



UNISON

October 2009

No. 784

A Month of Sundays

4 *Letters to Grandmother* The Rev. Don Rollins

Letters are going the way of the Pet Rock and Chia Pet (look them up, whippersnappers), but the need for telling stories across the generations remains. This sermon is less sermon than love letters between Don and his Grandma.

11 *Fading Light—Season Affective Disorder and the Spirit* The Rev. Don Rollins

This is a heads-up look at the shadow side of life, made literal as the days grow short.

18 *Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious, Google, and Other Names for God* Nancy Mandlove

Did God create human beings or did human beings create God? How can the finite mind and imperfect language of human beings comprehend and express the infinite and inexpressible? We'll explore creative ways in which people have used metaphor and imagination to explain the nature of that which we can never fully understand. Nancy Mandlove is Wofford professor emerita of Spanish and Latin American literature.

25 *Hell? No! A Universalist All Souls' Day* The Rev. Don Rollins

The Universalist side of our blended religious family would not abide eternal damnation in any form. Neither do we.

PASSIN' THRU

You may have noticed last week a blurb in the *Herald Journal* regarding a local church's tailgating party...as prelude to a baptism. (Nope, I'm not kidding.) Seems that in that congregation, the celebration of one of the two historic Protestant sacraments (communion being the other) has been updated to include po' boys, sweet potato pie, and lemonade. Call it tacky if you like, but you have to give 'em points for takin' chances.

What I admire about congregations that take chances—any stripe, any size—is their capacity to retain their central values as they take those chances. Matter of fact, the literature on congregational growth indicates that growing churches share at least three characteristics: (1) a clearly articulated vision/mission; (2) a sense of urgency around living out that vision and mission; and, (3) *a high tolerance for experimentation*. To put it differently, many growing congregations employ a formula that looks something like this: mission + passion + creativity = one fired-up religious community. Maybe I'm reading too much into things, but, in my book, any church that is so creative and flexible as to welcome its new members with a good dunking and a good parking-lot party is one forward-thinking bunch. No matter their particular theology.

When I'm in work mode, mission, passion, and creativity are always kicking around inside my large, bulbous head: How can I assist the good folks of UUCS to identify and articulate what holds them together? (Mission/Vision.) How can I best help them channel their tremendous investment in their beloved church? (Passion.) And what wonderfully wild ideas might I cook up with them as they spin out into the world an old gospel for a new age? (Creativity.)

Passion and creativity get the headlines, but mission is essential if the other two are to have any legitimacy for the long haul. If you'll permit me one early observation, this swell congregation might be best positioned for growth

Continued next page

Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

September kicked off our interim ministry with Don Rollins. We are delighted to have him with us. He has led worship services, met with committees and individuals, and shared supper with us. We have begun our relationship.

It is now time to set our mission, our vision, and our goals for this church. On Saturday, October 3, the leadership of the church will meet with Don and with Margaret Beard, UU minister at Augusta, Georgia, to do this work. We will be letting you know our progress.

To our recent visitors and new friends—welcome. We are glad you found the UU Church of Spartanburg. We hope you will find a spiritual home here. Our programs are up and running. We have adult, youth, and children's classes, and covenant groups (small groups that meet regularly). We have coffee hour at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays. Sometimes we have special events. Please come to anything that looks interesting to you. If you should want more information about anything, you may email me, bkmitche@bellsouth.net, and I will get the appropriate person in touch with you.

We look forward to a great year with all of you, our new and old members and friends.

*Blessings,
Karen Mitchell*

Bread and Board in October

Come join your Board of Directors at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, October 4, in the Fellowship Hall to share your thoughts and ideas. The Board can only consider other ideas if they are presented. This is your chance to share your thoughts, ideas, and give input in an informal setting.

This gathering will also give you a chance to learn what your Board has planned for the coming year. We are undergoing many changes and need everyone to be involved to build a healthy future. Come let your voice be heard!

Bi-Lo Boostersplus

It's time again to sign up for the Bi-Lo Boostersplus program. One percent of your purchases at Bi-Lo will be given to the church. The enrollment forms are on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. Just take one of the forms the next time you shop at Bi-Lo and give it to the cashier along with your Bi-Lo card. You only need to do this **one time** and you will be good until the end of the program year.

