



UUFS Newsletter – December 2010

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF STATESBORO

An independent congregation affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Association since 1990

Services are held every Sunday at 10:30 AM at 609 East Grady Street.



ANNUAL MEETING IN BRIEF

2011 Officers Elected



Members of the Fellowship unanimously elected the following officers, who will assume their duties on January 1:



Shari Barr
President



June Hackle
Vice-President



Steven Rowe
Secretary



Bill Herring
Treasurer



Teresa Winn
Past President

Congratulations to all!



2011 Budget Approved

The 2011 budget was unanimously approved by the membership. (See related article on canvass up-date and budget on page 4.)



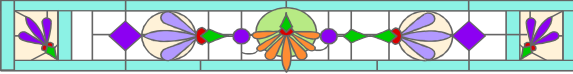
FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

(Information on Sunday services is on page 2.)

- Sundays** at 9:45 AM - choir rehearsal - at our UUFS building
- Wed., Dec. 1** - 7:00 PM - choir rehearsal - at our UUFS building (first Wednesday and third Tuesday of the month)
- Mon., Dec. 6** - 5:30 - 7:00 PM - Heart to Heart Circle Adult RE class (“Endings” - Chapter 14) - at our UUFS building
- Tues., Dec. 7** - 5:30 PM - joint Board meeting (out-going and in-coming officers) - at our UUFS building
- Tues., Dec. 21** - 7:00 PM - choir rehearsal - at our UUFS building (first Wednesday and third Tuesday of the month)
- Tues., Dec. 21** - 5:30 PM - Annual Winter Solstice Pot-luck Party - at the home of Rev. Jane Page and Greg Brock (see invitation on page 3)
- Sun., Dec. 22** - 5:00 PM - December newsletter deadline
- Fri., Dec. 31** - annual reports due to President Teresa Winn (see page 3)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Mon., Jan. 17** - 12:00 noon - decorate UUFS truck for M. L. King, Jr. Parade - at our UUFS building (see page 3)
- Sun., Jan. 23** - 5:00 - 7:00 PM - Welcoming Congregation Workshop (“Bisexuality and Bi-phobia”) - at our UUFS building
- June 22 - 26** - General Assembly - in Charlotte, NC



Sunday Services

10:30 - 11:30 AM: worship service
11:30 AM: refreshments/social break
11:45 AM - 12:30 PM: religious education for children
11:45 AM -12:30 PM: adult "talk-back"
(group discussion on sermon topic)

December 5

9:00 AM: Serenity Service - 10:30 AM: Regular Service

“Without the Dark, There Is No Light”

(Rev. Jane’s sixth sermon in the “Let It Be a Dance” series is entitled, “Without the Dark, There Is No Light,” a phrase from Masten’s popular hymn. We will explore how different religions and cultures symbolically use “dark” and “light” symbolism, as we celebrate the coming of winter.)

Our UUFS Minister: Rev. Jane Page

December 12

“The Hindu View of Life”

(Dr. Kundu will offer some personal ruminations on selected tenets of philosophical Hinduism as a manifestation of the so-called “Indian Spirit.”)

Speaker: Dr. Gautam Kundu
(GSU English and Philosophy Department)

December 19

“In Celebration of Yule”

(Teri will give a brief history and explanation of the Yule ritual.)

Speaker: Teri Lowery

(continued above, right)



Friday, December 24
7:00 PM

Annual Christmas Eve Service

(Come join us for our annual Christmas Eve Service in which our children take on the roles of Mary, Joseph, shepherds, wise ones, and angels. We’ll sing our favorite carols as the familiar Christmas story is narrated by our Rev. Jane. Then we will enjoy our Moravian Love Feast with our UU family.)

Our UUFS Minister: Rev. Jane Page

December 26

“Wovoka, Holy Man of the Northern Paiutes and Creator of the ‘Ghost Dance’”

(Our speaker will present a brief background on Paiute tribal history, its most famous resident (Wovoka), and a tragedy that occurred further east among the Lakota Sioux, who adopted and customized the Ghost Dance Religion. Wovoka is buried at the Walker River Paiute Reservation in Schurz, NV, near Reno.)

Joan Ellen Broome
(GSU Reference Librarian)



Joining Our Fellowship

Voting membership in our UUFS congregation is open to interested friends who have read our by-laws and are

- 16 years of age or older,
- in sympathy with the purposes and principles of Unitarian Universalism, and
- actively contributing to the life of the Fellowship through regular attendance, service, and/or financial support.

For more information, contact Membership Chair Shari Barr (sharirbarr@aol.com) or Rev. Jane Page (revjanepage@yahoo.com or 764-7845).



Annual Winter Solstice Pot-luck Party!

