



UUFS Newsletter – March 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 - 12:30 PM: religious education for children
11:45 AM - 12:30 PM: adult "talk-back"
(group discussion on sermon topic)

March 6

“Russian Orthodox Belief and Church”

(An exploration orthodoxy, symbols and beliefs of the Russian Orthodox Church and how it fared under the communist regime.)

Speaker: Greg Brock

March 13

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

“Play the music, Say the words”

(The service today will celebrate the music and poetry written by or perhaps adopted by Unitarian Universalists. Come lift your hearts in word and song!)

Rev. Jane Page

March 20

“John Aikin (1747-1822)”

(This service will present the life and contributions of Unitarian theologian and writer, John Aikin.)

Speaker: Douglass Thomson
Professor of Literature and Philosophy, GSU

March 27

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

“Let the sunshine, let it rain”

(Spring is here! Bring on the sunshine, bring on the rain. This sermon will explore the realities of "sunshine and rain" for nature and our hearts.)

Rev. Jane Page



Children’s Religious Education

Little Kids' Class (2-5 years old)

March 6: I'm part of a big world! (4th principle)
(Teacher: Abby T.)

March 13: The Light in Me Says Hello to the Light in You (4th principle) (Teacher: Beth B.)

March 20: Welcoming Spring! (Teacher: Beth B.)

March 27: All people need a voice (5th principle)
(Teacher: Beth B.)

Big Kids' Class (1st-5th grade) –

Covenant Coach June Hackle

Theme for March and April: Wisdom from World Religions and Humanist Teachings

March 6: Intro to world religions, and what it means to be UU (Teacher: Beth B.)

March 13: Intro to Buddhism (Teacher: Sonya Huber)

March 20: Ostara / Spring Equinox – Earth-Based Spiritualities (Teacher: TBA)

March 27: Theater Games! (Teacher: Sean DeVine)

Youth Group (6th-12th grade) –

Facilitator Kate Beck

Adult’s Religious Education

UU 102 – Intro to Membership – March 20, 9 a.m.

What Moves Us Series – UUFS,
Sundays, 5:00-6:30pm

*February 27 – Margaret Fuller

*March 13 – George de Benneville

*March 27 – Charles Chauncy

*April 10 – Sophia Lyon Fahs

*April 24 – James Luther Adams

Welcoming Congregation Workshops – UUFS

March 20 – 5:00-7:00PM

Experiences of BGLTQ youth, led by Teresa W.

April 17 – 5:00-7:00pm

Transgender Experiences, led by Jane P.

Fred's Courageous Love

By Laura Milner and Dixie Aubrey

Fred Richter has been standing on the side of love in the Statesboro community for almost 40 years. As an English professor at Georgia Southern University, he chose to live “out of the closet” as a “gay Christian” in a committed relationship with his partner, Bob, decades before it was safe or socially acceptable to do so. He mentored countless GLBTQ students in and out of crisis, and he advised the first gay student organization, originally the Triangle Club and now the Gay-Straight Alliance, for many years when no one else was willing or able to come forward.



(Left to Right: Jane, Shari, Bob, Fred, Laura and Dixie)

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Fred was instrumental in convincing the Georgia Southern administration to add sexual orientation to the University's non-discrimination policy, a move which led to more GLBTQ faculty and staff coming to work here without fear of being fired because of who they love. He wrote a regular column about gay issues for the campus newspaper and was the first person appointed to direct the GLBTQ Office, which later morphed into Multicultural Programs. In the 1990s, he organized GLOBE – Gay Lesbian Or Bisexual Employees – for adults on campus, which evolved into a campus-and-community group. He and Bob hosted several potluck suppers at their home, sometimes attended by 40 or 50 guests.

Through the 1980s, '90s, and early 2000s, faculty in psychology, sociology, nursing, health, education, and English relied on Dr. Richter to speak to their students about homophobia, gender identity, and other issues related to sexual orientation – service work that required enormous time, energy, and courage, and work for which he received no academic kudos or credit. He did it for love.

Off campus, Fred served as a founding board member for Amethyst, Statesboro's first nonprofit agency for people with HIV/AIDS. In addition to serving on the board, he drove clients to doctors' appointments, repaired broken windows and vans, and raised funds for the organization via walkathons and other efforts. For decades he has worked through his church, Trinity Episcopal, and with other congregations across the region to create a more caring community for people who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, or questioning. He has long been active in Integrity, a national advocacy group for GLBTQ Episcopalians, as well as a board member for Stand Out Youth, a Savannah-based nonprofit that provides education and support for gay teens.

Fred's mission work does not stop with the GLBTQ community. He has joined other area Episcopalians on multiple mission trips to Jarabacoa, a village in the Dominican Republic where he has formed long-term relationships with children and adults as they labor together to build a church and school. He has done similar work in Belize and twice in Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina, offering his gifts as a carpenter, electrician, and plumber to help build or re-build after disasters. A few weeks from now, he will return to the Dominican Republic for another scouting trip to see where the need is greatest and to help identify the site of his group's next mission.

