

# THE UNIGRAM

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Columbia, SC

July 31, 2007



## **Aug. 5, 2007**

**11:00 Sermon Topic:** "Good People, Bad Groups"

Rev. Dr. Neal R. Jones

This is a sequel to my previous sermon, "The Face of Evil," in which I described some of the traits of evil individuals. This time I want to look at evil as manifested by groups, organizations, and even nations. In particular, I'm fascinated with the question of how good, decent people can come together in groups to commit acts that they would never condone in their personal lives.

**9:30 Forum Topic:** The culture within mental illness.

## **Aug. 12, 2007**

**11:00 Sermon Topic:** by Rev. Dr. Neal R. Jones

**9:30 Forum Topic:** Pharmaceutical companies good or evil?

## **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 8<sup>th</sup> grade

## *Ministerial Musings*

### **Calling Up the Professionals**

I've always been something of a handyman. I can paint a room, stain the backyard fence, hang a storm door, re-grout the bathroom tile, and tackle other repair jobs. Unlike my grandfather Puckett, a building contractor, I couldn't begin to build a house. If I were ever faced with the task of building my own house, I'd have to call up the professionals.

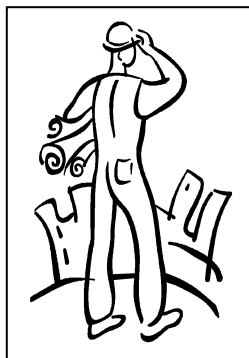
At our congregational meeting on July 15, our Fellowship voted unanimously to call up the professionals. So far, we have attempted to maintain our 50-year-old building with piecemeal, crisis-by-crisis repair jobs, often performed by volunteers from our congregation.

Cont'd next column

Cont'd from first column: **Calling Up the Professionals**

But age has caught up with us – with our building and with us! The needed repairs are too big for us amateurs to tackle. We need to perform some major renovations. We need a plan to define our long-term needs. And we need a plan to fit our immediate repairs with our long-term needs. In other words, it's time to call in the professionals.

We voted to hire the Boudreaux Group, a respected architectural firm that has worked with several Columbia churches, to develop a Master Plan for us. It's probably misleading to talk about a "Master Plan," which implies that the architects will hand us a blueprint. It's more like a Master Process. Over the next few months, the Boudreaux Group will meet with various groups of our Fellowship to assess how we are presently using our facilities and how we would like to use them. It will be a dialogue between the homeowners and the professionals to envision some specific options for our future. We will contribute our definition of our ministries, our needs, and our dreams. What will the professionals contribute? An architect, structural engineer, mechanical engineer, and electrical engineer will evaluate the safety, functionality, and integrity of our existing buildings. They will establish if our space is being used effectively to accomplish our goals. They will determine if our facilities are in accordance with building codes and zoning laws. Based on our input, they will propose various plans for repairing and renovating our facilities, including the probable costs and how renovations may be implemented in phases. They will recommend to us how to repair and renovate using "green" (ecologically responsible) strategies. They will do for us what we cannot do for ourselves.



At the end of this process, Boudreaux will present us with a Master Plan that will guide us for the next several years. At this point, no one knows what kinds of repairs and renovations we will implement, when we will start and how long we will take, or how much it will cost and how we will pay for it. First we need to see our options. That's why we're calling up the professionals.

*Neal*



## Community Chalice

We extend our concern and support to...

**Kathy Paget**, whose mother Audrey Deeney died July 23. A graveside service was held at St. Michael's Cemetery in Warsaw, New York. Memorial gifts may be given to the UUFC.

**Tom Turnipseed**, who is home recovering from hip replacement surgery.

**Bob Amundson**, who has been transferred from Richland Hospital to the Intermedical unit (7<sup>th</sup> floor) of Baptist Hospital.

**Cecil Myers**, who has returned home after his knee replacement surgery at Baptist Hospital.

**Candy Johnson**, who is in Richland Memorial Hospital.

We extend our congratulations to...

**Helen Rader**, a founding member of our Fellowship, who turned 90 on July 20. She celebrated with a party at her house on July 21 and at the Fellowship after the service on July 29.

