



UUFC WORLD



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Clemson
230 Pendleton Road, Clemson, SC 29631
January 2014 Volume 45 Issue 1

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Deadline for submission to
the next issue of UUFC
World is **January 20th.**

Please share with us at
UUFCWorld@gmail.com.

A NEW WEEKLY Course in Miracles
meeting begins for 2014 on
Monday, January 13, 7:00 - 8:30
pm.

We will have social time and
introductions at 6:30 pm. and
the meeting will begin
promptly at 7:00 pm.

Newcomers welcome.

For more information, contact
Lane Hudson at
lanehudson1@yahoo.com, or 864-
903-1430.

“For last year's words belong to last year's language
And next year's words await another voice.”

— *T.S. Eliot, Four Quartets*

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January Services

Sunday services begin at 10:30 am
Coffee and conversation follows in the social hall.

January 5 *New Year, New Growth, Solid Foundation.* While New Year Resolutions seem trite this week does seem a good time to do some intentional thinking about where this new year might take us. Looking back on last year we might wish to joyfully or regretfully kiss it good-bye. Now what excites us about that which we want to draw into our lives in 2014. Rev. Terre

January 12 *Growing Up and Setting Down Roots: A Saga of 60 years in the Upstate!* As we begin our 60th year, let's take a nostalgic and celebratory look at some of the things we have celebrated over the years. Rev. Terre

January 19 *Is American Non-violence possible?* This challenging topic was suggested by one of our members last spring. Sadly, violence takes many shapes and forms from gun violence to poverty and hunger and repression. How we answer this question can shape how we choose to act as individuals and a Fellowship. Rev. Terre

January 26 *What does it mean to be virtuous?* How does that relate to Unitarian Universalism? In this service we will explore what it means to practice virtue and live by Unitarian Universalist principles in our every day lives. What moral guidance can our liberal, non-dogmatic faith offer us? William Thompson and Mary Adkins Cartee

Should UUFC become a Support Church for the Family Promise Homeless Program due to start in Pickens County in mid-2014?

Briefing for all UUFC members and friends interested in learning more about Family Promise:

Monday, Jan 13th 6-7 pm — UUFC Social Hall

If interested in attending, please rsvp by Friday, Jan. 10th to king.toni62@gmail.com

The United Way of Pickens County has teamed up with area churches to develop Family Promise, a 15 person homeless shelter for families. Its mission is to bring shelter, meals and support services to local families without homes. An essential part of its program model is commitment from local churches.

Local churches, called Host Churches, provide a place for families to sleep for 7 consecutive nights, and other churches, called Support Churches, donate volunteer services to supplement Host Churches' efforts. Volunteer services help cover evening and night shifts during the week - there are always at least 2 volunteers present. Note that all homeless "guests" leave the Host Church early each day. The adults go to the Family Promise Day Center in Easley where intensive support services are provided to help families secure employment, housing, and other needs. Children are transported to schools, day care (in the case of working parents,) or go with their parents to the Day Center.

Most volunteer shifts (other than overnight) would be 2-3 three hours. All volunteers complete training and orientation before they begin serving.

Family Promise also asks that Support Churches provide financial support, and UUFC would do this by making Family Promise one of the benevolences in 2014.

The Outreach Committee will be sending a questionnaire in mid-January to UUFC members and friends to determine if we should commit to becoming a Support Church. Please respond. Our commitment would be for one year. In addition to attendance at the the January 13th briefing, you can find out more about Family Promise by going to www.familypromisepickens.org.

The Reverend's Remarks

Rev. Terre Balof, Minister

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! As many of you know, I have been looking forward to 2014 so we can properly celebrate our 60 years as a congregation. I love birthday celebrations and

tend to expand them for weeks or months. I look forward to a year of celebrations small and large! So watch for events throughout the year!

A few months ago, Cecil Huey reminded me that in the early days of UUFC, there were marks on an RE door and children were measured on their birthdays to see how much they had grown. What a wonderful tradition. So this month we will reinstitute our "growing wall." During the year, each child will be measured so that next year we will be able to see how much each child has grown. On the other hand, we will not measure how much our older members are shrinking as we age!

During January we will begin collecting memories for a timeline. Jorge and Paula are already searching for music from each of the decades that we have been in Clemson. It is fun to think back. Cecil Huey's article in this newsletter reminds us of what a small town Clemson really was when UUFC staked a claim in this community. Looking back and looking forward are both exciting ways to help us consider where we want to go in this 2014 year.

