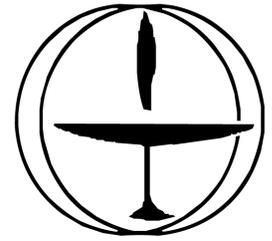




HONORING THE PAST
BUILDING THE FUTURE

UUFC WORLD

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Clemson
230 Pendleton Road, Clemson, SC 29631
May 2014 Volume 45 Issue 5



Meet Your Shared Ministry Committee

Page 2

From The Stewardship Team

Page 5

Homemade Culinary Wisdom

Page 8

RE Photo Collage

Page 10

Evangelizing The South for Unitarian Universalism

Page 13

Communications Committee Seeks Your Input

Page 14

Behind The Kitchen Door Book Discussion



Submitted by Janet Marsh

Meeting around the table, left to right are: Renee Mendola, Carol Ward, Toni King, Richard Ivy, Karel Keel, and Janet Marsh. Photographer is Ken Marsh.

Deadline for submission to the next issue of UUFC World is **May 20th**.

Note: The next issue is a combined June/July edition.

Please share with us at
UUFCWorld@gmail.com.

Also Inside this edition

Sunday Services	2	Green Sanctuary	7	Novel Circle	11
Reverend's Remarks	3	60th Anniversary Event	8	The Council of Committees	12
President's Column	4	Family Promise	9	Board of Trustees	14
Religious Education	6	Relay For Life	10		

May Services

Sunday services begin at 10:30 am
Coffee and conversation follows in the social hall.

May 4: *Explorations in the World and Transformations of the Heart.* This morning, members Kathy Crain and Steve Johnson will share their life adventures living in two very different cultures and countries. How have their experiences reshaped their understandings of their lives? Kathy, Crain, Steve Johnson, Rev. Terre

May 11: *Mothers, Matriarchs, and Role Models.* We will honor the matriarchs of our Fellowship and also look back at some of the Unitarian and Universalist “Mothers” who themselves learned from those who helped nurture the suffragist movement. Rev. Terre

May 18: *Buddhist Practice: Living the Mindful Life.* Service leaders: UUFC Buddhist Friends

May 25: *Julia Ward Howe and the Mother’s Day Proclamation.* Mother’s Day was not in invention of Hallmark; rather it was a protest against sons going off to war. On this Memorial Day weekend, we remember.

Rev. Terre



Meet Your UUFC Shared Ministry Committee (SMC)

Submitted by Janet Marsh, Member, SMC

“When Unitarian Universalists speak of ministry, we are describing what we do together as members of our faith communities. We have ordained ministers in our tradition, of course, but those who serve their world in the name of the church extend far beyond the clergy. our ministry involves taking care of one another, maintaining an emotional and spiritual connection throughout life’s changes.” *The Unitarian Universalist Pocket Guide (2004)*



Trustees. In general, it tries to keep track of the pulse of the congregation.

The SMC consists of five members, elected by the congregation to serve two-year terms. It meets monthly with the minister; all matters are discussed in confidence. What are the key features of a healthy Fellowship that the SMC encourages?

In the quote above, “ministry” implies “shared ministry.” It describes a pretty tall order for a committee about which most UUFC members know little or nothing, the Shared Ministry Committee (SMC). To highlight the committee’s function at UUFC, it provided the April 13th service, with Nate Chenette and Dillman Sorrells offering the sermon, which is briefly summarized below.

SMC: Its Purpose and Functions – Nate Chenette

UUFC Bylaws state that the main job of the SMC is “strengthening the quality of ministry.” They also state core practical tasks: meet monthly with the minister to offer support and review items that may concern the healthy functioning of the Fellowship, assess the role of the minister (annually) and shared ministry (bi-annually), and make ministerial compensation/contractual recommendations to the Board of

1. shared ministry, not just our ordained minister - but all of us
2. open and transparent communication
3. attention to the good of our larger community
4. regular assessment of our minister and congregational life

Examples of Shared Ministry in Action – Rev. Dillman Sorrells

As a (retired) parish minister, I found the SMC to be a life-saver for me. It gave me a forum in which I could ask questions, speak freely, and learn from its collective wisdom.

For example, when I realized that one service didn’t serve my Minnesota congregation well, because there was no place for late comers to sit, I discussed my concerns with the committee - we needed two Sunday services. They recommended I talk to

Continued on page 3 —————>

The Reverend's Remarks

Rev. Terre Balof, Minister

Dear Friends,

Adaptability is a necessary life skill. I've gotten better at adaptability these last few weeks as I put my winter clothes away, enjoying the loveliness of spring - only to dig the warm

clothes out a few days later. Easter came late this year but still it was too cool for me. Many of the spring flowers we might have taken to our Flower Communion got frozen. My mind can tell me that changing weather patterns relate to climate change, but my body and psyche simply long to enjoy spring without the frustration of another freeze warning. I most often experience my need for adaptability with my family when trying to find a consensus on family priorities. This life skill is one that is also developed and tested as we build our Fellowship community.

