



UNISON

April 2009

No. 778

A Month of Sundays

5 ***Ancient Roses.* The Rev. Meg Barnhouse**

The word “rosary” and the phrase “sub rosa” are just two indications of the power of the symbol of the rose. Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote about it when he spoke of the Oversoul. What are some of the other layers in this beautiful flower?

12 ***Easter Sunday: Spirit of Life, Unquenchable.* The Rev. Meg Barnhouse**

“Quartet for the End of Time” was first performed in a Nazi Stalag. Prisoners and guards sat in the audience together to listen to the music written by a prisoner, performed by prisoners. Life emerges, the “green fuse” ignites, even in the most desperate situations.

19 ***Rising to the Occasion; Rabbi Talks about Jesus.* Rabbi Yossi Liebowitz**

One of our favorite speakers, Rabbi Yossi Liebowitz, will preach for us. He will be talking about Passover, Easter, and other matters on his mind.

26 ***Gaia Psalms***

A musical Earth Celebration in honor of Earth Day. Kiya Heartwood’s original classical composition will involve the Sunday morning choir and the Wild Tic Tacs, theater and ritual. Four artists will have created altars for the four ancient elements: fire, air, earth, and water.

The Mountain Quartet is coming the first Sunday in May!

Meg's Musings

My father is sitting at the kitchen table teaching my sixteen-year old trigonometry. He’s drawing a circle with a radius of one, talking about a guy standing in the sun and the shadow he casts. Sine, co-sine, and tangent. I do not understand what he is saying. I am middle aged and my brain sometimes feels hard as corrugated card board. It’s not stone, but it’s not flexible and juicy most of the time, either.

“Tangent is the ratio of the man to his shadow.” My son nods.

I say “don’t nod your head unless you really understand,” because I can tell he does not. He’s nodding in that way we do when all we mean is “I see your lips moving.”

As my father explains it to my son, I try to learn it too. It’s not working. Suddenly I have a thought that is heresy in my family. “I do not have to learn this.” O delicious thought. I do not have to learn this because I already have many things I do, and many things I need to know for the doing of the things I do, and this is not likely to be one of them. I must have smiled as I had that heretical thought, and my dad looked at me and asked “What?” I said out loud that I was smiling because I’d had the thought “I don’t have to learn this.” The reaction was predictable. We break a family taboo and we get a bemused confusion. Surely you did not say what you just said. If you did say it out loud, surely you did not mean it. They must not have understood you properly. You are not who they thought you were. You are not who they hoped you were. In our family we are eager to learn for the sake of learning. Our minds absorb languages, theology, politics, geography, physics, and math. We can be sitting around the living room and my dad will start a conversation by asking “What is two?” He is a genius, and he is perennially hungry to converse with smart people.

I’m smart, but not in the over-200 IQ range of my father and his siblings. I can enjoy a conversation about the theory of numbers, but more as an observer than as a participant. I also have newly acquired confidence in my lack of interest in a subject. If I’m not interested, that is okay. I do what I do and I don’t have to do everything. I have a broad range of interests, but they do not include metallurgy, the internal combustion engine, horse handicapping, cooking, or trigonometry. I can enjoy the passion of other people for these things.

Continued on page 2

Meg's Musings (continued)

Carl Jung wrote about differentiation as an element of the journey to wholeness. "I am this, and I am not that." Rabbi Edwin Friedman says that individuals (and churches) do better when they engage in self-definition. "I/we do this. I/we do not do that." To do and be one, two, four things with excellence, vim, and élan is far better than to drag yourself out trying to be everything to everybody.

This church is a place where we can find out who we are and who we are not. I have recently run into some of my limits as a minister. There are certain things I can do well and other things I can't do. There is no shame in that. Say there is a scale of 1-10, 10 being world-class, 1 being absolutely incompetent. If I am a 4 at something, I can work and work to become a 5 or a 6 at it. If I'm a 2 at something, I can work my head off to become a 3 at it. If I'm an 8 at something, I can work the same amount and become a 10, world-class. Why is it a good idea to work and work on something I don't do well and end up a 3? Wouldn't it be a better investment of time and energy to try to become world-class at two or three other things instead? The members of this church have many gifts. This is a place to find your good fit and practice getting really good at something. If there is a job to be done that requires some skill you don't have, no sweat. There is someone else who will be good at that thing. It's my belief that this church is an organism that needs each of us in our particularity—it needs exactly who we are. It needs us to be doing things we enjoy doing, not banging our heads against a wall trying to be something we're not. You are this. You are not that. I am good at this. I am not good at that. It's okay.

