

THE UNIGRAM

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Columbia, SC

April 10, 2007



April 15, 2007

11:00 Sermon Topic: "A Witness to Courage": UU member Toni Jones recently visited Guinea, West Africa, to participate in a drum and dance festival. Her visit coincided with a national strike of workers and, for the first time ever in the history of the country, civil society joined in the protest in which government troops massacred over 120 peaceful marchers. Toni will share her experience of witnessing firsthand a people rising up to demand justice from a repressive military regime.

9:30 Forum Topic: Should Prostitution Be Illegal

April 22, 2007

11:00 Sermon Topic: "Earth Day" – we will celebrate great mother earth with drama, song and dance.

9:30 Forum Topic: The American Dream

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

Come Home, America

On Tuesday, March 20, a bus caravan of veterans arrived in Columbia to call for an end to the war in Iraq. They had travelled from Ft. Bragg, NC, and were making stops at military installations on their way to New Orleans. They were greeted here at the Statehouse by members of the Carolina Peace Resource Center and other peace activists from our community, including several Unitarians – Nan Ancrum, Gin Beery, Ginny Parker, Tom and Judy Turnipseed, and Sara Williams. A vigil was held on Gervais Street, as protesters silently held anti-war signs for passers-by to see. Then speakers spoke to a crowd gathered on the steps of the Statehouse, sitting between long scrolls cascading down the steps listing the names of Americans who have lost their lives in Iraq. One speaker was a father who had lost his son. Another was a serviceman who had refused to re-enlist once he had seen the lies and the profiteering in Iraq. Then the names of South Carolinians who have died in the war were solemnly read.

It was my privilege to have been invited to be one of the speakers. I look forward to the day when I can speak in celebration of peace instead of protest against an unnecessary, costly, and immoral war. Here is the conclusion of my speech:

"You and I have gathered here today to bear witness to the truth about Iraq. We must tell the truth because we cannot trust our government to tell the truth. Neither can we rely on the mainstream media, many of which are owned by the same corporations that line their pockets with government contracts to rebuild Iraq.

You and I must tell the truth because our democracy requires it. We must tell the truth because our conscience demands it.

Yet truth-telling comes with a price. Not everyone wants to hear the truth. Many would rather believe the pre-approved, pre-packaged messages of the corporate-owned media and the pious platitudes and proud pontifications of this Administration. Many will even accuse you of being unpatriotic for telling the truth. Surely patriotism must mean more than blind obedience to the government. True patriotism means loving your country enough to support it when it's right and to make it right when it's wrong. And this war is wrong.

It is because we love America that we speak the truth. And it is because we love our brothers and sisters serving in Iraq that we want to bring them home and bring them home now.

It is because we love our country that we want America to come home. We want America to come home to the ideals that have made us a shining beacon of hope to the rest of the world.

Come home, America, to the ideal that war is a last resort only used in self-defense.

Come home, America, to the ideal that all persons, even prisoners of war, deserve to be treated with dignity because they are human beings.

Come home, America, to the ideal that the best way to win the hearts and minds of people is to honor their history, their culture, their religion, and their way of life.

Come home, America, to the ideal that our best defense is to invite the cooperation of our friends instead of arrogantly standing alone.

Come home, America, to the ideal that the best way to spread democracy is not at the point of a gun but by setting the example of having true democracy here at home.

Come home, America, to the ideal that the best investment of our resources is not in bombs and bullets but in education, in healthcare, in research, and in the environment; in life, not death.

Come home to the ideals that have made us a great nation and that make us proud to be called Americans."

Neal



Community Chalice

We extend our appreciation to...

Carita Barr, Don and Pat Mohr, and Regina Moody for constructing our UUFC timeline in the social hall. See how we've grown!

David Roof, who took our congregational family portrait which, is displayed on the timeline in the social hall.

We extend our congratulations to...

Lee Minghi, whose month-long celebration of her 70th birthday concluded with a party organized by husband **Julian** at **Carita and Bill Barr's** home on March 25. Daughter **Monica** made a surprise visit from Long Island.

Our former administrator, **Isabel Oake**, has been hired as the fulltime secretary of Northminster Presbyterian Church of Sarasota, Florida.

Mike Stone, who received a clean bill of health from his physician three months after his prostate surgery. Says Mike, "I've never been so happy to score a zero on a test."

Joyce Rodgers, who attended the baptism of her second great grandchild (that's right), Christian Pham, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church on April 8.

Raia Hirsch, who has been awarded a \$4,000 Otto M. Stanfield Law Student Scholarship from the UUA. In addition to attending the USC School of Law, Raia also volunteers for our RE program and Membership Committee and serves lunch to the homeless at Finley Park in the "Food Not Bombs" program. Sometimes she finds time to sleep.

