



TJMC Bulletin

Sunday Services

Sermon Theme for September: Hospitality

The word “hospitality” comes from the Old French hospitalité, which in turn comes from the Latin hospitalitem or, “friendliness to guests.” (Hospitaliten derives from hospes, meaning, “guest.”) The word today has to do with how one receives and treats guests and, perhaps especially, strangers and “the other. It is a quintessential concept for cultivating connections in community.

10 AM Service

September 4

*Welcome Home
Water Ceremony*

After a summer that may well have taken you hither and yon – if only mentally – we gather once more as one community – a chance for us to celebrate where we have been and prepare for where we are going. At this multigenerational service we will also take a special offering to support the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee’s UUSC Somalia and East Africa Relief Fund. As we celebrate our first Water Ceremony with our new Lead Minister let us generously reach out beyond our own community to one that has been ravaged by drought-induced famine and violence. Remember to bring a small amount of water from your home, a favorite outdoor location/sacred place or your recent travels. We will pour all our offerings into a common vessel.

September 11

Us & Them

On this, the tenth anniversary of the terrorist attacks in New York City, Washington, DC, and Shanksville, Pennsylvania, let us pause as one community to remember. Let us also recommit ourselves to what our Unitarian Universalist Principles call, “the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.” At this multigenerational service TJMC will join with many other communities throughout Charlottesville by participating in a creative project that will be unveiled at the World Peace Day celebration at Burley Middle School at 7 PM on Wednesday, September 21. Please bring with you an image or object that symbolizes your vision of peace. When you come into the Sanctuary, place your item on the altar so that we, together, can create a communal altar.

September 18

*Balloon Sunday
Social Action Collection*

Do not miss our annual multigenerational kick-off of the church school year! We will delight in one another’s presence as we celebrate being together in our beautiful balloon-filled Sanctuary. We will recognize our Children’s Worship graduates who are moving into our congregation’s youth program. Come claim your balloon and your place in our beloved community as we release our hopes and prayers for the coming year together.

9:15 AM + 11:15 AM Services Begin

September 25

Radical Hospitality

In the Christian scriptures, the rabbi Jesus is remembered as telling those who would listen that the heart of religion was to love God and “love your neighbor as yourself.” It is remembered that on at least one occasion someone challenged him with the question, “Who is my neighbor?” This question echoes through the ages and continues to challenge those who would call themselves liberal in their inclusivity. What might a truly welcoming life look like? Rev. Erik Walker Wikstrom will explore this and other questions.

Connect To Your Church September 10

The Leadership Development Committee and your Board of Trustees have planned a celebration of community on Saturday, September 10, to kick off our year-long theme *Cultivating Connections*. Come explore what this theme means to you and to the church.

Everyone is invited. Children are welcome participants and childcare will be provided for the very young. Join us as we explore our connections through small and large group activities, music, and worship. We promise fun, food, conversation and prizes! Events go from 8:30 AM–1:30 PM, and lunch will be provided.

RSVP by Tuesday, September 6, to connect@uucharlottesville.org so we can plan for food. Tell us the ages of your children so we can plan activities. For those without access to the internet, there are sign-up sheets on the Board of Trustees bulletin board.

Covenant Groups

Do you want to explore your values, beliefs and spiritual struggles with a small group of fellow UUs under the leadership of a trained facilitator? Covenant groups provide all this and more at twice-a-month meetings. You can register online at uucharlottesville.org and follow the links to the Covenant Group registration form, or fill out the registration form in the Social Hall after Sunday services. Registration will continue throughout the program year, but most groups will begin meeting in early October. You are urged to sign up now! For more information about Covenant Groups visit the Covenant Group display in the Social Hall after Sunday services or contact Sally Taylor at 295-8083 or sallytaylor411@gmail.com; or covenantgroups@uucharlottesville.org.



In many, perhaps most Unitarian Universalist congregations, September is the month of Homecoming, In-Gathering. Even for those congregations like TJMC that remain open all year, there is a sense in September of coming back together, of re-gathering our energies, of new beginnings.

It is fitting, then, that the first theme of our new theme-based cycle is *Hospitality*. This word technically has to do with how someone welcomes, or receives, strangers, but there can be so much more to it. It is really about a way of life – am I generally more open or closed to others?

