



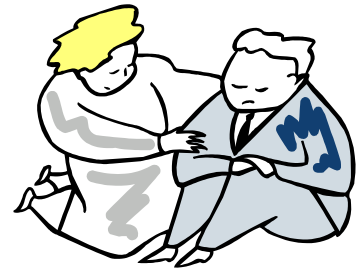
MAGNET

ALEXANDER'S MEANDERS

Intimacy - I've been thinking a lot about that word lately. On the one hand, I've been thinking about how rare true intimacy is with another human being. Of course there are various levels of intimacy with other human beings. But the deepest level of intimacy, where we do not have to be guarded about what we think, how we feel, or what we say, or judgmental about what another person thinks, feels, or says, is quite rare. I have this level of intimacy with my wife, a few friends, and my dog... and I don't think I'm unique in this respect. I think most people have few places in their lives where they have achieved true intimacy.

I've also been thinking about how difficult it is to describe intimacy. This is probably because the more intimate we are the less thinking and talking their needs to be. Intimacy is more like thinking with one's feelings, as opposed to feeling with one's thoughts, like many of us tend to do. It's definitely a feeling, or maybe a mixture of feelings, that grows out of our relationship with another human being and also remains somewhat ineffable. After all, in those truly intimate moments, to speak at all seems to falsify everything, does it not?

But mostly, when I've been thinking about intimacy lately I've been thinking about what prevents it. What prevents intimacy is lack of communication (lack of *good* listening, lack of *good* speaking), the tendency to judge, the insistence on one's own point of view, the inability to be fully present with oneself first and foremost so that we are able to be fully present with another, among other such foibles. And of course, encountering other people who demonstrate these same foibles is a barrier to intimacy as well.



What this leads me to conclude is that if we want more intimacy in our lives, we must begin by examining ourselves. We must ask ourselves in our more honest moments, do we listen *well*? Do we speak *well*? Do we judge others? Are we insistence on our own point of view? Are we able to be fully present with ourselves? Are we able to be fully present with another? It's easy to miss these foibles in ourselves, and missing these foibles blame others for what we experience.

By now you must be wondering, why this diatribe on intimacy? I shared this thinking because I want to encourage each and every one of us to see church as one of the few places in our lives are we can seek true intimacy. I want to encourage each and every one of us to see church as a place where we can be intentional about examining our foibles. I want to encourage each and every one of us to see church as a place where we understand that others may be looking for intimacy with us. — What precious gifts we have the potential to be for one another!!!

Namaste, Alex

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The year is passing so quickly that some days I feel like I hardly have time to catch my breath. It has been a stunning autumn, with sunny days and beautiful color. Soon winter will be upon us with the holidays, the cold and the snow. No matter what happens in the rest of our lives, the seasons keep rolling by, adding variety and constancy all at the same time. There are new goals being planned at UUCF, and I particularly like the one about creating a more caring and loving community. In the Religious Education Program, learning in community has always been what we are about. Our children and youth, and even our

adults, can only ask their questions and search for their answers in an atmosphere of safety and companionship. We strive for this in everything we do in RE.

With Thanksgiving coming up soon, I want to make sure that everyone feels welcome to attend one of our multi-generational holiday services on Sunday,

November 20, 2005. Our puppet friends, Pig and Wolf, will be back with some lessons on life. They are so happy to have the lovely puppet theatre created by Lynn Seaton. Rev. Alex and I appreciate not having to sit on the floor anymore when Pig and Wolf are visiting. Their visits used to be a back-breaking experience for us! On this day we'll be having a special "spoon offering" for Haven, the program for victims of domestic violence. It seems that their shelter is in need of silverware and RE has offered to help. So please come to church on November 20 and bring your family and friends and a spoon or two. Sit up front so you get a good view.

November brings with it some other special events. On the 13th during the coffee hours, there will be board games in Adams Hall for everyone who would like to play. This will provide an opportunity for adults and children to have

some fun together and get to know each other better. On the afternoon of November 20, there will be a card making party sponsored by the RE Committee. For about one dollar per card, you'll be able to make personalized greetings for all occasions using special stamps and beautiful colors. Come join the fun!

On the Sunday after Thanksgiving, Barb Danielsen will be leading a Holiday Craft Hour for the children during the adult service time. They will be making gifts and decorations for the winter holidays and getting in the spirit of the season. If you are in town, I hope that you'll come to church so that your children can participate.

