

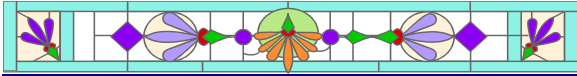


UUFS Newsletter - June 2011

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.



Sunday Services

10:30 - 11:30 AM: worship service
11:30 AM: refreshments/social break
11:45 AM - NOON: adult "talk-back"
(group discussion on sermon topic)

June 5

Blessing of the Animals

(Bring your pet for a blessing - or, if it is raining so that we have to meet inside, bring a surrogate for your pet, such as a photo or toy.)

Rebecca Zeigler

June 12

Original Sin? Original Evil?

(Is evil inherent in the world? Is it inherent in human nature? What can we do about it?)

Rebecca Ziegler

June 19

Honoring our Fathers and Celebrating Juneteenth

(This Sunday service is dedicated to honoring our fathers and celebrating the abolition of slavery.)

Rev. Jane Page

June 26

The Joy of Cooking

(Learn how cooking can nurture one's spirit.)

June Hackle



Adult's Religious Education

UU Philosophy Group – June 12, 7pm
**topic: Relationship/Responsibilities across the Interdependent Web*



Children's RE News

*Children's RE *WILL NOT* meet during the summer.

*Childcare *WILL* continue to be provided during services.

*Children's RE will resume in August, led by our NEW Director of Religious Education, Jason Blizzard. See page 5 for more information.

SANGHA SUNDAYS

On Sunday, June 12, the first meeting of our UUFS Sangha will take place from 2:00 - 3:00 pm at the UUFS building.



This is a meditation group designed to complement the individual practices of participants. It will be silent, breathing-focused sitting to cultivate mindfulness and being. The goal is to meet once or twice a month, depending on the needs and wants of the participants. If you are interested in participating in the first Sangha Sunday, please contact Jason Blizzard at jasonblizzard@gmail.com



Chalice Lighter News

By Greg Brock

Chalice Lighter Call 154 is concluded...it was another big success. UU Fellowship of Beaufort has received a check for \$27,500 to help them renovate the property they have purchased to become their first church home. This is a wonderful result of the generosity of more than 1,200 District UUs who want to support the growth of UUism in our area. Thanks to each of you!

A grant based on Chalice Lighters' response to Call 155 will be made to UUC of Asheville, to help the church hire a second full-time minister. Growth in membership and programs has made such an addition to the church's staff not only wise, but essential. Please watch for the Call Letter in your mail in the next few days, and respond promptly.

At its April 29th meeting, the Chalice Lighters' Committee decided to expand its committee membership so that it has an active member in each of the seven congregational clusters in the district. The committee will be in touch with cluster leaders to talk about how they might work together to support the growth of Chalice Lighters and support congregations applying for Chalice Lighter grants. Jane Page has been appointed to represent the southern cluster on this committee.

Several members of our congregation made the commitment to become Chalice Lighters last month. Thanks to all of you who joined in this effort!!

Not yet a Chalice Lighter? Make your pledge with our online pledge form at <http://www.tjdistrict.org/chalicalightersform.html>

Our UU kayakers had a great time on the lake at George L. Smith Park on May 22. We had a full group of 20 people, and we paddled about 4.5 miles over three hours in a record-setting 96 degrees. But amazingly, under the shade of the cypress trees and on the water, it was comfortable with even an occasional cool breeze. It was a great time to see many birds nesting. With so much enthusiasm for the trip, we might consider making this a regular congregational outing every Fall and Spring.



JD, Cynthia, Rick, Ivan and Cliff kayaking

Feeding Statesboro!



THANK YOU, UUFS Team for the GREAT job you did today feeding 90 folks some delicious food at Rebecca's Cafe soup kitchen. UUFS Team members contributing today included: Dixie Aubrey, Sonya Huber, Bob DeLaar, Paul Ziegler, Lauren Fowler, Kathy Whitaker, Eric Whitaker, Dee Liston, Jen DeMott, Bert Raulerson, Al Raulerson, Nancy Herring, Janice Cawthorn, Uma Steinhauer, Bill Herring, Mary Margaret Jones, Cynthia Frost, Shari Barr, and Rev. Jane. There were many smiling faces walking out that door on May 17, thanks to these folks.



**WANT TO HELP?
JOIN US, TUESDAY, JUNE 21ST
FROM 10AM TIL 2PM AT
REBECCA'S CAFE**





New Member Corner: Lori Criswell

A person commented to me the other day that they recalled one of the first few times I attended UU. They reminded me of how much emotional, intellectual, and ultimately spiritual ground I have covered in the last several years. I spent many years trying to make my religion (which I termed a "relationship") w-o-r-k, and only reaped a sense of dissatisfaction and incongruence.

