



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

President's Message—Gerry Carr

The board is busy making plans to fill the huge void that will be left by Kelly and Teri Hawes and Jake of course....many, many thanks to Teri for her dedication as an employee. She will be a hard act to follow. Best wishes to the Hawes as they embark on the next chapter in their life. We currently have at least four volunteers to keep us up and running - more to come. We are still looking for volunteers to help coordinate our RE program. Please let me or any other board member know if you are interested. The following article is certainly a testament to how important the work of liberal religion is in our life and in our communityFaithfully, Gerry

EXCERPT BY **ROBERT M. HARDIES,**
SENIOR MINISTER, ALL SOULS
CHURCH, WASHINGTON, DC

I had a bit of epiphany about our church recently, and I want to share it with you. About a month ago, several others from the church and I were interviewing candidates for the church administrator job. One person whom we interviewed was a Baptist. He was a good guy, and a strong candidate. One of the things he did was bring in an example of his work to show us—a very impressive annual report that he'd produced for the Baptist Church. Now, technically, I was just supposed to be examining the document to see an example of his work, but I couldn't help but look at the budget section of the report—in particular, the part on giving. About 42 percent of that congregation gives more than \$5,000 a year to the church. About 40 percent tithe 10 percent of their income to the church. He told us that each year, the church ends the year in the black, with significant reserves, so that when they settle on a new ministry op-

In other words, at any given time they literally have more money than they know what to do with. And we wonder why the Religious Right has power.

Beginning immediately, I've made the decision to tithe. I ask you to consider this too. I'm giving 5 percent of my income to the church, and 5 percent to other organizations that support my values. What it will mean is less disposable income. What it will mean is less travel and eating out. But that's where I feel my money should be going. James Luther Adams used to have a saying for times like these—times when liberals were in their soul-searching mode. He used to have a slogan. He'd say, "Liberalism is dead! Long live liberalism!"

We must decide what about liberalism is dead, and what is redemptive. We must jettison the former and cling tenaciously to the latter. The liberalism that must die is the liberalism that spends so much time sorting out the issues that it never takes a stand for what's right and what's wrong. The liberalism that must die is the liberalism that, even after the most inhumane and violent century of recorded history, still refuses to take seriously the human capacity for sin and evil.

The liberalism that must die is the liberalism that has such a negative attitude toward power and authority that it permanently relegates itself to powerlessness. The liberalism who asked her what religion she was, "We're Unitarian." He said, "Why?" And she said, "Because it's the least you can be." The liberalism that must die is the liberalism that demands nothing of us.

The liberalism that must die is the liberalism that has abandoned its historic commitment to justice, and that, instead, has become a theological cover for middle-class respectability. Those liberalisms have got to go.

Conversely, the liberalism that must live on is the liberalism that looks at the human heart with a clear and unsentimental eye, and still finds reason for hope. That can say, with William Ellery Channing, "Despite all our failings, I still thank God that my fate is bound together with the human race."

The liberalism that must live on is the liberalism whose commitment to the worth of every person is such that it always asks the question: "Who among us is not free?"

The liberalism that must live on is the liberalism with a grown-up's understanding of freedom. Freedom is not "I can do whatever I want." Real freedom is "I can do what I must. What I'm called to do."

The liberalism that must live on is the liberalism that takes all the available knowledge of faith and of reason—and, based on that knowledge, makes judgments about what's right and what's wrong. The liberalism that must live on is the liberalism that values the rational mind, yes, but that also values equally the convicted heart and the strong will.

The liberalism that must live on is the liberalism that is committed to the prophetic call for justice: the call that has motivated generations of liberals to work on its front lines.

Religious liberalism will only be a viable option when it can muster the courage of its convictions, and recommit itself.

Today I'm recommitting myself. From today on, I'm going to give more of myself and my resources. If this sounds a bit like an altar call, well, it is. Because we have a liberalism that must live on, and I—and you—have the capacity to help it thrive and grow.

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***

NOVEMBER 5

Speaker: Laura Murrell

Facilitator: Janyce Blozinski

Title: You Can Make a Difference: The Life and Words of Saul Alinski

Laura will read a sermon written by UU Rev. John E. Gibbons, Bedford, Massachussets in February of 1995 about the "Jesus Christ" of community organizing.

NOVEMBER 12

Speaker: Jon Huntress

Facilitator: Vickie Francil

Music: Jon Huntress

Title: Introduction to *A Course in Miracles*

The *A Course in Miracles* study group will present this service. Jon Huntress, a member of the group, has studied the course for many years and will speak about ACIM. Jon was a minister at a church in Santa Fe that was based on *A Course in Miracles*. If you've been curious about ACIM, this is a good way to find out what it is all about.