Each of us has unique beliefs and values. As we work and play together there are times when we realize that some of our particular values and beliefs need to be tempered and adapted as we seek to accomplish our community goals. This can be challenging for all of us, because we all assume that others see the world as we do. Yet the reality is that we have wide ranging perspectives on life and the world. These differences offer us practical, up close experiences of how democracy really works. Developing a vision and goals for our Fellowship is a wonderful way to practice the concrete reality of our fifth principle, "The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large." As we adapt our vision of the path forward for our Fellowship community, each of us will find fodder for learning and growth. The next 60 years should be a great adventure.

Blessings, Terre

<----- SMC Continued from page 2

the board, staff, and relevant committees. I heard all the reasons it wouldn't work, but some folks figured out it was worth trying and made a plan. In five months we had two services - and we grew by leaps and bounds because there was room for late comers.

As you know, lots of people don't like change; it's a lot of work, but it's needed as congregations grow. No minister can make a huge change, leading to growth and increased vibrancy, without the congregation wanting that change. It was my first year in the congregation and I couldn't have done that without the committee's help.

Another time, far more painful, I had to deal with a person showing inappropriate behavior. I described to the committee what I'd seen. I took their recommendations to the board and a decision was made about how to proceed. There can be difficult issues in any congregation. Decisions that are hard to make must be thoughtfully made, with the appropriate people involved. I am grateful for the committee that helped me and I am grateful that we have such a committee at UUFC.

Remember, when you celebrate the arrival of babies, take food to the sick, greet each other on Sunday morning, laugh, listen, say thanksthat is ministry. Terre does this as a calling; we do it as part of something that is important to us. It is far more fun to be in a healthy congregation! So may we help each other to achieve this health!

General Assembly

General Assembly 2014 will be held in Providence, RI on June 25 — 28.

Theme: Love Reaches Out

More information can be found at www.uua.org/ga/

The President's Column

Cecil Huey, 2014 Board President

A Little Springtime Inspiration

The wonderful green explosion of spring is here with its soaring spirits, springy steps, and longer days. Spring is sorta like the corner piece of a square cake, the one with all the icing. All in all, it's pretty easy to be inspired by springtime. Maybe we can take advantage of it.

An early walk on a recent morning put me in an upbeat mood and somehow reminded me of a recent UUFC Sunday service, "*Being UU's in an Evangelical World.*" Along the way, an exuberant wisteria vine prompted thoughts of growth and change and UUFC, right here, right now, and what evangelicals might teach us.

I must say quickly and emphatically that evangelism isn't my cup of tea. Here, in referencing evangelism, I mean advocating a particular set of beliefs to others with the specific aim of converting them to that set of beliefs. It isn't restricted

to particular denominations, nor is it pursued with equal fervor across belief systems.

That evangelism isn't my cup of tea is probably rooted in big family reunions of my childhood. I remember, at a formative age I'm sure, being smooched by an old aunt I hardly knew who pronounced me "adorable" and declared that I looked "just like" some one else I hardly knew. Ever since, I have had strong aversions to anyone coming at me with good intentions, and I confess to seeing evangelism in that light. But evangelicals and wisteria vines have their successes and maybe something to suggest to UU's, especially regarding the merits of visibility.

A line in a country music song goes something like this, "If your phone don't ring, it's me." We UU's could have our own version of it, "If you don't see or hear anything, it's us UU's." But, people do see us and hear us

and they know us, they just don't know we're UU's. Getting personal again, I once heard someone say of me that he knew me to be a good Christian because I was active in my church. That comment rattles around in my memory from time to time, and the assumptions behind it seem to confirm both our non-evangelical character and our anonymity. We don't have to be anonymous, and I don't think it's good for us.

I wrote in an earlier newsletter concerning the importance of growth and how openness, warmth, and welcoming sensitivities complement the efforts of our Membership Committee. Here, I suggest that we harness some of our springtime vigor and direct it into blossoms. I am convinced it will be good for us. We are everywhere in the community, just like the wisteria vine in the tree. If we allow ourselves to bloom just a little, others will see us. We will benefit from it right now and our future will be brightened by it. Small efforts will help; many small efforts will help more. Just getting out the UU t-shirts might be a good start, now that it's springtime.

**UUFC WORLD
230 PENDLETON ROAD
CLEMSON SC 29631**

Co-Editors: Andi Nelson & Mary Orem
Distribution: via website (www.uufc.org)

Official Publication of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Clemson.