Sign Up for Happenings

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

PASSIN' THRU (continued)

(personal, institutional, and numerical) by using this interim period to identify *and articulate* its historic, non-negotiable shared values. Just a handful of things without which UUCS wouldn't be UUCS. Some things with which to plan and assess. To budget. To choose and design life-span curricula. To introduce the church to newcomers. To guide leadership at all levels. To court and call the best available settled minister.

So, what to do about the vision/mission thing? I'll soon be inviting all who will to join me for the four-session course, "Articulating Your UU Faith" (AYUUF). (No kidding, I've done it with as few as eight and as many as forty—it's just that adaptable.) The curriculum has two primary goals: to better equip UUs to describe, in clear and short fashion, the soul of our tradition; and, no less important, to put into words their own essential beliefs. It's a no-nonsense exercise in identity—your denomination and your own.

Keep an eye on the usual lines of communication, both electronic and print. I'll be passing along the details, logistics, and sign-up, with a starting date of early November in mind. In the meantime, do a little tailgating-and-baptism thinking of your own. You know, something rooted in mission, animated with passion, and made bold with your creativity.

Blessings, Don

Meet Your Transition Team

During our Interim Minister's time at UUCS, the following people will be working with him (and you, the congregation) as the Transition Team: Dave Drum, Abby Fowler, Jan Jerome, Riley Lanier, and P.K. Weiss. The team had their first meeting with Don on September 10. The transition team's job is to do what we can to assist in making sure this interim time goes well; we have the even bigger goal of helping the congregation figure out what we're looking for in a settled minister. One thing we figured out right away is that the transition team is just as unsure as the rest of the congregation about what exactly our time with an interim minister will be like.

Keep in mind that UUCS is undergoing more than a change; we're also experiencing a transition. As Don said at our meeting, "Change is situational; transition is psychological." One of Don's jobs as interim minister is to take advantage of our unsettled condition to help us determine where change is needed. He has to introduce just the *right amount* of anxiety, though, to keep the congregation from feeling overwhelmed. So over the next year, understand that there are times we'll all feel anxious and uncomfortable, but those feelings are perfectly normal—and even desirable—during an interim period.

Please feel free to contact transition team members with concerns or questions about this interim process.

News from the Membership Committee

Path to Membership—If you've been coming to UUCS for a while now and you're interested in finding out about officially joining this liberal church, you're invited to attend the next Path to Membership class. This class is scheduled for Saturday, October 10, and will be held at the church from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. At this class, participants will discuss their spiritual journeys and then various church leaders will address a variety of topics—including, for example, the history of Unitarian Universalism and of UUCS, meaningful membership, the UUCS behavioral covenant, and opportunities for involvement. At the end of this class participants should have all the information they need to make an informed decision as to whether or not they'd like to join the church. Lunch will be provided to everyone attending the class. If you have any questions, please contact P.K. Weiss at pkweiss@bellsouth.net. A sign-up sheet is posted on a bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall; please sign up or contact P.K. if you plan to attend so we can have an accurate count of the participants. Also, if you need child care, please be sure to indicate so, as we need to make prior arrangements to have a staff member at the church that morning.

Exploring UU—Not quite ready to attend Path to Membership? You might be interested, then, in attending the October session of Exploring UU, which will be held on Sunday, October 11. We'll meet in Room 5 immediately following the sermon for a brief and very informal session in which newcomers can ask questions about Unitarian Universalism or about UUCS.

Reminder—There's at least one aspect of Membership that is *everyone's* responsibility: It is up to all of us to ensure that we make visitors feel warmly welcome at our church. Remember to say hello to people you don't know, and don't be shy about engaging newcomers in conversation. It can be scary for people to visit a new church—look at the church through their eyes and make sure you're doing what you can to assure they have a positive experience.

Membership Meeting—The Membership Committee meets at 10:00 a.m. on the third Friday of each month, in Room 5. Our October meeting, therefore, will be **Friday, October 16**. We are looking for new members of our committee (to replace people who have rotated off) and invite you to sit in on a meeting or two to see what you think—no strings attached!

