



The Unigram

October 24, 2006

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Columbia, SC

October 29

11:00 Sermon topic: *All Souls Service*
by Rev. Dr. Neal R. Jones
All Souls Day, sometimes called the "Day of the Dead," is a Roman Catholic day of remembrance for friends and loved ones who have passed away. We will celebrate our Unitarian version of All Souls Day with a service of remembrance, healing, and thanksgiving.

Forum topic: Do We Need A Third Political Party?

November 5

11:00 Sermon topic: The Right to Choose
by Elaine Faithful

Forum topic: Political Classism and Racism (Pat)

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 2
Children: 11:00 – 12:15 Religious Education classes for children ages 3 through 8th grade.

From the Minister . . .

Putting Out the Welcome Mat

One of the workshops that several of us attended at the Thomas Jefferson District Fall Conference was "Stages of Membership." It was actually a DVD made by a UU congregation that used to be stagnant but has grown significantly in recent years. Their growth did not happen by accident; it has occurred through intention. They have intentionally shifted their focus from themselves to their visitors.

Their website, the first point of contact for visitors, is up-to-date, eye-catching, and user-friendly. (Our newly formed Technology Services Committee is in the process of doing this.) Members make a point of simply speaking to visitors before and after the service and in the service during the designated greeting time. (Some of us are doing this.) They wear nametags and ask that visitors do so as well so they can call them by name. (I'm glad we do this.) They have a welcoming table at the entrance of their building, where at least a couple of people greet them and get them oriented to the sanctuary, the religious education classes for their children, and the rest rooms (Our Membership Committee does this.) The minister stands outside and greets people as they come in the building (I'm going to start doing this). Visitors are asked not to give contributions to the offering plate since they are guests. (I'm going to start doing this, too.) The congregation joins hands during the benediction, including visitors with physical touch. (I really liked doing this at the close of our last intergenerational service, and I'd like us to do this more often.) And Board members, Committee Chairs, and other church leaders make a promise not to conduct Fellowship business on Sunday morning so that they can spend more time reaching out to visitors instead of spending all of their time talking with other members.

Once visitors become members, they are immediately signed up for some housekeeping job, like setting up tables or washing dishes. They are also invited to join some small group, like a committee or a

class. This is significant for two reasons – everyone has a need to give and make a difference, and everyone has a need to belong. Small groups are where our relationships in our congregation are cultivated. (Again, our Membership Committee informs visitors and new members of our activities and committees at regularly scheduled orientation sessions.)

Sounds simple, doesn't it? An introvert myself, I know that it's not. I much prefer to approach people I already know and stand and talk with acquaintances than introduce myself to strangers. And I know I'm not alone. As I look around at the members of our Fellowship, I see that we have a disproportionate number of introverts compared to most congregations. This is neither good nor bad – it's just a description of the personality of many of us. What this means is that if we truly want to put out the welcome mat to visitors to our Fellowship, we will have to push ourselves past our shyness and reserve and the comfort of hanging out only with friends and acquaintances. It means that we will see welcoming new people to our beloved Fellowship as the opportunity and responsibility of everyone and not just the job of the minister, Membership Committee, and Board members.

I know from experience that we introverts can act extraverted when we put our minds to it, and I also know that the emotional and relational rewards of reaching out to new people are worth the effort.

Neal

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Religious Education

Thank You

I would personally like to thank everyone who helped with the Intergenerational Service and Potluck on October 15th. The energy during these services is amazing and uplifting and makes all the work involved in planning them worth it. When Neal and I realized we needed to use the Fellowship Hall for the service, I was worried because we had the potluck afterwards. But ya'll surprised me with the rapid transformation of the room. Thank you again! A special thanks you to everyone who worked on the projector and made it work in time for the service!

Thank you again! Danielle

Upcoming RE Schedule

Oct 29 – Preschool – Chalice Cookies
Elementary grades – Led by
UUFC CUUPS

Jr. High – Begin Native American
Spirituality

Nov 5 – Preschool – Chalice Children
Elementary grades – Story for all
ages during worship, Drumming
workshop following story

Jr. High – Native American traditions

Nursery care is provided during all Sundays





Halloween Party for All Ages!