I want to take a moment to thank each of you for the hundreds of cans, boxes and bags of food that have been collected this year. When I first put out the challenge, I thought we could do it, but I had no idea what a fun and exciting adventure our "let's give a TON of food" could be. Each Sunday I love seeing the children gathering food from many of you who they might not otherwise see or talk to. The childlike exuberance is wonderful. AND WE DID IT! As I write this on December 19, we have two Sundays to go and we have collected almost 2200 pounds of food! Many thanks for the many generous donations. I hope you enjoyed being part of the food drive. Each week I am reminded that if each of us does our small part then we really can accomplish great things as a congregation.

With gratitude,

Terre

BUILDING YOUR OWN THEOLOGY CLASS TO BEGIN JANUARY 20!

Join Rev. Terre for the Building Your Own Theology class beginning January 20th for 6 weeks to be held on Monday evening in the Founders House at 6:30pm. This class is a great way to think through what we believe about God(or no God), good and evil, ethics and other topics alongside other UUs. The class is limited to 10 participants. Contact Rev. Terre if you would like to be a participant.

The President's Column

Cecil Huey, 2014 Board President

Here we are at the start of another year; a year that will likely fly by as they usually do. This one, though, is particularly significant for UUFC because on its arrival we step into our sixtieth year here in Clemson. Like all before it, this brand new year brings us challenges and opportunities. I believe we will meet them all, fortified by confidence, assurance, and aplomb borne of the past fifty-nine years.

It is amusing and perhaps instructive to reflect a bit on our community in the mid-fifties. Highways 76 and 123 were not here, nor were Lakes Hartwell and Keowee. Clemson's enrollment was about 3,000, the population of Clemson was around 5,000, we were yet to get our first traffic signal, and the downtown Dixie Home Store (later Winn Dixie) maintained a special section of brewer's supplies to indulge the private thirsts of community residents. Racial segregation was still the rule if not the law, and Clemson's first black student would not arrive for another decade. Death Valley could accommodate less than 40,000. The South was still the Solid South, and mainline churches were in good supply. To Kill a Mockingbird might well have been considered contemporary lit.

In that environment, our founders, twelve strong, started us on the path to now. Those of us who are eligible for social security and who grew up in the region are informed by memory as well as by the history books. We know the resolve, initiative, and mutual support needed amongst the twelve to

turn a notion of liberal religion into the reality of a Unitarian Church in our region. A further clue to their resolve and temperament lies in the fact that those same twelve were largely responsible for founding and sustaining the Clemson Child Development Center--no mean feat in the Clemson of the early sixties. Over the years, UUFC has always been well represented in community affairs far beyond the Child Development Center and we can stick our chests pretty far out on the basis of our members' contributions. I am sure we can stick them out a little more for the things we will continue to accomplish in the coming year. Our twelve founding members lit the initial spark, and they together with those who followed, have fanned that spark into the bright beacon that UUFC has become.

At the start, I cited challenges and opportunities. It appears to me that our primary challenge right now emerges from the particular spot we have reached in our growth and evolution. Our size and makeup simply requires a certain level of infrastructure and support. However, such needs don't develop in neat proportion to growth in membership. Rather, new staff, great ministers, and the like tend to yield jumps in expenses while revenue grows more evenly--a reality not unique to UUFC. Hence, our current challenge is a practical one, to make ends meet through a period following some jumps. It seems a small challenge when viewed in context of our sixty-year presence in the Clemson community, but it will require our best thinking and efforts, even as we celebrate the past sixty years and contemplate the next decades.

Personally, I look forward to the coming year with excitement, hope and optimism. I am sure you all join me in that view.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP CELEBRATING 60 YEARS IN CLEMSON, SOUTH CAROLINA

Religious Education

Theresa Pizzuto, Director of Religious Education

Theresa.pizzuto@gmail.com

The Childrens' Service

While much of the fall semester lessons focused on UU Principles, the children and youth also participated in service projects. Here are the highlights:

- * Help collect food for Clemson Community Care as part of the offertory. Getting the children to take part in this not only helped them feel involved in the service, but has also increased our giving to CCC. We are on track to collect a ton of food for 2013!
- * We had a visit from Concerned Citizens for Animals at the end of September, before the Blessing of the Animals service. Anne Jenkins and Janice Dieter talked about feral cat colonies in Pickens County. The organization works to neuter, trap and release feral cats. They then keep an eye on the colonies to see that they are safe. They also try to capture any kittens that might be born, to foster and provide homes. Religious Education now collects food and supplies for CCA during Trading Post Sundays.

