



# UNISON

June 2009

No. 780

## *A Month of Sundays*

### **7** *All Will Be Well* **Meg Barnhouse and Kiya Heartwood**

Meg and Kiya are moving to Princeton NJ, and they want to talk and sing about the process of saying goodbye. While Meg will be on call for emergencies through July 31, this will be her last Sunday in the pulpit.

### **14** *If We Listen, We Can Hear Them: Religion and Animal Rights* **Clif Flynn**

For most of human history, religion has been used to justify the exploitation of other animals. But it doesn't have to be that way. There have always been religious voices speaking on behalf of animals. And the animals themselves tell us they don't want to be mistreated. If we listen, we can hear them.

### **21** *Transition* **Carson Rogerson**

Carson Rogerson is the director of Chaplaincy and Pastoral Education at Spartanburg Regional Health-care System.

### **28** *Two Views of Reincarnation* **Jack Seitz and Marion Tisdale**

Our own members, Jack Seitz and Marion Tisdale, will discuss two views of reincarnation.

#### *Accompanists for June*

- 7th Elizabeth York  
Special Music: Choir and Kiya and Meg
- 14th Joy Finch
- 21st TBA  
Special Music: Cris and Kelly Vanemann
- 28th Sydney McMath

## *Meg's Musings*

### *State of the Church*

I first came to this church as a guest speaker. The chaplain at Converse College, I got a call from Margaret Schmidt, who was then worship chair. She said this church wanted me to come speak on an upcoming Sunday. "Not a Presbyterian sermon, Meg," she said, "something that would be of interest to Unitarian Universalists." That was not a problem for me. My Presbyterian beliefs were thinning out. The number of things I could preach about with integrity and authenticity were becoming steadily fewer. I enjoyed coming here to preach. Most of all I enjoyed reading the back of the hymnal. Adrienne Rich, T. S. Eliot, Rabindranath Tagore, Mary Oliver—I couldn't believe it! These readings articulated what I felt in my heart to be important. Reverence for the earth, respect for many religions, respect for the humanist perspective, celebrating the human spirit as of value—those readings began my conversion.

Later I was invited to UU Womenspirit, which is going on at The Mountain this weekend [May 17]. A dear friend tossed the application on the lunch table one day. "Here. This is your kind of thing. I don't think you should have to go alone so I will go with you." The other two dear friends who were at the table said they would go too. I had a wonderful time. They had a good time watching me have a wonderful time. Every year I know her, every year I went to Womenspirit after that, I am struck by how immense that gift was, how large a gesture of invitation it was.

When I came back I signed up for an adult RE course here called "Cakes for the Queen of Heaven." We studied goddess worship throughout history. We made things and created rituals. It gave clearer form to the things I had been studying and practicing since I was fourteen years old.

In 1996 the first minister this church had hired announced his resignation and Ed Wilde approached me to ask if I would work as interim minister of this church. It was perfect timing for me, and I accepted with gratitude and joy. After getting some interim training in Boston, I began work here, and it was wonderful. We did the interim work a congregation needs to do, and the Search Committee found Chris Buice. He was minister here for three years, then left for Knoxville, TN, where he is still minister at the Tennessee Valley UU Church, and is dealing with the aftermath of the shooting incident they had last summer.

*Continued on page 2*

## Meg's Musings (continued)

Another interim year later, after a nationwide search, the Search Committee chose me to come back as settled minister. They said they wanted someone to stay longer than three years. Maybe five. I stayed seven. This has been a great seven years. On our web site there soon will be an updated history of the church where you can read about some of the things that have been accomplished over the time we've been working together.

It's time for another interim period. Within the next three weeks, the Interim Search Committee will be formed. John Weston, the UUA settlement director, will send them four names of interim ministers. They will look at their materials, interview them on the phone, then offer the job to the one they choose. That person will begin work and you all will get to know one another. Self-reflection and self-definition will be the order of the day. You will look at the history of the congregation, at its strengths and its mission. You will be asked what you think is important in the Sunday services and weekday programming. Lists of the elements of worship services will be made, and you will be asked to choose which ones are most meaningful for you. Lists of theological positions will be made for you to choose where your position is as an individual to give incoming ministers a sense of the theological composition of the congregation. Lists of the elements of a minister's job will be laid out before you and you will get to choose which you think are most important. Where do you want the minister's focus to be? What did you enjoy about the last minister and what would you like to change in the next one? With this information the Search Committee will move forward in finding the church's next settled minister.

The UUA has help for you in this process. The Settlement Office and the district executive are here to answer all of your questions. A compensation representative will talk to you about what you can expect in salary.

