



# UNISON

August 2009

No. 782

## *A Month of Sundays*

- 2** *Charlie Milford—Paternal Justice*  
The subtitle of Mr. Milford's sermon is "Truth Is More a Becoming than a Having." Charlie is an environmental consultant and in 1991 he started and is currently employed at The Piedmont Group, Inc., a small business that supplies and recycles oil absorbent materials.
- 9** *Joyce Harrison—Ties That Bind*  
My recent trip to France brought many insights about qualities that bind one person to another, one family to another, one country to another. We'll explore these connections and their relationship to us as members of our UU church family. Joyce is the president-elect of UUCS.
- 16** *Dr. Sally McClellan—Spirit Play*  
Sally McClellan is an associate professor of Early Childhood Education at USC Aiken. She has a Ph.D. in Early Childhood Education from the University of South Carolina and a Masters in Religious Education from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Sally has been a member of UUCS since February 2007.
- 23** *P.K. Weiss—The Pride March that Made Us Proud*  
P.K. Weiss has lived in Spartanburg for five years and has been a member of UUCS for three years. She currently chairs the Membership Committee. She and her husband David have four children who range in age from thirteen to twenty-two. P.K. led the committee that organized the inaugural Pride March and Festival.
- 30** *Dr. Connie Godenick—More than Just an Apple a Day*  
"How to keep yourself so healthy you won't need a doctor." Connie has a Bachelor of Science degree in Foods and Nutrition, a Masters degree in Public Health, and is a board-certified family practice medical doctor. She works part-time in Greer at New Horizons clinic for the financially challenged and has just opened a part-time private practice in Clinton, SC, focusing on Integrative Medicine.

## Letter from the President

*We are getting ready for our new year.*

*We are getting more informed.*

- If you want to know more about Don Rollins, our interim minister, read his answers to questions posed by our Search Committee. You can find them on the congregational bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. Don's first Sunday service will be September 6.
- Your elected Board of Directors is becoming a team. We will meet on Wednesday, August 12, at 7:00. You are always invited to see your Board in action. The committees are gearing up for a new year of work. The committee chairs meet the first Wednesday at 7:00. Of course, you are invited too. Both groups meet together on Saturday, August 1, from 9:00 to 12:00 to talk about their work this year. Reminder—you are invited to attend any committee or Board meeting.
- Who are the Board and committee chairs, anyway? Look at their pictures on the congregational bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. Familiarize yourself with the people who create the policies (the Board), and the people who create the programming (the committees).

*We are taking action.*

All of you are invited to the Painting Party, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, August 6, 7, 8. We need to spruce up the place. The new minister is coming and anyway, the place needs some loving care.

If you have paint brushes and supplies, please bring them with you. If you cannot paint, but you would like to be part of the activities, please come. There are many other things that need to be done around the place, small and large, and we will put you to work. It is fun to be part of a group effort to improve the facility.

It will be an interesting and exciting time for us this next year. I hope you are making plenty of time for your church this coming year. It can be a year that broadens and deepens our spiritual life, as individuals and as a congregation. I am looking forward to it and I hope you are too.

*Karen Mitchell*

Welcoming Supper for Don Rollins, Interim Minister  
Friday, September 11

## HAVE BRUSH— WILL PAINT?

WHAT: A PAINTING PARTY

WHERE: CHURCH

WHEN

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

TIME: 8:30-4:00

Please meet at the church on any of the above dates during the times indicated, as you are able, to help paint and make the church ready for our new minister.

Please bring with you any paint equipment you may have, such as brushes, trays, rollers, drop cloths.

We'll have some equipment at the church, but anything you are able to bring would be a huge help.

For more information or if you have questions, contact:

KAREN MITCHELL 579-3791  
or BOBBIE SCHOSS 921-9197

**SEE YOU THERE!**

## Director of Music— Position Still Open

Since we received no applications for this position as first described and publicized, the Personnel Committee has revised it and extended the deadline, although we hope to have someone in place by September 1. If you wish to view both the position summary and the detailed job description, please go on line to the Spartanburg UU website at [http://www.uucs.org/DM\\_JobPosting.html](http://www.uucs.org/DM_JobPosting.html). Hard copies of both documents are also posted on the bulletin board in the hallway outside the volunteer/copier room. Please pass this information along if you know of someone who might be qualified and interested. Contact Ruth Stanton (864-574-6086) or Mary Miles (864-582-3440) with any questions.