Join us Friday, October 27th for a Halloween Party at Sonya Jones house, 141 South Sims Ave. (corner of Rosewood & S. Sims). Party begins around 7 p.m.! Bring anything you want to share--food, drinks, games, ghost stories, firewood, drinks, music are all fair game. All ages are welcome. My number is xxx-xxxx I look forward to seeing you! *Sonya*

COFFEE, COFFEE, COFFEE
JR. HIGH YOUTH GROUP FUNDRAISER

Did you order coffee on October 15? Your coffee will be at church this Sunday and available for pickup. We will also have Fair Trade chocolate bars available for immediate purchase. YUM! For those who have asked about tea, we have ordered a few sample boxes which will be available on Nov 5. Are you already thinking about your holiday present lists? Consider Fair Trade coffee, tea, and chocolate this Holiday Season! If you have questions, please email Danielle at marxconwell@bellsouth.net.



DANIELLE'S TRAVEL SCHEDULE

Oct 28-31 Out of town with family
Nov 2-5 UU Christian Fellowship Revival,
New York City
Nov 13-15 SEUUMA Meeting, The Mountain

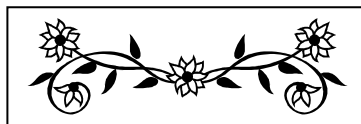
During all of these events, email and cellular coverage will be limited. If you need to reach me, please email me and also leave a message at the office. I will check messages when I have cellular coverage.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

On December 3 and December 10 the Junior High will be conducting a service project. We need your help. If you are interested in helping us make the world a better place and can spend two Sundays with us, please call Barbie Seymour at 447-0862.

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COMMUNITY CHALICE



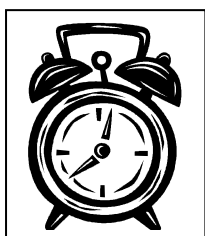
- ❖ We extend our sympathy to **Judy Turnipseed**, in the death of her mother, Elizabeth Cherry Davis, also known as "Lib," "GG," and "Pop Mommy." In lieu of flowers, the family requests that a contribution be made in her name to the New Hope Mission work in the Ukraine and Kenya. Contributions can be addressed to New Hope Baptist Church South at 551 New Hope Road Fayetteville, GA 30214.
- ❖ We extend our sympathy to **Eleanor Cleary**, in the death of her mother, Marcia Duffy, a longtime volunteer and leader in the SC Democratic Party.
- ❖ We extend our sympathy to **Kimberly Field** in the death of her father,
- ❖ **Chris Paget**, son of **Mike and Kathy Paget**, was in an auto accident that inflicted severe damage to his car but fortunately only minor injuries to him.
- ❖ **Judy Brenner** experienced a fall in her apartment last week and is recovering back home.

- ❖ We were fortunate to have **Laurel Sutton's** voice again in choir this past Sunday, the six-month anniversary of her bone marrow transplant.
- ❖ **Alice Leeper** is going to be a grandma! Daughter Melissa Oates is expecting in June.

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UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

FALL BACK -CHANGE YOUR CLOCK, CHANGE YOUR BATTERY



Remember to set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, October 28th so you're not early for church on Sunday Morning. Change batteries of your smoke alarm when we fall back to standard time.

Standard time returns on Sunday October 29th.

September Set Potluck Dinner

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 PM on October 27th for this month's September Set PotLuck Dinner, to be hosted by Pat and Don Mohr. As always, if you know of anyone who is interested in this group, please encourage them to join us. 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 27th.

NEW MEMBER JOINING CEREMONY



The New Member Joining Ceremony, originally scheduled for November 5th has been changed. It will take place on December 3rd at 11:00 AM followed by a potluck dinner one half hour

after the service. Anyone who is interested in joining on that day may contact our Administrator Gin Beery (799 0845) or Email Larry Siegel Membership Committee Chair (LKSdoc@aol.com), or any member of the Membership Committee for more details.

YARD SIGNS

"Vote NO on Amendment 1" yard signs are for the taking in the foyer. You may help defray the costs of your sign by leaving a \$5.00 donation to the SC Equality Coalition in the basket, but you don't have to leave a donation in order to take one. Amendment 1 is the proposed amendment to our state constitution, which defines marriage and discriminates against same-sex couples. The referendum will be held Nov. 7th.

UUFC Women's Book Club



Will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 14 to discuss *We are All Welcome Here* by Elizabeth Berg. The meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held at the home of Kim Field in Irmo; Susan Carlton will serve as

discussion leader. Please see next Unigram or Sunday bulletin for confirmation of location or contact Susan: xxx-xxxx, srcarl@ yahoo.com. December's book is *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel. We will be selecting books to read Jan-June 2007 at the November meeting, so bring your notes & ideas!

Wednesday Family Nights

All continous classes and on Oct. 25th a presentation "The Prevention and Treatment of Breast Cancer" by W. Shawn Conwell, MD. Nov. 1st will be the last in this series of Wenesday Family Nights.