I love that my dad is crazy about teaching math. I love that my son is crazy about running for office and getting elected. I'm crazy about being a minister and a writer. If my dad saw a man standing in the sun, he would understand all the ratios between the man and his shadow. If my son saw a man standing in the sun he would want to go hang out, hear the man's story, get his vote. Someone else would want to know if the man needed some shade, a drink of water, a seat. I hope we would all think about inviting him to come to church.

A Delightful Evening of Music—April 25

A delightful evening of music with keyboardist extraordinaire Joy Finch, along with fine appetizers, desserts, and beverages, and a beautiful Campobello setting provided by Marlie and Bill Garlati are being given on April 25 from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m., to benefit our church budget. Whatever your cup of musical tea—jazz, rock, bluegrass, or musical theater—Joy plays, directs, and composes it all. We might even sing along a bit, too. A \$30 donation will go one hundred percent to our church and get you a ticket to a fine evening of entertainment, food, UU friends, and if we are lucky a beautiful Campobello sunset. Sign up on the sheet posted in the church fellowship hall or contact mgarlati@aol.com, 864-468-4499. We must know in advance if you are coming. Payment can be made to Ed Wilde or Bill Garlati prior to the event or at the door. Joy Finch and the Garlati have generously donated their talents, food, beverages, and home for this Auction 2008 item and we thank them for this much appreciated boost to our UUCS operations.

Mark your calendars now.

The UUCS Annual Congregational Meeting is

Sunday, May 17

after the service.

Lite bites will be served.

All members are encouraged to attend!

Friends welcome.

Come Make Your Voice Heard

—election of officers

—budget review

—other church business

Send comments, questions, suggestions to

President Kris McVey at

Pres@uucs.org

Wonderful Wednesdays

Wonderful Wednesdays are off to a fresh, new start. Beginning in April, the Wednesday evening meals will be prepared by various groups from our church. The first Wednesday of each month will still be potluck. The remaining Wednesdays will have meals prepared by covenant groups, committees, and even the Board. The standard cost for these delicious gourmet meals is only \$4.00 per person or \$8.00 per family.

April 1st will be a special potluck. We'll have a hot dog roast followed by the roasting of the Arthur State Bank mortgage that has been paid off with all the support from our "Burn the Mortgage" givers. So, plan to come and enjoy the food and fun. There is a sign-up sheet in the church foyer where you can volunteer to bring hot dogs, buns, salads, chips, etc. Come one, come all, and plan to have a great evening.

There are still three Wednesdays needing volunteers in April and in May too. So, let's be generous, cheerful, loving, committed, and ambitious and sign up for one of these open days. It's either that, or you will be getting phone calls and personal visits until you do volunteer (just kidding). You can sign up on the sheets in the church foyer or you can contact Angie Shuman at 573-2669 or angie0515@hotmail.com, or Norm Schoss at 541-7121 or ngschoss@yahoo.com.

This new program will run for the months of April and May. Wonderful Wednesdays will go on a summer break for the months of June, July, and August and will start back up in September. (Unless we have an overwhelming demand to continue during the summer.)

Unison Deadline—18th of Each Month

Bulletin Deadline—Wednesday Nights, 9:00

unison@uucs.org

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

Burn the Mortgage

Calling all pyromaniacs: we are going to burn the first paid-off mortgage on our new building! Only three more to go. We are celebrating this accomplishment on the evening of April 1 after Wonderful Wednesday supper. You may also want to take a piece of paper and write on it something you want to let go of at this time of the year. We will add our "closed chapters," completed tasks and outgrown beliefs to the fire. April 1 is the perfect night for lightning up.

