



UUFC WORLD

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Clemson

230 Pendleton Road, Clemson, SC 29631

May 2010

Volume 41 Issue 5



HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

May Sundays: Reflections & Worship Services	1
President's Column <i>Honoring Differences Within our Community & Board Secretary notes on the 4/25 Congregational Mtg.</i>	2 & 3
The DRE's Corner - (RE Report) & Musings on Membership	4
<i>So what is Interim Ministry All About Anyway?</i> Kathy Crain	5
Novel Circle & Circle Dinners!	6
UUFC Campout at Oconee State Park - June 4 - 6!	7
Weekly & Monthly UUFC Happenings & Miscellaneous Announcements!	8 - 9



MAY MORNING REFLECTIONS - 10:00 am

- | | |
|--|--|
| May 2 - <i>Ethical Culture</i>
Heidi Campbell | May 23 - <i>Second Principle</i>
Janie Shipley |
| May 9 - <i>Buddhist Meditation</i>
Jeanne Malmgren | May 30 - <i>Third Principle</i>
Jeanne Malmgren |
| May 16 - <i>First Principle</i>
Rev. Cynthia Prescott | (Series to continue through
June) |

MAY SUNDAY SERVICES - 11:00 am

- May 2 -
Road Map to Social Justice
Reverend Cynthia Prescott
- May 9 -
Syncretism in Religion
Deborah Cornaire
- May 16 -
Transcendent Alvania
Reverend Cynthia Prescott
- May 23 -
Keeping Our Feet on the Ground
Fred Anderson
- May 30 -
Intergenerational Earth Service
Green Sanctuary Committee & Friends

The President's Column Honoring Differences within Our Community

"Could a greater miracle take place than for us to look through each other's eyes for an instant?"

Henry David Thoreau, *Walden*

In January when I offered my reflection on the transition process, which we were just beginning to face, I suggested that we develop a relational covenant (www.uufc.org/sermons/RKimbro2010-1-24.pdf). A relational covenant is a congregational vow that describes how we promise to be in relationship with one another. It is usually a positive statement, not a statement describing behavior that we will not tolerate in our community. Many UU congregations have taken the step of developing a relational covenant as a way of building a beloved community.

When I suggested this process in January, I suggested that it would be helpful in a couple of ways. First, it would give us the opportunity to begin the process of reconciliation. It would help us restore right relationships. In her article for *UU World*, Paula Cole Jones writes that engaging in reconciliation invites change that will transform relationships (www.uuworld.org/2004/02/featurelb.html) It increases awareness of how we see, treat, and represent each other.

Second, the process of drafting a relational covenant can help us reflect on where we've been and develop new insights about where we're headed. It can help deepen our sense of well-being and strength by creating an atmosphere of trust, respect, and cooperation. Although the process of drafting a relational covenant results in a product, the process may be more important over the long-term than the statement itself. As Margaret Wheatley suggests in her book, *Turning to One Another: Simple Conversations to Restore Hope to the Future*, "there is no power greater than a community discovering what it cares about."

So, what is a relational covenant? It's a statement that reflects the commitment of the congregation to promoting healthy relationships among members and between members and the broader community. The UUA offers the following definition:

Covenants describe the way people interact with one another. They incorporate the values, prized beliefs, and behaviors that are held dear, and they set out an image of how individuals are expected to behave in groups.

The formation of a covenant is a process that helps form and maintain the internal identity of a congregation. The promises and commitments people make to one another in the context of a religious community help them understand what their tradition calls them to be.

The covenant grows from an affirmation of shared needs, values, purposes, and principles. It is rooted in the past and reflects the promises that people make into the future. (UUA, 2005).

- Continued on next page -

(Editor's Note: There is no "For Thinking Out Loud" column from Reverend Cynthia this month. We look forward to her column in the next issue! The summer June/July issue.)

Continued from Page 2 (President's Column)

The specific language of relational covenants is as varied as congregations. However, the following covenant from the Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto is illustrative of language in relational covenants:

We come together to create a community committed to a free, open and loving search for spiritual meaning. Our community calls on each of us to extend compassion and kindness; to act from courage rather than fear; to treat one another with respect; and to honor one another's contributions. We commit to listen to one another, to acknowledge and address disagreements, and to express our concerns directly with those involved. We embrace diversity for it is our differences that enrich us; we embrace democracy for it allows our voices to be heard; we embrace forgiveness for it opens us to hope; and we embrace this life for it is what we have together. We accept responsibility for making our community everything we want it to be.

How would we go about creating such a covenant? The process often includes various opportunities for sharing ideas about the language that should be included in the covenant. A common strategy, however, is the use of cottage meetings in congregants' homes. A series of small-group meetings would be hosted by members and facilitated by a committee or task force charged with leading the process.