UUFC World is published 11 times a year. All articles are due on the 20th of the month preceding publication. Articles can be e-mailed to: UUFCWorld@gmail.com

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



Hearing from the Stewardship Team

Jim Alexander, Liz Branstead, Janet Marsh, Andi Nelson,
Sandra Sanderson, Advisor

"We want members/friends to understand the particular combination of growing membership, increasing demands for services, and revenue flow that combine to require more from the membership. That understanding should support and reinforce the efforts of Stewardship." Cecil Huey, UUFC President

The Stewardship Campaign is in the fall, but throughout the year we keep the spirit of gratitude, generosity and stewardship before us. Gratitude and generosity are familiar concepts; who doesn't feel gratitude and generosity bubble up when they see our children collect food for the needy in their red wagon and manage to pull it down the aisle and out of the sanctuary each Sunday?

Stewardship, to some, is a tougher concept. Yet, bringing food, collecting food, taking the food to Clemson Community Care are acts of stewardship – giving to what we care about.

Additionally, Stewardship is about committing to support UUFC through our financial pledge, typically made during the fall campaign. The Stewardship Team makes the campaign as interesting and compelling as it can. This is a challenge but many of you have affirmed our efforts! Thank you!!

Recently the Team was challenged by our president, Cecil Huey, to develop the most salient points congregants should know about the financial pledge side of stewardship. These points are a reminder to old-timers and new information to the continuing stream of new-comers entering our doors.

This first of a two-part series shares what we, the Stewardship Team, want you to know about the pledge side of stewardship.

- ❖ UUFC offers opportunities for spiritual growth, support from members and friends who know and care for each other, learning and intellectual stimulation, and engagement in outreach efforts that improve our community and world.
- ❖ Meeting these needs of members, friends and the community beyond UUFC requires money for staff, programs and facilities.
- ❖ Membership is a privilege and responsibility, requiring all to give of their time, talent and treasure as they are able. Each year a few people are unable to make a financial commitment. This is expected and we need them to return their pledge card with the 'No' box checked. If they wish, they may talk with the minister or a church leader. In some cases, this information can help UUFC better serve them.

In the June newsletter we will describe more practical aspects of pledging and how you can help make the fall campaign a fun and less time-consuming process for your committed Stewardship Team!!

Religious Education

Theresa Pizzuto, Director of Religious Education

Theresa.pizzuto@gmail.com

Looking Back, Looking Forward

Submitted by Christine Prado

With spring in the air, we look back at winter and forward to summer.

This winter included successful multigenerational services, growing RE classes, and group events such the 60th anniversary event Families & Friends game night. We had a mix of children and adults, where all had a great time playing Scrabble, Clue and other games, while enjoying whole wheat English muffin pizzas. We hope to find regular time to do something together every couple of months. By the time this has been published, we will have seen Frozen at Patrick Square. We should have also had a Grounds/RE workday to clean up the grounds and the playground. We plan to try another game night, and we'd love to hear your ideas and thoughts as to what you'd like to see the committee plan for future events.

RE has also been helping with Relay for Life. So far, the RE classes decorated the luminaria bags together, and also helped collect money by giving HUGS during Social Time. For a dollar, you get a hug from a fabulous RE student. Relay for Life is on May 16th at Pendleton Elementary, starting at 6:00 pm. If you've never been to a Relay for Life event, they are both fun and inspiring. We hope families will come out for this event and show the UUFC support for this cause, as well as honoring John Turner. Carolyn would be happy to share more about this great event. Contact her at cstjht87@gmail.com.

As we wrap up another year, we start preparations for fall. We will be looking for volunteer teachers. If your idea of fun is sharing stories and playing with children or discussing weighty issues with teens, well, we'd love to have you for about 3-4 Sundays a semester. (And if you don't have an interest in that role, we have other volunteer needs as well.) Get in touch with our DRE Theresa Pizzuto, at theresa.pizzuto@gmail.com.



**Spotlight on
the faces of RE:
Christine Prado**



Christine got involved in teaching when Georgeanne Stafford told her that Christine's father, Carl was willing to teach RE if she would do it with him. (Later she learned that Georgeanne told Carl the same thing about Christine.) However, Christine decided that teaching RE was a pretty fun thing to do and she's still in the classrooms more than 10 years later, shaping young minds while learning a lot about our spiritual heritages along the way.

In real life, Christine designs recruitment brochures for Clemson University while, at night, she designs a needlepoint magazine. In between, she runs half marathons and knits, and enjoys cooking. She also finds Will Ferrell movies very funny, even though she knows they aren't necessarily quality entertainment. Perhaps the childish appeal of his humor explains her longevity in the RE classroom.

