

THE UNIGRAM

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Columbia, SC

August 14, 2007



Aug. 19, 2007

9:30 Forum Topic: Pharmaceutical Companies - good or evil?

11:00 Sermon Topic: "Freedom Summer: A Civil Rights Journey" by Gin Beery

It was a defining period in US history and my life as I grew up in Birmingham. Come hear about the Freedom Summer Workcamp through Atlanta, Birmingham, Selma & Montgomery.

Aug. 26, 2007

11:00 Sermon Topic: "The Shadow Side of Individualism" by Rev. Dr. Neal R. Jones

By the time I deliver this sermon, I hope to have seen "Sicko" with many of you at the Nickelodeon's private screening for our Fellowship. I'm anticipating that Michael Moore's expose of our sick health care system will highlight a more fundamental ailment of our extremely individualistic society - our inability to come together and act as a community (except during war). What are the spiritual costs of our individualism? And how might we counteract this deeply ingrained cultural tendency?

9:30 Forum Topic: Immigration

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

Ministerial Musings

August 5th was a special day for you and me. During our service, I signed the letter of agreement making me your fulltime minister, and Mike Paget, our President-Elect, signed on behalf of the congregation. Together we applauded this big step forward, and after the service, we toasted with mimosas our successful pledge drive and budget (the largest in our history), both of which make this step possible. Just so the Board doesn't forget, I want to remind them of my addendum to the contract, which is now duly signed and official (which means we have to do it):

Cont'd next column

Cont'd from first column: *Ministerial Musings*

* Champagne shall be served every Sunday, preferably before the sermon.

* The Rev. Jones shall be provided with a year's supply of barbecue and mustard sauce (but not Maurice's).

* The library shall be converted into a ministerial sauna and whirlpool.

Throughout this process, I have been touched by your affirmation of me and by your commitment to our Fellowship's life and health and to our future well being. I was touched that Sunday morning in particular by Mike's words. He read a meditation by V. Emil Gudmundson, a Canadian UU:

The Fields of Promise

"What we are, we have reached because of other people's planting. The thoughts, the values, the ideas, and the feelings we possess are articulate because we have been the recipients of knowledge, kindness, love, and understanding. For these gifts not our own, we give thanks.

And now, may we have the faith in life to do wise planting, that the generations to come may reap ever more abundantly than we. May we be reminded of the wise ones of old who admonished, "If you plan for one year, plant grain; if you plan for ten years, plant trees; if you plan for centuries, plant souls." May we be bold in bringing to fruition the golden dreams of human kinship and justice. This we ask that the fields of promise become fields of reality."

I haven't heard "planting souls" since my Baptist childhood, but the phrase seems appropriate to who we are and what we are doing. I'm not exactly sure what soul is, but I know that it's that part of us that feels, that yearns, that dreams', that laughs', sings, and dances. I know that that part of us needs nurturing if it is to survive and if we are to live, to truly live. I know that soul is nurtured in community - in a network of caring, supportive, understanding, and accepting relationships. I know that you have nurtured my soul these last two years. And I know that on August 5th, we reaped the sacrifices of many known and unknown planters of soul and that we added our own seeds to the field of promise.

Here's to bountiful planting, growing, and reaping.

Neal



Community Chalice

We extend our concern and support to...

Jack Sproat, who is recovering at home from cataract surgery.

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

Jo Conner, who is home recovering from knee replacement surgery.

We extend our congratulations to...

Paul Kinosian, who has been promoted to Senior Chemist at Albemarle in Orangeburg.

Jennifer Gilmore, who has begun a private practice as a Marriage and Family Therapist. Her office is located at 616 Holly Street.

Bob Amundson, who has returned home after several weeks in the hospital.

Cecil Myers, who has returned to the Fellowship after being hospitalized for knee replacement surgery.

We extend our appreciation to...

Bill & Regina Moody, for their donation of paving blocks to our Fellowship.

We welcome back,

Carita Barr, who has returned from visiting her family in Finland.

Gertrude and Ron Edge, who have returned from Denmark, where they celebrated Gertrude's sister's 50th wedding anniversary.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

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

UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

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

September Set

Set your tastebuds for September Set. Join us in the Social Hall at 6:00, Friday, the 24th for our monthly potluck supper. Bring your favorite dish to share & enjoy sharing the favorites of others. (& since the host no longer provides entrees we'll need a few of those in addition the usual salads, breads, etc.) If you have any questions call Jan Fulcher at xxx-xxxx.

Science & Religion Book Group

We had a lively and informative discussion of C. P. Snow's Book "The Two Cultures," exchanging important ideas. We find we learn much from one another and encourage new folks to join us. Our next meeting is Thursday October 11 at 7:00 PM. We will be reading Carl Sagan's *The Varieties of Scientific Experience*.