At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us. ~Albert Schweitzer

Religious Education

Children's Choir

Join the Children's Choir. All ages of children are welcome to join. They will practice after the service for 15 minutes. Contact Bethany Storalazzi xxx-xxxx to get a CD to take for practice at home. They will sign during the service on April 22 for Earth Day.



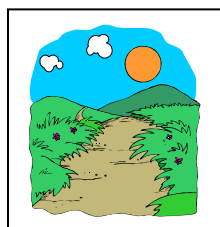
Social Action Leaders Needed

The Junior High Sunday School class will be doing a social action project this spring. We need at least two people to assist them in planning and executing this project. You will have three Sundays (4/15; 4/29; & 5/13) during the Sunday School hour (11:00 - 12:15). If you would like to help, please call Barbie Seymour, xxx-xxxx or barbieseymour@aol.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Women's Book Group

The book group is growing so we encourage anyone interested in laughter and thought provoking conversation about books to join us. On Tuesday, April 17, Kimberly Field will host April's meeting. Foreign Correspondence, by Geraldine Brooks, will be the topic of discussion. The group will gather at 411 Beechwood Dr. at 7:00 PM. Call Kimberly at xxx-xxxx should you need directions. If you want to get an early start on the book for May, it is Middlesex by Jeffrey Eugenides.



Walk/Hike Group

Peach Tree Rock Heritage Preserve Hike, 10:00 AM Sat. April 28. The hike will begin from the Peach Tree Rock Preserve Parking Lot, located just outside the park entrance, "approximately one half mile south of the park's

intersection with SC Highway 302 in Lexington County." To make better sense of this description please use the following link for a Map quest map.

<http://www.mapquest.com/maps/map.adp?formtype=address&addtohistory=&address=Highway%206%20%26%20Edmund%20Hwy&city=Lexington&st>

Carpooling from Columbia:

Please meet us at 9:00 at the Fellowship Hall where we will divide up into cars and drive there. If you already live in Lexington or Irmo, you may find it more convenient to head directly to the Park's parking lot. Remember to bring drinks and lunch.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Drum Lessons/Drum Circle

Master drummer, Amara Camara, will start a series of drum lessons/drum circle on Sunday afternoons. Class is from 3:30-4:30 pm, and the cost is \$10 per class, \$8 for students. Beautiful West African drums are provided. The money from the classes will be used to buy rice for the people of the Ratoma neighborhood in Conakry, Guinea. Rice, a staple of the diet, has become increasingly costly in Guinea, one of the poorest countries in Africa, where people live on about \$1 per day. The drum classes/drum circles are so much fun! Each week, we will work on a different piece and learn to play it together. You do not have to commit to a certain number of classes - just come when time allows and the spirit moves you. Those who want to observe classes are welcome. If you have questions about the classes, please contact Toni Jones at xxx-xxxx or by email at tonijones@sc.rr.com.

Joining ceremony will be 4/29/07.

Anyone wishing to join us as a member please contact Larry Siegel xxx-xxxx or other members of the membership committee to discuss what is involved. There will be a meeting after the service 4/22/07 including the members of the membership committee and the potential new members to detail the procedure. On the 29th there will be a potluck after the service for the entire congregation to welcome the new members.

Every Week for Harvest Hope Food Bank

When you buy your groceries leave some in the car so you'll have them to bring each and every Sunday and help fill the basket on the stage in the Social Hall. Volunteers deliver all donations to the Food Bank every Monday.

Needed: New Residence - -

My Landlady will be moving soon so I need a temporary residence till November. If you know of any place or anyone that has a couple of rooms to rent, please call me, Gin Beery at 799-0845.



The Green Corner

The **Global Warming Café** is a workshop designed to empower individuals to become part of the global warming solution. Participants will engage in a heartfelt conversation about global warming and will be invited to take personal action to reduce their carbon footprints through the carbon-reduction tools and strategies embodied in the **Low Carbon Diet: A 30 Day Program to Lose 5000 Pounds.***

The Café, sponsored and hosted by the Cool Cities Committee of the John Bachman Group of the Sierra Club, is scheduled for:

Saturday, April 14 - 1:00 to 4:00 PM
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

The Café is **free** to all.

The **Global Warming Café** is part of the **National Day of Climate Action** sponsored by **Step it Up 2007** and a broad coalition of environmental organizations including the national Sierra Club.