UUFC is a certified Green Sanctuary congregation. We are committed to protecting the interdependent web of life, and creating a world in which we make reverence, gratitude, and caring for Earth central in our lives. The group meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. for lively discussion and taking environmental action at UUFC, in our own lives, and in our world. Many of us stay to attend the Sierra Club monthly gathering at 7:15 p.m. If you are interested in joining, please call Ellie Taylor at 654-1331.

Urgent Call to Action in Newest Environmental Report



A new April, 2014 report by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has made it clear that we must reduce our use of fossil fuels and switch to clean

energy sources. The report concludes that clean energy will have to at least triple in output and dominate world energy supplies by 2050 in order to avoid catastrophic climate change. While greenhouse gas emissions have begun to decline slightly in many wealthy countries, including the United States, those gains are being swamped by emissions from rising economic powers like China and India. For the world's poorer countries, food is not the only issue, but it may be the most acute. Two approaches are recommended: 1) conserve energy and 2) use more clean energy like solar and wind. There is much we can do to help - especially at the policy level. What we lack is the political will of our leaders to strongly champion renewable power and energy efficiency. Is it up to us through our organizations, including UUFC, to continue pushing our leaders to prevent a catastrophic rise in temperature. Some things you can do:

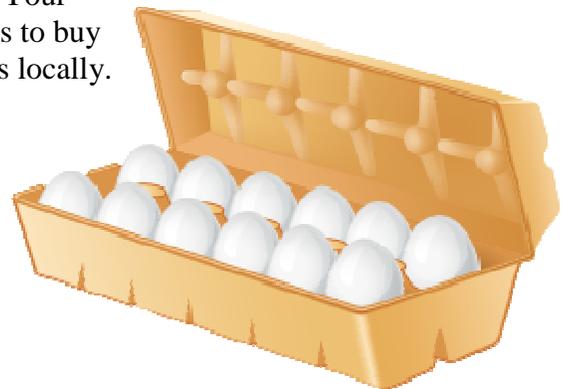
- Join UUFC Green Sanctuary. Help with environmental awareness, education, and action.
- Help UUFC role model "the change we want to see" by thinking "sustainable" in all we do.
- Attend Earth Dialogue and Green Congregation meetings to work with others in our area.

Write or call legislators when needed (watch this newsletter and midweek news for 'calls to action').

Earth Dialogue is a new community event that UUFC helped create. The next meeting is on Monday, May 19. The topic will be "Policy Matters: Changing Climate Values and Taking Action". *Earth Dialogue* is an informal gathering of students, environmental groups, government and others to build community action on addressing an increasingly catastrophic climate crisis and to foster local sustainability efforts. *Earth Dialogue* meets from 6:00 – 7:00 pm at Friends Café in downtown Clemson with an optional buffet beginning at 5:30 pm.

Action Tip of the Month: BE An "EGGSPERT".

Just like other food, you can't judge an egg by the marketing messages on the carton. "Cage Free" does not mean that the chickens roam freely outside – it just means that the tiny door at the end of the coop was left open five minutes each day while the hen spends her life indoors unable to move freely. For a complete guide, check out [www.TakePart.com/Unscrambling Egg Carton Labels](http://www.TakePart.com/UnscramblingEggCartonLabels). Your best bet is to buy your eggs locally.





**HONORING THE PAST
BUILDING THE FUTURE**

**UUFC PICNIC
Sunday, June 1st
Following the Sunday Service**

Submitted by Theresa Pizzuto

In the past, UUFC always celebrated the end of school for our children and the beginning of summer vacations with a multigenerational picnic. The UUFC will honor that tradition by holding a congregation picnic immediately after our Sunday morning service on June 1st at the Bayshore Park in Seneca (directions available in the Midweek News and on the bulletin board). There will be a potluck meal followed by swimming, games, dancing, and boating. Everyone is welcome!

Please bring a dish or two to share. Drinks will be provided and a grill will be available for individuals who wish to grill their own veggies or meat. It is a UUFC tradition to challenge ourselves to have a “zero-waste event” – meaning that we reduce waste by bringing our own non-disposable silver, dishes and cup (if you forget, we will have some to share). There is a place to change into swimming gear, but parents will be required to supervise swimming children.