And so, as a church, we can ask not only how hospitable we are – as individuals and as a community – toward newcomers and visitors, but also how hospitable we really are toward those others who are already here. And how hospitable are we toward those who have been drifting away, or who have left in a huff (or in pain)? How hospitable are we toward those who cause trouble? Or who are different (in any of myriad ways)?

I once took part in a workshop in which at one point we explored this question: how welcoming would you be

– you personally and the collective “you” of your congregation – toward a (and you can feel free to insert your own objectionable adjectives) chain smoking, meat eating, real-fur wearing, heavily cologned Tea Party Republican who arrived at church having driven there in their Humvee with an NRA sticker on the window?

In other words, how far can we really “walk our talk?” How far do we want to? How far do we dare? If we really seek to be a diverse community; if we really want to find the way past “tolerance,” through “acceptance,” to the place of “embrace;” we need to move out from our own comfort zone and strive to enter the comfort zone of “the other.”

The Catholic scholar John Dominic Crossan once wrote about a spectrum of responses to the stranger who comes, hungry, to your door. You could tell them to go away. You could give them some money and send them away. You could invite them to go around to the back of your house where you meet them and give them some food. You could invite them to come into your kitchen to eat. You could invite them to come into your dining room where you

are currently having a dinner party. Or, and this is what Crossan says Jesus would do, you could recognize that your rather comfortable lifestyle might make this person rather uncomfortable and, so, you could take your food and your guests and go out into the street to make a party on the stranger’s turf.

TJMC seeks to be an open, inclusive, diverse, and welcoming community. How far can we really “walk our talk?” How far do we want to? How far do we dare?

These are our questions for September.

In Gassho,
Rev. Erik

Acting Director of Music Appointed

Scott DeVeaux has accepted the position of Acting Director Of Music, effective August 15 through May 31, 2012, and brings to the position a wide range of musical talent and over twenty years of experience. Our special thanks go to the Search Committee of Bev Thierwechter, Walt Megonigal, Cindy Benton-Groner, Maggie Ober and Rev. Erik Wikstrom for their hard work and diligence during a very thorough selection process which included reviewing seventeen resumes, numerous interviews, and for the top candidates, auditions with our choir. Please join in congratulating Scott and giving thanks to the Search Committee.

As a next step the Board will appoint a Task Force representing the full congregation and charged with

identifying the long term needs of our music program prior to completing a search for and appointment of a permanent Director of Music.



A Life in Faith

Clear Spring Buddhist Fellowship Meditation

Wednesdays, 7 PM, Blue Room
meditation@uucharlottesville.org.

CareNet

Year-Round Program

CareNet is our church’s organized effort to help out with meals, rides, and other assistance for church members.

carenet@uucharlottesville.org.

Pastoral Visitors

Year-Round Program

The Pastoral Visitors Program has been designed to complement the roles of the minister and the CareNet program, in providing a comprehensive ministry of pastoral care. It is a lay ministry of support and hope, offered by trained volunteers who offer a sustained caring presence for those who are members of the TJMC community (and their primary caregivers) who are experiencing crisis or stressful transitions.

UU Christian Fellowship

UUCF is open to all, especially those wishing to meet with others who are interested in exploring their faith within a liberal Christian context, and to learn from each other. For more information:
uucf@uucharlottesville.org.

Treasurer Report



For the month of July, which represents 8.3% of the new fiscal year, we had total revenues of \$96,422. Those total revenues represent 17% of total revenue receipts budgeted for entire year. However, to receive this much revenue in the first month is not unusual, because each summer we receive a significant amount of our total annual pledge revenue in the first few months.

Of the revenue received so far this fiscal year, \$67,950 came from current year pledge payments, and of those pledge payments, \$28,683 was received before July 1. In addition, \$4,277 in

unpledged donations and \$7,422 in prior year pledges were received. Prior year pledges now exceed 100% of the amount estimated in the budget.

At the end of July, our total expenses were \$52,583, which is about 5% of budgeted expenses. Our initial expenses are low for a variety of reasons. We have not yet begun to pay out money for a number of the expense categories for our new Minister. Similarly, we have not yet begun to pay for many utility and maintenance expenses, which will show up later in the year.

