



UNISON

January 2009

No. 775

A Month of Sundays

4 *The Fire of Commitment—Anna Olsen*

What can we gain from being a congregation in association with thousands of others? Anna Olsen will give examples of the exciting work being done by the UUA on our behalf and what we can anticipate in the coming months. You will especially be challenged to think about your personal commitment to justice in our world. (Anna Olsen is the trustee to the Unitarian Universalist Association from our Thomas Jefferson District.)

11 *Guest Speaker—the Rev. Dr. Scott Dillard*

Dr. Dillard, who has just retired as director of The Mountain School for Congregational Leadership, will speak about nonviolent communication. Scott is an ordained interfaith minister who regularly fills pulpits throughout the southeast. He is a graduate of The New Seminary and is an associate professor of Rhetoric in the Department of English, Speech, and Journalism at Georgia College and State University in Milledgeville, Georgia.

18 *One Human Family, One Earth, One Destiny—the Rev. Roy W. Cole*

We are the first of our kind to SEE the earth from a distance, and thus our home planet is for us an Icon, something to be contemplated in order to discern our collective human vocation to be a caretaker of all we behold. God's purposes for creation have been entrusted to all of us. Can our minds, imagination, and ethics grasp such a vocation, shared with our Creator? The Rev. Roy Cole is assistant rector at the Episcopal Church of the Advent.

25 *The Mountain Quartet*

A wonderful singing group from The Mountain who will give a service of songs on peace and harmony, with some interactive audience participation. Shelley Jackson Denham, who has a number of songs in the UU hymnal *Singing the Living Tradition*, is a part of this group.

Meg's Musings

As you know, instead of taking my sabbatical in a six-month stretch, I'm taking it a month at a time, two months per year. This is easier on the church, and it works well for me too. We love a win-win situation. This month's sabbatical theme is "Peace and Harmony." You are going to hear some fine speakers talk about peace, and you will hear the Mountain Quartet, whose music is dear to the hearts of many UUs around the southeast. I'm going to be writing again, but more than that, I'm going to be traveling and having experiences that will replenish me. After seven years as your minister, I begin to wonder if I have told you everything I know, reflected with you about everything that is of interest to me, and that you've heard all my stories twice. That's probably why congregations send their ministers on sabbatical—so they will come back with new stories!

This is your church, so I urge you to come to services while I'm gone. Members and friends need to see one another, and the intangibles that create a haven of light and freedom are energized by the combination of the place, the message, the kids, youth and adults in attendance, their thoughts, their feelings, and their questions. And the smell of coffee, of course. The place is at its best when a good number of its people are there.

One thing that is beneficial about my being away is that I come back to look at everything with fresh eyes. I have a suggestion for you—a project while I'm gone. Experiment with looking at the church, while I'm away, with the eyes of a visitor. Ask yourself: how do these people feel about their church? What is important to them? What areas of the building do they particularly respect? What topics attract most of their energy? What is fun for them?

Pat Jobe will be providing emergency pastoral care. If you go to the hospital, please let the church office know, and they will get in touch with him.

We want peace and harmony for the world. We know, from the sage Lao Tse, that peace and harmony for the world start with peace and harmony in the nation. Peace and harmony in the nation start with peace and harmony in the churches. (I'm paraphrasing now.) Peace and harmony in the churches start with peace and harmony in the family. Peace and harmony in the family start with peace and harmony in our hearts. It's an overwhelming project, but we know where to start, right? Breathe. Pray. Meditate. Do what it is you do to move toward peace in your heart. It's good for the whole world.

News from the Membership Committee

Exploring UU—New to Unitarian Universalism or this church and want to find out more information? Please join us on Sunday, January 11, for a brief, informal Question and Answer session. The session will be held in Room 6 at the church, immediately following the sermon, and light snacks will be provided.

Path to Membership is coming! If you've been attending UUCS for a while and are interested in finding out what is involved in becoming a member, you'll want to attend the next Path to Membership class. A date has not been set yet, but look for it to be on a Saturday in February. More details will be announced soon.

COME ONE, COME ALL!

*Special Religious Education Workshops
with Sue Sinnamon,
TJ District Director of Faith Development
February 27 and 28*

Friday, February 27, 7:00—9:00 p.m.

Everyone in the congregation is invited to come and learn more about Religious Education and Lifespan Faith Development. There will be special activities for children and youth. Dessert, coffee, and hot chocolate will be served.

