



THE

# CHANTICLEER

First Unitarian Society  
of Milwaukee

*nurture. engage. inspire.*

July 2019

## Words on the Wind

by The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

In process theology, the divine uses desire to lure us into greater beauty, harmony, and relationship. Desire is the hook for connection, pulling us into hope, love, and deeper into the interconnected web of all existence.

I think of this hook when I smell lilac bushes that draw me to them just as they draw pollinators. I think of this lure when a sunset washes its un-earned beauty over the earth and dunks me in awe. I think of it when my heart rushes to some puppy, or baby, or kitten, designed to pull adult caretakers in with their cuteness. I am being lured to do the right thing, hooked into care and awe, nurturing and protecting.

Of course, there are types of desire that cause harm as well, which is not the lure of the divine. It is easy to determine the kind of vine by its fruits, but there is also a different emotional tenor to the kind of desire that causes harm. It feels different than the hook that will create more harmony.

As you live in the glorious Wisconsin summer this July, I wish the harmony hook for you: may you smell the sweetness of flowers; be drawn in to care by puppies and babies and all variety of creatures in need; and be invited to awe by sunsets, the lake, a summer thunderstorm, or an old oak tree.

As I will be out on leave during July, hopefully being hooked by beauty myself, I look forward to seeing you all again when I return to the office on August 1.

With love,  
Jennifer

## SUMMER SERVICES & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**ONE SERVICE ONLY AT 10:00 A.M.**

JULY 7

### **“Tongues of Fire!”**

**The Rev. Misha Sanders**

Dan Dance, Guest Musician

Beth Monhollen, Worship Associate

Can an ancient sacred story about the infilling of the Holy Spirit be useful to Unitarian Universalists? Without too much discomfort and suspension of disbelief? Without it being too much of a stretch? What if a retelling through a new lens makes all the difference? What if the message of Pentecost really has been applicable all along?

JULY 14

### **“Deeper Hungers”**

**The Rev. Dena McPhetres**

Jack Forbes Wilson, Resident Artist

Bob Balderson, Worship Associate

Western religion has an uneasy relationship with desire. Yet desire is often what drives people to seek union with the divine. Desire is what motivates us to seek meaning, find hope, and work for justice. How do we uncover the thirst behind the thirst, the hunger that can't be satisfied, our deepest longings?

*(SUNDAYS, continued on page 7)*

MONTHLY THEME

What does it mean to be a people of

**DESIRE ?**

## Dena's Digressions

by The Rev. Dena McPhetres

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in our community who was involved in caring for one another before, during and after the three memorial services in June. Thank you to staff who respond immediately to schedule the service, commit to serving as music director, facilitate setting up the rooms to welcome mourning families, and produce a special order of service. Thank you to our Memorial Service Reception Team who showed generous grace providing refreshments and hospitality at all three receptions. Thank you to ushers. Thank you to pastoral care associates and providers who give their listening presence in a time of shock and pain, and who bring meals when families are stressed. Thank you to our shawl ministry, whose beautiful handiwork gently blesses those who are grieving.

Thank you to all our members and friends who feel each loss keenly and show up for the bereaved and each other as we learn once again to mend the rent fabric of our community. And thank you to my colleague Jennifer, who walks alongside all of us with her graceful presence and an open heart.

My desire for all of us this month is to heal, to follow the call of life, to reclaim what is most important, to rest in beauty, and to love both gently and fiercely. For love is what is left when all else is gone.

Yours,  
Dena

## The Board of Trustees

by Mark Bishop  
Congregation President 2019-2020

Happy New Church Year! As I begin my role as President, I am thrilled, humbled, and honored to serve this great congregation. My wife, Jo Ann, and I have been First Church members since 2008 and continue to be amazed by the connection and compassion that we find here. I am truly blessed to call First Church my spiritual home. I am also fortunate to follow the lead of our two recent Presidents, Michelle Naples and Julie Bock, during my first two years on the Board. The progress that has been made on our journey to adopt and implement the Policy Governance model would not have been possible without these two strong and wise servant leaders.