After our first month, our net income is \$52,583. And, as of July 31, our church bank accounts held \$228,397. So, while it is too early to draw any firm conclusions about the financial condition of our church through the rest of the year, it is clear that at least at this time our church is in good financial shape

Doug Webbink, Treasurer
treasurer@uucharlotteville.org

From the President



Finding Comfort and Opportunity at TJMC-UU

Summer is nearly over and I trust you, your family, friends and loved ones enjoyed the long days and (on occasion at least) cool evenings. Enjoyable as it was on a personal level, the past few months have unfortunately also been fraught with a series of events inside and outside USA that have been both stressful and distressing. The debacle over the debt ceiling, the ongoing financial woes across the globe, the horrors of Somalia, Syria, Libya, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Norway have sadly filled our newspapers and TV screens with messages that challenge any sense of optimism. It would be easy to fall into a sense of despair and, speaking as a father of four, concern for our children's future. It is at times like

these that I for one find solace and comfort in the community that is TJMC-UU. I recognize that as a single individual I cannot easily influence those things mentioned above and yet at the same time I feel a strong need to do something, however small, to make a difference. It is here that TJMC-UU plays an important role in my life. Not only does it provide a sense of stability and community in an otherwise volatile world, but for me personally, it provides opportunities to do something positive. Serving as Board President is one such action. Volunteering for street clean-ups, helping with furniture moving during the yard sale, and supporting social action initiatives like IMPACT are just a few small ways in which I can contribute to my community. In doing so I feel more

connected and therefore more in control of my own destiny. With this comes great comfort. As you read this you may have already attended our all church meeting on Saturday, September 10, entitled "Cultivating Connections" and if so, trust you came away energized and full of ideas for how to become more involved and therefore more connected to TJMC-UU. If you did, terrific. If not, I hope you will reach out to one of our many diverse groups and ministries and find a place for you to build your connections.

In faith
Ian Sole
Board President

Dear Kroger Shoppers!

When you buy gas, groceries, or pharmacy items, TJMC-UU gets five percent of every dollar you spend! Just use a TJMC-linked Kroger Gift Card (aka \$CRIP) when you shop. You earn money for TJMC – and it costs you nothing! Last year our Kroger Gift Card users generated \$8000 for TJMC – and this year we are aiming for over \$20,000.

How do I participate?

- Buy a \$50 starter Kroger Gift Card at the \$CRIP table on Sunday
- Refill the card at the Customer Service counter as needed ... and
- Yes! You can use your rewards credit card to refill your Gift Card

Why should I do this?

Using \$CRIP is a part of Stewardship along with making your annual financial pledge to support our church community. The revenue helps pay our staff and fund our programs. There is no easier way to support TJMC ... and at no cost to you. *Please start using \$CRIP today!*



Yard Sale a Huge Success

The 2011 Yard Sale Extravaganza" raised over \$16,000 in cash to support TJMC programs. Prior to the sale many items were donated to our Church buildings and RE program. In addition, members of the local refugee communities, Goodwill, The Haven, and Freecycle received donations. The core yard sale crew of Gloria Watson, Trudy Rohm, Sharon Wormser, Susan Bremer, Carol Saliba, Jean Newland, and Elizabeth Breeden led a cast of fantastic volunteers. Special thanks go to Norman Dill for his expert assistance, and to Shirley Paul for providing off-site storage. We also acknowledge the generosity of the estates of Richard Goode and Carolyn Silver. Thanks, also to all the members of the congregation who donated items. We could not have done this without you.

Circle Dinners Are Coming!

Once again the Social Activities Committee is organizing Circle Dinners on the weekend of October 7-9. These potluck meals will be held in the homes of TJMC members and will provide an opportunity for participants to make new friends, share a meal, and enjoy the company of like-minded UUs. We have scheduled dinners on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings; and lunches on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Some meals will be family oriented with children welcome and some meals will be for adults only. Although we are providing multiple opportunities to dine, we ask that each person only sign-up for one group. Sign up-sheets are posted in the gallery between the Sanctuary and the Social Hall. Each sign-up sheet will indicate the date and time of the meal, host, location and other pertinent information (vegetarian or not, pets or no pets, adult-only or children welcomed, alcohol served or not, etc.). Once you have signed up, you will be contacted by your host and asked to bring a dish to share and given directions to the location. In order for hosts and guests to properly prepare for their meals, sign ups will close on Sunday, September 25, after the second service. If you have questions, please contact Sally Taylor at 295-8083 or sallytaylor411@gmail.com.