We have a common responsibility for our world and are connected with everything in It."  
-- The Dalai Lama

## Religious Education!

### The UUFC is still seeking a Director of Religious Education!

If you are interested, please see the June 5 Unigram for details. If you don't have a copy of that Unigram, you may request a copy by e-mail to [UUFC@bigfoot.com](mailto:UUFC@bigfoot.com) with the phrase, "DRE Search" as the subject line. The position will remain open until it is filled. You may call the office for a copy.

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

### Unitarian Universalist Christians

Through the Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) I'm currently working with a group of Unitarian Universalist Christians. Each week, I send out a scripture reading along with some commentary. The readings come from the Revised Common Lectionary, which is a three-year cycle of scripture readings.

I will be glad to e-mail a copy to any member of the Columbia UU Fellowship who would like to be included in the weekly mailings. John Tindal can be contacted at: [jbtindal@ftc-i.net](mailto:jbtindal@ftc-i.net) I've lived my entire life here in Sumter. As a child, I was introduced to the Unitarian Church in Charleston where some of my ancestors are buried. I've been associated off-and-on with Unitarian Universalism since the late 1960's. Prior to working with the on-line Unitarian Universalist Christian group, I taught adult Sunday School classes for several years in Episcopal and Presbyterian churches.

### Women's Book Club

This book group meets the second Tuesday of every month in the home of participants to share our personal responses to the books we've chosen to read. All female friends and members of the UUFC are welcome to attend.

On August 14th at 7:00 PM. we'll meet in the home of Lynne Sparrow, 1425 Adella Street, Columbia to discuss *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri. Call Lynne at xxx-xxxx if you'd like more details or directions.

Upcoming selections include:

September 11 – *The Known World* by Edward P. Jones  
October 9 - *Truth and Beauty* by Ann Patchett

### Science & Religion

Science and Religion Group: will meet Thurs. August 9 at 7:00 in the RE wing. We are reading *The Two Cultures* by C. P. Snow. This is not a new book but is still relevant. Please read the book and join us for the discussion--we find we learn much from one another as well as the book. Questions: Joe Long at xxx-xxxx or Ann Johnson @ xxx-xxxx.

**Adult Religious Education:** There will be an initial planning meeting after church on Sunday August 12 to begin organizing for the fall session of Adult RE. If you have suggestions for courses, have a class you want to teach, are willing to help with set up, food preparation, or clean up, or just have some ideas to share please join us. Coordinators are Don Mohr [xxx-xxxx] and Ann Johnson [xxx-xxxx]; call or email if you are interested but unable to attend the meeting.

**Drumming lessons** with Amara Camara every Sunday, 3:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

### Collecting School Supplies

LAST CALL: Sunday the 12th is the last day for donations to the Cooperative Ministries' school-supply drive for this year. Please leave your pens, pencils, construction paper, notebook paper etc. on the stage in the Social Hall before the end of the Service that morning. (& thanks for giving a child a better chance at 'making the grade'.)

### Used Book Sale

The Religious Education Committee will be holding a used book sale on Saturday, August 25 from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. If you have used books in good condition that you would like to donate, please bring them to Room 7 in the RE Wing no later than Sunday, August 19. Proceeds will be used to purchase new books for the RE Children's Library.

### SEEDS OF HOPE

'Our farmer' Mr. Reed is delivering his fresh fruits & veggies every Sunday. Please pass on the word to any friends who might be interested in 'shopping' at UUFC.

**The UUA sponsors over 250 email lists** where you can participate in online discussions with other UUs on topics of interest. You can find links to all of the lists here <http://lists.uua.org/mailman/listinfo>. A few lists are:

**Greensanctuary** Green Sanctuary Prog - environmental congregations

**Newcomers** for interested visitors and new UUs

**Pfor-I** Preserving Our 1st Amendment Religious Freedoms

**Political-uus** UUs discussing politics and religion

### Lammas, Gaia Rising, CUUPS

The first of August is the traditional time to bring in the early harvest for a celebration. In old Europe, this was usually the first crop of wheat.

In SC, it is more likely to be a rich array of melons, squashes, tomatoes, beans, figs, cucumbers, peaches and persimmons. When Christianity came to the Celtic lands, the old feast known as Lughnassad began to be called Lammas, for "loaf mass," the bread baked from the first wheat for use in the mass.

