



UUFC WORLD

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Clemson
230 Pendleton Road, Clemson, SC 29631
December 2010 Volume 41 Issue 12



Morning Reflection - 10 am - Social Time - 10:30 am - Service - 11:00 am

December Services

[**December 5**]

Reflection: Jeanne Malmgren
#4 of the Divine Abodes: Upekkha (equanimity)

Service: Jesus Reconsidered: Reverend Alex Holt
As we enter the Advent season and the preparations for Christmas, how do we consider our religious ancestor in whose name so much harm has been done? We will consider the humanity and the subversive nature of Jesus.

[**December 12**]

Reflection: "HUULaS" (*Hiking Unitarian Universalist Ladies*)

Service: Reverend Alex Holt
This service on reverence will touch a deep place of connection to our emotions and our very core. How do we be in awe of our heart as love and compassion for ourselves and others?

[**December 19**]

Reflection: Reverend Alex Holt

Service: Lighting Lights To Light the Night
Alex Holt, Meg MacArthur, Elaine Fredendall & Co.
An intergenerational service to celebrate the tradition of lights in the holiday season from many traditions. People of all ages will take part in this special program and celebration

[**December 24**]

Christmas Eve Service 7 pm
Our annual Christmas Eve service with candles, song, and expressions of what Christmas truly can be.

[**December 26**]

Atonement Service (*No Morning Reflection*)
A non-traditional service with no music, no songs, no offering and no bulletin. This service will be one where we silently atone for any unskillful words, thoughts, or deeds we have from the last year with a ritual of burning them clean. This service is based on an annual service done at Rev. Alex's Zen Buddhist monastery in Oregon.

In this issue:

Minister's Musings	2
From the President	3
Religious Education	4
Special Holiday Parties & Events	5
2011 Special offerings	6
Monthly, Weekly Mtgs. & Events	7
Announcements & Information	8



"Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love!"

~Hamilton Wright

Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

UUFC WORLD is published 11 times a year by the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Clemson. After five years as newsletter editor, I am passing on the editing and producing hat to Andi Nelson and Mary Orem.

Please begin to send your submissions to andine@bellsouth.net or visit us at 230 Pendleton Road, Clemson, SC. The deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month preceding each edition.

I know that Andi and Mary will make an excellent editing team. Here's how it will work: Andi will receive your submissions, review, proofread, and edit as needed (*hardly ever needed!*) and then send all submissions to Mary, our layout editor. After Mary has put the newsletter "together," Andi will do a final "review". Steve Bynum will continue to post the newsletter onto our website: www.uufc.org.

Continued on Page 2

Minister's Musings Among the Mountains *Reverend Alex Holt*

The Gift of Unitarian Universalism

We approach the holiday season again with many celebrations starting with Thanksgiving today and then moving through many traditions: Jewish, Buddhist, Christian and... Unitarian Universalism. What is our gift to the world this holiday season?

I propose it is a gemstone. If a chalice is our universal symbol, I think sometimes we should also have a gemstone as well. This is why.

A number of years ago I was doing an interim ministry in Springfield, Illinois. I was for some reason asked to speak about Unitarian Universalism at a Lutheran high school in Springfield. I don't remember why but I bravely said 'sure, why not' and went armed with folders, a primitive Power Point presentation and those handy cards with the Seven Principles. The classes I presented my information to were in succession freshman, sophomore, junior and senior through the course of the day. The first three classes went pretty well and the students were unfailingly polite though I suspect baffled why we might not believe in God or the divinity of Jesus or other truths. I could see that I wasn't making much headway and certainly no one was going to convert (though in fairness I wasn't there to save souls. They'd not asked me to do that.).

The last class of seniors came in and I decided to toss away any prepared remarks. I looked at the rows of students and saw a number of the girls with engagement rings or pendants with gemstones on them. I had an inspiration. I said to them that at its best, Unitarian Universalism was like a gemstone religion. I invited them to look at their stones or imagine a gemstone that had facets that from different angles pointed toward an invisible center.



