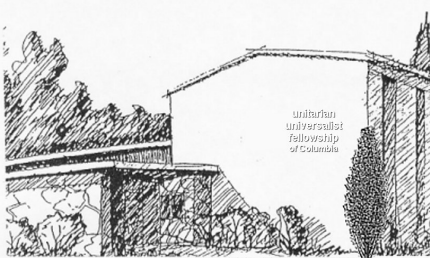


THE UNIGRAM

March 17, 2009

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Columbia, SC



Sunday Schedule

Forum: 9:30 am in the Library

Worship: 11:00 am -12:15 pm
followed by a Coffee Hour in the
Social Hall

Nursery: Available during service
for infants through age 2

Children: 11:00 AM -12:15 PM
Religious Ed. classes for children ages
3 through 12th grade

March 22, 2009

9:30 am Forum Topic:

U.S. Involvement in Nation Building

11:00 am Sermon Topic: "Universal
Salvation" by Rev. Dr. Neal R. Jones

March 29, 2009

9:30 am Forum Topic:

Heaven: Location, Size, Population

11:00 am Sermon Topic: "Justice
Sunday: \$3 a Day Doesn't Add Up"
by Eve Ross and Justin Shearer,
UUFC members

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Ministerial Musings

The Requirements of Membership

On Sunday, April 5, we will officially welcome our new members into our Fellowship during a joining service. For many of us – myself included – joining the UUFC was a liberating experience, especially for those of us who came from other faith traditions. Here we found a faith that is reasonable, relational, inclusive, and justice seeking.

Some have the mistaken notion that you can believe anything and be a Unitarian Universalist, which is another way of saying that you don't have to stand for anything. Nothing could be further from the truth. We may not be creedal, but we are principled, and we gather around seven principles in particular. We affirm and promote:

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person
2. Justice, equity, and compassion in human relationships
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part

We do not require you to hold certain theological or philosophical beliefs, but we do expect each other to aspire to live by these principles in our individual lives and in our shared community.

We are a principled community and we are a covenantal community, which means we promise to treat each other a certain way. In our Fellowship, we aspire to the promises of our congregational covenant, "The Way We Are with Each Other," which all of us renew by reciting at each joining service:

We will make ours a positive, welcoming environment -- one that includes the diverse perspectives of our spiritual community and builds a sense of connectedness.

We will practice direct communication in all facets of UUFC life, using the power of our words to work toward solutions rather than additional problems. We will refrain from spreading hearsay.

We will nurture each other's spiritual and personal growth by entering into conversations and interactions with compassion, deep listening, and respect for differences of opinion without judgment.

We will value and express appreciation for each contribution, whether it is time, money or effort.

We will acknowledge conflicts, address them openly and honestly, and resolve them as close to their source as possible, using mediation if necessary.

We will practice forgiving each other and ourselves.

Cont'd. Page 2
Cont'd from Page 1

As individuals and as a congregation, we may fail to uphold these guidelines from time to time, but our covenant gives us a standard to which we hold ourselves and each other accountable when we are not our best selves with each other.

There is one final requirement of membership. We expect each other to contribute our time and financial resources. Inevitably, the question arises, "How much?" To be legalistic, our congregation's bylaws require that each member contribute "an amount equal to or greater than the annual basic cost of membership," which is usually a little more than the dues our Fellowship pays for each member to the Thomas Jefferson District and the Unitarian Universalist Association. Our bylaws allow members who are experiencing financial hardship to receive a waiver from this requirement.

However, we hope that you will not be legalistic about your membership with us. To be legalistic would be like trying to put a price tag on community, friendship, acceptance, and support. We hope that your contributions of time and money will reflect your commitment to and appreciation of this Fellowship. As with anything in life, the more we put into it, the more we get out of it. The more of ourselves we invest in this community, the more community we experience.

Neal



Community Chalice

We extend our concern and support to...

James M. Wilson, whose mother died.

Carolyn McLeod, who is recovering from a radical mastectomy.

Gertrude Edge, who is recuperating from toe surgery.

We extend our congratulations to...

Justin Shearer, who has returned from four weeks of driving through all 48 of the lower states, eating on \$3.00 a day. He hopes never to contend with Northwest weather or Northeast drivers again.

