



# UUFC WORLD

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Clemson

230 Pendleton Road, Clemson, SC 29631

June-July, 2010

Volume 41 Issue 6-7



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## June & July MORNING REFLECTIONS - 10:00 am

June 6  
4th Principle  
- Linda Law -

June 27th  
7th Principle  
- Jamey Lowdermilk -

June 13  
5th Principle  
- Wayne Leftwich -

July 4th  
NO Morning Reflection

June 20th  
6th Principle  
- Ken Marsh -

Please check Mid-Week News  
in July to learn of the July  
Reflections.

## JUNE & JULY SERVICES - 11:00 am

June 6th  
*What Have We  
Forgotten?*  
Reverend Cynthia Prescott

July 4th  
*Independence Day*  
Kathryn Smith

June 13th  
*The Education of the  
Heart*  
Reverend Cynthia Prescott

July 11th  
TBA  
Kathy Crain

June 20th  
TBA  
Eve Stevens

July 18th  
*The End of the World  
Is Coming*  
Holley Ulbrich

June 27th  
*State of the Fellowship*  
Robin Kimbrough-Melton

July 25th  
TBA  
Gary Melton

**UUFC WORLD** is published 11 times a year by the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Clemson. Please send your submissions to [heidisong@nctv.com](mailto: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. (This edition is the 2-month/summer issue.) Visit our web page at [www.uufc.org](http://www.uufc.org). Our Webmaster is Steve Bynum. We welcome new ideas, opinions, poems, inspiring quotations, photos, and of course UU-related news!

## FOR THINKING OUT LOUD

### *Parting*

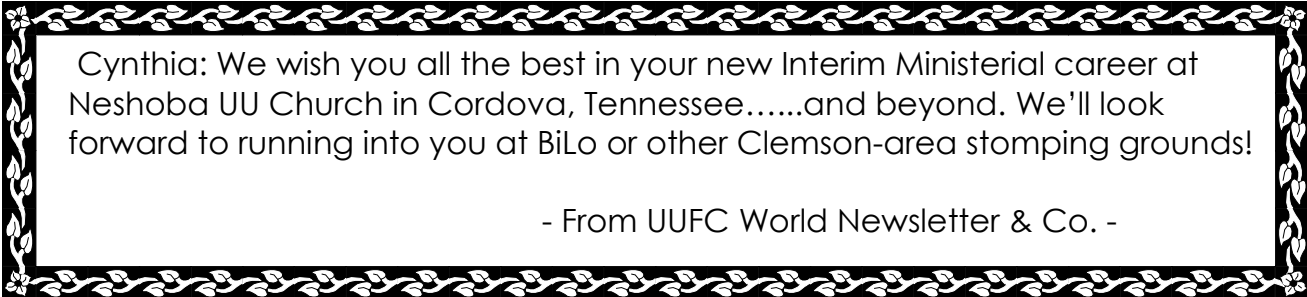
Reverend Cynthia Prescott

As of June 31, 2010, my dozen years of serving as Minister with the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Clemson will come to an end. Ministry was a mid-life change of vocation for me. UUFC has been my first settlement. I have been the fellowship's first full-time professional religious leader. It is time for both of us to experience something new. For the next two years I will be the Interim Minister at Neshoba Unitarian Universalist Church in Cordova, TN (greater Memphis). In August, UUFC will welcome the Rev. Alex Holt as *your* Interim Minister.

While for the next two years I will be spending most of my time in Tennessee, I've bought a house in this area that someday may become my permanent home. So, now and then after June 31, you might run into me around town. Please don't feel you have to duck into another aisle at BiLo when you see me coming. I'll be delighted

to catch up on what you and your family have been doing *outside of UUFC*. However, when it comes to fellowship matters: weddings and commitment ceremonies, memorial services, child dedications, and all "church business", Rev. Alex will be your Minister starting in August. (You'll be on your own between June 30 and his arrival.)

I have loved ministering with you. Together we've accomplished a lot in twelve short years. This congregation's future is bright and strong and ready to build on those accomplishments with the help of your Interim Minister. I leave you with these words, the same lines that closed my letter to the fellowship community back in January. A student of the late theologian Henri Nouwen is leaving his mentor to move far away. He says to Nouwen upon parting, *From this day forward, wherever you go, and wherever I go, all the ground between us will be holy ground.*



Cynthia: We wish you all the best in your new Interim Ministerial career at Neshoba UU Church in Cordova, Tennessee.....and beyond. We'll look forward to running into you at BiLo or other Clemson-area stomping grounds!

