



**Unitarian  
Universalist  
Church of  
Spartanburg**

**February 2011  
Number 800**

**The Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Spartanburg  
is a  
Welcoming  
Congregation**

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# UNISON

## PASSIN' THRU

Interim ministers, as the old adage goes, come pre-fired. Unlike our settled colleagues, there's no mystery about when our tenure will end: it's right in the contract. And so, every August or September, we hit the ground running.

Speaking of running, you and I have been doing just that—and we're not done yet—but we're coming to that point in our work when you begin to make your next transition.

The kicker is that we're preparing for a transition to another transition (a third year of interim ministry). This was not the tidy plan we had in mind. But, hey, anybody looking for a tidy enterprise should take a pass on church. Church is not about tidiness. It's about connection despite difference. It's about the borrowed mantra from my sermon on postponing the search for settled ministry: Life happens. There will be consequences. We must deal with it.

Sticking with the transition theme, as you probably know, our Association's interim program is designed for a maximum two-year stint, except for extreme situations. (There are many good reasons for this.) So your Board has begun drafting a new interim search committee, and you should know the name of your next interim sometime in May.

Likewise, in anticipation of calling a new settled minister for Fall 2012, Leadership Development has begun the process of recruiting a new settled ministry search committee. The right wheels are turning for that important task, too.

But back to the now, here's what I'm doing in preparation for the end of one ministry and the anticipation of two others:

- Finding out which programs/ideas should continue without me, and how to make sure they receive adequate leadership (coffeehouse, vespers, pamphlet series, leadership school, etc.);
- Giving even greater focus to administrative details, especially in the areas in which the Board gave me primary responsibility: membership and leadership;
- Curtailing social events: letting go means I won't be attending any non-church activities (apologies for this one, it's nothing personal—it's just time to detach, not attach);
- Helping staff prepare for the transition to a new leader;
- Assisting the Board as it continues to implement the six-point financial plan approved at last May's congregational meeting;
- Working with lay leaders to assess our efforts and plan for the immediate future;
- Looking after the "mounds of minutiae" not listed above.

So, it's too early to start with the goodbyes. But it's not too early to start thinking about what we need to do in the meantime. Thanks in advance for your help as we enter the last leg of this shared journey.

*Peace, Don*

## A Month of Sundays

### 6 **Drumming Group** **The Rev. Don Rollins**

We'll explore the "true roots" of African American music as an authentic African drumming group provides instrumental accompaniment for our service. Don and others will lead us in an intriguing look at the African traditions, recollections, and influences in this country.

### 13 **Guest speaker Tony Fisher**

Our guest speaker and the Rev. Don Rollins will lead us in a look at the racial/political climate in our region during the civil rights era through today.

### 20 ***A Link to the Past,*** ***a Bridge to the Future*** **Guest Speaker Walter Mack**

Walter Mack, executive director of Penn Center, is a native of St. Helena Island, SC, with roots traceable back to the 1800s. He will share with us the rich history of the Center and the impact of culture on social and economic justice.

### 27 ***Three Things You Must Do*** **Guest Speaker Jan Taddeo**

Jan Taddeo is consulting minister, for the UU Fellowship of Marion County, FL. "It has been said we are each called to do three things with our lives. What are the three things you are called to do?"

## Letter from the President

As I settle in to write this column, I'm still kind of high from yesterday's New Member Sunday. Yes, that sort of thing makes me giddy. Were you in church on January 23 to watch our new members sign the membership book? Did you get to hear their statements as to why they decided to join UUCS? Did you share in the applause at the conclusion of the ceremony as the congregation warmly welcomed them? If not, then I'm sorry you missed it. Do yourself a favor, though, make a point to introduce yourself to our new members if you haven't already done so: Mack, Jennifer, Clare, and Bonnie and Thomas. They all have interesting stories about what led them to join this church.

Another high I'm looking forward to? **General Assembly** is coming up on June 22-26, and this year it will be just up the road from us in Charlotte, NC. This is an opportunity for many of us at UUCS to attend our first annual meeting of thousands of Unitarian Universalists from around the nation. General Assembly 2011 will mark the 50th anniversary of the merger of the American Unitarian Association and the Universalist Church of America.

From the UUA website:

- Join thousands of fellow Unitarian Universalists from across the country as we remember the persons and events that brought into being the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) in May 1961, to reflect on our denomination's relevant achievements and struggles since then, and to chart new aspirations for the future we are determined to shape.
- Experience wonderful and uplifting worship services—morning and night—led by some of our best worship leaders with glorious music and inspiring messages.
- Hear terrific speakers. There will be hundreds of dynamic, entertaining programs and informative workshops.
- Connect with craftspeople and artisans, social action groups, professional and educational resources, theological schools, UUA organizations and staff, Beacon Press, and the UUA Bookstore in the General Assembly Exhibit Hall.
- Network with other congregational leaders, share best practices, and learn from one another. Return to your congregation reinvigorated and inspired to put your values to work.