Regardless of what happens with the interim ministry, in the next few weeks, I hope that we will commit ourselves to engaging in reconciliation by developing a relational covenant. As Thoreau suggested, seeing ourselves through each other's eyes ultimately can help us strengthen our community.

The Congregational meeting after the service on Sunday, April 18th was to go through the interim minister process with those who may not yet have had an opportunity to hear it. Transition team members, co-chairs Kathy Crain & Pat Zungoli and Janie Shipley were in attendance, as well as Board Liason, John Turner. President Robin Kimbrough-Melton introduced the UUA transition minister video. Questions as to how to fund the salary, function of the interim minister, why do we need an interim minister were raised. It was emphasized that this is a Board decision and does not necessarily mean we will call a settled minister in the future. The Transition Team will be wrapping their work within the next week and will be recommendations to the Board.

Submitted by Carolyn Turner,
UUFC Board Secretary

The world's favorite season is the spring.
All things seem possible in May.

- Edwin Way Teale -

The DRE's Corner
Religious Education News
Meg MacArthur, DRE

The Early Learners, Advanced Learners and Middle School students will start the One Room Schoolhouse program in May. The Teens will join the program in June. We'll continue with the Bible stories in the Timeless Themes curriculum. I think it's critical for our children to know these stories, given the environment they live in. And the themes ARE timeless. We recently did the story of Joseph being sold into slavery by his brothers. Will sibling rivalry ever go away? Do adults still treat some children more favorably than others? These stories still speak to us today.

On another note, the children are selling lettuce from the RE garden. They take the garden seriously. Catherine and Joseph Hiebel water it during the week and others water it on Sunday. Feel free to come out to the playground and check it out. We will donate the money we raise to some charitable organization. After being in the Teen service on hunger, some wanted to give the money to the local food bank, Clemson Community Care. We'll let you know what we finally decide on that.

Did you hear that Catherine Hiebel is the newest member of the Membership Committee? The children and youth are a part of this Fellowship. I'm glad to see them taking on leadership roles.

Musings on Membership
Linda Law, Membership Chair

Look around! Can anyone deny the spectacular results of our wetter-than-usual winter?

Spring in the south looks like those Easter cards I used to see at the drug store in my youth in Connecticut. I assumed the flowers were conjured from the artist's imagination, because flowers sure weren't blooming in my neck of the woods at Easter.

Even after 39 years in SC my jaw still drops at the glory of spring here.

This natural cycle inspires my hopes for UUFC too. After all, *we* are the fellowship, and we're still alive, displaying our faith in our future. We're engaged in a sort of birthing process now. We'll huff and puff and push and whine and groan and maybe even curse! But we'll give birth to something beautiful and vital that needs our love.

Members, friends, visitors: we need each other's best now. We need each other's energy and ideas. We are each other's birthing coaches. Something wonderful is about to come from our love. Don't be afraid to look. Don't be afraid to speak. *You* are UUFC.

UUFC WORLD is published 11 times a year 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 usually the 20th of each month for the following month's edition. **But every summer, there is ONE June-July issue. The deadline for this next issue is extended from May 20th to May 25th.**

Visit our web page at www.uufc.org. Our Webmaster is Steve Bynum.

We welcome new ideas, opinions, poems, inspiring quotations, photos, and of course UU-related news.

So What IS Interim Ministry All About Anyway?

Kathy Crain, Transition Team Co-Chair

In the time between called ministers, the fellowship has the rare opportunity to take advantage of a breathing space- to take stock of who we are now, how our programs are faring, what worthy challenges we face, and how we are getting on together as a community. It is a time to do whatever needs doing to get ready to welcome a new called minister with enthusiasm for the possibilities of new paths, new ways, new ideas. We talked about many of these items during the Congregational meeting on April 25.

The Board has given the Transition Team the charge of looking at potential candidates to consider as our interim minister to begin in the fall. This person could be with us for up to 2 years, if this is the outcome the Board wishes to pursue. We are happy to report that UUFC has received a list of interested candidates. The Transition Team is in the process of contacting these applicants to determine reciprocal interest; we will exchange packets of information with ministers in whom we have interest; we will review the packets and call all references, including UUA District Staff. Interviews will be conducted, face-to-face or by conference call, with each minister with whom there is mutual interest. When the Transition Team decides upon its favored candidate, the top 2-3 choices will be presented to the Board. It is not known at this time what kind of follow-up contact would occur with the candidate(s) in whom the Board wishes the Transition Team to research further. It is possible that no candidate would be selected by either the Transition Team or the Board. May 2010 will be a busy time for these determinations.