I have clear memories of a favorite childhood outfit. I don't recall how, but someone cared enough for me to hand-knit a gorgeous red vest for me with an amazing, electric blue, 3-D representation of the Cookie Monster right in the center. I loved that vest with a passion, and my mother finally pointed out the day when my love affair would have to end - I simply couldn't get it over my shoulders any longer!

Up to now, my religious experience has been similar. I love the security offered by a faith community, the symbolism of rituals I find meaningful, the guidance of basic moral principles, and the joy of shared hopes and concerns. I see in UU an ability to stretch and grow with me spiritually, intellectually, morally - in every area. Because even though I am an adult, I will **always** need growing room.



John Paul, Cynthia, Walden, Mason, June, Abby, Katie and Grace admire one of the three new additions they just planted.



Abby (Lori's daughter) dancing and drumming during Children's RE on May 15th



Jason Blizzard Accepts DRE Position

by DRE Search Committee Members Beth Butterfield, Jane Page, and Teresa Winn.

We are pleased to announce that Jason Blizzard has accepted our offer to become our first Director of Religious Education. He will begin this part time position on July 1. Jason graduated cum laude in May 2007 from Mercer University, receiving a BA in Christianity and History.

He was a member of Theta Alpha Kappa (Religious Studies Honor Society) and the President of Phi Alpha Theta (History Honor Society). He has also completed three semesters of coursework toward a M. Ed. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling at Georgia Southern. Since May 2010, he has served as the Prevention Coordinator for Southeast Prevention Services in Statesboro. Jason has been attending our fellowship since January of this year and has undertaken an intense study of Unitarian Universalism during this time.

As part of his duties as DRE, Jason will coordinate volunteers for teaching our children & youth as well as teach classes himself. Additionally he will supervise our child care staff and will be the point person for scheduling of adult religious education. Jason is proficient in the use of computer programs to construct and compose media and materials that will be used in religious education programs. Additionally he enjoys singing, playing the guitar and piano! These musical abilities will undoubtedly be a bonus in his work with us. Jason really enjoys working with children and adults. He shared the following statement with his acceptance of this position.

“I am pleased to have the opportunity to serve the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Statesboro as the Director of Religious Education. This fellowship has given me much in a short time, and I am grateful to be able to give back in this way. I look forward to what is to come as we continue to walk the paths of our spiritual journeys together.”

Please join us in welcoming Jason Blizzard to this position.



Mavpole Dancers Celebrating



Shari Sharing

By: Shari Barr

You may have noticed the big two page ad in the summer issue of "UU World" magazine which is labeled Food... and Faith. The ad is sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Animal Ministry, formerly known as UUFETA, UUs for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. I joined this UU Affiliate organization in 2006, when I first learned of its existence. That was the year I attended my first General Assembly, to see Jane walk across the stage in recognition of her having earned preliminary fellowship, on the path to becoming our minister. One of many attractions at every GA is a huge hall of exhibits, and it was there, at the St. Louis, Mo. GA that I visited UUFETA's booth. Reading the literature they provided and chatting with the volunteers staffing the booth led to my deciding that day, to no longer eat cows or pigs. I did continue eating chickens, fish and sea creatures, at that point.

Some of you may recall that it was at the conclusion of the Ten Day Silent Vispassna Retreat in November 2008, that I accepted their invitation to continue the spiritual practice of non-harm to all creatures, for a full year. Part of non-harm to all creatures was to eat a vegetarian diet. At the end of that year, I did not want to resume eating animals. I discovered that I was healthier and happier, knowing no other creatures had to die in order for me to live.

The most recent chapter in my personal ethical eating journey has been meeting Dr Will Tuttle and reading more of his book The World Peace Diet. Since his visit April 8, I have abstained from all dairy products. UUs are better informed than many, so you probably already know that vegetarians are those who abstain from eating the flesh of animals. As a vegetarian, I eat fruits, vegetables, grains and nuts. Vegans (pronounced vee-guns) abstain from the use of all animal products. For me, that is not using dairy products or prepared foods that contain dairy products. I'm reading lots of labels lately!

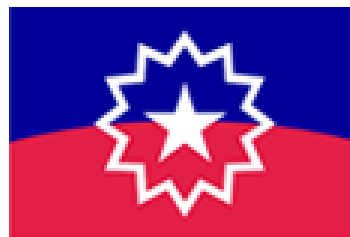
The health benefits of this diet are now well documented. I am lighter and healthier than I have been in years. The bigger motivation for me, though, has been my conscience. Learning as much as I have about how animals are institutionally abused has led to my unwillingness to support commercial dairy or "meat" industries. I can live healthfully without feeding on the misery of other creatures. I invite you to check out pages six and seven in the World magazine, or visit www.uuam.org/whoweare.php (At that web address, you might recognize yourself in a picture I posted there from our previous Animal Blessing service at UUFS.)

