



Upcoming Services

Service at 11:00, childcare available

8/3/2008	
Mark Wagner	Jihad
8/10/2008	
Peter Bauer	I Don't Need to Get Angry
8/17/2008	
Bob Press	The Longest Walk
8/24/2008	
Carey Varnado	My Spiritual Journey
8/31/2008	
Tommie Hildman	Photography
9/7/2008	
TBA	Homecoming
9/14/2008	
TBA	TBA
9/21/2008	
Susan Nodurft	Love and Forgiveness
9/8/2008	
Doak Mansfield	Loose-Leaf Bible

President's Message *by Sheri Glowinski*

Dear Members & Friends of HUUF,

Greetings one and all! I hope that these dog days of summer find you doing well. As you may know, this past June I attended the 2008 UUA General Assembly in Ft. Lauderdale. It was an incredible experience, one you can read more about on Page 4. I left GA feeling energized and a bit overwhelmed by all the good work that UU's do and the work that remains to be done in the world. Back on the HUUF homefront, under the able leadership of Nell Cobb and our Board Members, and with our other volunteers, we have also accomplished many good things (52 diverse, lay-led services, enhanced sacred space, HUUF Reunion service, peace vigils, several Share-the-Baskets, Free Trade coffee sales, Circle Suppers and much more). I thank each of you for your presence, hard work, spirit, time and love you have given this Fellowship. I feel enthusiastic by where we have been and I look forward to keeping the momentum up over the next year.

So, what's in store for us for this upcoming year? Well, Susan Nodurft (our new Vice-President) has agreed to direct our Adult Religious Education program. We will also re-initiate our Children's Religious Education program. Other events to look forward to: a congregational covenant workshop where we explore who we are and where we want to go as a church fellowship, another Worship Leader training, more social outreach, more Share-the-Baskets, more growth, and importantly, continued fellowship with each of you.

I think it's safe to say that we will have a busy year. I hope you will embrace these actions with me as we move forward into this next congregational year.

Yours In Faith, Sheri

Worship Services

We have an exciting schedule of HUUF services lined up for the next couple of months, including some professional ministers and some of our own home-grown talent. As a way to prepare for hiring a part-time minister, we thought it would be a good plan to budget for and hire a minister once a month. We will be alternating between the Reverends Doak Mansfield and Peter Bauer for the rest of the calendar year, with the possibility of adding in another professional minister or two to the rotation next year. We will look forward to the unique contributions that Doak and Peter bring to the pulpit on a more regular basis. In addition, we will be continuing the popular "My Spiritual Journey" series this fall, where we invite some of our members to stand before their friends and share the story of where they've been and how they've come to be where they are. I like to think of it as a UU testimonial! Starting us off with this series will be Carey Varnado. Carey has become known for his insightful comments during the discussion portions of our services, and we are anticipating a very interesting story from him. As always, the worship committee would appreciate your ideas for a HUUF service, and if you would like to be included in the spiritual journey series please do let us know.

Worship News

Adult Religious Education

“When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace.”

~ Jimi Hendrix

This fall the adult RE program will host eight conversations exploring how love and forgiveness can affect meaningful change in individuals and communities. Materials to be used in these conversations will be provided through the “Campaign for Love and Forgiveness,” an initiative begun nationwide in 2006 by the nonprofit Fetzer Institute. The institute’s mission, to foster awareness of the power of love and forgiveness in the emerging global community, rests on its conviction that efforts to address the world’s critical issues must go beyond political, social, and economic strategies to their psychological and spiritual roots. The hope is that our conversations will inspire us to more consciously recognize and use the power of love and forgiveness to address issues in our lives, fellowship and community. Materials include three documentaries to stimulate our conversations (two have been shown on PBS and a third will be aired later this year) and handbooks. Participant handbooks are available on the Love and Forgiveness website: www.loveandforgive.org and may be downloaded free of charge.

Children’s Religious Education

In September, our Children’s RE program will emerge from summer hiatus and begin anew. Detailed information will be announced via email and at our Sunday services. We thank Amy Chasteen Miller, who has stepped down from teaching CRE, for her time, energy and love given to our children and their religious explorations over the past year. Sheri is looking for volunteers to help work with our children over the next year and welcomes your time and creativity. Contact Sheri at sheri_glowinski@yahoo.com if you are interested in helping.

