



The Unigram

January 31, 2006

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Columbia, SC

February 5

The High Cost of Low Prices

Rev Dr. Neal Jones

Wal-Mart has made a name for itself by promising "everyday low prices," but what are the costs of those prices for workers in America and overseas, women, tax-payers, small business owners, small communities, and the environment. As the world's largest corporation, Wal-Mart sets the standard for other companies and the economy as a whole. Is it a moral model?

Forum: "Headline News: My Life"

February 12

Practicing Presence

Rev. Dr. Neal Jones

We cannot change the past, and we cannot predict or control the future. Now is all we have, literally -- right here, right now. What would it mean if we could be more fully present in the present ... with our everyday activities, with our "stuff," with our bodies, with those we love, how about with ourselves?

Forum: "Are We as Open-Minded as We Think?"

LONG RANGE PLANNING ACTIVITIES

The LRP team invites your input in the following upcoming meetings:

Thursday, **February 2, 7:00** p.m.

location: sanctuary

topic: **Finances**

Thursday, **February 9, 7:00** p.m.

location: sanctuary

topic: **Building and Grounds**

The purpose of these meetings is to hear the thoughts of the membership. The LRP team will be gathering additional information on each topic as the team develops recommendations that will be given to the Board.

Read more about the Long-Range Planning Activities on page 5.



Sunday Schedule

Choir: 9:30 Feb. 5

Forum: 9:30 in the Library

Worship: 11:00 – 12:15

followed by a Coffee Hour in the Social Hall

Nursery: During service for infants–age 3

Children: Children attend the beginning of the service with adults and are then dismissed to Religious Education classes or activities.

COMMUNITY CHALICE

b Happy 40th birthday to **Anthony Houser**. Thanks to the many friends who helped him celebrate after the service on January 29th.

b A group of twenty or so women from the UUFC (and one man) went to see *Menopause the Musical* at the Township on Sunday. It was great

fun! Except for the ones in the first two rows who lost their hearing, and all whose stomachs ache from laughing so much. Let's keep our eyes open for another opportunity to have some "girl fun" again. (Oops, you too, Dwight!)

UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Committee Corner

February 1 7:00 **Worship Committee**
February 2 6:00 **Finance Committee**
February 8 6:15 **Board of Trustees**
February 12 9:30 **Religious Education Committee**
12:15 **Membership Committee**
February 14 1:00 **Unigram Folders**

Coffeehouse Connection



This Saturday, February 4, the UU Coffeehouse presents Eric Taylor. Taylor learned intricate blues guitar stylings from music legends Lightnin' Hopkins, Mance Lipscomb and Mississippi Fred McDowell. Later he developed his own unique guitar picking style that would be imitated by many of his contemporaries. The opening act is Fayssoux McLean.

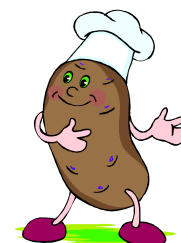
To order advance tickets, call our special events line at 1-888-849-4224 ext. 4.

Is the UU for You?

The next New Member Joining Service will be held on February 5, 2006. If you have been considering membership in the UUFC, please contact one of the Membership Committee: **Larry Siegel** (xxx-xxxx), **Barbara Allen** (xxx-xxxx), **Carita Barr** (xxx-xxxx), **Beth Crawford** (xxx-xxxx), **Gertrude Edge** (xxx-xxxx), **Joyce Rodgers** (xxx-xxxx), **Mary Maclachlan** (xxx-xxxx), or **Tootsie Holland** (xxx-xxxx)

This Spud's For You!

The Jr & Sr High Youth will sponsor a Loaded Potato luncheon on February 5 after the service. Choose toppings for your baked potato; enjoy a salad, dessert, and beverage. This will be a fundraiser to help offset costs for the upcoming Youth CONferences at the Mountain.



Chocolate Auction (reminder)

Goodies to bid on, goodies to buy!
Don't miss this chance...for "my oh my..."
Yummies for tummies and
Tastes for the tongue;
Chocolate for everyone...
The old and the young!