I went on to say that most religious faiths in the world believed that their individual facet was the one that correctly pointed to the invisible center that was God, Tao, Buddha nature and many other understands of the ultimate reality. But there was a problem, I said. If only one facet was the 'right' one, there's no gemstone and no invisible core of the ultimate.

I proposed that Unitarian Universalism tried to assert that all the facets were correct in their own ways but all were needed to make the gemstone and therefore the understanding of the ultimate 'real' and possible. Therefore, at our best we saw the whole gemstone as being authentic and valid.

That may or may not have made an impression on those students but it was a good symbol for me to see our faith as we evolve.

So at this holiday season of many faiths and many lights, may we present our gift to the world of a living and breathing gemstone called Unitarian Universalism that embraces all the faiths rather than dividing them into true and false ones.

We could do far worse.

And with that, dear friends near and far, may we have blessed holidays and Christmas, too, as we honor the loving ministry of Jesus, the Buddha, all those teachers who have tried to bring sanity and wholeness to the world.

And that includes us.

Alex

(Continued from Page 1 - Important Change with Newsletter! New Co-Editors announced.)

I have enjoyed five years as Editor of UUFC World, but am thrilled to hand this over to this great new team. Please help them by getting your columns, announcements, notices, news...whatever you submit, to Andi Nelson on time: (by the 20th of the month)...and then, when each edition is online, please take a few minutes to read the columns, announcements and other information!

Heidi Campbell

The Next Phase

By Robin Kimbrough-Melton



Now that my term as president of the Board of Trustees is winding down, I have been asked more than once if I regret doing it. The answer is an unequivocal NO! To be sure, this last year has been challenging at times as we have wrestled with defining our future. But that's to be expected.

As we grow from a small to a mid-sized congregation, every Board president and Board member has dealt with challenges in recent history. During Karel Keel's tenure, we implemented a new governance structure. While we were transitioning from the old structure to our current governance structure of a Board of Trustees and a Council of Committees, Karel worked with a Board that was twice the size of an ordinary Board. With a Board that large, we had some very long discussions but Karel handled it with grace!

Martha Alexander led us through difficult budget challenges during the height of the economic crisis. She emphasized structural changes as we worked on fine-tuning the new governance structure, revising the by-laws and the personnel manual and conducting a congregational survey on shared ministry.

Of course, when I agreed to become the president-elect in 2008, I did not expect to be dealing with the departure of a long-time minister and the arrival of our interim minister, Rev. Holt. As difficult as this may have been, it also brought us new opportunities. Since Rev. Holt's arrival in early August, we have increased our membership, stabilized our finances, and made subtle shifts in the flow of our Sunday services. In early December, you will vote on whether to change the schedule of our Sunday services so that social time occurs after the service rather than before. There is energy and optimism at UUFC, which will serve us well as we move into the next phase of our transition.

Next year, John Turner will continue to work with Rev. Holt, the Board, Committees, and you to further build the foundation for UUFC. Among other things, he will start the process of identifying the qualities that we seek in our next settled minister.

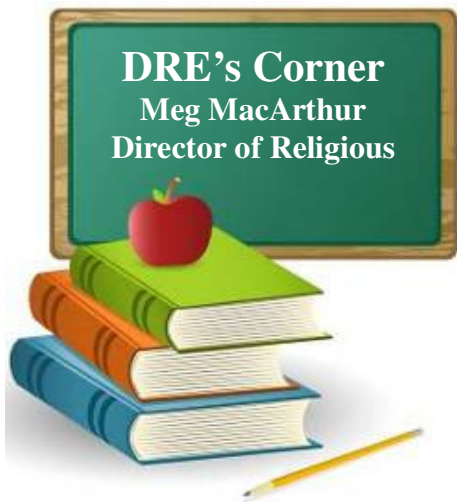
Yes, there are challenges in being a Board president. But I am remiss if I don't tell you how gratifying it is. It has

given me an opportunity to get to know many of you better. It also has given me a greater appreciation of the importance of our faith in the broader community. Most importantly, it has given me the chance to work with very dedicated volunteers and staff. The Board of Trustees – Martha Alexander, Cindy Lee, Karen Hibel, Eleanore Richardson, Bob Snelsire, Ralph Stutzman, Carolina Turner, and John Turner – were integrally involved in guiding us through the challenges that we faced this year. Their historical perspective and commitment to the UUFC were invaluable to me as president.

