



**Unitarian
Universalist
Church of
Spartanburg**

**January 2012
Number 811**

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

CLICK ON CONTENTS

A Month of Sundays / 2

Young Adults / 2

President's Letter / 3

Souper Bowl Sunday / 4

Work Party / 4

Annual Fund Kickoff / 4

Theology Class / 4

Search Team Update / 5

Wonderful Wednesday / 6

RE Schedule / 8

Kathleen's Korner / 9

Links and Information / 10

UNISON

Interim Journal

December 23, 2011

The Reverend Linda Bunyard

At the Winter Solstice Celebration on December 21st we took an imaginary journey to discover our winter selves. I asked people to imagine that they were seeds inside warm seed coverings nestled inside the soil of a winter earth. The work of winter for seeds may not look exciting. It is not the time to break through the seed coats to send down roots and send up shoots. That will come in a few months. Winter is the time for seeds to ponder their purpose, to grow inwardly, to study and plan.

During the ritual we also wrote down what we each needed to leave behind, those things in our lives that were no longer serving us. And within the circle individuals took the paper to a center fire, touched it to the flame, threw it up in the air, and watched it disappear into a thin wisp of smoke (the magic of flash paper).

At this turn of year on the modern calendar, we can begin to plan for the sowing of Spring and the harvest of Autumn. We can do this as individuals writing our 2012 New Year wishes and goals. And we can do this important work as a religious community.

This congregation has been in ministerial transition for at least two and a half years. The Reverend Don Rollins was the first interim minister on the ground and did the initial work of interim, which is acknowledging the loss of the Beloved Former Pastor (a term we use with reverence in interim ministry). He modeled a different style of ministry from that of Reverend Meg Barnhouse. He helped the leadership make changes that were needed. He stayed long enough to become beloved.

And so as the second interim on the ground in Spartanburg, I spent my first few months dealing with the grief of losing Reverend Rollins and the extra grief of change in styles of ministry. Now with that stage behind me I am finding that I am dealing with expectations in ministry that were set by your long relationship with Reverend Barnhouse. And it was a long relationship, beginning with her interim ministry before Reverend Chris Buice was called, continuing with her seven years as your settled minister. However, it has not quite ended, as many of you are still in relationship with her—on FaceBook and in other ways. As I do my interim assessment and draw a picture of the system that I see here, I keep being reminded that ministers are not expected to be involved in this or that part of the program or administration. And yet I am doing what I always do as a conscientious and dedicated minister.

This is good learning for the congregation and leaders this year. Your new minister will come with incredible gifts to share—in preaching, pastoring, teaching, administering, and standing up for justice (maybe even in music). That set of gifts will be different from those of any of your previous ministers. Thankfully, your new minister will not have to rush in and learn everything the first month as we interims do, so you can introduce him or her to the min-

Continued page 2

A Month of Sundays

1 *In with the Old and Out with the New* Rabbi Yossi Liebowitz

Rabbi Liebowitz was raised Orthodox and has made an interesting journey to become a Reform Rabbi. He has a B.A. in psychology and a masters in Hebrew letters. He has completed thirty years in the rabbinate and was awarded his second doctorate of divinity by HUC-JIR. Rabbi Liebowitz has received many awards and honors for his deep involvement in community programs and his service on numerous community boards.

8 *Channing's Liberal Christianity* Reverend Linda Bunyard Theology Series #2

What led a group of Congregational ministers in the early 1800s to declare themselves "Unitarian"? The name itself was an epithet leveled at Christians who didn't believe in the Trinity. William Ellery Channing outlined what distinguished liberal Christian thought from the orthodox of the day. Does it still hold true for us today?

New Member Recognition

15 *The Lessons of Martin Luther King* Reverend Linda Bunyard

We honor Martin Luther King Sunday by reflecting on Dr. King's teachings and singing some good gospel music. How can we incorporate nonviolence, equality, and justice into our message every week? Join us for a challenge to keep his vision alive.