Unitarian Universalists value the individual spiritual journey and believe that there is no one right way to lead a religious life. For us, religion is ultimately not about what you think. Religion is about how you live. Ours is a faith of deeds, not creeds. (William G. Sinkford, in *The Unitarian Universalist Pocket Guide*.)

YOU'VE GOT MAIL

The Communications Council has created new one-stop shopping for publication of information, events, etc. The email address is: communication@uucs.org. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT that you identify in the subject line of your email where the publication/s is/are to appear, Bulletin for the Sunday Bulletins, Web for the website, Board for our Bulletin Boards, Unison for the *Unison* newsletter, Happenings for the Happenings newsletter, and Calendar for our online Calendar. You may have multiple destinations in your subject line such as: Bulletin, Unison, and Happenings.

ALSO, please put a time limit on the information so we know when to stop publishing it. For questions or more information, contact Bobbie Schoss at bobbiescorner@charter.net or 921-9197.

Format for Submissions

As people get new computers, systems, and programs, we are getting material for the bulletin and *Unison* that we are unable to open. Please follow a few simple guidelines: (1) Articles in word-processing programs should be sent text only or in an older version (Word 97), or you may try rtf format. (2) Don't send anything in Excel. If you have a chart or graph, send the information, tell us what kind of graph you want, and we will make it using the tools in Microsoft Publisher. (The graph on the following page was made that way.) (3) If you are unable to convert your document, please send it a few days early so that there will be time to take it or send it somewhere to be converted. (4) If you have an elaborate format that you want to preserve, you may need to make your own bulletin insert and provide hard copy. E-mail Monnie to let us know where the hard copy is.

Deadlines

Unison—18th of Each Month

Bulletin—Wednesday Nights, 9:00

communication@uucs.org

Please put Bulletin or Unison on the subject line and be sure to spell it exactly. Please don't leave material in the Unison mailbox without notifying Monnie.