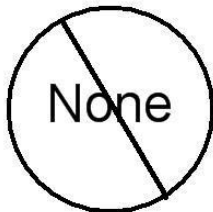
For all these years, Fred has provided a calm, intelligent voice at campus and community events, especially in the 1980s and '90s when it was risky to be openly gay or lesbian in southeast Georgia. On many occasions, he stood alone on a stage or in a classroom and quietly deflected hostile people and rude comments. Many young people and newcomers to Statesboro may not know Fred, but they, and all of us, owe him a huge debt of gratitude for the freedom we now have to live openly in our community with whomever we love. With grace and courage, he has made it his life's work to stand firmly on the side of love, no matter the cost. We would not be standing *here now* if he had not stood *there then*. We can think of no one more deserving of this first annual Standing on the Side of Love Award than our beloved friend, brother, and yogi, Fred Richter.



UUs and Allies gather to honor retired university English professor Dr. Fred Richter for his "Courageous Love" over three decades, mentoring GLBTQ students, advising the first gay student organization and helping to convince the college administration to add sexual orientation to its nondiscrimination policy, making our town a safer place for GLBTQ students, faculty and staff. Dr. Richter also helped establish the first local nonprofit agency serving people with HIV/AIDS.

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.



Topic for March 9: Who is My Neighbor? Religious & Moral Implications of Anti-Immigration Legislation

Come join us as we explore our drive to love & be loved.

Facilitated by Jane Page

Sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Campus Ministry



(Left to Right: Larry, Tina, Mary, Kathy and Bob)

YAY TEAM!
by Cheerleader -- Jane

On Tuesday, February 15, the UUFS Feeding Statesboro team fed 106 hungry folks at "Rebecca's Cafe." Our team was capably led by **Captain Kathy Smith** this month. Since school was out for winter vacation, we had children coming with their parents or other caregivers. Those who did not like chili had the option of a delicious peanut butter and jelly sandwich lovingly made by the young folks on our team. Some of our regular team members were out of town, though, and we were short-handed. Indeed, Kathy and Larry Smith worked TOO far beyond the call of duty. So this is a **CALL** for more members!! If we have more folks on the team, then perhaps when some are out of town, others can fill in. We especially need folks to help clean up. The clean up time begins about 1:15. If some folks could arrange to take their lunch hour then, that would be awesome. We just do this once a month (on the third Tuesday) -- and it **REALLY** is rewarding! And, we could use folks to help prepare food -- even if you can't come on Tuesdays. We will be moving in March or April to the old Sallie Zetterower school and will probably need to have some Saturday clean up days there. I'll send a "call-out" later about those days. If you want to join our team, just email me! Go **TEAM!**

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).



Congregation with SSL Banner February 2011

Shari's Sharings: What's on my mind and heart

By: Shari Barr



My friend Mary decided several years ago that she was going to celebrate her birthday all month, instead of just one day of the month. Similarly, I feel like I have been celebrating LOVE the whole month of February, not just on Valentine's Day. We started with a Love Fest Farewell and Pot Luck Party for Dick and Nancy Hutcheon the first weekend of February. UU Dick and his Baha'i wife Nancy have been a well-loved couple in Statesboro for the last seven years, but moved away to be nearer a new grandchild. Many UUs and our friends, the Baha'is, gave them a loving send-off.

The next weekend UUs and other friends of Dr. Fred Richter gathered to stand on the side of love at a Potluck Valentine party, honoring Fred for his courageous love, lived out here in Bulloch County for the last forty years. On Sunday, our Standing on the Side of Love theme continued as the Welcoming Congregation Committee sponsored Professor Chris Johnson whose topic was "God is Love." Look elsewhere in the newsletter for the photographs of UUs and friends with our big gold Standing on the Side of Love banner, or check us out online at www.standingonthesideoflove.org.

UU Laura Shelton's colleague Dr. Celeste Gonzalez from the University of Arizona visited Statesboro and spoke on Thursday about the status of immigration reform in Arizona now. On Friday, Laura invited UUs to her house for another potluck where friendly people gathered to exchange ideas with Celeste and one another over a feast of Hispanic foods. Roasting marshmallows over the fire seemed to appeal to children from varying ethnic backgrounds! It is good to gather in love.

As I write this on Sunday afternoon, I'm looking forward to participating later today in a circle discussion at our Fellowship building on "Programs that Feed our Souls." If you are, or were, not able to participate in that, please feel free to email or call me to let me know your ideas.