- * Green Sanctuary and Religious Education teamed up to make laundry detergent, which was then sold during the Trading Post Sunday in November. Ellie Taylor led this project and the kids were kept busy mixing the ingredients and preparing the Fels Naptha, which can be quite aromatic. They sold out and earned \$70, which they will donate to Our Daily Bread and the Humane Society.



Spotlight on RE Staff: Marvelous Madeline

We welcome a new face in the nursery! Madeline Wilson is a senior at Daniel High School who loves German as well as playing with the kids in the nursery. She says she is “beyond ready” for the new babies and that the UU community made her feel like “everyone around me was an old friend” by the end of her first day. She certainly has much in common with fellow UUs: she loves to hike and adores animals. In fact, when she was five, she was convinced she was a cat. She has four siblings and is the baby in the family, and would love to be an elementary school teacher when she grows up. Sounds like we’re lucky to have another great young role model for our youngest UU members.



Submitted by Christine Prado

Submitted By: Ellie Taylor

When Debbie Bzdyl first suggested that UUFC learn to make our own laundry detergent, I was thrilled. Maybe you are like me – you’ve been meaning to do this for years, but just never got around to it. Debbie provided a few samples for us to try including “soft scrub”, window cleaner, laundry detergent and dishwasher detergent made into little cubes.

To my delight, I found that these homemade cleaning supplies really work well. So we encourage you to give it a try. If you want to begin with laundry detergent, the recipe is below. All ingredients can be purchased at the Central Wal-Mart in the cleaning supply aisle (they are all in a row on a bottom shelf – easy to find and about \$17 for a two year supply). For other recipes, check out the Green Sanctuary page at www.UUFC.org.

If you have any doubts, here are five compelling reasons to start making your own cleaning supplies:

- Protect people from toxic chemicals, especially children.
- Reduce chemicals in our air and water supply.
- Save money.
- Keep plastic containers out of our local landfill.
- Discover that “homemade” products often work better.

Laundry Detergent

- 1-box of Super Washing Soda, 3 lb. 7 oz.
- 1-box of Borax, 4 lbs. 12 oz. size
- 1-box of Pure Baking Soda, 4 lb.
- 3-bars of Fels-Naptha, 5.5 oz. bar (you can also use Ivory soap)
- 1-container of Oxy-Clean, 1.3 lb.
- *optional: Purex Crystals 28 oz. for scent

Grate the soap with a cheese grater or microwave the soap for about two minutes until it puffs up, then grind it into a powder in your food processor. Dump all the ingredients into a large, covered container and stir, stir, stir until it is well blended. Use 1-2 Tablespoons per load, 3 Tablespoons for heavily soiled items. It works well in High Efficiency washing machines.

Green Sanctuary: Together We Make a Difference

UUFC is an officially certified UU Green Sanctuary. That means that all Fellowship decisions are based on our commitment to live together sustainably.

Sustainability goes beyond meeting our physical, spiritual and financial needs so we can survive and thrive in the future. It embraces our caring for the entirety of our Earth: its resources, inhabitants and all living things that create the “interconnected web of life.”

Our Green Sanctuary Certification aspires us to:

- Build awareness of the significance and complexity of environmental issues.
- Encourage personal lifestyle changes.
- Engage in community action on environmental issues.
- Strengthen the connection between spiritual practice and Earth consciousness.
- Work to heal environmental injustices.

Please join us in this important work. We need you. We meet monthly to discuss current environmental concerns and to plan appropriate action. In 2014, Green Sanctuary will work statewide with other organizations to change solar policies, protect local forests and support local community sustainability efforts. We will also sponsor a “Sustainable Eating” adult faith development class at UUFC. Contact Chairperson Ellie Taylor for more information at 654-1331 or elptyl@bellsouth.net.

2014 Stewardship Campaign Report

By Janet Marsh, Stewardship Team Chair

Thanks to over 100 members and friends, the 2014 Stewardship Campaign is the most successful to date! We received pledges of over \$157,000 for our 2014 budget; \$17,000 over 2013. To the Stewardship Team and UUFC leaders, this increase represents a trend at UUFC towards greater expressions of gratitude and generosity.