When I was interim here before I found it an exhilarating process. You'll take a look at who you are and at who you want to be. You will be able to express the mad, sad, and glad about my moving away. It's okay to be having mixed feelings. I appreciate all of the good wishes you have sent to me and to Kiya. Our family has been talking about this for a time, considering all of our options. At the end of all of the possibilities, this one is best for us.

This congregation is full of delightful people who need this place. This church is not the minister, it is the friendships and connections you make with one another. Stand by this place. Do it for that guy in the office in Greer who thinks he and his wife are the only people around here who think God is in everything and people should do what they can to heal the world. Do it for the kid who is in tenth grade with one of our kids who is thinking about suicide because she has realized she's gay. Do it for the family who want their kids to have a church home, but they don't want them to be scared by hell and damnation. Stand by this church for the experiences of community you have had here: the discussions, the dinners, the laughter, the support, and the challenge. Stand by it in the knowledge that it will still be here twenty years from now saving lives, enabling new relationships, offering opportunities for leadership, making people think and discover, filling their hearts with experiences of worship and of hope.

## Letter from the President

Paradoxically, my term as president of the congregation is coming to an end, but we have so much work left to do. Before you shift your own summer schedules into relaxation and fun mode, I need to hit you one more time with a bit of a reality check.

First, everyone, including our church, is feeling the crunch of the economic recession. Despite this, we have had wonderful members make generous pledges to support this church's work in the coming year. I would like, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, to thank each and every one of you who has so generously committed to support us financially. We wouldn't be here without you.

In an effort to be good stewards of our money, the Board voted last month to freeze any additional expenditures by the committees through the end of this fiscal year. Our minister, Meg, has also agreed to freeze any additional expenditures out of her professional fund through the end of this fiscal year. We are cutting back on child-care hours somewhat and are encouraging members to volunteer, whether they are parents with children in the program or not. Forty-four pledge units have already paid their 2008-09 pledges in full, but sixteen percent of the total amount pledged is outstanding. We have eleven pledge units that have paid nothing toward their 2008-09 pledge commitments and four more that have paid less than five percent of what they pledged.

For a variety of reasons, including the fact that we paid off the Arthur State Bank mortgage this year, we now have \$0 in savings. While we have secured a line of credit at the bank for emergencies, we want to avoid using this at all costs. Borrowing money against this line of credit to meet daily operational expenses is a slippery slope we do not want to start down and one which includes additional interest obligations accrued on any monies borrowed against it. Each month, we have around \$10,000 in payroll expenses to meet. Please do what you can to fulfill your pledge by June 30 (or sooner!) to the church so that we can fulfill our mission to you and to the Spartanburg community.

We have passed the 2009-10 budget which reflects a reduction of about \$20,000 in anticipated pledge income and approximately a \$28,000 reduction in spending. These reductions were necessary and financially responsible, but were difficult to make nonetheless.

What else can you do? You can be creative in thinking of ways to raise money for the church. For example, we have a beautiful sanctuary well suited for ceremonies and rites of passage of all kinds. Please spread the word that our facility is available to rent for a modest fee. You can donate your time to the youth program or you can donate supplies. You can arrange for a bequest to the church in your estate planning. Or, you may have better ideas that we haven't thought of yet to help us *faire le pont*, bridge this difficult financial situation.

I am really going to miss this place. As my family's move date draws near, the reality of being without this community for the first time in twelve years is beginning to hit home. I hope that each of you will take care of each other and of this place, which is so important to so many. I look forward to returning and have full confidence that we will be stronger and more vibrant than ever before. All blessings,

Kris

## Wonderful Wednesdays

Beginning June 3 and continuing through to September 2, Wonderful Wednesdays will be potluck. There will be no meals prepared by groups or committees until Wednesday, September 9. At that time we will begin to follow our usual routine of a potluck dinner on the first Wednesday of each month and meals prepared by groups all other Wednesdays of each month. Dinner is still \$4.00 per person or \$8.00 per family. We encourage one and all to bring a dish, salad, or dessert on Wednesdays during the summer months. A dinner without food is most unwonderful. —*Norm Schoss*

## Guest Speakers in June

**CLIF FLYNN** (June 14) is professor of Sociology and chair of the Department of Sociology, Criminal Justice, and Women's Studies at the University of South Carolina Upstate, where he has taught since 1988. In 2001, his Animals and Society course was chosen as the “Best New Animals and Society Course” by the Humane Society of the United States, and was featured on “The Osgood File” on CBS radio. He has written numerous articles on animal abuse and its relationship to family violence. Clif is the editor of a new anthology titled *Social Creatures: A Human and Animal Studies Reader* (Lantern Books, 2008). He is also a member of the Unitarian Church of Spartanburg.

