



UUFS Newsletter – January 2010

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF STATESBORO

An independent congregation affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Association since 1990

Services are held every Sunday at 10:00 AM at 609 East Grady Street.

Ginny Aldredge Appointed to UUFS Executive Board



President Teresa Winn has appointed Ginny Aldredge to serve as Member-at-Large on the UUFS Board. Ginny will take the place of Past President Dixie Aubrey, who is stepping down from the Board. The

Ginny Aldredge Fellowship thanks Dixie for her service to the Fellowship and Ginny for her willingness to serve in this important role.

Annual M. L. King Parade January 18



This year's Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade is scheduled for Monday, January 18th. The theme for the 2010 parade is "America: Fulfilling His Dream through

Unity."

UUFS members and friends should meet at the Fellowship building at noon on the 18th to decorate the UUFS truck. Greg Brock will drive the truck to the East Oliff Street line-up site around 12.30 PM.

Parade floats (including UUFS's decorated truck) need to be in line on East Oliff Street by 1:00 PM. Participants must be in line (look for our truck) by 1:30 PM. The parade starts at 2:00 PM and will end around 3:00 PM at Luetta Moore Park. Please wear your UUFS t-shirt as the outer layer of your clothing with other layers underneath as weather dictates.

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FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

[see page 2 for information on Sunday services]



- Sunday mornings** - 9:15 AM - choir rehearsal at our UUFS building
- Mon., Jan. 4** - 5:30 PM - monthly Board meeting at our UUFS building (members welcome)
- Wed., Jan 13** - 12:30 PM - UU Guys Lunch at Holiday Greek and Pizza Restaurant - food, conversation, and fellowship
- Sat., Jan. 16** - TJD Coastal Cluster Meeting - at the Low Country UU Church in Bluffton (see page 4)
- Mon., Jan. 18** - early afternoon - annual Statesboro MLK, Jr. parade - downtown Statesboro (see page 1)
- Fri., Jan. 22** - 7:30 PM - Sacred Texts Reading and Discussion Group - at our UUFS building
- Sat., Jan. 23** - 5:00 PM - February newsletter deadline
- Fri., Jan. 29** - 7:30 PM - Great Decisions 2010 (topic: Energy and the Global Economy) - at our UUFS building



Sunday Services

10:00 - 11:00 AM: worship service
 11:00 AM: refreshments/social break
 11:15 AM - NOON: religious education for children (nursery for infants and young children)
 11:30 AM - NOON: adult talk-back (group discussion on sermon topic)

January 3

“In Memoriam - 2009”

(Join us for our Annual Memorial Service honoring famous people (and others) who died in 2009.)

Facilitators: UUFS Board

January 10

“Oh, My Soul”

(Join us for some “soul-searching” as Rev. Jane explores various concepts of the soul.)

Our UUFS Minister: Rev. Jane Page

January 17

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Sunday

(Rev. Francys Johnson returns and presents another powerful message for his annual visit to us for Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday.)

Speaker: Rev. Francys Johnson

January 24

“Facing Our Demons”

(Rev. Jane draws from the teachings of Jesus, Jung, Thomas Moore, and others in exploring how we may be healed of that which appears to “possess us.”)

Our UUFS Minister: Rev. Jane Page

January 31

“Imbolc - The First Signs of Spring”

(A discussion of the earth-based path’s first spring celebration)

Speaker: Lisa L. Abbott



You are invited . . . to participate in the POSTLUDE after the Sunday service.

Meditations, poems, songs, or dance movements are welcome. The sign-up sheet is on the piano in the sanctuary.



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

Martha Hughes,
*Care-Ring Co-coordinator,
 at StatesboroUU@yahoo.com
 with Martha Hughes
 in the subject line.*



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 (StatesboroUU@yahoo.com with Shari’s name in the subject line) or Rev. Jane Page (revjanepage@yahoo.com or 764-7845).

MLK Parade

(continued from page 1)

Greg Brock is coordinating the Fellowship's participation in this event. Cynthia Frost is leading an effort to create new banners this year. Additional information will be coming via the listserv. Please join the Fellowship in supporting this important community event.



January Birthdays!

