

THE UNIGRAM

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Columbia, SC

January 30, 2007



February 4, 2007

11:00 Sermon Topic: "What Love is Not"

by Rev. Dr. Neal R. Jones

As we approach Valentine's Day, let's talk about what mature love is by considering 4 pseudo-loves, 4 ways of relating that sometimes look like the real McCoy.

9:30 Forum Topic: Darfer— What the Hell Can We Do About It? (Marilyn)

February 11, 2007

11:00 Sermon Topic: Evolution in Our Classrooms?

This service is part of an interdenominational celebration of Evolution Day this coming week. Dr. Pat Mohr, who worked with the writing team for our state's science standards, will talk about the ongoing controversy about the teaching of evolution in public schools and the role of our own religion in addressing the issues.

9:30 Forum Topic: Could People Live Together Without Religion?

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 8th grade

Prayer for King Day at the Dome January 15, 2007

At this year's state rally for **Martin Luther King** Day, our own **Rev. Dr. Neal Jones** was invited to deliver the invocation. Here are his words:

Spirit of Life and Love, we gather on this day of memory and hope seeking elevation of mind, breadth of vision, and tranquility of spirit. In particular, we gather to celebrate the mind and vision and spirit of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who, like the prophets of old, reminded us of who we are in our moments of high resolve. To his fellow Americans, who claim to believe that all persons are created equal, he challenged us to live up to our creed. To his fellow Christians, who proclaim the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of humanity, he dared us to practice what we preach. He saw us as we are and as we might be, and he inspired us to believe that we could bridge the gap between the two. Let us honor him, not merely with our words and monuments, but with personal lives and a body politic that reflect the ideals of freedom and justice for all.

Because we are easily distracted from the high road of our best intentions, we pray that we remember who we are. We have forgotten that we are a people of peace. We have invaded another country that posed no threat to us. We have laid waste to that country's land and people, while lining the pockets of our corporations to rebuild it. Imitating our enemies, we have disregarded international law and tortured prisoners. Calling ourselves liberators, we have rained fire and steel upon civilians, killing tens of thousands of women and children whom we do not bother to count. Let us be reminded this day that right makes might and that where there is no justice, there can be no peace.

We have forgotten that we are a people of compassion. We have not only neglected and abandoned the hurricane survivors in New Orleans; we have neglected and abandoned people of color, people of modest means, and people with no political clout all across this nation who have been ravaged by the storms of life. In the wealthiest nation in history, 46 million do not have health insurance and must regularly face the demeaning choice between a visit to the doctor and a visit to the grocery store. We shortchange our public schools to give vouchers and tuition-tax credits to the students of private schools, forsaking the children of ordinary families to a "minimally adequate" education that is indeed minimal but certainly not adequate. We degrade the labor of working people by holding down the minimum wage far below a living wage. The growing inequity between the have's and have-nots is no accident of the free market or the global economy. It is the direct result of deliberate political decisions made in Washington and in this capital favoring the powerful and the privileged. Our government has been sold to the highest bidders to give tax cuts to the rich; service cuts to the poor, and debt to our children. Let us be reminded this day that while people do not possess equal talents and abilities, all people have equal worth and deserve equal opportunity.

We have forgotten that we are people of the earth. We have exercised dominion without responsibility. Though we Americans compose 1/20th of the world's population, we consume 1/5th of the world's resources. Acting as if the world exists only for us, we have polluted our air, poisoned our water, raped our land, depleted our ozone, and eliminated entire species of life. We are willing to oppress workers in underdeveloped nations and in America to sustain the increasingly exorbitant lifestyles of a few that we pretend are available to all. We are even willing to go to war to maintain our addictions. Let us be reminded this day that the earth does not belong to us but that we belong to the earth and that there is enough for every person's need but not every person's greed.

May we broaden our vision beyond our narrow concerns, serve something greater than ourselves, and become the men and women we were meant to be. We pray in the name of all that is decent and good and just. Amen.



Community Chalice

Our thoughts and concerns are with...

Dean Smith, whose mother died January 16

Mary Maclachlan, who is recovering from surgery on her hand.

