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WELCOME

Rev. Linda Bunyard
our
New Interim Minister



Newsletter Unitarian Universalist of Savannah, GA

AUGUST 8, 2010

Sundays in August

August 1, 2010 "Is My Vision Cloudy or Am I Clouded By My Vision?"

Speaker: Kat Hamilton

August 8, 2010 "Multi UUniverse(s)" **Speaker :** Larry Carlile

August 15, 2010 "Lost and Found" - Rev. Linda Bunyard

Each one of us comes to a new church with a religious past. If we don't make peace with that past, we cannot embrace our new faith tradition. This is a personal testimony in the old time tradition.

August 22, 2010 "Why I Am a Unitarian Universalist" - Rev. Linda Bunyard Reverend Jack Mendelsohn wrote eloquently about this a few decades ago. I will share my more of my own journey with our religious movement. I hope to inspire each one of you to write your own essays.

August 29, 2010 "Seven Smooth Stones" **Speaker:** Jim Key (TJ District President)

Joys and Concerns in Sunday Services

Beginning August 15th you are invited to fill out a card for joys and concerns that you would like to be included in the weekly pastoral prayer. The cards will be available at the back of the Sanctuary. Watch for a new display.



The Newsletter Experiment

Have you missed seeing our programs described on a monthly basis? Do you love the Weekly Bulletin but long to hear some detail about decisions being made and events coming up?

In 2010 all churches are making decisions about what media best serve the needs of the congregation for both inreach and outreach. In the past two months we have experimented with expanded weekly bulletins, even calling it the weekly newsletter. Beginning in August the staff and I are experimenting with a new monthly newsletter. The submission deadline for the September newsletter is Wednesday, August 25th. Please send you submissions to Shannon Bell, Administrator at Admin@UUSavannah.org. Of course, you may submit your September events and articles earlier. We will discover how much time it takes to check dates and information and format the newsletter for publication. Our current goal is to receive the information by the last Wednesday of the month and send out the newsletter electronically by the last Friday of the month.

We welcome your feedback, if you have questions and comments about this plan, please talk to Rev. Linda Minister@UUSavannah.org

Rev. Linda

I am on a spiritual journey in life and for the next year (or two) I will be walking beside you in yours. Those of us who have served in interim ministries usually say we love the excitement of hitting the ground running, of experiencing different congregations, of sharing what we have learned about how congregations work, and redeeming past mistakes. There is only one downside to interim ministry: we will give our heart to a church only to leave it after the interim period. Well, that and the actual packing to move again!

Interim ministers come into congregations wearing our anthropologist, historian and sociologist hats. We are participant observers like anthropologists, studying the culture of a particular congregation. We are avid historians seeking answers to the questions about why this church is the way it is today, which includes digging into the history of the city all the way back to prehistoric times. We are sociologists, observing and analyzing the system in which the church operates and describing and drawing that picture for you.

My job in the first three months is to listen and to ask questions: to listen to your experiences of the past few years and to hear about your hopes for your church, and to ask "why you do things the way you do" so I can find my own place within your traditions and culture.

The Transition Committee will be setting up focus groups for me in September and October to help me to that.

Many of you have experienced interim ministers before and expect that our time together will be brief and intense. However, I am taking a slow approach in this interim ministry. We have the time to talk matters through and do the deep assessment and planning needed before you are ready to call and settle a new minister.

Both the congregation and the minister will stretch and grow in new ways; it is inevitable. That is all part of the journey of this life, too. The older I get the more I need to work on flexibility both for my body and my mind. I have taken a vow to live each day to the fullest, to experience both the joy and the sorrow that life has to offer and to experience gratitude and love daily.

Just as I have no other home but the one I establish in each new interim ministry setting, I also have no other church home. I will join the membership of this church. I take my membership and stewardship seriously.

This is a fine congregation and I am proud to be a part of it. I hope you will come with open hearts, willing to engage once again in new adventure, willing to change and be changed.

On the Journey,

Rev. Linda

Minister's Availability

Office hours will not be set for several weeks. My priority in August is meeting with leaders of our programs and others who can help me understand the recent history of the congregation and especially how things work. I will also be working intensely with staff members during this time.

I am always available for pastoral emergencies.

New information for your Membership Directory:

Rev. Linda Bunyard

2 Johnny Mercer Blvd., #410

Savannah, GA 31410

Home Phone: 912-349-2476

Cell Phone: 912-346-8646

Email Address: LindaBunUU@aol.com <<mailto:LindaBunUU@aol.com>> or Minister@UUSavannah.org <<mailto:Minister@UUSavannah.org>>

RE NEWS

Greetings from UU Savannah Religious Education! We have had a very busy and exciting summer. Because of high attendance, we decided to institute year-round RE. At the beginning of the summer, we started a new curriculum, Timeless Themes, that honors our Judeo-Christian Heritage. The children have been busy reading stories and completing activities related to stories in the new and old testaments. On the social justice front, our children recently participated in Stand for Peace in Johnson Square. We had a great time with the Social Justice folks and decided to make this a thrice-yearly tradition. We are excited to begin a new church year in September. Fall classes will begin September 12, with class divisions as follows:

- * Coral class: Pre-K and K
- * Yellow class: Grades 1-3
- * Aquamarine class: Grades 4-6
- * Purple class: Grades 7-12

Please remember to register your children for fall classes as soon as possible. Registration forms can be downloaded from our website or picked up in your child's classroom. Stay tuned for lots of fall fun, including fundraisers to help send our children to camps and conferences at The Mountain, a UU retreat in north Georgia.