**CARSON ROGERSON** (June 21) is the director of Chaplaincy and Pastoral Education at Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System. He is a South Carolina native who was born in Florence and grew up in Georgetown. He is a graduate of the University of South Carolina (1979) in Columbia, SC, and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (1984) in Wake Forest, NC. Carson has served churches as pastor and as interim pastor in North Carolina, South Carolina, and in the Middle East (East Jerusalem and Dubai, UAE).

Endorsed as a chaplain and CPE supervisor by the Alliance of Baptists, Carson was a chaplain resident at Baptist Medical Center in Columbia during the resident year 1992-93. After a six-year stint as pastor of Timberlake Baptist Church in Myrtle Beach, he returned to clinical pastoral education as a supervisor-in-training in 1999 with Palmetto Health in Columbia. He is certified as an ACPE supervisor. Carson was a chaplain/pastoral educator at Palmetto Health, primarily the Richland campus, for six years before coming to Spartanburg Regional in April 2006. Carson serves on two regional ACPE committees, Standards and the Board. He is also a board-certified chaplain (BCC) through the Association of Professional Chaplains (APC).

Carson is married to Laura Rogerson and they have five children and two grandchildren. Laura is an RN who works as a clinical consultant. They are members of Fernwood in Spartanburg.

Carson enjoys working out, camping, collecting Persian rugs and ancient coins, college sports, and spending time with his family.

## From the Membership Committee

**EXPLORING UU**—The June session of *Exploring UU* will be held on Sunday, June 14, following the sermon. Grab a cup of coffee and join us in Room 5 if you would like to find out more about Unitarian Universalism in general or UUCS in particular.

**NEW VISITOR CARDS**—Have you noticed the new visitor cards in the chair back pockets in the sanctuary? Thank you to Michael Wray, who designed and produced them for us! You'll notice that one side says, “Welcome Visitors,” and the other side says, “Welcome UUCS Members and Friends.” You can use the Members and Friends side to report changes in your personal information for church records, request a name tag, be contacted by the minister or another church leader, volunteer as a greeter or usher, or volunteer for something else within the church.

**ALL ARE WELCOME**—Although many Unitarian Universalists were born in this faith, many more came to it later in life. Some of these seekers left the faith tradition of their childhood, while others came from no religious tradition at all. Interfaith families have frequently found a religious home in a Unitarian Universalist congregation, where each partner's beliefs and traditions are honored and children can learn about their parents' faith heritage and eventually seek their own answers to religious questions.

Our Unitarian heritage calls us to recognize the inherent good of all persons, while the Universalist part of our tradition encourages us to extend love and acceptance to all people. You are welcome in a Unitarian Universalist congregation, whatever your gender identity, sexual orientation, racial identity or class. Our Principles call us to affirm the worth and dignity of every individual, to accept one another, and to foster each other's spiritual growth (from *Welcome: A Unitarian Universalist Primer*, edited by Patricia Frevert).

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING**—The next meeting of the Membership Committee will be at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, June 5. Everyone is welcome to attend.

## Assault on Mt. Mitchell

A total of \$2,400 was raised for the church by members and friends loading food trucks and driving trucks loaded with bicycles, baggage, and food. This year the Assault was no longer run by John Bryant and some aspects—like bike loading, for example—were disorganized. One truck broke down and another collided with a police car. Truck loaders were Stan White, Jim Brown, Stewart Foster, Charlie Mierek, and Ed Wilde. For their efforts the church received \$500. The following individuals drove trucks and collectively raised \$1,900: Linda Leible, Bernie Kakuske, Cathy Beck, Charlie Mierek, Marion Tisdale, Norm Schoss, Rick Hahnenberg, Mike Rainey, Deb Williams, Jeff Baynes, Michael Wray, Vince Smith, Jim Spencer, Doug Allen, Greg Lynch, Ted Warrendorf, Joel Jacobs, and David Stack. Be sure to thank them when you see them. —*Ed Wilde*

## UUCS Board Minutes

May 2009

In recent joint meetings between the Board and the Finance Committee, members struggled with decisions as to where cuts should be made in what is expected to be a lean 2009-10 fiscal year. The congregation ultimately approved the final draft at the May 17th annual meeting.

The 2009-10 budget, totaling \$181,000, scaled down from the 2008-09 budget of \$209,900, reflects the downturn in the economy. At the annual meeting, Don Miles reported that approximately \$136,000 has been pledged so far toward the budgeted \$145,000 in pledge income, upon which the budget is based.