Happy Birthday to:

Marney Collins (January 11)
Bob Dolloff (January 27)
Ellen Emerson (January 22)
Barbara Hendry (January 1)
Sonya Huber-Humes (January 30)
Steven Jacobsen (January 2)
Sherril Johnson (January 27)
Elizabeth Nessmith (January 26)
Relinda Walker (January 2)
Teresa Winn (January 13)

(with apologies to anyone we missed)

UUPS Supports Boys and Girls Club

By Cynthia Frost, Treasurer



During this church year we are "giving the plate away" on the first Sunday of each month. Any money in the collection plate not clearly designated as a pledge is being donated to the local non-profit agency of the speaker's choice. On December 6, the collection totaled to \$310 and speaker Greg Brock asked that this amount be donated to the Boys and Girls Club of Statesboro.



UUPS Celebrates Yule 2009

By Tina Whittle



Our Yule 2009 celebration was a great success! Over 50 people gathered at the home of Rev. Jane Page and Greg Brock on Monday, December 21st, to celebrate the Winter Solstice, the longest night of the year, after which the sun stops waning and starts to grow stronger. It is a time to celebrate warmth of all kinds--the literal blaze of the bonfire and the candlelight, the symbolic glow in our hearts as we gather friends and family together. But most of all, Yule celebrates the Sun, the cosmic engine that makes our planet a home. In times of old, people thought that if they didn't do their part, the sun wouldn't return and darkness would reign. But as the sunny mornings since have demonstrated, the light is growing stronger and stronger every day, and we at the gathering certainly did our part. Laughing, singing, drumming, walking the labyrinth, we all contributed to the celebration. A few hardy souls even stayed up the entire night around the fire to honor that ancient tradition. The light has returned. Blessed be.



Children enjoyed walking the labyrinth and gathered at its center during the Fellowship's annual celebration of the Winter Solstice.

A Message from Our President



Ever wonder what is happening at the Board meetings? In the December meeting, a main agenda item focused on the success of our 2nd hour experiment. As you know, earlier this year we opted to begin a 2nd hour on Sunday mornings to separate children's RE from the Sunday Morning service. In order to facilitate this separation, we moved the start time of the Sunday service to 10:00 AM. It has been an adjustment for all of us to get started earlier. Separating the RE time from the service seems to be working in that it allows for more of our members to participate in the service while still being able to volunteer with the children's RE classes. The question was raised, "How about a more traditional arrangement of Religious Education (10:00 – 10:45 AM), then Sunday morning service (11:00 AM - noon)?" After much discussion, we identified some logistical concerns with the more traditional time format:

1. The need for a formal RE experience for the adults while the children's classes are being held: Certainly there are many interesting and beneficial RE possibilities for adults; however we would need more volunteers to coordinate the curriculum for the adults.
2. The need for more hours of paid childcare to ensure the safety of our children while the adults are involved in talk-back following the service: With our current arrangement, the children are in their RE classes while the adults are participating in talk-back.

Based on these concerns, the Board has decided to continue with the 2nd hour experiment as is for now. We will reevaluate its success toward the end of the school year. If you have concerns, questions, or suggestions, please let Board member know. We value your ideas as a part of our shared ministry here at UUFS.

Teresa Winn
President

TJD Coastal Cluster Workshop Set for January 16

Rev. Jane and some of our UUFS Board members will attend a gathering for leaders in our Coastal Cluster churches. It will be led by TJ District Consultants Clark and Anna Olsen at the Low Country UU Church in Bluffton. We invite committee chairs and others who have served in leadership positions in the past or MAY serve in leadership positions in the future to join us.

(Additional information follows below)

Southern Cluster of TJD Congregations Workshop January 16, 2010

Unitarian Universalist congregations across the country are discovering that for greater effectiveness, deeper commitment and less volunteer burnout, they need to develop ways to strengthen each congregation through mutual support. The day's program will challenge our specific Coastal SC and GA congregations to define some extraordinary new ways in which to cooperate with and strengthen each other.