Social Action Committee: *HUUF in the Community*

Peace Vigil

The Hattiesburg Unitarian Universalist Fellowship has been holding Peace Vigils after Potluck on the first Sunday of each month June through November. The vigils are held at the Hattiesburg Area Garden Center, 209 Hutchinson Ave. and are open to the public. Members of our fellowship are actively encouraging others to join us in this peace witness. The vigils are for both public witness and personal healing of the distress many feel about the ongoing conflict. For additional information, please contact Janet (janetswebb@yahoo.com), Susan (snodurft@bellsouth.net) or call 601-796-2261) or other members of the committee: Stacie Chandler and Michael “Enku” Ide.

Fair Trade Coffee and Tea available For Sale

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee has partnered with Equal Exchange to buy coffee and tea directly from farmers following the standards and principles of fair trade, insuring that low-income farmers earn a fair, living wage. These items may be purchased through HUUF’s Social Action Committee on Sundays or by emailing Janet at janetswebb@yahoo.com. For more information go to www.uusc.org. *“Trade justice for the developing world and for this generation is a truly significant way for developed countries to show commitment to bringing about an end to global poverty.”* Nelson Mandela .

HUUF Collects Food for Breadbasket Ministry

Please bring non-perishable food on Potluck Sundays to contribute to Breadbasket Ministry which feeds the homeless and the hungry. Suitable foods include 1) dry goods such as grits, oatmeal, cereals, muffin mixes, macaroni and cheese, and beans and legumes, 2) canned goods, 3) peanut butter, and 4) any kind of pasta.

TO BE HUMAN IS TO ENGAGE IN RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS AND THE WORLD.

PAULO FREIRE

National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT)

Throughout the month of June, HUUF, an endorsing member of the NRCAT, displayed the anti-torture banner – “Torture is Wrong.” HUUF joined over 330 congregations across the country in making this public statement during June which was “Torture Awareness Month.” This action was taken as a statement to our local community regarding our conviction on this moral issue and to add our voices with others across the nation in calling upon our government to ban U.S.-sponsored torture. For more information on this campaign, the “Torture is a Moral Issue” Statement of Conscience endorsed by HUUF and/or to view our fellowship’s photograph on the national website go to www.nrcat.org.

torture is wrong

NRCAT National Religious Campaign Against Torture

Disaster Preparedness

The MidSouth District of the UUA is strongly encouraging and teaching its member congregations to develop a plan for Disaster Preparedness. This plan will insure that individual members of congregations are engaged in Disaster Preparedness at home and that the congregations are prepared to help their own members and members of other UU congregations who might be affected by disasters. It will also help congregations determine how they can minister to their larger communities after a disaster occurs and it explains how congregations can obtain help with these efforts from District Office, the UUA Trauma Response Team, and the UUA Service Committee. Any member of HUUF who wants to be part of the planning process, or who can offer shelter to UUs from the coastal areas, or who might need assistance in the event of a disaster is urged to contact Nell Cobb for more information.

Bob and Betty Press head to Sierra Leone

Bob Press was awarded a 10-month Fulbright Scholarship to study conflict resolution and peace in Sierra Leone, and Betty has decided to join him. Sierra Leone is still reconciling from a decade-long civil war that began in 1991. During his time in the country, Press will join the University of Sierra Leone as a visiting professor. In addition to teaching courses in comparative politics, methodology and international studies, he will assist the university in launching the *Peace and Conflict Studies Center*. Advancing education in these areas is vital because social relations in the country are still tense from the echoes of the civil war. Press hopes that by sharing resources from his research experience in human rights, he will be able to contribute to the reconciliation process.



UUA News: Justice & Diversity

Believing in the inherent worth of each person, our mutual interdependency, and the need to create a world in which each person has the opportunity to flourish, Unitarian Universalism is deeply rooted in social justice as a direct expression of our faith. Working for justice in our world is a principal way for Unitarian Universalists to express faith. Many people undertake social justice work to show their gratitude for life's gifts and their commitment to making our world the best place for all. The preciousness of life on earth, and the inherent worth and dignity of every person with whom we share the planet, emerge as common themes for undertaking social justice work. The members of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) do not always agree on what constitutes a worthy cause, or on how to express our support or opposition to various initiatives. Our belief in congregational polity means that any congregation has the right to support the issues it desires. As we work to ensure that our communities include people of all ages, physical abilities, races, financial circumstances, sexual orientations, national origins, education backgrounds, and spiritual understandings, we will learn how to create the Beloved Community of which we all dream. In such communities, the gifts of all are valued and needed. This, indeed, is the training ground for living in democracy! Check out the Social Justice homepage of the UUA at <http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/index.shtml>

General Assembly 2008 *by Sheri Glowinski*

GA is the annual gathering of the congregations and the administration of the Unitarian Universalist Association. This year, it was held in Ft. Lauderdale, FL from June 25-29th. Ft. Lauderdale was unfortunately a site of much controversy. U.S. government-issued ID was required to enter the Convention Center because it was under the jurisdiction of the Port Authority which was further required by our current administration to request such ID due to the political climate. While on the surface, this may not seem a big deal – we’re used to presenting ID to travel these days, right? Well, this requirement excluded those unpapered persons – UU congregants and the population at large – who wanted to participate in the conference or even just in the Sunday morning worship service which was open to the public. It further may have created problems for transgendered persons whose ID may not reflect their names and/or appearances. In summary, this restriction discriminated against people who we as UUs minister to and with! The restriction was eye-opening, and sad, and a wake-up call for me. There remains much work to be done in the world.