Green Sanctuary Challenges TJMC to Three Carpooling Sundays in September

The first three Sunday services in September will be intergenerational single services at 10 AM, so Green Sanctuary has decided to hold three consecutive carpooling Sundays to accommodate the crowds. There are only 120 parking spaces in our lots and around the church and more than 400 adult members. Spaces may be hard to find! Parking is also the #1 limit on our church's growth, according to the Board's Buildings and Grounds Task Force. Carpooling may become part of the solution and allow us to grow to a full capacity of 500 members under a new minister, and it is also a "greener" option. Circle the dates Sundays, September 4+11+18, and contact TJMC members and friends who live near you or stop by our table in the Social Hall so that you can find a buddy and join our All-Church Carpooling Challenge. Each Sunday at the door, carpoolers will receive tickets for a raffle to be held after church Sunday, September 18. Prizes include items donated by local businesses and purchased at the UUA General Assembly in June. You can see them at our table in the Social Hall. Our first Sunday, May 15, Carpool Challenge was a limited success. People loved the "green" prizes, but only one in five cars had more than one person. Thus, we established a baseline average of 1.26 people per car. TJMC, we can and must do better!

Honor and Memorial Gifts

An honor or memorial gift, no matter what its size, is a thoughtful way to reach out to family and friends, to mark a milestone or to pay tribute to the memory of a loved one. Such contributions let friends and family know that they are in your thoughts while providing vital support to the TJMC Endowment Fund. TJMC sends a note of appreciation to the donor and a note to the family member or friend with the name of the donor.

IMPACT Team News

Your IMPACT team is gearing up for another very successful campaign to bring about concrete systemic changes that affect the social and economic fabric of our neighbors' lives. Last March 121 people from TJMC-UU

turned out for the Nehemiah Action, the second highest number of all the churches participating! We hope to do just as well this coming Spring. There will be two "house meetings" at TJMC on Sunday, September 18, at 11:30 AM and Friday, September 23, at 7 PM. Child care will be provided. These will be our opportunities to brief all interested people about IMPACT's work and gather your sense of the most pressing economic and social justice issues to address in our area this year. Call Bob Gross 977-9828 or Greta Dershimer 293-9513 with your questions.

Labyrinth Ministry

Did you know that we have a lightweight, portable labyrinth that is very easy to set up and can be used outdoors? Church groups (covenant groups, worship groups, pastoral visitors, etc.) are welcome to borrow this labyrinth for their functions, either on or off site. It will fit in the Parlor if some furniture is moved out. If your group would like to schedule the use of this labyrinth, please contact Labyrinth Ministry member Jane Ellis at FrogLady@toast.net.

Public Radio Partnership

WVTF radio will be starting its fall fund drive soon, an event that provides a unique opportunity for us to both donate to public radio and support the outreach efforts of our church. Instead of donating directly to the station, please write a check to TJMC with "Public Radio" in the memo line and drop it in the offertory any Sunday in September or October. If you call the station and tell them you have donated in this way, you can still enter the raffles for contributors, so it is win/win/possible win! In return for these contributions, listeners hear periodic announcements about the UU congregations within the listening area. Ours lists service times and has the tag line, "Coming together in love, reaching out in service." Ellen Pratt has been coordinating this effort for several years but has moved from the area. Communications needs a volunteer to collect and total checks and be the liaison to the other UU churches involved. It takes just a few hours a year. Can you make that contribution along with your check?



Happening this Month

September 2
Food Pantry
9 AM, Social Hall



September 4
Special Social Action Collection
UUSC Somalia & E. Africa Relief Fund

In light of the dire humanitarian crisis – severe drought leading to devastating famine – in East Africa, UUSC has opened the Somalia and East Africa Relief Fund. UUSC will work with partners on the ground to provide immediate relief to Somalians suffering from the famine as well as support communities hosting Somali refugees in other countries affected by the crisis. With 3.2 million people, half of the Somali population, needing immediate lifesaving assistance, this is the world's worst food security crisis in the last twenty years. The long-term conflict and statelessness in southern Somalia has exacerbated the impact of the drought that has affected the area at large, causing catastrophic famine. If you make a donation to this UUSC Relief Fund equal to or above the following amounts (\$40 for adults, \$20 for seniors, \$10 for youth), you will be given complimentary UUSC membership status, and receive regular news about UUSC's worldwide humanitarian efforts.