22 *Greed: The Deadliest Sin* Reverend Linda Bunyard

The Seven Deadly Sins according to Roman Catholic tradition are Pride, Envy, Gluttony, Lust, Anger, Greed, and Sloth. The deadliest sin may be Greed. With such overwhelming inequity of wealth in our society, where do we begin to both understand and change the course?

29 *"The Right Stuff – UU Style"* Marion Tisdale

In this talk, "The Right Stuff" means sermon content that is memorable and becomes an indelible part of the listeners' thinking. Since I joined this church 45 years ago I have heard some 1600 sermons, been to meetings, and visited monasteries. Here are my most memorable six experiences and how they uniquely fit into the UU framework.

Interim Journal (continued)

istry that you, the congregation, have developed here in Spartanburg. And begin the development of a long and healthy two-way relationship.

Part of my job in this third year of interim is to keep modeling a different style of ministry so that the congregation is open and flexible as a new settled minister is chosen. In the coming months the congregation could make good use of that Winter Seed Time for planning. You might begin the ritual of "letting go." What things in your own lives or in your work at the church are no longer "working for you."

Winter is a time to plan for the seed sowing and eventually the harvest. Take some time this winter for your own planning. Join us as we work toward harvest in this congregation.

I wish all the best for each of you and for the Unitarian Universalist Church of Spartanburg in 2012!

On the Journey, *Rev. Linda*

YOUNG ADULTS

Sunday Night Live! for Young Adults

Who: anyone between the ages of 18 and 35

What: Pot Luck Dinner with Games and Good Conversation

When: January 8, 2012 — 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Where: Fellowship Hall

Whether you are a college student, beginning a career path, or discovering who you are as an adult in other ways....

this church is a good place in which to grow

....and this new group is for you!

And you have the opportunity to shape what will happen this year. Do you want to connect with young adults in UU churches nearby? Do you want to connect to the national UU-YA movement?

Check out these resources for Young Adults within the Unitarian Universalist movement:

Blue Boat Blog Site: <http://blueboat.blogs.uua.org/>

Basic Info on Young Adult Ministry:
<http://www.uua.org/re/youngadults/index.shtml>

Young Adult and Campus Ministry Info:
<http://www.uua.org/re/youngadults/anchor/index.shtml>

Young Adult UUA Email Lists:
<http://www.uua.org/re/youngadults/112286.shtml>

Small Group Ministry for YA:
<http://www.uua.org/re/youngadults/45430.shtml>

Letter from the President

At our Annual Meeting last May, your UUCS Board proposed, and you approved, a deficit budget. At that meeting, you asked the Board to keep you apprised of the church's financial situation. That's what I'm here for today, to report on our finances midway through our church year, which runs from July 1 to June 30.

(I'm interrupting this column to ask you to please read it all the way through. I know money talk can be boring, and even uncomfortable, but it's also super important. Everyone who participates in our beloved community—or who just wants it to be here for others—has a stake in our financial health.)

We'll start with a few numbers from the budget:

Projected total expenses for the year:	\$217,165
Projected total income for the year:	\$209,500
Projected deficit:	\$ 7,665

Taking a closer look, we see that payroll is our greatest expense. Our only full-time paid staff person is our interim minister. The rest of our staff is part time. Kathleen is paid for 25 hours per week, and Pat (the office administrator) is paid for 20. The other staff members are all paid for less than 10 hours per week. Our total personnel expense budgeted for this year is \$147,695.

Our second greatest expense is for infrastructure – utilities, insurance, mortgage interest payments, building and grounds expenses, etc. – at \$43,580.

Program expenses (committee work, worship services, Lifespan Faith Development, etc.) are budgeted at \$25,890.

How is our budget funded? Our main source of income comes from YOU. This year, church members and friends pledged to pay \$160,000 in support of our mission of religious freedom, caring community, and social justice. Obviously, it's critical that we receive every penny of this pledged income. Unfortunately, some people are falling behind in their pledge payments, and as of November 30, we were significantly below where we should be. We understand that circumstances can change, possibly affecting your ability to pay. If that's the case, we can have a confidential conversation about it and make an adjustment to your pledge. Otherwise, we expect that each person who has made a financial pledge will honor it. When you don't pay your pledge it has a very serious impact on our ability to function as a church.