Saturday, February 28, 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Workshop for the Lifespan Faith Development Committee, members of the UUCS Board, and others particularly involved in Lifespan Faith Development in our congregation. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Sue Sinnamon is the full-time district director of Faith Development in the Thomas Jefferson District of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Her background includes Unitarian Universalist lifespan religious education, humanistic and transpersonal education, and lifespan models of spiritual growth and development. She has served on the Meadville Lombard Winter Institute Committee; taught "Creating Intergenerational Community" and "Spirituality in the Second Half of Life" at Star Island's Religious Education Week; served in the CMWD Consultants Program; chaired the Board of the Jung Institute of Chicago, and served on the Housing Commission for the City of Evanston, IL. In her twenty years of parish ministry, she has loved creating opportunities for intergenerational activities and in addition to extensive experience with social justice programming, she loves combining the arts with religious education. Sue believes that each part of our spiritual journey, from the earliest years through the second half of life, has its own integrity and lessons.

Sue lives in Williamsburg, VA, with her husband, John Kerr, who serves as the Episcopal chaplain at the College of William and Mary and Bruton Parish, and her cat, Bert the Bengal. Sue loves entertaining (especially the cooking), reading, and beaches.

UUCS Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes, December 14

In his treasurer's report (given by Ed Wilde), Ben said November was a good month, with a surplus of \$22,746. The auction netted \$11,201. Pledge income exceeded budget by \$5,664, putting us slightly ahead of budget year to date. A combination of a lot of things—a congregational meeting about our financial challenges, letters to congregants apprising them of their pledge status, the auction proceeds, November being a five-Sunday month—brought the budget back in line, Ed said.

We now have our certificate of occupancy for the garden level, with a \$41,000 total price tag for the project, which was paid for with a chalice lighter grant of \$26,000 and the rest out of pocket. Our Spartanburg County Foundation account has a balance of \$18,337 as of the end of October. The fund has also decreased as a result of recent market losses.

The Board voted to share the plate for the special Christmas Eve service offering. Half the plate will be given to the Park Hills fund.

In her minister's report Meg said:

- She was pleased with the fruitful, forward-moving tone of the November 16th congregational meeting to brainstorm financial solutions.
- She had lunch at Park Hills Elementary. The people of the school appreciate UUCS immensely.
- She met with the president of the South Converse Street neighborhood association and expressed interest in how UUCS may be involved.
- She will be performing a wedding for a couple who learned about UUCS through Penny Hatchell. The couple has also expressed an interest in attending our church.
- Speakers are scheduled for January to speak on "Peace and Harmony" while Meg is away on sabbatical.

In other business, the Board approved updated job descriptions for director of childcare and director of children's ministries as proposed by Interim DRE Kathleen Anderson.

The Board discussed possible candidates to fill a vacant slot on Leadership Development.

WINGO ALERT!

Mark your calendar for the second annual Wingo party sponsored by the Rainbow Group, Saturday, March 7. Wings, salads, mac and cheese, desserts, entertainment. All proceeds to benefit the church.

False Alarms Cost Us \$\$\$

If you are the last person in the building, please set the alarm. If you don't know the code, and you may at some point be the last person in the building, please call the church office at 585-9230 and someone will call you and tell you. **If the alarm goes off you must** call the 800 number posted by the alarm box and on the outside of the front door and use the code word (again call the office to get that word) in order for the police not to respond (do this after putting in the code to disarm the alarm). Thank you! We love that the building is used so much. Let's keep our costs down.

Wild Tic Tacs

The Wild Tic Tacs (otherwise known as the UUCS Children's Choir) will begin their 2009 season January 7th. All Tic Tac rehearsals are from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. every Wednesday. The Wild Tic Tacs are open to all children under eighteen. January 7th and 14th we will be discussing possible new projects for the Tic Tacs. Newcomers are welcome. If you have questions you can contact assistant music director, Kiya Heartwood, at (864) 595-3693 or kiya.heartwood@converse.edu.

Spartanburg Sierra Club

SIERRA CLUB MEETING—The club will meet on Thursday, January 22, at 7:30 p.m. at the church. Allyn Steele will speak on “Reducing Carbon Footprints: Moving toward Sustainability at Wofford College and the Spartanburg Day School.” Hear what these institutions are doing to reduce their emissions of carbon dioxide, one of the main gasses causing global warming. You will probably learn how you and the institution(s) you are associated with can reduce carbon emissions also.

SIERRA CLUB HIKE—Saturday, January 24, Croft State Park Nature Trail. This two-mile trail is rated easy. This scenic trail has its own beauty in the winter. We will learn about some of the plants and animals that inhabit the upstate in the winter. Come and join us for a nice winter walk followed by a tasty sandwich and hot soup downtown and more fellowship. Hike is open to the public. We will leave from the parking lot of the Unitarian Universalist Church at 9:00 a.m. Phone Jack Seitz for more details: office (864) 597-4589; home 948-1080. Hike goes rain or shine (you'll enjoy the hot soup more if it's raining or snowing—guaranteed).