NOVEMBER 19

Facilitator: Katrina Chamberlain

Title: Honoring the UUSC

The Sunday before Thanksgiving, UU churches around the country hold services honoring the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee and its work around the world. This Sunday, Katrina will read the sermon "Righteous Among the Nations: the story of Waitstill and Martha Sharp." The sermon was written by Charlie Clements, president and CEO of the UUSC to commemorate the WWII work of two of the founders of the UUSC.

NOVEMBER 26

Facilitator: Gerry Carr

Title: Bread Communion

Bread is a symbol of our oneness. We each bring a portion of ourselves to this religious community, just as "multitudes of grain are gathered to make bread". Join us as we give thanks and celebrate our community and oneness with a ritual meal.

I'm sure most of you have heard that, after what seems like a lifetime as DRE, I will be leaving UUFGC later this year. So many good things have happened during my tenure.

For some of the kids, I have been the only religious educator they knew. Some I've known since before they were born. I will miss everyone so much, but mostly I'll miss "my" kids. They are good, smart, thankful children and I hope my successor will enjoy them as much as I have.

I have seen them change so much since I met them. Tony's kids were about 9 and 7 when I arrived, and now David's a senior in high school and Elise is stunning everyone with her music and voice. India was born, Jake and Olivia went from toddlers to preteens, Vaughan became an Eagle Scout and went off to a fancy school in the city, and Laura is driving. April, Chris, Sam and Erin are young adults.

I am so proud of these kids. The entire Fellowship is. So I would ask all of you to look inside and see if you can find something you can do to help out with RE. Everyone has a talent, and the kids need your experience to help them continue to travel their religious path. Please let me, Gerry or any board member know if you would like to volunteer. We will all appreciate your help, but mostly the kids will. As I said, they are good, smart, thankful children and they need your support.

I'll be around for another month or two, and hopefully we can have a plan in place before I leave to ensure RE will go on and our kids will have a church home. If you have questions about what you can do or how RE works, don't hesitate to give me a call. Thanks to everyone for your support. See you in RE.



**Empty Bowls Fundraiser
Saturday, November 4, 2006
UUFGC Fellowship Hall**

Sponsored by: UUFGC Social Action Committee

To Benefit: The Jesse Tree

The Empty Bowl fundraiser event is fast approaching, and this is one of the biggest events the Fellowship holds each year. We need many more bowls prior to holding this fall's soup supper, so please, take some time and come create masterful works of art with us! No experience with clay necessary! We will meet the first and third **Wednesdays of the month, at 5:45pm** at the Fellowship. Contact Madeleine Baker at madeleinebaker@houston.rr.com. Additionally, the committee is beginning to collect donations for the event. Teri Hawes is in charge of the Silent Auction and is hoping for donations including artwork, pottery, gift items, etc., for sale during the event. She can be contacted at teri.hawes@sbcglobal.net. Fannie DeGesero is seeking volunteers to bake homemade bread and finger desserts for the dinner. She can be contacted at fandfare@aol.com. We also need at least 25 crock pots of soup, and are only about half-way there. Please help out by cooking your favorite soup and sharing it with others during this important event. The soup recipe will also be included in our Empty Bowls Cookbook. Contact Bonnie Young at 770-0290 or Susan Persons at 765-

NOVEMBER 2006

Activities are held at the Fellowship unless otherwise indicated

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 6:30 pm—Program Committee; Original Mex. Restaurant 7:00 pm—Course in Miracles Covenant	3	4 9:00 am—Zen Meditation
5 9:00 am—Adult Forum 10:30 am—Adult Service & Children/Youth RE Program	6 <i>a.m.—Weekly Bulletin Deadline</i> 8:00 pm—UU Net, Emerson	7	8 5:30 p.m.—Empty Bowls (RE 1)	9 6:00 pm—Zen Retreat 7:00 pm—Course in Miracles Covenant	10	11 9:00 am—Zen Meditation
12 9:00 am—Adult Forum 10:30 am—Adult Service & Children/Youth RE Program	13	14 <i>a.m.—Weekly Bulletin Deadline</i>	15	16 12 pm—Social Action 5:45 pm—Board Mtg 7:00 pm—Course in Miracles Covenant	17 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	18 9:00 am—Zen Meditation
19 9:00 am—Adult Forum 10:30 am—Adult Service & Children/Youth RE Program	20	21 <i>a.m.—Weekly Bulletin Deadline</i>	22 5:30 p.m.—Empty Bowls (RE 1)	23 7:00 pm—Course in Miracles Covenant	24	25 9:00 am—Zen Meditation
26 9:00 am—Adult Forum 10:30 am—Adult Service & Children/Youth RE Program	27	28 <i>a.m.—Weekly Bulletin Deadline</i>	29	30		

Adult Forum meets every Sunday Morning at 9am!