If you didn't make a financial pledge for this year, I hope that you will still help us maintain this beloved community by making regular contributions. Checks or cash are always appreciated, but if you contribute cash, please put it in an offering envelope with your name on it. We will then be able to send you documentation of your contributions to use when you file your income taxes.

Our other major source of income is from fundraising. This year we budgeted a very optimistic \$30,000 for total fundraising income, which is significantly more than we've ever raised in one year before. We did not do this because we enjoy a near-constant barrage of fundraising efforts. We don't enjoy drumming up ideas, soliciting

manpower, and generating enthusiasm for all these fundraisers. (Okay, maybe some of us enjoy that last part.) We don't enjoy asking our members and friends over and over again to support our fundraising efforts. We do this because we HAVE to. The black and white of it is that without these fundraisers we won't come CLOSE to meeting our expenses. So please continue your generous support of fundraisers with your time, effort, and money, as you are able. And if you have any ideas about ways to raise money for the church, please let us know. Sally M. heads up our fundraising efforts, so feel free to contact her.

Here's an interesting idea one church member came up with: she has an extensive collection of dolls that she no longer wants. She would like for someone to sell the dolls on eBay, with all the profits going directly to the church's operating budget. She doesn't have the time or inclination to handle the online sales herself, but surely there must be somebody in our congregation who would enjoy that sort of thing. What a great way to raise what could be a significant sum of money! We just need someone with the time and expertise to do this for us. Anybody interested?

We are also looking at leasing the lower level to an exercise group, which would create a regular source of unbudgeted income for us.

Okay, back to how we're doing. At this point in the year, our treasurer projects that we will not make up the deficit if things continue the way they are. We are simply not generating enough income to cover our projected expenses through the end of the year. What will help? I suggest the following:

Pay your pledge. Pay your pledge. Pay your pledge. Obviously, I can't stress this enough.

Consider stretching yourself and paying more than you pledged.

Even if you don't have a pledge, please understand that our church depends upon the generosity of our members and friends, and please contribute accordingly.

Participate in fundraisers when you can. Many of the fundraisers provide great opportunities for delicious food and wonderful fellowship, two of our favorite things!

Plan (way) ahead and include our beloved community in your will.

As president of this fine congregation, I feel a tremendous sense of responsibility for our finances. The truth is, however, that there's nothing I can do alone to assure our financial success. I need each of you to understand our situation and act accordingly. I think we all agree on the importance of our church existing in the upstate, not just for ourselves, but also for the people who haven't found us yet. As we enter 2012, I remain enthusiastic about our mission. I remain optimistic about our future. I remain excited about the work we are doing together.

Happy New Year!

With love, P.K.

**Souper Bowl Sunday
January 29 after church**

Tickets: \$10.00

Join us for soup, cornbread, and dessert!

**CALLING ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS
CHURCH-WIDE WORK PARTY
SATURDAY, JANUARY 14**

We'll start at 9:00 a.m. and stop at 3:00 p.m. We'll even furnish sandwiches for lunch.

Here's a partial list of our goals: paint the Fellowship Hall, repair playground equipment, and spread mulch. Remove leaves from both parking lots, then paint new white lines. Do general clean-up and complete minor repairs.

There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign up so we can properly plan this work party.

Save the date. We need at least 30 people to accomplish these ambitious goals.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, February 12, is the date our Annual Fund drive for 2012/2013 "kicks off." Following the worship service with Rev. Linda, Keith P., and others, members and friends are invited to have a festive brunch with special music in the lower level. (To-the-door "limo service" will be available for accessibility.)

There will be a brief presentation about the Annual Fund drive and the importance of its success in enabling our religious community to live out our vision and mission in 2012/13, working with our new settled minister. At the end of the presentation, all will be invited to make their annual financial commitment in the form of a pledge.

Questions? Contact Mary M. or Nancy M., Team co-chairs, annualfundteam@uucs.org.