As the Board begins its work for this year, I am excited by the energy and diversity of thought that I see among the returning and new Trustees. One of our areas of focus as a Board this year will be to build out the metrics and measures that will be used to assess our progress towards First Church's Ends. The Board's

annual retreat in August will begin to tackle this challenging task. In this work, I see a connection with this month's theme – Desire. In some respects, the Ends represent the collective desires of the congregation. The Ends describe the difference we are here to make and for whom. From my perspective, the Ends are the manifestation of our individual and communal desire to be better: as a community, as a congregation, and as human beings.

As we strive to see the Ends become reality, I am excited to be part of this amazing journey with all of you. My desire is to serve First Church with the same commitment and dedication as those leaders that have preceded me.

## 2019 Annual Meeting Recap

by Jeremy Koenen  
Congregation Secretary

The annual meeting for First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee's 2018/2019 church year is as follows:

Minutes for the 2018 Annual Meeting were reviewed and approved by the congregation.

Michelle Naples recapped the church year. Rev. Jennifer and staff defined metrics around the church's progress in meeting those ends, which were presented to and approved by the Board. The congregational survey was conducted for the first time. This survey will be held on an annual basis to gauge the congregation's perspective on progress toward, and priority of, those Ends. The Board of Trustees' new policy governance was finalized. Policies were drafted and approved by the Board of Trustees, and are intended to provide clear accountability, focus on the future, empowerment of the staff and lay members, enabling of collaboration, and clarification of expectations for roles, outcomes, and boundaries.

Beth Bender presented on behalf of the Nominating Committee. They continued their process of meeting with members to check in and helping members in best contributing their skills to the church. Maria Dorsey and Michelle Naples are leaving the Board due to completion of their terms, and Omega Burckhardt is stepping down due to other responsibilities. Chris Aiken will fill in for the last year of Omega's term, as voted on and approved by the Board. Joe Schuller and Patricia Witt are leaving the Nominating Committee due to completion of their terms. The congregation approved for 2019-2022 terms: Jane Cliff, Dianna Dentino, and Mark Miller for the Board of Trustees, as well as Heather Hansen and Vashti Lozier for the Nominating Committee.

Noreen Gilbertsen gave the annual financial report. Financial summaries of income and expenses between June 1017 and June 2018 were covered. In analyzing income versus expenses, the net



*(Continued from page 2)*

income was budgeted for a deficit of \$124,000 and ended with a \$106,000 deficit. In looking at assets, the church has \$334,000 in cash, Memorial Trust Fund has \$337,000 that is restricted, CDs at \$211,000 (though typically kept around \$300,000), and the General Fund has \$864,000. Currently forecasting \$665,000 in pledges for the upcoming church year. HR expenses are coming in at \$55,000 lower than expected. Questions were raised regarding the continuing deficit. Rev. Jennifer replied to this concern, detailing the targets needing to be hit on pledges and expenses over the next seven years, with the intent of decreasing the deficit by \$20,000 each year.

Fred Gutierrez and Lynne Jacoby presented on behalf of the Stewardship Committee. Fred said that as of May 11, pledge totals stood at \$696,000, and projecting a total of \$725,000, which is a 6% increase. The final budget is annually adjusted downward by 3% to address a historical trend of total pledge income coming in at 3% less than originally pledged. A leadership event was held to kick off the pledge drive, and the evidence supports that the leaders of the congregation supported the campaign both financially and in action. Role play training sessions were used to help prepare the stewards for their conversations around pledging. Thirty-eight pledging units had to decrease, 166 pledging units maintained their level, and 182 pledging units increased their pledges. Lynne detailed challenges with the pledge. One concern was the loss of pledging units over the year, with 41 leaving over the past year, and 25 still not having replied about their pledging support. Over the summer, Lynne will be contacting over 80 households who are on the member list, but have not been in contact or contributed in a while.