Pre-registration for General Assembly will open on March 1, and there is a discount for registering by May 1. You can find information about the procedure for registration and the rates on the UUA website at:

<http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/registration/index.shtml>.

If you're concerned about the cost of registration, the General Assembly Volunteer Committee provides free registration in exchange for volunteer work at GA. Volunteer applications will be available March 1 and must be submitted by March 31. Adult volunteers are required to contribute 24 hours, and youth (grades 9-12) volunteers are required to contribute 14 hours. You can find out more information about how to apply for volunteer opportunities at:

<http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/registration/financialaid/14930.shtml>

I plan to attend GA in Charlotte, and I would love to see many, many of my fellow UUCSers there. We need to represent!

*With love, P.K.*

## **“Getting Back on Track”: Creating a Sustainable Giving Profile for Our Church”**

The Annual Fund Team has been hard at work planning for our spring campaign and developing a new approach, which is an outgrowth of recommendations by Mary Gleason, the stewardship consultant who visited UUCS in the fall.

Mary pointed out that we need to change the way members and friends support our church. There are too few providing the bulk of the financial support, and our pledges are not spread across our congregation in a sustainable way. This is a dangerous model—one that is not healthy and does not allow the church to grow financially in the future. (See Mary’s full report and recommendations at <http://www.uucs.org/Assessment.pdf>.)

The Annual Fund Team is focused on helping UUCS “get back on track” by changing the giving profile of our congregation. As part of this process, the Team has scheduled a series of nine (9) “Station Parties” in February and March, either at members’ homes or at the church. All UUCS members and friends are being invited to specific parties based on their current level of gifts, and all will be asked for a specific gift amount by the “Conductors” of their Party.

The goal of this new approach is to allow the church to stretch its giving profile and to provide the income necessary to support the services, programming, and mission of our church that is so vital to us and to the larger Spartanburg community as well. Individuals and families may, of course, adjust this suggested amount based on personal financial responsibilities, but all are asked to consider carefully whether they might be able to help at or near the gift level suggested.

The Gift Table below shows the number of pledge units that we are looking to give at specific levels to help create a more healthy and sustainable giving profile.

**“Getting Back on Track”  
Gift Table**

<b>Amount</b>	<b>Number of Donors Sought</b>
\$5,000	15
\$3,000	15
\$2,000	25
\$1,000	20
\$200-800	55

Please don’t hesitate to contact the Annual Fund Team with any questions—[Linda](#), [Mary](#) (co-chairs), Mitch and Palma, Melissa, Karen, and Marion.



## *Five Wishes: Planning for the Future*

UUCS is offering two opportunities for you to plan for the future by discussing and completing the document “Five Wishes.” Five Wishes is designed to help you and your family discuss, decide on, and describe the kind of care and support you wish in the event of serious illness. Legal in South Carolina and thirty-nine other states, Five Wishes serves as a health care power of attorney and living will, but it is much more than a legal document. Five Wishes also includes other preferences you may have regarding issues such as pain management and spirituality—issues that are not typically covered in other legal documents. The \$6.00 fee for these sessions will include the document, an explanation of the document, assistance completing it, and notary service. The sessions will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, February 9, at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, February 13, at 2:30 p.m. For reservations or additional information, please contact the church office (585-9230 or [office@uucs.org](mailto:office@uucs.org)).

### *My Wishes for*

- *The person I want to make care decisions for me when I can’t.*
- *The kind of medical treatment I want or don’t want.*
- *How comfortable I want to be.*
- *How I want people to treat me.*
- *What I want my loved ones to know.*

## **Important Privacy Policy in Place**

The Board has recently approved a privacy policy to use as a guide in our online publications. The intention is to keep the personal information of our members and friends private. Beginning this issue, the Unison will not publish:

- (1) Photographs of children.
- (2) Identified photographs of adults.
- (3) Contact information (telephone, addresses, email).
- (4) Last names of members and friends.

The complete policy is available on the website. [Click here.](#)

# Kathleen's Corner: Prayer Power

Sometimes I wonder how many of us pray. Praying was such a big part of my life growing up; I took it for granted, and believed in it simply, even when my bowed head hid an impious grin and an ever-so-slight roll of the eyes. In my family, we prayed before meals, before going places in the car, at daily devotions, and at bedtime. Now, fifty and more years later, even though I'm less sure about whom or what receives the prayer, it still feels good to say grace before dinner, I still whisper "Journeying Mercies" when I get in my car, and something like bedtime prayer helps me get quiet, connected, and peaceful before I drift into sleep.

The good news about Unitarian Universalism is also the bad news. We have complete freedom in how we practice our religion, and we like it that way. But freedom has left us without structures, and we often feel ambivalent about prayer—it's hard even to know what to call it, let alone what it is, what it should be, or what it shouldn't. We respect freedom and the authority of personal experience, so it's a delicate issue when we consider how to create traditions, build connection to the Mystery into our families, and teach it to our children.

