

UUF Galveston Gazette

December 2006



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Galveston County
502 Church Street, Galveston, Texas 77550-5502 (409)765-8330 Online at <http://www.uugalveston.org>

Sunday Activities: Adult Forum, 9:00 a.m.; Services 10:30 a.m.; Children and Youth Religious Education, 10:30 a.m.

Empty Bowls 2006 A Huge Success!

The Empty Bowl Fundraiser for the Jesse Tree was held on Saturday evening, November 4, from 6-8 pm. UU "Bowlers" made over 200 bowls for sale, augmented by a number from the College of the Mainland pottery students. Jill Randall and Nancy Lee of "Flowers for Non-Profits" provided free flower arrangements for the tables! The Fellowship Hall had ample space for all participants, and two walls were filled with some very attractive silent auction items, including a guitar signed by Willie Nelson, a three foot tall hand carved carousel horse, an array of beautiful pottery, goodie baskets for adults and children, paintings and more. The proceeds from the silent auction provided approximately half of the money we were able to give to the Jesse Tree. Valencia Arceneaux provided wonderful piano music during the event. New this year was additional seating outside in the yard, under canopies lit by Christmas "icicle" lights.

Though attendance this year was down, due perhaps to traffic caused by the Lone Star Bike Rally, the money raised was greater than for last year! The Jesse Tree has been presented with a check for slightly more than \$4300 in support of their nutrition programs. All in all, the event was a great success, and a credit to our Fellowship's commitment to social action. Many of our members devoted great amounts of time and energy to the success of this venture, and we thank them for making the evening possible.

—Madeleine Baker

President's Message—Gerry Carr

Greetings to all. The board continues to be busy with the changes coming for keeping the office and RE classes running when Teri leaves.

Many thanks to all of the volunteers who have offered to help! The Board is also working on goal-setting. One of our first goals is to identify tasks which help us retain members as well as deepening all of our commitments to this faith we hold so dear.

I would like to take this time to remind everyone of our mission and right relations covenant which were both developed by members, and appear in the right-hand column of this page.

As always, let me our any board member know your thoughts about our mission and right relations. This is our community - it is what we make it!

Faithfully,

Gerry

Mission Statement

We the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Galveston County, affirm the right of people of all ages to develop their own views concerning spirituality. It is our purpose to be a visible, enduring, liberal presence in our community. We believe this can be accomplished through creative worship, religious education, intellectual stimulation, supportive fellowship, and community service. We unite in the spirit of the Unitarian Universalist principles and purposes to welcome and appeal to the full range of human diversity, that is age, race, gender, sexual orientation and ethnicity.

Right Relations Covenant

We will communicate openly, honestly and respectfully. We will listen carefully with open minds and open hearts. We will assume good intentions, practice tolerance and resist the temptation to become offended. We will take responsibility for our speech, actions and feelings, and we will be sensitive to possible conflicts and willing to work toward solutions. We will consider other perspectives and will strive not for unanimity but for mutual respect.

Love is the spirit of this church, and service is its gift.

This is our great covenant: to dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in love, and to help one another.

A Month of Sundays
Katrina Chamberlain & Program Committee
(All Services are held from 10:30-11:30 a.m.)



*RE Director/ Administrator's
Corner—Teri Hawes*

DECEMBER 3

Speaker: Dr. Ken Vincent
Facilitator
Title: The Yin/Yang of YHWH

Few people know that between the time that Hebrew prophets and Jesus talked about the "Spirit" of God and the development of the Roman Catholic Latin Bible, the Holy Spirit got a sex change! "Spirit" is feminine in Hebrew and Aramaic, neutral in Greek, and masculine in Latin (and subsequently English). The inevitable problems resulting from this will be discussed, as will new ways of envisioning God.

DECEMBER 10

Speaker: Jean Goodwin, MD
Topic: The Miracles of St. Benedict
Facilitator: Margaret Canavan

"Miracles often make more sense to older people than they do to the young, because we have seen a few." To illustrate this belief, Dr. Goodwin will speak about two miracles attributed to St. Benedict. Dr. Goodwin is a Psychiatrist and Psychoanalyst in Galveston. Her book Mischief and Mercy: Tales of the Saints developed from stories she told to her young children.

DECEMBER 17

Speaker: Katrina Chamberlain
Facilitator: Bets Anderson
Title: Intro to the UU Principles

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote. . . 7 principles. What are these principles and how are they a foundation of our faith? This will be an introduction to an ongoing exploration of the principles that we will be taking in the new year.

DECEMBER 24

Facilitator: Gerry Carr
Title: Moravian Love Feast

The Moravian Love Feast is our traditional celebration of the season of light festivals. We gather to celebrate the season with carols, readings and stories. And then we join in a simple feast of sweet rolls and coffee.

DECEMBER 31

Facilitator: Maggie Pinson
Title: New Year's Resolutions

It's New Year's Eve and before we party and countdown to midnight, we will gather to share our hopes for the New Year and our personal strategies (or absence thereof) for developing and pursuing New Year's resolutions.

Well, this will be my last column for the UUFGC Newsletter, as my family and I leave for the north, heading "back home again" to Indiana. We will miss everyone in Galveston, and especially at the Fellowship, terribly, but are looking forward to our adventure ahead.

I would like to thank everyone who has supported me throughout my tenure as DRE, and later as the administrator at the church. I could not have done my job without the countless volunteers. Special thanks to Diane & Pete, Tony, John & Lynda, Katrina, nursery helpers, and everyone else that helped me with the kids and of course the children who made every Sunday an adventure. Also thanks to those who give so selflessly to this place, including Margaret & Stan, Bets, Gerry, Mary Beth, Doris, Bonnie, Judy, and Neil. Special thanks to Mardi for designing such a wonderful home for RE, and to the other members of the building committee and donors who supported the building project. You have my undying gratitude and I will keep with me always what you have shared with me over the years.