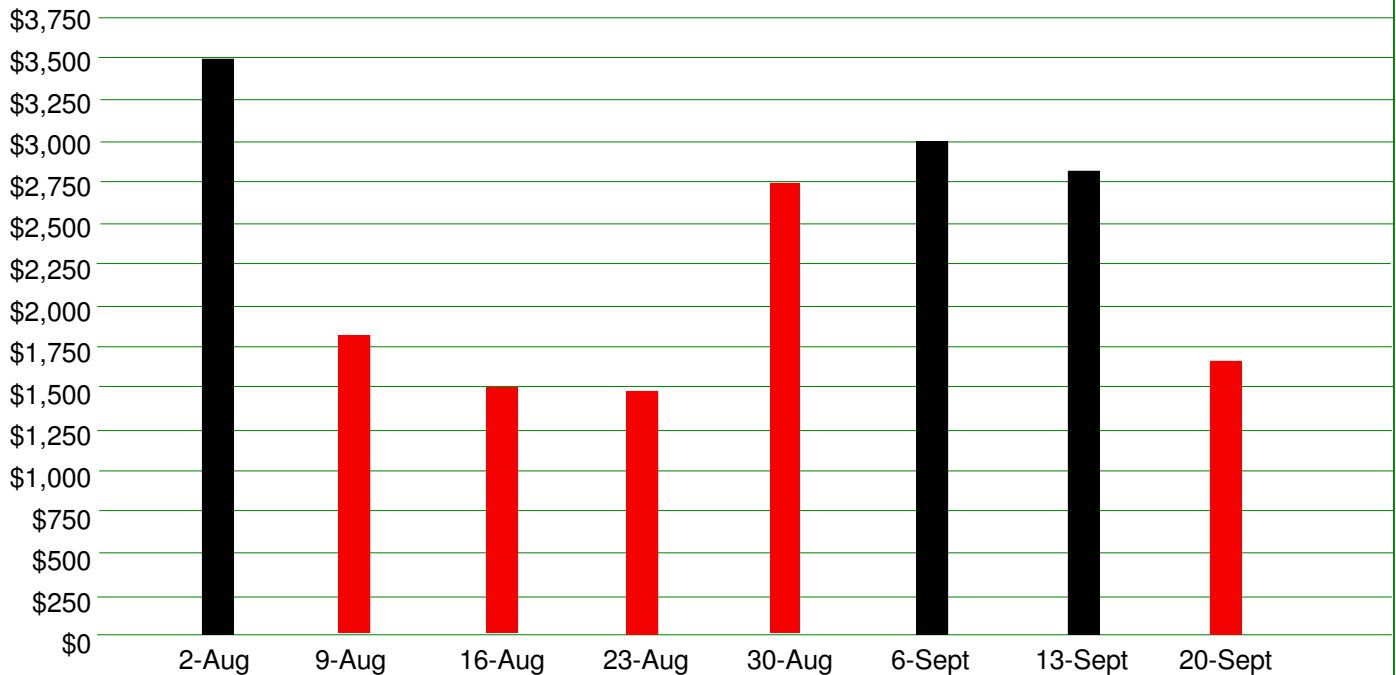
Minister's Office Hours

Our interim minister, Don Rollins, is in from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. each Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. (Please call ahead if possible. And, of course, you may contact him to schedule another time.) Monday is his scheduled day off and Fridays are generally reserved for writing sermons. In the event of an emergency, Don can be reached at 507-276-8464.

Covenant Groups

If you are interested in joining a covenant group this year, contact Karen McKenzie at (864) 612-7584 or email her at Karakaz@aol.com. Please title all emails with the words "Covenant Groups" so that they won't be overlooked. A new daytime group is forming. It should be a good year, hope to see you.

UUCS Weekly Revenue



Interpretation: A black bar for a given Sunday indicates that we met our pledge for that Sunday. A red bar for a given Sunday indicates that we did not meet our pledge for that Sunday. As we used our savings to burn the bank mortgage last year, the continued lack of pledge payment results in a cash-flow problem. Please remain up to date on your pledge payment.

Spartanburg Sierra Club

MEETING—Thursday, October 22, 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church. Dr. Chuck Smith, Wofford College biology professor, who as a herpetologist specializes in the study of copperhead snakes, will give a talk entitled EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT SNAKES. This should prove to be a very interesting and informative talk. All hikers need to know what to worry about, what not to worry about, what to do if bitten, and what not to do. Come hear an expert.

HIKE—Saturday, October 31. We will hike a portion of the PALMETTO TRAIL starting at Table Rock State Park. Hike is rated moderate, about four to five miles round trip. Bring your lunch to eat at the half-way point. Non-members welcome. Phone Jack Seitz (864) 597-4589 (office), 948-1080 (home) for departure time and place.

October Birthdays

Judy Arrants (10/01), Linda Leible (10/04), Diane Dixon (10/06), Joe Williamson (10/08), Lewanna Caldwell (10/09), Mary Miles (10/10), Judy Carnes (10/16), Cecile Nowatka (10/16), Karen Scott (10/18), Miriam Lockman (10/19), Diane Thornton (10/19), Janice Baynes (10/20), Al Carnes (10/24), Margaret Schmidt (10/27)

Wednesday Night Book Club

The Book Club meets the first Wednesday of each month. We start the discussions and conversations at 6:30. This month 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.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES, 2009-10

Officers: President, Karen Mitchell (579-3791); President-Elect, Joyce Harrison (574-1253); Secretary, David Stack (542-1324); Treasurer, Ben Harris (591-1526). Trustees-at-Large: Mary Frances Crivellone (864-472-5454), Kim Danner (641-9512), Margaret Howie (573-6752), Nancy Mandlove (573-6433), Bobbie Schoss (541-7121). Ex Officio: Finance

SEUUMA

Since many indicated they were not going to attend the conference in Toronto, we have scheduled a Fall SEUUMA—November 9-12, 2009, at The Mountain. SPECIAL PRICING is \$180 all inclusive. Mark Ward has assigned Jim McKinley and Tom Schmidt as organizers for this event. Please register early. For information go to their website www.mountaincenters.org and click on Mountain Calendar on the left of the page.

Buddhist Meditation Group

Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.

All are welcome.

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

It's UU Auction Time!