We are ambivalent for good reasons, too. Prayer, especially public and group prayer, is often repetitious, hypocritical, vain, manipulative, and meaningless. It has been used to control people, to justify wrong, to discourage change and questioning. In secular contexts it is seldom more than pious demonstration, a mockery of spiritual consciousness, and an infringement on the right of people not to be subjected to proselytizing and religious pressure. On the other hand, we know that prayer can be a powerful spiritual tool. As UUs we need it too, to help us focus our thought and intention, to comfort, and help us connect with the sacred.

Prayer by itself doesn't change things. People can change things, and we know that prayer can change people. Prayer, real prayer, isn't about bringing God around to our way of thinking, it's about bringing ourselves into alignment. It can be silence, or meditation, or an opening of the heart as we release into the mystery, into awe, gratitude, peace, acceptance, and wholeness.

Prayer is a personal and private matter too, as Jesus told us it should be. As UUs, our practices are as diverse as our theological beliefs. Unitarian Universalists pray, meditate, use crystals, cast circles, call on the Goddess, practice yoga, guided imagery, do energy work, drum, dance, debate. You name it, we've done it. Or not. And for some of us who have no sense of the divine, there is no reason at all to participate in prayer. What matters is living up to one's true self. That makes sense to me, and that's another part of our diversity. So how do we create a culture of prayer that we can share?

I began this writing with the intention of sharing some

ideas and suggestions for how we can create intentional space for spiritual growth and community in our homes by saying grace at meals and sharing bedtime prayers with our children. As I researched and began to put into words what I was learning, what I realized is that everything I had to say about childhood prayer applies equally to prayer at any age, and that having a shared practice in our homes can create meaningful traditions and deepen loving connection.

## So, here are a few ideas for prayers at any age:

Try saying grace before meals. Saying a blessing is a kind of prayer, one that incorporates gratitude into a small moment of daily life. Over time, those moments of briefly articulated faith and gratitude have the cumulative effect of making us more present to abundance in a needy world, and more grateful for life's blessings. Mealtime grace can be a moment of silence, or a spoken reminder. Spoken grace can include thanks to the person or persons who provided and prepared the meal, an expression of gratitude for needs met and time spent together. Each person can contribute an idea or name something for which s/he is particularly grateful, or one person can lead.

Here are a few UU table graces I found on the Internet:

*It is good,  
It is good to be,  
It is good to be together.*

You can add to it "it is good to be together as a family, sharing a meal, celebrating your birthday. . . ." Sometimes it can be silly: ". . . it is good to be together wearing our underpants, wiggling our toes, . . ." whatever strikes the mood!

*From you I receive.  
To you I give.  
Together we share,  
And by this we live.*

*Spirit who is all things to us; Presence in which we live and move and breathe and have our being: What a gift to be here together, sharing our food, our spirit, our selves! We ask no blessing upon this food, or on ourselves, because the blessing is always here.*

*We ask for the wisdom to be mindful of our blessings, to cherish this food, savoring the tastes, the smells, the feel, the miracle of nourishment to our bodies, gifts of our lovely earth. We ask, too, that we remember to cherish each other, to taste and savor our relationships, to understand that what we know of the sacred we know through these bodies and through these connections of friendship and love.*

*Grant us the wisdom to pay attention; grant us the generosity and the strength to open our hearts. So be it. Blessed be. Amen*  
(by Elizabeth Greene).

Bedtime prayers are another way to share prayer time, especially with our children. They can be rituals of comfort, a time of reflection and mentally settling down before sleep. The idea that people can share thoughts and feelings with God as well as with those who are close to them can be appealing for lots of reasons. It is comforting to connect to a power that transcends ordinary relationships and that is always available to listen and respond.

At the same time, we should avoid asking God to intervene, or do something which is clearly impossible or which would only satisfy egotistical needs. (Like, "Dear God, please make this zit go away before my date on Friday." Or "Please let Clemson win.") Prayers need to express gratitude, concern for others, and a desire to grow spiritually. We also need to remember that the response to a prayer usually involves listening, waiting, and being prepared for surprises. Prayers do get answered, sometimes in amazing ways, but prayer isn't magic, and does not guarantee instant gratification.

Having a focal point during prayer can be very helpful. This can be a spoken thought to contemplate like a mantra, a picture to look at, a candle flame, or a combination of items set lovingly on a personal altar.

Here are a couple of prayers to repeat at bedtime:

*There is love  
Holding me.  
There is love  
Holding you.  
There is love  
Holding all.  
I rest  
In this love.*

Rebecca Parker, Unitarian Universalist

*May all beings in the world be happy.  
May all the beings in the world be at peace.  
May all the beings in the world be well.  
May all beings in the world be free from suffering.*

Buddhist Loving Kindness Meditation

And here is a lovely bedtime prayer form that invites reflection and conversation, borrowed and edited, from *The UU Kids Book*. (It works equally well for adults!)