Deep cuts were made in child care, which will now have to be done to a much greater extent by volunteers rather than paid staff. Committee budgets were reduced significantly and money was cut from the minister's compensation package. The children's activities coordinator position was eliminated and one quarter of annual national and district dues were cut.

In other business, the Board voted to implement electronic transfer for members who wish to have their pledges drafted from their bank accounts. For a fee of .25 per transaction, to be paid by the church, VANCO will administer the electronic transfer program, which many other churches already use, Ed Wilde said. This will tend to make the flow of funds more even, he said. The program begins July 1, for a trial period of two months, at the end of which we will sign up for a year if it is working well.

The Board approved a request by Treasurer Ben Harris to apply for a line of credit up to \$10,000 with Arthur State Bank. At a May 6th meeting Ben reported that, with Sunday collections down, we may need a credit line to meet the May payroll. Monthly payroll is approximately \$10,000. The Board also imposed a spending freeze on the minister's professional fund and committee funds until the end of this fiscal year, June 30.

At a May 17th meeting prior to the annual meeting, the Board voted to have a two-year interim period and to begin the interim minister search process in light of Meg's resignation, which she announced on May 10. The Board delayed dealing with a procedural matter regarding the appropriate handling of absentee ballots which had been cast prior to last minute changes to the ballot. Those ballots were counted.

*Respectfully submitted by Janice Baynes, secretary*

## Gay Pride March

Please plan to show your support for the GLBT community in the Upstate by marching in Spartanburg's inaugural Gay Pride March on June 20. The route is about a mile, starting and ending at UUCS. Line-up will begin at 10:00 a.m. in the front parking lot, with the march starting at 11:00. Following the march, there will be a festival on the grassy area behind the church. The festival will feature speakers, musical performers, and vendors.

Upstate Pride T-shirts have arrived and can be ordered from P.K. Weiss (pkweiss@bellsouth.net). The cost for the shirts is \$10 for sizes small through XL, and \$12 for XXL and XXXL. The prices will be \$2.00 higher on the day of the march, so order now!

*The Stewardship Committee would like to thank the members and friends who have committed almost \$139,292 as of May 26 to*

## TEND THE FLAME

*during our 2009/2010 church year.*

Pledges for both operating funds and repayment of our still outstanding mortgages to two members are included. We're ninety-six percent of the way to our \$145,000 budgeted pledge income goal, which means we are still \$5,708 "short." If you're not yet included on this list, please add your name to it by making a pledge as soon as possible. Contact the Stewardship Committee chair, Don Miles (donmarymiles@bellsouth.net; 864-582-3440).

Doug and Judy Allen, Kathleen Anderson, Meg Barnhouse, Jeff and Janice Baynes, Launa Blackburn, Mary and Mark Bracey, Nancy Breard and Robert Harrington, Lewanna Caldwell and M.B. Ulmer, Judy and Al Carnes, Gibby Cates and Jule Klotter, Nikki Caulk, Beth Cecil and Isabel Forbes, Marilyn Coltrane, Liz Connell, Ed and Lorie Conrad, Mary Frances Crivellone, Richard and Susan Culler, Kim Danner, Caro Dempsey, Kathy Dowling, Dave and Carol Drum, Mitchell and Palma Eisner, Jennifer Estes, Elsie Finkelstein, Clif Flynn and Jill Jones, Stuart Foster, Abby and Steve Fowler, Teretha Fowler, Sue Fox and Ruth Michener, Chuck Frank, Melissa Fritsche and Mark Nichols, Will Frye, Nancy Gooch and Angie Willes, Susan Griswold and John Morton, Susanne Gunter, Rick Hahnenberg and Ruth Stanton, Chuck and Teresa Hall, Sara Hamilton Steinecke and Brad Steinecke, Ben and Guerry Harris, Joyce Harrison, Mike and Penny Hatchell, Roy Haynes, Kiya Heartwood, Sally Hicks, Nate and Renee Hill, Cindy Howe and Dan McBride, David Hudnall, Jan Ingerson, Jennifer and Joel Jacobs, Jinx Jenkins, Doug and Linette Jensen, Grace Jerome, Jan Jerome and Linda Leible, Pat Jobe, Debra Johnson, Vivian and Wilton Jordan, Bernie Kakuske, Jeanette Keepers, Rose Mary Kramer, Kris Krystyniak, Seher Kul, Anne Lipe, Miriam Lockman, Beth and Sadler Love, Greg Lynch, Nancy Mandlove, Barbara Mattson, Rebecca McBride, Jill McBurney, Sally McClellan, Karen McKenzie, Kris McVey and Terry Trammell, Don and Mary Miles, Bob and Karen Mitchell, Bonnie-Lee G. Mizzell, Nancy Moore, Elisa Mroz, Curtis Murphy and Sam Powell, Cecile and Chris Nowatka, Lynnette Patrick, Terry-Christy Patton, Susan and Carl Prestipino, Terry Price, Michael Rainey and Alice Sutton, Brian and Katie Ramsey, Gene Sanders, Jerrold Scaglione, Margaret Schmidt, Norm Schoss, Bobbie Schoss, Angie Shuman, Jack Seitz, David Stack and Gregory Gaddis, Susan Stallard, Rebecca and Bill Stevens, Merike Tamm, Diane Thornton, Barbara and Marion Tisdale, Kathy and Ted Warrendorf, P. K. and David Weiss, Janice and Stan White, Ed Wilde, Kathleen Wilde, Deb Williams, Joe and Allene Williamson, Michael Wray.