We expect outcomes which will:

- Clarify what mutual support could accomplish in terms of organizational effectiveness, deepened UU faith, and more public understanding of our faith
- Define specific goals, steps and responsibilities
- Decide on measurements we'll use to track progress
- Identify ways this "cluster" work will save time, energy and volunteer burnout in our separate congregations
- Generate enthusiasm for Unitarian Universalism throughout our region
- Increase commitment and increase membership in our separate UU congregations

Hosted by the **UU Congregation of the Low Country**, Bluffton, SC. Registration is \$15 per person and includes lunch.

Register now at [Southern Cluster 1/16/10 event registration](#).

SPANISH CLASS AT UUFS

By Shari Barr



There will be a Spanish class for beginners at UUFS on Wednesday evenings in January and February. Carlos Martinez will be the teacher. No text book is required; students will use an online website for practice between classes. The cost is \$20 per month, payable at the first class. Some of those who are signed up know more Spanish than others, and the advanced students may form a separate class. Consequently, there may still be a few openings in the beginner class on Wednesday evenings. If you are interested in Spanish classes, please contact Carlos directly at carlosrob44@hotmail.com. Those who are already registered should meet at our UUFS building at 6:30 PM, Wednesday, January 6.

Volunteers Needed for January Children's RE Classes

By Rebekah Cole



Thanks so very much to our volunteer teachers for the older class this fall: Dixie Aubrey, Caryn Self-Sullivan, Greg Brock, and Rebecca Ziegler. The children really enjoyed learning about "being UU" through your talents and interests.

The older class (grades 2-6) is in need of volunteer teachers beginning in January. We invite you to share with our young people what "being UU" means to you in your life: through your talents and hobbies, your job, and/or your daily activities. A sign-up sheet is posted on the RE bulletin board in the Fellowship kitchen. You may contact Mollie Murray, Children's RE Chairperson (StatesboroUU@yahoo.com with Mollie Murray in the subject line).



Children's Religious Ed: January

By Rebekah Cole

Younger Class (Birth - 1st Grade)

January 3: "Winter Brings Changes to Our Earth"
Teacher: Beth Butterfield

January 10: "Congregations Are Places of Caring"
Teacher: Beth Butterfield

January 17: "Old and Young Make Good Friends"
Teacher: Mollie Murray

January 24: "People of All Colors are Important"
Teacher: Mollie Murray

January 31: topic to be announced on the listserv
Teacher: Mollie Murray

Older Class (2nd - 5th Grades)

Class topics and teachers for the older children's class will be announced on the listserv.

A Note from the Former Children's RE Chairperson

It has been such a joy serving as the UUFS's Children's Religious Education Chairperson. At the end of December, I stepped down and Mollie Murray is now the new Children's RE Chair. Thank you to everyone who helped make this fall a success. We are off to a great start with our children and youth programs, our main focus during my term. I wish Mollie the best of luck for a great 2010!

Rebekah Cole

Editor's note: Thank YOU, Rebekah, for your dedicated service to the Fellowship and to the children. You are very much appreciated!



Many thanks to **Shari Barr** for taking photographs at UUFS events and sharing them with the newsletter.

Happy Anniversary to the UU Fellowship!

By Betsy Nichols



The Statesboro UU Fellowship will celebrate both its 20th and 25th anniversaries in 2010. Our Fellowship began meeting in 1985 and then earned its charter in April 1990. Special anniversary events are scheduled for April with a grand finale sometime in the fall. If you have suggestions or questions, please get in touch with Betsy Nichols, Mollie Murray, or Stephanie Tames.

Committee on Ministry Has New Member



President Teresa Winn has appointed Beth Butterfield to the Committee on Ministry. Many thanks, Beth, for your service to the Fellowship.

"Our aspirations are our possibilities."

--Samuel Johnson



Congratulations to **Derek Zeanah**, who received his Master of Business Administration degree from GSU at the December commencement!



Congratulations to **Caryn Self-Sullivan**, who was named Coastal Carolina University's 2009 Alumna of the Year!

HOLIDAY GREETINGS FROM UUA PRESIDENT REV. PETER MORALES

What are your fondest memories of the holiday season? My favorite childhood memories involve Christmas pageants, a series of large and boisterous intergenerational family gatherings, and, of course, my Tía Amelia's wonderful tamales.