*Think of the things you are THANKFUL for today.  
Think of something you feel SORRY that you said or did,  
and what you might do to make it right.  
Think about something you HOPE will happen, and any  
way you can help it to happen.  
Think about being in a PLACE of BEAUTY or a FAVOR-  
ITE place where you feel safe and good.  
Think about the people you love and their love for you. See  
each person's face in your mind. Give them LOVE from your  
heart.*

*Think of yourself resting, peaceful and safe, and waking full  
of ENERGY and HAPPINESS.*

For those of you who might be interested in reading more about prayer for UUs, here is a short list of available books:

- *Blessing the Bread: Meditations* by Lynn Ungar
- *Evening Tide* by Elizabeth Tarbox
- *Everyday Spiritual Practice: Simple Pathways for Enriching Your Life*, edited by Scott Alexander
- *In the Holy Quiet of This Hour: A Meditation Manual* by Richard S. Gilbert.
- *Life Prayers from Around the World: 365 Prayers, Blessings and Affirmations to Celebrate the Human Journey*, edited by Elizabeth Roberts and Elias Amidon.
- *Meditations of the Heart* by Howard Thurman
- *Morning Watch: Meditations* by Barbara Pescan.
- *The Power of Prayer*, edited by Dale Salwak
- *Rejoice Together: Prayers for Family, Individual and Small Group Worship*, edited by Helen Pickett
- *In This Very Moment: Introduction to Zen Buddhism for Unitarian Universalists* by James Ishmael Ford

*Blessings,  
Kathleen*

## Congregational Vote Results

On Sunday, January 23, the UUCS Leadership Development Committee hosted a congregational meeting, seeking a vote on a proposal to temporarily revise the bylaws so that the current President can serve an additional year, from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012.

After establishing that a quorum was present, the Leadership Development chair asked all those in favor to raise their hands. By a margin of 65-0 (including absentee ballots), the proposal was approved. Therefore the current UUCS president will continue in that role through June 30, 2012.

## Do you remember the first time you came through these doors?

Were you greeted with a smile and a warm handshake? Did it make you feel welcome here? I know it did for me!

We are in need of more people to do this very important job on Sunday mornings. If you are able to help on one Sunday a month or serve as a replacement greeter [please let us know](#). First impressions last a long time, help us continue this tradition at our Church.

### Just a reminder

The Membership Committee would like you to remember that we have visitors that may be a little shy.

Please leave the seats open in the back rows near the door.

# Lifespan Faith Development February Schedule

Adults and High School 10:00 a.m. — Children and Youth 11:20-12:15

Childcare is provided every Sunday from 9:30 to 12:15.

## Pamphlet Series with Don Rollins

This month, join Don as he brings us a lesson called *Meet the UUs*. This month's topic is an interesting one that will engage and surprise participants. Join Don as he discusses some of the history and theological controversy surrounding famous Unitarians and Universalists since their beginnings way back in Transylvania. Have you ever heard that sacred cow makes the best hamburger? Apparently we come from a long line of heroes, good guys, sages, and iconoclasts. These are good stories that will give you insight into how we got to be the way we are.

Join Don on Wednesday, February 2, at 6:45 p.m. for an enlightening lesson and exciting discussion.

Childcare is available on Sundays  
from 9:30 to 12:15.

## Sunday, February 6

9:30-10:40

**Living the Questions:** Lessons in Progressive Christianity

10:00-10:45

Coffee and Conversation, **Bread and Board**, in the Fellowship Hall

**Senior High** Discussion Group

Activities for young children and youth in the nursery and Room 6.

**This is an Inter-Generational Worship Sunday.**  
**Children and youth remain in the Worship Service.**

1:00-2:30 Facilitators' Covenant Group

## JUNIOR HIGH OWL LOCK-INS

Friday to Saturday, February 4-5, 6pm-4pm

Friday to Saturday, February 18-19, 6pm-4pm

## Sunday, February 13

10:00-10:45

**Spirit in Practice:** Lessons on Personal Spirituality from the UUA's *Tapestry of Faith* series, led by P.K.

**Coffee and Conversation** in the Fellowship Hall

Activities for young children and youth available in the nursery and Room 6

11:15-11:35

**Children's Chapel** (after children and youth leave the regular worship service)

11:35-12:10

**Religious Education Classes for Children and Youth**

Children 0-4 with childcare workers in the nursery

**Spirit Play** for Children in K5-2nd grade: A Montessori-based story and activity curriculum based on UU principles found in traditions around the world.

**UU Kids and Mystery Stars** for children in grades 3-5: Children learn about UU principles from the lives of famous Unitarian Universalists through history.

**Riddle and Mystery Discussion and Activities** for middle schoolers (grades 6-8): Middle schoolers take a look at some of life's great questions through the lens of these challenging lessons from the UUA's *Tapestry of Faith* Series.