## News from the Membership Committee

**Facebook**—Have you joined the millions of people around the world on Facebook? If you have, be sure to join the UUCS group there. Just search “Unitarian Universalist Church of Spartanburg.” It’s an open group and anyone can join.

**Exploring UU**—The August session of Exploring UU will be held in Room 5 on Sunday, August 9, following the service. During these brief, informal sessions, newcomers and visitors are invited to talk about what brought them to UUCS and what they’re looking for in a faith community, as well as ask any questions they might have about UUCS or Unitarian Universalism. If you’re interested, please grab a cup of coffee and join us! If you have any questions beforehand, please contact P. K. Weiss at [pkweiss@bellsouth.net](mailto:pkweiss@bellsouth.net).

**Meet Our New Youth Members!** On May 31, following a several-month Coming of Age curriculum, eight of the participants took the next step and signed the UUCS membership book, thereby becoming voting members of the congregation. We are fortunate to have such a strong, bright, enthusiastic group of high-school students adding their voices to our congregation. Here’s a little information about each of these newest members:

**Shannon Bracey** has been a familiar face at UUCS for the past eleven years and says what she likes best about the church are the people. Her mother, Mary, tells those wonderful stories to the children each week during the Sunday service, and Shannon and her younger siblings consider the church practically a second home. Home schooled, Shannon is in tenth grade, and her hobbies include dancing, reading, singing, and art. She’s very active in dance, participating in ballet, jazz, hip hop, contemporary, and pointe. After finishing high school, Shannon plans to attend college, possibly the University of South Carolina or Juilliard. Shannon’s pets include two dogs and two cats. Her pet cause, however, is gay rights.

**Ian Clements** lives in Rutherfordton, North Carolina, so coming to UUCS regularly is quite a commitment for him and his mom, Michelle. Ian is a rising junior at Reach High School, but he also attends Isothermal Community College in Rutherford County. By the time he graduates from high school, he’ll also have earned an Associate of Arts degree. After high school, Ian is considering attending Full Sail University in Winter Park, Florida, or the University of North Carolina in Wilmington. He’s interested in furthering his education in the media arts and, in fact, already has his own weekly radio show on his local NPR affiliate, WNCW 88.7 FM. Ian enjoys martial arts, playing the guitar, playing video games, and sleeping. He’s also interested in Alzheimer’s research, quantum physics, energy work, and chakra healing. He’s been coming to UUCS since December of last year, and says that what he likes best here is the sense of belonging and community.

**Savanna Glenn** will be in the eleventh grade this fall at Dorman High School. She is a member of the Chorus there, and has been involved with the Alia Lawson Pre-College Program at Converse College for four years. Savanna loves all types of music, drama and musical theater, creative writing, and coastal boating with her family. She plans to attend college after completing high school, and has expressed interest in Furman, Brevard, or Berkeley. She would like to further her education in the arts (perhaps music, drama, writing, or philosophy/religion). Her primary career goal at this time is to be a writer. Savanna appreciates UUCS for its welcoming nature and acceptance of all beliefs, as well as the social concerns that UUs embrace. She’s particularly interested in supporting equal rights issues, global wellness, stopping genocide, and animal rights. Savanna has a four-year old Corgi named Cabretta (after a favorite river in Georgia), a calico cat named Gracie, and a black cat named Poe (after the poet).

**Justin Huitt** will enter the eleventh grade at Dorman this fall, but he’ll actually be attending classes at Spartanburg Community College, earning college credit while he completes the courses he needs for high school. After high school, Justin is interested in studying in the film program at Warren Wilson College in the Swannanoa Valley of North Carolina. He is interested in all aspects of film production, and although he enjoys watching all types of movies considers himself a bit of a “movie snob,” and he watches films with a very critical eye. Other interests include reading and writing. Justin has been coming to UUCS for about eighteen months and says that the church feels like a home to him. He appreciates the calm atmosphere, and the way everyone respects each other.

## Membership Committee (continued)

**Grace Jerome** has been attending UUCS for five years, and says that she loves the open and friendly atmosphere. She is entering the tenth grade this fall at Chesnee High School, where she is a member of the Beta Club and is involved in fellow UUCS member Deb Stripling's "Death by Disco" Dinner Theater. Grace will be set and stage manager for this mystery dinner theater production. Grace enjoys reading mythic novels and horse-back riding. She works at Primrose Acres Kennels, where she walks the dogs three times a day and takes care of the cats and the tropical critters. Her own pets include six dogs, four cats, and two parakeets. Her love of animals has spurred her interest in ending animal cruelty and the slaughter of horses, as well as the preservation of the planet. As a career, Grace is interested in graphic design or 3-D computer graphics.