Remember you need to **call each week** to make your reservation for dinner (799-0845) by Noon on Tuesday. You may bring your own meal, or have a catered meal and dessert (\$8.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children). Even if you can't come for the meal come for the Program. Dinner starts at 6:00 and the programs start at 6:30 PM. Childcare will be provided.

**A Note from the Finance Committee
Concerning Quarterly Contributions
Statements:**

Gin Beery and Tammy Jenkins have diligently transferred all relevant account and contributions data from our old record keeping system to our new one. They are currently double-checking each transaction to ensure its accuracy before posting them (when they become permanent). This is a time-consuming process and we thank you for your continued patience. (We also thank Gin and Tammy for their work on this necessary but less-than-glamorous task.) We expect to print and distribute contribution statements for the first quarter of fiscal 2006 as soon as we are ready to post all recorded transactions.

If you have questions about the status of your contributions in the interim please followup individually with Dave Crockett and Buzzie Kelly on the Finance Committee, or Peter Kandis on the Board of Trustees.

Join Us for Thanksgiving at the UUFC



If you would like some company for Thanksgiving dinner, please join us at the UUFC. A few people will cook turkeys and dressing, and those that join us will contribute \$2.00 each to

cover the cost of the turkeys, paper and plasticware, etc. You should bring your favorite traditional Thanksgiving side dish in sufficient quantity to feed your party plus 2 -3 three other people. Kids will be welcome, but we won't provide childcare. We'll also need volunteers to help set up and clean up. We'll start taking reservations in about 2 weeks.

Unigram Folders

It's almost as much fun as a Quilting Party, so come help us fold the Unigrams for bulk mailing every other Tuesday at 1:00 PM.

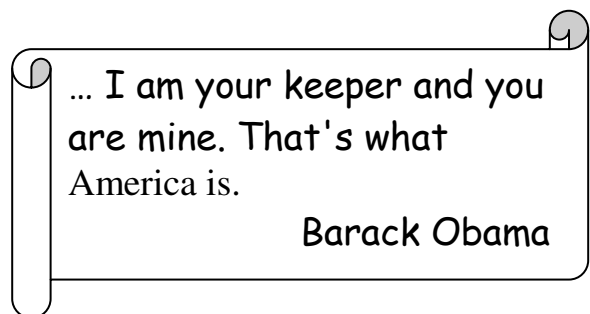
John M. Starino

is part of a group show displaying his Photography at Dragonfly Studio 320 Lincoln St. Columbia. Ashley Herring is the proprietor. She can be reached by calling 803-929-6695 or 803-622-4657 for Studio appointment.

"Journey of the Dead" is Gaia's Rising CUUPS' ceremony in honor of Samhain 2006. Journey of the Dead draws from ancient Egyptian mythology. Participants will gather in the courtyard beside the library at 7:00 PM on Saturday, November 4. Then one-by-one make the solitary journey of the Ka (soul) as it encounters its guide Anubis, experiences the "opening of the mouth" to new life and true speech, travels the labyrinth of the Duat, and enters the throne room of Osiris. There the goddess Ma'at will perform the famous "weighing of the heart" ceremony, the god Thoth will record the results, and Osiris will pronounce the worthy "Osirified." A final encounter with Isis will precede a group closing during which the names of our beloved dead who have passed during this year will be read aloud. Anyone may submit in advance a name or names to be read, and may also bring photos of deceased loved ones to put on the altar of the ancestors in the courtyard.

While Samhain was originally a Celtic festival, our theme is very appropriate for this time of the year, when ancient peoples saw all of the earth dying. The Celts said that the "veil between the worlds" was thinnest at Samhain, leading to the idea that on this night we may visit with our loved ones who have passed on, honor them, and ask for their wisdom. Other holidays that survive in our time are Dia de La Muerta (Day of the Dead) in Mexico and All Saints' Day in the Catholic and Anglican churches. Since the Egyptians were consumed during earthly life with being prepared for the afterlife, it is fitting that we turn to them for ways to reflect on the past year and our life in the year ahead.

For this particular ritual, we will be unable to provide our usual nursery, and ask that no children attend below the age of twelve. There are no creepy surprises planned, but this serious ceremony will be conducted in near darkness. Questions? Call 803.798.8037 or write cuupscolumbia@yahoo.com



The Unigram

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

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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 Deadline

The e-mail deadline for the next Unigram is **5:00 p.m., Nov. 7, 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.