Exploring UU

If you would like to learn more about Unitarian Universalism in general or the UU Church of Spartanburg in particular, please join Meg in Room 5 on Sunday, April 5, for a brief, informal question-and-answer session. This session will take place after the sermon, at around 12:30, and everyone is invited to attend and participate.

Canvass Kickoff

What a party! Over eighty UUCS members and friends attended the Canvass Kickoff on March 21, held at Duncan Estate. They were treated to special entertainment by the fabulous, energetic Wild Tic Tacs, Kiya Heartwood, Pat Jobe, and Michael Wray. Great desserts were prepared by Jan Jerome, Abby Fowler, Chuck Frank, Kathleen Wilde, P.K. Weiss, Barbara Tisdale, and Gene Sanders.

Many other people contributed to the success of this event: Linda Leible, Marion and Barbara Tisdale, Michael Wray, Mary and Don Miles, Christopher Cline (responsible for the lovely balloon bouquets), Palma and Mitch Eisner, and Steve Fowler and Norm Schoss, who helped with car parking: Special thanks goes to the Eisners for suggesting Duncan Estate as the venue and to their daughter and husband, Danielle and Corey Sanders, who own Duncan Estate and let the church use it free of charge!

And . . . if we've left anyone out that should be included in this listing of volunteers, please forgive us!

The Stewardship/Canvass Committee

UUCS Board Meeting Minutes

March 15, 2009

In his treasurer's report, Ben Harris said:

- February was better than expected. Our budget anticipated a loss of \$5,132, but we actually had a small profit of \$630.
- Pledge income was over budget by \$1,416 and expenses were approximately \$2,300 under budget due to under spending on most line items.
- Our Spartanburg County Foundation account has been closed effective March 6 and the \$17,090.82 in it was transferred to our operating account. The shortfall in the Burn the Mortgage campaign, \$7,580, was made up from these funds. The balance of the SCF funds, \$9,510.42, went into the operating account.
- The Arthur State Bank mortgage has been retired effective March 10 with a payment of \$34,188.40. There remain three additional mortgages held by church members totaling \$319,142.49.
- Our first principle payments, totaling \$936, were made on two church-member loans for sanctuary construction.
- Our obligations still exceed our funds; February ended with a net deficit of \$7,330. However, with the excess funds from the SCF, \$9,510.42, now in our operating account, we are in a positive position and need to work hard to maintain this positive position.

In her minister's report Meg said:

- The Caring Committee has done an exemplary job handling two recent memorials, which brought people into our church who haven't been here before.
- She will be attending SEUUMA (Southeastern UU Minister's Association) retreat to be held at the Mountain April 20-23.
- She was keynote speaker at the Sarasota, FL, church's canvass celebration dinner.
- She will be the daily speaker at Star Island, a UU retreat center of the coast of ME, during RE week this summer.
- She continues to write a column for the online *UU World* magazine.
- She urged church leaders to remember to be gentle with one another while carrying out the work of the church.

Ruth Stanton and Mary Miles presented the Board with revisions to the personnel manual. The Personnel Committee revised the manual after gathering input from employees. After making a few more revisions, the Board approved the manual, which applies to all church employees with the exception of the minister. Employees working fifteen hours per week or more are afforded vacation pay, sick leave, jury-duty leave, and bereavement pay. Ruth and Mary, along with David Stack and Kris McVey, have worked for well over a year to draft the comprehensive manual.

P.K. Weiss informed the Board about Upstate Pride's progress in planning a gay pride march. The event is tentatively set for June. The group has held three organizational meetings and has raised \$585 from committee members and has pledges totaling \$1,000 from area PFLAG groups. The money will be used for publicity, security for the march, insurance, etc. The board voted to waive the church's facilities rental fee for the group to hold a festival here after the one-mile march, which is set to begin and end at UUCS. As plans progress, UP will be soliciting donations from individuals and organizations throughout the upstate, as well as selling ads for the festival program in the community-wide initiative.

Ed Wilde said the 2009-10 budget is still being formulated as the pledge drive takes shape. The Finance Committee doesn't expect to have a finalized budget proposal to the Board before late April. The congregation has final say on the budget at the annual meeting, which is set for May 17.