Board of Trustees Annual Retreat

Saturday September 8 from 9 AM to 3 PM
Schedule

September's Board Meeting will be from 9 to 10:30 (no Wednesday Board meeting in September). From 10:30 to noon the Board will review our Long-Range Plan. Committee Chairs or their designee are invited to join us for lunch from Noon to 1 PM. From 1 to 3 PM the Board and Committee chairs will further review our progress, identify areas that need to be addressed and the resources required.

Board Members please be sure that if your committee chair cannot attend that their designee does. Service committees and Ad Hoc committees are encouraged to send representation and to join us for lunch.

"Sicko Comes to the UUFC"

The Nickelodeon is offering members and friends of our Fellowship a private screening of Michael Moore's acclaimed movie about our sick health care system on Saturday, August 25 at Noon. Admission is \$4.00.

Life is either a daring
adventure —or nothing.
Helen Keller

Religious Education!

LAST CALL FOR APPLICANTS FOR THE DRE POSITION

If you are interested in applying for the position of Director of Religious Education for the UUFC, the deadline for applications is 3:00 PM on Monday August 20. Include a letter, resume, and any other applicable information in your application. Please be sure to describe all of the applicable training and experience you have had that might qualify you for this position. Send to uufc@bigfoot.com.

RE FALL CLEAN-UP

Will be on August 26. Please bring your children, grubby clothes, appetite for pizza and willing friends to get the RE wing organized and cleaned out for the Fall! We'll start about 10 AM and keep working until 1 OR 2PM.

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.

If I had my life to live over, I would start barefoot earlier in the spring and stay that way later in the fall. ~Nadine Stair

Adult Religious Education Classes are resuming

Mark your calendars! We will begin the next round of Adult Religious Education classes on Wednesday, September 5th and they will continue every Wednesday for the next five weeks. Here are a few details:

- Each session begins at 6:00 PM when we gather for dinner and a short devotional.
- About 6:45 we will finish dinner and adjourn to the classes. Classes will end by 8:00 PM.
- Dinner will be prepared by some of the teachers, and everybody else will be asked to stay for a little while to clean up after the class. Nobody will be asked to stay more than one time for the clean up.
- If you would like to lead a devotional, please feel free to volunteer for that. If this is new territory for you, someone will be happy to work with you.
- There will be a fee of \$25 to cover the cost of the dinners. Ideally, everyone will be able to pay before the first class.

You may sign up by calling 799-0845 or a sign up table will be in Social Hall after the worship service for the next 3 weeks. The classes to be offered this fall are:

CONFLICT MANAGEMENT by Ann Johnson & Neal Jones
Wherever there are people, there will be conflict – in families, friendships, marriages, offices, and even congregations. The question is not whether there will be conflict but how to manage it when it arises. This class will help you deal with conflict more constructively by identifying your style of conflict and conflict management and by teaching communication skills to mediate disagreements.

UUFC 101 by Peter Kandis & Don Mohr

This is a class for new members and for members who want to know more about Unitarian Universalism in general and how we practice it here at the UUFC. We will talk about the origins of UU and the origins of the UUFC, our principals and purposes, and our goal to stir up our children's minds with the wonders of the spiritual world rather than stamping our ideas on them. We will talk about our long-range plan and our plans to do an ecologically friendly renovation of our facility. We will talk about our structures (organizational, physical, and political). Finally we will talk about how you can get involved to do one of the many forms of your soul work.

THE WELCOMING CONGREGATION by Cheryl Soehl
Over half of all UU congregations have been designated as Welcoming Congregations. This means that they are part of a program committed to being inclusive and expressive of the concerns of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered persons at every level of congregational life—welcoming not only their presence, but also the unique gifts and particularities of their lives as well. This class is the first step in our congregation's process for receiving this important certification.



The Green Corner

Ed. Note: The following is quoted in part from:

http://sierraclub.typepad.com/greenlife/tip_sheet/index.html

The average house creates double the greenhouse-gas emissions of the average car. Audit your home's energy use -- and see how you can reduce it -- at <http://hes.lbl.gov/>.

Be energy-aware at work: Setting your monitor or laptop to go into sleep mode automatically during short breaks can cut energy use by 70 percent. Then be sure to turn off your computer and monitor -- and the power strip they're plugged into -- when you're done for the day.

Get in touch with nature while you get in shape: Exercising outdoors, exposed to the elements and uneven terrain, can burn 30 percent more calories than hitting the gym.

> This column is open to anyone that wants to contribute an article, please send to uufc@bigfoot.com.

The Unigram

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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. 26, 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.