Baskets and ribbons, boxes and more
Valentines for giving: once, two, three, four.
So come one, come all
Get in on the bidding.

Our fourth annual auction
Chocolate, fun and...
no kidding!

Those of you who are slated to bring an item for the auction or sale, please be sure to let **Sej Harman** (Harman@gwm.sc.edu; xxx-xxxx; xxx-xxxx) know so we can prepare the bid cards, etc. Be sure to note an approximate value for your goodies.



Women's Book Group

The next book group meeting is February 7, 7:30 p.m. (a week early to avoid Valentine's day!) at the home of **Sally Guest**, 21 Summit Place. The book is Death Comes to the Archbishop by Willa Cather. Call Sally at xxx-xxxx for directions and to let her know you will be coming.



interested in getting together to share in reading a variety of plays, come to our meeting on Wednesday, February 16, at 7:00 in the Library. For more information, contact **Jennifer Slater**, xxx-xxxx or **Ron Edge**, xxx-xxxx.

Science & Religion Book Group

The Science and Religion book group will meet in the Library at 7PM on Thursday, March 9th. The book this time is Godel, Escher, Bach: An Eternal Golden Braid, by Douglas Hofstadter.

Play Readers Encore!

Hero, heroine, or villain – there is a part for you in the UUFC Play Readers Group. If you are

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Time to Update Directory

An updated directory of UUFC Members and Friends will be printed by the end of February and will include all newly joined members. If your information is incorrect in the Fall/Winter 2005 directory, please contact Isabel Oake in the office. E-mail addresses, cell phone numbers are apt to change most frequently. Please make sure we have your most recent contact information.

September Set

Wow, what a turnout! Many thanks to **Molly Jones** for helping to make our first September Set Supper of the year a huge success. Her expertise in the kitchen is well known and she certainly did not disappoint us. There were about forty people gathered in the Social Hall for good food and conversation.

Adele Scaccia will be our new September Set Coordinator and we look forward to having her make this event even more fun in the months to come. For a truly enjoyable evening, watch your Unigram for times and dates. Even though this pot luck event was originally organized for mostly people of grandparents' age, all are invited. We look forward to seeing you there.

Job Opening at the UUFC:

We are currently conducting a search for a Director of Religious Education (DRE) here in our own UUFC community. We are looking for someone who shares our UU values and has a background in RE, teaching, and/or work with children. Optimally, we would like someone credentialed and experienced in coordinating a UU RE program, but this is not a requirement for the position.

The job is half-time (20 hours), which includes hours on most Sundays, scheduled office hours during the week, and occasional evening meetings. The DRE, working in collaboration with the RE Committee and other volunteers, is responsible for coordinating the RE program, including the development/selection of RE curricula and the recruitment of teachers for classes. S/he must work closely with parents, UUFC staff, and other committees.

Salary will be based on education and experience. For more information, please contact the UUFC administrator, **Isabel Oake**, at 803-799-0845 or at uufc@bigfoot.com. She will refer your inquiry to the DRE search committee. If necessary, we will extend the search to the larger community in February.



Seeking UU Angel



PSSSSSTT!! Any angels out there?? We're looking for some angels who would like to sponsor the purchase of a heavenly confection from City Cafe and Bakery for the Canvass Kick-off Party on March 17. Contact **Regina Moody** (xxx-xxxx) or **Janet Swigler** (xxx-xxxx) if you're feeling angelic.

Fellowship Finance

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, Hurricane Relief Fund, or TJ District or UUA dues. Our adopted budget for FY05-06 reminds us that we need a minimum of \$1,958 per week in offerings to run our Fellowship.

Jan 8	\$3455	Jan 15	\$1218
Jan 22	\$1057	Jan 29	\$ 447

DISTRICT AND DENOMINATION

Plan Now for District Antiracism Conference

The annual Thomas Jefferson District Antiracism Conference will be held at the UU Fellowship of Wilmington, NC this year, March 10-12. The theme is "The Soul of Racism: What Moves You?"