### Buddhist Meditation Group

Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.

All are welcome.

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



Meet Ezra, the newest member of the Jacobs family. Pictured are Meg with Jennifer and Joel, Ezra of course, Quinn, and Theo at Ezra's dedication on Sunday, May 17.

## June Birthdays

Nate Hill 6/2, Dave Drum 6/4, Kiya Heartwood 6/4, Theo Jacobs 6/4, Jill Jones 6/4, Susan Prestipino 6/5, Carol Drum 6/6, Margaret Ezell 6/6, Nell Hitt 6/6, Karen Mitchell 6/8, Terry Price 6/10, Anna Costine 6/12, Jan Ingerson 6/12, Tag McVey 6/12, Darby Hudnall 6/19, Ruth Michener 6/19, Kristie Tipton 6/19, Jack Seitz 6/21, Merike Tamm 6/21, Riley Lanier 6/22, Dan McBride 6/23, Shawn Poore 6/23, Phillip Patton 6/24, Seher Kul 6/25, Nancy Fordyce 6/27.

If you are not receiving "Happenings," our weekly electronic newsletter, go to our website at [UUCS.ORG](http://UUCS.ORG) to sign up.

## False Alarms Cost Us Dollars

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.

## Social Concerns

### "Share the Plate" for June

The Social Concerns Committee has decided that the June "Share the Plate" recipient will be SAFE Homes/Rape Crisis Center. Because Meg was instrumental in getting this organization started, we want to honor her in this way. Read what she recently wrote about that endeavor:

When I came to town I was 26 years old. When I found out there was no battered women's shelter here, I wanted to start one. The Y in Greenville had funded a position for someone to organize shelters in Pickens, Greenville, Spartanburg, and Cherokee Counties. She and I met, and I became one of three people working on creating a service for battered women and their children in Spartanburg County. Shelter Available For Emergencies (SAFE) Homes was the name we chose, and we recruited private householders to be our SAFE homes. Women would be placed in those homes, the children would be "homebound" so the abuser couldn't just follow the child from school to see where they were living. It was like the Wild West, with people like me meeting women in the park as they snuck away from home, driving them to a secret location, making sure they had what they needed. The work was intense. Once in a while it was dangerous. I was president of the Board for four years. In that time we got our 501 C 3 status, we hired a full-time director, and we became a United Way agency. Now, under the leadership of Lynn Hawkins and her capable staff, the SAFE Homes Network (long ago merged with Rape Crisis) receives one of the largest chunks of United Way money of any group in Spartanburg. They have helped large numbers of women and their children with shelter, counseling, follow-up support, legal counsel, courtroom advocacy, and more.

This wonderful, much-needed organization, continues to reach out and provide a safe place for many who don't know where to turn and often fear for their lives and/or the lives of their children. With South Carolina ranking as one of the highest states for domestic violence, we want to continue helping those who have become caught up in the middle of some of life's storms. This organization will provide a safe place for women and children to lay their heads, close their eyes, and finally get the sound sleep and rest for which they have longed. Please help us help them.



Thanks to all of this year's UUCS/Park Hills volunteers—Ed Wilde, PK Weiss, Rose Mary Kramer, Barbara Tisdale, Dave Drum, Judy Allen, Abby and Steve Fowler, Stephanie Boteler, Kathy and Delaney Dalton, Alice Sutton, Bobbie and Norm Schoss, Sally Hicks, Susan and Nikki Prestipino, Mitch and Palma Eisner, Debbie Braddock, and Launa Blackburn.

## Meatless Mondays

### Save \$\$, Help your Health, Help the Environment

There is a new national campaign that can do all three! This will be fun and interesting for high school students and some middle schoolers, as well as the rest of us. Learn about the Meatless Mondays Campaign from (would you believe?) World War I in 1917, and why it has been resurrected now.

