

Return Service Requested



The Unigram

May 10, 2005

May 15

Religious Education Bridging Ceremony

Come one, come all to this annual worship event honoring our children, youth, and RE program volunteers! Meet our children and celebrate in community their transition into higher grades of learning.

Extend the right hand of fellowship to our RE volunteers who work so hard and care so deeply about this integral part of church life—the education of our younger UUs.

Children and youth - please come early so that you can be a part of our procession! *Parents* - please bring a dessert for our Volunteer Recognition Reception after the service.

Forum: "Heaven Can't Wait (One Liberal's Confession)"

May 22

A Prayer Meeting Rev. Dr. Neal R. Jones

If you grew up in a traditional Christian church, it's not what you think. My understanding of prayer has changed a lot over my lifetime. I'm not even sure if I pray at all these days, but I believe I do (if I can define prayer in my terms). I plan to talk about my evolving conception of prayer, and I am even more interested in hearing what you think prayer is, if you pray, and if you think praying has any effect in your life.

Forum: "Looking Beyond Holy Wars"

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:30 AM Forum (Library)
11:00 AM Worship
6:00 PM Voyagers (Young Adults)

NOTICE OF ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

On Sunday, May 22, all voting members of the Congregation are encouraged to stay after the service for our Annual Congregational Meeting. You will be asked to vote on the budget and candidates, listed below, for the Board of Trustees, Nominating Committee and Endowment Committee for 2005-2006.

Per the UUFC Bylaws, the following slate of candidates was made available at the Sunday service and coffee hour on May 8, two weeks before the meeting.

Board of Trustees

Alice Leeper, President Elect
Sandy Chubon, Secretary
Sej Harmon, Treasurer
Pat Mohr, President
Kathy Paget, member at large
Peter Kandis, member at large
Renee Wedding, member at large

Nominating Committee

Janet Swigler
Ann Johnson
Barbie Seymour
(Joe Kyle, immediate past pres.)
(Board representative TBD)

Endowment Committee

Kevin Meredith
Mary Etta McCarthy
Judy Pearce

Submitted by 2004/2005 Nominating Committee:
Regina Moody, Joan Watterson, Andrea Derrick, Jessica Kross, and Janet Swigler

UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

May 12 7:00 PM Th video, “Corridor of Shame” will be shown at the Fellowship. All are welcome.

May 13 – May 15 Shamanic Workshops with Bekki Shining Bearheart and Crow Swimsaway. For information e-mail shamanic@mindspring.com.

May 15 The Membership Committee will meet after the service.

May 15 7:00 PM Musicians and Dancers Improv

May 28 The next Visitor Orientation will be held after the service in room 5. Snacks will be provided.

Two Fundraisers for Youth Trip to Boston

We are going to Boston! Flight reservations have been made, and so have hostel rooms! Hooray! There will be just a few more chances to support our journey!

- ❖ On Friday, May 13 there will be a Concert and Dance Party for Youth from 7-11 p.m. at the church, featuring The Cypress Knees and The Microwaves.
- ❖ On Sunday, May 22, while you're all enjoying a leisurely, fun annual meeting- we'll clean your car for a pleasant ride home! Thank you all for your support so far!

The Dick Goodwin Big Band In Concert at UUFC



The Dick Goodwin Band, featuring Doug Graham and Jim Hall, will perform Saturday, May 14th, at the UUFC as part of the UU Coffeehouse series. The program begins at 8:00 PM.

The brassy and sassy Big Band will do its wild potpourri of musics, including swing era numbers that people expect from a “big band,” selections from some of our early jazz masters, tunes from most unlikely sources, and new selections written especially for the ensemble.

The Dick Goodwin Big Band boasts some of the most respected performers in this part of the world ...SC Philharmonic members, USC professors, and area music educators: Charlie Polk and Dave Allison (trumpets) -- Bruce Clark, Ashley Fleshman, and Ed Craft (trombones) – Dwight Spencer (guitar) – Terry Trentham (bass) – Jim Hall (drums) – Doug Graham (clarinet and saxophone) – John Wilkinson (vocal) – and of course Dick on trumpet, keyboard, and vocals. This is really an “A” team ensemble.

Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$7 for students. With advance phone reservations (1-888-849-4224) or by purchase at Papa Jazz Records, tickets are \$10 and \$5.

Cakes for the Queen of Heaven

Starting on May 17, UUFC Adult programming will offer the women’s curriculum “Cakes for the Queen of Heaven” on Tuesday evenings for ten weeks.

This program offers women an opportunity to explore the feminine divine in Judaism, Christianity and contemporary goddess religion. The format is part education, part ritual, and part support group.

For more information and to register, please contact course leaders **Audrey Muck**, xxx-xxxx or **Jessica Porter**, xxx-xxxx. Class size is limited and priority will be given to those who have not participated in Cakes previously.

Pre-Annual Meeting Discussion

All Members and Friends are invited to the Fellowship’s Pre-Annual Meeting, from 6:00-9:00 PM on Friday, May 20 in the Social Hall.

We will have the opportunity to review the proposed 2005-06 budget and slate of officers and offer our thoughts before the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 22.

May Supper Group

The Supper Group will dine together on May 21, at 6:30. A sign up sheet is posted in the Social Hall. The group **will not meet at the UUFC**, as previously announced. Please contact group coordinator **Janifer Slater** at xxx-xxxx for further information.

Family Shelter Service Project

May 28 is our workday at the Family Shelter. Our project is to renovate one of the rooms. This is a wonderful volunteer opportunity.

A list of supplies needed, such as paint, mini-blinds and linens, will be available in the Social Hall. Please call (no e-mail). **Jan Fulcher** at xxx-xxxx



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and announcements
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to Isabel Oake at
UUFC@bigfoot.com
with a copy to
iioake@hotmail.com by
Sunday afternoon,
May 22, 2005
or legible hard copy
by Sunday, 12:45 PM.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Membership Matters

Welcome to the "Freshman Class of 2005" who were recognized during the service on May 8, 2005.

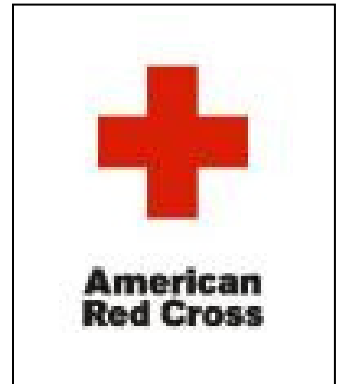
The new members are: **William Bowie, Allison and Emile De Felice, Maryah and Paul Fram, Amy Hudak, Eve Ross, Rachell Webb, Russell Watson, and Zanna and Chris White.**

Recently joined members are: **Judy Brenner, Pamela Hoppack** (whose baby is due any day now) and **Toni and Neal Jones.**

The returning members are: **Beth Chapman and Eric Oake.**

Coming in June Infant/Child CPR training

The UUFC, in collaboration with the Central SC Chapter of the American Red Cross, will be offering Infant and Child CPR for certification in the month of June. There are eight slots in our first class and priority for sign up will be given to our Nursery volunteers. The course is six hours in length and will be presented in two sessions. Please see **Sej Harman**, Nursery coordinator or **Jessica Porter**, CPR instructor, to sign up.



Bylaw Review Committee Requests Congregational Input

The Board has re-activated the Bylaws Committee for an annual review and to develop recommendations for potential changes as provided in Article X, Paragraph F. **Sharyn Walters** and **Sej Harman** of the Board are coordinating this effort and are soliciting input from anyone and everyone who has suggestions.

Please take a few minutes to reflect on the realities of our unique Fellowship--how we operate and what we may need to consider in our bylaws that will reflect our functioning and projected needs as well as the "complexion" of our current, evolving congregation.

Colorful graphics containing sections of the current Bylaws are displayed in the Social Hall for your convenience or a copy of the current bylaws can be obtained from our website at <http://www.uu.columbia.sc.uua.org/>.