**Developing Your Own Theology:
One Part Completed, Another Starting**

*Building Your Own Theology: Beginning
Wednesday, January 11, 7:00 p.m.*

Beginning January 11, we will use Richard Gilbert's *Building Your Own Theology: Volume One*. Take a look at the sample at the minister's office door. Fifteen copies are left. The cost came down to \$13 each (payable to Linda Bunyard by cash or check). If you want to participate and do not wish to purchase the book, see Rev. Linda. The books will be available Sundays, January 1 and 8, and during regular minister's office hours. We hope you will purchase one early enough to read the first chapter.

All are welcome. For more information contact Rev. Linda, minister@uucs.org.

**How to Reach
Your Minister**

The Rev. Linda Bunyard

minister@uucs.org, 585-9230

Office Hours: 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday

Also available at other times of the afternoons and evenings for conversations and visits.

Don't take a chance on dropping in.
Make appointments by email or phone.

Minister's Travel Schedule

Vacation Leave: Tuesday, January 24, through Monday, January 30

Vacation: Annual Tucson trip for Health Care

Wednesday, February 22, through Tuesday, February 28

Vacation: Around pulpit exchange with Rev. David Johnson in Winston-Salem



The ASTROLOGY GROUP meets Sunday, January 22, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. If you have an interest in astrology, psychology, Jung, or the enneagram, come join us. (Cost is \$20.) If you don't have an astrology chart, contact Jule Klotter at jule11k@yahoo.com.

Settled Minister Search Team: Congregational Update

Your Settled Minister Search Team has been busy conducting Skype interviews with ministers interested in our ministerial opening. Skype has allowed our Search Team, gathered around a large computer monitor, to see and hear the candidate's responses simultaneously via webcams. The informal interviews have allowed time for an exchange of questions with the intent of all parties getting to know each other better. We've enjoyed the warmth, intimacy, and positive electricity of these "face-to-face" Skype interviews.

Our applicants are men and women of varying ages and are in all stages of their ministerial careers, from newly ordained to highly experienced. Each has significant gifts to share with a congregation. Most have Southern connections or appreciate our Southern climate and amenities.

We continue to hear positive comments about our congregation as reflected in our Congregational profile and packet. Folks are excited about our church and the programming and possibilities we offer.

BOOK GROUP

The book for January is *The Book Thief* by Martin Zusak. The Book Group meets the first Wednesday of each month. Come join the group to discuss this book!

Human Needs and Healthy Human Beings Returns in January

This discussion group is for both our "thinkers and feelers." Beginning with the question "what do we need from our environment to lead fully human lives," we will explore the topic of human needs in intellectual discussion and by sharing our feelings and perceptions about our own needs. What are our basic needs? What is the result of being deprived of things we truly need? We all need food, clean air and water, shelter, and care and protection just to survive. "Higher" needs include love, belonging, good work, leisure, the beauty of nature, freedom, challenge, and self-esteem. How can we satisfy these universal needs so that we can become healthier and lead a more fully human life? How does our church help us to live into our potential? What is the role of society and government in meeting human needs? Session leaders Monnie C., Cindy H., and Marilyn C. will provide brief background materials and questions for discussion prior to each session. The group will meet January 25 after Vespers.



Guest at Your Table

Don't forget to return "Guest at Your Table" boxes on January 1st or 8th.

They will be gathered in during the offering. If you have cash or change, please turn it into a check payable to the UU Service Committee.

Pagan Event

Come join eclectic Pagan practitioner Sarah-Kate Hampton as she follows the spiral path and gives insight into the truth behind the mysteries of magic. This class takes us back to basics and is open to everyone. The first lesson will lead us down the path to discover the sacred space within ourselves and our home. We will learn how to construct an altar, the meaning and uses of the different altar tools, and how to find that sacred space. Registration for the class is due by Sunday, January 8. To register please contact sarahkatehampton@yahoo.com or Kathleen Anderson. A registration fee of \$15 will be due on January 15 to cover the cost of materials. All leftover funds will be donated to the UU Church of Spartanburg. Please bring your choice of cloth to use to make altar cloth and different beads, patches, and charms that you feel drawn to.