- From UUFC World Newsletter & Co. -

*Nothing makes the earth seem so spacious as to have friends at a distance;  
they make the latitudes and longitudes.*

- Henry David Thoreau -

## The President's Column

Robin Kimbrough - Melton

*Many of you have expressed interest in learning more about our newly hired interim minister, Reverend Alex Holt. Rev. Holt will join us full-time on August 1 and deliver his first sermon on August 8. We hope that you will welcome him into our community. - Robin Kimbrough-Melton -*

### Introducing Reverend Alexander Holt

By Pat Zungoli

The UUFC Transition Team is thrilled to announce that Reverend Alex Holt has accepted our offer to become our Interim Minister. Rev. Holt brings a wealth of relevant experience to us. In his resume, he states that he specializes in, *"service to smaller and midsize congregations based on my training and experience in interim and consulting ministry. The majority of my ministry work over 17 years has been on the support and growth of the small and midsize congregations. My focus is to create and nurture collaborative leadership and to deepen ties between UU congregations."*

Since his graduation from Starr King School for the Ministry in 1993, Rev. Holt has spent most of his time serving Unitarian Universalist communities in the Pacific Northwest in several capacities as an interim minister, extension minister, consulting minister and as a settled minister. Most recently he has been half time consulting minister at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Yakima in Washington. In early August, Rev. Holt will make his home among us and begin his interim ministry for UUFC.

Though he is a long-term practicing Buddhist, he also has spent many years studying Jesus and for the past four years has taught



an adult course called, "Reconsidering Jesus." He shares our congregation's interest in environmental sustainability and the social justice issue of food availability. He taught a course at his church in Yakima on "Ethical Eating" based on the book *Mindful Eating*. He also is chair of the UUA Addictions Ministry Task Force that was recently approved as part of the UUA, and has worked with the Buddhist Recovery Network. His work reflects his own journey of overcoming alcoholism and using his ministry to guide others through similar life struggles.

With family and close friendships in the Southeast, we hope Rev. Holt will quickly feel at home in Clemson. We welcome Rev. Holt and look forward to the rich talents and experiences he will share with us as we go through our transition period.

## Musings on Membership

Linda Law

Coming to a UU fellowship near you (imagine a stentorian announcer voice here): the **World Premier** of a service conducted by the **Membership Committee!** You won't want to miss a thrilling moment of this undoubtedly award winning vision of the future of membership at UUFC and **your role** in it!

Be the first on your block to hear the buzz, to get the inside scoop, to learn the **TRUE STORY** of what we're planning, how you can get in on this ground floor opportunity!

Let the anticipation build as you look forward to this G-Rated event! Bring the kids. Bring Mom and Dad. Bring the neighbors. Bring the dog.....no, wait, leave the dog. Prepare to be astounded. Prepare to be inspired. Prepare to laugh. Prepare to volunteer.

This once-a-year event will **ROCK... UU'r... WORLD!**

Event date TBA.

### Reports From Our Partners in the Community - Submitted by Toni King

#### 1) **Clemson Child Development Center:**

A gardening project grant has been submitted to USDA with the goal to improve children's eating and physical activity habits. If the grant is received, JoEtta Gant (board member) and Ellie Taylor, (author and expert in children's nutrition) along with Dr. Lisa Wagner (Director of Education for the Botanical Gardens) will set up container gardens so that children can learn about fresh fruits and vegetables through hands-on activities.

#### 2) **Safe Harbor Domestic Violence Program :**

In 2009 the average length of stay at Safe Harbor was 26 days (improvement over the 17 days in 2008). The longer stay gives the women more time to adjust and use the legal, counseling and job training services offered by Safe Harbor.

Transitional housing is moving ahead with one women placed in Anderson County and one placed in Pickens County.

The first donation drop box has been located at the Oconee County DSS facility.

Partial wish list for Safe Harbor 11: Expansion of the kitchen so that it can serve 20 to 25 people, creation of a meeting space apart from the living room, for safety they need fire arm bars on the two main exit doors. Smaller donations also are always appreciated.

#### 3) **Results from CACIT Community Roundtable** - By Joyce Fishman Klein

The Clemson Area Congregations in Touch (CACIT) recently held a Community Roundtable as the third part of the Lay Academy 2010. The topic for the evening was "Our Community's Response to Poverty". About 70 people attended including representatives from about 40 agencies, members of CACIT, representatives of local churches, a State Senator and a State Representative.

The designated geographic area for services provided included Clemson, Central, Pendleton and Seneca, the communities where we live, work and worship.

There were nine tables with each table having a different focus topic. The topics included food (food pantries and soup kitchens), food deliveries, shelter (for youth), shelter (for adults), health care, education (for pre-school and young youth), education (for older youth and adults), financial assistance and referrals, and Church Community Outreach.