When: Tuesday, December 21, 2010 - 5:30 PM

Where: The home of Rev. Jane Page and Greg Brock

Join us for this special Yuletide celebration on the longest night of the year. Bring your favorite dishes and beverages to share with others. As a part of the celebration, the UUFS Earth-based Spirituality Group will lead us in a short Yule ritual around the fire at the gathering place in the woods behind our home. We can also walk the rock labyrinth, eat and drink, drum and dance, sing holiday songs, and just enjoy being together! Invite your friends to join us. Children are welcome too.



December Birthdays!

Happy Birthday to:

Ian B. (December 12)
Danny Gleason (December 20)
Marvin Goss (December 24)
Sarah Goss (December 5)
Walden H. (December 30)
Hannah S. Mc. (December 18)
Miles S. Mc. (December 18)
JD P. (December 29)
Self-Sullivan, Caryn (December 22)
Ben Nelson (December 14)
Kevin Tschida (December (28))

* Initials are used for children's last names for privacy reasons.

(with apologies to anyone we missed)

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE DECEMBER 31



All out-going officers and committee chairs are asked to submit annual reports to out-going President Teresa Winn by Friday, December 31. Reports should summarize the things that committees have done over the past year and offer recommendations for in-coming officers/committee chairs.

Annual M.L. King, Jr. Parade

By Greg Brock

Mark your calendar! M. L. King, Jr. Day is Monday, January 17m and Statesboro's annual M. L. King Parade is a great parade for kids and provides a wonderful teachable moment.

We will meet at our UUFS building around noon on that day to decorate our truck, and then walk/ride to the parade (participants should be in line on East Oliff Street by 1:30 PM). Google famous UUs from the civil rights era (e.g., Rev. James Reeb, Whitney Young), talk with kids about this, and have fun at the parade!

In Praise of Winter

Let us not wish away the winter. It is a season in itself, not simply the way to spring. When trees rest, growing no leaves, gathering no light, they let in sky and trace themselves delicately against dawns and sunsets.

The clarity and brilliance of the winter sky delight. The loom of fog softens edges, lulls the eyes and ears of the quiet, awakens by risk the quiet. A low dark sky can snow, emblem of individuality, liberality, and aggregate power.

Snow invites to contemplation and to sport.
Winter is a table set with ice and starlight.
Winter dark tends to warm light, fire and candle;
Winter cold to hugs and huddles;
Winter want to gifts and sharing;
Winter danger to visions, plans, and common endeavoring--and the zest of narrow escapes;
Winter tedium to merrymaking.

Let us therefore praise winter, rich in beauty, challenge, and pregnant negativities.

--Greta Crosby



ANNUAL MEETING NEWS

By Teresa Winn, President

We had a wonderful Annual Meeting on Sunday November 14, 2010. Thanks to all of you who were able to attend. If you were not able to be with us, there are some exciting changes that I want to let you know about. We have a new slate of officers for the Board that I am confident will provide the kind of leadership that UUFS needs as we look to the future:

President: Shari Barr
Vice President: June Hackle
Secretary: Steven Rowe
Treasurer: Bill Herring
Past President: Teresa Winn

Our members and friends were quick to respond to the Silver Anniversary Pledge Challenge and, because of your support, we have been able to increase our operating budget by more than 25% for the year 2011!

That means we have funds to increase our Fellowship's ministry. The Rev. Jane Page has been our called minister serving half time. We all know that she "works" so much more than half time and her efforts have benefited our Fellowship in countless ways. She will now be our called minister serving 3/4 time--a step in the right direction.

We also have the funds available to hire a part-time Director of Children's Religious Education. We will be interviewing and looking to hire someone to begin in July 2011.

Our Fellowship is growing and expanding. These paid ministerial and leadership positions will allow us to make the most of our resources as we grow and serve our community. I am so excited that we are moving forward and hope that the next 25 years at the UUFS will be bright and full of promise.



Canvass Up-date and 2011 Operating Budget

By Cynthia Frost, Treasurer

We had a very successful canvass this year! Many thanks go to Jim Nichols, Finance Committee Chair, for his hard work and "yes-we-can" attitude--it paid off!

With members who were able to increase their pledges by 25% joined by new members and friends pledging for the first time, the 2011 budget shows an increase of 26% over the 2010 budget!

The Board met with the Finance Committee (Jim Nichols, Bill Herring, and James Whittle) to draft the budget that was then approved by the congregation at the November 14 Annual Meeting.

The greatest portion of the increase went toward increasing our minister to ¾-time from ½-time. Even then, we weren't able to delegate as much as we would have liked--the salary increased by 35%, whereas it "should" have been a 50% increase.

All other budget lines were scrutinized and adjusted based partly on what had actually been spent this past year. But we also considered how we could best help the congregation--delegating more to leadership development and how not to burn out members--and hiring a part time Children's RE Director.