**Katie Mierek** will enter the eleventh grade at Broome High School this fall while attending USC Upstate at the same time. Following high school, Katie is interested in attending Columbia University in New York City, with the goal of becoming a lawyer. In fact, she already works part-time in a local law office. Katie's hobbies include reading, running, swimming, playing soccer, listening to music, and going to the movies. She also has an interest in encouraging habits that help conserve materials and benefit the environment. Katie has been attending church at UUCS for about ten years and says that she loves the people here. "Everyone is so friendly—like a second family—and being here really feels like being at home." Katie has two dwarf hamsters named Zoro and Don Juan, along with a dog named Jake.

**Kyle O'Rourke** has been coming to UUCS for about a year and says that what he appreciates most is the acceptance and the way people are encouraged to think for themselves. Kyle will be entering eleventh grade at Dorman this fall, and is active on the varsity cross country and track teams there. He's an avid runner and also enjoys biking. Kyle would like to attend the Naval Academy after graduating from high school, with the long-term goal of becoming a politician. He already has a passion for politics and freedom and feels a responsibility to work toward making the U.S. a better place. Kyle has one pet, an annoying dog named Rosie.

**Brooke Ramsey** attends Gaffney High School, where she is a rising tenth grader. She has been in the choir there, and she is also a member of the band, the marching band, and the Beta Club. She loves music, and is a talented singer and trumpet player. Brooke is interested in attending Ohio State University or the University of South Carolina, where she'd like to study to become a band director or a marine biologist. She's concerned about the environment, animal abuse, domestic violence, hunger, and homelessness. Brooke and her family have been attending UUCS for about seven years, and she loves the acceptance from the congregation, along with all the friendly hugs and smiles. Brooke has two dogs (Lucy and Annabelle), and two cats (Sammy and Chloc).

**QUESTION:** What is the "interdependent web"?

**ANSWER:** The seventh of the Principles, adopted by the UUA in 1985, contains the phrase "the interdependent web of all existence." This metaphor conveys the philosophical idea, confirmed by science, that all living things exist in dependence upon one another (from *Welcome: A Unitarian Universalist Primer*, edited by Patricia Frevort).



### Coming of Age Group

Pictured left to right, back row—Justin Huitt, Savanna Glenn, Tony Meraglia, Ian Clements, Grace Jerome, and Kyle O'Rourke. Front row—Shannon Bracey, Katie Mierek, and Brooke Ramsey.

### Buddhist Meditation Group

Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.

All are welcome.

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

### Eating Out with UU Friends

Spend some time with your UU friends during the week! The **Midweek Lunch Bunch** is well under way with an average of twelve or more each time. We meet the second Friday and fourth Thursday of the month, alternating between the east and west sides of town. This week there will be a special lunch on Friday, August 7, at 11:45 noon at Sonny's Brick Oven Pizza, followed by the regular schedule on Friday, August 14, and Thursday, August 28. Watch the bulletin and the Happenings to find out where the bunch will meet, and e-mail Monnie Cannon (unison@uucs.com) if you want to be included in a group e-mail reminder. Also, when you can, let Monnie know (582-4492 or e-mail) if you plan to attend so we can reserve a table for the right number. Newcomers are especially welcome—it's a great way to get to know your new community.

And in the meantime, join the **Sunday Lunch Bunch** after the service or discussion. This group meets in order (starting with August 2) at Bangkok, Bronco on Union Street, Five Spices, and Panera. Each Sunday bulletin has a reminder.

### Sign Up for Happenings

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

# STUFF and STUFFINESS

By Kathleen Anderson

Housework is one of the levels of hell, I'm sure. You have to find or make places for all the things and then you have to put them there. You must contain them, keep them clean, protect them from moisture and moths and dry rot, and fix them, and buy parts. It takes energy, it takes time, and money, and space, and if you have way too much stuff, as most of us do, you don't feel rich, you feel constricted, crammed, clogged, cluttered. Your life feels too tight, overloaded, and there's no elbow room. You feel as if you can't breathe, and you can't find the Kleenex because you put it in that safe place you can never remember.