Dave Becker presented on behalf of the Lu Krug Gift Acceptance Team (KGAT). Lu dedicated \$850,000 in unrestricted funds to the church. KGAT was formed per Board policy to advise on the funds' disbursement. Thirty percent was recommended for short-term funds dedicated to needs from the predictive model, 50% were mid-term goals to the Ends, and 20% would be dedicated to long-term goals that are still pending. Choral scholars, a social justice intern, and live video streaming of our service were funded as projects thus far. Projects were solicited from the congregation, who were encouraged to apply for prospective project funding to help achieve our Ends. Future projects being funded include: First Action Mobilization Network, BLUU donation, social justice intern, Beloved Conversations material, choral scholars, youth pilgrimage to Boston, expanded music ministry, and UUA assembly scholarship. More projects will be considered in the future. For approved projects, funding can be requested as soon as necessary.

Rev. Dena McPhetres gave her report. She began by reflecting on the hurt of the losses of dear members over the past year. Recognition was made of the caring ministries in the congrega-

tion. Beginning August 1, Rev. Dena will supervise the new director of religious education, and Rev. Jennifer will take the lead over social justice. Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson, our new director of religious education, will begin on August 1. Rev. Dena reflected on her treasured past with the Social Justice Committee.

Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom gave her report. She further addressed the grief in the church. Recognition was given to the Board in its work on policy governance. A recap was given of how the Ends were interpreted, and measurements were formed to assess the progress of those Ends. Those measurements will go into effect next year. KGAT worked towards achieving those Ends. The social justice coordinator will provide staff integration into the Social Justice Council, and Rev. Jennifer will help supervise that individual. Personnel, Finance, and the Committee on Ministry are now staff lead teams. Nominating Committee will remain a committee of the Board. A new org chart was detailed.

Comments were provided by the congregation: Encouragement to prioritize the medians rather than the averages on the annual survey. Encouragement to vary the banners on the outside of the building. Encouragement of recognition for the interrelationships of the Ends. Consideration for exit interviews of those that have left the church.

## **Circles of Support Informational Session**

by Paul Geenen

Join us on Monday, August 5, at 7:00 p.m., on The Oaks of Shorewood South patio, 3900 N. Estabrook Parkway, where Wendell Hruska, executive director of Project Return, will offer an update on Circles of Support. This is a program for ex-offenders that targets previously incarcerated men and women, allowing them to share their stories as a form of emotional therapy and offering a venue for their voices to be heard.

Thirty-one Circles of Support meetings, or one every day of the month, are being planned throughout the city so that there will always be one session that an ex-offender can attend. A half dozen African American congregations are already discussing hosting, and more are expected to follow.

Wendell will give an introduction to Circles of Support and describe plans for training of volunteers and group leaders planned for this fall.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

- Q: Will the Circles of Support be held at First Church?  
A: No, they will be held in communities of color, where many of our ex-offenders live.

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- Q: This could be outside of my comfort zone. Will training be offered?  
A: Yes, training by Project Return will be held in fall. We hope that a few members of the congregation will participate.
- Q: How many people from First Church do we need?  
A: People can opt to drop in or out, depending on their interests and schedule. A few people are all we need to be successful.
- Q: What kind of help can I offer ex-offenders?  
A: Many of the skills ex-offenders are missing are ones that some members of First Church have, including managing a checking account, job searches, etc.

For more information, contact Paul Geenen.