We did not, however, reach the campaign goal of \$173,000. As a result, the Board reduced proposed 2014 expenditures, deciding that it would not ask the congregation to increase pledges as it has done in previous years. One of the items cut was the proposed increase in personnel salaries. However, the Board did include in the budget "token" thank

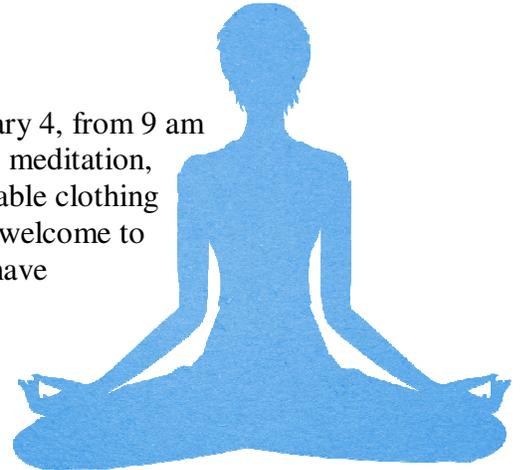
you increases. During the Congregational Meeting December 15, Ellie Taylor proposed that those who are able to - raise their pledge so that our minister's salary better reflects her value to us. Rev. Terre said that personnel salaries should be treated the same; if one receives an increase, all should receive an increase.

So, it is NOT the Board or Stewardship Team asking for those who are able to increase their pledge to support increased salaries for our outstanding staff, it is Ellie Taylor! Thanks Ellie! And again, thanks to all for keeping our beloved community moving forward!

Your Stewardship Team: Jim Alexander, Liz Branstead, Andi Nelson
Team Advisors: Rev. Terre Balof; Sandra Sanderson, Finance Council Chair

Meditation Retreat

There will be a meditation retreat in the Sanctuary on Saturday, January 4, from 9 am to 2:30 pm. The retreat will consist of long, silent sits, silent walking meditation, and a silent lunch. If you'd like to attend, please wear loose, comfortable clothing and bring a packed lunch. If you have a meditation cushion, you are welcome to bring that as well. Tea and discussion will follow the retreat. If you have questions about the retreat or to RSVP, please email Susan at susanhwatson@gmail.com.



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UUFC World is published 11 times a year. All articles are due on the 20th of the month preceding publication. Articles can be e-mailed to: UUFCWorld@gmail.com

We welcome new ideas, opinions, poems, inspiring quotations, advertisements, photos, artwork, and of course UU-related news!

UUFC 2014 Benevolence Program

Submitted by Toni King

UUFC financially supports efforts to combat poverty and inequality through its Benevolence Program. We give 25% of all undesignated donations to a local or UU affiliated charity each month. Donating to local charities through UUFC is a convenient and reliable way for members and friends of UUFC to do good in the world. It communicates, in a very real way, our belief that "service is its law," as stated in our Sunday morning affirmation. And you, the donor, don't have to look for envelopes and addresses of local groups to follow through on your personal commitment. If you would like 100% of a donation to go to our Benevolence Program, simply write "Benevolence" in the memo line of any check you place in the offertory basket. Please be generous, as the need is very great.

Criteria for Selecting Organizations for UUFC's Benevolence Program

- 1) Long Distance: Unitarian Universalist affiliation and/or disaster related - 1 month per year
- 2) Local - *Must meet one or more of the following criteria:*
 - Provides opportunities for volunteerism among membership
 - Addresses basic needs such as safety, food, shelter, or health
 - Promotes sustainability
 - CACIT supported
 - Child Welfare
- 3) Allow for flexibility in annual planning process so that a new or emerging program or activity could be supported.
- 4) Offer opportunities for membership who are not active in Outreach to express their views during the "selection season" which should be October/November of the following year.
- 5) Have Benevolences January through September and in November (10 months.)
- 6) Limit number of benevolences to one long distance and (*number to be determined*) local.

recommended by Outreach Committee 05/06/2012

BENEVOLENCE™



Care Committee

Join us on January 26 following the service, for a program on Eldercare, presented by 3C Eldercare in Anderson. They offer non-medical care, but also have a vast amount of info on care of all types. This informational program is for members of all ages.

On Feb 2 and 9, the Care Committee will sponsor a workshop on “The Five Wishes.” This document, which we will provide, helps individuals think through medical decisions for advanced directives and lets family members and care givers understand what measures of comfort we wish if we cannot communicate. The fifth wish is an exploration of what messages we want to leave for family and loved ones. While we often think of this document as important for individuals as they grow older, it is an important process for people of all ages.