Respectfully submitted by Janice Baynes, secretary

GA IN SALT LAKE CITY—There is a copy of the General Assembly Notice of Meeting in the church office for anyone interested in attending. It has information and the tentative agenda for GA in Salt Lake City, June 24-28. As we received only one copy, please do not remove from the office; we want it to be available for everyone.

Kathleen's Corner

As I write, we are approaching the Vernal Equinox, when day and night are balanced, you really can balance an egg on end, and spring officially returns. Outside my window, the birds are feeding, fluttering and contentious, and wearing bright colors to advertise their charms. The weeping cherries are draped in pink lace, and a bunch of rowdy daffodils nod their heads and wave their green arms along the bank. A sleepy bee has strayed into my house, and her loud buzzing tells me how she feels about it. I'll take her out in a bit. The cats and horses and dogs are itchy, shedding their winter fur; there is hair everywhere. It's all one thing—I'll brush them and throw the old hair onto the wind; it will line the bird's nests by and by. And the children! They are mischievous, full of wild, raw energy that has no desire to be harnessed or tamed or civilized. They look at everything with clear, beginner's eyes, and don't hesitate to tell the emperor he is naked. (Support teachers—they work extra hard about now!)

At this time of balancing, it's good to contemplate the delicate balance that holds us, and remember to find it in ourselves. We look at the greening, and think about the seeds we are planting in our own lives that will become the next harvest, and look at what is rising in us and coming into bloom. We give thanks for new life, another chance. The sap is rising, and as the winds shift and the sun warms, maybe we take off our shoes to feel the new grass under our feet. It's a good time to remember The Fool—blithely ready to step over the cliff to follow a butterfly, the trickster taking things lightly, embodying transformation and the awesome power of beginning. He represents spirit plunging into matter, ideas manifesting into form. It's creation. It's sacred. It's the road that lies before us.

March has been a busy month!

Sue Sinnamon's visit was a big event, with great cake. She helped us refine our ideas about what Lifespan Faith Development is (It's EVERYTHING WE DO), why the way we do it is so important, and what our vision and mission are for our church. We looked at reasons and ways to get groups within the church connected, and things we can all do to reach out to the community. We'll be taking many of these ideas and putting them into practice in the coming months.

Our high school youth enjoyed a wonderful weekend at the Mountain. One of our young ladies was overheard to say how unexpected and fantastic it was to discover so many great kids who were so accepting and ready to be friends.

Mary Bracey, Sally McClellan, and I traveled to Haw River State Park near Greensboro for Worship Workshops presented by the Thomas Jefferson District. Mary and Sally received training in Spirit Play from its creator, Nita Penfold, and have returned with great ideas and enthusiasm for how this program can serve our younger children. I studied worship models with other pastors, DRE's, and lay ministers, and we planned worship services for all different kinds of groups with well-known RE leaders Kathleen Carpenter and Tandy Scheffler. I also worked in small groups specifically on intergenerational and children's worship models. There were lots of resources to look over, and it was inspiring to meet others, share ideas, and find out how it's going in other UU congregations.

On a serious side note: I spent some time at Haw River listening to leaders from the Knoxville UU Church talk about what is happening in their church. The congregation is still very much in recovery, and struggling with many issues surrounding

the shootings. It is a large congregation, and more than a hundred children were in the sanctuary that terrible day. Forgiveness, healing, and feeling safe are still big concerns for many. Although the shooter pled guilty and is in prison without parole, he expresses no remorse, has published a hate-filled manifesto, and even has a fan club. There is also some uncorroborated evidence that he did not act alone. Actual threats against staff and church groups have continued, and police presence has been necessary at some events. There isn't much we can do for our sister church except extend positive thoughts, prayers, and words of encouragement, but one big thing we CAN do is speak out on our own behalf. As Anonymous once wrote, "Sometimes silence is golden, but sometimes it's just plain yellow." As UU's, we have an amazing message to share—of peace and equity, of acceptance and freedom and love. At our church, people who have felt like outsiders in other settings get to experience belonging and respect. How wonderful! Why should we feel reticent, or afraid? Sometimes it is tempting to keep a low profile, to protect this place that feels like sanctuary, but maybe it's time to share it more joyfully and willingly, and time to let our light shine.