Next month, December, (yikes!), the children in RE will be working on a presentation for the early Christmas Eve service. We'll also be collecting holiday gifts and gift-cards for the children and parents at Haven. Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and New Years offer unique opportunities for us all to contemplate the state of our world and our contributions to it. I wish for you a Thanksgiving filled with love and gratitude.

I am thankful for all of you!

Kathy Silver
Director of Religious Education



LET THE GAMES BEGIN!

You're invited to **Games Day!** - November 13

Please, join the children of **Religious Education** for Games Day on Sunday, November 13, during coffee hour after both services. Join us for a variety of board games and card games. Play games with new and old friends! Let the games begin!

EXECUTIVE EXCURSIONS

Things are MOVIN' and SHAKIN' at UUCF!

The **MOVIN'** part -- the Executive Board has decided to move our Sunday Morning Service times. Beginning in January, we will start our first service at 9:30 and our second service at 11:30. There will be a single coffee hour between services, no coffee hour after the late service. The primary reason for this change is the relatively low attendance at our present 9 o'clock service. We are hopeful this change will attract more people to the first service, adding more energy. Alex and Kathy felt we needed to do something to boost attendance at our early service. We are looking at this as an "experiment" which we will conduct through next May. We'll re-evaluate then. Please let us know your opinions (as if I had to encourage you).

The **SHAKIN'** part -- there's a lot of exciting activity at UUCF these days!

- The Stewardship Campaign is in full swing with over 50 of us directly involved as canvassers and all of us very much involved as we make financial commitments for next year.
- There is also meaningful progress being made toward our goals. Our New Building goal, under the excellent leadership of Linda Brown, is being pursued by a team of about twelve of us at this time. We have met a number of times and Linda has written an article in this Magnet explaining our progress in much more detail. As part of the team, I can tell you it's exciting to think about what we can achieve over the next few years. All of you are invited to become involved. Read Linda's article!!
- Our Robust Program goal is also shaping up in the Program Council lead by our Moderator Renzo Hutchinson. We recognized earlier this year that our committees were very ably focused on what each of them do, but we were not looking at the impact we could achieve by having a number of committees join in pursuit of a common "Integrated Program". As Renzo leads us through this process, we are coming to the point where we will launch our first Integrated Program in early 2006. It will be focused on World Religions. A number of our committees will be working together to drive this program. You'll be hearing more about this soon.
- A third area we are moving ahead in is our goal to "Define the Philosophical/Religious Makeup of Our Church", or "Who We Are". We are looking at the diversity of beliefs we have at UUCF and hopefully, realizing how much we can learn from each other if we respectfully listen to each other in a spirit of learning/understanding. In addition to the greater appreciation we will have for each other, we will use this information in at least two ways: to create new programs and to advertise our church in the community. We started this process with a potluck dinner and Congregational Conversation last month. We're continuing this month with a series of small group meetings at UUCF scheduled every Sunday through Nov 20th at 12:30 PM. For our 9 AM service folks we have a meeting scheduled on Sunday Nov 13th at 10:30 AM. Small group meetings scheduled at other times are:

Monday, **Nov. 7** at 7 PM - Tuesday, **Nov. 8** at 7 PM - Wednesday, **Nov. 9** at 7 PM - Friday, **Nov. 18** at 9:30 AM

If you did not attend the Congregational Conversation on October 16, please attend one of these meetings. You will gain an appreciation of the wonderful diversity we have at UUCF. It may even cause you to rethink some of your own beliefs. There's a lot going on. Find some areas that interest you and join in. One of the greatest benefits of membership at UUCF is the opportunity to be involved with some of the most enthusiastic, capable, inquisitive, intelligent people you will ever meet!!

George Rourk, President

IDEAS ...THOUGHTS ... JOYS ... SORROWS ...



Mom2Mom Thanks!

On behalf of The Religious Education Program, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to all the volunteers, bakers, sellers and well wishers who helped make our first Mom2Mom sale a success. In addition to our friends at UUCF, we would like to acknowledge The Costick Center for donating three City of Farmington Entertainment Books to our efforts. Also thanks to Jean's Hardware on 12 Mile for offering to lend us tables and chairs free of charge, if we needed them. It's so great when members of a community are willing to share resources and help support each others' goals. It's what community is all about and it's all about community!