I do believe that each of us is on her or his own journey, and one of the benefits of our shared faith is our pledge to accept and support one another, whatever our individual paths might be. I invite you to let me know if you'd like to share your journey or learn more about mine. I also invite you to attend the next UU Philosophy discussion at 7pm Sunday, June 12. Our topic will be "Relationships/ Responsibilities across the Interdependent Web."

Love, Shari

What is Juneteenth?

In the United States, slavery began shortly after the first English colonists arrived and lasted until the Emancipation Proclamation came into effect on January 1, 1863. On that date Texas was largely controlled by forces fighting for the Confederate States, which opposed the abolition of slavery. On June 19, 1865, Union soldiers arrived to take control of Texas and enforce the emancipation of slaves in the state. In Galveston, Texas, the newly freed slaves held large public celebrations and so laid the base for future Juneteenth activities. The word 'Juneteenth' resulted from the words 'June Nineteenth' being slurred together in speech.



After 1865, Juneteenth was mainly celebrated in Texas. Parks have been established on land bought by former slaves to hold Juneteenth celebrations in the Texan cities of Austin, Houston and Mexia. However, it is now a state holiday or observance in more than half of the US states and there is a campaign for Juneteenth to become a national holiday or observance throughout the nation. This day is an opportunity for people to celebrate freedom and equal rights in the United States.

(excerpts from <http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/us/juneteenth>)



General Assembly 2011 June 22-26, Charlotte, North Carolina

General Assembly (GA) 2011 in Charlotte will mark the 50th anniversary of the merger of the American Unitarian Association and the Universalist Church of America.

WANT TO GO WITH A GROUP? The UU Campus Ministry has reserved a Georgia Southern van (for students as well as our members) to leave on Thursday evening and return on Sunday. You would therefore register for only Friday and Saturday, since the Sunday morning worship service is open to the public.

Email Greg Brock, our campus advisor, at gbrock@georgiasouthern.edu, if you are interested in going with this group.



DO YOU LIKE TO SING?

The Fellowship Singers have fun planning, rehearsing, and singing.

We usually rehearse on two Wednesday evenings a month (1st and 3rd) 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).



Ministerial MUUsings

Let it be a dance – for everyone!

Jane Page, June 2011

Last week I led the Children's RE class under our little shelter in the backyard of the church. The theme for the class was "drumming and dancing." I shared with them about how drumming and dancing were often used in religious services and gave them a few drumming tips. We all took turns with our different percussion instruments, with the person holding my African djembe serving as the leader. Then came the time for the dancing – and I taught them a little peace dance that I had created to "This Little Light of Mine." I invited those who wanted to dance to join me and others could sing. Alas, only the little girls joined me. I smiled and the girls and I danced. But inside, I had a nagging feeling that I had somehow failed with this group of children – that even included my own grandsons who shook their head with a definite "NO" when I held out my hand in encouragement.

What is going on here? This is 2011. And this is a Unitarian Universalist congregation. Yet, the predominant culture is still one in which dancing – especially dancing in a circle while we sing about light and peace, etc. – is for girls. I can't help but think that at least one of those little boys may have wanted to dance with us, but it's not *cool* to do – even at UU. Of course, this Sunday School class on this day – like most of our Sunday School classes – is being led by a woman. And yes, she has a bit of an androgynous air about her – but she's still a woman. And this woman encouraging these young guys to release their fears and let their lights shine probably won't make a difference.

SO – this is a CALL to the men in our congregation. Men of all ages! Our boys need you. We all need you! We are thankful that Sean DeVine has been leading our group in some drama activities this year. Hallelujah! As we begin our planning this summer for our RE classes next year, we hope that more of you will join our efforts.

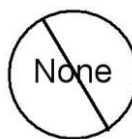
Last night in my yoga class, our teacher Rebekah Cole opened with a reading by Marianne Wilson called, "Our Deepest Fear." I looked it up on the internet today and have copied it below. Somehow, it seems appropriate to end this musing with this reading. I'll let you be the judge of whether or not it fits.

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, 'Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?' Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.



Year Round Worship Services!

For several years we've had more informal gatherings in the summer which did not necessarily include the traditional elements of a worship service – including music. However, the program committee has announced that beginning this summer, we will have worship services in the summer as well, complete with hymn singing and special music. Join us for worship at 10:30 every Sunday morning – all year round!



BAR NONE: Open to All Who Are Open to All

Join us each 2nd Wednesday at 6:30PM at Latte Da. Enjoy a cup of coffee or tea as we explore theology, cosmology, philosophy, and life.

Look for us to start up again in the fall!