Upcoming! Easter is April 12.

We will be having EGGstraordinary Fun again this year with the Annual Egg-Flinging Contest. Who will be able to fling their eggs without breaking them. How far will they go? We have a new and improved catapult lined up, and there will be a fabulous giant chocolate bunny for the grand-prize winner. We'll have Magic Jelly Beans for the runners up, and Peeps for Participants. Soooo, get out your boxes and bubble wrap, paper towels, styrofoam beads, and duct tape and get to it. Be creative and have fun!

Notes About Childcare

Childcare is available for committee meetings or special events. Group leaders and committee chairs: if you need childcare for your event, please remember that you need to contact Amanda Goldsmith, UUCS childcare coordinator, at least one week prior to the event to make arrangements. The cost is \$10 per hour, and payment is expected at the time of service. For reimbursement, turn in an expense form (available in the treasurer's mailbox in the volunteer workroom). It needs to be signed by your group leader or committee chairperson and turned in to the office. You will be repaid from your group's or committee's allowed budget. Turnaround time for reimbursements is about a week. Amanda's email: goldsmia@email.uscupstate.edu

Please respect the childcare spaces. They are not "Free Areas." Provisions and toys in those areas are for the children who need care during scheduled events, and there are **liability issues** that restrict the use of the space and who may provide childcare. There is one simple rule: **NO ONE** (including parents or older youth) **is allowed to use the nursery without an authorized staff member present.** This has been an ongoing problem, and locks may become necessary.

LFD Scheduling for April

Join us this month!

Sunday, April 5

10:00 Adult Forums

Truth, Authority, and Faith Discussion Group—Margaret Schmidt, Room 5
Science and Controversy DVD/Discussion Group—Marion Tisdale and Steve Fowler
Coffee and Conversation—Fellowship Hall

10:00 Youth Forums—All in Hatcher House

Elementary Children—Spirit Play—Native American Beliefs with Sally McClellan and Renee Hill
Junior High Youth—Neighboring Faiths with Cathy and Christie Matthews
10:00-12:00—High School Youth Coming of Age Workshops with Mentor sessions

Sunday, April 12

10:00 Adult Forums

Truth, Authority, and Faith Discussion Group—Margaret Schmidt, Room 5
Science and Controversy DVD/Discussion Group—Marion Tisdale and Steve Fowler
Coffee and Conversation—Fellowship Hall

10:00 Youth Forums—All in Hatcher House

Elementary Children—Spirit Play—Native American Beliefs with Sally McClellan and Renee Hill
Junior High Youth—Neighboring Faiths with Cathy and Christie Matthews
10:00-12:00—High School Youth Coming of Age Workshops with Mentor sessions

Sunday, April 19

10:00 Adult Forums

Truth, Authority, and Faith Discussion Group—Margaret Schmidt, Room 5
Science and Controversy DVD/Discussion Group—Marion Tisdale and Steve Fowler
Coffee and Conversation—Fellowship Hall

10:00 Youth Forums—All in Hatcher House

Elementary Children—Spirit Play—Native American Beliefs with Sally McClellan and Renee Hill
Junior High Youth—Neighboring Faiths with Cathy and Christie Matthews
10:00-12:00—High School Youth Coming of Age Workshops with Mentor sessions

Sunday, April 26

10:00 Adult Forums

Truth, Authority, and Faith Discussion Group—Margaret Schmidt, Room 5
Science and Controversy DVD/Discussion Group—Marion Tisdale and Steve Fowler
Coffee and Conversation—Fellowship Hall

10:00 Youth Forums—All in Hatcher House

Elementary Children—Spirit Play—Native American Beliefs with Sally McClellan and Renee Hill
Junior High Youth—Neighboring Faiths with Cathy and Christie Matthews
10:00-12:00—High School Youth Coming of Age Workshops with Mentor sessions

April 3-4—Friday evening/Saturday until 6:00 p.m.