Minister's Discretionary Fund

Because of the economic downturn, we have had more requests than usual during the last few months for assistance with electric, gas, and phone bills. As a result, the Minister's Discretionary Fund is running low, and we could use a stimulus package. If you would like to contribute to the fund, please make your check payable to the UUFC, with Discretionary Fund in the memo line. Thank you, Neal.

Congregational Meeting

Congregational Meeting to discuss proposed bylaws changes and Welcoming Congregation process

On Sunday April 19th we will convene a congregational meeting 15 minutes following the service. The purpose of the meeting is to review and vote on proposed bylaws changes and the Welcoming Congregation process.

Cheryl Soehl has been working on required documentation for the Welcoming Congregation process. Cheryl will participate in our meeting to explain the process and to answer questions before the vote.

The proposed bylaws changes will be posted to our website no later than April 1. A hard copy of the proposed bylaws changes, as well as a list of current UUFC members, will be placed in the alcove of the sanctuary on the small table no later than April 1. On both the website and the hard copy proposed changes will be noted in red type.

These are important congregational decisions, and we need your attendance to participate in this congregational business!

Thank you! The Board of

Trustees

UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Share Your “Most Courageous Dreams” for the Fellowship

After the service on Sunday, March 29, we will hold the second in a series of Appreciative Inquiry (AI) workshops. AI's are structured conversations that reframe core concerns and encourage our best thinking about the Fellowship's opportunities and priorities. The aim is to generate what's been called “our most courageous dreams for the future.” On March 1, about 60 members discussed possible Social Action initiatives. At the March 29 session, which is designed to last about 45 minutes, we will address program activities. We hope you can participate.

Barry Ahrendt, Stewardship Committee Co-Chair

Dear Congregation,

As many of you are aware, this is a very exciting time for the UUFC. We experienced a 14% growth rate in membership during 2008, and so far, the data look like we are off to a similar start for 2009.

Obviously, most of these new members began their involvement with UUFC as visitors, and visitors continue to stream through our fellowship by the dozens every month. From December 2007 through December 2008, 92 individuals attended visitor orientation. Of these folks, many did become members but many did not. There were many people who visited us once or a few times and then never returned.

According to the research in church growth, visitors are more likely to keep coming back and become members if they are contacted shortly after their visit to the UUFC. Consequently, we are in the process of recruiting congregation members who want to help out with this exciting task. We need people who are confident and sociable and not afraid to approach people after the service. We also need people who are willing to make a few phone calls to visitors to welcome them and answer any questions or help connect them with others of similar interests.

none If you would be interested in joining the UUFC Visitor Outreach Team, please contact Michelle Andra 828 xxx-xxxx or email her at nonem_andra@hotmail.com none .

Visitor Orientation

If you are new to UUFC, you are invited to the Visitor Orientation on Sun., March. 22, ten minutes after the service ends, in Classroom # 6. The Visitor Orientation includes a 10-minute DVD on Unitarian Universalism, an opportunity to meet the other new people, and a short introduction to the activities of this fellowship. A light lunch will be served.

If you have already been oriented and would like to become a member of the Fellowship, please contact Michelle Andra, Membership Chair, (828) xxx-xxxx and xxx-xxxx, m_andra@hotmail.com.

Adult Education

Our spring session of Adult Education begins on Monday March 23rd. The last chance to sign up is Sunday March 22. I will be available in the social hall following the service to answer questions and sign folks up for classes. This is a great opportunity to learn and enjoy fellowship with other UU's. Questions?

anj@logicsouth.com Ann Johnson

Women's Book Group

The Women's Book Group will meet Tuesday, April 14, in Room 5 in the RE wing at the UUFC at 7:00 PM. We will discuss In the *Heart of the Sea* by Nathaniel Philbrick. Anyone with questions may contact Sandy Chubon, xxx-xxxx.



Attention Mountaineers

Our congregational retreat to The Mountain will be April 24-26. We have updated registration forms that can be picked up in the foyer. Registration is now due March 23 with full payment due at that time. Save March 22 on your calendar. Dick Britton, a representative from The Mountain, will be meeting with us after the service for an informative discussion and to answer any questions. Bring a bag lunch and drinks will be provided.