We are making slow but steady progress in our search for a Director of Religious Education. It is our hope that we will soon find the perfect person to steer the RE ship!

DIRECTOR FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We are currently seeking a half-time Director of Religious Education (DRE) to implement our fantastic religious education program. College degree in education, human development, or related field is necessary. Must be able to work three Sunday mornings per month. Paid vacation, no benefits. Please contact our office at: admin@uusavannah.org for more information.

MEMBERSHIP

New to UU Classes? The membership committee would like to announce the upcoming New-To-UU Orientation Classes meeting on Tuesdays from 6:30 p.m. until 8:15 p.m. beginning August 31st and continuing every Tuesday there after until the 14th of September. The classes will be held in Phillippa's Place. Interested parties should either email Robert Pawlicki at robertpawlicki68@gmail.com or sign up on the sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.



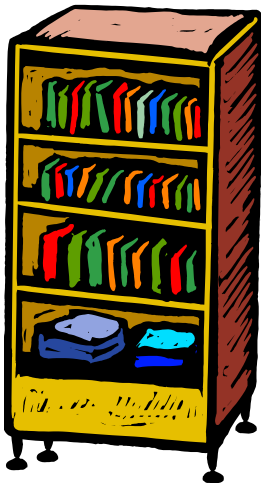
For any additional information on RE Programs/ Activities please contact Nancy Jilk at RE@uusavannah.org



Schedule of Events

- Stand for Peace - 8/22/2010 from 1 pm to 2 pm in Johnson Square.
- Inner City Shelter every 3rd Sunday
- UU Ga. Social Justice Conference — 9/11/2010 from 10am to 5 pm

For additional information on all Social Justice events please contact: Vicki Weeks at DIVER-VICKI@aol.com



STAND FOR PEACE

The Social Justice committees Stand for Peace! We invite you to participate as a family in Stand for Peace this Sunday, August 22, 1:00-2:00, Johnson Square. Come and help us express our sixth principle - The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.

Please arrive at Johnson Square (northernmost square on Bull Street) by 1:00. Don't forget signs, bug spray, and sunscreen. Stand in silence for as long as you are able. Please plan on attending this meaningful, happy, and PEACEFUL family event!



In2Books is a national program that ran a pilot program in Savannah last year. In2Books is an e-mentoring program, in which UUCS members and friends are paired with a child in one of the public schools. Over the course of the school year, mentor and pen pal exchange five letters about five books. The students are in the 3, 4 or 5th grades, and so the reading is easy.

Our goal is to sponsor one entire classroom (starting with the 3rd grade) at East Broad Elementary. That's 25 students per class, and so we need more mentors. If you, or someone you know would like to volunteer to become a pen pal, contact Phillipa Paddison or Vicki Weeks.

The process is as follows: Pen Pals watch a brief 15-minute tutorial and pass a simple background check (this is required for obvious reasons of child safety on the Internet - In2Books covers the \$6 for the background check). Following that, using the tips and tools on the website, the Pen Pal writes an introductory letter and waits to be matched with an East Broad Student in October. The student will reply with a letter, and volunteers will receive an email w/r/t what book to buy. Read. Write. Exchange. It works!

We will host a brief training and demonstration in September. This is a fairly light-commitment in terms of time but it can make a big difference in the life of a child. Please consider joining us in this program.



INNER CITY SHELTER

Every 3rd Sunday of every month the Social Justice Committee assist with feeding the hungry at the Inner City Shelter. There is a sign up sheet in the fellowship hall for those that are interested in participating in the event. During the "Service Sunday", held by the RE program, the children participate with the efforts of the Inner City Shelter event. All are welcome and encouraged to participate.



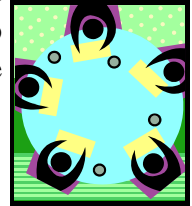
FAITH ON THE MOVE MINISTRY



Faith on the Move Ministry is an on-going effort! Along with donating food to the elderly and handicapped, donating gifts and bicycles to children that are less fortunate during Christmas ; Faith on the move ministries will also be collecting donations of school supplies: pencils, notebooks, pens, erasers, rulers, and even clear backpacks. There are large baskets by the front door of the church to collect all donations. Let's all make a difference in our community by doing what we can to help the efforts of Faith on the Move Ministries. For more information please contact : admin@uusavannah.org

2010—GA. UU SOCIAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE

This Years UU Social Justice Conference will be held at the High Street Unitarian Universalist Church, in Macon GA. on Saturday September 11th from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. This will be a statewide gathering of UUs interested/involved in social justice issues. This is a full day event and there are funds to help cover the cost of registration. Anyone interested in carpooling and for additional information please contact Vicki Weeks, 231-2252.