## All About Youth

by Deb Solis  
Youth Program Coordinator

July happenings for youth include:

- We had our Youth Steering Committee retreat on June 29 and our 2019-2020 leadership roster includes: Ehlona Walker and Bizzy Schultz as co-chairs, Gus Pointer-Mace and Dylan Duffy as co-vice-chairs, Sam Mulvey, Adena Saigh, Paul Maynard, Zoe Gulbranson, Lucy Pyne, and Ian Fitak as youth members, and Beth Monhollen as our adult-at-large representative.
- Friday, July 12 starting at 7:00 p.m. through Saturday, July 13 at 9:00 a.m. is our Summer Youth Overnight Lock-in for all youth enrolled in grades 9-12 during fall 2019.
- We have two youth attending Youth Midwest Leadership School in Decorah, Iowa in mid-July: Gus Pointer-Mace and Zoe Gulbranson.
- Our monthly summer youth group meets on Sunday, July 28 for a Nature Day on Lake Michigan, weather permitting.
- Thirteen youth and three adult advisors will be leaving on July 29 for a week's construction work with the Battle Creek, Michigan Area Habitat for Humanity organization.

## Register Your Children for 2019-2020 Sunday School

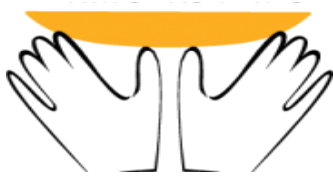
### Early Bird Discount Available until August 1

Registration is open for religious education (RE) during the 2019-2020 church year! Visit our website at [www.uumilwaukee.org](http://www.uumilwaukee.org) to register online and pay fees with a debit or credit card. You may also pick up a paper form at church and mail the completed form with a check payable to First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee to:

First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee  
Attn: Lillian Schley  
1342 North Astor Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Feel free to contact Cami Thomas at [cami.thomas@uumilwaukee.org](mailto:cami.thomas@uumilwaukee.org) to set up a scholarship or payment plan. We never turn families away!





## Share the Plate

by Dawn Blackmore

The Grand Avenue Club (GAC) is our summer Share the Plate recipient for the months of June, July, and August. Serving Milwaukee since 1991, the programs at Grand Avenue Club “successfully help people experiencing mental illness to achieve recovery through work, education, and community life.” According to their website, the GAC’s mission is to “provide adults in Milwaukee County who have experienced mental illness pre-vocational, employment, educational, housing, recreational, and cultural opportunities so that their lives will be more productive and satisfying.

GAC offers adults who experience mental illnesses an array of opportunities 365 days a year. Program participants are members of a community at GAC. It offers them a place of belonging where they can take part in meaningful work and create and maintain meaningful relationships. GAC members work alongside a small but dedicated staff to run the GAC and are involved in every aspect of work. Members are paid for their work at the Club, and are assisted in acquiring housing, achieving their educational goals, and offered opportunities to participate in the cultural happenings in Milwaukee. For more information, please visit their website at

[www.grandavenueclub.org](http://www.grandavenueclub.org)

Cash collected in the plate will be shared 50/50 between the Grand Avenue Club and First Church. To donate only to GAC, please write a check directly to Grand Avenue Club, and we will mail it for you. Parents and guardians, please talk with your children how even small donations help.

### In Memoriam

#### Peg McCormick Fleury

June 13, 1937 ~ May 18, 2019

Peg Fleury died peacefully with her family gathered around at Froedtert Hospital the evening of May 18, following a major stroke. She was 81 years old and a member of our congregation for 26 years.

We lit the Candle of Life in Peg’s honor on Sunday, May 26. A Memorial Service was held Saturday, June 29 at 2:00 p.m. at First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee, with Rev. Dena McPhetres officiating.

Memorial donations in honor of Peg may be given to Enderis Park Neighborhood Association for trees to be planted in her memory or to the First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee.

### In Memoriam

#### Carla Anne Ernst

March 16, 1951 ~ June 5, 2019

Carla Ernst died in her sleep, peacefully and unexpectedly, from a sudden blood clot to the lung Wednesday morning, June 5. She was 68 years old and a member of our congregation for eight years. The Candle of Life was lit in Carla’s honor on Sunday, June 9.

A Memorial Service and Celebration of Life was held at the First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee Monday, June 17 at 2:00 p.m., with Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom officiating.