Come to enjoy a fun afternoon in the sun or the shade of the covered pavilion. Kayaks and canoes gratefully welcome. Relax and get to know others both young and old. Questions: Ellie Taylor, 654-1331 or Theresa Pizzuto (Theresa.pizzuto@gmail.com)

Homemade Culinary Wisdom Preserved by the Unitarian Fellowship of Clemson in 1978

Myra Bregger and Freida Hammett compiled a beautiful cookbook as a fundraiser in 1978. Myra served as editor, Freida as assistant editor, Ellie Taylor as designer of the title and artwork, and Cindy Rodgers as proofreader and instructions editor. The book states that members, relatives and friends submitted over 600 recipes ranging from old family favorites to unusual versions of traditional southern foods. Contained in the book are instructions on how to make yogurt and sprout seeds, how to cook grits in unique ways, and how to make hamburger helper. Of course, following a tradition of frequent fellowship potlucks and parties, there is a section on entertaining with a roast pig or pork barbeque. The book was dedicated to beloved member, Ruth Hahn.

We will feature recipes from the cookbook each month in our newsletter. Here’s a sample recipe submitted by Louis Bregger, Myra’s son who currently resides in Turkey:

FRUIT LEATHER

This is a good backpacking food, if you can keep it around!

3 cups pureed fruit (cooked first if necessary)
½ tsp. cinnamon
1 Tblsp. lemon juice
honey to taste

Combine ingredients, adjusting to taste. Spread thinly on greased coking sheet and dry in the air or in a 120-150 degree oven. When dry enough to peel up, roll and place in paper bags to dry for several additional days. Store in airtight containers. Try homemade applesauce, ripe bananas, pears, strawberries or your favorite combination of fruits for a start.



Questions? Contact Family Promise Co-Coordinators at UUFC Toni King king.toni62@gmail.com or Heidi Campbell heidi_campbell@att.net Please indicate your area of interest below, and thank you!

UUFC Request for Volunteers

Family Promise provides a way for faith communities to work together to help homeless families. UUFC will partner with Ft. Hill Presbyterian Church in Clemson starting summer, 2014. For one week Ft. Hill Presbyterian will provide overnight lodging and meals for three to five families (up to 14 persons.) They will do this 3-4 times per year. UUFC volunteers will go to Ft. Hill to provide support.

Family Promise "guests" stay in each "host congregation" from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. daily. Over half of the Family Promise guests will be children. Each morning guests are transported to a day center in Easley where they receive case management services, and seek housing and employment. School aged children are transported to the school in which they are enrolled.

Volunteers are the foundation of this program. There are many ways that you can help. Please let us know all that you might be willing to do, as outlined below.

We understand that your availability depends on when volunteers will be needed!, and that you can only commit once specific dates are set!

All volunteers will be contacted in advance of program start-up for training/orientation.

Please check all you may be able to offer. Commitments won't be firmed up until service weeks/days are known.

- Supper/Evening Volunteer (5:00 pm - 8:30 pm)**
- Overnight Volunteer (8:30 pm - 6:00 am)**
- Breakfast Volunteer (6:00 am - 7:00 am)**
- Meal Preparation (contributing something in advance of actual meal)**
- Sunday Afternoon Setup (beds, tables, room dividers)**
- Sunday Cleanup (7:00 am) (get beds ready for pickup)**
- Help with Weekly Cleanup**
- Help with Laundry (towels and sheets)**
- Doctor on Call** **Nurse on Call** **Tutor**
- Donate non-perishable food items**
- Volunteer at the Family Day Center in Easley**
- I would like more information**

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Return to UUFC, Coordinators king.toni62@gmail.com or heidi_campbell@att.net. Thank you!

RELAY FOR LIFE 2014



Pendleton/Clemson Cancer Relay for Life,
Friday, May 16, 2014
6:00 p.m. - midnight

Thanks to those of you who have ordered a lumanaria and received hugs from our RE children. The UUFC "team" needs more help to reach our goal of \$1,500. You may donate online by using the following steps:

1. Go to the website - www.relayforlife.org/pendletonclemsonsc
2. You can choose to donate to a participant (Carolyn Turner) or a team (UUFC.)
3. You can also choose to become a participant. We'd love to have you walk with us anytime during the scheduled 6 hours.
4. If you want to donate to me (in memory of John), type in my name, click "search."
5. Click on donate beside my name or what other choice you might make.

I especially encourage you to join us during the lighted lumanaria walk (approximately 9:00 pm - 9:15 pm.) This silent walk is inspiring, impressive, meditative and awesome. The event will take place along the track of Pendleton Elementary School. Although the theme this year is "Under the Big Top", the RE committee has decided not to have any required costumes or uniforms. Dress as you like. RE students will be baking cookies to sell that evening to add to our funding.