September 5
Office Closed for
Holiday



September 6+20
UUpitties
7 PM, Parlor

September 6, Tuesday: Wine and cheese! Let us check in after our summer hiatus and brainstorm on topics for this year! Tuesday, September 20, Tuesday: Beading. Join us as Ann Salamini and Donna Baker lead a session in beading.

September 9
Labyrinth Walk
6-7 PM, Outdoors

Please join us for an early evening walk on our beautiful outdoor labyrinth (behind the Social Hall) to celebrate the coming of autumn! Live acoustic music (Celtic harp, Native American flutes) will accompany the walk. Friendly folks will be on hand to introduce you to this contemplative activity if you are new to it. Rain will cancel.

September 10
Cultivating Connections
8:30 AM-1:30 PM, Social Hall

September 11
NatureSpirit Pot Luck
6 PM, Social Hall

What is new with NatureSpirit? This year Marlene Jones, Tom Damery and Lisa Kelley will be leading the NatureSpirit group. To begin the year, we will be hosting a series of informal discussions, the monthly worship services have been discontinued. Our first discussion will be on exploring the topic of Nature as an important part of spritual or religious practices. We will start with a potluck dinner followed by the discussion. You can contact us by emailing nature@uucharlottesville.org.

September 15+22+29
Active Minds
1 PM, Parlor

September 19
Board of Trustees
7 PM, Social Hall



September 22
UU Christian Fellowship
7 PM, Summit Room 2

Mary Anna Dunn will lead the service. *Better Than the Mighty*. This service title is taken from Proverbs 16:32. "He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city." All around us there is a growing culture of anger, even within the most outwardly homogenous communities. Can our daily spiritual practice help us rule our spirits and step out of the cycles of anger?

September 25
Two Services Start
9:15AM + 11:15 AM

September 29
Rosh Hashanah
8 AM, Social Hall

September 30
Oktoberfest
5 PM, All



Save the Date

October 1
Communications Summit
9 AM, Social Hall

Food For Thought: A Communications Exchange. Come see, comme çï (French for "like this") or CommC, however you spell it, the Communications Committee invites all comers to our fall communications summit. We believe that communications will play an important role in supporting Cultivating Connections at TJMC this year, and we

would like to invite as many people as possible to weigh in on how to make that happen. Bring your feedback, your vision, your grandest schemes, and your thorniest issues. Lunch will be provided. The Communications Committee has oversight for everything from assigning space on the bulletin boards in the hallway to moderating the church's Facebook group. We are a small group, charged with setting policy, producing church publications like the monthly TJMC Bulletin and the Friday Email, assessing effectiveness, and exploring new communications channels. We want broad-based input as we move forward in this program year. We are not asking you to join the Communications Committee (although you would be welcome!) We are asking you to come, share a meal, and tell us your thoughts. Help us keep connected so we can help make connections. RSVP to communications@uucharlottesville.org.

October 12
Newcomer Orientation
9 AM-12 PM, Summit Room 1

We would like to welcome visitors to join our minister, Membership Committee and other church leaders to our Fall Newcomer Orientation. This session is an opportunity to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and about our church. A light breakfast and snacks will be provided along with fellowship and coffee. The sign up sheets are located on the Community Life Council bulletin board. Contact Jean Newland with any questions or concerns at 962-9676 or kipandjean@gmail.com.

March 24, 2012
End of Life Seminar
8 AM-2 PM, SH+CP+S+S1+S2

This seminar will help us and our loved ones get information and make decisions about planning for the end of life. A variety of presenters from Hospice, the Funeral Information Society of the Piedmont, TJMC Memorial Garden, and others will be on tap to answer question and talk about services available. Handouts and sample reading material available. A DVD "Continuing the Conversation" will be shown to get the discussion going. Informational topic tables at lunch (BYOL). Drinks/snacks available. Sponsored by the Pastoral Visitors and UUpitty Women.

Religious Education Update

Sunday Mornings in September

Walking the Spiral Path

Happy September! It is a joy to be together. Welcome to the new families who discovered our church community the past few months! We are glad you are here and eagerly await the opportunity to get to know you better.

