



UUFC WORLD

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Clemson

230 Pendleton Road, Clemson, SC 29631

September 2009

Volume 31 Issue 9



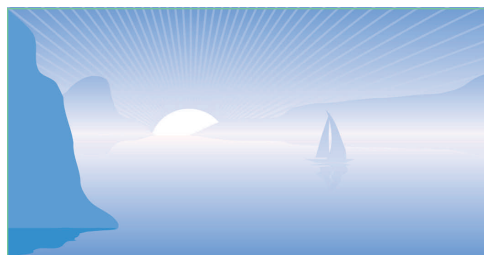
SEPTEMBER SUNDAY SERVICES

Morning Reflection - 10 a.m. Social Time-10:30 a.m. Services - 11:00 a.m.

September 6

Intergenerational Water Ceremony

Rev. Cynthia Prescott



September 13

Nickel and Dimed - Readers' Theatre

The Outreach Committee

September 20th

Kayaking for All Seasons

Carl Dieter

September 27

Who Needs to Hear?

Reverend Cynthia Prescott

Worship Notes

Your worship chair is grateful to the volunteers who have filled the morning reflection schedule with a diversity of people and topics. September's reflections will be provided by Julian Charney and Kyla Campbell on the 6th, Les Grady on the 13th, Jeanne Malmgren (Buddhist meditation) on the 20th, and Eve Stevens on the 27th. The 11 o'clock service begins with the annual intergenerational Water Ceremony on September 6th, led by Rev. Cynthia Prescott and DRE Meg MacArthur. The Outreach Committee will do a Readers' Theatre based on the play *Nickel and Dimed* on the 13th. Karl Dieter returns to the pulpit after a long absence on September 20th to discuss *Kayaking for All Seasons*, and Rev. Cynthia Prescott winds up the month with *Who Needs to Hear?*

We welcome the choir back to our services starting with the water ceremony. Choir practice is in the sanctuary on Thursdays from 5:30 to 6:30. New voices are always welcome. This fall we will be hearing from the choir about every 3rd week and also enjoying some of our talented soloists.

The Worship Committee is responsible for organizing non-minister-led services, overseeing the music program, ensuring that we have a regular and diverse schedule of morning reflections, evaluating of our worship experiences, and providing service coordinators to assist the worship leader with the details of the service, like passing the microphone, finding ushers to collect the offering, and putting out and collecting hymnals. We welcome new members to our committee. Our next scheduled meeting is Thursday, October 7th, immediately after choir (about 6:30).

Submitted by Holley Ulbrich

FOR THINKING OUT LOUD
Transcendently Yours
Reverend Cynthia Prescott

“If I sign up for the Workshop on Worship this fall, will I learn what ‘transcendent’ means?”

Thus was I found guilty of tossing that word around.

If you consult a dictionary, you will find all manner of sub-definitions hovering around a central one. That which is transcendent surpasses ordinary experience. Recently I shared my new favorite refrigerator door quotation from the poet T.S. Eliot, “We had the experience, but we missed the meaning.” Experience happens. Meaning is the transcendent part.

It’s the sense that something has happened which surpasses (transcends) your usual assumption of, to quote another “T”, T.H. White, “how the world wags and what wags it.” “I never saw things that way before!” is the “eureka” statement of someone who’s just had an experience of transcendence. When you do something that astonishes yourself, say you speak up when before you’ve always held back, that’s self-transcendence.

Yes, dictionary readers, “transcendent” can equate to “supernatural,” but for Unitarian Universalists, it doesn’t. All in all, we are not believers in a supernatural anything or anybody. What we are is believers in the naturally religious meaning of human experience: the meaning we locate (Eureka!), or the tantalizing meaning that eludes our grasp.

Transcendence and self-transcendence are the aim of Unitarian Universalist worship. No service leader hits the transcendental nail on the head every time. There’s no formula. What matters is the intention, and the always trying (I can’t resist) to self-transcend ourselves.

UUFC has a long tradition of lay-led worship, dating back to 1954. Since 1998 I’ve been blending my own voice with yours. This fall, let us self-transcend together.

Worship Workshop: Four sessions between October 18 and November 15. Suggested times: Sunday, 12:30 to 2:30; Saturday 10:00 to noon; Tuesday, 6:30 to 8:30. Group will choose specific times based on participant availability. No two sessions need be at the same time. Could combine two sessions into one or add an extra if needed. Basic format follows:

First session: What is Unitarian Universalist worship? What are the qualities/elements of a good worship service, including music?