Later, as young adult, my most precious memories involve my own children. I recall, while traveling in Spain, creating a makeshift Christmas tree in a hotel room from a fallen branch and decorating it with curled orange peel.

Now, as an "older adult," I cherish the holiday reunions with family and friends. As a parish minister, I loved seeing the faces of young adults light up as they encountered old friends at holiday services.

The presents I received and gave have long since faded from memory. The relationships remain. The stuff is long gone. The love endures.

I encourage you to be with your own most precious memories of the holidays. Experience the love and joy once again. Our most precious memories have much to teach us. Our most cherished experiences are much more than nostalgia; they are religious teachers. Remembering is a spiritual practice.

The lessons that our fondest holiday memories are trying to teach us can transform our daily lives, revitalize our congregations, remake our economy, change our politics, and bring lasting peace to the world.

Love endures. Relationships really matter. In the long run, stuff doesn't matter. The implications are revolutionary.

If we lived our lives with this in mind, we would nurture relationships with people we love. We would create religious communities that foster intimacy, and we would truly open our hearts to the newcomer.

If we lived with the deep conviction that what connects us is sacred, exploitation would end. Violence would end. Peace would reign at last.

May this be a season filled with blessings.

-- Rev. Peter Morales

Ministerial MUUsings



The History of Our Fellowship

As we enter the year 2010, my thoughts are of this congregation and the

milestones we cross this year. In 2010, we commemorate 25 years as a congregation and 20 years in affiliation with the Unitarian Universalist Association. To commemorate this special year, Marky Lloyd has updated our history, and I've asked her to share that with us in this "mUUsings" space so that we can all muse a little about our past, present, and future.

In late 1973, about a dozen individuals looking for a liberal religious home constituted the first Unitarian Universalist presence in Statesboro. Aided by several members of the Savannah UU Church (John and Mary Ralston, Milton and Betty Rahn, Clay Gerkin, and Martha Fay), the group was officially recognized by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and known as the Statesboro Unitarian Fellowship. After about two years of monthly meetings with speakers, however, the Fellowship became inactive in 1976.

The current Fellowship began in 1985 when the late Rev. Frank Anderson, then minister of the Savannah UU Church, compiled a list of Statesboro residents visiting his church and circulated a copy to each of them. As a result, a number of these individuals began to gather again for monthly pot-luck suppers and programs. After several years, the group decided to re-affiliate with UUA (the earlier membership had lapsed). In April 1990, the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Statesboro became an official society of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations.

During 1991-1994, the Fellowship met in the Developmental Studies building on the Georgia Southern University (GSU) campus and later (1994-1996) in the Bland Cottage at GSU's Botanical Garden. When average attendance at Sunday services outgrew the capacity of the Cottage, the services were moved to GSU's Nursing Building.

In the spring of 1998, the Fellowship voted to increase dramatically the operating budget in preparation for renting or building a structure dedicated to Fellowship purposes. The opportunity to buy two lots from the Bulloch County Hospital Authority led then-President Judy Holleman to launch, in July 1998, a three-year capital campaign and, during 1998-1999, to coordinate the development of building plans and to oversee

building construction while Pauline deLaar coordinated the Decorating and Usage Committee work. All members and many friends of the Fellowship contributed labor (all interior and trim painting, lot and construction clean-up, initial landscape preparation and plantings, and gifts (over \$40,000 pledged to the capital campaign), and loans (\$50,000 in promissory notes). With a grant of over \$16,000 from the Thomas Jefferson District Chalice Lighters, the Fellowship was able, in November 1999, to move into its new building at 609 East Grady Street and to furnish it with comfortable seating for the dedication ceremony in April 2000 at which the Rev. William Sinkford (UUA President 2001-2009) spoke. The debt on the building was paid off in December, 2003.

In 2002, a patio, connecting sidewalks, and a second handicapped parking pad were added to the church facilities, thanks to the financial generosity of several members and friends of the Fellowship and to the donated skills of the instructor and students in the Concrete and Masonry Structures class at GSU. In 2007, members constructed a sand pit for the children and set up a donated swing set in 2008. Dedicated members provide on-going enhancements to the grounds.