1:00-2:30 Lifespan Faith Development Committee

## Sunday, February 20

9:30-10:40

**Living the Questions:** Lessons in Progressive Christianity

10:00-10:45

**Coffee and Conversation** in the Fellowship Hall

**Senior High** Discussion Group

Activities for young children and youth available in the nursery and Room 6

11:15-11:35

**Children's Chapel** (after children and youth leave the regular worship service)

11:35-12:10

**Religious Education Classes for Children and Youth**

Children 0-4 with childcare workers in the nursery

**Spirit Play** for Children in K5-2nd grade: A Montessori-based story and activity curriculum based on UU principles found in traditions around the world.

**UU Kids and Mystery Stars** for children in grades 3-5: Children learn about UU principles from the lives of famous Unitarian Universalists through history.

**Riddle and Mystery Discussion and Activities** for middle schoolers (grades 6-8): Middle schoolers take a look at some of life's great questions through the lens of these challenging lessons from the UUA's *Tapestry of Faith* Series.

## Sunday, February 27

Dr. Connie Godenick's **Health and Wellness Seminar** will **NOT** meet in February.

10:00-10:45

**Coffee and Conversation** in the Fellowship Hall

Activities for young children and youth available in the nursery and Room 6

11:15-11:35

**Children's Chapel** (after children and youth leave the regular worship service)

11:35-12:10

**Religious Education Classes for Children and Youth**

Children 0-4 with childcare workers in the nursery

**Spirit Play** for Children in K5-2nd grade: A Montessori-based story and activity curriculum based on UU principles found in traditions around the world.

**UU Kids and Mystery Stars** for children in grades 3-5: Children learn about UU principles from the lives of famous Unitarian Universalists through history.

**Riddle and Mystery Discussion and Activities** for middle schoolers (grades 6-8): Middle schoolers take a look at some of life's great questions through the lens of these challenging lessons from the UUA's *Tapestry of Faith* Series.

## Wonderful Wednesdays

5:45-6:30 POT LUCK SUPPER

**Friendship and Fellowship and Fine Food! Bring some to share, or pay \$4 per person, \$8 per family.**

6:30-6:45 Vespers—A Short Worship  
Led by Don Rollins, in the Sanctuary

### Wednesday, February 2

5:45 Supper and 6:30 Vespers

6:30-8:00: **Book Club**

6:45-8:30

**Pamphlet Series: Meet the UUs**

Led by the Rev. Don Rollins

Join Don as he discusses some of the history and theological controversy surrounding famous Unitarians and Universalists since their beginnings. Did you ever hear that sacred cow makes the best hamburger? Apparently we come from a long line of heroes, good guys, and iconoclasts. Good stories!

**Tic Tacs** for Teens in Grades 6-12

**Earth Scouts** for Children in Grades K5-5, nursery

### Wednesday: February 9

5:45 Supper and 6:30 Vespers

6:45-8:30

K. A. Covenant Group

**Tic Tacs** for Teens in Grades 6-12, Fellowship Hall

**Earth Scouts** for Children in Grades K5-5, nursery

### Wednesday: February 16

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

5:45 Supper and 6:30 Vespers

6:30-8:00: **Humanist Discussion Group**

6:45-8:15: **Love, Knit, and Crochet**

M. C. Covenant Group

**Tic Tacs** for Teens in Grades 6-12

**Earth Scouts** for Children in Grades K5-5

### Wednesday, February 23

5:45 Supper and 6:30 Vespers

6:45-8:30

**Adult OWL**

**Tic Tacs** for Teens in Grades 6-12

**Earth Scouts** for Children in Grades K5-5

# Wonderful Wednesday Supper: New and Improved

## Why we need “improvements”:

- To make sure there is food for everyone, especially those with food allergies or special diets
- To share the workload more fairly, so no one is overburdened
- To give everyone the chance to participate in the fellowship of our congregational meals

Our church staff and members offer a wide variety of activities for Wonderful Wednesday—and what better lead-in to those activities than a shared meal? We want everyone to feel welcome at our table(s)!

We have created an easy way to be a little more organized: we have divided Spartanburg and surroundings into four ZONES. Have you ever wondered who lives near you, and who you might share a ride with now and then? Find which zone you're in, both for Wonderful Wednesday and possible carpooling! So, here are the four neighborhoods or zones.

- Central Spartanburg (C): the historic neighborhoods of Converse Heights, Hampton Heights, and the Duncan Park area
- North Spartanburg (N): Everyone north of Highway 29/Main Street
- Southeast Spartanburg (SE): The area south of 29 and east of Highway 221/Church Street (excluding Converse Heights and the Duncan Park area)
- Southwest Spartanburg (SW): The area south of Highway 29/Main Street, and west of Highway 221 (of course, this does not include Hampton Heights, in Spartanburg Central)

Two leaders for each zone will line up three or four volunteers each week to bring their category of dishes. The main dishes include specifications so everyone has something to eat. For other categories, a little conversation with the cooks/volunteers about what they want to bring will help us end up with the best selection. All dishes should serve 8-10.