Our envy is with...

Don and Pat Mohr, who participated in the anti-war rally in Washington, DC, on January 27.

Toni Jones, who attended a drumming festival in Guinea, West Africa, January 19-29.

Apology to...

Mark & Laura Woodworth for misspelling their baby's name the correct spelling is - **Candence**

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Choosing A Faith, Being Green, or Paganism---all on Wednesday Adult Education Programs Starting Up Again in February!

Mark your calendars NOW for classes that will run on Wednesday nights: February 21 & 28 and on March 7, 14, & 21. We'll have three or four classes, including a class based on the book by Forrest Church and John Buehrens called "Our Chosen Faith"; a class called "It's Easy Being Green" about how we can make a greener building and a greener world; and Paganism 101" to tell us what paganism is and isn't. Once again, childcare will be available upon request, and we'll have dinner before the classes (though we're doing the food arrangements differently this time). More info will be available on the poster in the social hall Sunday, in upcoming Unigrams, and on our Web site www.uu.columbia.sc.uaa.org.

I Valentine's Day Chocolate Auction

The finance committee is holding the auction on Sunday, Feb. 11, shortly after the service. I will probably be the auctioneer Individuals are invited to bring items containing some form of chocolate that they can make or bake them or purchase. Goodies can be sold at a set price or auctioned or both. Everyone is invited to attend to bid or purchase or just observe. Look for the poster and display with some free samples for next Sunday Feb. 4 as an appetizer. Money will go to the Fellowship through the finance committee as before.

If you have any questions please contact me John Califf at xxx-xxxx or Sej Harmon this week.

I Harvest Hope Food Bank

Canned vegetable, fruit, soups, stews, meats and tuna, peanut butter, rice, instant potatoes, Macaroni & cheese, powdered milk, sugar, coffee, diapers and personal hygiene items. Donations will be delivered each Monday.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS



I Hiking/Walking Outdoor Group

Our next hike/walk will be Feb. 24th at West Columbia Riverwalk.

For information send an invitation request to the following email which will automatically put you in our pending membership list:

IUUFCAOutdoorActivities-subscribe@yahoo.com

Alternatively, they can send an email to me ljely@aol.com, and I'll send them an invitation.

WILMINGTON GLOBAL WARMING CONFERENCE POSTPONED AND EXPANDED

The Global Warming Conference previously announced for late March in Wilmington has been postponed, and the venue changed. It has now been rescheduled for June 8 & 9, 2007. It will be held at the Warwick Center of the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, a larger facility than previously planned.

UNC-W will partner with the UU Fellowship of Wilmington in promoting the conference and handling registration. Details of the revised plans will be announced as soon as they are available. For more information, contact: Charlie West - Co-chair, Denominational Affairs Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Wilmington 910-xxx-xxxx lwestjrc@aol.com



I Women's Book Group

They will meet at 7:00 on Tuesday, Feb. 13th, at Marilyn Miss home, 2511 Duncan St. The book is "The Devil in the White City" by Erik Larson. If you would like more information, or if you need directions, please contact Marilyn at xxx-xxxx.

Gaia's Rising CUUP's

All are invited to the public Imbolc ritual on Friday, February 2, at 7:00 PM. Rituals normally last about 30 minutes, are usually held in a circle, and include a call to the four directions, singing, some readings, prayers, oh, and candles, of course! Dress comfortably and call ahead if you need childcare. Questions, call 799-0845, or email lcuupsolumbia@yahoo.com .!

I UU Crafters

The first meeting of the UU Crafters was held Jan. 22nd. The enthusiastic group will explore the very basics of knitting every week. We will meet in a classroom on the RE wing next Monday the 29th at 7 PM. Carita Barr will give us a demonstration of Rya Tapestry arts. Anyone needing more information may call Carita at xxx-xxxx or Joyce Rodgers at xxx-xxxx. We hope to see you then.

|| INTRODUCING NEW MEMBER'S



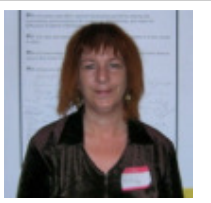
Walter, Renee', and Ansley Santos are happy to formally join the UU family. We have been attending for about three years, and finally settled into life in Columbia this past year. We have a great dog, Tommy, and he is considered the firstborn.

