-to-Action collection in October will be contributed to the health clinic in El Pital, the microfinance organization Adelante and the Juan Pablo Segundo Fair Trade Sewing Cooperative and Community Center. Also, the church general fund will receive \$500.

More details are to come in the April newsletter on how the money is being spent and on plans for the next Honduras trip. The group will keep you posted!

In the meantime, thank you to everyone who came to the trivia night and made it such a fun and successful event. Thank you to all who donated and bought silent auction items. Thank you for everyone's generosity. And thank you to all who weren't able to make it but still donated and to the whole church for your enthusiasm and interest.

– Allie Gassmann, Social Action Team, [alliegassmann@socket.net](mailto:alliegassmann@socket.net)

### **Community Office Hours**

Rev. Molly will be holding community office hours every Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Kaldi's Coffee downtown.

Stop by to say hello, chat briefly, or settle in for a longer conversation.

### **Need a Ride?**

Do you need a ride to church on Sunday, or a church function at another time? We are coordinating rides as part of the Caring Ministry. Please call the church office at 573-442-5764 or contact Marianne Erickson, Team Leader.

## **Our Presence on the Web**

Go to

<http://uuchurch.net>

**for complete information on church activities  
and our online calendar of events.**

## **Adult RE Team Seeks Your Views**

Can you take a moment to help out your Adult Religious Education team? We are working on developing relevant programming to meet your religious education needs. The only problem is that what is relevant to us may not be relevant to you. Please take a few minutes to fill out this online survey so we can make your adult religious education experience relevant to you:

[www.surveymonkey.com/  
s/RZHDL3](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RZHDL3)

## **Young Adults Group**

The UU Young Adults group has been reinvigorated! All young adults age 18-35 affiliated with the UU Church of Columbia are invited.

Meetings are every second Sunday after the worship service at the church. We also are planning monthly social events.

Contact Becca Kastner to get on the email list or for more information at [bmkastner@gmail.com](mailto:bmkastner@gmail.com).

## **Join the fun with Hook & Needle Group**

Want to learn how to knit or crochet? Already know how? Take a break and join our church's Hook & Needle Group.

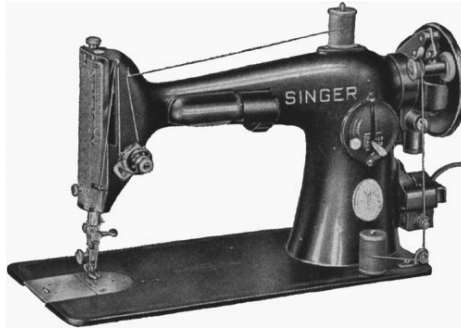
Yarn, patterns and tutoring are available. We meet in the church on Tuesdays at 2 p.m.

For more information, call Marian Hjelmfelt at 573-449-5118.

# Reflections

## 3rd Sunday Lunch in March... Deconstructing Machines

Start saving your broken small appliances! So far we've received a blender, a dust buster, a space heater, headphones, a toaster oven, etc. Our budding engineers want to dig into these items and more at our March "3rd Sunday Lunch," so be sure to bring them to church by Sunday, March 15, and feel free to come join the fun!



**March 2015**

**Lisa Fritsche,**

Director of Religious Education

[dre@uuchurch.net](mailto:dre@uuchurch.net)

573-442-5764

**Office Hours:**

Sunday 8 a.m.-noon & by appt.

### Important Dates

Mar. 1 - Rainbow House  
Birthday Bags Service  
Sunday

Mar. 6 - Jr. Youth Dance  
Party

Mar. 15 - Take Apart  
Machines at 3rd Sunday  
Lunch

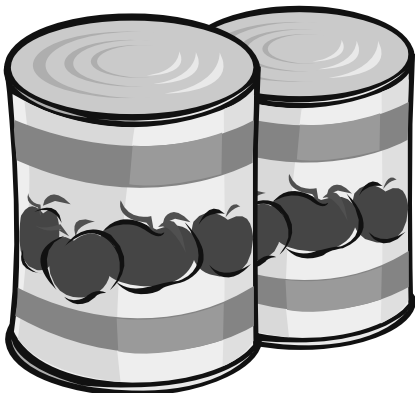
Mar. 22 - Group Sunday  
Games & Puzzles Day

## Canned Food Needed!

Believe it or not, Easter is right around the corner. On Easter morning, our kids will be hunting for canned goods in the back woods. So.....we

need some canned goods for which to hunt! You need to bring your donations by Sunday, March 29, but it wouldn't hurt to start bringing them now!