We netted \$731.41 from the sale that will be used to put mulch on the playground. Happily, the children will have a soft, safe place to land if they take a tumble out there. Even better, about 115 moms and dads came through the church that day, most for the first time. I understand that quite a few were interested enough in our little church in the woods to take some brochures home with them. Some of the table renters really enjoyed friendly conversation with our volunteers. We think we've made some really neat new friends that we hope to stay connected with.

Kelli Carpenter Crawford and Leah Baker

Thanks from JP!

I would like to thank everyone who sent me letters, cards, and jokes while I was away at boot camp. They meant so much to me and were so uplifting on every single day. In my 13 weeks away, you can be sure I thought of everyone all the time, especially as I read and reread the letters over and over again. Thank you again.

Sincerely, PFC JP Barna, USMC

Thank you!

I would like to thank all of you who sent me cards after I had my left hip replacement while I was in acute rehab, first at Swaith Hospital and then at Eaton County Medical Facility for a total of four weeks. It was much appreciated.

Genevieve H.

Joys and Concerns

- ◆ The Hursts have been hosting a student from Germany
- ◆ Jim S. had a tumor removed from his knee, and a knee replacement, he is recovering well and all looks good
- ◆ Leah Baker has a new grandnephew Ethan Ray. Born on Monday, October 3rd. He weighed 7lbs. 4oz. and was 19" long. On September 25th Leah's youngest grandson, Caedon, had his Dedication. This is a ritual in her daughter Camille's church, which is similar to Christening, with a name being given to the child and the child being blessed by the community. Congratulations, Leah!
- ◆ Lynn Miesel qualified for the Boston Marathon

*Submitted by Vanessa Baber
Membership Committee*

Red Vest Discussion

Irene Holst will lead a discussion on "Leave No Child Behind" on Sunday, **November 20th**, at **12:30 PM**.

Red Vest Society

SPECIAL EVENTS

Lifelong Learning Forum Update

Our Fall Program is coming to a close our last program will be Thursday, Nov 10th. We have had record attendance with visitors comprising approximately 1/3 of the attendees.

We already have a date set to begin planning the Winter Program which we will bring to you in March.

Nietzsche's Nook meets Sunday, November 13th where we will begin to take a look at the **Greek tragedies**. We will meet in the Marge Brown Room at 12:30 P.M. Please remember to bring yourself a bag lunch. All interested parties are invited to attend. No previous attendance is required. For updates on the Nook and the discussion topics please email. Rev. Riegel at alexriegel@post.harvard.edu and put Nook in the subject line. Reminder that Nietzsche's Nook meets on the continuously on the second Sunday of the month. Facilitated by Rev. Alexander Riegel and Professor Jim Berry. Thanks for your support and interest .

Vanessa Baber

Ladies Night Out

A big thank-you to Joan Ramsay for hosting **UUCF Ladies Spa Night** on Friday, October 21. We certainly had a "pampered" evening. We enjoyed good conversation, good food, and massages from professional massage therapist, Ben Goldberg.

We are looking for ideas for future Ladies Night Out. If you liked the idea of the spa night but were unable to make it on October 21, or if you have other ideas for us to spend time together, please contact Mary Smith or Joan Ramsay.

Social Events Committee

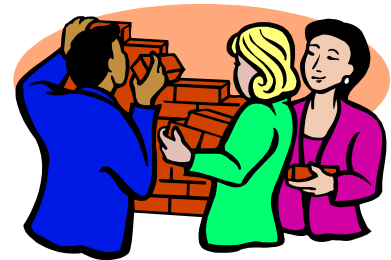
Building Planning Update

Grab Your Imagination, Drafting Pencil, and Hard Hat!

As you read in our President's article, we've been moving forward on all of the goals we voted on at our last congregational meeting. Here's an update on what has been happening on our 4th goal - **updating/replacing our facilities**.

As I mentioned in my article two months ago, we've formed a team to begin planning for what our facilities need to be in order to support our other goals (a comfortable, pleasant environment for our members, staff, and guests, space to accommodate our RE classes and our strong program offerings, and a building that will meet our needs in the coming years as our church family grows).