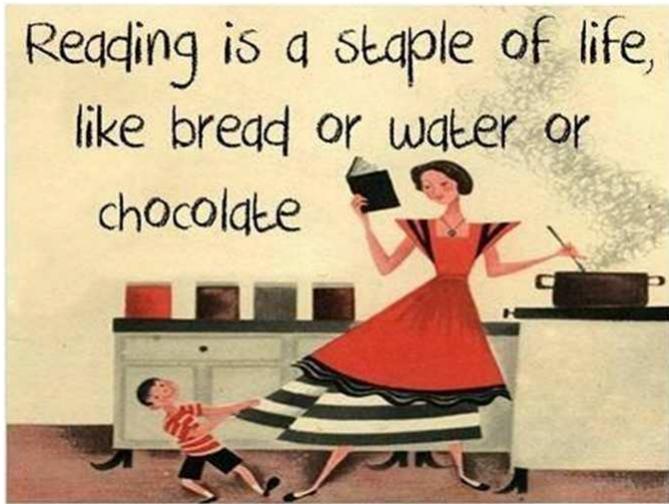
Come one! Come all! Honor those family, friends and neighbors whose lives have been touched by cancer.

Carolyn S. Turner
cstjht87@gmail.com



*Go Now in Peace
Go Now in Peace
May the Spirit
Of Love
Surround You
Everywhere,
Everywhere
You May Go.*

Snapshots of RE



UUFC Novel Circle

If this illustration rings a bell with you, join us at the Novel Circle on the first Monday of each month, at 7:30 pm at the Founders' House. The discussions will expand your mind, and the chocolate selection is excellent.

This month we will be discussing *The Soloist* by Mark Salzman.

June 4, 2014: *Spilling Clarence* by Anne Ursu. In the fictional town of Clarence, Minnesota, a breakroom microwave sparks a smoky fire at the pharmaceutical factory and triggers a massive chemical spill. Over the coming days, the citizens of Clarence fall under the spell of a strange and powerful drug that unlocks their memories. They become trapped by their own reminiscences: of love and death, of war and childhood, of family they've lost and sins they've committed. Beautifully rendered with a light comic touch, this bittersweet first novel is about more than the sum of its beguiling parts. It's about the need to remember, and about the bliss of forgetting. A universe peopled by exquisitely drawn characters, *Spilling Clarence* is a funny, moving story with a truly original premise that introduces the impressive talents of an exciting new writer. Hyperion, 204 pages, 2003.

July 2, 2014: *Beginners Goodbye* by Anne Tyler. Crippled in his right arm and leg, Aaron grew up fending off a sister who constantly wanted to manage him. So when he meets Dorothy, she's like a breath of fresh air. He marries her, and they have a relatively happy, unremarkable marriage. Aaron works at his family's vanity-publishing business, turning out titles that presume to guide beginners through the trials of life. But when Dorothy is killed, Aaron feels as though he has been erased forever. Only Dorothy's unexpected appearances from the dead help him to live in the moment and to find some peace. Gradually, Aaron discovers that maybe for this beginner there is indeed a way to say goodbye. A wise, haunting, and deeply moving new novel about loss and recovery, pierced throughout with humor, wisdom, and always penetrating look at human foibles. Ballantine Books, 224 pages, 2013.

August 6, 2014: (*Mystery Month*): *In The Bleak Midwinter* by Julia Spencer-Fleming. Clare Fergusson, St. Alban's new priest, fits like a square peg in the conservative Episcopal parish at Millers Kill, New York. She is not just a

"lady," she's a tough ex-Army chopper pilot, and nobody's fool. Then a newborn infant is left at the church door. The search for the baby's mother quickly leads into the secrets that shadow Millers Kill like the ever-present Adirondacks. What they discover is a world of trouble and murder. Minotaur Books, 384 pages, 2003.

September 2, 2014: *The All-Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion* by Fannie Flagg. Enjoy this comic mystery novel about two women who are forced to reimagine who they are. Mrs. Sookie Poole of Point Clear, Alabama, has just married off the last of her daughters and is looking forward to relaxing. The only thing left to contend with is her formidable mother. Then quite by accident Sookie discovers a secret about her mother's past that suddenly calls into question everything she ever thought she knew about herself, her family, and her future. Sookie begins a search for answers that takes her to California, the Midwest, and back in time, to the 1940s, when an irrepressible woman named Fritzi takes on the job of running her family's filling station. This soon leads to even more groundbreaking adventure. As Sookie learns about the adventures of the girls at the All-Girl Filling Station, she finds herself with new inspiration for her own life. Random House, 368 pages, 2013.