Recently I watched old friends preparing to move from their big house and twenty-five years of living in one town to a new life in another city far away where they will have only a tiny space. They were letting go of everything that wasn't absolutely necessary. It was an amazing and scary process, and hard to watch, because not only was there the actual hassle of sorting and organizing and selling and giving away, but also the internal work of memory and grief, the loosening of ties to precious things that for years gave shape and definition to a rich and complex life. Letting go isn't easy, even when you know it serves something important, even when you want more than anything to reach the prize that gleams like a ruby at the end of the work.

While she was packing, my friend told me about another friend who says that the more you rid your life of things you don't need, the more creative you can be. And when you hang on to things you don't want or need, you're keeping them from their rightful owners. So you need to let them pass out of your life so they can reach the people to whom they really belong. Then she said, "Does this belong to you?" It didn't. I was so relieved.

When I moved a few years ago, I left almost everything behind, and at that time I learned a lot about the pleasures of empty spaces, and what I really needed. Now, in just a few short years, those empty spaces are filled up, and clutter spills over and I don't like it. It's a never-ending task! It's time to let go again. I don't like that either.

Actually, I think we all have categories of things that serve different purposes, and fill the spaces with different attitudes. They tell us about ourselves.

Just-in-Case Things are things I might need someday. I have lots of these. I have some great teaching materials that I dragged home when I retired—those could be important, though nobody is learning from them now. I have empty notebooks, a very nice baby crib, a meat grinder, the leather jacket with the big lapels (hey, the leather is really nice), old pocketbooks, big stacks of boxes and baskets, phone cords and chargers, a box with twenty matchbooks from Hot Spot, two old vacuum cleaners, some half-used shampoos and soaps and lotions, old T-shirts, that ugly Christmas wreath, and extra socks whose mates disappeared into the Other World to which we are connected by that invisible worm hole in the dryer.

I keep a lot of things for decoration—the Kathleen Museum pieces that are so beautiful and amazing, and that showcase my fabulousness and my exquisite, quirky taste. I AM SOMEBODY, and I have the stuff to prove it, and if you were to see my stuff, I know you would just love me and think I am fasci-

My Life



nating. Really, you would. Who else do you know who has Civil War binoculars, a skunk skin, a rose mandala, a cedar stump side table, a dancing panda, pirate rubber ducks, and a handmade mirror—all in the same room?

Of course there's the Someday Stuff. I have several pairs of jeans that I loved when I was thinner, and a *great* pair of shorts, size 8, that I have never worn, but that I have kept for over ten years, because several times I have been *almost* able to wear them, and I am still hoping, even though I have never been a size 8 in my entire life. I also have a banjo, a flute, a big box of watercolors and brushes, books on building water gardens, organic herb gardening, and several yoga and Tai Chi videos. You get the picture. Someday...

There are Magic Tools—things to which I have granted a kind of agency. I have a staff, various crystals and altarpieces, a magic wand, special candles, a pair of red-tail hawk wings, a little ceramic bird in a real nest lined with my hair, an elements charm hanging on the back door, pictures of the mothers, my grandmother's ring. We all have superstitions. They come from our tribes, from times when we felt a part of something beyond. Is it just superstition? *Can things* really hold power to heal or protect, to project our energies, or connect us to something bigger, or do they just represent and lead us to the Mystery? It's hard to say. Doesn't everyone have some lucky socks?

Then there is the Memorabilia, all that stuff that tells me who I was, reminds me of times when things were not as they are now. Was I happier then? Looking at me in the picture, it seems that I was, and there *were* happy times, but I also remember that I fretted and fussed then, too. I have always felt that itch, wanting things to be different. What I believe now is that happiness is a choice we make about gratitude, that sometimes it comes quietly, and we feel it more when we stay in the present moment and pay attention. I see that perfection is a real thing, but it moves; it's part of a process—and process includes change. I look at those old pictures and would like to believe that things were perfect then, but they weren't, and they were, just like now. Do I need to hang on to all the things that hold the past? Probably not, but I still love the pictures of the children, of the way the kitchen used to look, and of young us when we were laying the new floor, of the dear animals who are gone now. I love using the furniture my grandfather built, and the Irish wool scarf that still holds the smell of my mother. Our memories hold us, and give us a view of the road we have traveled, but things are just things in the end, and it's OK to let go when we don't need them anymore.

