THE UNIGRAM

June 19, 2007

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Columbia, SC

June 24, 2007

11:00 Sermon Topic: "Identity!" by Elaine B. Faithful
One of the new game shows on TV challenges contestants to match specific identities to a group of individuals; some look the part others are less obvious. In recognition of Gay Pride month, we explore and celebrate all of the interesting and wonderful things that make each of us unique.

9:30 Forum Topic: Legacy of Baby Boomers, Pros and Cons

July 1, 2007

11:00 Sermon Topic: "Red and Blue in the Red, White, and Blue"
Rev. Dr. Neal R. Jones
What are your images of people from Red states? How about Blue people? I think our Red state / Blue state electoral map of the United States creates unnecessary stereotypes, polarization and conflict. Perhaps we need to develop a purple map.

9:30 Forum Topic: Universal Health Care

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

Chalice Lighters' Deadline Nears

The deadline for sending checks for the current Chalice Lighters' call is June 30. If you're a Chalice Lighter, please send your check to help the UU Fellowship of Rappahannock build its first church home. Make your check payable to Chalice Lighters, and mail it to Att: Chalice Lighters, Thomas Jefferson District Office, 9704 Mallard Creek Road, Charlotte, NC, 28262-9738.
If you would like to join the thousands (literally) of TJD Chalice Lighters, you can submit your pledge online at http://tjd.uua.org/cl/tjd-chalice-lighter-pledge-form.htm.
The TJD Chalice Lighter Committee.
Rev. Glenn D. Johnson, Sr.
Administrator, Thomas Jefferson District, UUA
704-549-0750; toll free - 800-549-0751
fax line - 866-xxx-xxxx; email - gjohnson@uua.org

General Assembly participants, please note

TJD currently has 190 persons registered for GA. Each of you should be aware of the following message from Helen Bishop, Ed.D., Director of the Open Space process and Planning Group.
This is an invitation and a heart-felt request to you to engage fully with the Open Space sessions at GA in Portland. Come, participate, listen, share, and help to guide the Association. It is essential that the voices of everyone in attendance be part of the Open Space process.

It will be a unique opportunity to engage with leaders from UU congregations around the continent and the world to consider the question, **"In today's complex world, what is our mission as a faith community?"** GA attendees should plan to attend Open Space sessions, be actively involved in small group discussions, and look for areas of common interest in the Convergence sessions, be prepared to speak in favor of statements that reflect the essential issues facing us in all areas of our faith community, and vote to prioritize the statements that are drafted.

You'll have the opportunity to share in the most open process the Association has ever used. You'll learn how Open Space works as a powerful method of strategic and action planning. You'll return to your congregations, districts and organizations energized and renewed in the commitment you make by attending General Assembly. Your voices will be part of the crafting of priorities for the Board of Trustees as they consider the Association's mission and vision. You are being invited to share in this work.

Clergy and laity must work together in this Open process to help shape the mission of our faith community for the world today. Voices of all who care about our faith community must be present for leadership, guidance, and direction, as all parts of the Unitarian Universalist Association work together to create the vision that will inform every aspect of our common lives.

Community Chalice

We extend our concern and support to…

Bob Amundson, who was hospitalized briefly for a bleeding ulcer. Bob is back home, where he is recovering from kidney failure.

David Crockett, whose car was totaled when it hit a deer. Fortunately, David sustained only minor injuries.

Sandy Chubon, whose van was damaged when she was rear-ended at Baptist Hospital. Fortunately, she was not injured.

Suzanne Kelsey, whose niece attempted suicide.

We extend our sympathy too…

Ruth Thacker, whose brother **Norman Gerkins**, 82 of Brandenburg, Kentucky died May 31, 2007 at Baptist Hospital in East Louisville Kentucky.

We extend our congratulations to…

Alice Leeper, who is a grandmother, thanks to the birth of Carson Riley Oates on June 15th.

Eve Ross, who has graduated from the USC Law School. Now the bar exam!

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Congregational Information Meeting.
On Friday evening, July 13 at 6:00 PM, we will have a one-hour congregational meeting to discuss the goal of contracting for a Master Plan for our facility and grounds. Heather Mitchell, AIA, LEED AP Pres. of The Boudreaux Group, Inc. will attend. The Master Plan is the "vision document" that will inform us of the options, and approxinmate costs, of the renovations that we may consider for the UUFC. The Master Plan is a guiding document that will be useful for an extended period. Most Master Plans are considered viable for ten years or more.
On Sunday, July 15, immediately following the service we will have a congregational meeting to vote on contracting for the Master Plan.

September Set
Join us this Friday, the 22nd at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall for our monthly PotLuck supper, to be hosted by Mary Au & Jan Fulcher. In addition to the usaual contributions of sides, desserts, etc. entrees will be needed. Bring yourselves and anyone else who might like to join us for an evening of good food aand fellowship. If you have any questions call Jan at xxx-xxxx.