The original Transition Team – Kathy Crain, Les Grady, John Kenelly, Janie Shipley, and Pat Zungoli -- spent countless hours developing our application packet for the interim ministry, interviewing candidates, and attending covenant groups, Sunday services, and congregational meetings to educate us about the interim process. Their work did not end with the selection of an interim minister. A slightly reconfigured team, which includes Wayne Leftwich, has continued to advise Rev. Holt. When we selected members of the Transition Team, we nominated individuals who are highly regarded in our congregation. We chose well!

Our staff does so much for this congregation. Julie Craig, our very capable administrator, knows everything about UUFC. I have found a friend in Julie. As we have tinkered with our Sunday Services, Elaine Fredendall, our choir director, and Paula Heuskinkveld, Jorge Medina and Monica Bacchetto, our musicians, have continued to give us beautiful music. Finally, Meg MacArthur, our child care workers, and Religious Education Committee work very hard to bring quality educational services to our children. They are truly preparing the next generation of UUFC members!

There are so many of you who devote countless hours to making UUFC the place that it is. On behalf of your Board, thank you. You make our job easier and more pleasurable. As a president who is almost finished, I can honestly say that if you are not engaged in some aspect of leadership in the UUFC, you are missing out. It is a wonderful opportunity to work alongside caring compassionate people. I look forward to continuing our work with the new leadership team next year.



It's Guest at Your Table Time

The children in The Fellowship's Religious Education program will give out Guest at Your Table boxes on December 19th. These boxes provide an example of the way cooperation can work on a large scale to accomplish more than any one of us can do alone. Families place a box on their diningroom table and, at mealtimes, put money in the box, contributing a share of their blessings to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC). The money collected during this time is pooled by The Fellowship and then sent to UUSC. Families in many other UU congregations are doing the same thing.

UUSC will use the funds we all collect to work with partner organizations to do many things, such as helping people work together to get clean water, helping communities around the world adapt to climate change, organizing workers for better working conditions, and promoting fair trade through the UUSC Coffee Project.

Please be generous during the Guest at Your Table month. You can turn in your boxes in January.

NOVEL CIRCLE: Join the Novel Circle group on the first Wednesday of each month.

December 1, 2010. *The Chinese Maze Murders* by Robert Hans Gulik. Poisoned plums, a cryptic scroll picture, passionate love letters, and a hidden murderer with a penchant for torturing and killing women lead Judge Dee to the heart of the Governor's garden maze and the answers to three interwoven mysteries. *The Chinese Maze Murders* represents Robert van Gulik's first venture into writing suspense novels. University of Chicago Press, 336 pages, 2007.

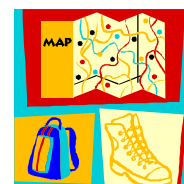
January 5, 2011. *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett. A page-turner and a story of social awakening as seen from both sides of the American racial divide. In pitch-perfect voices, Kathryn Stockett creates three extraordinary women whose determination to start a movement of their own forever changes a town, and the way women view one another. Seemingly as different from one another as can be, these women will nonetheless come together for a clandestine project that will put them all at risk. And why? Because they are suffocating within the lines that define their town and their times. A deeply moving novel filled with poignancy, humor, and hope, Amy Einhorn Books, 464 pages, 2009.