I have lots of Mistake Stuff. This is the stuff I am sure does not belong to me, but here it is anyway. There are dumb things I bought on impulse, on sale, or because I was listening to one of the voices in my head, and strange gifts given by kind people without a clue. I don't know what to do with these things exactly, but it seems wasteful to throw them away; they must be

## Stuff and Stuffiness (continued)

worth something! I have giant hand-carved salad servers that don't fit into any drawer, and a purple throw pillow with gold fringe that doesn't match anything but it's gorgeous in a garish sort of way. Are they yours? I have three pairs of tennis shoes that felt great in the store, but make my toes numb after a few hours. Hmm. Maybe my feet will change. I also have some high heels that I thought might restore some of the sex appeal I had when I was thirty. Ha! They do look kind of good, so I wear them to church sometimes because they help me pray, but after about thirty minutes my feet want to know what the hell I was thinking, and also would like to remind me how stupid I am going to feel when it occurs to me that I'm not a hot chick, I'm the old lady with the sprained ankle. And the clothes! Let's not go there; suffice it to say that Stacy and Clinton could have big fun in my closet.

So much stuff. Some of it is important. Some of it serves me. I'm so not ready to be a guru with only a begging bowl and a blanket. I love my soup pot, and my sofa, and the picture I drew of my son. I need the down comforter in the winter, and the painted lamps my mother bought for her first home. I love my antique tablecloths, and the little pile of river rocks I picked up that day with my friend.

But the other stuff, the clutter, all the peripheral madness—it's in the way. It trips me up. I should let that go. And maybe letting go of all the THINGS that I don't want or need could be a doorway into other kinds of clearing—Habits. Attitudes. Relationships. Grudges. Wounds. I have some of those that don't serve, too. We all do, and if you're like me, you know what you need to do. It's just hard, because we know that if we really do it, things will change forever, we will change, and that's scary, even when we know it's what we need. We say we want to, and maybe we will. Just not today.

So letting go is my new lesson in Earth School. I hate it, but it is necessary for freedom. Empty spaces. How beautiful they are. They make room for imagination, for doing new work, for being useful, for dancing. And I can find the Kleenex.

## 20 Accomplishments of the UUA—with Our Help!

The generous contributions of UUCS to the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations, through our annual “dues,” helped our Association accomplish the following during the past five years. For more information on the UUA and its services, go to [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org).

—The free, accessible online availability of Tapestry of Faith curricula.

—The establishment of the Diversity of Ministry Team Initiative, to develop healthy, sustainable ministries with ministers who identify as people of color, Latina/o, Hispanic, and multiracial, and to support seminarians during their formation.

—The awarding of hundreds of scholarships to support students preparing for Unitarian Universalist ministry, including new \$20,000 scholarships funded by your gifts to Association Sunday 2008.

—The UUA's immediate response to crises, including bringing needed relief to those affected by Hurricane Katrina in 2005, and providing direct pastoral care and financial help for the victims of the tragedy in Knoxville, Tennessee, in 2008.

—The execution of Unitarian Universalism's National Marketing Campaign, funded in part by your gifts to Association Sunday 2007, including full-page ads in *Time* magazine and a full-page ad in the *New York Times* in the wake of the tragedy in Knoxville, Tennessee. The creation of the UUA's Umbrella Giving Program, allowing you to designate the beneficiaries of any gift as your congregation or the other Unitarian Universalist entities you love, managed at no cost to you or the beneficiary.

—The work of the UUA's Offices of Advocacy and Witness, including free advocacy resources and opportunities for congregational and individual involvement on national advocacy issues, and the new Standing on the Side of Love Campaign.

—The appointment of the first-ever Emerson UUA Chair of Divinity at Harvard Divinity School.

—The UUA's inheritance of the growing Green Sanctuary Program, helping us to bring valuable environmental justice resources to congregations across your Association.

—The work of the Freedom to Marry Fund, which provides grants sponsoring lobbying, advertising, and educating about marriage equality through Unitarian Universalist congregations across our nation.

—The establishment of the Walt Whitman Fund, to increase public awareness of Unitarian Universalist values and perspectives on social justice issues, notably issues that affect GLBTQ persons, and to enable the UUA's Beacon Press to strengthen its offerings on GLBTQ issues, through the Walt Whitman Series.

—The launch of the new [uua.org](http://uua.org) in an effort to make UU information and resources more accessible to our visitors, members, and leaders.

—The virtualization of several UUA data center servers, reducing the number of physical computers used by the Association's headquarters and subsequent energy consumption by twenty-five percent!

—The culmination of the three-year Consultation on Ministry to and with Youth, resulting in an excellent set of recommendations for creating a new, congregationally-based, spirit-centered, inclusive youth ministry.