I assigned this project to my students at Winthrop University and Converse College, and found they were very enthusiastic about doing it, so I thought many of us here at the UU would be, too. So, what are the health benefits of one vegetarian day a week? And will that really help the environment? Find out about the why and how of this national campaign with 1-2-3-4:

1. Watch the video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bpnKeYmR1NM>
2. Then read a little more about it at <http://greenbabyguide.com/2009/03/20/its-easy-eating-green-on-meatless-mondays/>
3. Take a look at the campaign headquarters at <http://www.meatlessmonday.com>

Tell a family member or friend about Meatless Mondays and decide if you want to participate! —Alice Sutton, R.D., MPH

# Lifetime Faith Development for June

## Coming this Summer

ARTS AND CRAFTS  
MULTI-GENERATIONAL PAGAN CLASSES  
SPA!  
FUNHOUSE  
See Schedule for Details

Every Sunday in June—at the 10:00 Hour

### *Watercolor Class*

This month we are offering all you latent artists a chance to try your hand with watercolors. We'll meet in Room 5. This group is open to adults and teenagers. We have paint and brushes and some paper for the first session, but participants will need to bring their own paper after that. We don't have a leader, so if you have expertise, or pictures to share, or ideas about what and how to paint, please bring them. At the end of June we can have an art show!

### *Multigenerational Paganism Class*

This is for EVERYONE! Paganism is an Earth-Based Spirituality that focuses on the interconnected web of life, the immanence of the divine in all forms, and the great cycles of life and death. And it is FUN! Join us in the Downstairs Garden Level (our euphemism for The Basement) for adventures on this Joyful and Greening Path.

**June 7:** The Four Directions—Using Magical Tools, and Casting a Circle, with Drumming and Dancing

**June 14:** Making Sacred Space—Making and Using Altars (Small groups will create altars for each of the Directions—we've got cool stuff, and bring your own!)

**June 21:** Midsummer's Day Ritual—This is the Summer Solstice, the longest day, when the Earth is at her most generous and bountiful. We'll probably do this outside.

**June 28:** Magic—"An' it harm none, do what ye will." What is magic, and how does it work? We all do it in one way or another. In this class we'll learn about intention and ethics and the basics for putting it out there.

### *Transition Time*

On **June 14**, during the 10:00 hour, Marilyn Coltrane will facilitate a **discussion about transition time**. We can talk about our thoughts, feelings, and ideas about our church as we say goodbye to Meg and begin to get our heads and hearts around the changes to come. Marilyn is a licensed family counselor and a gentle and reassuring presence who can keep us focused on what's important and meaningful as we move forward together. This group is planned for Room 6, but if it gets large, we'll move to the Fellowship Hall or Hatcher House.

## Wonderful Wednesdays

Wonderful Wednesdays are changing for the summer!

We will still have supper but it's going to be POTLUCK only! Everyone should bring food, enough to share with five or six people. There's no charge for folks with food. Folks without food will have to pay \$5.00 each.

Beginning June 10th until August 26th, we WILL NOT OFFER CHILD CARE on Wednesdays. Parents will share child-care duties when necessary. Children over the age of ten may participate in FUNHOUSE—with games and refreshments and hanging out with each other. Chaperoned by volunteers at a discrete distance.

### *Wednesday, June 3*

Supper at 5:30

Then Council on Committees—Fellowship Hall  
FUNHOUSE—Garden Level

### *Wednesday, June 10*

Supper at 5:30

Then SPA! Come and join us for art activities, wine tasting, massages, pedicures, music, and a generally good time. This is for fun and relaxation and stress relief, and the art activities will involve preparing story materials for Spirit Play in the fall.

### *Wednesday, June 17*

2:00-4:00 Telling Our Stories Group—Fellowship Hall  
All Adults Welcome

Supper at 5:30

Then Part 1 of Carolyn Myss, "The Energetics of Healing," explores the unseen dimension of your body's energy anatomy.

From the DVD cover: "Beyond the threshold of your physical anatomy lies another type of anatomy- invisible to the eye, yet critical to your health. Composed of pure energy, this vast network not only determines how your body functions and heals, but also serves as a connection to divine power and all life."

Those of you who are familiar with Carolyn Myss know that she is both practical and profound. Caroline Myss (pronounced mace) is an American medical intuitive and mystic as well as the author of numerous books and audio tapes, including four best sellers: *Anatomy of the Spirit* (1996), *Why People Don't Heal and How They Can* (1998), *Sacred Contracts* (2002), and *Entering The Castle* (2007).