Donations in memory of Carla may be given to:

PFLAG Milwaukee  
c/o Georgia Henry  
W233 S5251 Cottontail Trail  
Waukesha, WI 53189

Gilbert Lake Advancement Association, Inc. (GLAAI)  
Bill Miland, treasurer  
3001 N. McDonald Street  
Appleton, WI 54911

First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee  
1342 N. Astor St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Please put “in memoriam Carla Ernst” on the memo line of the checks.



# GETTING TOGETHER

**Stop in, meet new people, and make new friends!**

Visitors are especially welcome.

If you have an idea for starting a new group, contact  
The Rev. Dena McPhetres at 414-273-5257, ext. 202, or  
[dena.mcphetres@uumilwaukee.org](mailto:dena.mcphetres@uumilwaukee.org).

## **Book Discussion Group**

We gather once a month to discuss a chosen book. You can find our book list on the church bulletin board and website. We welcome all readers. For more information, contact Chris Linder.

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## **Buddhist Study Group: Gathering Waters Sangha**

First and third Wednesdays  
of the month  
6:30-8:00 p.m.

No matter what your level of interest or practice in Buddhism, you are invited to check out our Gathering Waters Sangha. After a brief check-in, we discuss a book related to Buddhism for an hour, then do a 15-minute group meditation, and finally, socialize for a bit. The book we just started at our last meeting is Norman Fischer's *Training in Compassion*. For more information, please contact Jeanne Lowry or Steve Lowry.

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## **Chancel Choir**

Every Thursday  
7:15-9:00 p.m.

All singers who are high school age and up are invited to join our weekly choir rehearsals. Contact our Choral Director Tristan Strelitzer at [tstrelitzer@gmail.com](mailto:tstrelitzer@gmail.com) with your name and voice type.

## **The Chronologically Gifted**

Last Sunday of the month  
12:30 p.m. Potluck Lunch

We foster activities that allow members who are age 60 and older to live well, offering meaningful, creative, healthy engagement through the arts, education, relationship building, and fun! For more information, contact Sharon DePue.

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## **SWANS Group**

**(Seasoned Women Are Naturally Social)**

First Sunday of the month  
Join us once a month as we go out for lunch and other social events after the second service. Newcomers are welcome. For more information, contact Barbara Kloman or Camille Johnson.

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## **UU Parenting Group**

We share helpful parenting resources, do fun family activities together, and discuss topics like positive discipline, creating healthy habits, and the unique challenges of raising UU children. For more information, contact Stacey Thieme or Brook Worzella.

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## **UU+ Study Group**

Second Tuesday of the month  
6:30-8:00 p.m.

We gather to deepen our knowledge of Unitarian Universalism and to continue our spiritual journeys through reading and discussion. For more information, contact Nancy Pajewski.

## **Unitarian Universalists Under Forty Doing Activities (UUUFDA)**

UUUFDA encourages social camaraderie among the under-forty crowd at First Church, contributing to a strong, joyful, and fun church community. For more information, contact Erik Islo or Angi Krueger at [uuufda@gmail.com](mailto:uuufda@gmail.com).

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## **WomanSpirit**

We meet to empower women and join in spiritual quest through social justice, music, ritual, and friendships. For more information, contact Janet Nortrom.



## SUMMER SERVICES & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**ONE SERVICE ONLY AT 10:00 A.M.**

JULY 21

### **“Desire’s Power”**

**The Rev. Dena McPhetres**

Jack Forbes Wilson, Resident Artist

Natalie Quinton, Worship Associate

Desire is a double-edged sword. Desire helps us focus, but when we get too single-minded, we cannot perceive the whole. Desire forges connection, but also powerful cravings. Our gendered bodies are socialized to deal with desire’s power in different and sometimes destructive ways. Mark Epstein, psychiatrist and Buddhist practitioner, says “We must learn how to use desire instead of being used by it.”