If an interim minister comes, it would be to:

hold up a mirror so we can see some things we have had no particular reason to notice for a while;

to help us come to terms with our history, celebrating glories, grieving losses, letting go;

to work with our lay leaders and staff to unstick stuck places and get the kinks and tangles out: to give the operating system a tune-up;

to enable us to experience a different model of ministry and worship so we can see that more than one style can be effective in meeting our needs and enriching our spiritual or religious life; and

to give us a chance to try out some new ways and greet our future in the spirit of adventure.

The document that the Transition Team is using for guidance in this process can be found at: http://www.uua.org/documents/impl/transitions/transitional_ministry.pdf

Please contact any of us if you have questions and comments. Kathy Crain

(Transition Team: Co-Chairs - Kathy Crain & Pat Zungoli; Recorder - Janie Shipley; Other members - Les Grady & John Kennelly, and Board Liaison is John Turner.)

The NOVEL CIRCLE meets at 7:30 pm at Founders House on the first Wednesday of MOST months for a lively discussion. We welcome all book lovers!

Special Note: The Novel Circle decided to take a break this month of this year, rather than June. We will NOT be meeting on May 5th. Instead, we'll discuss Pat Conroy's *South of Broad* on June 2nd. It's a big book and we'll have an extra month to read it.

South of Broad by Pat Conroy. Against the sumptuous backdrop of Charleston, *South of Broad* gathers a unique cast of sinners and saints. Leopold Bloom King is the son of an amiable, loving father who teaches science. His mother is the high school principal and a

well-known Joyce scholar. After Leo's older brother commits suicide, the family struggles with the shattering effects of his death, as Leo searches for something to sustain him. He finds his answer when he becomes part of a tightly knit group at high school. The ties among them endure for years, surviving unrequited loves and unspoken longings, hard-won successes and devastating breakdowns, and Charleston's dark legacy of racism and class divisions. *South of Broad* is Pat Conroy at his finest. 528 pages, Nan A. Talese, 2009.



CIRCLE DINNER TIME!

It's time to sign up for the 2010-11 Circle Dinners. Deadline is Sunday, August 15th.

Circle dinners are a wonderful way to get to know members and friends of our Fellowship in a little more intimate atmosphere. We encourage your participation.

Dinners begin in SEPTEMBER and continue for a total of 5 months, skipping NOVEMBER and DECEMBER.

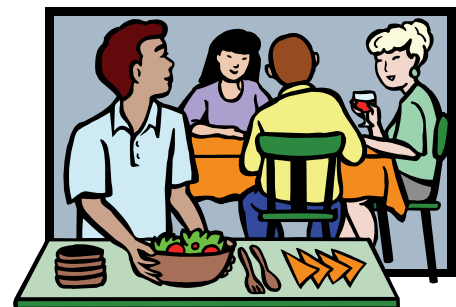
The host contacts other participants and provides the entrée and a vegetable. Others bring the food as designated on the rotation chart: salad/bread, appetizer, or dessert.

Within a week after everyone has signed up, everyone will receive a list of the participants, substitutes, and a copy of the rotation schedule.

If you are unable to participate on a regular basis for the ENTIRE 5 months, you may want to be on the substitute list. If so, please sign up accordingly. WE NEED SUBSTITUTES!!!

Look for the sign-up poster in the Fellowship atrium.

Questions? Contact Jackie Renzi at 888-2276





UUFC Campout at Oconee State Park June 4-6, 2010

Here is information that you might want to know as you plan for this camping weekend.

Where: Oconee State Park 624 State Park RD
Mountain Rest, SC 29664 Phone: (864) 638-5353

Driving Directions:

Travel to Walhalla and continue for approximately 10 mi. on Hwy 28 after its intersection with Hwy 11. Turn right onto Hwy 107 and the park will be 2 mi on the rt.

Things to do at and around the park:

Square dance to the local bluegrass band in the park barn Friday night \$\$

Travel with us to the Walhalla Fish Hatchery to fish 9:00 ish Saturday morning (bring fishing gear and license)

Lake swimming with diving platform at park

Canoe, pedal boat, carpet golf available \$\$

Hiking trails

Saturday evening camp dinner: Cookout! Hot dogs; vegetarian chili; Cole slaw dinner provided (Please provide your beverage.)

Sunday morning Vespers before breaking camp

Please bring:

Your camping gear (tents only are allowed at the Group Camp site)

Meals and dishes, etc., for the rest of your meals while camping

Camp chairs and bikes

Fishing gear

More are welcome if you would like to invite others! (If so, please bring along food for their campout dinner!)