A New Directory Is Coming

The UUCS 2009 Directory of Members and Friends will be published in mid-January. Please submit corrected or additional information in one of three ways: (1) email it to membership@uucs.org; (2) call the church office at 585-9230; or (3) make the corrections on the hard copy on the table in the Fellowship Hall (under bulletin board). Deadline to make any changes is January 11, 2009. Questions? Contact Mary Miles (donmarymiles@bellsouth.net or 576-6094).

Social Concerns

Those who are less fortunate need lots of warm foods to nourish their bodies and their souls. Please help us keep the Total Ministries food barrel filled with soups, oatmeal, etc.

Our donation boxes have been relocated in the Fellowship Hall to allow room for people to approach and read the information on the bulletin boards. They are now to the right of the piano. Please don't allow their relocation to hinder your contributions.

Gently used coats, sweaters, sweatshirts, socks, and gloves are being collected at the Starbucks on East Main Street. Each week, they are given to the Soup Kitchen at Second Presbyterian Church for distribution. A special request has been made for socks, because many do not have them. Please drop off any contributions you have through the month of January. Yes, you can even hand over your donations at the drive-through.

December's “Share the Plate” monies were used to provide Christmas for a number of Park Hills children. Thirty-five children were each given their toy of choice and received a pair of pants, a shirt, shoes, and socks. Food was distributed to many of these families also.

New Year's Day was our day to help Fernwood Baptist Church host those who have temporarily found themselves in hard times and without shelter. There are currently two families in SPIHN (Spartanburg Interfaith Hospitality Network), totaling three adults and seven children, ages two to fifteen.

Our “Share the Plate” recipient for January will be Habitat for Humanity and the recipient for February will be Piedmont Care. For more details, please check out the Social Concerns bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

Chair, Launa Blackburn (LKBREAD@charter.net, 205-3633)

January Birthdays

Deb Williams (01/01), Allene Williamson (01/01), David Stack III (01/05), Kate Arrants (01/12), Andrew Costine (01/12), Valerie Stephenson (01/12), Shannon Bracey (01/14), David Hudnall (01/14), Ed Wilde (01/14), Lorie Conrad (01/15), Will Costine (01/19), Vincent Stephenson (01/21), Becca Tipton (01/21), Susan Stallard (01/22), Terry-Christy Patton (01/23), Rose Mary Kramer (01/24), Lisa Godenick (01/27), Turner Burgess (01/29).

IF YOU WANT TO KEEP GETTING THE UNISON IN THE MAIL!

The *Unison* is going predominantly on line as of February 2009. All friends and members who are able to access the *Unison* in this way are strongly encouraged to do so, as it will save the church both printing costs and postage. If you need to continue receiving the *Unison* through the mail, please fill in the information below and either leave the form in the church office, or mail it to: The Unison, Unitarian Universalist Church, PO Box 1942, Spartanburg, SC 29304. You may also phone in your request to the church office (864-585-9230), or e-mail it if you can to unison@uucs.org.

I would like to continued receiving the *Unison* through post office mail:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

Seniors' Stories Group—New Opportunity!

Our stories give us a sense of heritage, identity, place and time, moral lessons (or not), humor, adventure, and glimpses into different ways of being in the world. Our stories are worth telling and preserving. With that in mind, we are going to start a **Seniors' Stories Group** that will meet on Wednesday afternoons from 2:00 to 4:00 once or twice a month. We'll have light refreshments, a few minutes of conversation, and then in response to prompts, participants will write down some of the wonderful stories they have about their lives and adventures, and what things were like in the Olden Days. These stories will be published and displayed in the Fellowship Hall along with related photos and/or artifacts. This will be a wonderful way to preserve personal and family histories, get acquainted with our wise elders, and give us a greater sense of who we are now because of who we have been, and how far we have come. Some of the prompts will include, Our Toys, Changes, Manners and Dating, School Daze, Family Traditions, Pets and Animal Friends, Relationship Rules, Getting Away with It (or Not), Our Names, It's Just How We Were Raised, Realizations, Adventures, Turning Points, Poignant Moments, and Special Gifts. If you are over sixty and are interested in being part of this group, know someone over sixty who would be interested, or if you would be willing to help scribe for someone in the group who prefers not to write independently, please get in touch with Kathleen Anderson at uucsdre@yahoo.com or cell #494-3205. **Our first meeting will be on Wednesday, January 21, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.**

Buddhist Meditation Group

Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m.