Second session: Credo-writing – “This I Believe”

Third session: Using your own voice in worship. Writing your own call to worship/ opening words, meditation or prayer.

Fourth session: Creating a worship service scheduled before May 2010.

To start figuring out workshop times, I need to hear as soon as possible from those who are interested in exploring how to lead or co-lead worship in the Unitarian Universalist tradition. Participation in all four sessions is much to be desired. If that’s a struggle for you, let me know and I’ll plan a later re-run of this course.

In faith,
Cynthia

PLEASE SEE PAGE 8 FOR “HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE!”

THE VIEW FROM HERE

Martha Alexander, UUFC Board President
Fellowships Remembered

We had only been at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Peninsula (Newport News, VA), a short time, when someone told us that we could never be involved, as the Fellowship was run by a clique. Now twenty-nine years later we still don't know who was in the clique. From the beginning we were involved in just about every activity. In addition to those contributions mentioned last month, I gave Sunday morning programs, helped out in RE, was on the committee to choose furnishings for our new building, and sang with a group. (David Hamilton wrote original words and music for the first service in our new building about our rise from a burned church to a bright new one "Life Electrified.") We had great fun there attending committee meetings, dinners, and entertaining in homes. One evening when the committee met to choose chairs, Alex went along as did Wendell. When it came time to vote, those two were just voting away when we all collapsed in giggles as we told them they couldn't vote because they weren't on the committee. Everything seemed to be great fun and not once did I ever hear a "discouraging" word. Two members liked to cook and we would have fancy sit down dinners where we ate food with French names. Then there was the Halloween party when Wendell, who is about Alex's size, showed up in long green underwear with aluminum foil on his head. One Sunday every spring was Kite Flying Sunday. We would meet about 10 a.m. on the Yorktown battlefield and fly kites; then we would walk over to Lou and Wendell's yard for chowder and/or chili. I saw a great lesson in respect and dignity one Sunday morning, that will stay with me for the rest of my life. We invited a speaker whose topic was Existentialism. Although I can't remember a thing he said, I do remember we thought he was so outstanding we invited him back the next Sunday to speak on what we thought was the history of the Baptist faith. At 11:00 a.m. sharp the following Sunday, he appeared with hair parted down the middle, bow tie and wearing an unusually colorful suit ensemble. He prissed up the aisle, sat at the piano and played a rousing country church version of "Just as I Am" while singing in an odd voice. Then he proceeded to give a fire and brimstone sermon. It soon became obvious that he was making fun. I'll never forget looking around and although this was obviously his idea of comedy, nobody laughed. After he had finished, during "talk back" we told him respectfully that although we may not be Baptist it was never our purpose to denigrate another's religion.

It was from VA that I went to The Mountain for youth camp during the summers of '80 and '81. Even those two years at The Mountain had different personalities. The first year it was all about an intergenerational place to come apart to be all that one could be, a place to care for each other and our environment. The next year not so much. I saw people picking rare plants we had been told the previous year to leave alone. There were unkind words spoken and one evening a junior counselor came back to cabin row to find several articles of her underwear flying from the tallest trees.

Alex left for Nellis Air Force Base, NV, in the winter of '82. For the first time ever I had to plan and carry out a move alone. It was very difficult to leave our dear friends at UU of the Peninsula and Mary, who was the first person with whom I had spoken upon arrival, was the last person to whom I said a tearful goodbye. Then, with teenagers Andy and Doug, struck out for Las Vegas. Andy had a driver's license and could help drive. We had a wonderful trip across country. We stopped at my parents in NC, stayed with a UU family in Knoxville while we visited the World's Fair, visited the Painted Desert and limped into Henderson, NV, in our Chrysler New Yorker where we had to call Alex to come get us, as the car overheated. It was 108 degrees that day in July.