October 1, 2014: *The Custom Of The Country* by Edith Wharton. A scathing novel of ambition featuring one of the most ruthless heroines in literature. Undine Spragg is as unscrupulous as she is magnetically beautiful. Her rise to the top of New York's high society from the nouveau riche provides a provocative commentary on the upwardly mobile and the aspirations that eventually cause their ruin. The novel is a stunning indictment of materialism and misplaced values that is as powerful today for its astute observations about greed and power as when it was written. Bantam Classics, 480 pages, 1913. **Free Kindle download from amazon.com.**

Submitted by: Dixie Haywood

UUFC's Council of Committees

Submitted by Mary Orem, Council of Committees Chair

What exactly is the council of committees and what does it do? More importantly, why should anyone care? Well, if you are at all involved in activities that happen at UUFC outside of simply attending the Sunday services, then you know it takes more than just a little effort to make the wheels on the bus go 'round. The work of the various UUFC committees, task forces, interest groups, etc. are quite numerous and, in case you haven't noticed, much goes on around here.

Now, not all groups function like committees, meaning that they don't necessarily conduct business meetings, follow agendas, or keep minutes, but the value they provide to the overall tapestry that is UUFC is immeasurable. Take the Covenant Groups, for example. To maintain continuity and communication, the Covenant Group Facilitator (Karel Keel) meets with individual group facilitators every so often (in months with fifth Tuesdays, I think) to keep the lines of communication open and to discuss any common concerns or issues.

That's the same purpose that the Council of Committees has — to keep the lines of communication open, to discuss common concerns or issues, and to find creative solutions to these concerns. When necessary, the Council Chair then presents recommendations to the Board of Trustees from the various groups for appropriate action or information.

Effective lines of communication is a basic function of management in any organization and its importance can hardly be overemphasized. That is why the Board is currently trying to smooth out the overall organizational structure and provide every committee, task force, or special interest group a clearly established line of communication when needed. The CoC is an environment in which to discuss our common goals and concerns.

As we have grown, lines of communication have sometimes become blurred and maybe even crossed. Think of the Council of Committees as the central hub that directs the flow of traffic and prevents traffic jams if at all possible. If you are a committee chair, a task force leader, or special interest group facilitator, consider the Council of Committees as your open line of communication when organizational needs arise (like calendaring issues).

Being our 60th anniversary year we will all need to communicate and pull together from time to time to keep the trains from jumping the tracks. (Yes, my goal was to try and see how many transportation metaphors I could jam into this article.) Anyway, the Council of Committees meets on the second Wednesday of each month. All congregational leaders are welcome to attend and to bring concerns and/or creative ideas to the group to help keep those lines of communication open and fully operational.

Here is just a short list (in no particular order) of some of the MANY essential groups that make UUFC the wonderful place it is. If your group is not listed, it doesn't mean you aren't essential. Feel free to let us know that you are out there or, better yet, come to our next CoC meeting on May 14th at 7:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. The Communications Committee will be providing an in-depth review of the website and we would love for all entities active in UUFC to have a web presence.

Membership
Worship Services
Outreach
Green Sanctuary
Religious Education
Life Span Education
Communications
Stewardship
Hospitality & Holidays
Buildings
Grounds
GC² (Covenant Groups)
Circle Dinners
HUULas

**Council of Committees
Meets Monthly
2nd Wednesday
7:00 p.m. in the Social Hall**

ALL Committee Chairs, Task Force Team Leaders, and Interest Group Facilitators are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

April 16, 2014



A message from Maggie Lovins, Southern Region Congregational Life Staff

Amid all the noise in our lives, we take this moment to sit in silence- to give thanks for another day; to give thanks for all those in our lives who have brought us warmth and love; to give thanks for the gift of life.

It's that time of year again! The flowers are coming out of their long slumber, the days are warming up a bit, the sun is sticking around longer in the afternoon... and one of the surest of signs to a Unitarian Universalist that it truly is spring - the annual canvass/pledge drive! This is the time of year, for many of our congregations at least, where we pledge financial support to our congregations, and they in turn pledge to our Association.

I don't need to go in to whys of the process, we all know why we need to pledge. Yes, the lights need to stay on, the mortgage needs to be paid, the administrator, DRE and Minister need to be fairly compensated, but beyond that, our pledge is another aspect of our covenant to one another- we promise to help take care of our Faith in all aspects and to be good stewards of it for the next generation of Unitarian Universalists.

This is also the time for District Assemblies and Congregational Meetings. Time to vote on new officers, bylaw changes, new long range plans, for some it might be time to vote to call a new minister, but for all of us it should also be a time to remember why we come together "amid all the noise in our lives." I mean, why do we give 2 hours or so most every, if not every week, to our chosen Faith? Why do we sit in committee meetings, board calls, canvass trainings and the like when our daily lives have become so hectic? Now in reality, some folks really do love meetings, the collaboration, the brainstorming, the governance, the challenge, and there are some that enjoy a good argument as well. Others are not so much like this, but they give freely and openly of their time, treasure and talents just the same. You all give of yourselves, you chair our RE committees, serve coffee on Sundays, edit newsletters, visit our members when they are unwell, and the list goes on and on. We need all of you and so many more to help move us towards the Beloved Community! But we still are left with the question of why we do it? Why do we come together as we do not have a guilt driven 'do it or else,' punishing type of Faith.