February 2, 2011. *Noah's Compass* by Anne Tyler. A wise, gently humorous, and compassionate novel about a schoolteacher, forced to retire at sixty-one, coming to terms with the final phase of his life. Liam Pennywell, who set out to be a philosopher and ended up teaching fifth grade, never much liked the job at that run-down private school, so early retirement doesn't bother him. But he is troubled by his inability to remember anything about the a night that left him in the hospital with an injured head. His effort to recover these stolen moments leads him on an unexpected detour. What he needs is someone who can do the remembering for him. What he gets is – well, something quite different. We all know a Liam. In fact, there may be a little of Liam in each of us. Which is why Anne Tyler's lovely novel resonates so deeply. Knopf, 288 pages, 2010.

The HUULAs (**Hiking Universalist Unitarian Ladies**) have a Dec. 28th hike planned. We'll be hiking along the Chattooga River Trail and those interested in an easy walk can join in for a shorter version, then more seasoned hikers will continue on for an 11 mile hike. All are welcome; the more the merrier!

Please contact nancy at oppenheimerart@bellsouth.net if you're interested.

(Submitted by Nancy Oppenheimer)



Young Adult Holiday Social

The Young Adult Covenant Group is hosting a Holiday Social at Founder's House on December 12th beginning at 6pm.

Are you a part of Generation X or Generation Y?

If yes, then you are invited to attend an evening of great food, good conversation, and holiday cheer with other young adults. Reverend Alex will be our keynote speaker for the evening. Dinner and beverages will be provided.

To RSVP or for more information, email Wayne Leftwich wayneleft@gmail.com

Merry
Christmas



Season's Greetings

The Marshes: Ken, Janet & Abe

Invite You to

Our Eleventh Annual

'Chili Open House'

Come, share our holiday spirit!

*Saturday, December 18, 2010
4:30 PM – 7:30 PM*

RSVP by 12/14 –888.0011 or
jmarsh@clemsion.edu

A simple dessert or beverage is welcome – not required.

130 Cane Creek Harbor Road, Seneca
(Call for directions.)

White Elephant Gift Exchange & Dinner

Monday, December 13, 5:30 – 8:30 PM
UUFC Women - Please come prepared for another annual festive evening of laughter, great food, weird gifts and, above all, sisterly silliness and camaraderie! We will meet at Founder's House.

Please bring a dish for dinner (salad, dessert, bread) and beverage (wine or whatever you'd like to drink). We supply coffee and tea.

Please bring a wrapped "gift"; something you would like to be rid of ... even the gift you took home last year! It could be something beautiful that your third ex-husband gave to you or it could be something too big, too small, too ugly...

Please RSVP (or ask questions) by 12/9 to one of your hostesses: Sandra Sanderson (sandras@nctv.com), Nancy Oppenheimer (oppenheimerart@bellsouth.net), or Janet Marsh (jmarsh@clemsion.edu). *Note: Nancy will be unavailable for RSVP Nov 28-Dec 8.*



the
Artist's
Way
work group

*14 weeks
of artistic
recovery*

for
writers
painters
sculptors
playwrites
illustrators
anyone with a
creative spirit
to be expressed

starting
Thursday
January 20
7pm

\$25 per person

for information
or to join the group
contact Sherril:
murphyjacobs@gmail.com
352-636-9864

Looking ahead to 2011!



Silent Auction Events
and Items Wanted

UUFC's very popular Silent Auction will run the month of February in the community room. We need descriptions of items, social events, vacations, etc. that you are willing to offer for the auction so we can prepare bid sheets and displays. The auction is a great way to find new homes for crafts you have made, collectibles you no longer want, art work, jewelry, and books. It's also a fun way to get to know members of the Fellowship better by organizing or hosting a social event at your home or leading a hike, tour or other outing. Use of vacation homes and time shares are always popular items and generate lots of bids! The auction income is an important supplement to pledges and offerings to keep our Fellowship running and reaching out to the community at large. Please be creative and generous.

Email your descriptions to: Kathryn Smith, Ways and Means Chair, canceraa@earthlink.net, or Co-Chair Marty Bynum, mbynum303@gmail.com or speak to one of us at the Fellowship.