All are welcome.

Please call David Stack (542-1324) with questions.

Singarounds

Singarounds begin January 7th and will happen every Wednesday from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Kiya will be rehearsing the UUCS choir songs assigned by John Gault, working with those who would like to sing with the choir but can't make the Sunday morning rehearsals, those who'd like to learn to read music, or those who think singing might just be fun. A Singaround is very informal. All music suggestions are welcome. Kiya will be bringing in an assortment of music from madrigals to contemporary styles. No singing experience is necessary. All ages are welcome. Any questions, email Kiya at kiya.heartwood@converse.edu or call 864-595-3693.

Unison Deadline—18th of Each Month

Bulletin Deadline—Thursday Nights, 9:00

unison@uucs.org

Please don't leave material in the *Unison* mailbox without notifying Monnic (582-4492).

If you are not receiving "Happenings," our weekly electronic newsletter, be sure to go to our website at UUCS.ORG and sign up.

Kathleen's Corner—Messages from Lifespan Faith Development

It began to rain when I was coming down the mountains from Tennessee last week. When the windshield glazed and didn't clear, I realized it was sleet and turned on the heater. Woh, winter! I came to the big bridge leading down across the Nolichucky River gorge, and at the bottom I could see a patrol car with blue lights flashing. I wasn't really speeding, but I couldn't see what was happening and lightly touched the brakes. Suddenly the car began to slide, completely out of control on an invisible sheet of black ice. "Oh, my car! Oh, my body! Oh, my life! Oh, please!" My thoughts raced; I gripped the wheel, unable to correct, and wondered for a fleeting moment if a seat belt helps at all when you go over a cliff. Gravity and centrifugal force did their work beautifully, and I spiraled in great loops down the mountain, one, two, three, and a half turns, and slid to a graceful stop on the shoulder at the cliff's edge, facing oncoming traffic. Amazingly, I didn't hit anything, no one hit me, or each other, my engine was still running, and I heard the final strains of "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" on WNCW. Trembling and laughing, on the verge of tears, I just sat there, still breathing. It felt as if Death had knocked on my door, and when I answered I poked it in the eye and danced away, singing, "I Always Go Down the Mountain This Way, and Ain't It a Beautiful Thing?" But, a close call makes you think, "What if?" And "You never know!" I felt scared, stupid, lucky, grateful, like the recipient of some divine and undeserved grace, as if somehow I'd been given another chance. Why? Maybe there's something I'm supposed to do. I probably should play my guitar more. I called a few friends and told them I loved them.

Now, as Christmas chaos sorts itself back toward order and the New Year begins, I have been toying with ideas of resolutions, wondering how much good it does to use cloth grocery bags and no Styrofoam, and whether or not I should try that raw foods diet. I'm thinking about Life and Death, what God is or isn't, and I'm wondering if ANY of my thoughts are true, whether or not I have free will and a specific life purpose, and if so, what mine is and how to know what's right. Those are conundrums all right, but I bet I'm not the only one who wonders where that line is between culpability and innocence. Here's what I have figured out: resolutions are mostly silly, made to be broken, and yet another fine way to feel guilty. There are some things I can control and some things I can't, and the only business I need to mind is my own. There's no time to waste—we can't wait to do the things that will make us happy or tell the people we love how much we do. Change is inevitable and thoughts will always come and go, so it's best not to get too attached or agitated. Life and Death and God are delicious, mysterious food for dreams to chew on when I'm going to sleep, and I'll probably never understand them, but it's good to keep thinking about that stuff because if I ever do figure it out I will be rich. And finally, whatever Ultimate Reality may or may not be, it seems important to serve the highest good and do the best I can. Will I do that? Yeah, sometimes I will, I want to. Sometimes I'll be great; sometimes I'll fall short, and it's OK. Like all of us, I'm still becoming, and I'm feeling very grateful for another chance, and for this wonderful community that helps me do that in a deep and important way. And I *am* going to play my guitar more. Happy New Year! —*Kathleen Anderson*