Coming of Age Chalice Circle Retreat—Overnight Lock-in

Wonderful Wednesdays

Join us every week at 5:30 for Supper: \$4 per person, or \$8 per family

Coordinated by Angie Shuman and Norm Schoss

First Wednesday is always potluck.

Wednesday, April 1

Wild Tic-Tacs/SingAround
Council on Committees

Wednesday, April 8

Wild Tic-Tacs/SingAround
Lost Christianities Class

Wednesday, April 15

2:00-4:00 p.m.—Telling Our Stories: This group is really fun!
And, it's now open to all adults who would like to join us.
This month's theme will be "TOYS."

Wild Tic-Tacs/SingAround
Humanist Discussion Group
Coltrane Covenant Group

Wednesday, April 22

Wild Tic-Tacs/SingAround
Money Support Group
Lifespan Faith Development Committee
Book Club

Wednesday, April 29

Wild Tic-Tacs/SingAround
Family Game Night

UUA Presidential Candidate Forum

Hosted by the 1 Edwin Place, Asheville, NC 28801
(828) 254-6001 www.uuasheville.org

Thursday, May 7

Refreshments, 6:00 p.m., Forum opens, 6:30 p.m.
Rev. Dr. Laurel Hallman www.hallmanforuapresident.org, and
Rev. Peter Morales www.moralesforuapresident.org
For more information or for home hospitality,
contact Anna Olsen (annaolsen@charter.net)

Testimonial from a Sunday Service

Good morning, my name is Joyce Harrison. I serve as an usher, am on the Worship Committee, and serve on the Board of this church.

I was born into church and have always been extremely grateful for what my churches have brought to my life.

When I was a little girl, church was a wonderful haven for me. It was always a welcoming, safe place where I was nurtured and valued. Adults invited me "in." They taught me so many wonderful things, valued me as a person, and encouraged my participation in church activities. I always felt ten feet tall in church. That was and continues to be a good feeling. Back then, I looked at the wonderful adults who were giving so much to me and must have subconsciously thought, "I want to be like that." Like that: faithfully working together for a greater good. Like that: faithful in service. Like that: faithful in caring about and reaching out to one another. Like that: faithful in every aspect of giving.

Each church I've been in has offered wonderful opportunities for me. As an adult, I've figured out that what you put out into the world is what seems to return to you. I love sharing in the life and work of this church. This church serves as a safe port for people like me with progressive ideas and a commitment to social justice. I don't have to waste my creative energies trying to swim upstream here. Life is much easier when you can go with the flow and when that flow supports you. I like supporting a church that upholds democratic principles, seeks transparency in its operations, works towards social justice, and values all people and thinks their opinions and feelings are important. I like a church where men's and women's talents and opinions are equally valued. I enjoy the many friends I've found here. When I got home from Wingo night and called my friend to tell her about it, she said, "You have a lot of fun at your church." Yes, we do. I deeply appreciate this place and eagerly support it with my time, my ideas, my energy, and my money. I am richly blessed through this giving.

For the past three years, I have divided my giving between the regular budget and the Burn the Mortgage campaign. The Burn the Mortgage campaign has ended now and the Arthur State Bank mortgage will be retired. We now begin the process of paying off our other mortgages. I've decided to transfer the amount that I used to give to Burn the Mortgage to the regular budget this year. I'm committed to helping the church to be financially strong during these hard times and to honoring our commitment to repay the generosity of those church members who provided those loans that made this beautiful building possible. Am I increasing my pledge to the church? I'm just continuing to give what I had already budgeted for church giving over the last three years. Everyone may not be in a position to do that, but this works for me at this particular time and I'm glad to be able to do that.

Dear friends, soon you'll have the opportunity to make a commitment to the support of this wonderfully unique place. Please give careful consideration to what this church means to you, what this church means to our community, and what you can give to support it.