Sponsored by:
the Unitarian Universalist Campus Ministry
Campus advisor: Dr. Greg Brock



FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

- **Sundays at 9:45AM** – choir practice at our UUFS building
- **Monday, June 6 – 5:30PM** – Board meeting at our UUFS building
- **Sunday, June 12 – 7:00-9:00PM** - UU Philosophy group, “Relationship/Responsibilities Across the Interdependent Web” (UUFS Building)
- **Wednesday, June 8 – 12 NOON** – UU Guy’s Lunch, Latte Da on South Main, coordinated by Greg Brock.
- **Tuesday, June 21 - 10:00AM - 2:00PM** – UU serves at Rebecca’s Café
- **Sunday, June 19 – 5:00PM** – May newsletter deadline

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- **June 22 – 26** – General Assembly, Charlotte, NC
- **October 8** – Cluster Workshop, Charleston, SC



June Birthdays!

Happy Birthday to:

Kaley W – June 3rd
Madeleine Bentley – June 10th
Dennis Baker – June 14th
Viva C – June 14th
Lukas L – June 15th
Donna Jones – June 17th
Audrey F – June 25th
Laura Milner – June 28th
Jim Nichols – June 29th

*initials are used for children’s last names for privacy reasons.

(apologies to anyone we missed)



If you know of anyone in the congregation who has a special joy, concern, or illness, please contact MARTHA HUGHES, Care-Ring Coordinator (StatesboroUU@yahoo.com with Martha Hughes in the subject line).

Support and Discussion Group formed for Youth in Statesboro

By Chris Booker, Lori Criswell, and Teresa Winn



Inspired by the discussion at a Welcoming Congregation workshop, our small group has been working to create a support and discussion group for youth in the community who have been dealing with being bullied. We have had invaluable support and assistance from the Gay Straight Alliance at Georgia Southern University. The creation of this group is a response to several national high profile cases recently where young people who were being bullied committed suicide. Many of these youth were homosexual or otherwise outside of the binary gender paradigm. Of course, bullies will typically use sexual slurs towards their victims to suggest that they are homosexual even when they are not. The vision of our group was to be open to all youth who are being bullied regardless of sexual orientation or identity.

While we feel that there is a need for such a group, we have faced several challenges in our attempts to get this group up and running. Dates have been set and flyers have been placed in areas frequented by teens in the community, such as the mall and the comic book store. But so far, there have been no youth in attendance. We have taken a summer hiatus from holding any more meetings, but we hope to get it going in the fall. We hope to involve counselors from Statesboro High in our attempts to reach the youth. We have also explored the possibility of having these meetings in another venue than the church or on a day other than Sunday afternoons.

We feel that this is one way in which our fellowship can be more welcoming to all members of our community, as well as fulfilling an important service need to young people. While we have faced hurdles, we intend continue our efforts. Any assistance, suggestions, or input from members of the congregation would be gratefully received.

If you have some ideas to share, or can offer assistance in getting this ball rolling we welcome you to join in our efforts. Contact Chris Booker at booker.chris@gmail.com.



A NOTE FROM REV JANE...

This summer I plan to facilitate a small group using UUA's Evensong materials. These materials were developed by Barbara Hamilton Holloway for eight gatherings of small group worship and sharing. The group that forms would be a "covenant group" that remains together throughout the 8 gathering series. This may be especially good for new folks who want to get to know others better -- but it's open to all. If you have already done Evensong I -- and want to do it again, that is fine.... but, let me know that so that I can give others the first openings for this. We will probably meet on Sunday evenings -- but I'm open to other possibilities. To RSVP, email me at revjanepage@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.



Fellowship Calendar On-line

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

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



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 June Hackle
(StatesboroUU@yahoo.com with June Hackle in the subject line) or Rev. Jane Page
(revjanepage@yahoo.com or 764-7845).

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

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

Director of Religious Education

DRE: Jason Blizzard

e-mail: jasonblizzard@gmail.com; 489-8338 (UUFS phone)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President: Shari Barr

StatesboroUU@yahoo.com

Vice-President (Membership): June Hackle

StatesboroUU@yahoo.com

Secretary: Steven Rowe

StatesboroUU@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Bill Herring

StatesboroUU@yahoo.com

Past President: Teresa Winn

StatesboroUU@yahoo.com

USEFUL CONTACTS

Building and Grounds Committee Chair: Rodney Fowler

StatesboroUU@yahoo.com

Care-Ring Coordinator: Martha Hughes

StatesboroUU@yahoo.com

Religious Education: Beth Butterfield

StatesboroUU@yahoo.com

Hospitality Committee: Paul Ziegler

StatesboroUU@yahoo.com

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Editor: Dee Liston

The deadline for the monthly newsletter is nine days before the end of the month. Please send submissions to joy4education@yahoo.com or StatesboroUU@yahoo.com