Besides the annual budget, we have a "Fund for the Future" (seven CDs totaling more than \$38,000). These funds will be left to grow and then can be used when UUFS is ready to buy or build a new facility.

If you weren't at the Annual Meeting and would like a copy of the budget and/or more information, please contact Cynthia Frost, Treasurer.



The Fellowship collected \$560 for Feeding Statesboro on October 31 and November 7!



Religion and Homosexuality Workshop: A Summary

By Rev. Jane Page



On November 14 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM, 17 folks came together for our fourth Welcoming Congregation workshop this fall on “Religion and Homosexuality.” Workshop facilitators were Dr. Fred Richter, retired GSU English professor and a lay leader in the Episcopal Church; Rev. Francys Johnson, a civil rights attorney and a Baptist minister; and our UUFS minister, Rev. Jane Page. The workshop began with the lighting of the chalice and a responsive reading from 1st Corinthians 13. The check-in consisted of folks sharing their names and, in one sentence, the faith tradition or traditions (if any) in which they were raised. This particular group seemed to be loaded with former Baptists with a few other denominations being represented (as well as two individuals who were not raised in a religious tradition). Rev. Jane reviewed the goals for the workshop which included the following:

- *To explore how Judeo-Christian thinking has shaped our beliefs around sexual orientation.*
- *To gain greater understanding about fundamentalist views regarding homosexuality and our options for conversation, response, and clarity.*
- *To examine how our own faith supports our work of becoming a Welcoming Congregation and dismantling homophobia and heterosexism.*

Dr. Richter led the group in an activity related to “The Bible and Homosexuality.” Participants completed sentences using an article by F. Jay Deacon as a resource. Then we shuffled papers and handed them back out to be read by others. The responses led to discussions about how we had dealt with these concerns in the past and how we might more appropriately share with others in the future.

Rev. Johnson led the group in an activity connected to a particular case study. The case

study reviewed by the small groups was one that was relevant to our local situation. In this case study, a group at the high school who wanted to start a Gay-Straight Alliance was running into many problems. The small groups in our workshop explored ways to ameliorate the problems, not only in our case study, but also in our own community.

Rev. Page led the group in an activity related to our own faith of Unitarian Universalism and how we can use our principles to become even more welcoming. The small groups came up with several ideas to think about and act on!

We closed the session by summarizing what we had learned, re-learned, or unlearned, and by singing, “From you I receive, to you I give, together we share and from this we live.”

Our Welcoming Congregation workshops will begin again in 2011, on Sunday, January 23, from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. This workshop will be facilitated by Shari Barr, Laura Milner, and Dixie Aubrey, and will explore Bisexuality and Bi-phobia, and how we are all hurt by various forms of homophobia. Our hope is that most of our members and friends are involved in some of these workshops so that we will be enlightened enough to be able to vote with integrity on Welcoming Congregation status. For more information, contact any of the Welcoming Congregation Committee members listed below:

Dee Liston
Shari Barr
Chris Booker
Beth Butterfield
Rev. Jane Page



Ministerial MUUsings



Rev. Jane Page

“A Gift for You”

Here’s something about me that you may not know. I do not like to shop. In fact, I dread shopping. I admit that part of the reason that I don’t like to shop is that I don’t like to spend money. Although I’m a generous person--and don’t mind giving money--when it comes to shopping, I’m “frugal,” a characteristic inherited from my mom. And, even if someone GIVES me the money--or a gift certificate, I do not like to shop. So I avoid it if I can. Greg does the grocery shopping at our house, so I don’t even have to decide which detergent is the best for us.

Now this shopophobia that I have may be seen as a blessing, I suppose, by those who have to take out a second mortgage after a trip to the mall. But during this season of the year, it’s an extreme disadvantage. I know I should be making lists and looking on-line and in stores for that perfect gift for everyone. Sorry, it’s not going to happen. Yesterday was my mom’s 84th birthday, and I thought, “I really should give her a gift I suppose.” So I looked around the kitchen and picked up the fall centerpiece that I had purchased for our “Day of the Dead” celebration and took that to her. Shame on me! (And worse yet, I’ll probably “borrow” it back for our Thanksgiving meal.)

Now I really do appreciate that some folks are SO good at shopping. But it’s too hard for me--so I follow my dad’s example. He didn’t care to buy gifts either. But his gifts were always the right color--green. I’ll probably share some of that green stuff this holiday season with my family members. I know that this is the easy way out. Sorry, but the agony of trying to find the right gift is just too frustrating. However, I do enjoy giving words of gratitude and love.

So here’s my gift for each of you for the holidays. It’s a little blessing.