Lifespan Faith Development Schedule for January 2009

Sundays

<p>January 4</p> <p>10:00 Adult Forums: Ethics with PK Weiss, Room 5 Elegant Universe with Marion Tisdale, Room 6 Coffee and Conversation, Fellowship Hall</p> <p>Senior High: UU Faith Discussion Group with Karen McKenzie and Teresa Hall, Hatcher House</p> <p>Junior High: Neighboring Faiths with Cathy and Christie Matthews, Hatcher House</p> <p>Children 6-10: Spirit Play, Stories from Judaism, Hatcher House</p>	<p>January 11</p> <p>9:00 Board Meeting, Room 5 Guatemalan Textile Products Sale—Foyer</p> <p>10:00 Adult Forums: Ethics with Margaret Schmidt, Room 5 Elegant Universe with Marion Tisdale, Room 6 Coffee and Conversation, Fellowship Hall</p> <p>Senior High: UU Faith Discussion Group with Karen McKenzie and Teresa Hall, Hatcher House</p> <p>Junior High: Neighboring Faiths with Cathy and Christie Matthews, Hatcher House</p> <p>Children 6-10: Spirit Play, Stories from Judaism, Hatcher House</p> <p>6:30 Lanier/Hatchell Covenant Group</p>	<p>January 18</p> <p>10:00 Adult Forums: Guest Speaker: Holly Williams—Spartanburg Charter Schools—Downstairs Hall Coffee and Conversation, Fellowship Hall</p> <p>Senior High: UU Faith Discussion Group with Karen McKenzie and Teresa Hall, Hatcher House</p> <p>Junior High: Neighboring Faiths with Cathy and Christie Matthews, Hatcher House</p> <p>Children 6-10: Spirit Play, Stories from Judaism, Hatcher House</p> <p>7:00 Jack Seitz Covenant Group</p>	<p>January 25</p> <p>10:00 Adult Forums: Ethics with Margaret Schmidt, Room 5 Elegant Universe with Marion Tisdale, Room 6 Coffee and Conversation, Fellowship Hall</p> <p>Senior High: UU Faith Discussion Group with Karen McKenzie and Teresa Hall, Hatcher House</p> <p>Junior High: Neighboring Faiths with Cathy and Christie Matthews, Hatcher House</p> <p>Children 6-10: Spirit Play, Stories from Judaism, Hatcher House</p> <p>1:00 Astrology—Jule Klotter and Rosemary Kramer</p>
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Weekdays

Mondays

Every Week:
6:30-7:45 Yoga (donations)
January 5
6:30 Finance Committee Meeting

Tuesdays

Every Week:
7:00 Buddhist Meditation
January 13
6:45 Rainbow Group
January 20
5:30 Converse
Psych Class with Jim Rentz and Kathleen Anderson
7:00 Diane Dixon Covenant Group

Wonderful Wednesdays

Every Week: 5:30 Pot Luck Supper

January 7

6:00 LFD Committee
7:00 Book Club
7:00 COC Meeting

January 14

6:45 Lost Christianities Group
Humanist Group

January 21

2:00-4:00 Seniors' Stories Group
6:30 LFD Committee Meeting
7:00 Marilyn Coltrane Covenant Group
DVD Video—*Sexuality and Spirituality* with Dr. Richard Moss, MD

January 28

Money Support Group--Jule Klotter

Thursday, January 22

6:45 PK Weiss Covenant Group
7:30 Sierra Club

Saturday, January 10

Teen Overnight Lock-In with Christie Matthews

Saturday, January 24

Sierra Club Hike

**Unitarian Universalist
Church of Spartanburg**

210 Henry Place
P.O. Box 1942
Spartanburg, SC 29304

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Return Service Requested

The Rev. Meg Barnhouse, Minister
 Worship Service: 11:00 a.m. Sundays
 John Gault, Church Musician
 Kathleen Anderson, Acting DRE
 Penny Hatchell, Church Administrator
 Church Office: Monday-Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

210 Henry Place (off South Converse Street by way of
 Hudson Barksdale) and on Wheeler Court
 Church Phone (864) 585-9230
 Website <http://www.uucs.org>.
 Regular e-mail: office@uucs.org
 Announcement for weekly e-mail: happenings@uucs.org

JANUARY 2009						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Wonderful Wednesdays 5:30 Potluck Supper	2	3	
4	5 6:30 Yoga	6 7:00 Buddhist Meditation	7 6:00 LFD Com 7:00 Book Club 7:00 CoC	8	9	10
11 12:00 Exploring UU 1:00 World Issues Group	12 6:30 Yoga	13 6:45 Rainbow Group 7:00 Buddhist	14 6:45 Lost Christianities Humanists	15	16	17
18 Unison deadline	19 6:30 Yoga	20 5:30 Converse Psych Class 7:00 Buddhist Meditation	21 2:00-4:00 Senior Stories 6:30 LFD Com DVD Video	22 7:30 Sierra Club Meeting	23	24 7:30 Sierra Club Hike
25 1:00 Astrology TOTAL Ministries	26 6:30 Yoga	27 7:00 Buddhist Meditation	28 Money Support Group	29	30	31