Currently, the team is moving forward on three activities: 1) talking with other UU churches who have recently gone through this process (with positive or negative results) to develop an understanding of what works well and what to avoid; 2) researching architects who will help us visualize what our facilities need to be; and, most important 3) a building needs assessment to gather input for the planning team and architect.



We've talked to a number of churches so far, including our neighbors - Ann Arbor, and Northwestern. We've received some valuable input on the entire process. We hope that all of these "lessons learned" will make our own project much smoother.

On the architect front - we are looking at a number of firms based on both recommendations from our neighboring churches and green organizations. We've committed to implement, wherever possible, environmentally friendly approaches to materials and building practices, so this will be a key criteria as we look for an architect.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

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Finally, we're beginning the process of gathering input on our needs for office/meeting/social gathering spaces, **bathrooms**, audio-visual equipment, storage, etc. Based on feedback we received at a leadership retreat in August already top on the list are: 1) Keep our meeting house as is (we hear you!); 2) handicap access; 3) paved/increased parking; 4) more/adequate space for RE classes and programs; 5) air conditioning; and 6) upgraded bathrooms.

We are continuing to gather detailed information from our staff and committees, but we will also be looking for input from all of you. In the next few weeks, look for a building planning display in Adam's Hall. In addition to regular updates on the team's progress, there will be notecards available for your suggestions.

We're anxious to hear from you - so please don't be shy.

Over the coming months, a number of activities need to occur before we get to our final building vision including: 1) working with the selected architect to incorporate the results of the building needs assessment to develop a building proposal; 2) a feasibility study, working with a UUA consultant, to determine whether we're ready for, and how successful a capital campaign is likely to be; 3) a capital campaign to raise funds for our building project (yes, we have to pay for it somehow); 4) a final version of what of our building plans based on the success of our fundraising. At each phase, there will be congregational votes to confirm what has happened to date, and to agree on whether to proceed. Again, nothing will be done without the backing of the members of our church family.

In addition to congregational meetings, look for regular Magnet articles, informational meetings, and the display in Adam's Hall. We want to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to be informed about every step of our progress on our building goal. We also encourage you to talk to any member of the building team - Linda Brown, George Rourk, Jack Olds, Ted Goldberg, Art Morrill, or Rev. Alex. As other members join the team, we'll announce them as well so you have even more choices to speak with!

Finally, there's always room for more on the team! If you have any interest in contributing to this exciting process - please consider joining us. Our **next meeting** will be on **Thursday, November 17th**, at 7:00 in the Marge Brown Room. We hope to see you there.

Building Planning Team

New "Magnet" Editor—Jennifer Parke

Jennifer is a lifetime member of the Unitarian Universalist church. Raised U.U. in Big Rapids, Michigan she started attending religious education classes at the age of six. She has also attended Fountain Street Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan and was a member of the U.U. Church of Greater Lansing. She moved to the Detroit area last year and now resides in Novi with her fiancé Kevin Lill.



Jennifer is a graphic design instructor for the corporate computer training firm New Horizons of Michigan. She holds degrees in both graphic design and marketing and is a Master Microsoft Specialist certified instructor. She is eager to use her numerous years of design experience to aid U.U.C.F. in its continuing goal of improved communication. The principles of U.U. are very close to her heart and she hopes to reflect this in her work on The Magnet. Please feel free to approach her at coffee hour or email her at parkejen@hotmail.com if you have any ideas or suggestions, or just to say hello.

Jennifer assumes her new duties for the January 2006 edition. All procedures will remain the same until she decides differently:

- ◆ Deadline is 8 AM the last Sunday of the month (except for December '05 which is December 4).
- ◆ Submit articles to magnet@uufarmington.org or turn into the Magnet mailbox in the church office.

Another Close to my Heart Workshop! Sunday, November 20th, 2 pm, \$10.00

We'll be making snowflake cards. There will be 5 different kinds of cards, and we'll be making 2 each. Come and meet Kim Everingham, the Close to my Heart consultant. She'll supply all the paper, materials, and stamps... you'll have a fun afternoon of making cards at the church. This is not a party; you do not have to purchase anything! Pre registration is required. If you do want to purchase something, all proceeds will go towards purchasing items for the Religious Education program. Please call Karen Schnell-Goldberg to register & pay.

