

Volunteering at UUFC

By Sandra L. Sanderson

I “do” because I care. I care because : **1)** My mother brought me up right and I swallowed the line from the Girl Scout promise that I have recited what seems like a zillion times “to help other people at all times” hook, line and sinker. **2)** This world is a beautiful place for me most of the time, but not so much for many, many others. **3)** I believe, that is, I have thought about and have concluded that I have a moral duty to make life better for others when I can. **4)** I suffer from liberal guilt. **5)** I feel compelled to act on the UU principles that call me to serve others . **6)** It is part of my life’s work to become a more compassionate person - volunteering feeds my soul.

I volunteer in two capacities. Directly, when I am helping with an RE program or class; planting an Earthbox garden at Safe Harbor with Ellie; pulling wires in a Habitat build; representing UUFC at Clemson Area Congregations in Touch, taking my turn in providing Sunday morning hospitality and on and on.

More indirectly, I help organize and participate in collections and fundraisers so that folks with more expertise in providing assistance to the needy have resources. Is there anyone here who hasn’t been asked by me to buy a ticket to an event or make a contribution? And as Treasurer and now, Disbursing Treasurer, I volunteer a lot of time to keeping the financial wheels turning here at UUFC and by extension all the wheels at UUFC.

This Fellowship is my spiritual home. This is my religious community. I believe in its mission and so, I volunteer.

My life is richer because I have walked in a CROP Walk in the pouring rain with Karel Keel. We looked like two drowned rats and didn’t dare attend the community worship service at St. Andrews Catholic Church at the end of the walk because of our state of drappiness.

My life is richer because I have spent an evening with a bunch of gals in our kitchen making and bagging 1,000 chocolate covered peanut butter balls for a Ministers’ Cookoff event – we did not know exactly what we were doing , but we had fun and laughed a lot as we muddled through the mixing, and chilling and rolling and dunking and chilling again.

On behalf of the Outreach Committee, I would like to invite you to get involved. We invite you to lend your heart, your hands and your head to our efforts to make the world a better place by service to this Fellowship and to those beyond our doors. And hey, we *are* fun to be with.

Today we are circulating signup sheets and we hope you will act on either your sudden urge or your long-maturing desire to join a committee or spread mulch, teach an RE class, make coffee, meet and greet visitors, walk in the October 2 CROP Walk, help cook and serve at the November 8 Ministers’ Cookoff, plant daylilies under Meg Williamson’s tutelage, donate a half-day to a Habitat Build, write articles for the newsletter, as just a few examples. We promise you that you will learn plenty – about UUFC, about the greater Clemson area community, and perhaps, most importantly, about yourself . Learning a new skill, creating or strengthening bonds with other Fellowship members, or just looking at something in a whole new and larger light is, --well, personally enlightening!

So, please add your name in a place or two on the sheets going around the room. Not sure? Then come to Volunteer Fair on September 25 after our worship service and let us entice you further with displays, people to talk with AND everybody’s favorite.... FOOD. Oh, we have big jobs to do, but we also have lots of little ones that you can tuck into your busy schedules here and there.

We proudly define ourselves as the religion of deeds, not creeds – Volunteer and be part of it!