Statesboro UUs will have two more opportunities, that I know of, this month, to gather in love and celebrate with one another. RE Coordinator Beth Butterfield is planning a party for the children of the Fellowship on Friday the 25th, at the Fellowship building at 6 pm. Children are welcome to bring guests -- just let Beth know a number so there will be sufficient pizza!

On Saturday, February 26, we are all invited to the home of Dee Liston and Jen DeMott (313 Palomino Path) to celebrate their recent sacred commitment ceremony. Bring your food for the potluck at 6:30 that evening, followed by wedding cake and champagne toasts. Being involved in a Fellowship where we celebrate diversity, inclusion, community and equality has made it easy, this lovely month of February, for me to count my blessings. May it ever be so!! Love, Shari



Welcoming Ceremony for Lillian Dior Rowan-Bender, Sunday, February 27 –

During the Sunday morning service, we will welcome Lilly (daughter of Kim and Jo-Lyn) into our midst. Come share the love on this delightful occasion.



Ministerial MUUsings

“Aren’t we already welcoming?”

I can just imagine there are some folks who might be thinking: *Hmmm.... Just this month of February.... Let’s see. Our congregation gave its first “Standing on the Side of Love” Courageous Love Award to a man in our community who was recognized for his decades of advocacy for LGBTQ rights. We lifted up his story at a special Valentine supper and in other ways. We also had a Sunday speaker share about his life as a gay man living with HIV. On February 26, we will celebrate the sacred commitment of two women in our congregation with a special reception hosted by some of our members, including our welcoming congregation committee. And finally, on February 27, we will be thrilled with the opportunity to provide a special welcoming ceremony for the child of another lesbian couple. SO – Aren’t we ALREADY a welcoming congregation??*

The answer is YES and NO. Yes, we involve ourselves in many activities that would be considered as demonstrating that we are welcoming to gay, lesbian bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (GLBTQ) folks. But no – we are NOT listed by UUA as a “welcoming congregation.” In looking at the UUA site, I noted that of the 13 churches in Georgia with more than 30 members, only three did not have the little rainbow chalice by their name. And we were one of those. Is that because we are LESS welcoming than others? No. The reason we do not have that rainbow chalice by our name is that, until 2010, we had not formally attempted to follow UUA’s program of workshops that lead to welcoming congregation status. (I could explore why it took us so long – but not today.) We *did* decide to do this beginning with our first workshops in the summer of 2010, however, and the journey has been one that has been very valuable. Hopefully, by now, most of you have been involved in at least one of our workshops, and you would agree with me! Our plan is to complete three more workshops in the coming months, and move toward that important vote to become an official welcoming congregation.

We believe that our March workshop will be especially interesting. On Sunday, March 20, from 5 to 7 p.m. we will be hosting a panel of GLBTQ young folks, sharing their experiences. We not only want to learn about their “joys and concerns,” we want to hear from young folks how our congregation may facilitate and encourage our schools and community to be more open to GLBTQ youth. We hope that you will join us in this effort!



Note – Dates, times, and topics of future Welcoming Congregation Events:
March 20, 5 to 7 p.m., Experiences of GLBTQ Youth
April 17, 5 to 7 p.m., Transgender Experiences
May 15, 5 to 7 p.m., What Now? Moving Forward as a Congregation.

*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).*



March Birthdays!

Happy Birthday to:

Gloria Crum – March 3rd
 John Paul S. – March 5th
 Trent Maurer – March 16th
 Sarah B. – March 20th
 Martha Hughes – March 24th
 Rick Barr – March 27th
 Garry Smith – March 28th
 Bill Herring – March 29th

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

(apologies to anyone we missed)



Mason, Matilda and Chase in Children's RE Room



FELLOWSHIP EVENTS



- Sundays at 9:45AM** – choir practice – at our UUFS building
- Tuesday, March 7 – 5:30PM** – Board meeting at our UUFS building
- Wednesday, March 9 – 12 NOON** – UU Guy's Lunch, The Clubhouse (new bowling alley), coordinated by Greg Brock.
- Friday, March 11 – 6:30PM** – Fun and Games Night, UU
- Sunday, March 13 – 7:00-9:00PM** - UU Philosophy group, "Does the Arc of the Universe Really Bend toward Justice?"
- Tuesday, March 15 – 10:00AM – 2:00PM** – UU serves at Rebecca's Café (contact Kathy Smith for details)
- Sunday, March 20 – 5:00PM** – April newsletter deadline

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Tuesday, March 1 – 7:00PM** – Mary Carr, author of Lit to speak at Georgia Southern's Performing Arts Center
- Wednesday, March 3 – 10:00AM – 4:00PM** – Red Earth Farm, Bartram Environmental Writing Institute workshop with Janisse Ray
- June 22 – 26** – General Assembly in Charlotte, NC

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
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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)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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StatesboroUU@yahoo.com

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StatesboroUU@yahoo.com

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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