Activities will include an important keynote address by UUA executive Taquiena Boston, plus

workshops, heritage tour, lectures, teen program, discussions, worship, evening coffeehouse, poetry, music, and dance. Whatever moves you!

Save the dates! Program and registration information will be available soon. Please respond promptly, so that we can firm up our space and catering plans early. For more info, check out the website: www.uufwilmington.org.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS


Elementary RE Schedule

- February 5 Chapel
- February 12 RE Classes (Sermon on the Mount)
- February 19 RE Classes (Miracle Stories)
- February 26 Social Action

Youth Urge Us to Reduce Use of Petroleum-Based Products

The UU Youth will be selling canvas grocery bags to be used instead of plastic bags. We are trying to reduce the use of petroleum-based products in our daily lives. The bags are made of durable canvas to last many years. This is a social action project, not a fund-raiser. The cost will be \$5 each or six for \$25.

You just might be a UU ...



if you find yourself rewriting
a church survey,
rather than taking it.

UUFC Long-Range Planning Team Anticipated Activities: Jan–May, 2006

The Board of Trustees of the UUFC convened the Long-Range Planning Team (LRP) during the fall of 2005. Members of the LRP include **Ann Cargill, David Crockett, Caroline Eastman, Joe Long, Cheryl Soehl, Janet Swigler,** and **Mike Paget**, chairperson. The Board provided a list of issues to be addressed by the LRP. The LRP agreed to address all issues, and to provide final input to the Board no later than May 2006.

The first recommendation of the LRP is that long-range-planning be conducted on a five-year cycle, be reviewed annually for progress, and become part of the routine.

The Process

For each issue, the LRP will gather information. Sources of information may include, but not be limited to, previous work by the membership and Board, existing records and historical documents, scheduled input sessions with the members of the UUFC, written input from members of the UUFC, and guidance from the UUA or other external sources. *If members have any documents or information from earlier work that might be of value to the process, please contact one of the committee members.*

The tasks for the LRP and membership are complex and interactive. Discussion sessions will be held, and written input will be received. Deadlines for input will be clear. Input sessions will be structured, and all members will have an opportunity to contribute. Participants in the input sessions will sign in, as a record of their participation.

To provide a structure for input sessions and for written input, the LRP has adopted a framework described in *Holy Conversations*, by Alice Mann.

We will review each topic by looking at the following questions:

- What are the *strengths*?
- What are the *weaknesses*?
- What are the *opportunities*?
- What are the *threats*?

The Schedule

Topics to be addressed in sequence include building and grounds; finances; membership, publicity, and outreach; growth goals; leadership; and staffing.

Sessions will begin in January and conclude in March. Preliminary input will be given to the Board by late March, and final input given in early April. The Board will determine how to proceed at that point. Some issues will require a decision by the Board, while other issues may call for further discussion and voting by the membership.

To the extent possible, the work of the LRP may inform the canvass drive. However, the canvass drive will complete its work in time for the Board to develop a budget for the 06-07 year.

Final Thoughts

- Members are encouraged to watch the Unigram carefully for announcements of upcoming input sessions and periods for written input.
- Forms for written input will be available in the office. The LRP will receive written input as information. Authors must sign written input forms (identities will remain confidential).
- It is important to provide input on a timely basis so that the process can remain on track.

Upcoming discussion and input sessions:

- **Finances:** Thursday, February 2, 7:00 p.m., in the sanctuary
- **Building and grounds:** Thursday, February 9, 7:00 p.m., in the sanctuary

The Unigram

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Special Events Line: (888) 849-4224 ext.4

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.

Unigram Deadlines

The e-mail deadline for the next Unigram is **5:00 pm, Feb 12, 2006.**

Please submit articles and announcements for the next issue to Isabel Oake at UUFC@bigfoot.com with a copy to iioake@hotmail.com. Typed or neatly handwritten copy must be received in the office by 12:15 p.m. the same day.