September Set

Another reminder about our 4th-Friday potluck supper: This month it will be the 27th at 6:00 in the Social Hall. If you have any questions call Jan Fulcher, xxx-xxxx (NO e-mail). Look forward to seeing you.

Fund Raising Action Team Announcements:

Talent Show: Come join the fun this coming Saturday evening at 7:00. It's the UUFC Spring Fling Talent Show. You'll be amazed as you enjoy the wide range of talent in our community. Admission at the door is \$5.00/person or \$10.00/group. If you are performing for this joyous event, make certain you have paid Andrea Pixley your entrance fee of \$5.00. Come join the fun and bring a friend!

Other Upcoming Flings:

March 21 - Nature Photography Field Trip conducted by Joe Long with a pre-discussion on March 18 (filled)

April 3 - Wine and Cheese with Rachmaninoff (filled)

April 4- An Evening of Poetry and Music hosted by John Starino

April 18 - Game Day sponsored by Kimberly Field

none If you have questions, suggestions, or ideas for future Flings, please send an e-mail to

fundraising@uucolumbia.orgnone , or call Mike Allen at 803-xxx-xxxx.

UU Evening of Music and Poetry

The shortest month, February, seems to have the longest winter's chill this year. We know spring will come with the promise of flowers blooming, strolls by the Riverwalk, concerts, picnics and reunions. It is with this in mind a festive occasion is planned for April 4, 2009. Join us for a UU Evening of Music and Poetry within the Fellowship to celebrate the gift of Art during National Poetry Month. A few of you will share your verse and then be treated to the rhythm of Bob Kilgore and our own Woyate Drummers. Not one but two Award Winning Poets, Heather Dearmon and Tavis Brunson, will feature their inspirational tenacity. This Spring Fling Event is a fundraiser towards our collective growth for our Fellowship. Many of us will contribute through participation, whether it is as a performer, volunteer or audience member. Contact John M. Starino (803) xxx-xxxx for information to attend on April 4, 2009

Morning Discussion Group

Morning Discussion Group: The morning discussion group meets this Friday March 20th at 11:00. Kathy Paget will be leading a discussion of Gail Sheehy's book *Passages* or the newer version *New Passages*. This group is open to both men and women and is an opportunity to discuss life changes and opportunities encountered in midlife. Some of us have experienced changes in marital status, health and wellness, economic situation, or changes in vocation and use of time. This is an opportunity to discuss all of this. Bring your own lunch and we'll make coffee. We'll be starting up at 11:00 and hope you will join us. Ann Johnson, annj@logicsouth.com for questions.

Ostara Ritual

Ostara is the Vernal Equinox. This year it is celebrated on March 20. The Druids also know it as 'Lady Day' or 'Alban Eiler'. This day is sacred to Eostre the Saxon Lunar Goddess of fertility. From her we get the words estrogen and Easter. Her symbols are the egg and rabbit. Lady Day refers to other Goddesses such as Venus and Aphrodite who have festivals celebrated at this time. Traditional foods for Ostara include leafy green vegetables, dairy foods, sunflower seeds, pumpkinseeds and pine nuts. Herbs and flowers of this Sabbat include daffodils, jonquils, violets, peonies, iris, narcissus, woodruff, gorse and olive. Incense to be burned includes any floral scent, jasmine, rose

and strawberry. Activities for this season are seed planting for herb gardens and long reflective walks in Nature. Please join Gaia's Rising CUUPs for our Ostara Ritual on Friday, March 20, 2009 at 7:00 at the UUFC. For any questions, please contact Shannon Carder at ks_carder@yahoo.com



CUUPs Bake Sale

Please help support Gaia's Rising CUUPs Beltane Celebration by coming by our Bake Sale on Sunday, April 12 right after services. We will have many delicious offerings for you to enjoy. We hope to see you there! A portion of the proceeds will go to the UUFC.



Dances of Universal Peace

You are cordially invited FRIDAY April 3, 2009, to Dances of Universal Peace from 7-9 pm, in the UUF Fellowship Hall. Linda McMakin of Greenville will teach an Aramaic Lord's Prayer dance, as well as dances of spring from other traditions. You need no dance experience or partner to join in these healing dances. All ages

are welcome. A small donation will be accepted gratefully and will help to cover expenses for the dance. Looking forward to seeing you April 3, Marguerite Frongillo, 803-xxx-xxxx



Religious Education

March Curriculum:

March Curriculum: UU 4th Principle, We are Free to Search for What is Right for Us--- RE Program for March:

March 22nd: all classes will have a Scavenger Hunt.

