



The Unigram

September 12, 2006

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Columbia, SC

See end for inserts – congregational meeting

September 17

September 17 "What have I done?" by Elaine Faithful
The ten days starting with Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year) and ending with Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) are commonly known as the Days of Awe or the Days of Repentance. This is a time for serious introspection, a time to consider the transgressions of the previous year and repent before Yom Kippur. During this service you will be invited to meditate on the question, "What have I done that may have caused harm to another?"

Forum topic: Secularism – Will It Survive?

September 24

Sunday September 24 "Feeling Your Religion" -- Rev. Dr. Neal R. Jones
We UUs identify six sources of faith in our living tradition. The first one is "direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life." Do we avail ourselves of this inspiring, powerful source of faith in our personal and congregational life?

Forum topic: Candy

Sunday Schedule

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

From the Minister . . .

Wednesday Family Nights

This fall, the UUFC will come perilously close to acting like a traditional church in offering a Wednesday night program. More accurately, we will be offering an extensive selection of adult education programs on six Wednesday nights: Sept. 20 and 27, Oct. 4, 18, and 25, and Nov. 1. We are calling them "Family Nights" because the whole family is invited. Each evening will begin at 6:00 with a simple catered meal at \$8.00 per person, or you may bring your own. If you have the catered meal, you must call the Fellowship office (799-0845) by noon the day before to make your reservation. The programs will start at 6:30 and be finished by 8:00. Childcare will be provided.

There will be two types of programs – groups that meet continuously for all nights and one-time presentations that address a different topic each time. We are offering three continuous groups:

- (1) "New to UU," facilitated by Larry Siegel, Don Mohr, and Neal Jones
For visitors and new members, an introduction to Unitarian Universalism that will explore how you got here, UU history, principles and purposes, and where do UUs go from here.
- (2) "Articulating Your UU Faith," facilitated by Peter Kandis and Jessica Kross
For those who are already UUs, this course focuses on how and what to say about your own personal UU faith. It will provide resources, connection with fellow UUs, and an opportunity to deepen your own "living tradition."

- (3) “Living Simply with Children,” facilitated by Judy Turnipseed and Susan Siegel
 For those with children, this course counters our culture’s consumerism with practical help on how to live more simply, have more time with your children, and raise them to value people, family, community, and our planet more than “stuff.”

Our one-time presentations will involve guest speakers and a movie:

- Sept. 20 “The Implications of the So-Called Marriage Amendment”
 Presented by the Rev. Candace Chellew-Hodge, Associate Pastor of Garden of Grace United Church
- Sept. 27 OPEN
- Oct. 4 “An Inconvenient Truth”
 The famous Al Gore movie on global warming. The continuous groups will take a break this night.
- Oct. 18 Oct. 18 “In Our Own Voice: Living with Mental Illness”
 Presented by Kathryn Oreck, a representative from NAMI, the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill
- Oct. 25 "The Prevention and Treatment of Breast Cancer"
 Presented by W. Shawn Conwell, M.D.
- Nov. 1 OPEN

As you can see, there is something for everyone. The hard part may be deciding which ones to attend.

Neal

To contact Rev. Dr. Jones:
 Monday-Wednesday at Pastoral Counseling, Baptist Hospital
 xxx-xxxx
 Thursday-Friday at the UUFC 799-0845
 Nights at home xxx-xxxx



Religious Education

THANK YOU

As the official start of our Religious Education year begins, I have two huge reasons to be grateful.

The first was water communion on August 27th. Two months after first mentioning this crazy Piglet idea to the RE Committee, I think I can say that it was a success. Something for all ages – a layered approach that had enough action and simplistic meaning to keep the kids interested, and a deeper meaning to appeal to the slightly more refined crowd. This is what I hope to continue throughout the year with intergenerational worship. A *very special* thank you to all who participated. To Eloisa, Ginger, and Jared for their roles as Piglet, Pooh, and Owl, respectively. To David and Raia for providing Piglet and Pooh’s voices. To Medge, who graciously responded to Neal’s request to let his inner Christopher Robin shine. Thanks to Eve for her music and Sonya for her storytelling. To Don and Neal for their encouragement and assistance. And to members of the RE Committee – Caroline, Barbie, Leela, Sonya, Heather, and Bethany – for their assistance and willingness to try out this new and crazy service. Many, many thanks for helping to make this a success!