I would also like to thank Madeleine Baker, who hired me so many years ago. Madeleine has supported me in every aspect of my job, as well as in my personal life, and I could not have survived without her. I respect her opinion, value her level-headed judgment, and appreciate all of the help she has been to me. She is a valuable asset to this Fellowship and I know she will continue to give her support and guidance to everyone involved in this transition.

I must also thank all of the "bosses" I've had over the years. Being the President of this Fellowship is a difficult and time-consuming job, but one always done out of love for the church and care for our members, and I appreciate everyone I have worked for. I want to thank all of the past and present board members as well. We have had some outstanding boards that have made some difficult and sometimes unpopular decisions, and I am proud to have been a part of the decision making process they have led us through.

Most importantly, I want to thank the membership of UUFGC for being so supportive of the RE program. I know the kids come and go, and sometimes we have a room full while other times we only have a couple. But no matter the number, they always know they are welcome, and loved, and an important part of this Fellowship. I know you will all continue to provide for the children, as they really are the future of our UU family, and they have so much to learn from all of you.

I would ask everyone to support Katrina after her generous offer to volunteer as the new RE coordinator. Please let her know if you have something to offer the kids (and I know everyone has something). She will need your help and support to keep RE a vital part of the church, and I know you will step up to help her when you can.

As we take this giant step in our family's life travels, we want everyone to know how important a part this church has been in our lives. You all have made us better people, and better UUs, and we consider it an honor to have been a part of this outstanding group of people. We will miss you all. Please come to the Midwest and visit - you are always welcome in our home, just as you welcomed us into your church home several years ago.

Love & Peace to you all, my friends - Keep fighting the good fight.
YoUUrS, Teri Hawes

DECEMBER 2006

Activities are held at the Fellowship unless otherwise indicated

Sun	M	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 9:00 am—Zen Meditation
3 9:00 am—Adult Forum 10:30 am—Adult Service & Children/Youth RE Program	4	5 8:00 pm—UU Net, Emerson UU	6 5:30 p.m.—Empty Bowls (RE 1)	7 6:30 pm—Program Committee; Original Mex. Restaurant 7:00 pm—Course in Miracles Covenant	8	9 9:00 am—Zen Meditation
10 9:00 am—Adult Forum 10:30 am—Adult Service & Children/Youth RE Pro-	11	12	13	14 7:00 pm—Course in Miracles Covenant		16 9:00 am—Zen Meditation
17 9:00 am—Adult Forum 10:30 am—Adult Service & Children/Youth RE Program	18	19	20 5:30 p.m.—Empty Bowls (RE 1)	21 12 pm—Social Action 5:45 pm—Board Mtg 7:00 pm—Course in	22 Newsletter Deadline	23 9:00 am—Zen Meditation
24 9:00 am—Adult Forum 10:30 am—Adult Service & Children/Youth RE Program <i>Potluck after Service</i>	25	26	27	28 7:00 pm—Course in Miracles Covenant	29	30 9:00 am—Zen Meditation
31 9:00 am—Adult Forum 10:30 am—Adult Service & Children/Youth RE Program 12:30—p.m. Potluck						

Adult Forum meets every Sunday Morning at 9am!

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GET CONNECTED WITH UUF GC MEETINGS ARE AT THE FELLOWSHIP UNLESS OTHERWISE

Adult Forum meets Sundays at 8:30 am to explore topics in religion, philosophy, history and politics. For information, contact Neil Huddleston at 409/7442369.

Course in Miracles Study Group meets every Thursday at 7pm. For more information, contact Laura Murrell LauraMurrell@houston.rr.com or Susan Persons at SPersons@houston.rr.com

Empty Bowlers After a tremendously successful event, the group will resume making bowls for the 2007 Empty Bowl Event. Contact Madeleine Baker at :madbaker@houston.rr.com

Program Committee meets every first Thursday at 6:30 pm at the original Mexican Café to plan Sunday services. All are welcome! Contact Katrina Chamberlain at kelarion7@yahoo.com

Social Action Committee meets every 3rd Thursday at 12 noon at UUF GC. Come and share your ideas, energy and enthusiasm for Social Action projects. Contact Mary Hodgson at 409-762-0193.

Supper Circle The December Supper Circle will be on Saturday December 9th at the home of Pete and Diane Olsen, 3220 Dominique. Sign up sheet will be on the bulletin board. Please join in for an evening of delicious food and great conversation!

UU Gardeners The December workday will be a Saturday morning, as the sun goes down early now. Stay tuned for the date. For more information contact Margaret Canavan at :margaret@galveston.com

UU Social Club is thriving and growing. More great activities are being planned. Contact Susan Persons at SPersons@houston.rr.com or at 765-7907

Zen Meditation meets Saturdays at 9am, and is an activity of the UUF GC and the Zen Island Fellowship. On If you wish to learn more about Zen Buddhist practice, contact Cara Geary at gcara@houston.rr.com.

The Principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote :

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part

UUF GC Board of Directors

President	Gerry Carr
President-Elect	Kelly Hawes
Past-President	Tony DiNuzzo
Secretary	Amber Booth
Treasurer	Woody Dickson
Members at Large:	Karen Brykczynski Michael Hennen Doris Le

Committees

Archives	Ellie Porter
Covenant Groups	Position open
Communications	Madeleine Baker
Landscape	Margaret Canavan
Membership	Bets Anderson
Music	Woody Dickson
Newsletter	Maggie Pinson
Policies & Procedures	Tony DiNuzzo
Program/Worship	Katrina Chamberlain
Religious Education	Neil Huddleston
Circle Suppers	Judy Glaister
Social Action	Mary Hodgson