There are many ways to give. Each week I marvel at the devoted and generous giving of so many of you serving in so many ways. New members and old and our dear friends of the congregation serve in so many critical ways making good and important things happen within and without these walls. I am so honored to be a part of this congregation, so honored to serve, so honored to give, so honored to receive at your hands and from your hearts. Deep, deep thanks to each of you for the many ways that you are sharing your time, your talents, your energy, and your money to nurture, sustain, uplift and perpetuate this dear place.

Buddhist Meditation Group

Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.

All are welcome.

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



Wingo Night was Outstanding!

Nancy Manlove, Chairman of the Rainbow Group, presented Meg with over \$1100 in proceeds for our church from their recent Wingo night. This annual event has become a significant fund raiser as well as a wonderful time for folks getting together with good food and great company.

Assault on Mt. Mitchell

Just like the Marines the Wilde Teamsters are in need of a few good individuals to participate in the Assault on Mt. Mitchell fund raiser. The food trucks will be loaded on Sunday, May 17, and the five loaders are: Charlie Mierek, Joel Jacobs, Stan White, Stewart Foster, and Ed Wilde. The following individuals have volunteered to drive trucks on Monday, May 18: Linda Leible, Bernie Kakuske, Cathy Beck, Charlie Mierek, Marion Tisdale, Norm Schoss, Rick Hahnenberg, Deb Williams, Michael Wray, Vince Smith, Greg Lynch, Doug Allen, Mike Rainey, Meg Barnhouse, Stewart Foster, Le Sharpton, and Jim Spencer (a friend of Ed Wilde).

Each truck loader and truck driver will earn \$100 for the church. We have the required five truck loaders. We need one more driver and a couple of back ups in case of last minute dropouts. Ted Warrendorf is our only backup driver to date.

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

TJ District Meeting

The Thomas Jefferson District Annual Meeting will be held on May 9 at the Summit Conference Center in Haw River State Park, Browns Summit, NC. You are encouraged to attend. Go to the District website to find out how to register on line. The meeting agenda will include one bylaw change (a revision of Article XII) to be considered.

Spartanburg Sierra Club

MEETING—Thursday, April 23, at 7:30 at the Unitarian Universalist Church. Nancy Williams, of the Philosophy Department at Wofford College, will speak on “How Animal Agriculture (Factory Farming) Contributes to Global Warming.” There will be plenty of time for discussion, as Nancy will hit on a problem that affects us all and nearly all of us are players in this situation. Come and learn where much of your meat comes from and the affects of this process on the environment and on your health.

HIKE—Saturday, April 25, at Dupont State Forest, NC. Do you like waterfalls? If you do, this is your hike. Rated easy to moderate (depending on how far you want to walk; you will be given options), this is a great family hike. We will visit four waterfalls, including the beautiful Triple Falls where we will eat our lunches. We will leave at 9:00 a.m. from the parking lot of the Spartanburg Unitarian Universalist Church. Phone Jack Seitz for more details (work: 864-597-4589; home 864-948-1080). Y’all come. Open to the public.

April Birthdays

Samantha Bracey (04/05), Elsie Finkenstein (04/05), Roger Whitmire (04/08), Angela Willes (04/08), Lee Couch (04/09), Don Miles (04/10), Charlotte Jensen (04/12), Carl Prestipino (04/16), Tristan Lawson (04/17), Greg Fowler (04/18), Aaron Boggs (04/21), Brandon Burgess (04/24), Stan White (04/27), Nancy Moore (04/28)

From the Senior Stories Group

93-year-old Chris Law wrote this story during our *Telling Our Stories* Group. Our April theme was “Fools and Foolishness.”

A Family of Fools—1943

This story really happened to me during World War II. It wasn’t at all funny at the time, but I have laughed about it many times since then.

In 1943 I was living in a little town about forty miles south of Indianapolis, Indiana. My brother Bill was coming home from the war on leave. He was a pilot who flew a little twin-engine cub ahead of army field artillery to determine road conditions and enemy troop positions. Then he would radio back and direct the Allied troops from the air. Anyway, he had flown enough missions to earn leave, and I was to drive the forty miles to Indianapolis to pick him up.