The Care Committee will host brown bag lunches on Jan. 29, Feb. 5 and February 12 at noon in the Founders House for those who would like to discuss these or other topics.



UUFC Novel Circle

Come join us at the Founders House at 7:30 pm on the first Wednesday of each month (except January, 2014, which will be on the 8th). Upcoming titles are:

January 8: And The Mountains Echoed by Khaled Hosseini. A novel about how we take care of one another, and how the choices we make resonate through generations. Hosseini explores the many ways in which families nurture, wound, betray, honor and sacrifice for one another; and how often we are surprised by the actions of those closest to us at the times that matter most.

February 5: The Good Dream by Donna VanLier. An ideal story of redemption and the true meaning of familial love.

Submitted by: Dixie Haywood

“Truthful Tuesday” — January 14, 2014

Join UUs from the Clemson area and all over the state for a day to speak our truth. For more information contact Rev. Terre tbalof@gmail.com.

SC is among states with the lowest citizen taxes in the country. We also have some of the most generous tax breaks. Yet lawmakers claim that the state is too broke to fund core services.

Expand Medicaid

In 2014, some 1,300 South Carolinians will die needlessly because of our state’s refusal to use our federal tax dollars to expand Medicaid coverage to our most vulnerable citizens. Our lawmakers claim we can’t afford to pay the 10% in matching funds required to get federal funding in 2020. The first three years of federal funding were free, with no state match. The state gave up \$1.4 billion in 2014 to expand Medicaid coverage to over 200,000 people living on less than \$250 a week who can’t afford insurance. A 10% match of the money we gave up could be covered, just by adjusting the \$300 sales tax cap on luxury cars, yachts and planes. Yet lawmakers claim that the state is too broke to fund Medicaid expansion.

Fund Education

K-12 funding this year was \$495 million below what is required by state law. State support for higher education funding is 40% less than it was in 2002. Tuition at our state supported colleges is the seventh highest in the nation, nearly twice that of Georgia and North Carolina. South Carolina ranks 48th in the percentage of state funding for Higher Ed, with less than 12% of our schools’ annual budgets coming from state funding.

Protect Voting Rights

Nearly half our state’s voting age population does not vote. The US ranks 138th in the world in terms of voter participation. SC has the least competitive elections in the US, with 80 percent of lawmakers facing no major opposition in general elections. Instead of trying to make voting easier and more representative, SC political leaders keep trying to make it harder and less democratic. We can not allow voting rights to be further eroded.

Join Us

Join us at the State House at 11:00 am on Tuesday, January 14, the first day of the legislative session, in a peaceful show of moral outrage. We will speak truth to power. We can no longer ignore the basic needs of the citizens of this state.

The Truthful Tuesday Coalition

SC Progressive Network
SC NAACP
SC Christian Action Council
(and growing!)

A Red Hat Society?



Among the unwanted gifts exchanged at the UUFC Women’s White Elephant Party was a red fabric hat received by Janet Marsh. The hat was passed around the circle, giving each woman a chance to “model” it. Other unwanted gifts were also exchanged at this annual holiday tradition, which has been celebrated by UUFC women for decades.



The Mountain, our UU Retreat and Learning Center in Highlands, NC, is creating another week of learning and creativity — *Appalachian Spring @ The Mountain*. May 19 - 23, 2014.

The **Rev. Peter Morales**, president of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), issued the following statement on the life and legacy of **Nelson Mandela**:

"As we begin to grieve the death of Nelson Mandela, I am reminded of his words, 'I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear.'

As members of a faith community committed to equity and justice, we remember the life and legacy of Nelson Mandela. He shines as an example of how one person can change the world and make it a better place.

Today and every day let us face our own fears of the unknown and the misunderstood. Remember Nelson Mandela's words so that we may embrace that fear, conquer it, be courageous, and change the world."

Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations

We affirm and promote:

- the inherent dignity and worth of all people
- justice, equity and compassion in human relations
- a free and responsible search for truth and meaning
- the right of conscience and use of the democratic process
- a goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all
- acceptance of one another and encouragement of spiritual growth
- respect for the interdependent web of existence of which we are a part.

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Please report corrections and/or omissions to Andi Nelson at andine@bellsouth.net.