- continued on Page 6 -

## OUTREACH COMMITTEE

### Food Close To Home: Report on the April 30-May 1, 2010 Road Map to Economic Justice Retreat

Submitted by Toni King, Chair

On April 30 and May 1 seventeen members of the UUFC gathered together to talk about what NEW initiatives the Outreach Committee - and the congregation as a whole - can take to address social justice. We focused on economic justice, which for purposes of our discussion, is how we address hunger here in our community; and environmental justice, which in this context means what we can do to lighten our carbon footprint and reduce our consumption of fossil fuels. We concurred that we need to build upon the good work already in place, but also need to do more, to take further steps.

We looked at our strengths and gaps during this process, and recognized that we have a commitment to organizations we support through fourth Sunday donations in addressing poverty. These efforts must be sustained and enhanced. (Clemson Community Care, Safe Harbor, Habitat, and Clemson Child Development Center.) We reviewed our partnerships with broader movements, recognizing that there is strength and effectiveness when efforts are combined and coordinated. And we acknowledged that our UUFC buildings could provide an excellent example of new, more sustainable energy practices if we could find a way to fund the installation of solar panels to reduce power consumption. Our grounds could be used to model sustainable methods of growing food as well.

Our action plan is as follows:

- 1) Learn how we as can lessen our reliance on foods trucked in from afar by doing more to grow healthy foods in our region, our own backyards, front yards, and even at our door-steps. To learn about "Permaculture" - see below!
- 2) To offer opportunities to our partners to learn what we learn, and to discover the advantages of food production close to home.
- 3) To promote and educate the wider community about sustainable food practices. We want to take part actively in the transition to a community that consumes less energy and produces healthy foods for all of our residents
- 4) To investigate costs and feasibility, and do the planning for acquisition of solar panels at UUFC.

#### NEXT STEPS:

- 1) You will be hearing more about our plans at the Sunday, June 27th service and through mid-week news.
- 2) SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, August 14, 2010 9-5pm for a class to be held at UUFC on Permaculture! Watch for more information to follow!

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 has taken its break in May, instead of this month of

June, which is usually the "take-a-break" month. *South of Broad*, by Pat Conway, was the novel just discussed on June 2nd. Stay tuned for upcoming months' novels & other readings planned.  
- Submitted by Gail Brownlee -

### 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**



### *Continued from page 4 - Outreach News CACIT, by Joyce Fishman Klein*

The questions they were asked to address were: who is presently providing services, what are the needs (other than money), where are the gaps, and what are suggestions for follow up to the roundtable discussions. The latter part of the meeting was devoted to oral reports from the facilitators from each table.

The most frequently mentioned needs included volunteers (especially for specialized positions), better co-ordination and integration of services, help with communications/public relations, possibility to have space to share services, public transportation to food distribution centers, housing and property for housing, knowing what other agencies are doing, furniture, and a grant writing workshop.

The most frequently mentioned gaps in service included weekend service providing meals, more low income housing and transitional housing, lack of services for children with special needs and older youth, mental health services, dental health services, women's health services, space to share services, transportation, safety net for teenagers, human growth and development training for parents, counselors, teachers, etc., and prevention programs to help reduce the number of people unemployed or underemployed. Pickens County is especially in need of a homeless shelter, one or more soup kitchens, transitional housing for former prisoners, and dorms for Gateway students at Tri-County Tech.

The most frequently mentioned suggestions for follow-up included wanting each others contact information, meeting of ministers in Oconee County to explore streamlining food distribution to reduce overhead and other costs, more opportunities to network with other groups to learn more about their respective services, resources and needs, and publicize services available through the churches in our area.

CACIT is an enabling organization made up of volunteer representatives from a variety of church and faith groups. CACIT does not have an office, a director or a phone. The group has laid the foundation, and now it is up to the community to take it from here. There is the possibility that a networking group may be formed in the near future.

*(Dr. Robert Fennell, president of CACIT and a Clemson University Professor Emeritus of Mathematics, and Joyce Fishman Klein, Immediate Past President of CACIT and a consultant to nonprofit groups in Pickens County, were the co-chairmen of the CACIT Community Roundtable.)*



## 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](mailto:isencrain@bellsouth.net)

Kathy Crain

Ed. Note: This is the one issue which includes announcements & news for 2 months (June & July - the summer issue.) Apologies if you are receiving the above notice (which was also in May's newsletter) & any others too late.

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

Miscellaneous Monthly Events

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

Trading Post, 2nd Sunday

Benevolence Offertory, 4th Sunday, Sanctuary

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

Novel Circle, 1st Wednesday, 7:30 pm, Founders House

Writers' Group, 3rd Tuesdays, 5 - 6:30 pm Founders House - *See NOTE below!*

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

Meditation Group - Saturday, 9:30 - 11 am - Sanctuary

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 hanging tinsel in the sanctuary yet.)