Bi-Lo Boosters

It's not too late to sign up for Bi-Lo Boosters for the benefit of our church. [Click here](#) to print out a page of bar codes. Just take the bar code and your bonus card to ANY Bi-Lo and the cashier will scan it in so that every time you use your card, our church gets a donation. The \$500+ we got last year was a big help, but this year we need to go for the whole \$3000! Let's make that goal by May 31.

A member of our congregation says, "I admit, that as I became aware that our church benefitted, I began to stop by for a few items and then gradually realized that over all (and especially on Wednesday with a five-percent discount to "seniors"), Bi-Lo really does have the most economical prices. The gasoline perks (for every \$50 spent in groceries, a person gets five cents a gallon off at a Shell or Sphinx station) also are an extra benefit to people. So we can feel good about promoting Bi-Lo in our church."

Any questions, contact Marilyn.

Personal Wishes Form for Life Crisis

Please complete the UUCS personal wishes form so that we may update our church's permanent files.

Forms are available in the church office or [click here](#).

Wonderful Wednesdays

Winter Schedule

First and Third Wednesdays

Building open at 5:30, but no scheduled supper.

6:15: Bring a dessert or beverage to share.

(Come for dessert and conversation, or bring your own meal earlier if you wish.)

Second Wednesday

5:45: Wonderful Wednesday supper provided by a covenant or other group (\$5 donation).

Fourth Wednesday

5:45: Potluck or theme supper (theme TBA in *UUpdate*, *Happenings*, and FB).

Fifth Wednesday

5:45: Fundraiser dinners prepared by the Middle and Senior High Youth. (They are raising money for the CONs at The Mountain as there is no scholarship funding this year.)

Every Wednesday

6:40: Vespers

7:00-8:15/8:30: Programs

Earth Scouts will still run from 6:45 to 8:15 so parents can attend vespers and to accommodate school night bedtimes. Staff will be on duty at 6:30, so children may be dropped off at any time after that.

Church Activity or Calendar Information

Do you want concise information on the church schedule of activities?

- Go to the home page of the church web site (www.uucs.org) and do one of the following:
- Click Calendar, then click on Monthly Calendar OR
- Click on Calendar, then click on Coming Events.

For the up-to-date Wednesday Nite activities do the following:

- Go to the home page of the church web site.
- Go to the bottom of the very bottom of the left hand column to Wonderful Wednesdays.
- Click on the link "click here" which takes to you to the schedule.

Church Mortgage Fund and/or

Lower Level Improvement Fund

Contributions Always Appreciated

Make checks payable to UUCS, putting name of fund in memo line.

Leadership Development Library

The Leadership Development Committee (and Rev. Linda) want to start a small library (about a shelf or two) containing items that deal with UU issues and history. These selections would be available for our members to borrow.

Do you have any UUA books, publications, CDs, or DVDs that are currently collecting dust at your house and that you can donate to create a Leadership Development Library? If so, would you please bring them to the church and place them in a box in our copy room marked Leadership Development Library?

Pictorial Directory on Line

The pictorial directory is on line, in the private section of the website, which requires a password. Anyone who objects to having his or her photo in our online directory, please email communication@uucs.org or call the church office and leave a message for the webmaster.

Also, the traditional directory of our friends and members, which has addresses and telephone numbers, is on line. It is in the private section of the website, which requires a password, and is not accessible to the general public.

Joys and Concerns System

During this transition time we all must be carefully attuned to looking after one another. One way to do this is frequent attention to the [Joys and Concerns page](#), which can be accessed from the website with the member password. If you have not gotten one of these, please contact the office.

Information for the Joys and Concerns page goes through jandc@uucs.org. We want to include information about Joys as well as Concerns. Other necessary information, like changes in address and email, is also appropriate. We are all in this together!

Send Us Photos of Your Pets

We now have a Pets Page in the members/friends section of the website. Send us photos of your animal friends with some information about them. Send an email to us at communication@uucs.org with web pets in the subject line. You may also send pet joys and concerns to this page.