I am excited about the church year ahead and look forward to greeting each of you on Sunday mornings as we gather for worship and religious education classes. If you have not yet registered your family in our RE program, please do so today (registration information below.)

We also have many fabulous offerings in our Adult Faith Development (AFD) program. I hope you will find a class that piques your interest and inspires you to take the time to enrich and nourish your spiritual life. There is no better time than now to fully engage in the life of our congregation and to experience all we have to offer one another.

See you in church,
Leia Durland-Jones,
Director of Religious Education

Balloon Sunday – September 18

Every year, an amazing crew gathers before this service to decorate the Sanctuary with beautiful helium balloons. If you or your family would like to help then contact Leia Durland-Jones, DRE, at 293-8179 or leiadj@embarqmail.com.

Adult Faith Development (AFD) Classes Begin Soon!

Watch the TJMC website or your mailbox for the Adult Faith Development (AFD) prospectus slated to arrive sometime after Labor Day with classes beginning at the end of September. The AFD Committee strives to offer a variety of courses that speak to faith development of the body, mind and spirit as well as social justice concerns. For more information, speak with AFD Committee Chair, Holly Dilatash.

Child Care Providers Needed

TJMC is looking for individuals interested in working in the church nursery on Sunday mornings or to be placed on our approved child care providers list. If you are interested in applying to work in this capacity, please speak with Robyn Fogler, RE Assistant,

293-8179 or robynf@embarqmail.com. We also appreciate referrals of individuals who may be interested in working as child care providers.

How to Shine Like a UU Star!

The Children's RE Committee is filled with excitement about our program for first through fifth grades – UU Stars! We are still looking for volunteers to make a four-week commitment as a Studio Leader.

Studio Leaders attend a one evening class of theological deepening lead by Rev. Erik Walker Wikstrom and Leia Durland-Jones, DRE, to help prepare for the Studio. Our hope is to have as many different Studio Leaders from the congregation as possible. Being a UU Stars Studio leader is an excellent way to share your talents or interests.

We need studio leaders who are male, female, elders, young adults (18+), parents, grandparents and everyone in between in order to offer a safe and diverse program. Our parents cannot do it all and we want our kids to have experiences with many perspectives.

Please contact Leia Durland-Jones, DRE, at 293-8179 extension 3# or leiadj@embarqmail.com, and learn more about how you can get involved with this dynamic way of experiencing RE!

RE Wish List

- ♦ *Help with repairing a broken rolling dry erase board*
- ♦ *Toddler toys for the nursery*
- ♦ *croquet and bocce ball sets*

2011-2012 RE Registration

There are four options for submitting your family's religious education registration form: 1) Complete your family's form via the church website under the "education" tab. 2) Download a printable PDF from the church website to complete and either mail in or bring to church. 3) Stop by the RE table in the Social Hall on Sunday and review a pre-filled form with your family's information. Make any necessary updates or corrections and complete the volunteer options page. 4) Complete a new paper copy of the form in the Social Hall on Sundays. Thank you for submitting your completed registration form as soon as possible.

Formal religious education programming (concurrent with Sunday worship) resumes Sunday, September 25. Families are invited to continue attending worship together on September 4+11+18.

Services on these Sundays are intentionally multigenerational and will be welcoming to all. On these Sundays, child care is offered in the lower hall for children four years old and younger. As always, the Comfort Room is available during the service, located at the Rugby Road entrance, for parents with infants and young children who prefer to stay together but not in the Sanctuary. Live audio of the service is provided in this space.

Save the Dates in September!

- 4 Sun Water Communion
Multigenerational Service (NO RE)
Adult Faith Development
Committee Meeting 11:30 AM
- 11 Sun Multigenerational Worship
Service (NO RE)
OWL Mandatory Parent
Orientation #1 S1
- 14 Wed OWL Mandatory Parent
Orientation #2 S1
- 17 Sat Teacher & Youth Advisor
Orientations 9AM-2 PM
- 18 Sun Balloon Sunday
Multigenerational Service (NO RE)
OWL Class 4-6 PM
- 21 Wed UU Stars Leaders Class (on
theme of Atonement) 7-9 PM
CP
- 25 Sun First Day of RE classes (UU
Stars meet with Guides –no
Studio Leaders)
Riddle & Mystery (7 & 8
grade) Parent Orientation 1 PM
CP
Neighboring Faiths (6 & 7
grade) Parent Orientation
1-2 PM S1
- 28 Wed Children's RE Committee
Meeting 7 PM S2

Religious Education Contacts:

Leia Durland-Jones, DRE: 293-8179 x 3#
leiadj@embarqmail.com. Usually available
Sundays through Thursdays, & by appt.