JULY 28

### **“What Dr. King Would Say to African American Youth Today”**

**The Rev. Ron Ballew**

Dan Dance, Guest Musician

Kari Gunderson, Worship Associate

Dr. King’s strong belief in the great importance of a solid education for creating a good life remains as relevant as ever for the wellbeing of our youth. Unfortunately, quality education for struggling African American scholars is just not happening in far too many cases.

Chaplain Ron Ballew is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ and has worked as Staff Chaplain at Milwaukee Community Service Corps, Ministry of Jail Visitation and chaplain for Black String Ensemble. He is a student of Dr. King’s writings and sermons for the past thirty years and is a regular pulpit guest at UU Church West.

### **In Memoriam**

**Bob Teska**

May 17, 1949 – May 29, 2019

On Wednesday, May 29, Bob Teska died of a sudden heart attack while walking near his home. Several strangers rushed to help, including an emergency room doctor who directed chest compressions. Sadly, they were not able to revive Bob after he collapsed.

Bob and his beloved wife Eileen have been members at First Church for a year, though Bob has been singing in our choir for nearly three. Eileen welcomes emails and Facebook messages at this time, but please no cards, phone calls, or food.

Details about a Memorial Service for Bob will be forthcoming, and Memorial Donations in his name can be made to the First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee or Versiti / Blood Research Institute, Attn: Foundation Office, which manages the organ donation program.

## HOW TO REACH US

**414.273.5257**

**office@uumilwaukee.org**

**www.uumilwaukee.org**

**1342 N. Astor St., Milwaukee, WI 53202**

*Administrative offices are staffed this summer Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., but individual staff members have varying hours. Please contact them directly to set up an appointment, as staff members are rarely available for drop-in appointments.*

### **SENIOR MINISTER**

**The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom**

jennifer.nordstrom@uumilwaukee.org, ext. 201

### **ASSOCIATE MINISTER**

**The Rev. Dena McPhetres**

dena.mcphetres@uumilwaukee.org, ext. 202

### **MINISTER EMERITUS**

**The Rev. Andrew C. Kennedy, D.Min.**

### **Staff**

#### **DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION**

jean.johnson@uumilwaukee.org, ext. 203

Jean Johnson

#### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR**

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Cami Thomas

#### **MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR**

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Lynne Jacoby

#### **COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR**

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Cindy Lorentzen

#### **OFFICE COORDINATOR**

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Shari Wright

#### **R.E. ADMIN. ASSISTANT**

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Lillian Schley

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Deb Solis

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Tom Schroeder

#### **FACILITIES ASSISTANT**

Jim Spice  
Andre Singley

#### **MAINTENANCE WORKER**

Art Sims

#### **LEAD MUSIC DIRECTOR**

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Alissa Rhode

#### **CHORAL DIRECTOR**

tstrelitzer@gmail.com

Tristan Strelitzer

#### **RESIDENT ARTIST**

jackforbeswilson@aol.com

Jack Forbes Wilson

### **Board of Trustees**

#### **Officers:**

President:	Mark Bishop
Vice President:	Mark Bender
Secretary:	Dianna Dentino
Treasurer:	Tom Briscoe

#### **Members:**

Chris Aiken, Jane Cliff, Jeremy Koenen,  
Mark Miller, Jane Peterson, Melinda Vernon



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## First Church Summer Building Hours (Starts June 3, 2019)

by Director of Administration Jean Johnson

As activity at the church winds down in the summer, so does staffing! Some of the staff members work reduced hours and many take their vacations during these months. Please plan your evening and weekend meetings according to the following schedule.

### Evening & Weekend Summer Schedule

Monday	4:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Tuesday	4:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Wednesday	4:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Thursday	closed
Friday	closed
Saturday	10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday	8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

### Daytime

Note that the office is closed on Fridays. Although the office is covered Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., staff is reduced and we could be away on an errand. Please call the office before stopping by to be certain someone will be in. Thanks!