Something UUnique

Recipes Sprinkled with Memories



Unitarian Universalist Church
of Spartanburg

Cookbooks are available every Sunday morning.

450 delicious recipes and loads of cooking memories organized in a three-ring binder for \$18.00.

Recipe and contributor index with category tabs.

Great for you! Great for gifts!

Call Joyce H. if you need to pick some up.

Eating Out with UU Friends

Sunday Lunch Bunch after the service

January 1—to be decided by the group

January 8—Blue Bay Seafood

January 15—Bronco's

January 22—Bangkok

January 29—NO Lunch Bunch (Souper Bowl Sunday at church)

Midweek Lunch Bunch

January 13—Yannis

January 27—Jason's Deli

Supper Group

THURSDAY, January 19—

Mellow Mushroom

Newcomers are especially welcome. This a great way to get to know your new community.

Magic Formula for Church Budget

**Church Website + Amazon.com = MONEY FOR
www.uucs.org Purchases UUCS BUDGET**

Here's How:

Access Amazon.com on home page of our church website (www.uucs.org). Search for desired item.

Place your order at no additional cost to you.

There is also a link which you may put in your bookmarks or favorites.

See any issue of Happenings for this link.

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

In 2011 the church earned over \$800.

RE Schedule for January

Sundays

Childcare for children through age 10 available from 9:30 to 12:30

January 1

Happy New Year!

10:00-10:50

Buddhist Meditation, led by David Stack

Coffee and Conversation, Bread and Board—Fellowship Hall

11:15-12:10

Children's Chapel and RE Classes for children K-5 through 5th grade

1:00-2:30 Facilitators' Covenant Group

January 8

10:00-10:50

Spirit of Life Class, led by former minister Donna Stroud

Coffee and Conversation—Fellowship Hall

11:15-12:10

Children's Chapel and RE Classes for children K-5 through 12th grade

January 15

9:45-10:45 *Living the Questions Class—Lessons in Progressive Christianity*, led by Kathleen Anderson

This month's lesson is "The Myth of Redemptive Violence." Our culture teaches violence as an acceptable response to evil, and perpetuates it by making it pleasurable, fascinating, and entertaining. Children, especially boys, are acculturated from a very young age to the use of violence as a way to solve problems. Contemporary Evangelical Christians believe that Jesus' death was the ultimate sacrifice for the sins of the world, and that without the shed blood of the assassinated God, forgiveness of sin and restoration of right relationship with God is not possible. Is this true? Or is it possible that belief in the salvific power of violence and sacrifice is the laziest, most simplistic, provocative, irrational, and primitive response to evil? Is there a better way? Come listen to scholarship and inspiration from leading theo-

logians, and discuss your own take on this ancient myth.

10:00-10:50

Coffee and Conversation—Fellowship Hall

1:00-2:30 *Introduction to Paganism* Class, led by Sarah Kate Hampton

Everyone is invited to attend this group to gain insight into the truth behind the mysteries of magic. We will focus on making sacred space within ourselves and our homes. We'll work to create tools for use on a home altar, and with the meaning and use of magical tools. There will be lots of goodies available for altar crafting, but please bring your own choice of cloth, and any feathers, totems, or other personally meaningful items you would like to include. Preregister for this class by signing up on the sign-up board in the Fellowship Hall, or you may contact Sarah (sarahkatehampton@yahoo.com) or our LFD director Kathleen (dre@uucs.org). Materials fee—\$15, due at door. Limit 15.

January 21

NEW!

9:45-10:45

Adult Forum, featuring visiting speakers from the larger community, with presentations and discussions, led by Marion Tisdale and Don Miles

Coffee and Conversation—Fellowship Hall

11:15-12:10

Children's Chapel and RE Classes for children K-5 through 12th grade

January 29

Coffee and Conversation—Fellowship Hall

11:15-12:10

Children's Chapel and RE Classes for children K-5 through 5th grade

Wednesdays

January 4

Building open at 5:30, but no scheduled supper.

6:15 Bring a dessert or beverage to share.