FUNHOUSE for Kids

### *Wednesday, June 24*

Supper at 5:30

Then SPA! Come and join us for art activities, wine tasting, massages, pedicures, music, and a generally good time. This is for fun and relaxation and stress relief, and the art activities will involve preparing story materials for Spirit Play in the fall.

FUNHOUSE for Kids and Adult DVD on Demand

## Kathleen's Corner

It's been such a busy spring!

Our Coming of Age Program has been a tremendous success. On Sunday, May 31, we presented nine wonderful young people to the congregation, and they all deserve to be congratulated and welcomed as fully invested members of our church.

The following folks are shining stars, and I want to thank them LOUDLY: COA Facilitators—Karen McKenzie, Katie Ramsey, Teresa Hall, and Mary Bracey, who worked long and hard for love's sake. Special thanks also goes to the wonderful folks who served as mentors: Judy Allen, Jule Klotter, Bobbie Schoss, Norm Schoss, Brian Ramsey, PK Weiss, Michael Wray, Jinx Jenkins, and Rick Hahnenberg. Most of these folks showed up on Sunday mornings, Friday nights, and Saturday afternoons. They endured the confusion of several schedule changes and still showed up. They drove us places—to and from, helped us work, pulled weeds, cheered us on, and talked to us about silly stuff and the deepest parts of our hearts. Mary Glenn, Savannah's mom, helped to chaperone lock-ins, took a lot of pictures, and told us how great we are on her Facebook page. Jinx doesn't ever get her email, but she came along to Furman for the Ropes course and took pictures and gave hoorays for the kids as they climbed a giant swinging ladder to fifty feet in the air, and she walked the labyrinth with us in the rain. She also bought a box of doughnuts when I know she doesn't even eat them. Ed Wilde and Connie Godenick were great Rent-a-Mentors when they showed up to help on our workday at exactly the right time. Connie cut the grass with the push mower, and talked with youth about her journey as a UU, and Ed was our building and grounds mentor for the whole day—he even passed up a chance to go hiking to help us pull weeds. And Rose Mary Kramer sold her handmade jewelry and donated over \$100 to our expenses.

I have loved my first year as your DRE. Everyone, and I mean everyone, has made it a journey filled with love and support and fun. I LOVE this place, and love my work with you. Thank you from my heart! —*Kathleen*

## Spartanburg Sierra Club

**MEETING**—Thursday, June 25, at 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church, Peter Schmunk will present a program on ULTRA-LITE HIKING AND CAMPING. Have you ever wondered what it would be like to carry a sleeping bag, tent, sleeping pad, and pack which in total weighed less than ten pounds? Peter, an experienced backpacker in the West, will show you how. Peter is also an acclaimed nature photographer; he will show a few pictures from his hikes. Non-members welcome. THERE WILL BE NO MEETING IN JULY.

**HIKE**—Saturday, June 20, JONES GAP TRAIL in Jones Gap State Park. We will explore the plant and animal life along this lovely, shaded trail. The trail follows a rushing creek for much of its way and includes a visit to a small waterfall. Bring a lunch to eat at a beautiful spot on a rock in the creek. Rated moderate. And after the hike, help Jack celebrate his 78th birthday. In the Hobbit tradition, Jack will give a present to all hikers—an ice cream cone at Aunt Sue's. Non-members welcome. Phone Jack Seitz (864) 948-1080 (home), 597-4589 (office) for Spartanburg departure time and place.

## Transformation

Sometimes I feel that my life is a series of trapeze swings. I'm either hanging on to a trapeze bar swinging along or, for a few moments in my life, I'm hurtling across space in between trapeze bars. Most of the time, I spend my life hanging on for dear life to my trapeze-bar-of-the-moment. It carries me along at a certain steady rate of swing and I have the feeling that I'm in control of my life. I know most of the right questions and even some of the right answers.

But once in a while, as I'm merrily (or not-so-merrily) swinging along, I look out ahead of me into the distance, and what do I see? I see another trapeze bar swinging toward me. It's empty, and I know, in that place in me that knows, that this new trapeze bar has my name on it. It is my next step, my growth, my aliveness coming to get me. In my heart-of-hearts I know that for me to grow, I must release my grip on this present, well-known bar to move to the new one. Each time it happens to me, I hope (no, I pray) that I won't have to grab the new one. But in my knowing place I know that I must totally release my grasp on my old bar, and for some moment in time I must hurtle across space before I can grab onto the new bar.