THANK YOU, cont’d.

Second, and equally dramatic, is the recently cleaned and redesigned RE wing! If you haven’t been there since RE Cleanup Weekend on September 3rd, you need to pay us a visit. The amazing crew cleaned, scrubbed, rearranged furniture, consolidated supplies, found long lost items, and removed the clutter and fire hazard at the back of the RE wing. I was only there for an hour or so and can’t take a bit of the credit. A huge thanks to all of the RE Committee members and their families – Caroline, Barbie, Sonya, Heather, Leela, and Bethany – to John C., David L., all the kids that were there for RE, and the many others who helped out that I didn’t see. What an amazing transformation!

With much gratitude, *Danielle*

RE Program Goals 2xxx-xxxx

- Building Community Connections
- Growing Spiritually



A new Yahoo Group has been formed to help the families in our Fellowship keep touch with one another. UUFamilies_Cola is moderated by REC member Sonya Jones and is designed to help us communicate interesting ideas, family events, and to help us in one of our REC goals for this year...Building Community Connections. To learn more about the group and join us, please visit http://groups.yahoo.com/group/uufamilies_cola ALL families are invited to join without regard to your family make-up, including the status of children in your home (or not)!

Looking for pictures of families! The REC would like to cover our walls with pictures of our families. This includes families with kids, families with grown children, families of one, families with no kids, everyone in our congregation who is willing to participate. Our children and youth need to know that they are part of the larger church community, and what better way for them to connect then to see pictures of all our families. If you have a picture – digital or regular – that you would like to have posted, please email Danielle marxconwell@bellsouth.net or put it in the DRE box in the workroom. If you are handy with a digital camera, we would also like to have some pictures taken on Sunday morning. Please let Danielle know if you are willing to volunteer!

The good, *the bad*, and the change

The Good

- Lots of new RE families, lots of ideas for family connections, an RE Committee that is forward looking and very excited
- A new Goal for the church year that will influence all programming offered this year

The Bad

- Extremely difficult to find RE teachers
- Church members feel that only RE parents need to teach, but so many of our families are brand new and need the opportunity to connect with our Fellowship community and have the ability to spiritually grow as a UU before they share that connection and spirituality with all of our children and youth

The Change

- REC will no longer solely focus on Sunday morning programming. This will definitely be a large part of our function, but spiritual growth and community happen more than just Sunday a.m.
- All programming will consider our two RE goals. If it doesn't help us build our community or grow spiritually, it needs to be let go. Conversely, if a new idea does help us connect and grow, we will embrace it and follow the energy
- Official RE classes for grades K-5 will be the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. Other Sundays will be stand alone sessions or Intergenerational Worship. Stand alone sessions will be led by members of the congregation who *are not* teaching regular RE classes. This allows involvement for one Sunday at a time, something many of our congregation expressed an interest in!

What to do if you have questions or comments? Call the church and leave a message for Danielle or email me at marxconwell@bellsouth.net. Also, consider volunteering! We need additional help in the nursery, preschool, and elementary classes! Jr. High teachers could always use some outside assistance too. Don't want to teach 2 Sundays per month? Let me know what type of programming you would like to do with our elementary classes, and we can work out a date! Anyone interested in helping to build, and maintain, a composting pile with our kids? The REC would like to include this as a stand-alone session. And when you receive calls and emails in the next week asking for assistance, answer YES!

COMMUNITY CHALICE



- ❖ **Charles Johnson**, husband of **Bethany Storlazzi**, has been called up for 18 months of active duty. He leaves Sept. 15, first for Mississippi, then for Kuwait. Our thoughts and well wishes go with him.
- ❖ We express our condolences to **Pat Mohr**, whose mother, Sara Shelley, died September 1st in Birmingham, Alabama.
- ❖ **Ruby Jones**, wife of **Viron Jones**, died of lung cancer September 7th. The family is planning a memorial service for the spring in New Jersey, where they are from. We express our condolences to Viron.
- ❖ **Linda Brennison** is home from Healthsouth Rehabilitation Hospital after having surgery on her ankle. She suffered a broken ankle on one leg and a sprained ankle on the other from a fall.
- ❖ **Laurel Sutton** is a patient at Baptist Hospital.
- ❖ **Don Thacker** received a piano performance from **Bob Scott** and **Molly Jones** for his 75th birthday on September 3rd.