After the cans are found by our kids, they will find their way to the Central Missouri Food Bank (the cans, not the kids.)



# Please Leave Your Toys at Home!

Bringing beloved toys to church risks them being left behind, or lost. They can also turn into a big distraction during Sunday school. If kids bring toys along to keep them busy as parents are in meetings, please be sure that the toys find their way to the car before Sunday school begins. Thanks so much for your help with this little problem.



# Teachers...Mark Your Calendars!

The annual THANK YOU breakfast for teachers and their families will be held on Sunday, March 15. You won't want to miss this tasty event!



See you at church!



# Jr. Youth Dance Party!

The Jr. Youth Group will meet next on Friday, March 6 for a Dance Party! Members, watch your mailbox for your official invitation with more information. Be ready for FUN!





## Programs and Events

### First Sunday Potluck – March 1

On the first Sunday of each month from September through June, we gather for our “First Sunday Potluck” immediately following the worship service. Please bring a dish to share so we’ll have enough for our guests!

### Fair Trade Sale – March 8

Fair trade coffee, tea and chocolate is available for purchase in the Greeting Area before and after worship every second Sunday from September through May.

### UUC Men’s Group

The UUC Men’s Group meets on the second, fourth, and fifth Saturdays of each month at 8 a.m. at the Holiday Inn Executive Center.

The group is open to all men. There are no fees and no reservations are necessary. The agenda is an open discussion of whatever is on the minds of those in attendance – and breakfast! For more information contact Wiley Miller.

### UU Life Writers

### Spring Writing Group

UU Life Writers is for people who like to write – and write memoir! One does not need to be a professional writer – or even an English major. We gather to write and share.

We meet the first and third Saturdays of every month in the Centering Room at 10:30 a.m. All you need are your favorite writing implements and paper.

The theme for the spring sessions is “Stepping Stones.”

Future dates are:

- March 7 and 21
- April 4 and 18
- May 2 and 16, and maybe 30

For additional information contact Fran Reynolds at [freynolds@centurytel.net](mailto:freynolds@centurytel.net) or 573-443-4336.

### Our Mission

*In the spirit of courageous love, we forge a community of radical welcome and deep connection that moves us together to heal the world.*

### Meditation in Nature – March 15

#### *Come into the peace of wild things...*

Meditation in Nature takes place at Gans Creek Wildlife Area every third Sunday from 9 to 10 a.m. Its purpose is to build a connection between spiritual practice and environmental consciousness, and it is open to all who love nature.

For more information contact Peter Holmes at 573-239-7789 or [naturemeditation@yahoo.com](mailto:naturemeditation@yahoo.com).

### Book Discussion Group – March 13

The UU Book Discussion Group will meet at 5 p.m. March 13 at ABC Chinese Cuisine. Bring a book you have read to discuss briefly.

Call Pam at 573-445-0642 if you have questions.

### Conversations, Etc. – March 11

The Conversations, Etc. women’s group will meet at noon Wednesday, March 11, at the church. Bring a brown bag lunch and a snack to share if you wish.

Call Melinda at 573-445-6325 if you have questions.

## YRUU

YRUU is our church’s high school youth group. It is open to all high school age teens, including those whose families are not active in our church.

The group meets most Sundays from noon to 2 p.m. and occasionally on other days and at other times.

For schedule updates, see <http://uuchurch.net/yruu.htm>.

#### **Sunday, March 1**

No Meeting

#### **Sunday, March 8**

True/False Film and Discussion

#### **Sunday March 15**

Lay-Led Service Planning

#### **Sunday, March 22**

Bowling

#### **Sunday, March 29**

The Walk with Meg Hegemann

# Social Action Team News

## Columbia CROP Hunger Walk named Columbia Values Diversity Award Winner

The Columbia CROP Hunger Walk and 5K Run was honored as the 2015 Columbia Values Diversity Award Winner - Group Division at the annual Columbia Diversity Celebration on Thursday, Jan. 15.

Our CROP Hunger WALK and 5K Run includes people from faith traditions across our community – Christian, Hindu, Muslim, Jewish, Baha'i and others. We may walk in different circles throughout the year, but we come together at the WALK/5K Run to raise funds to fight hunger and help meet the needs of people here at home and around the world.

Local and online donations from our September WALK & 5K Run totaled \$14,062.05.