*Thank you for being a part of this UUFC auction item! For more information, please contact me at 864 885 0662 or isencrain@bellsouth.net

Kathy Crain

Monthly Board & Committee Meetings Dates & Other UUFC Events

COUNCIL OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS-2010

Cindy Lee	Board Representative & Chair of Council
Building/Grounds	Allen Guest & Meg Williamson
Communication	Jan Lay
Hospitality/Holidays	Sarah Harcum
Membership	Linda Law
Outreach	Toni King
Religious Education	Mary Beth Kurtz
Stewardship	Bob Snelsire
Ways and Means	Marty Bynum & Katherine Smith
Worship	TBA

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, 5:30 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 usually

Benevolence Offertory, 4th Sunday, Sanctuary
(but this month it is the 5th Sunday!)

UUFC Women's Salad Supper Group,
4th Wednesday, 6:30 pm, Founders House

Novel Circle, 1st Wednesday, 7:30 pm,
Founders (*See Page 6 - All are welcome!*)

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.
Main Building Social Room

Miscellaneous Weekly Events

Course in Miracles - Saturday, 10 am - Library

Choir Practice - Normally Thursdays, 5:30pm,
but: Choir is taking a break for the summer.
Rehearsals will resume August 19th at 5:30 pm
in the Sanctuary. Come see the plans we have
for a marvelous Christmas program. (I know
it's a ways off-- and don't worry... I'm not hang-
ing tinsel in the sanctuary yet.)

Elaine Fredendall, Choir Director

Have I left your group out? Has your group
"disbanded"? New time, date? Any changes?
Please let me know. (*Editor, Heidi Campbell*)

Miscellaneous Announcements from our Mid-Week E-news

We will miss Joni & Les Grady! So, please join us Sunday, June 20, 2010 in the UUFC Social Room after the 11 AM service to say goodbye to Les and Joni Grady. They are moving to NC the end of June. It will be a Heavy Hors d'oeuvres Potluck. Watch for the sign up sheet in the lobby in the near future. From Sarah Harcum

THE TRANSITION TEAM: UUA has sent us 4 candidates to consider for our interim minister. We will be interviewing these good folks this week and looking into their references before making our recommendations to the Board. If we decide to make an offer to any of them, this will happen on May 7. Thanks for your thoughts and attention as we continue with this process. Kathy Crain. (*Note: See Kathy's column on page 5 in this issue of the newsletter.*)

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY: Hello Habitat Friends- Habitat applications from potential homeowner families have been very, very slow in recent months. We are in need of applicant families - especially any interested in living in Liberty (due to a specific grant that allows us to build houses in the City of Liberty). You may know low-income families who might qualify for a Habitat house. Please give this some thought-- any outreach you might have to encourage potential applicant families will be appreciated. Thanks,
Jill Evans, Executive Director, Pickens County Habitat for Humanity, 864-878-6374

FOUNDERS' HOUSE: Thanks so much to Carl Ulbrich and Jim Rodgers who replaced the FH broken front door handle. All old keys to the FH STILL WORK. You need to pull the door FIRMLY closed to lock or unlock. And there are two places to lock (unlock) - the deadbolt and the door knob. (If you only wish to use one lock, use the doorknob lock.) As indicated earlier, your keys will work in both locks. Thank you.)

REV. SUSIE SMITH: "Honoring The Interconnectedness Of Our Lives With Creation" 5:00 PM Worship Services With An Environmental Emphasis

At Peace Congregational Church, UCC, May 2, May 9 and May 16, 2010

Our worship for the next four weeks will focus on helping all of us to deepen our understandings of the connections between our faith and our commitment to the environment and the work of justice. We believe that an environmentally sustainable, spiritually fulfilling, and socially just human presence on this planet is an achievable dream for our future but it is achievable only if each and every one of us dedicate ourselves to taking the actions that will be necessary to help make it a reality. We will use aspects of the Awakening the Dreamer: Changing the Dream Symposium produced by the Pachamama Alliance. Nancy Carnes from the Pachamama Alliance will be one of our Worship Leaders on May 9th.

May 2 - How Did We Get Here?

May 9 - Where Do We Go From Here? Part 1

May 16 - Where Do We Go From Here? Part 2

Peace Congregational extends a special invitation to you to join us for worship over the next four weeks as we focus on deepening our understandings of the connections between our faith and our commitment to the environment and the work of justice. For more information contact Pastor Susie Smith at 864.634.4205 or clemsonucc@gmail.com.

UUFC Board of Directors

President	Robin Kimbrough-Melton
President-Elect	John Turner
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Administrator,	Julie Craig 654-5959
Choir Director,	Elaine Fredendall 654-3834
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Receiving Treasurer,	Jeannine Varenhorst
UUFC Webmaster:	Steve Bynum
UUFC website:	www.uufc.org
Newsletter Editor:	Heidi Campbell 653-7835

NOTE: Every summer there is a **June - July joint issue newsletter**. Deadline for submissions is extended this time to **May 25th for that special two-month edition**. Standard deadline is the 20th of the current month for each next month's issue. 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.

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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.