*Elaine Fredendall, Choir Director*

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  
(*Check with Linda Law for exact location.*)

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

**NEW WRITERS' GROUP!** As an outgrowth of the discussion group held in March on *The Poetry of Mary Oliver and Spirituality*, budding and full bloom writers of fiction and poetry have emerged at UUFC! **Beginning on Tuesday, June 15th, a Writers' Group will be held at the Founders' House from 5 - 6:30 pm.** Writers are welcome, but please contact Marguerite Kirsch (mkirsch@bellsouth.net) or Toni King (kingtoni62@gmail.com) ahead of time to let us know you are coming. Meetings will be held on the third Tuesday of the month through the end of 2010.

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 Virginia at 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

## Thomas Jefferson, Climate Change, and Moral Ambiguity By Les and Joni Grady

We, along with Carol Ward, served as the UUFC delegates to the annual meeting of the Thomas Jefferson (TJ) District of the UUA, held at Penn Center on St. Helena Island, SC on May 1. The main item of business was the proposal to change the name of the District, removing Thomas Jefferson's name. Among the reasons for this change was Jefferson's failure to free his slaves, either during his lifetime or upon his death. The proposal was voted down by a narrow margin. We, and Carol, voted to retain the current name.

An important reason that we voted to continue to honor Jefferson in the District name was his authorship of the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, which was instrumental to the separation of church and state enshrined in the U.S. Constitution. Given the geographical region covered by the TJ District, that act alone is worthy of recognition in the District name.

Another equally important reason for our vote was our feeling that to do otherwise would be gross hypocrisy. How could we condemn Jefferson for failing to do something that we, ourselves, are unable to do? That is to say, how could we condemn Jefferson for failing to act on a major moral question when we are unable to act on a moral question of equal importance? Today there is no question that slavery is immoral. Jefferson recognized this, as his writings make clear, although to others at the time the question was morally ambiguous. Yet he failed to act morally by freeing his slaves. In fact, he could not do so because he was heavily in debt and his slaves were part of the collateral on that debt.

Today we enjoy the luxuries provided by the use of fossil fuels, even though we recognize that their use is contributing to climate change. Furthermore, we recognize that the consequences of climate change will be severe and will fall primarily upon people of color throughout the globe. Even though today many people consider climate change to be morally ambiguous, we think that 200 years from now the immorality of our actions will be clear and people will wonder how we possibly could have acted as we did, just as today we wonder how people 200 years ago could have enslaved other people. Surely, we will be condemned just as severely as people today condemn Jefferson and other slave owners. Oh, we have taken what action we can, such as driving a hybrid car and minimizing our energy use, but that will be seen by future generations as morally inadequate, just as Jefferson's decision to keep his slaves and treat them well, rather than selling them to pay his debts, is seen as being morally inadequate today.

UUs, like most other liberals, love nothing better than a cause that is morally clear. We are afraid, however, that UUs are not much better than other people in taking action on morally ambiguous causes. We greatly admire people who have gotten off of the grid and minimized their carbon footprints. They are morally equivalent to those who freed their slaves and/or took up the abolitionists' cause at great personal risk. Sadly, we are not there yet. Thus, we could not condemn Jefferson for his moral failure. Rather, we chose to continue to honor him for the great good he did.

## UUFC Board of Directors

President	Robin Kimbrough-Melton
President-Elect	John Turner
Past President	Martha Alexander
Secretary	Carolyn Turner
Treasurer	Bob Snelsire
Finance	
Council Chair (*See page 8)	Cindy Lee
At Large	Eleanore Richardson & Karen Hiebel
Ex Officio	Rev. Cynthia Prescott
Personnel	Rev. Ralph Stutzman
Best Wishes to:	Rev. Cynthia Prescott
Interim Minister:	Reverend Alex Holt
Director of RE,	Meg MacArthur 639-2847
Administrator,	Julie Craig 654-5959
Choir Director,	Elaine Fredendall 654-3834
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UUFC Webmaster:	Steve Bynum
UUFC website:	www.uufc.org
Newsletter Editor:	Heidi Campbell 653-7835

**NOTE:** This is the June-July Summer issue of UUFC World. The next published issue will be August, 2010. The deadline for the August issue is July 20th. Please send articles, letters, announcements and other submissions to [heidisong@nctv.com](mailto:heidisong@nctv.com) on or before July 20th, for the August newsletter!

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](mailto:uufcadm@yahoo.com) and ask to be signed up or call the Fellowship office at 654-5959.

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230 Pendleton Road  
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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.