Upcoming Events and Meetings

SEEDS OF HOPE
Mark your calendars & get out those cookbooks. 'Our farmer' Mr. Reed will be delivering his fresh fruits & veggies beginning Sunday the 24th. Please pass on the word to any friends who might be interested in 'shopping' at UUFC. (& if you can help me put up posters in stores & churches in the area please call xxx-xxxx. Thanks.... Jan

Update Your Contact Information
It's been year since the last directory - important tool will strengthen the bonds amongst us.
Have you moved or changed your email address? Please update the office with any changes to make sure that your correct information is printed in the upcoming directory.

Science & Religion
Eleven folks participated in a lively and enlightened discussion of the Dalai Lama's book. Our next meeting will be Thursday August 9 at 7:00 pm at which time we will be discussing C. P. Snow's book *The Two Cultures*. Although this is not a new book, the subject is still relevant. All are welcome to read the books and join our discussion. We find that we learn from one another as well as the book, and diverse opinions are welcome. [More info? call Joe Long at xxx-xxxx or Ann Johnson at xxx-xxxx.]

Admirers of **Benjamin Franklin** will be interested in an exhibition at the Atlanta History Center, www.athist.org, running July 4 – Oct. 14, 2007. It contains artifacts gathered from a number of museums and private collections, including many of his descendants, as well as much explanatory material. I (Joe Long) saw it in Denver and spent three hours very enjoyably and beneficially. From Atlanta it goes to Paris, and then will be dispersed, so this is by far your best chance.

Visitors Orientation
All Visitors are invited to an orientation On July 1 after the service. This one-hour meeting will give you a chance to find out more about Unitarian Universalism and about our congregation in particular. Refreshments will be served.

"Where love rules, there is no will to power; and where power predominates, there love is lacking. The one is the shadow of the other."
-C.G. Jung,

"Why not go out on a limb? That's where the fruit is."
(Will Rogers, cowboy, actor, philanthropist, 1879-1935. Ack CB)

News from Thomas Jefferson District of the UUA

UUA Board seeks volunteers for 3 Committees

The Committee on Committees of the UUA Board of Trustees is now accepting applications to fill the following vacancies:

1. General Assembly Planning Committee: One board-appointed position, for a 2-year term beginning June 25, 2007. Qualities desired include experience with meeting or event planning, some technical expertise and dedication to creating an inclusive anti-racist, anti-oppressive, multicultural gathering of UU leaders.
2. Commission on Appraisal: One vacancy, beginning June 25, 2007, to be appointed to complete the last two-years of a current elected term. The Commission is in the midst of an intensive project so any applicant should be willing and able to participate as fully and quickly as possible. Experience with vibrant UU communities, particularly as a minister, would be helpful for the Commission, as would diverse age (under 50), ethnic or racial perspectives. Following completion of the current term, the appointee would be encouraged to apply for election to a complete six-year term.
3. Committee on Socially Responsible Investing: One vacancy, beginning immediately. Applicants should have competence and experience with professional socially responsible investing, an awareness of social justice initiatives within our Association and a commitment to deeper understanding of the work of anti-racism, anti-oppression and multi-culturalism."

As we strive to live out our values and reflect who we are as a community, the Board is intentionally looking for applicants from various ages, races, ethnicities, genders and sexual orientations.

Applications are available at:
Board of Trustees/committee application form

The Green Corner

Ed. Note: The following is quoted in part from an article on http://sierraclub.typepad.com/greenlife/

Help With Home Improvement
http://sierraclub.typepad.com/greenlife/home_and_design/index.html

Green building is one of the hottest sustainable trends, but contractors familiar with all the ecofriendly options can still be hard to find. I tracked down a few recently for the July/August issue of *Sierra* and gleaned a few tips. Good builders understand that people want some pizzazz in their green home--like bamboo flooring or countertops made from recycled glass--but they hope potential clients will keep in mind that "hidden" things like insulation, weatherization, and energy systems are what really counts in the long run. Here are some questions to ask a potential builder's green qualifications:

- What kind of certifications (e.g., LEED, Energy Star) are you getting for the homes you build?
- Where are your homes sited? Do you look for in-fill building opportunities?
- What do you do to minimize the footprint of your homes and control erosion?
- Are you using salvaged or FSC-certified lumber?
- What are you doing to minimize waste during the construction process? How much are you recycling?
- How do you work to improve indoor air quality? A radiant or decentralized heating system, for example, is a better bet than a forced-air one, because the latter's duct work may house mold and dust that can then blow through the house.

A local association like Build It Green in Northern California can provide referrals to green builders, and often some free advice to homeowners too. If you can't find a contractor who specializes in environmentally friendly projects, see if you can find one who wants to learn and will work with you to investigate greener options. And check the website as they start a series of interviews with green builders and provide more resources for new homes and remodels.

"I believe for every drop of rain that falls...a flower grows.
I believe that somewhere in the darkest night...a candle glows."
Ervin Maurice Druckman - composer and lyricist

The Unigram
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How to Reach Us

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Ministers Hours: Thurs., Fri. 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

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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.

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Unigram Deadline

The e-mail deadline for the next Unigram is **9:00 p.m., July 3, 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.