Thanks to everyone who participated in Sunday's auction survey and especially to those hardy individuals who signed up to be a part of our Donation Subcommittee. The annual auction is an important part of our church budget, being the largest fundraiser we have. A wise man once said "Free Religion isn't free!" Soon members of our Donation Committee will be calling you and asking for donations. These people will be armed with the survey results so they can offer you some helpful hints. Donation pledges are to be emailed to the auction address at auction@uucs.org. Please include your name, phone number, and donation in the body of the email. Let's all be mindful of the blessings that UUCS provides not only for us personally but for our community, and give thoughtfully and generously so we can make this year's auction a success.

Facts about Our Church

Unitarian Universalist Church of Spartanburg

210 Henry Place

P.O. Box 1942

Spartanburg, SC 29304

The Rev. Don Rollins, Interim Minister

Minister's Office Hours:

10:00-1:00 Tuesday — Thursday

Worship Service: 11:00 a.m. Sundays

Kathleen Anderson, DRE

Penny Hatchell, Church Administrator

Church Office: Monday-Wednesday,

8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Church Phone (864) 585-9230

Off South Converse Street by way of

Hudson Barksdale

Hatcher House on Wheeler Court

Website www.uucs.org

Regular e-mail: office@uucs.org

Announcement for weekly e-mail and

publications—

communication@uucs.org

From Lessons in Earth School

By Kathleen Anderson

JUST DO IT!

That old Nike slogan is inspired; these are words for living. Rising to the necessity for action is a big teaching for almost everyone, and one that keeps coming back around.

One of the great advantages of being human is that we think about possibilities. We can rehearse conversations, possible courses of action, look at pros and cons, and follow potentials through a range of outcomes before we act, or don't. That's a good thing, a gift, and probably the reason we're mostly at the top of the food chain.

But, although we understand the difference between real and imaginary, our brain chemistry reacts in pretty much the same way to both. The adrenaline rush we get during the chase scene in an exciting movie feels the same to our bodies as the one that happens when we have a close call in traffic. And even though we know it's just a movie, when we cry and laugh during the funeral scene in *Steel Magnolias*, it's still real laughing and crying. In the same way, making plans, thinking about what we'd like to say or should have said, talking about the thing we want or need to do feels to our brains a lot like the real deal, and it's way delicious because we get to have the experience as many times as we want without any of the risks or consequences.

Deliberation is useful, but think back. Do you remember what you thought about, or do you remember what you did? Thoughts are just brain clouds blowing through. Talk is cheap. Thinking about doing something is NOT the same as doing it. There IS risk—always. Action is all about choice and risk and consequences—that's where things happen, where we live and learn and grow and see what we're made of. We might fail. We might succeed. Relationships might unravel. We might have to change our work or where we live. By definition, action moves things. It will cause new problems and questions, and alter perceptions. It seriously cuts into our sitting-around time and we know for sure that it will bring CHANGE.

CHANGE, there's the kicker. We know what we need to do, but we don't do it, because we know if we really do the thing, whatever it takes, things will change for real, *WE* are going to change, and then what? We won't be where we are now, where things are known and understood. Nothing will be the same! Old situations and relationships that once felt definitive and safe might dissolve because the causes that held them in place are needed no more. There is real grief here, because all those knowns are the framework of life: our sense of belonging, our work, our loved ones, our not-so-loved ones, our relationships. We understand at a deep level that is entirely possible, even likely, that when a thing gets done, when a purpose is fulfilled, the way things were will fall away, loved ones may not be willing or able to move on with us, and dissolution can be chaotic and terrifying. It's no wonder that so often we only think about doing things, or even fail intentionally because we don't want to let go, or we want a guaranteed outcome, or to hang on to some illusion of control over what happens, and how fast.

But guess what? Control is an illusion. There isn't anything you can control except yourself, and change is certain, whether you act or not. That place of non-action can become a very stuck place too, because once you get it, once you begin to heed the still small voice, you can never be satisfied. The process of awakening is relentless, and do it or don't, fight or surrender, whatever—take three weeks, three months, three years, three lifetimes—it doesn't matter—God, or whatever you want to call it, has you by the hand, and you might as well take up your bed and walk. Or as one of my teacher friends tells her kids, "Do it, do it right, and do it right now."