You may reach either of us via email:
Sej at Harman@gwm.sc.edu or **Sharyn at colashay@juno.com.**

From the Finance Committee



Generosity is eternal,
circulating treasure

The following shows all offerings collected for the general operating fund. The figures do not reflect money collected and passed through to specific funds such as the Capital fund, Minister's Discretionary Fund, or TJ District or UUA dues. Our adopted budget for FY0405 reminds us that we need a minimum of \$1875 per week in offerings to run our Fellowship.

April 17	\$1298	May 1	\$1965
April 24	\$ 992	May 8	\$3655

Thank you for your generosity.

ImpREssions



Hearing Your Song- Expressions of Soul

"When a woman in a certain African tribe knows she is pregnant, she goes out into the wilderness with a few friends and together they pray and meditate until they hear the song of the child. They recognize that every soul has its own vibration that expresses its unique flavor and purpose. When the women attune to the song, they sing it out loud. Then they return to the tribe and teach it to everyone else.

When the child is born, the community gathers and sings the child's song to him or her. Later, when the child enters education, the village gathers and chants the child's song. When the child passes through initiation to adulthood, the people again come together and sing. At the time of marriage, the person hears his or her song. Finally, when the soul is about to pass from this world, the family and friends gather at the person's bed, just as they did at their birth, and they sing the person to the next life.

There is one other occasion upon which the villagers sing to the child. If at any time during his or her life, the person commits a crime or aberrant social act, the individual is called to the center of the village and the people in the community form a circle around them. Then they sing their song to them. The tribe recognizes that the correction for antisocial behavior is not punishment; it is love and the remembrance of identity. When you recognize your own song, you have no desire or need to do anything to hurt another.

A friend is someone who knows your song and sings it to you when you have forgotten it. Those who love you are not fooled by mistakes you have made or dark images you hold about yourself. They remember your beauty when you feel ugly; your wholeness when you are broken; your innocence when you feel guilty; and your purpose when you are confused. You may not have grown up in an African tribe that sings your song to you at crucial life transitions, but life is always reminding you that you are in tune when you feel good, when what you are doing matches your song, and when you feel awful, it doesn't. In the end, we shall all recognize our song and sing it well. You may feel a little warbly at the moment, but so have all the great singers. Just keep singing and you'll find your way home."

This wonderful story has circulated widely on the web over the past few years. It is a great piece that reminds us to remember the inner child in one another, and to lovingly remind others when they've forgotten their inner spirit, or higher self. We are our highest selves when we speak our truths to one another, even at times when that's uncomfortable. We are our highest selves when we stop and listen, and when we seek to understand what others say to us, instead of perceiving their thoughts and actions through the lenses of our life stories.

Oprah once asked her audience, "Who are you when you are alone in your room?" When you are by yourself, how do you see yourself? How would you describe your "best self?"

As we walk through this interim period together, we have the wonderful opportunity to bring our best selves to this fellowship. We can work through the transitional challenges and changes together, in love and full of hope.

May it be so for all of us,
Hope Andonovska, DRE

Fall Will Be Here Fast!

Our 2005-06 theme for the RE year will be "Our UU Heritage." Children in grades PreK-8th will learn about our Old Testament, New Testament, and UU Traditions. Our youth will journey into "Neighboring Faiths," which discusses different world religions, and encourages field trips to various religious services.

We need you! The RE Committee has agreed to dispense with the collection of registration fees; therefore, we will be encouraging all of our RE parents and church members to help us out in our cooperative program. Teaching RE is one of the most beautiful ways to make a difference in a child's life, and to learn some new things about our church heritage along the way! RE teachers only teach two Sundays a month, so you have other Sundays free to enjoy adult worship services. Curricula are already written for you to utilize, and you're on your way!

If you're interested in teaching next year, please contact DRE Hope Andonovska at 803.799.0845 or on e-mail at hopea31@comporium.net. It's going to be a super year!