To be concluded in October

UUFC Adult Religious Education Offerings

Fall 2009

1. The Book Study Group (Adult RE) will begin reading **1491** by Charles Mann on September 20th in the back RE room. Cecil Huey will lead the discussion. All are welcome. The group will choose the next book sometime in October.
2. **Cakes for the Queen of Heaven II**, six sessions. Sunday after the 11 o'clock service, September 6th-October 11th. Led by Meg MacArthur and Marguerite Kirsch. Topics are The Hebrew Goddess, Sarah the Priestess, The Apostle Mary, The Virgin Mary, Witchcraft, and Future Fantasies.
3. **UU101 History**, four sessions. Thursdays nights at 7, September 3-24. Led by Holley Ulbrich. Good for newcomers, good refresher for longer term members. There is no textbook but there is a reader that can be downloaded.
4. **Training for Worship Leaders**, four sessions, Sundays after the 11 o'clock service, October 18, 25, November 1, 8. Led by Rev. Cynthia Prescott. Topics: What is Quality Worship?; This I Believe: and two sessions on Finding and Using One's Voice in Worship.
5. **Pattern and Process, Religion and Sin: Finding a Way in the Modern World**, using the book *Ego and Archetype* by Edward F. Eddinger, led by Marguerite Kirsch, second and fourth Wednesdays each month at 7, five sessions. 2nd, 4th, and 5th Wednesdays of August and September, from 7PM - 9PM (Aug 12, 26; Sept 9, 23,30).
6. **Dreamwork and Active Imagination**, 1st Wednesdays, August - December, led by Marguerite Kirsch, continues to meet at 7 at her home.

THE DRE's CORNER: (Meg MacArthur)

Religious Education for children and youth starts September 13. Our theme this year is World Religions. We are adding a middle school age class this year. That means we will be needing more teachers. Each class has a well-laid-out curriculum. We only ask that you teach three Sundays in a row in one month. That's not a big commitment and think about all you could learn about different religions by teaching one of these classes! The curriculum books and sign-up sheets are in the Social Room during coffee time, or you can talk to me. I'd be glad to sign you up. Thank you for supporting Religious Education at UUFC.



Outreach Committee

Submitted by Kathryn Smith

Outreach Service: The Living Wage, a UUA Action of the Month from earlier this year, will be the focus of the Sept. 13 worship service. It will include a reader's theatre presentation from the play "Nickel and Dimed" by Barbara Ehrenreich, who went undercover in 1999 and 2000 to see how a single woman can survive on minimum wage. She discovered it was impossible. Do you know what the minimum wage is now in South Carolina? How about the living wage in the Up-state? Learn more at the service. (If you want a role in the readers' theatre, email Kathryn Smith at leoasmith@charter.net)

Fourth Sunday Offerings: Recipients of fourth Sunday benevolence from UUFC have included Safe Harbor II, June, \$244.45; UU Seminaries, Meadville-Lombard and Starr King, \$382, July. The August benevolence was collected for Clemson Child Development Center, and the September donation will go to Clemson Community Care. You can make out checks to the appropriate charities and drop them in the offering basket, or designate them on the memo line of your check to UUFC. Cash offerings on Fourth Sunday go to the benevolence fund.

Food: Remember donations of non-perishable foods should be brought to UUFC the first Sunday of each month for Clemson Community Care.

CROP Walk: Jamey Lowdermilk has agreed to be the UUFC chair for Crop Walk, to be held on Oct. 4. CROP Walk raises funds for international hunger relief, as well as local food pantries. Clemson Community Care will receive 25 percent of the money raised. Last year, \$4,000 went to CCC. A kickoff event will be held Sunday, Sept. 6 at 7 p.m. at Catherine Smith Park in Clemson. Jamey welcomes CROP Walk participants as well as donors. For information, email her at jlowder@g.clemson.edu.

More Outreach Related News:

Where did we get that wheelbarrow? What will we use it for? Why are we doing that?

Cindy Burke and the UU MAGICK teens provided us with a very useful wheelbarrow to carry all of the food that we are going to collect for Clemson Community Care in September. The members and friends of UUFC and United Church of Christ (our building mates) are collecting food for the local needy in our area in September. With high unemployment in our state, the disadvantaged people in Clemson, Pendleton, Central, Six Mile, and other places in Pickens County, need some help. Please bring some canned vegetables, pork & beans, Jell-O, pudding, tuna, canned meats, spaghetti, noodles, potatoes, bread, and other food goodies. When times are tight, everyone appreciates some healthy food. Share your wealth with those less fortunate than you are. You will feel better helping others.

We usually have to remind people to bring food the first Sunday of each month, but in September you can bring food every time you visit us. Please!