Announcements

First Quarter Fiscal Year

September 30th marks the end of the first quarter of the 2006 fiscal year at the UUFC. The finance committee, our office administrator, and Tammy Jenkins have all been hard at work transferring financial data from our old record-keeping system to a brand new system and training on the new system. We expect to complete record transfer and training on the new system soon. However in the interim, our primary obligation to those who have contributed to the life and mission of this fellowship is to be transparent and accurate in all financial matters reporting. As such the finance committee will delay release of 2006 first quarter contributions statements until the records transfer process is completed and has been tested. We anticipate that the

statements should be available for pick-up after service in the Social Hall on October 15th. We apologize for the delay.

Building & Grounds

Calling all Do-It-Yourselfers & Green Thumb's if your intersted in joining the Building & Grounds Committee Jerry Cover would like to hear from you. You can contact him at edaholiday@aol.com or phone xxx-xxxx. Look forward to hearing from you.

Board & Committee Chair Retreat

Saturday Sept 16, Saturday morning at 9:00 PM at Church of the Cross Epiiscopal Church off of Garner's Ferry Road, beside Burnside Elementary School. All Board members and a representative from each committee is urged to attend. Beginning at 9:00 AM a catered lunch for \$8 and the Board meets after lunch. Please make sure to RSVP to Alice Leeper (736—5095) (aliceuufc@yahoo.com) for your lunch. We will be discussing the implementation of the Long Range Plan.

F.R.A.T Fall and Winter Announcement:

The Fund Raising Action Team (F.R.A.T) is at it again for the Fall and Winter Flings. If you are interested in hosting a fund-raising event, or have a suggestion for a fund-raising event for the fall and winter seasons. Please contact FRAT via email at FRAT.uufc@bjmeallen.net, drop off your suggestions in the yellow legal sized envelop posted on the bulletin board in the social hall, or contact Michael Allen, Barbara Allen or Sej Harmon.

Also if you would like to volunteer to help the FRAT team with advertising (getting the word out), the registration table (once events have been determined), or with any other area of interest, please contact one Michael Allen, Barbara Allen or Sej Harmon.

We are looking forward toward making the Fall and Winter Flings as successful as the Spring Flings.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

September Set Potluck Dinner

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 PM on September 22nd for this month's September Set Potluck Dinner. Jenifer Slater and Carita Barr have graciously offered to be this month's hostesses. As always, if you know of anyone who would like to join us, please feel free to bring them along. If you have any questions, please call or e-mail Adele Scaccia (scacciaa@bellsouth.net or xxx-xxxx) We look forward to seeing all of you on the 22nd.

Play Readers Encore

Hero, Herion, or villain – there is a part for you in the UUFC Play Readers Group. If you are interested in getting together to share in reading a variety of plays, come to our meeting on Thursday September 21st, at 7:00 pm. For more information, contact **Jenifer Slater**, xxx-xxxx or **Ron Edge**, xxx-xxxx.

BARBEQUE BANQUET: Saturday the 16th Seeds of Hope is having a picnic for the members of UUFC & other churches that have provided markets for their farmers this season. In the Social Hall on the table at the doorway to the RE hall are handouts with directions. (Or meet here at 10:00 to carpool.)



Mabon A Witches Thanksgiving

Celebration that will be on Sept. 24th at 7:00 PM in the Social Hall, everyone is invited to attend. Mabon is often referred to as "the witches Thanksgiving" marking the end of the second harvest, a time when the majority of the crops are gathered. The Goddess enters the "Crone" stage at this time of the year. Now, as at Ostara the days and nights are equal once again. Gardens are in full bloom and heavy with nature's bounty. There is a slight nip in the air already and preparations begin to prepare for the long cold months, which are to come. Nature begins its decline, and readies herself for winter as the God prepares to leave His physical body toward renewal and rebirth from the Goddess. This time of year is often a good time to consider the balance in our own lives & that within nature. Mabon, also known as the Autumn Equinox, is often associated with a sense of wisdom & mysterious lore. Despite the climate in some areas feeling still much like the summer season, this is a time to be thinking about the fall & to be grateful for the bounties that the Goddess has bestowed upon her children to get us through the cold of winter. The colors for Mabon are of an autumn nature, sticking to hues of oranges, browns, and reds. A time for thanksgiving and meditation. Re-establishing balance in one's life, or on the awareness that death must precede re-birth, (and so the dark must be accepted before we can embrace the light). This is a good time to focus on bringing balance into your life, between inner and outer lives, between emotional and physical aspects.