Everyone in the family was excited that Bill was coming, and my mother wanted to come with me to the city to meet him. Our only car was an old black clunker Bill had left behind for me to drive. It was a worn-out bumpy old stick shift that leaked like a sieve whenever it rained, with a top speed of about thirty miles per hour. You couldn’t buy a decent car at any price in those days, because of the war, and as luck would have it, the day we were to make our trip it was pouring rain.

I bounced along to pick up my mother, and she, not wanting the leaky roof to drip water onto her nice clothes, came prepared with her umbrella, which she calmly opened over herself in the car. I drove along feeling more and more uncomfortable and damp, as the roof kept drip, drip, dripping on my head and clothes.

We arrived in Indianapolis right on time and waited at the appointed place. We waited, and waited, but Bill never did come. We asked about him at the train information desk, and waited some more. The train he was supposed to arrive on had come and gone, but after several hours there was still no sign of him. At last we decided we should just go on home. You know of course that in those days there were no such things as cell phones, so there was no way for us to find out where he was, or to let him know where we were.

We got back in the car, and Mother rode along peacefully under her umbrella, but by this time I was getting very annoyed. The roads were bad, the rain was pouring, outside and inside the car, I was getting wetter and wetter, and to make matters worse, we had come up behind a great gray passenger bus that was poking along the muddy road at about twenty miles per hour.

We followed along behind it for some ways, but finally I decided to try to pass the bus. As we edged past it, Mother looked up and said, “Oh, look, there’s Bill in that bus! Look, he’s waving at us.” And it was true. He had seen the car as we went around and recognized it, and was waving both arms at us. I was driving and leaning over, trying to look out the window past Mother’s umbrella, signaling to Bill and mouthing the words “Get off the bus!” to make him understand that he should stop the bus and get off and ride home with us. He understood all right.

But, do you know, he never would get off the bus, and Mother just calmly sat there under that umbrella while the car bounced along drip, drip, dripping on me all the way home. By the time we got there I was so mad about wasting my time and spending the whole day on a wild goose chase in that awful car! And when Bill finally got there, he had a great laugh at the thought of us all riding along like that—him on his comfortable bus where he could wave and grin at us, me so wet and mad, and Mother in her best clothes with her umbrella.

Yes You Can—Sing!

All members and friends interested in getting involved with the UUCS choir or Wild Tic Tacs are welcome to join now. The UUCS Choir is open to all ages. Rehearsals are at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays in the sanctuary, with additional rehearsals possible on Wednesday nights at the 7:00-8:00 p.m. Singarounds. The Wild Tic Tacs rehearse on Wednesdays at 6:30-7:00 p.m. The Wild Tic Tacs will begin rehearsing and writing their next show on Wednesday, March 25. Any adults who would like to volunteer to help the Tic Tacs are welcome. For more information contact: acting music director, Kiya Heartwood, kiya@wishingchair.com, or call 864-680-7446.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Spartanburg

210 Henry Place
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Spartanburg, SC 29304

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Return Service Requested

The Rev. Meg Barnhouse, Minister
Worship Service: 11:00 a.m. Sundays
Kiya Heartwood, Acting Music Director
Kathleen Anderson, 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

APRIL 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		April 1—5:30 Supper; Mortgage Burning; 6:30 Wild Tic Tacs 7:00 SingAround; CoC		1	2	3 Lock-In
5 12:30 Exploring UU	6 6:30 Yoga	7 6:30 Buddhist Meditation	8 5:30 Supper WTT, Singing 7:00 Lost Christianities	9	10	11
12 Easter Egg- Flinging	13 6:30 Yoga	14 6:30 Buddhist 6:45 Rainbow Group	15 2:00-4:00 Senior Stories; Supper etc. 7:00 Humanism	16	17	18 <i>Unison deadline</i>
19 1:00 World Issues Group	20 6:30 Yoga	21 6:30 Buddhist Meditation	22 Supper, etc. 7:00 Money; LFD Comm.; Book Club	23 7:30 Sierra Club Meeting	24	25 Sierra Hike 7:00-10:00 Auction Event with Joy Finch
26 TOTAL Ministries	27 NO Yoga	28 6:30 Buddhist Meditation	29 Supper, WTT, SingAround Family Game Night	30		