Thanks,
Carol Ward and Dorris Sias

CREATIVITY PAGE

MANDY'S HAVEN

(Photo taken and submitted by
Mandy Guyon)

Scenic view from Oconee County
South Cove Park on Lake Keowee,
Seneca SC.



POEM

A lovely deer stood
At the edge of the wood.
She sought my eyes
Beneath twilight skies.
I danced for her.
She pranced for me.
We were one another's company.

By Nancy Oppenheimer-Smolen
(UUCF Member, professional artist, poet, and
animal lover. August 2009)

SEPTEMBER is Still Summer in Sultry South! (Editor's Title for Sept. Alliteration)

Summer...scenic, sliding softly, silkily, swiftly...selfishly seeking sublime senses
and serendipitous sighs...slipping so suddenly! Soon, sitting, sowing, simply
seeking sacred shackles of soapboxes.

By Cindy Burke, this month's poetic alliterator.

*Ed. Note: (If you have an alliterative observation or oration on October, that
would be welcome & a fun challenge for you! Have fun & submit!)*

Hear Ye, Hear Ye: More UUFC Plans, Notices, News!

FUNdraising is underway! Check the list of events in the event auction in the Social Room--chili cookoff, hike, bison cookout/wine tasting, campout, and more! Auction ends on September 27th. Also be thinking about any craft items you might want to include in our pre-Christmas craft bazaar. You get to choose what percentage you keep and what percentage of your sales go to UUFC (ranging from 25% to 100%).

Ways and Means Committee

Coming in October – your chance to make your voice heard! Be on the lookout for the online 2009 Shared Ministry Evaluation and give us the feedback we need to make UUFC even better. Stay tuned for more details.

Memorial Garden will be More than Just a Memory

Years ago a Memorial Garden was in the planning stages at UUFC. Landscape Architect and UUFC member, David Allison, drew up a plan. But somewhere along the way, the plan was put on the shelf and the idea was put on the back burner. I'd like to revive this idea and try to make this dream come true. The first step is the formation of a subcommittee under the Buildings and Grounds umbrella. I've already spoken with several folks about this, but if you are interested serving on this committee, please let me know. Of course at this point, it is not about the physical work of building a garden; we need your ideas, opinions and input into the decisions that must be made. I hope to have the first meeting of this committee in September or October. Once a committee is formed, we'll decide on the date.

Submitted by Meg Williamson,
Building & Grounds Chair

UUFC WORLD is published monthly by the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Clemson. Please send your submissions to heidisong@nctv.com or visit us at 230 Pendleton Road, Clemson, SC 29631. The deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month for the following month's edition. Visit our web page at www.uufc.org. Our Webmaster is Steve Bynum.

We welcome new ideas, opinion letters, poetry, verse, inspirational quotations....even UU-appropriate cartoons or jokes.

COUNCIL OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS-2009

Cindy Lee	Board Representative & Chair of Council
Building/Grounds	Allen Guest & Meg Williamson
Communication	Jan Lay
Hospitality/Holidays	Anita Stutzman
Membership	Karen Hiebel
Outreach	Kathryn Smith
Religious Education	Mark Mellott
Stewardship	Bob Snelsire
Ways and Means	John Kenelly
Worship	Holley Ulbrich

Monthly Board & Committee Meetings

Covenant Groups: We have 6 on-going Covenant Groups. Please inquire at the office if you are interested.

UUFC Board, Committee, and other Business Meetings

Outreach Committee, 1st Thursday, 6:00 pm,
Library

Membership Committee, 4th Wednesday, 5:30pm

RE Committee Meeting, 3rd Tuesday, Noon,
Founders House

Board Meetings, Second Wednesdays 7:00 pm, Social Room

Finance Committee, 1st Wednesday 6:30 pm,
Library

Green Sanctuary, 1st Tuesday, 5:00 pm,
Founders House

COSMOS, 3rd Thursday, 4:45 pm,
Founders House

Staff Meeting, 3rd Wednesday, Founders House

Miscellaneous Monthly Events

Clemson Community Care Food Collection,
1st Sunday, Main Building

Trading Post, 2nd Sunday, Social Room

Benevolence Offertory, 4th Sunday, Sanctuary

UUFC Women's Salad Supper Group,

4th Wednesday, 6:30 pm, Founders House

The Nekkid Muse: A UUFC Coffeehouse

(Sept. 11 - A Welcome Back Coffeehouse special!)