The cave you fear to enter holds the treasure you seek. -- Joseph Campbell

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The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Columbia
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Web Page: www.uu.columbia.sc.uua.org

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 Deadline

The e-mail deadline for the next Unigram is **5:00 p.m., Sept. 24, 2006.**
Please submit articles and announcements for the next issue to UUFC@bigfoot.com
Typed or neatly handwritten copy must be received in the office by 12:15 p.m. the same day.

OCTOBER 1ST CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our Board of Trustees have unanimously endorsed a statement opposing a proposed amendment to our state constitution which defines marriage as being between a man and a woman and denies legal status to any other domestic union. The intention of this amendment is clear. Gay and lesbian couples -- no matter how loving their relationships to each other, no matter how long they have been together, no matter how many children they have raised together -- will be deprived the legal rights, responsibilities, and protections available to all other South Carolinians. This constitutionally sanctioned discrimination represents a new form of Jim Crow, based not on race, but on sexual orientation, and it will relegate approximately 250,000 gay and lesbian residents of South Carolina to the status of second class citizens.

Amendment 1 is an affront to our principles as Americans and as Unitarian Universalists. Our statement sets forth the UU principles that form the basis of our opposition and three specific reasons why this amendment must be defeated. Our Board of Trustees is calling for a brief congregational meeting to follow our worship service on October 1st for the entire Fellowship to endorse this statement, as well.

In order to learn more about the implications of Amendment 1, we have arranged some education and discussion sessions. The Rev. Candace Chelley-Hodge of Garden of Grace United Church will have a presentation at our first Wednesday Family Night on September 20, and Kate Goodrich from the SC Equality Coalition, which is leading the campaign against the amendment, will facilitate a discussion at the Forum on September 24 and after that morning's service.

I'd like to thank the committee of Gin Beery, Raia Hirsch, Michael Haigler, and Barbara Allen who have worked with me over the last several weeks writing and re-writing a statement that cogently expresses our convictions. I hope that we as citizens will act on our convictions by voting against this blatant act of discrimination and that we as Unitarian Universalists will take a public stand on behalf of justice, equality, and compassion.

Neal

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF COLUMBIA

We, as Unitarian Universalists, affirm the worth and dignity of every person, regardless of sexual orientation; we promote justice, equity, and compassion in human relationships; and we aspire to the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.

In accordance with these principles, we oppose the proposed amendment to the South Carolina state constitution which mandates in part that "a marriage between one man and one woman is the only lawful domestic union that shall be valid or recognized in this state."

Because the state does not have the right or authority to define the theological meaning of marriage or any other religious practice or belief, we oppose this amendment. This amendment is a violation of the separation of church and state.

Because same-sex couples will be denied the rights and privileges afforded to heterosexual married couples, we oppose this amendment. Some of these legal and financial benefits are:

- **Automatic inheritance**
- **Shared health insurance**
- **Bereavement and sick leave to care for one's partner**
- **Hospital visitation and medical decision-making on behalf of one's partner**
- **Child custody and adoption**
- **Domestic violence protections**
- **Property rights and tax breaks**
- **Social Security, Medicare, and pension benefits**

This amendment will jeopardize the physical, emotional, legal, and financial well-being of same-sex couples and their children.

Because homophobia and its resulting prejudice, discrimination, and violence against gay and lesbian citizens are already rampant throughout our society, we oppose this amendment. This amendment will legalize discrimination, create a new category of second-class citizenship, and further polarize us as a community.

Constitutional amendments have historically expanded civil rights and the promise of democracy to all citizens. This amendment undermines our proud heritage as a free people. We urge our fellow South Carolinians to join us in voting against Amendment 1 in the referendum on November 7.