On another happier note, GA was a truly a hopping event. There were morning worship services. There were plenary sessions every day – really the “business” of the meeting, where the various committees of the UUA gave updates and where appointed delegates, like myself, could vote on various issues. There were workshops throughout the day and evening – and boy, were there workshops! At one point there was something like 22 concurrent sessions. (And from those, I could only choose one to attend!) There were evening lectures. There was a Friday afternoon public witness in support of families – immigrant families, same-gender families – groups of people traditionally (and even criminally) discriminated against in Florida and beyond.

I participated in as much as I possibly could during the hours of 8:00 – 5:00 (the hours that my daughters were in child care there.) Workshops I attended included those on empowering lay leadership; the welcoming congregation process; big ideas for small congregations; the process to become a UU minister; congregational president’s workshop led by UUA president Bill Sinkford and UUA moderator Gini Courter, and more. The plenary sessions were far from boring business meetings. There were in fact infused with much humor (much in part due to Gini Courter’s humorous direction), good music, inspiring presentations by inspiring people. I thoroughly enjoyed them. I conversed with people I knew there as well as people I didn’t. Probably the most amazing experience I had there was the Sunday morning worship. Sitting next to my friends, Pat and Gail, from the Oxford, MS UU church, I sang and laughed and cried during this emotionally charged service. It touched every heartstring in the 750+ large audience that morning. And it left me wanting more! More music, more social impact, more growth! GA gave me energy for the tasks we will undertake in the coming year, for which I am very thankful. My only regret was that I needed more time to attend more workshops, worship and lectures there. (By the way, you can listen to the stimulating Ware lecture given by Van Jones and watch the Sunday morning worship service that moved me so powerfully at: <http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/2008/112314.shtml>). I strongly encourage you to attend GA in the future. Next year it takes place in Salt Lake City, UT. I have no doubt that you, too, will come back refreshed and inspired to continue the good work that we UUs aspire to do.



Don't Miss Ken Sizemore in Concert October 3-5

The *Old Folkey* will be returning to Hattiesburg and will play at the Back Door and T-Bone Records. He will also present at our Sunday morning service, October 5. More details will be announced. Don't miss this opportunity for great music.



Meet our Members: Camille M.

How did I get to HUUF? I came with my mommy.

I like to.... Swim, run, jump, do gymnastics, play games, play dress up, read books. I like lions, horses, birds, tigers, fish, iguanas, elephants, monkeys, snakes and roly poly bugs.

I like to go to HUUF because.... I like to play, be with Margaret, hear music, light candles at Joys and Concerns.



Children in the UUA

Unitarian Universalism welcomes children not only for who they will become in the future but for all that they offer right now. In Unitarian Universalist faith development programs (religious education), our goal is to help children make meaning of their experiences within the framework of our faith. Whether learning about our faith—roots and identity, world religions, life's experiences, questions and mysteries—or how we can live out our faith in the world, we hold children in communities of safety, love, and justice where they are valued just as they are. We share with children soul-stirring stories, transcendent moments of care, ways to mark the sacred and congregations that help us cherish and number our days. We want children to know the power of faith shared in community. We are all part of the interdependent web of life: a family sharing our home on this earth.

HUUF Board

President	Sheri Glowinski
Past-President	Nell Cobb
Vice-President	Susan Nodurft
Worship Committee	Chris Werle
Membership Committee	Nichole Werle
Finance Committee	Stephanie Millet
Social Action	Janet Webb
Newsletter	Lilian H. Hill

HUUF Mission

HUUF is a welcoming community that responsibly searches for truth and meaning and respects the inherent worth and dignity of each person. We welcome diversity of age, sexual orientation, race, gender identity, abilities and theology.

Hattiesburg Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

A member congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association

A safe, welcoming atmosphere for spiritual exploration.

Services are held each Sunday at 11:00 am in the Hattiesburg Area Garden Center located at 209 N. Hutchinson Avenue, just south of Hattiesburg High School.

www.huuf.us