Always 2nd Friday, 6:30 pm, Social Room (Let
Renee Mendola (mendolar@bellsouth.net) know if you
want to perform.)

Novel Circle, (*See page 9) 1st Wednesday,
7:30 pm Founders House

Literary League, For people who love words.

3rd Tuesday, 5 pm, (call Bonnie Worthen for
details. 646-3319) Bring an appetite to become
real wordsmiths!) Founders House

Fourth Sunday Food for Thought: Pot luck
lunch & discussion on UUA-relevant topic.

Miscellaneous Weekly Events

Course in Miracles - Saturday, 10 am - Library

Choir Practice, Thursdays, 5:30pm. - Sanctuary

"LAY LED MEDITATION", Saturday morn-
ings, 9 - 10 am - UUFC Sanctuary. If questions,
please call or email Marty Bynum at 654-5440.

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS SEPTEMBER ISSUE

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Loud"

Page 3. President Martha Alexander's "The View From
Here"

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Meg MacArthur's The DRE's Corner (RE info)

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"2009 Shared Ministry Evaluation" information

Page 8. You see it all here on this page! :-)

Page 9. Novel Circle book Information &

"The Roller Coaster of Life" By Myrna McKee

Page 10: "Roller Coaster of Life" cont'd.

NOVEL CIRCLE meets in Founders House the first Wednesday of every month.

September 2, 2009. **Speed of Dark** by Elizabeth Moon. Corporate life in early 21st-century America is even more ruthless than it was at the turn of the millennium. Lou Arrendale, well compensated for his remarkable pattern-recognition skills, enjoys his job and expects never to lose it. But he has a new boss, a man who thinks Lou and the others in his building are a liability. Lou and his coworkers are autistic. And the new boss is going to fire Lou and all his coworkers--unless they agree to undergo an experimental new procedure to "cure" them. In *The Speed of Dark*, Elizabeth Moon has created a powerful, complex, and believable portrayal of a man who varies radically from what is defined as "normal." The author insightfully explores the nature of "normality," identity, choice, responsibility, free will, illness and health, and good and evil. *The Speed of Dark* is a powerful, moving, illuminating novel. Clemson University selected this novel as its 2009 Freshman Book. 369 pages, Del Ray Books, 2005.

October 7, 2009. **Magic Time** by Doug Marlette. Mississippi native Carter Ransom came to New York as a young man and has risen to become a columnist with a major city newspaper. But when his life in New York falls apart and he heads back home to recover, the still-live conflicts of his youth in the civil rights era rise up all around him again. A 1964 murder case has just been reopened, a church bombing that killed Carter's first love. Carter's father was the judge in the case, and now there's evidence that the trial was flawed, even fixed, and the case's reopening threatens the foundation of Carter's identity, as well as his relationship to his family. *Magic Time* is at once a powerful love story, a courtroom drama, and a complex portrait of the civil rights revolution. 592 pages, Picador, 2007.
(Submitted by Gail Brownlee)

The Roller Coaster of Life

By Myrna McKee

*Originally published in The Journal/Messenger
August, 12, 2009*

Who can ever forget Betty Davis in *All About Eve*, as she stood posed on that winding staircase in a white slinky gown, and gestured emphatically with her cigarette in a long holder? She so succinctly said, "Fasten your seat belt. It's going to be a bumpy ride." To me, that's a great definition of life with its bumps, curves, highs and lows. It's a never-ending roller coaster of surprises.

I admit to a few faults (well, to be honest, more than just a few) but without a doubt the biggest is my mouth. Over the years I have often prayed to G/d to ask for the ability to hear what my mouth will say before I speak so I could edit my remarks. I could also use a double portion of patience, and I've daily prayed, "Please G/d, make it boring." Leave drama to those who crave it. None of my three prayers have been

answered. The fact is I do my best to live a tranquil life, but somehow histrionics becomes part of the mix and the dramatics are the major end ingredient in the results.