Each zone will rotate responsibility for dishes in this order:

- Main Dishes, e.g., casseroles, stews, and thicker soups
- Vegetables, thinner soups, potato, corn, and salad sides
- Fruits and Desserts (at least one dessert should not be chocolate)
- Beverages and Breads (this includes grains: cornbread and rice side dish)

We need four main dishes, with these specifications:

1. Meat optional, absolutely no mushrooms
2. Meat optional, no wheat/rye/barley (this is as close to gluten-free as we can get without a class in gluten intolerance)
3. Meat optional, no onions
4. Vegan, no tomatoes

We don't need to bring “kid friendly”: we will usually have peanut butter, jelly, and white bread available for those who don't want any of the “real” main dishes. Or they can make a meal of the sides, bread, and desserts!

**Food labeling** for all dishes: Zone leaders should remind people to label all their dishes as to whether they contain allergenic foods: eggs, peanuts, tree nuts, fish, seafood, wheat, mushrooms, tomatoes, onions, and whether the dish is vegetarian (no fish, poultry, or red meat) or vegan (no animal products including dairy and honey).

## Week One:

Main Dishes: Zone C

Vegetables/Salads: Zone SE

Fruits/Desserts: Zone SW

Beverages/Breads: Zone N

## Week Two:

Main Dishes: Zone N

Vegetables/Salads: Zone C

Fruits/Desserts: Zone SE

Beverages/Breads: Zone SW

## Week Three:

Main Dishes: Zone SW

Vegetables/Salads: Zone N

Fruits/Desserts: Zone C

Beverages/Breads: Zone SE

## Week Four:

Main Dishes: Zone SE

Vegetables/Salads: Zone SW

Fruits/Desserts: Zone N

Beverages/Breads: Zone C

## Fifth Wednesday

**Potluck or Youth Fundraiser or Other**

**Zone Leaders:** We are still working out some of the details, and definitely looking for zone leaders! If you would like to be a zone leader for the first six months (February-July), please talk to Don Rollins or contact the Team through [Mary](#), [Linda](#), or [Alice](#).

Zone leaders will be responsible for asking 3-4 people in their zone to bring the assigned categories each week, and for rotating these requests so that no one is overburdened.

Zone leaders will report problems and comments to the WW Super Team (not a typo), which will confer by phone/email and meet on a quarterly basis.

**Payment and Reimbursements:** Everyone who is not bringing the meal should pay, of course. Everyone who brings food continues to eat free. Two or three people who sign up for clean-up and set-up will also eat free.

With sharing the food-bringing responsibilities, no one should be spending too much money bringing food, so we won't need to be reimbursed for the cost of foods brought (most people haven't asked for reimbursement under the present system).

This is a work in progress. Zone leader volunteers and the WW Super Team will continue to work out the details, so please share your time and your ideas!

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## Spotlight on the Larger UU World: The UU Funding Program (UFP)

This UU grant-making body is entirely supported by the Veatch Program at Shelter Rock, NY:

<http://www.uucsr.org/veatch.asp>

Years ago, Caroline Veatch, a member of the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock (UUCSR), gave the congregation a bequest of oil and gas leases in the North Sea. These leases have turned into a significant source of income for that congregation, for the UU denomination, and for social justice organizations across the country. UUCSR funnels money into the Veatch Program, which in turn funnels money into the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), the UU Service Committee, and the UU Funding Program:

<http://www.uua.org/giving/fundingprogram/>

Beginning as the Denominational Grants Panel in 1981, the UFP has been reorganized several times and now has four funds that make grants with different missions: Fund for UUism; Fund for International UUism; Fund for UU Social Responsibility; and Fund for Social Justice. A member of our church was appointed to the Fund for UUism panel by the UUA Board of Trustees in the spring of 2010.

Grants from this Fund are made to "groups that strengthen UU institutions and community life, nurture and celebrate our liberal religious heritage, and encourage a generosity of spirit among UUs that is reflected in commitments of time, money and energy." The panel gathers in Boston in May and November and considers a number of proposals that meet the criteria. This is certainly a challenge, since the amount of money available for grants is always much less than the total amount requested. For example, this past November, twenty-one grant requests totaling \$312,800 were submitted, but only \$147,500 was available for distribution.

Among the proposals that were funded, at least in part, are the following:

- A book combining oral histories from BGLT clergy who are UU, focusing on UUism and U.S. social and cultural history of the period.
- A web-based curriculum for the study of sacred texts from the world's great religions and spiritual traditions, to pro-

vide resources for congregational leaders in designing worship services which help participants deepen their UU faith.

- A DVD series documenting 2000 years of Unitarian and Universalist thought. A five-part series, it will be available for UU congregations to use with people interested in joining their congregations and/or wanting more in-depth history of our liberal religious heritage.
- An "evangelical growth strategy" model for UU congregations.

For more information, click on the links included above.

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## Youth Envoy Coordinator Position

The UU-UNO is seeking a Youth Envoy Coordinator to manage high school aged youth engagement with the envoy program and the UU-UNO.