Each time I am filled with terror. It doesn't matter that in all my previous hurdles across the void of unknowing I have always made it. Each time I am afraid that I will miss, that I will be crushed on unseen rocks in the bottomless chasm between the bars. But I do it anyway. Perhaps this is the essence of what the mystics call the faith experience. No guarantees, no net, no insurance policy, but I do it anyway because somehow, to keep hanging on to that old bar is no longer on the list of alternatives. And so for an eternity that can last a microsecond or a thousand lifetimes, I soar across the dark void of "the past is gone, the future is not yet here."

It's called transition. I have come to believe that is the only place that *real* change occurs. I mean real change, not the pseudo-change that only lasts until the next time my old buttons get punched. I have noticed that, in our culture, this transition zone is looked upon as a "no-thing," a no-place between places. Sure, the old trapeze-bar was real, and that new one coming towards me, I hope that's real too. But the void in between? That's just a scary, confusing, disorienting "nowhere" that must be gotten through as fast and as unconsciously as possible.

What a waste! I have a sneaking suspicion that the transition zone is the only real thing, and the bars are illusions we dream up to avoid the void, where the real change, the real growth occurs for us. Whether or not my hunch is true, it remains that the transition zones in our lives are incredibly rich places. They should be honored, even savored. Yes, with all the pain and fear and feelings of being out-of-control that can (but not necessarily) accompany transitions, they are still the most alive, most growth-filled, passionate, expansive moments in our lives.

And so, transformation of fear may have nothing to do with making fear go away, but rather with giving ourselves permission to "hang-out" in the transition between trapeze bars. Transforming our need to grab that new bar, any bar, is allowing ourselves to dwell in the only place where change really happens. It can be terrifying. It can also be enlightening, in the true sense of the word. Hurtling through the void, we just may learn how to fly.

"Fear of Transformation," from *The Essence Book of Days*,  
By Danaan Parry—<http://www.earthstewards.org>

# JUNE 2009

| Sunday                          | Monday                 | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday                              | Friday                                 | Saturday  |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|---|---|---------------------------------------|--|---|
|                                 | <b>1</b><br>6:30 Yoga  | <b>2</b><br>6:30 Buddhist Meditation            | <b>3</b><br>5:30 Supper<br>7:00 Council on Committees<br>FUNHOUSE | <b>4</b>                              | <b>5</b><br>10:00 Membership Committee | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>7</b><br>Meg's Last Sunday   | <b>8</b><br>6:30 Yoga  | <b>9</b><br>6:30 Buddhist<br>6:45 Rainbow Group | <b>10</b><br>5:30 Supper<br>SPA                                   | <b>11</b>                             | <b>12</b><br>12:00 Midweek Lunch Bunch | <b>13</b>   |
| <b>14</b><br>12:30 Exploring UU | <b>15</b><br>6:30 Yoga | <b>16</b><br>6:30 Buddhist Meditation           | <b>17</b><br>2:00-4:00 Stories<br>5:30 Supper<br>DVD, Funhouse    | <b>18</b><br><i>Unison</i> deadline   | <b>19</b>                              | <b>20</b><br>Sierra Hike<br>10:00 Gay Pride March |
| <b>21</b>                       | <b>22</b><br>6:30 Yoga | <b>23</b><br>6:30 Buddhist Meditation           | <b>24</b><br>5:30 Supper<br>SPA<br>FUNHOUSE                       | <b>25</b><br>7:30 Sierra Club Meeting | <b>26</b><br>12:00 Midweek Lunch Bunch | <b>27</b>   |
| <b>28</b><br>Total Ministries   | <b>29</b><br>6:30 Yoga | <b>30</b><br>6:30 Buddhist Meditation           |   |                                       |  |   |

## Sunday Morning Book Sales

Please don't forget your IOUs for books. There is almost \$20 worth of IOUs in the money jar. Thanks for the great support for our book store. We hope to have new, cool things for you soon! Karen Mitchell is working to find us a permanent place with more rolling book carts.

***Unison Deadline—18th of Each Month***  
***Bulletin Deadline—Wednesday Nights, 9:00***

**[unison@uucs.org](mailto:unison@uucs.org)**

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

## MIDWEEK LUNCH BUNCH

Spend some time with your UU friends during the week! The new midweek Lunch Bunch got off to a good start Friday, May 29, as about ten people gathered at Yanniss. Plans are to meet every two weeks, alternating between the east and west sides of town and the downtown area. The next occasion will be Friday, June 12, at 12:00 noon. Watch the bulletin and the Happenings to find out where the bunch will meet, and e-mail Monnie Cannon ([unison@uucs.com](mailto:unison@uucs.com)) if you want to be included in a group e-mail reminder. Also, when you can, let Monnie know if you plan to attend so we can reserve a table for the right number. But come ahead even if you decide at the last minute. Newcomers are especially welcome—it's a great way to get to know your new community.