Tracey Martin Exhibits Photos

The UUCF December artist's wall exhibit in Adams Hall will be a photo selection by Tracey Martin of some of her favorite pieces. It will also be themed, to wit: Our Place in the Greater Scheme. The work in its entirety is intended to represent the station of the human species in its more monumental environment, particularly its inherent dwarfing reality. We are not the equal of the worlds we inhabit, even the ones we create.

Mystery Book Club

The Mystery Book Club will meet on Monday, November 28. We will meet for dinner at 5:30 at LaShish (12 Mile and Halsted) and at the church at 7 for the book discussion. If you can't come for dinner, come for the book discussion.

The book we will be discussing is *Murder on Astor Place* (Gaslight Mysteries) by Victoria Thompson. In this first installment in a series of historical mysteries, Thompson vividly re-creates the gas-lit world of old New York. Sprinkled with fascinating details of turn-of-the-century New York City, Thompson's old-fashioned mystery features Sarah Brandt, a midwife who has been estranged from her wealthy family for years.

If you have any questions, contact Helen Head.

Daytimers

On October 20, the third Thursday of October, which was at the peak of the fall color season, after meeting at the church at 12:00 noon, the Daytimers took our bag lunches with us for a picnic at Parmenter's Cider Mill in Northville. We drove a few miles out of the way to get to the cider mill by driving there on Edward Hines Drive where we enjoyed the fall colors.

At the cider mill we paid for the cider and donuts from our club treasury, and we enjoyed an hour or so of companionship with each other and with the ducks on the stream that is behind the cider mill.



Our next meeting will be on November 17, the third Thursday of the month. We'll meet at 12:00 noon at the church where we will eat our bag lunches with dessert provided by Nancy Hayden. All folks at UUCF who are age 50 or more are invited to come join us each month for companionship and friendship with fellow church members. Our monthly meeting usually lasts until 2:00-2:30 p.m.

Want an Exercise Bike?

Joan & Jack Olds have an Excel Ergo, basic model, exercise bike to give away. No charge. If you are interested, please contact them at church or phone.

Money Matters

Thanks to all of you for your support. I will continue to publish our pledge information each month so each of you has an idea of where we stand. Our shortfall this month is smaller:

Actual	Budgeted	Variance
\$ 161,219	\$ 170,842	(\$9,623)

However, with winter on the way some of our operational costs will increase. Please keep up your support.

Marsha McCullough

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Social Action Corner

Current Events & Happenings:

Social Action Meetings fall on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7 pm in the Marge Brown Room. Everyone is invited to attend. The next meeting is November 30.

Don't forget - the **holidays** are just around the corner!! Make the most of your holiday cards and gifts by purchasing them from a charity. For ideas and links, visit "Just Give" at: <http://www.justgive.org/html/ways/holidaygifts.html>
For a complete list of charities to buy from, send an email.

Social Action Tip of the Month: November is a time to gather with friends and family to enjoy the bounty of the season. However, many Michigan families will not be able to enjoy a hot meal this Thanksgiving without help from the community. Teach your family the true meaning of the season by spending one afternoon volunteering for the Oakland County Food Bank. To sign up, call 248-332-1473 or visit their website at: www.fbc.org

Social Action Inspiration for November: Rosa Parks was a heroine in the Civil Rights Movement, but what about racism today? Get a group of friends together to rent the powerful new film "Crash," starring Sandra Bullock, Don Cheadle and Matt Dillion. In this film, characters of different racial backgrounds collide, forcing them to examine their own beliefs and stereotypes. A mixture of tension and humor, this film will get you talking!

Social Action Donations: We are going to start collecting paper goods and toiletries for Neighborhood House. Please leave contributions in the box.

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UU CHURCH
OF FARMINGTON

25301 HALSTED,
FARMINGTON HILLS 48335
(248) 478-7272

E-Mail –
info@uufarmington.org

UUCF Website: <http://uufarmington.org>

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Church Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,
Friday—8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Rev. Alexander Riegel, *Minister*

Kathy Silver, *Director of Religious Education*

Diana Munch, *Music Director*

Mary Mancini, *Office Administrator*

Noreen Palmer & Sally Richards, *Magnet Editors*

Magnet E-Mail: magnet@uufarmington.org

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Next Magnet Deadline:

NEW REVISED DEADLINE—December 4, 2005