(Come for dessert and conversation, or bring your own meal earlier if you wish.)

6:40-7:00 Vespers

6:45-8:15 Earth Scouts

Middle School and Senior High Youth Group

7:00-8:30 Book Club

January 11

5:45 Wonderful Wednesday supper provided by a covenant or other group (\$5 donation).

6:40-7:00 Vespers

6:45-8:15 Earth Scouts

Middle School and Senior High Youth Group

7:00-8:30—Developing Your Own Theology Class, with Rev. Linda Bunyard

January 18

Same as first Wednesday

6:40-7:00 Vespers

6:45-8:15 Earth Scouts

Middle School and Senior High Youth Group

7:00-8:30—Humanist Discussion Group

Anderson's Covenant Group

January 25

5:45 Potluck or theme supper

6:40-7:00 Vespers

6:45-8:15 Earth Scouts

Middle School and Senior High Youth Group

7:00-8:30—Human Need and Healthy Humans Discussion Group, led by Monnie, Marilyn, and Cindy

January 16-17

5:30 pm Friday to 12:00 noon on Saturday

High School Youth Lock-In and Tie Dye Party

Kathleen's Korner

Special thanks to the middle and high school youth, who shared \$32 of the money they made from the Christmas Bake and Ornament Sale Fundraiser with the Social Justice Committee to help with gifts for the children at Christmas.

Special thanks also to Janice Baynes, Carolyn Bourassa, Barbara Cameron, Susan Prestipino, and Mary Bracey for their support and help with the fundraiser.

January is always a time of letting go of the events and patterns of the past year, and time to think about the things we hope to draw into our lives in the new one. Maybe THIS will be the year we give up all our bad habits or win the lottery and pay off the church mortgage. Or maybe not. The maybe not part is what stands out most in my experience and I tend to take a dim view of New Year's Resolutions, if only because I know too well that the most likely result is guilt, which I mostly gave up sometime back in the 90's. So, sorry, but no, I do NOT want to hear about the best new diet, or clutter my shelf with the latest book about how to get organized. Things are what they are, and I think maybe a better way to look at it is to relax and be willing to let go of the past—at least all the parts of it that we don't need, the parts that can't be fixed, things done or left undone, any potential unrealized. What's done is done or not, what's gone is gone, and here we are, in the one moment where we have power: RIGHT NOW. I think it is better to remember that the things we choose and the things we do don't have to be about tomorrow or the next day, in fact they can't be. I don't have to lose 30 pounds by Monday—I can just eat healthy food today. I don't have to clean up my entire life to entertain royalty or anything; I can just clean out my car or that junk drawer today. And I can choose again tomorrow. Life doesn't have to be so huge, or so hard. It is better to let the guilt and the urgency go, and simply choose well right now. And to remember that no matter what choices we've made before, there will always be another chance, another choice.

What I hope for all of us this year is that we will choose well in all the moments that are given to us: that we will choose to uplift the people around us, that we will choose to give help to those in need, that we will choose to do our work well and faithfully, that we will be kind, that we will choose to join in sacred community to be a light to the world, and to let the sacred community be a light to us. I wish for all of us a blessed, and full and very happy new year.

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

WEBSITE AND E-MAIL LINKS

UUCS Website

Unitarian Universalist Association

Southeast District

**Linda Bunyard
minister@uucs.org**

**DRE
dre@uucs.org**

**Church Office
office@uucs.org**

**Publications, Calendar
communication@uucs.org**

**Joys and Concerns
jandc@uucs.org**

Unitarian Universalist Church of Spartanburg

210 Henry Place—P.O. Box 1942—
Spartanburg, SC 29304

The Rev. Linda Bunyard, Interim Minister
Minister's Office Hours 1:00-3:00 Tuesday-Friday

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

Church Office Hours

9:00-1:00 Monday

9:00-12:00 Tuesday & Thursday

9:00-2:00 Wednesday & Friday

Website www.uucs.org

Regular e-mail: office@uucs.org

Announcement for weekly e-mail and publications—
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with name of publication in the subject line

Back to Page 1