Join us for a drum circle on the lawn of the UUFC, Friday, Aug. 4<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 PM until 9:00 PM.

Bring your drum, rattles, bells, etc., and you're dancing feet. And bring canned goods to place on the altar for blessing, and CUUPS will deliver them to a local soup kitchen. Questions, call 803.799.0845, or write us at [cuupsolumbia@yahoo.com](mailto:cuupsolumbia@yahoo.com)

If you want to be free, there is but one way; it is to guarantee an equally full measure of liberty to all your neighbors. There is no other. Carl Schurz



## The Green Corner

*Ed. Note: The following is quoted in part from BBC News, Wed., 18 July 2007*

Gulf dead zone to be biggest ever  
This year could see the biggest

"Dead zone" since records began form in the waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

Scientists say conditions are right for the zone to exceed last summer's 6,662 sq miles (17,255-sq km).

The dead zone is an area of water virtually devoid of oxygen, which cannot support marine life.

It is caused by nutrients such as fertilisers flowing into the Gulf, stimulating the growth of algae, which absorbs the available oxygen.

The volume of nutrients flowing down rivers such as the Mississippi into the Gulf has tripled over the last 50 years.

The annual event has been blamed for shark attacks along the Gulf coast, as sharks, along with other highly mobile species, flee the inhospitable waters.

Animals that cannot move simply die.

### Nutrient load

*The relatively high nitrate loading may be due to more intensive used for biofuels Eugene Turner*

"I am anticipating a historically large hypoxic (oxygen-deficient) zone this summer, because the nitrate loading this May, a critical month influencing the size of the area, was very high," said Eugene Turner from Louisiana State University.

"The relatively high nitrate loading may be due to more intensive farming of more land, including crops used for biofuels, unique weather patterns, or changing farming practices."

The nitrate load is so high that the dead zone may attain a size of 8,500 sq miles (22,015 sq km), almost double the average since 1990.

However, an active storm season could change that forecast, as storms mix the seas, dispersing nutrients and algae and bringing in oxygenated water.

Professor Turner is one of the scientists involved in modelling the dead zone, supported by the US National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (Noaa).

The United Nations warns that dead zones are becoming more common globally as intensive agriculture spreads.

Its 2003 Global Environment Outlook said that the number of seasonal hypoxic areas has doubled each decade since the 1960s.

The UN believes the algal blooms are having a significant impact on commercially valuable fish stocks.

[BBC NEWS | Science/Nature | Gulf dead zone to be biggest ever](#)

[Climate Change, Global Warming, and the Built Environment - Architecture 2030](#)

> This column is open to anyone that wants to contribute an article, please send to [uufc@bigfoot.com](mailto:uufc@bigfoot.com).

## **BOARD MINUTES --6/13/2007**

### ***MOTIONS PASSED***

- \* THE BOARD ACCEPTED THE BUDGET.
- \* AGREED TO TAKE \$3000 FROM SAVINGS TO PAY FOR MINISTERIAL EXPENSES.
- \* DAVID CROCKET GAVE A SPONSOR LEVEL DONATION IN THE NAME OF THE UUFC TO THE SC HIV/AIDS COUNCIL PLAY AT KOGER JUNE 29<sup>TH</sup>.
- \* AGREED TO PAY OUR FAIR SHARE TO THE THOMAS JEFFERSON DISTRICT.
- \* AGREED TO TAKE \$600 FROM THE CARNISALE FUND TO SEND OUR TREASURERS AND ANYBODY ELSE INTERESTED FOR AN ACS (OUR COMPUTER PROGRAM FOR BUDGET AND OTHER THINGS) TRAINING DAY.

### ***DECISIONS MADE***

- \* DISCUSS CHALICE LIGHTERS PROGRAM AT NEXT BOARD MEETING.
- \* NEXT BOARD TO NAME LIASONS WITH CHAIRS.
- \* WE WILL SEE IF WE CAN PUT THE OREOMOBILE ON OUR GROUNDS.

## *Our Deepest Fear*

by Marianne Williamson

"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, and fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others."

# The Unigram

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## Staff

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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.

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## Unigram Deadline

The e-mail deadline for the next Unigram is **9:00 p.m., Aug. 12, 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.