She's right. There are times when it's wise to be still, but finally you have to just do it. Thinking is safe, but it keeps you on the sidelines, and if you want to score, you've got to get in the game. Plus, that seat on the bench is boring and uncomfortable, and the old behind gets mighty stiff from sitting. Doing what needs to be done, and keeping your word to everyone, including yourself, are at the core of personal power. That strong core makes people trust and believe in you, and it makes you trust and believe in yourself. As the song says: "You've got to put your fingers to the strings if you want to play—the rest is just fiddlin' on."

So what do you need to do? You know what it is. Just do it.

Lifespan Faith Development October Schedule

October is **Zombie Awareness Month**

Sponsored by the **Wild Tic Tacs**

Watch for Survival Tips!

And watch for the Vampire! He dresses up!

NEW INTEREST GROUP

TAROT STUDY GROUP: Meets on the second Sunday at 12:30 in Room 6. Many of us use the cards for introspection, guidance, and conversations with Spirit. Let's share our knowledge and understanding! Kathleen Anderson will facilitate the first time, and then we'll rotate. Bring your cards and books and lunch, and we'll begin with a look at the Major Arcana and the Hero's Journey Allegory.

COMING IN NOVEMBER

AEROBICS FOR ARTHRITIS. Led by certified instructor Amanda Goldsmith, two sessions per week, TBA.

WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED?

We are looking at the possibility of offering a support/interest group on **AGING with DIGNITY and END of LIFE** issues. Topics would include will preparation and living wills, caregiver issues, nutrition and health, community support for seniors, planning memorials, dealing with family dynamics, and more. If you would be interested in a group like this, or if you might like to facilitate or present a program, please contact Kathleen Anderson at uucsdre@yahoo.com, or 494-3205.

SCHEDULES

SUNDAYS

October 4

10:00 SPECIAL PRESENTATION and GUEST SPEAKER!

Mark your calendar!

Our own Sam Howie will present his new book of short stories:

Rapture Practice

In the Fellowship Hall, with book sales and signing to follow. Read this review: In the opening story of Sam Howie's splendid debut collection, a man falls into a well that he comes to see as a metaphor for his own life, "a well," he realizes, "of my own making." The characters in the nine stories that follow are likewise trapped in wells of their own making, and Howie traces their attempts to climb out of the darkness into the light. Like the boys in "Rapture Practice," who jump as high as they can in preparation "for the day they will be raised Up Yonder," they seek to rise above their own lives. With compassion and wisdom, Howie traces their comical and heartbreaking attempts to achieve various secular kinds of rapture. This is a compelling, beautifully written book. It is a well you will fall into, and rise from, enraptured. —*David Jauss*

Coffee and Conversation will be in the old foyer this day.



Youth and Elementary Age Children in Hatcher House

High School: New Lessons from *Coming of Age*, with Karen McKenzie and Katie Ramsey, front room

Junior High Class: Lessons from *Traditions With a Wink*, with old friend and mentor, Cathy Matthews, front side room

Elementary Children 6-10: Spirit Play, with Mary Bracey and Jan Ingerson, Spirit Play room

Pre-School Class: Stories/Activities from *We Are Many, We Are One*, with Amanda Goldsmith and Michael Smith, pre-school nursery

7:00 PM: Facilitators' Covenant Group, Room 5

October 11

10:00

ADULT FORUMS

The Teachings of Jesus from the Aramaic, with Michelle Daigle, Room 5

Science, Faith, and Humanism Video/Discussion Group, Room 6: The Power of Myth, by Joseph Campbell.

Coffee and Conversation in the Fellowship Hall

YOUTH RE:

Youth and Elementary Age Children in Hatcher House

High School: New Lessons from *Coming of Age*, with Karen McKenzie and Katie Ramsey, front room

Junior High Class: Talking Points, with Margaret Howie

Elementary Children 6-10: Spirit Play, with Mary Bracey and Jan Ingerson, Spirit Play room

Pre-School Class: Stories/Activities from *We Are Many, We Are One*, with Amanda Goldsmith and Michael Smith, pre-school nursery

12:30-2:00 TAROT STUDY GROUP, Room 6 (BRING YOUR LUNCH and/or food to share)

For more than 500 years, the Tarot has been a tool for introspection, guidance, and conversations with Spirit. Let's share our knowledge and understanding! Kathleen Anderson will facilitate the first group, and then we'll rotate. Bring your cards and books and lunch, and we'll begin with a look at the Major Arcana and the Hero's Journey Allegory.