Since the UU-UNO was founded in 1962, UU envoys of all ages have been working to ensure that their UU congregation's voices are represented at the United Nations. Through their work with the UU-UNO, UU envoys have been tremendously successful at influencing UN policy to promote global justice and promoting UN and international awareness in their congregations.

This is a part-time fellowship (20 hours a week) \$1,000/month Stipend.

Learn more:

<http://www.uu-uno.org/2011/01/work-with-the-uu-uno/#more-1145>

## UPSTATE PRIDE NEWS

Save the Date! The Third Annual Upstate Pride March and Festival will take place on Saturday, June 4, 2011, at Barnet Park in Spartanburg. This year's theme is PRIDE: Promoting Respect, Individuality, Diversity, and Equality. There are 2011 T-shirts available for \$15 each, so let P.K. know if you'd like to order one.

## Share the Plate Recipient

Midwives for Haiti was our January Share the Plate recipient. Money collected will go toward buying medical supplies for the program, which will involve a member of our congregation. In addition, the Share the Plate collection for February will go to purchase non-medical supplies such as baby-care items and layette sets for new mothers.

Midwives for Haiti is a program in Hinche, which is a remote part of the country up in the mountains. U.S. midwives train certified birthing attendants who return to their communities to provide prenatal and birthing care.

The need for the program is clear when we look at the statistics on maternal and infant mortality. In the U.S. maternal mortality rates are 17/100,000 while in Haiti that number jumps to 630/100,000. Infant mortality rates in the U.S. are 6.7/100,000 and 54.4/100,000 in Haiti. This country is the most dangerous place to give birth in the western hemisphere. The problem is even greater in rural areas where minimal healthcare is available.

Ruth has generously paid her own way to Haiti (\$500) and for her housing, food, and interpreter while she is there (\$700) in addition to taking time off from work. Let's do our part to assist with the items the program requests each participant to bring, including vitamins, antibiotics, stethoscopes, and gloves along with non-medical supplies including baby items and sheets for women who can't afford to bring their own.

We would like to thank Ruth for giving up the comforts of home to help mothers bring home healthy babies in rural Haiti. Know that you have our blessings and full support in this endeavor.

## February Coffeehouse

The Espresso Yourself Coffeehouse will meet on Friday, February 25, at 7:00 p.m. Come share your song, poem, or prose, bring a friend, or just come and listen!

## BiLo Boosters Plus

You can still register for the 2010-2011 BiLo Boosters program. Purchases will be credited to the church only if members have completed the new registration process. This is a potential source of up to \$3000 for our budget. This amount would be a big help!

To register you will need to take the BiLo bar code for our church to the store:

- You can print it out now by [clicking here](#).
- It is usually in the *Weekly UUpdate*.
- There is a link to it in *Happenings*.
- There is a link on our website.
- You can get a copy of the code from the bulletin board display.

It will be easy to access the code and sign up. Everyone has to shop to eat, so let's use this opportunity for the benefit of our church!

## Do You Know about Audio Visual Equipment?

The meeting to discuss the AV equipment needs for the church will take place Wednesday, February 2, at 5:30 at the church.

If you have knowledge about AV equipment (video cameras, projectors, etc.) please come to this meeting. We would really appreciate your input about what equipment would be the best choice for the church.

## Red Cross Needs Volunteers

The Piedmont Chapter of the American Red Cross is in *urgent* need of local volunteers for Red Cross services in the Spartanburg area. Volunteers may assist with a single event or several times a month. Every effort is appreciated. Everyone makes a difference.

The American Red Cross is not a federal agency but a non-profit organization. As the largest humanitarian organization in the United States, it depends on volunteers to provide relief to victims of disasters and help people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies. The Piedmont Chapter's disaster relief program offers assistance to victims in Spartanburg, Cherokee, and Union counties affected by local natural and man-made disasters such as house fires, floods, tornadoes, ice storms, and chemical spills. In addition to satisfying immediate personal needs of food, clothing, and shelter, Red Cross services help affected individuals begin the recovery process following a disaster. Your help is needed to continue delivering these vital programs and services. Anyone interested in learning more about the American Red Cross may contact Kelly Stafford or Jane Morris in the Spartanburg office at (864) 583-8000 to find out how to get involved.