Future Share the Plate efforts: The Social Justice Committee has voted to support two new Share the Plate initiatives: Gulf coast relief; for the families that are impacted by the oils spill in the Gulf Coast and the In2Books program. Please continue to support the efforts and Share the Plate.

SHARE THE PLATE

From now through September 19th, we will be sharing our plate with the local branch of Habitat for Humanity.

Since its founding in 1983, the **Coastal Empire Habitat for Humanity** (the local affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International) and its supporters have built over 100 homes for Savannah, Georgia families. Our program is designed to make home ownership possible for low-income families that don't qualify for traditional loans, but have demonstrated the ability to repay a Habitat mortgage and are in urgent need of a safe, decent place to live.

Through volunteer labor and donations of money and materials, Habitat builds simple, decent and affordable houses with the help of the homeowner (partner) families.

For more information, go to <http://www.habitatsavannah.org>



Did you know you could save as much as much as 3% on the day's heating and cooling costs by setting your thermostat back one degree.

For additional information log onto otpc.com

PROPERTY

Georgia Interfaith Power and Light will be performing an energy audit on our buildings Friday, August 13th. We will look for areas where we can get the biggest bang for the buck on energy savings, reducing not only our utility costs, but also our impact on the world. This will also make us eligible to apply for grant money to make additional improvements to further reduce our energy usage, freeing up money that can be better used elsewhere.

In the meantime, we can all do our part - living with a slightly warmer social hall, shutting doors behind ourselves, turning off un-needed lights, and a myriad of other small measures that will add up to a significant impact.

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

How did you find the church? UUCS needs help with our publicity strategy. Do you have an interest in marketing? Can you provide advertising know-how? All persons interested please notify Whitney Shephard at: admin@uusavannah.org.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Was Math your favorite subject? Are you just a little bit Type 'A'??? The Finance Committee is welcoming interested people to visit All Committee Night. Please email Judith Parker Committee Chair for additional information at admin@uusavannah.org.

BUILDING USE TASK FORCE

The Building Use Task Force is seeking volunteers. Anyone interested please see Ms. Hamilton or send email to admin@uusavannah.org

SOUND VOLUNTEERS

We need to create a team of volunteers to operate the sound system in the sanctuary. Anyone who is interested can help. Please contact Bonnie Barger on 2timetravelers@comcast.net for more information.

LITERACY VOLUNTEERS

We are asking for volunteers for our Literacy Education for teens or adults, beginning in the fall. If you are interested please sign up in the Fellowship Hall or call Phillippa Paddison at 355-2985

JOY'S AND CONCERNS: OUR CARING COMMUNITY

On July 29, our Minister Emerita, Rev. Audrey Vincent lost her husband of 43 years after a long illness. If you would like to send a gift in memory of Dick Vincent, she requests that it be sent to the following: Learning Capitol Fund of the Universalist Unitarian Church, 740 E. Main St., Santa Paula, CA 93060; or the Santa Paula Rotary Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 809, Santa Paula, CA 93061.

Jill Jauch's co-worker, Doug Stemple, passed away on Aug. 5 after a two-year battle with cancer. He was young and courageous, and fought hard against the disease. His spirit and contributions to her workplace will be missed.

Rudd Long's father, Henry Long, died unexpectedly this past week in Fort Worth, Texas. Rudd appreciates your concern and thoughts.



BOARD MEMBERS AND CONTACTS

PRESIDENT	KAT HAMILTON	PRESIDENT@UUSAVANNAH.ORG
PRESIDENT—ELECT	JUDY DINEHART	ADMIN@UUSAVANNAH.ORG
TREASURER	WHITNEY SHEPHARD	ADMIN@UUSAVANNAH.ORG
SECRETARY	ARDIS WOOD	ADMIN@UUSAVANNAH.ORG
TRUSTEE	KIRSTEN ASTA	ADMIN@UUSAVANNAH.ORG
TRUSTEE	CASEY BURNS— THOMSON	ADMIN@UUSAVANNAH.ORG
TRUSTEE	ROBERT PAWLICKI	ADMIN@UUSAVANNAH.ORG

STAFF MEMBERS AND CONTACTS

INTERIM MINISTER	REVEREND LINDA BUNYARD	MINISTER@UUSAVANNAH.ORG
DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	VACANT	RE@UUSAVANNAH.ORG
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC	KELLY BLACKMARR-CARLILE	MUSIC@UUSAVANNAH.ORG
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR	SHANNON BELL	ADMIN@UUSAVANNAH.ORG
SEXTON	DAVID MESSIER	SEXTON@UUSAVANNAH.ORG



Unitarian Universalist Church of Savannah, GA

Located in the historic Troupe Square

311 E. Harris St
Savannah, GA 31401

Office Hours: 10 am - 2 pm
Tuesday - Friday
Office: (912) 234-0980

Please visit our web site at UUSavannah.org

Worship Service Begins at 11am in the sanctuary
We look forward to seeing you there.