We know we are on our pilgrimage here but a brief moment in time.

I wonder, could it be as simple as Love? A little four letter

word that I personally hold to be my only capitol 'T' Truth, could that be the unifying reason we gather? Our congregational and Associational polity declares we need not hold shared beliefs, but I would venture to say that this is something we all believe in. Not the pie in the sky, Pollyanna type of "All you need is love" (sorry John, Paul, George and Ringo, I still love ya!) but one of the most basic elements necessary for a healthy human existence, the one thing everyone seeks and some are blessed to know, what I would say is at the core of who we are as Unitarian Universalists.

So if Love is at the core of who we are, why we are, and what inspires us to gather, how do we enact that Love to reach out? Do we take it to the streets? Do we take it to our schools? Do we take it to our government? Do we take it to our prisons? Do we take it to every corner of the world and let everyone we come in contact with know that this is who we are and what we believe? YES! Yes, we do - we ARE the Love people remember?! Now, how do we give it away to every single soul in need, to every single person in pain, to every single human being paralyzed by anxiety? We do it together. One step at a time, one social justice outreach at a time, one food pantry at a time, one piece of legislation at a time, one humanitarian effort at a time.

Let us open ourselves, here, now, to the process of becoming more whole— of living more fully; of giving and forgiving more freely; of understanding more completely the meaning of our lives here on this earth.

~Tim Haley, Worship Web UUA.org

To do this work will take the hands of many, and our continued gathering in and outside our congregations. Why the continued gathering of our congregations you ask? Because that is where we manifest and synthesize the Love to take to the world! That is where the never empty font of Love, Justice, Compassion, Equity and Interdependence lives, in our Unitarian Universalist communities! I invite you to summon Love in to your everyday life, in to your every action, in to your every word. I invite you all to be the change you wish to see starting now! I invite you all to gather in a spirit of "Love Reaches Out" and join your fellow Unitarian Universalists in our first ever simultaneous Southern Region wide District Assemblies starting April 25th. May you know Love, may you give Love, may you become Love.

Namaste,
Maggie Lovins

Surveys — What Do They Tell Us?

survey [v. ser~vey; n. sur-vey]

To view in detail, especially to inspect, examine, or appraise formally or officially in order to ascertain condition, value, etc.

Surveys have a variety of purposes, and can be conducted in many ways. Surveys may be conducted to gather information through a printed questionnaire, over the telephone, by mail, in person, or on the web. Asking questions through a survey is a way in which we (UUFC) can get feedback from you (members & friends) about certain issues. Surveys let us know your actual needs and how best to serve them.

In the near future, the Communications Committee will be releasing a survey asking questions about how you receive information regarding the events and happenings going on at UUFC. Please spend the few minutes it will take to answer these questions in order to help us improve our communications. Every effort will be made to remain brief so as not to take too much of your time. The results will guide their work and help them improve services to you.

A link will be provided in the Mid-Week News and Sunday Bulletin and a limited number of paper copies will be available as well. Please look for this information in May and kindly submit your responses by May 31st.

Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations

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.

UUFC 2014 Board of Trustees

President Cecil Huey
President-Elect Toni King
Past President..... Karen Hiebel
Secretary..... Liz Branstead
TreasurerSandra Sanderson
Council ChairMary Orem
At Large..... Susan Clay and
..... Chad Carson
PersonnelPat Zungoli

Staff & Volunteers

Minister..... Reverend Terre Balof
Reverend Balof's Office Hours: By Appointment

Director of RE:..... Theresa Pizzuto
AdministratorSusan Watson

Phone: 654-5959

Email: uufcadm@gmail.com

Main Bldg. Phone: 654-5980

Office Hours: M–F 11:00 am until 2:00 pm

She Sings..... Elaine Fredendall, 654-3834
Disbursing TreasurerSandra Sanderson
Receiving TreasurerJeannine Varenhorst

Newsletter Editors: Andi Nelson, Mary Orem
Webmasters: Susan Watson/Wayne Wolk
UUFC Website: www.uufc.org

2014 COUNCIL OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Board Representative and Chair of Council
Mary Orem

Buildings: Mary Meldrum
Communications: Wayne Wolk
Green Sanctuary: Ellie Taylor
Grounds: Meg Williamson
Membership: Ed Garbe, Interim
Outreach: Nancy Brown
Religious Education: Meg MacArthur
Stewardship: Janet Marsh
Worship Services: Ed Garbe

*Please report corrections and/or omissions to
Andi Nelson at andine@bellsouth.net.*