Ansley tucks him in a blanket and puts his head on a pink pillow every evening. The life! We enjoy hiking, camping, and boating activities. Walter had to pass the "camping test" before Renee' would commit her life to him -- that's how important nature is to this family. ☺ He passed with flying colors and it has been a kaleidoscope ever since.



My name is Larry Ely, a new member of the Columbia community, recently arriving from Charlotte, NC, where I lived the last 20 years or so. I was born in Chicago, Illinois, but spent most of my "wonder years" in Paramus, New Jersey, a suburb of NYC. I've also lived in Beloit, Wisconsin,

Amarillo, Texas, and Athens, Georgia. Today my home is in the Hampton Woods area of Columbia where I live with my wife Cathy. I have two children from a former marriage, a son and daughter, both studying at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. I make my living as a financial analyst. My theological interests lean towards Pantheism. My recreational interests include hiking, snow skiing, bicycling (rode a bicycle from Paramus, NJ to Florence Oregon in the Summer of 1974). I'm looking forward to becoming an active and productive member of the UUFC.



Hi! My name is Hollis Moore (Holly) and I am glad to be here at UU. I grew up in Eastern North Carolina, moved to Asheville, NC to go to school, where I stayed till this past year when I moved here to Columbia. I am a Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor and

work at an addictions treatment facility and maintain a small private practice. Aside from my work, I enjoy martial arts, hiking, writing, and music. As far as my spiritual history, I was raised Southern Baptist, but left that behind in high school and have maintained an interest in Eastern-based practices since. I chose UU because it seemed the right spiritual and intellectual fit. I look forward to getting to know everyone and becoming more involved in the spirit of service I see at UU.

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness;
only light can do that. Hate cannot drive
out hate; only love can do that."
Martin Luther King, Jr.

Religious Education

Junior High Youth

are planning an Overnight Lock-In Event for Saturday, February 24th at the Fellowship. Lots of fun is anticipated, so please encourage your youth to attend. The cost of the event is \$7.50. Monies and permission slips are due in the office February 18th. Please refer to the information packets that were mailed to parents and youth for more information. Please call the office at 799-0845 to request an information packet if you did not receive one.

The **Junior High Youth** are planning an all-you-can-eat, pancake, coffee, and juice for \$5 breakfast fundraiser for Sunday, February, 25th from 9 to 10:45am.

Fair Trade Coffee News

Our fundraising for Junior High has been wildly successful! Thanks, to all of our new and loyal customers! Fair Trade products are available for order every week. If the table is not set up in the Fellowship Hall on a given Sunday, just give Barbe Seymour a call (xxx-xxxx) or send her an email barbieseymour@aol.com. We send in an order every week - even if we don't come to church. Remember chocolate, tea, coffee-of-the-month is also available.

Coming February 11 - Valentine Gift Baskets
no need to order!

ACTING Director Religious Education NEEDED FOR SPRING 2007

We have the children. We have the schedule. We have the teachers. Religious Education program needs an Acting Director of Religious Education to help keep our RE program running smoothly for the remainder of the program year. Responsibilities include welcoming new families, working with current families, coordinating Sunday School activities, recruiting additional volunteers for special activities/summer, and planning the bridging ceremony in May. You will be supported by the UUFC administrative assistant, the RE committee and volunteers.

The position is part-time, for 10 hours a week, from January 1 through the end of May. Background check and references are required. Please contact Caroline Eastman; Chair of the RE Committee, to apply or to request additional information. Home phone: 803-782-8820. Cell phone: 803-466-2840. Email: Eastman@sc.rr.com.

The Unigram

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Columbia
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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.

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Unigram Deadline

The e-mail deadline for the next Unigram is **9:00 p.m., Feb. 11, 2007.**

Please submit articles and announcements for the next issue to IUUFC@bigfoot.com
Typed or neatly handwritten copy must be received in the office by 12:15 p.m. the same day.