Robyn Fogler, RE Assistant: 293-8179 x 6#
robynf@embarqmail.com

Connections: When the Spirit says, “Do!”

What a summer it has been! After three years of interim ministry and the disappointment of not calling a minister in 2010, we have welcomed a minister who is as excited to be with us as we are to have him. Summer services brought new voices to our pulpit and our pews have filled up with faces both familiar and unfamiliar. Conversation in the Social Hall and on the church’s Facebook page reflects the excitement people have about what they are experiencing at church. We are beginning our program year with new energy and new commitment.

We currently have around 400 members listed in the membership book and a sizeable number of children, friends, supporters, and visitors in the congregation. It is clear that, nametags or not, we cannot hope to know that many people on an intimate level. Yet every service brings a feeling of connection, an understanding of something that binds us to one another. We gather to sing and pray and listen and think together, and we feel a part of the whole. Whether you call it a spirit of belonging or you affirm it as the Spirit of Life, it is an experience that, as Chaplain Alexandra McGee said recently, cannot be captured accurately in words.

How do we keep that spirit/Spirit in our lives in the hours between our Sunday services? How do we cultivate the connections that move our church beyond Rev. Erik Wikstrom’s recent description “an interesting lecture and a concert series”?

One answer is the small group ministries of the church. Covenant Groups are limited to eight to twelve members who make a commitment to meet regularly throughout the church year and share deeply held feelings on selected topics. Other groups, like the Clear Spring Sangha and the UU Christian Fellowship, offer a place to explore specific faith paths.

Connections can be strengthened as we do the work of the church. Stories are shared while washing dishes, pulling weeds, or pricing yard sale donations. People who serve on a committee together form friendships that outlast their appointments. At its best, our work for the church is an integral part of our spiritual growth.

A look at the church calendar (in any month) shows lots of opportunities – social, cerebral, and spiritual, as well as service oriented. Teach RE, join Active Minds, sing in the choir, pour coffee, take an Adult Faith Development class. One thing is sure: the more you put in, the more you will get out.

Last month, the year-long theme “Cultivating Connections” was announced. This month, you have a chance to explore what this theme means to you in our kick-off event Saturday, September 10. The team planning this event comes from Leadership Development Committee, the Board, Membership, Canvass, and Communications. Together and separately, these groups are focusing on how their work increases the bonds that tie us to each other and to our church. We hope other groups will examine themselves through this lens during this program year. We look forward to the results!

WEAVING TOGETHER HEAVEN & EARTH: CREATING & SUSTAINING FAITHFUL MULTICULTURAL PARTNERSHIP

Explore meaning, learn strategies and engage with others in building effective multicultural partnerships at the Southeast District’s 21st Annual Racial Justice Conference!

Planned Highlights: The call of the heart, of many faiths, and of Unitarian Universalism is, “We are one.” Some call that One by the name of Love. That Love is woven of life-sustaining diversity, of cultures expressed through not only art, but through each of our lives. And yet, the world has not yet taken the shape of this dream. The world is not yet wholly in Love. And so we gather, as Unitarian Universalists throughout the Southeast, to celebrate, to reflect, to learn, to commit, and to weave together anew a dream of racial justice for our whole region. Come to Knoxville this September 23-24 to hear the prophetic voices of social change leaders who combine partnership and spirituality. Come to Knoxville to engage in dialog with Unitarian Universalist pastor-theologians as their voices weave to create a tapestry of theological possibilities for those committed to racial justice. Come to Knoxville to learn from the Highlander Center, which draws on decades of racial justice work in the South through their model of popular education. Come to gather and learn, and to be sent forth, renewed.

Date: September 23-24, 2011

Location: The Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church at 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37917.

Lodging & Registration: Details and online registration are coming soon. Please save the date and plan to attend.

More Information: For further information, please contact Donna Sequeira, SED’s Racial and Social Justice Coordinator at 757-806-9601 or dsequeira@uua.org.