October 18

The Teachings of Jesus from the Aramaic, with Michelle Daigle, Room 5

Science, Faith, and Humanism Video/Discussion Group, Room 6: The Power of Myth, by Joseph Campbell.

Coffee and Conversation in the Fellowship Hall

YOUTH RE:

Youth and Elementary Age Children in Hatcher House

High School: New Lessons from *Coming of Age*, with Karen McKenzie and Katie Ramsey, front room

Junior High Class: Lessons from *Traditions With a Wink*, with Christie Matthews, front side room

Elementary Children 6-10: Spirit Play, with Mary Bracey and Jan Ingerson, Spirit Play room

Lifespan Faith Development October Schedule

Pre-School Class: Stories/Activities from *We Are Many, We Are One*, with Amanda Goldsmith and Michael Smith, pre-school nursery

October 25

The Teachings of Jesus from the Aramaic, with Michelle Daigle, Room 5

Science, Faith, and Humanism Video/Discussion Group, Room 6: *The Power of Myth*, by Joseph Campbell.

Coffee and Conversation in the Fellowship Hall

YOUTH RE:

Youth and Elementary Age Children in Hatcher House

High School: New Lessons from *Coming of Age*, with Karen McKenzie and Katie Ramsey, front room

Junior High Class: Lessons from *Traditions With a Wink*, with Cathy Matthews, front side room

Elementary Children 6-10: Spirit Play, with Mary Bracey and Jan Ingerson, Spirit Play room

Pre-School Class: Stories/Activities from *We Are Many, We Are One*, with Amanda Goldsmith and Michael Smith, pre-school nursery

BOO IN THE UU! 5:30-8:30

Join us for a spooky and fun-filled evening.

Children of all ages are welcome!

Featuring Games, Rune and Tarot Readings, Dancing, Witches and Zombies Galore, Disgusting Things, Costume Parade, Incredible Amounts of Sugary Stuff, Presentation by the Wild Tic Tacs, and MORE!

Kitchen and Bathrooms Wish List

Meals, coffees, and conversations—the glue of our church community. Can you help out by bringing one or more items from this list to the church during September and October?

Kitchen: Paper towel rolls

Liquid dishwashing soap

Powdered dishwasher detergent

Medium garbage-can bags

Tall kitchen garbage bags

Large outdoor garbage bags

Aluminum foil

Saran wrap

Ziploc bags—gallon and quart

Powdered creamer

Folgers or Maxwell House regular (not dark), drip coffee

Bathroom: Toilet paper

Liquid hand soap for bathrooms—avoid antibacterial if possible

Thank you for helping. Many hands make light work. Many small gifts restock our supplies and are greatly appreciated.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS

Wednesday nights are great fun at UUCS.

First Up: Excellent Eats

Brought to you by our fabulous dinner coordinators, Norm Schoss and Angie Shuman.

Supper is at 5:30.

You can bring a dish to share, or pay \$4 per person, or \$8 per family.

This is a great deal on some of the best food and fellowship anywhere!

After supper, at about 6:45, we begin our evening programming. Child care is provided for children aged three and up (children older than six who are not involved with Wild Tic-Tacs may participate). We generally have an art or craft activity, free-play time, and sometimes a fun video.

Wednesday, October 7

Council on Committees: Room 5

Book Club: Room 6

Wild Tic-Tacs Rehearsal: Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, October 14

2:00-4:00 Telling Our Stories Group

Fellowship Hall

Join facilitator Kathleen Anderson as we gather to listen and talk and write. This month, in honor of Halloween, our theme will be Facing Fear.

Evening:

Board of Trustees Meeting: Room 5

Cakes for the Queen of Heaven: 6:30-8:30:

Garden Level (Don't forget! If you have trouble negotiating stairs, you can park your car at the back—come in to the driveway by taking the last left on the cul-de-sac on Wheeler Court and pull right up to the building. Someone will be there to let you in!)