**American  
Red Cross**

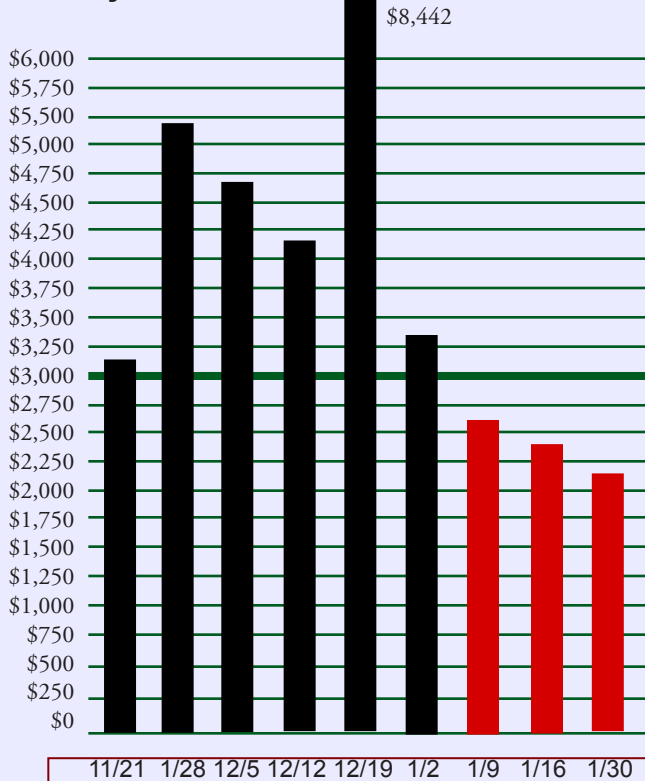
Piedmont Chapter

American Red Cross Piedmont Chapter  
Serving Spartanburg, Union, and Cherokee Counties

104 Garner Road  
Spartanburg, SC 29303  
Phone: (864) 583-8000  
Email: [volcoordinator@piedmontarc.org](mailto:volcoordinator@piedmontarc.org)

P.O. Box 566  
Gaffney, SC 29342  
Phone: (864) 489-6066  
Email: [swylie@piedmontarc.org](mailto:swylie@piedmontarc.org)

## 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. **We need \$3000 each week to break even.** 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.*

## You and Your Pledge

Are you up to date on your church pledge for this fiscal year, July 2010—June 2011? The Finance Committee was surprised when they discovered that 24 members who pledged last year have given ZERO for the first six months of this fiscal year.

If you are one of the above, please make plans to work on your pledge now. Our church is obligated to pay dues to our Thomas Jefferson District and to the UUA for every member, every year. Our dues are \$22/year per member to the T.J. District and \$56/year per member to the UUA.

If 24 people pay zero on their pledge, our church still pays those dues — \$78/member x 24 members = \$1872.00. That substantial sum is difficult for us to re-coup and must be made up by the gifts of other members. Please do your part!

*The Finance Committee*

## Eating Out

### Midweek Lunch Bunch

**Friday, February 11**, at 11:45  
**Jason's Deli** on West Main  
 across from Barnes and Noble  
**Friday, February 25**, at 11:45  
**Sonny's Brick Oven Pizza** on  
 Daniel Morgan

Let our Midweek Lunch Bunch [coordinator](#) know if you can attend.

### Sunday Lunch Bunch

February 6 — Bangkok  
 February 13 — Bronco  
 February 20 — Sahara  
 February 27 — Namaste  
 Each Sunday service bulletin has a reminder.

**Newcomers are especially welcome. A great way to get to know your new community.**

## Magic Formula for Church Budget

**Church Website + Amazon.com = MONEY FOR  
[www.uucs.org](http://www.uucs.org) Purchases UUCS BUDGET**

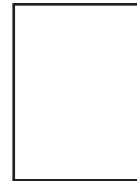
### Here's How:

**Access Amazon.com on home page of our church website ([www.uucs.org](http://www.uucs.org)). Search for desired item. Place your order at no additional cost to you.**

***Our church is receiving over 7% of the money from your orders.***

***In November and December combined the church earned \$340; in January we earned over \$140.***

Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Spartanburg  
210 Henry Place  
P.O. Box 1942  
Spartanburg, SC 29304



Return Service Requested

### ***Mission Statement***

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Spartanburg is a congregation grounded in the liberal religious tradition. We embody and promote religious freedom, caring community and social justice. We do these things in the service of love.

## **WEBSITE AND E-MAIL LINKS**

### **UUCS Website**

### **Unitarian Universalist Association**

### **Thomas Jefferson District**

**Don Rollins**

**minister@uucs.org**

### **Lifespan Faith Development Director**

**dre@uucs.org**

**Church Office**

**office@uucs.org**

**Publications, Calendar**

**communication@uucs.org**

**with name of publication or calendar  
in the subject line**

**Back to Page 1**



## **Unitarian Universalist Church of Spartanburg**

210 Henry Place

P.O. Box 1942

Spartanburg, SC 29304

The Rev. Don Rollins, Interim Minister

Office hours Tuesday through Thursday,  
10:00 to 1:00

### **Worship Service: 11:00 a.m. Sundays**

Church Phone (864) 585-9230

Off South Converse Street

by way of Hudson Barksdale

Hatcher House on Wheeler Court

Office hours, Monday through Friday mornings

Website [www.uucs.org](http://www.uucs.org)

Regular e-mail: [office@uucs.org](mailto:office@uucs.org)

Announcement for weekly e-mail and publications—  
[communication@uucs.org](mailto:communication@uucs.org)  
with name of publication in the subject line