—The publication of countless Skinner House Books, to aid individuals and congregations in their search for truth and meaning.

—The founding of the UUA's Office of International Resources, to support congregations as they respond to the call of our Sixth Principle: “to affirm and promote the goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all.”

—The implementation of the JUUST Change Consultancy to build the framework for systemic transformation through our commitment to anti-racism, anti-oppression, and building diverse, multicultural welcoming institutions.

—The launch of five comprehensive regional marketing campaigns, complemented by hospitality training to make our congregations more truly welcoming to all people.

—The awarding of building loans to our congregations, to help with building or buying a first spiritual home, repairing or renovating existing facilities, and expanding current facilities—especially to make them more accessible.

—The cultivation of our spiritual growth as Unitarian Universalists through grants—funded by Association Sunday 2008—for congregations, districts, and seminaries to create their own, innovative lay theological education programs.

# Lifespan Faith Development August Schedule

**Saturday-Sunday, August 1-2**

Junior High Lock-In (Hatcher House and Main Building)

## Sundays in August

**Sunday, August 2**

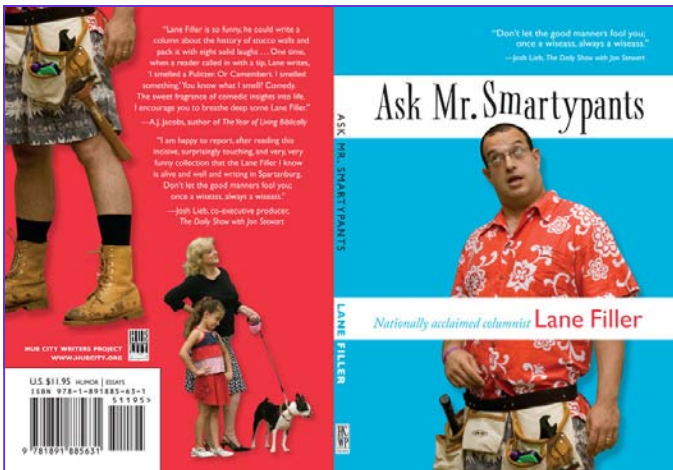
Summer Magick: Our series concludes with a **Lughnassadh Celebration**: This is the festival of the first harvest. Lugh was the Celtic Sun-God, and at this turn of the wheel we celebrate plenty, and the fullness of the Summer. Everyone is invited!

*Coffee and Conversation in the Fellowship Hall*

**Sunday, August 9**

Guest Author: Spartanburg Herald Journal columnist Lane Filler has a new book out. **ASK MR. SMARTYPANTS** is a very funny, surprisingly touching look at modern life, and has garnished rave reviews. We have been warned, however, that "Once a smart-ass, always a smart-ass." Don't miss out on this fun time. Mr. Filler will talk and read to us, and there will be an opportunity to purchase and get your book personally signed.

*Coffee and Conversation following in the Fellowship Hall*



**Sunday, August 16**

Knitting and Needles with David Stack  
DVD on Demand: Gregg Braden—*The Science of Miracles*  
Arts and Crafts for Kids—We'll make some Book-Bag Thing-a-ma-Jigs and Zipper Pulls.

*Coffee and Conversation in the Fellowship Hall*

**Sunday, August 23**

Knitting and Needles with David Stack  
DVD on Demand  
Story Art for Kids 3-9

*Coffee and Conversation in the Fellowship Hall*

**Sunday, August 30**

DVD on Demand

*Coffee and Conversation in the Fellowship Hall*

**Kicking off The New Educational Year for Children and Teens**

Come meet your teachers, and find out what the fall season has in store for you!

**Preschool Class**—With Stories, Activities, Snacks, and Play

**Elementary Spirit Play**—All NEW AND IMPROVED Montessori-style Approach to our UU values with all new stories and manipulatives prepared just for you. With teachers Susan Prestipino, Mary Bracey, and Palma Eisner

**Junior High**: Challenging New Curriculum on our UU heritage and values

**High School**: Lessons from Coming of Age

## Wednesdays in August

Please join us each Wednesday evening for a **POTLUCK SUPPER**.

The meals are delicious, and the fellowship most pleasant. Bring a dish to share, or \$4 per person, \$8 per family. Activities follow.