Please **register** for the Café by going to:
<http://www.stepitup2007.org/>

*The **Low Carbon Diet: A 30 Day Program to Lose 5000 Pounds** is a program created by the Empowerment Institute of Woodstock, NY. All **participants** in the Global Warming Café are encouraged to familiarize themselves about this program prior to the Café by going to:
<http://www.empowermentinstitute.net/lcd/index.html>

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Help Us Turn CDs into Palmetto Trees

The SC State Museum in Columbia will be hosting a phenomenal EARTH DAY event Saturday, April 21st, and some of our partners will be using old CDs to build a fantastic Palmetto Tree that day. (See similar trees at <http://www.cdsculpture.com/29/>.) Between now and April 21, you can help us collect unwanted CDs by 1) saving your unwanted CDs and/or 2) collecting unwanted CDs at your business, school or organization! We need all CDs by April 16. For details on how to collect the CDs and/or where to deliver them, please contact Mary Pat Baldauf at marypat@keepthemidlandsbeautiful.com.

*"Life lived to help others is
the only one that matters."
Ben Stein*

**BOARD MINUTES MARCH 10, 2007
MOTIONS PASSED**

- * Veterans for Peace against war asked if they could have a meeting here after the peace vigil on March 20th without paying.
- *Dances of Universal Peace asked to use our space.
- * The Bylaws be accepted as revised

DECISIONS MADE

- *We need to have two congregational meetings; Bylaws and electing TJ delegates, and funding for the Master Plan and furnace options. Cottage meeting for Bylaws and TJ district vote will be March 25th and vote will be April 1. Cottage meeting for Master Plan and furnace options will be April 15th and vote will be April 22nd. Peter will run the DVD of the candidates after the service on March 11, 18, and 25th.
- *Glenn White and Jerry Cover need to get us recommendation for heating.

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APPEAL FOR REDRESS

Many active duty, reserve, and guard service members are concerned about the war in Iraq and support the withdrawal of U.S. troops. The Appeal for Redress provides a way in which individual service members can appeal to their Congressional Representative and Senators to urge an end to the U.S. military occupation. The Appeal for Redress is sponsored by active duty service members based in the Norfolk area and by a sponsoring committee of veterans and military family members. The Sponsoring committee consists of Iraq Veterans Against the War, Veterans for Peace, and Military Families Speak Out.

Members of the military **have a legal right** to communicate with their member of Congress. Attorneys and counselors experienced in military law are available to help service members who need assistance in countering any attempts to suppress this communication with members of Congress.

www.appealforredress.org.

If you have questions, please direct them to (360) xxx-xxxx of info@appealforredress.org. Or by mail to:

Appeal for Redress, PO Box 53052, Washington, DC 20xxx-xxxx



Global Warming Conference - Wilmington, NC June 8-9, 2007

Hurricanes, tornadoes, rising sea levels and heat waves around the world have heightened concerns about the fate of our environment. To really understand what is going on and what we can do about it, a special conference is being offered to the public June 8-9 in the Warwick Center at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

Global Warming: What Do We Know? What Can We Do? is being presented by the Cape Fear Global Warming Conference Committee in partnership with the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Wilmington and UNCW Division for Public Service and Continuing Studies.,

The Conference will bring together environmental experts such as the Friday evening opening speaker, Dr. Lawrence Cahoon. Dr. Cahoon is a Professor of Biology and Marine Biology, specializing in Oceanography and Limnology at UNCW. Saturday's Keynote Speaker is the distinguished Dr. Bert Drake, Senior Plant Physiologist from the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center. Dr. Drake has completed more than 20 years of research on the impact of Co2 on the environment.

On Saturday afternoon attendees may choose from eight varied workshops for insight and positive, hands-on solutions to global warming challenges. These include "Green Transportation", "Green Building and Remodeling", "Food Problems and Solutions", "Help for Our Cities", "Impending Storm: NC Coast", "Govt. Officials on Global Warming", "Water & Energy Conservation", and "Renewable Energy Resources." Workshop presenters include UNCW sociologist Dr. Steve McNamee, award winning journalist Frank Tursi, Mike Mallin of UNCW Marine Science Dept., NC GreenPower, Cape Fear Green Builders Alliance, scientists, government officials, professors, and the New Hanover Engineer Director. In addition to the workshops there will also be two, "Think Shops" people may attend- "Poverty, Social Change and Global Warming" and "What Do We Know: Scientists Roundtable".

For more details go to website www.globalwarmingnc.org. or email: contactus@globalwarming.org.

REGISTRATION BEGINS APRIL 1 On Line- www.globalwarmingnc.org By Phone- 910-xxx-xxxx

Reg. Fee April 1- May 25..... \$20 Reg. Fee May 26- June 5 \$30

Optional Lunch -\$10 [pay with registration fee] [no conference or lunch tickets sold at the door]

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., April 22, 2007.**

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.