Bad health has dogged me since childhood. The only redeeming feature of that fact is I recovered quickly and was able to continue on life's journey. I've been through so many illnesses that I've begun to think that G/d is testing me to see what kind of doctor I might be in the next life. Experiencing a variety of illnesses has allowed me to become familiar in numerous fields of medicine/diseases--; Diabetes, cardiovascular, high blood pressure, arthritis, PAD, over-weight, and gout (due to medicines side effects). I read test results like a pro and when I converse with a Doctor, it is as equals. I religiously keep files of reports, partake of yearly preventive tests and have all recommended shots. I always follow the doctor's orders and take my meds. (In other words, I'm a health goodie-two-shoes.) *(continued on Page 10)*

The Roller Coaster of Life (*Continued*)

Like all obsessive types, I make lists. When I complete a task I cross it off, (my one true pleasures in old age.) If by chance there is one or two chores I've not completed I place them at the head of the next list. Recently Winslow and I had a rough patch of ill health and I forgot my yearly mammogram. Being compulsive the mammogram appointment managed to make the top of 3 lists before I called and was given a firm time to appear. A few days after the exam, much to my surprise, I received a letter asking me to contact the office. My mammogram was abnormal.

Abnormal? I've had 22 mammograms, one a year since I was fifty, (then the recommended age to begin testing.) I've never received such a letter. An ugly feeling resonated in my belly as I made the second appointment. I was traveling down a road that I didn't want to be on and there didn't seem to be any exits. I was about to enter the world of cancer.

Numerous tests and an MRI later, I met with a surgeon in Greenville. A biopsy was taken of my right breast and revealed breast cancer, and then came a lumpectomy. The good news? My surgeon is as stubborn as I am. She kept testing and looking and finally found cancer in my lymph nodes. Dr. Boulon is going back in August 12 to do what she calls, "Pick at me." The # 3-5 nodes will be removed and analyzed. Then a prescription of several different chemo drugs will be ordered to combat the cancer and I will begin treatment in conjunction with radiation.

As Anthony Newly said in the 1960's musical, *Stop the World, I Want to Get Off*. Since June 18th when my nightmare began, I've learned there are two people who live inside me. One is pragmatic, practical, dependable and strong. The other is highly emotional, flighty, scared and can be paralyzed with terror.

No one who has not experienced this fear can understand how debilitating it can be.

In an instant, my mood can go from strong, stubborn survivalist to a weak sister who is trying to climb under the bed with her blankie to suck her thumb. I close my eyes and see tattooed on my lids in capital letters **CANCER!**

The original Doctor who suspected the cancer explained that today a small percentage die from cancer, they just wish they could. The treatment is supposed to be worse than the disease.

As friends and family hear the news, the outpouring of love and concern has helped both Winslow and me. My sweet hubby's concern is visibly shown in his compassionate blue eyes. We rarely discuss the situation but somehow we touch more often and our eyes meet many times a day. We are on a trip that neither of us has traveled before. Fear of the unknown is overwhelming but with G/d's help, prayer, good doctors, love and affection of friends, family and readers, together we will beat this.

Prayers are welcome, good thoughts are requested and G/d's love and compassion is needed to ride the roller coaster.

By Myrna McKee

(Myrna McKee, long-time good friend of UUFC, is a Freelance Writer, Inspirational Speaker and Columnist for the Daily Journal/Messenger newspaper.)

(Ed. Note: For those not familiar with the following: Myrna follows the Orthodox Jewish tradition of not spelling out the "deity" word; hence the slash mark where the "o" would be.)

UUFC Board of Directors

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Email: uufcadm@yahoo.com	
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Newsletter Editor: Heidi Campbell	653-7835

(*See page 9 for individual committee Chairs.)

Newsletter Deadline for the October issue is September 20th. Please send articles, letters, announcements and other submissions to heidisong@nctv.com.

Want to know what's going on at UUFC between newsletters? Subscribe to the electronic announcement list and you'll receive one or two messages each week keeping you up to date on fellowship activities and people. To subscribe, send an email to uufcadm@yahoo.com and ask to be signed up or call the Fellowship office at 654-5959.

UUFC WORLD Newsletter
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Clemson
230 Pendleton Road
Clemson, SC 29631



Return Service Requested

We affirm and promote:

- the inherent dignity and worth of all people
- justice, equity and compassion in human relations
- a free and responsible search for truth and meaning
- the right of conscience and use of the democratic process
- a goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all
- acceptance of one another and encouragement of spiritual growth
- respect for the interdependent web of existence of which we are a part.