March 29th will cover UU 4th Principle in general.

UU-RE 1/2 day Summer Camp intended for June 23rd to 30th

Many of the topics will be hands-on, field trips, and some guest expert teachers/speakers for the particular topic.

Cast your vote on topics to cover:

- * Ecology, Nature, our Earth, gardening
- * Outing to Congaree Swamp
- * Outing to Sesquicentennial State Park
- * UU History and People
- * Peace (inner and outer)
- * Music, Art and Drama
- * Healthy Food and Why? What's the difference? (cooking classes)
- * Yoga/Meditation, Akido, and Tai Chi and Why? How they help and the experience of a class or 3
- * Communication skills/games
- * The UU Seven Principles as they change and what they mean to us and others. How do we apply them?
- * A day field trip to Charleston/Charleston UU church (great history and beauty)
- * Outdoor sports and games
- * Keeping a daily diary and/or chart
- * Circle meetings (for opening and closing) sharing, checking in and checking out
- * A Service Project



Leprechaun Poem

By Kathleen Anderson, DRE-Spartanburg UU

In the forest I went rambling
Looking for magical gold.
I knew it must be hidden there,
In the stories it's often been told.

I went to the east; I went to the west.
I looked under tree and stone,
I called to the birds in the treetops
For a treasure of my own.

Then I saw a deer go running
And the light slanting through the trees
I heard the water rushing over the stones
And the whispering of the breeze.

A feeling of peace came over me
And love welled up in my heart.
My gold was right there inside me
Where it always has been from the start.

Shade Grown Coffee

Please order shade grown organic free trade coffee from the High School class. These funds help support important activities for the kids. Call Barbie Seymour, xxx-xxxx

Smiling with Children Improves the Smile!!

We are a dedicated team and know that our children are important and deserve to have fun and interesting Sunday classes. We have a user-friendly fun and interesting curriculum. You don't have to teach. We greatly appreciate a few more helping hands. Children are our future.

Suggestions & Thoughts,

Yours are important feel free to share your needs, wishes, and thoughts. We welcome and deeply appreciate your sharing, as this is how we build a more caring community.

Thanks, Didi

Director of Religious Education: Didi (Lynn Doggette)
Tel. # xxx-xxxx Email: didisuprabha@yahoo.com



Email Etiquette – what’s that you say?

The following is taken from the Transylvania UU Times.

- ◆ Answer all questions, and preempt further questions
- ◆ Answer swiftly, if possible
- ◆ Use a meaningful subject
- ◆ Do Not write in CAPITALS – may be perceived as “Yelling”
- ◆ Be concise and to the point – avoid long sentences
- ◆ Use proper spelling, grammar, and punctuation
- ◆ Use active instead of passive voice
- ◆ Take care with abbreviations and emoticons ☺
- ◆ Make it personal, and – most importantly –
- ◆ If you’re responding to a “Hot Button” issue (or even if you’re not), be kind, assume best intentions, focus on redemption and reconciliation rather than blaming or shaming. Read the email before you send it to check for understanding, expression, and intended effect. When in doubt about your message – wait a couple of days and reread and edit it before sending.

Feb 11, 2009 Board Meeting

- ◇ Technology Services: Switching back to AT&T at least short-term because system is more stable.
- ◇ Treasurer's Report: Discussion of hours and duties of Administrator and Bookkeeper. Decision made to advertise for bookkeeper position. Summary of restricted accounts for the Board. Bringing in more than we budgeted on pledges, under on expenditures.
- ◇ President: Weekly attendance 162/140 average. *Growth recommendations: follow up on visitors (emails, links, activities), alert members to be responsible to visitors, training on connecting to visitors, better attendance data, use a lot of percussion and other instruments in service, children involved in services, strong PR/Marketing activity, highlight successes, covenant groups, connecting RE with adult services.
- ◇ Mountain: Holding 50, have 40, need to know by the 22nd. 'Discussion of travel'.
- ◇ RE-AI discussions in fall.
- ◇ Bylaws proposals
- ◇ Stewardship: Barry-'explains case statement'.