**Wednesday, August 5**

Council on Committees

DVD on Demand: Gregg Braden—*The Science of Miracles*

Arts and Crafts for Kids

Book Club

**Wednesday, August 12**

Board Meeting

Lifespan Faith Development Committee

DVD on Demand: *Living the Field*, with Lynne McTaggart

Arts and Crafts for Kids

**Wednesday, August 19**

2:00-4:00 **Telling Our Stories Group**—

**What's In a Name?** Lots of stories about our own names and where we get them, and how the way we name things shapes our experiences. This is a good one, and all adults are invited!

After Supper:

Humanist Discussion Group

Coltrane Covenant Group

DVD on Demand: Viewer's Choice

**Wednesday, August 26**

SPA! Spirit Play Art with Comfort Stuff, Wine Tasting, and Gossip

DVD on Demand: Viewer's Choice

**THE BOOK CLUB** has changed its meeting date to the first Wednesday of each month. We start the discussions and conversations at 6:30. This month we're reading *The Education of Little Tree* by Asa Earl Carter. The book chosen for September is *The Other Queen* by Philippa Gregory. This book focuses on Mary Queen of Scots. In October, the choice is *Can't Wait to Get to Heaven* by Fannie Flagg. Please join us on the first Wednesday of each month. We have wonderful discussions and enjoy one another's company.

## August Birthdays

Sophie Wise (8/01), Mary Bracey (8/02), Gregory Gaddis (8/02), Bob Mitchell (8/07), Rick Hahnenberg (8/08), Deandre Sharpe (8/15), Kathleen Wilde (8/15), Ella Pinceloup (8/16), Paige Lawson (8/20), Abby Fowler (8/22), Teresa Hall (8/22), Morris Crump (8/23), Hannah Jordan (8/24), Chuck Frank (8/25), Janice White (8/25), Sarah McBride (8/27), Harrison Flynn (8/29), Clayton Jordan (8/29), Jeanette Keepers (8/30), Zane Patton (8/30), Crystal Sharpe (8/30).

## Spartanburg Sierra Club

**MEETING**—Thursday, August 27, at 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church. Do you know much about WILLIAM BARTRAM, the person whose name identifies our group? If you don't (and my guess is most of us don't) you can correct this by attending our August meeting. DR. GERALD THURMOND, of the Sociology Department at Wofford College, has been fascinated with the eighteenth-century botanist and traveler William Bartram since he read Bartram's famous *Travels* thirteen years ago. For four years Bartram journeyed throughout the southeast US and as far west as the Mississippi River, describing the plants, animals, and birds he observed as well as the culture of the Creek, Cherokee, and Seminole peoples. His book inspired Coleridge, Wordsworth, Emerson, and Thoreau and his observations of Native American cultures are still cited by anthropologists and historians today. Thurmond will talk about Bartram as romantic, scientist, and adventurer—from the two essays he has written about him.

**HIKE**—Saturday, August 29, we will hike about 4-1/3 miles on the BROAD RIVER GREENWAY TRAIL and cool off with a dip in the shallow Broad River (swim at your own risk, no lifeguards available). Rated easy to moderate. Bring a lunch to eat along the banks of the river. We will explore vegetation and wildlife along the way. Non-members welcome. Bring wading shoes for the stoney river bottom. Phone Jack Seitz (864) 597-4589 (office) or 948-1080 (home) for departure time and place, THIS SHOULD BE A FUN SUMMER HIKE.

## Meet Our Interim Minister

To learn more about our Interim Minister, read Don's answers to questions posed by the Interim Search Committee. It is posted on the Congregational Life bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

The Board of Directors is delighted to announce that Don Rollins will be our interim minister. The Board voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Interim Search Committee that Don be the interim minister, and he begins work on September 1.

He has been a UU minister since 1987, serving UU congregations as a settled parish minister and as an interim minister. In the late 1990s Don left the ministry to be a classroom teacher and social worker. In 2002 he returned to active ministry. Don is coming to us from Minnesota Valley UU Fellowship in Bloomington, MN, where he served as interim minister for one year.

In his resumé Don tells us that he was raised in far southern Ohio, an area of the state much more akin to Appalachia than the Midwest. That culture gave him a deep appreciation of simplicity, music, and nature—as well as the capacity to “make do” in tough times.

Seminary gave Don a forum for his quest and a language for his mightiest theological struggle to date. He entered a Methodist layperson and exited a Unitarian Universalist minister.

During his seminary training time he worked as director of religious education at the First UU Church of Columbus, Ohio. His work experience also includes being an assistant director at the UU summer camp Unirondack, among other things.