At its June, 2006 annual meeting, the Fellowship voted to call the Rev. Jane Page as its first settled minister to serve at least half time, beginning July 1, 2006. The Rev. Page was ordained and installed as the congregation's first minister in September, 2006 and she attained "final fellowship" status as a Unitarian Universalist minister in 2009. Also in 2009, the Fellowship hired a part-time administrative consultant.

The Fellowship holds Sunday services throughout the year, with piano accompaniment and music provided by the Fellowship Singers. It also provides weekly religious education for children and youth, supports UU campus ministry at Georgia Southern and a variety of religious education programs for adults. The Fellowship also has a lending library of books, videotapes, and DVDs. UUFS supports social justice activities in the community such as helping to fund and construct a Habitat for Humanity house, using monthly "Giving Away the Plate" collections to provide financial support for worthy local organizations, marching annually in the annual M. L. King, Jr. parade, and providing meeting space for Alcoholics Anonymous and other community groups. At its 2009 annual meeting, the Fellowship formally adopted a congregational affirmation and relational covenant. Members attend events in the Thomas

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Ministerial MUUsings

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Jefferson District of the UUA and some have served in governance roles at the district and national levels.

Monthly social gatherings are held at the Fellowship building, a UUFS men's group meets monthly at a local restaurant, and college students meet monthly for "Bar None" discussions at a local coffeehouse. Annual traditions include the children's Halloween party and trick-or-treating for contributions to UNICEF, the UU Service Committee's Guest at Your Table program, the winter solstice celebration/holiday pot-luck, the local M. L. King, Jr. parade, the children's Easter egg hunt, the blessing of the animals' service, and the end-of-year/Memorial Day picnic. In addition, the Fellowship publishes a monthly newsletter and membership directory; it also maintains a web site (with access to Rev. Page's sermons, monthly newsletters, Fellowship calendar, and other information), a Facebook page, and a listserv for posting announcements to members and friends.

Since its humble beginnings in 1990, the Fellowship continues to grow annually, both in membership (now over 60) and financial support. In 2010, the Fellowship will celebrate its 20th anniversary with UUA and its 25th anniversary as a congregation. The future looks bright for our liberal religious community.



Condolences to Greg Brock

The Fellowship extends its deepest sympathy to **Greg Brock** on the death of his father, Dr. Timothy C. Brock, on December 20 in Columbus, OH.



Condolences to Caren Towne

The Fellowship extends its deepest sympathy to **Caren Towne** on the death of her mother this fall.



THINKING OF YOU, JESSIE

It was good to see **Jessie** and **Chuck Lussier** on their quick visit to the Fellowship on December 13. Jessie is dealing with a recurrence of cancer and can be reached at 352-257-5973.

Get Well Soon, Abby and Ellie



The Fellowship sends "get well soon" wishes to **Abby Criswell**, who broke her arm during gymnastics class, and **Ellie Bryant**, who broke her leg in a freak accident.



*"For last year's words belong to last year's language
And next year's words await another voice.
And to make an end is to make a
beginning."*

--T.S. Eliot, "Little Gidding"

*"One resolution I have made and try always
to keep, is this: To rise above the little
things."*

--John Burroughs

*"A new year is unfolding--like a blossom
with the petals curled tightly concealing the
beauty within."*

--author unknown

**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

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 9:15 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 at StatesboroUU@yahoo.com with Miriam Bryant in the subject line.



Fellowship children took turns riding the Yule Log before it was set on fire.



The Yule Log burns.

**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 (10:30 AM - 1:30 PM), Wednesdays (11:00 AM - 1:30 PM), and Thursdays (11:00 AM - 1:30 PM)
e-mail: StatesboroUU@yahoo.com; 489-8338 (UUFS phone)

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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

Past President: Dixie Aubrey

StatesboroUU@yahoo.com

USEFUL CONTACTS

Building Maintenance: Caryn Self-Sullivan

StatesboroUU@yahoo.com

Care-Ring Co-Coordinator: Martha Hughes

StatesboroUU@yahoo.com

Children's Religious Education: Rebekah Cole

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.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
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