Local funds (25% of the total, or \$3,515.00) are now being put to work through:

- Loaves & Fishes Soup Kitchen
- Russell Chapel CME Community Food Pantry
- The Latter House Kingdom Ministries Food Pantry
- Fifth Street Christian Church's *Feed the Community* program

Global funds (75% of the total) help support the ecumenical ministry of Church World Service which works with partners around the world – including the United States – to eradicate hunger and poverty by providing sustainable self-help and development, disaster relief, and refugee assistance. Our world needs compassionate care and development more than ever.

The generous support of our community is greatly appreciated! Watch for ways you can participate in this project in fall 2015.

– UUCS CROP Walk Organizer: Allie Gassmann, Social Action Team

### Food barrel

Since Thanksgiving, we have taken 255 pounds of non-perishable food items to the Central Pantry. Thanks to all who feed the food barrel, as well as our less fortunate neighbors.



## Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

Our church contributed \$725 to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) via the Faith-to-Action collection held on Dec. 21.

Also, the “instant” Guest-at-Your-Table collection at the Jan. 4 potluck brought \$585 in individual membership contributions to UUSC. Other people contributed independently to “Guest.”

So thanks to everyone who helps UUSC carry out its mission in our name.

What is UUSC's mission? To find out, visit [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org).



## Plastics Recycling

Because the City of Columbia now takes all types of plastics for recycling, the GS Team has discontinued its plastic recycling project. Those individuals living in the Columbia city limits should use curbside recycling at their home. However, if you live outside the city limits and would like to recycle, please contact one of the following about delivering your recyclables to the church:

Patty Daus ([pdaus@mchsi.com](mailto:pdaus@mchsi.com))

Vic Myers ([myersv@missouri.edu](mailto:myersv@missouri.edu))

## Lay-Led Worship Service

The GS Lay-Led Service is Sunday, March 15. Please join us for a service celebrating spring. GS plans to sell enthusiasm-building T-shirts either on March 15 or the following Sunday. Watch for a table in the greeting area to place your order and to check out the T-shirts on display.

## Vegetarian Cooking Class

Another vegetarian cooking class will be offered in late March. The cost of the class is \$5/person to defray costs for ingredients. If interested please contact Lisa Guillory ([lisa.a.guillory@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.a.guillory@gmail.com)) regarding what nights are convenient, and a date will be announced later.

## Transportation Project

Surveys are underway to determine vehicle use for church activities, and a plan will be presented this year for alternate transportation. If interested in serving on the GS project group for transportation and ethical use of vehicles, please contact Allie Gassmann ([alliegassmann@socket.net](mailto:alliegassmann@socket.net)) Jan Weaver ([weaverjc@missouri.edu](mailto:weaverjc@missouri.edu)) or Ellen Thomas ([ellen.thomas@centurytel.net](mailto:ellen.thomas@centurytel.net)).

## Harvest Supper

Harvest Supper is in the fall, and that seems far from now, but it takes lots of planning to feed 100 people! The GS team is seeking two people to co-chair the Harvest Supper planning group. Contact Lisa Guillory if you like to cook and have fresh ideas about how to convey the importance of eating local food.

## Earth Day

Columbia Area Earth Day Festival is Sunday, April 19. In March you'll be sent a link for SignUpGenius so we can begin organizing volunteers, but it's important to mark the date on your calendars now so you'll "save the date."

## Green Sanctuary Accreditation

The GS Team continues planning for submitting an application for Green Sanctuary Accreditation, but the challenges are great. We are investigating partnerships and projects with Missouri Rural Crisis Center, Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture, School Garden Projects (CCUA), and Harvest of the Month Program (Slow Food Katy Trail). We welcome any and all ideas for how to partner with local organizations to live the value of ethical food production and consumption, and to aid communities and neighborhoods harmed by current practices. Please contact a GS member to get involved.

## Next Meeting

Our next meeting is at Lisa Guillory's home on Tuesday, March 10 at 7 p.m. Please join us. There are lots of opportunities to get involved in Green Sanctuary activities.



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**Kathie Bergman, Administrator**

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Telephone: 573-442-5764

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Visit our Website: <http://uuchurch.net>

## **2014-2015 Board of Trustees**

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Unitarian Universalist Church of



Columbia, Missouri

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Email to [uuchurch@uuchurch.net](mailto:uuchurch@uuchurch.net),  
or mail to Church Administrator.

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