Thank You

Dear Generous Supporter:

This letter comes to acknowledge and thank you for your generous donation to the Columbia Bethlehem Community Center. We are grateful for your support of our ministries and mission.

Again we thank you for your support, and invite you to visit. Our doors are open for a visit to our office from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. most days, ... Please call ahead to check with the staff.

Sincerely, Mattie B. Haynes, Executive Director
Columbia Bethlehem Community Center
Phone – 803-xxx-xxxx

STATS for February 2009

Contributions: \$ 13,494.00
Needed for 4 Week's Budget: \$ 15,572.00

"Buy One, Get One Free"

The next time you go food shopping, look for "Buy One, Get One Free" sales. Donate the free item to Harvest Hope Food Bank by putting it in the basket

in the Foyer. Volunteers deliver all donations to the Food Bank every Monday.

March 2009 ONGOING MEETINGS & Rentals

Meeting	Date	Time	Location
Choir	Every other Sunday	9:30 am	Sanctuary
RE Committee	2 nd Sunday	12:30 pm	Classroom with couches
Visitor Orientation	4 th Sunday	12:15 pm	Classroom # 6
Drumming Class	Every Sunday	2:30 pm	Social Hall
UU Crafter's	Every Monday	7:00 pm	Classroom
Didi's Yoga & Meditation Class	1 st and 2 nd Wed. 3 rd , and 4 th Wed.	5:30 pm 7:00 pm	Classroom with piano
Women's Book Club	2 nd Tuesday	7:00 pm	Held at individual homes
Committee Night	1 st Wednesday	6:00 pm	Starts with dinner in the Social Hall
Board Meeting	2 nd Wednesday	7:00 pm	Social Hall
UU Humanist Group	4 th Wednesday	7:00 pm	Library
Bon Voyage	Every Wednesday	8:00 PM	Sanctuary
CUUP's, Gaia's Rising	Every Thursday	7:00 pm	Library
Science & Religion Book	2 nd Thursday, April, every other month	7:00 pm	Classroom
September Set	4 th Friday	6:00 pm	Social Hall
Dances of Universal Peace	1 st Saturday	7:00 pm	Social Hall
Walk/Hike Group	Last Saturday	Morning's	Different locations
Rentals			
Americans United	1 st Sunday	6:00 pm	Sanctuary
Tai Chi	Every Tuesday	10:00 am and 6:00 pm	Social Hall

March 2009

Sun. 22 9:30 AM Forum
 11:00 AM Worship Service
Sun. 29 9:30 AM Forum
 11:00 AM Worship Service
 9:00 PM *Unigram Deadline*

UNIGRAM DEADLINE

The e-mail deadline for the next Unigram is **9:00 pm, March 29, 2009.**
 Please submit articles and announcements for the next issue to uufc@uucolumbia.org
 Typed or neatly handwritten copy must be received in the office by 11:15 pm the same day.

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Office Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 10:30 am – 3:00 pm

The Unigram
The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Columbia
2701 Heyward Street
Columbia, SC 29205

Nonprofit Org. US Postage PAID Permit No. 842 Columbia, SC
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Write: uufc@uucolumbia.org

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The Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism

Grateful for the religious pluralism that enriches and ennobles our faith, we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision. We covenant to affirm and promote:

- ◆ The inherent worth and dignity of every person
- ◆ Justice, equity, and compassion in human relationships
- ◆ Acceptance of one another and encouragement of spiritual growth in our congregations
- ◆ A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
- ◆ The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and society at large
- ◆ The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all
- ◆ Respect for the interdependent web of existence of which we are a part

If these principles reflect your understanding of the world and appeal to your sense of spiritual fulfillment, we invite you to consider membership in the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Columbia. If you would like to discuss membership or if you would simply like more information, please speak to any member of the Membership Committee or of the Board of Trustees.

The Mission of our Fellowship is:

- ◆ to nurture and respect each other in our spiritual growth and pursuit of meaning,
- ◆ to create a welcoming and engaging environment through which we work for positive change in our community and the world.