Monthly Board & Committee Meetings Dates & Other UUFC Events

COUNCIL OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS-2010

Board Representative and Chair of Council	Cindy Lee
Building	Carl Ulbrich & Jim Rogers
Grounds	Meg Williamson
Communication	TBA
Hospitality/Holidays	Sarah Harcum
Membership	Linda Law
Outreach	Toni King
Religious Education	Mary Beth Kurz
Stewardship	Bob Snelsire
Ways and Means	Marty Bynum & Katherine Smith
Worship	Karel Keel

MONTHLY BOARD & COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Covenant Groups: We have 7 on-going covenant groups. Please inquire at the office if you are interested in joining one or check the covenant group section of our website.

UUFC Board, Committee, and other Meetings:

Board Meetings — Second Wednesday, 7:00 pm, Social Room

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

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, Social Room

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 *(See page 4 for book details.)*

"WRITERS' GROUP meets Tuesdays, 5:00 to 6:30 PM, Library Come for sincere appreciation and total support of your work, or just to listen and support other writers. Very low risk. Great conversation. We need the young and the forever young." Dick Danforth, 882-8822. 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

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

Choir Practice - Thursday, 5:30pm, Sanctuary
Elaine Fredendall, Choir Director

To Singers of all stripes & types.... Come check out the Choir! You don't have to sign on any contract line, dotted or otherwise! Just come sing with us, at least a time or two!



Please check upcoming Sunday Bulletins & mid-week news for updates or changes to these events.

Congregational Meeting
December 5, 2010
12:15 P.M.
Agenda

1. Approval of 2011 Budget
2. Approval of Board/Committee nominations
3. Vote on Proposal to change Sunday Services Schedule (Please note that 15 minutes will be allocated for discussion of the proposed change. Each speaker will have one minute to present their position in support or against the proposed change.)

All members of UUFC are welcome to attend.

UUFC Communications

November 17
Board of Trustees Meeting
Action Items

- Motion to bring the newly proposed Sunday schedule was approved.
- Motion moved to approve the final budget that was included with the pledge cards was approved. This budget is approximately \$6,000 short at the present time.
- Motion for the Congregational Meeting agenda on Dec. 5 was approved and notification will be sent to members. The congregation will have input on the new Sunday schedule which, if approved, will be for a trial period of 1 year.

Submitted by: Carolyn Turner, Secretary



Recipe for Christmas All Year Long

Take a heap of child-like wonder
That opens up our eyes
To the unexpected gifts in life—
Each day a sweet surprise.

Mix in fond appreciation
For the people whom we know;
Like festive Christmas candles,
Each one has a special glow.

Add some giggles and some laughter,
A dash of Christmas food,
(Amazing how a piece of pie
Improves our attitude!)

Stir it all with human kindness;
Wrap it up in love and peace,
Decorate with optimism, and
Our joy will never cease.

If we use this healthy recipe,
We know we will remember
To be in the Christmas spirit,
Even when it's not December.

~ Joanna Fuchs

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	Cindy Lee
At Large	Eleanore Richardson & Karen Hiebel
Personnel	Rev. Ralph Stutzman
Interim Minister:	Reverend Alex Holt

Reverend Holt's Office Hours: Tues. 9 am-1pm;
Wed, 12 - 5 pm; Thurs 5-8 pm

Director of RE: Meg MacArthur 639-2847
Administrator: Julie Craig 654-5959
Email: uufcadm@yahoo.com
Choir Director: Elaine Fredendall 654-3834
Main Building Phone: 654-5980
Receiving Treasurer: Jeannine Varenhorst
UUFC Librarian: Carolyn Turner
UUFC Webmaster: Steve Bynum
UUFC website: www.uufc.org
Newsletter Editor: "Last hurrah" with this
Dec. 2010 issue - Heidi Campbell
New Editors: Andi Nelson & Mary Orem

The UUFC World Newsletter is published 11 times a year. Please send your columns, announcements, letters, poems, or other submissions for the January 2011 issue, to andine@bellsouth.net on or by November 20th. (See page 1 about the Newsletter "changing of the guard!")

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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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.