Don likes to cast a wide net in his methods of serving a congregation: preacher and worship leader, storyteller, musician, poet, comedian, pastor, administrator, teacher, and consultant.

Don highly values the performing arts, especially music. He describes himself as a folk musician/songwriter, but listens to and appreciates a wide variety of styles. One of his proudest experiences in ministry occurred when one of the congregations he was serving featured a multi-ethnic grunge band on Saturday night and the church choir sang in high-church German on Sunday morning.

For Don, the arts, visual and performing, are central to meaningful worship and attracting new folks. He uses the guitar in some worship services.

Don identifies himself as a religious humanist, but he is by no means opposed to the use of “God-talk” to express one's personal encounter with life and mystery. Don states he has no agenda about his own theology other than to hone, live, and deepen it.

Don states in his resumé, “I know of no UU theologies with which I have a quarrel. I am active in empowering and serving rationalists as well as spiritualists, UU Pagans as well as UU Christians. For me, the point is to be engaged in becoming the best humanist, pagan, theist, etc., possible.”

Don also says, “In terms of a sense of call, I can say that no vocation allows me to engage more of my interests, experience, and self than our ministry. I am most centered and alive when serving a UU congregation; ministry calls for my best, not just as a religious professional but also as a religious human being. I'm grateful for my time spent in education and social work, but am happy with the decision to return to ministry in 2002.”

Don is single and in a committed relationship. Rebecca is a licensed, private-practice psychotherapist in the Twin Cities.

We are very pleased to have Don joining us in the fall and look forward to a rewarding year together.

## Pianists for August

August 2—Joy Finch  
August 9—Beth York  
August 16—Sydney McMath  
August 23—Keith Plumley  
August 30—Sydney McMath

## *Unison—18th of Each Month*

*Bulletin—Wednesday Nights, 9:00*

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

Please don't leave material in the *Unison* mailbox without notifying Monnie.

# AUGUST 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>Wonderful Wednesdays</b> 5:30 Supper Activities Afterward			<b>1</b> Junior High Lock In
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> NO Yoga	<b>4</b> NO Buddhist Meditation	<b>5</b> Council on Committees, DVD, Arts and Crafts for Kids	<b>6</b> 8:30-4:00 Paint Party	<b>7</b> 8:30 Paint Party 11:45 Lunch Bunch Sonny's	<b>8</b> 8:30-4:00 Paint Party
<b>9</b> Exploring UU after service	<b>10</b> 6:30 Yoga	<b>11</b> 6:30 Buddhist Meditation	<b>12</b> Board Meeting, LFD Committee, DVD, Arts and Crafts	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 11:45 Midweek Lunch Bunch Place TBA	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 6:30 Yoga	<b>18</b> 6:30 Buddhist Meditation <i>Unison</i> deadline	<b>19</b> 2:00-4:00 Stories Group Humanism Group, DVD	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23/30</b> Total Ministries	<b>24/31</b> 6:30 Yoga	<b>25</b> 6:30 Buddhist Meditation	<b>26</b> Spirit Play Art, Book Club, DVD	<b>27</b> 11:45 Lunch Bunch Bangkok 7:30 Sierra Club	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Sierra Club Hike

## So Nice to Get to Know You—Welcoming Our New Interim Minister

Our new interim minister, Don Rollins, will be starting his new job with us on September 1. We will have an easy time learning this one new person's name and face, but Don will be trying to learn more than 160 new folks.

To help Don get to know our church family more easily, we are asking that all families, households, or individuals in our UUUCS community of friends and members put together a page telling about themselves. Make it friendly and informative, nothing confidential, as it will be available to members upon request.

So, what are some things you might want Don to know about your family or yourself? Possibly:

- Names of all family members, ages of children and/or grandchildren
- Occupations, past and current
- Interests, volunteer activities—past and present

- Religious background—journey / What brought you to our UUUCS
- Experience in other UU congregations / Roles you've held at UUUCS
- Other?

We'd also like for you to include a picture of your family or yourself along with your information if at all possible.

So, grab an 8 ½ x 11 inch piece of paper. Paste or copy (digital photograph) your picture at the top, identify your family members underneath, and then write your information below that.

Place your information sheet in the "So Nice to Get to Know You" box in the Fellowship Hall through August 23. We'll present the book to Don on September 1, his first day with us.

*This idea was borrowed from the Minnesota Valley UU Fellowship but has been modified and expanded for our use.*