May you sleep well, at least now and again.
May you also eat well--chocolate’s no sin.
May you share smiles with others, even if they frown.

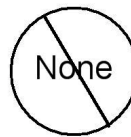
May you get some smiles too, when you are down.

May you see lots of beauty every day.
May your heart be touched by a story or play.
May your troubles not be as bad as they seem.
May you grin in your sleep from a happy dream.
And when we’re together or when we’re apart,
May my love for you stay warm in your heart.

Hope this season is blessed with goodness for you and yours!

Jane

BAR NONE



**Open to All
Who Are Open to All**

Bar None will not meet in
December because of final exams.
We’ll see you in January!

**Sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist
Campus Ministry**



Altar of foods constructed for Day of the Dead service.



At the Annual Meeting, President Teresa Winn (R) presented Certificates of Completion from the Southland UU Leadership Experience to (L-R) Shari Barr, Beth Butterfield, and Rev. Jane Page.



At the Annual Meeting, incoming President Shari Barr (R) presented outgoing President Teresa Winn (L) with a gift certificate to Wise Nursery in appreciation of her service to the Fellowship.



I Will Light Candles This Christmas

*Candles of joy despite all sadness,
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,
Candles of courage for fears ever-present,
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,
Candles of love to inspire all my living,
Candles that will burn all the year long.*

--The Rev. Howard Thurman



Children pose after trick-or-treating for UNICEF on October 31.

COMMUNITY EVENTS AT OUR UUFS BUILDING

-Every Thursday - 5:45 to 7:45 PM - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting

-Every Saturday - 9:45 AM - noon - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting

Fellowship Calendar On-line

The church calendar is now on-line at <http://www.uustatestboro.org>. This is the most up-to-date source for Fellowship events.

If you know of anyone in the congregation who has a special joy, concern, or illness, please contact



*Martha Hughes,
Care-Ring Co-coordinator
(StatesboroUU@yahoo.com*

with Martha Hughes in the subject line).



DO YOU LIKE TO SING?



The Fellowship Singers have fun planning, rehearsing, and singing. We usually rehearse on two Wednesday evenings a month and gather at 9:45 AM on Sunday mornings to run through the offertory and hymns for that day. Would you like to join us? If you'd like to know more, please contact Miriam Bryant (StatesboroUU@yahoo.com with Miriam Bryant in the subject line).

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF STATESBORO

P. O. Box 2453
(609 East Grady Street)
Statesboro, GA 30459
(912) 489-8338

UUFS has been an independent congregation affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Association since 1990.

Visit the UUFS home page, with links to the Thomas Jefferson District and UUA web pages:

<http://www.uustatesboro.org>

MINISTER INFORMATION

Minister: Reverend Jane Page

Call home phone (912-764-7845) or cell phone (912-682-3566) and leave a message:
-to make an appointment,
-to schedule longer telephone visits,
-for pastoral care emergencies (anytime).
e-mail: revjanepage@yahoo.com

Office hours: Call for an appointment

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSULTANT

Administrative Consultant: Shay Gibson

at UUFS building on Tuesdays (9:30 AM - 12:30 PM) and Wednesdays and Thursdays (10:00 AM - 12:30 PM)

e-mail: StatesboroUU@yahoo.com; 489-8338 (UUFS phone)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President: Teresa Winn

StatesboroUU@yahoo.com

Vice-President (Membership): Shari Barr

StatesboroUU@yahoo.com

Secretary: Miriam Bryant

StatesboroUU@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Cynthia Frost

StatesboroUU@yahoo.com

At-Large Board Member: Ginny Aldredge

StatesboroUU@yahoo.com

USEFUL CONTACTS

Building and Grounds Committee Chair: Heather Lentz

StatesboroUU@yahoo.com

Care-Ring Co-Coordinator: Martha Hughes

StatesboroUU@yahoo.com

Children's Religious Education: Mollie Murray

StatesboroUU@yahoo.com

Adult Religious Education: Dick Hutcheon

StatesboroUU@yahoo.com

Sunday Refreshments: Madeleine Bentley

StatesboroUU@yahoo.com

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Editor: Marky Lloyd

The deadline for the monthly newsletter is nine days before the end of the month. Please send submissions to mloyd@georgiasouthern.edu or to StatesboroUU@yahoo.com.

What Do Unitarian Universalists Believe?

While Unitarian Universalists have their individual beliefs about a number of things--including God, *The Bible*, Jesus, the earth, death, prayer, and ritual--they are united in their beliefs that all people are inherently worthy; that we should work for a peaceful, just world; that we should continue to question and search for the truth; and that we should cherish the earth and all its inhabitants.

Visit the UUFS home page, with links to TJ district and UUA web pages:

<http://www.uustatesboro.org>



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
of Statesboro
P.O. Box 2453
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