Wild Tic-Tacs Rehearsal: Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, October 20

Lifespan Faith Development Committee: Office

Coltrane Covenant Group: Hatcher House

Humanist Discussion Group: Room 5

Knit, Love, and Crochet: Room 6

Wild Tic-Tacs Rehearsal: Fellowship Hall or Sanctuary

Wednesday, October 28

Social Concerns Committee: Room 5

DVD on Demand: Room 6

Cakes for the Queen of Heaven: Garden Level

Wild Tic-Tacs: Fellowship Hall

UUCS RAINBOW GROUP

PRESENTS

National Coming-Out Day
Celebration

Have Pride—Come Out with Your Talent

Saturday, October 17, 2009

7:00 till 10:00 p.m.

Tickets on sale September 20

Do you have a talent you want to share?

Play an instrument? Sing? Dance?

Have a funny coming-out story?

Are you funny PERIOD?

We need you!

Enjoy an evening of lite bites, fun, and drinks

\$5.00 cover charge

\$3.00 donation beer and wine

Proceeds will be donated to UUCS

in memory of Greg Lynch.

For more information contact uucsr@gmail.com

Welcoming One Another

By Amber Pennington

Those 150-plus who attended the welcome party on September 11 for our new interim minister, Don Rollins, were both entertained and welcomed to the next step in our church's development. As always, our members provided wonderful and plentiful food—which was coordinated by Deanna Kloster and Beth Love.

Entertainment was provided by The Wild Tic Tacs and Don Rollins. The Wild Tic Tacs continue to shine with song and dance under their new director, Joel C. Anderson. Don introduced us to his many talents, sharing harmonica along with singing and guitar.

Members and friends were invited to participate in a timeline of church history. For this exercise, each person stood in the order in which they began attending the church. Our timeline ran from 1965 to 2009 with many of those in attendance having arrived after 2006. We are growing and changing and are looking forward to this next stage in our church's history.

Welcome to UUCS, Don! You'll find many talents here. We look forward to sharing ours as you share yours.

Many thanks to all of those that helped make this night so special, including all of those providing food, those helping to set up and clean up, Deanna and Beth for coordinating the evening, and most certainly Joel and the Wild Tic Tacs for all of their hard work and time. We look forward to many more evenings together.



The Ideas Peddler

In his September 13 sermon, "The Ideas Peddler," Don made lists about the nature and practice of interim—what it is and is not. It was requested that he include it in this month's Unison:

What interim ministry is:

- It's an intentional pause between settled ministers.
- It's a specialized form of ministry, complete with its own training and supervision.
- It's an opportunity to address lingering feelings or issues related to previous ministries.
- It's a time for asking and answering large questions about congregational history, identity, mission, governance, and staffing.
- It's about implementing good process at every level.
- It's greater time spent in administration than most settled ministers, thus it's about increased contact with staff and leadership.
- It's about challenging existing and incoming leaders to take an active role in helping the congregation discover, articulate, and organize around its calling or purpose.
- It's about assessing the financial health of a church.
- It's about ministering in times of trouble.
- It's about planning for the short- and long-term future.
- It's about helping a congregation prepare for the best possible choice for settled minister, and it's about setting her/him up for success.
- It's about working together for a specific period of time, no more than two years, and blowing town.

The Ideas Peddler (continued)

What interim ministry is not:

- It's not a church recess for grownups.
- It's not a continuation of settled ministry.
- It's not as pastoral or as social as most settled ministry positions.
- It's not meant to create long-term relationships.
- It's not group therapy.
- It's not as community-focused.
- It's not, by nature, as tentative as settled ministry.
- It's not dull.

Eating Out with UU Friends

Spend some time with your UU friends during the week! The **Midweek Lunch Bunch** meets the second Friday and fourth Thursday of the month, alternating between the east, west, and downtown areas of town. The next lunch will be on Friday, October 9, at 11:45 noon at Billy D's on South Pine Street; the following will be on Thursday, October 22, place to be announced. Watch the bulletin and the Happenings for information about places and times; you may email Monnie Cannon (monniecannon@charter.net) if you want to be included in a group email reminder. 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 and discussion. This group meets in order (starting October 4) at Bangkok, Broncos on Union Street, Five Spices, and Panera. Each Sunday bulletin has a reminder.