



March—April 2010

An Uncommon Denomination Coming of Age in the Deep South

## Upcoming Services

Service at 11:00, childcare available

March 7, 2010	
Deanne Aime	TBA
March 14, 2010	
Pam Runnels	My Spiritual Journey
March 21, 2010	
Lilian Hill	Spring Equinox
March 28, 2010	
Fred Hammond	
April 4, 2010	
Kristi Dillistone	Renewal & Regeneration
April 11, 2010	
Doak Mansfield	TBA
March 18, 2010	
Veena Poole	Faith and Faith Journey
March 25, 2010	
Stephanie Millet	Passover

## Message from the Leadership

**"Ah, music. A magic beyond all we do here!**

~J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*~

On February 28 during our Sunday service, our community had the wonderful opportunity to experience that magic through the inspiring presence and presentation of the SOUL musicians (see picture and description below). The expression, "music is the vernacular of the soul," seems especially appropriate. This is the second year HUUF has served as a host to a SOUL a group, and this year, as last, it was not only an experience of musical soul-speak, but one of community and connection. With the group's arrival on Friday, we received a special gift of time together before their Sunday performance – time sharing meals, conversations, laughter and our lives. And, what has come out of that has been the kind of friendship and genuine connection that resides so naturally beneath our differences, whether cultural or otherwise. And, that is Unitarian Universalism. I think we all agree that our SOUL friends are wonderful ambassadors for their countries, cultures and what is best in the human spirit! But, it is also important to recognize our ambassadorship! From their arrival on Friday until Sunday departure, our community was there with warmth and welcome. From open hearts and open homes, to presence at the Friday welcome dinner, Saturday Dulcimer Festival and record crowd on Sunday – we were wonderful ambassadors. They too heard soul-speak. So on behalf of the leadership team, I express gratitude for each of you and for our community. With our congregational covenant work ahead, we have a great beginning!



## Singers of United Lands (SOUL) Return to HUUF

SOUL is a unique quartet of four professional young adult singers, each from a different country. Every year a new team of four singers representing high-quality vocal musicianship, geographical diversity, and enthusiasm for

sharing about their respective cultures, is formed to share their native songs and cultures with schools and communities throughout the U.S. and beyond. HUUF hosted SOUL for the second time on February 28. Last year's visit was inspirational, and our experience with the new group of singers was wonderful. We enjoyed fun, fellowship and friendship on February 26-27, taking in a Dulcimer Concert together and going for dinner. Several HUUF members provided housing. Then, on Sunday we enjoyed their concert at HUUF, especially the children who were invited on stage to play percussion.



## Worship News

### Adult Religious Education

We continue to address *A Chosen Faith: An Introduction to Unitarian Universalism* by John Buehrens and Forrest Church. The authors address why Unitarian Universalism offers an appealing alternative to mainstream religions that stress theological creeds over individual conviction and belief. The book offers an introduction to UUism and its meanings and vocabulary. A free and chosen faith offers engagement that can wake us up to ourselves and makes us willing to risk what we have for what we could become.

Adult RE will be led by Lilian Hill and will meet after Potluck on the first Sundays of the month: March 7. On March 7 we will consider Part V: Chapters 8 and 9. You are welcome to join us and the books are available for purchase for \$16.00. It will make a nice addition to your UU library.



## Social Action Committee: *HUUF in the Community*

### Fair Trade Coffee and Tea available For Sale

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee has partnered with Equal Exchange to buy coffee, tea and chocolate 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 Stacie Chandler at [stacie\\_chandler@comcast.net](mailto:stacie_chandler@comcast.net).



Front

HUUF T-shirts  
available for sale

Enjoy wearing a HUUF T-shirt that is made of Fair Trade Cotton. They are lovely and soft. HUUF's emblem is included on both back and front, and the background is



Back

ivory and the print is green and black. A Range of sizes are available and the shirts cost \$15.00.

### Social Action

During the February, two collections were held for relief efforts in Haiti netting ?? This has been sent to the UUSC/UUA Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund. In the months and years to come, how Haiti rebuilds and recovers will bear the stamp of the global community's values and priorities. UUSC stands with those who are working to reverse the cycle of collapse and dependence that has plagued Haiti throughout its star-crossed history. We partner with Haitian organizations and social movements to ensure that *their* vision becomes reality. As of February 19, 2010 more than one million dollars has been donated by UUA congregations. For more information or to donate please see <http://www.uuworld.org/news/articles/154691.shtml>



### Assessment Team Lands in Haiti

UUSC's assessment team is meeting partners in Haiti to develop mid- and long-term responses to the devastation caused by the January 12

### Lunch Bunch

Some of HUUF's fellowship have trouble driving at night, so we are trying out The Lunch Bunch to replace our Circle Suppers. The third Sunday of every month, those who care to will meet for lunch following HUUF's service. Facilitators will try to remember to announce it every third Sunday. I hope everyone can enjoy visiting via The Lunch Bunch!

## Congregational Covenant

We are about to engage in the deep conversations needed to explore what we would covenant together. In the process we will move into deeper relationship with one another. We cannot just borrow or adopt another congregation's covenant. We need to get there by way of having deep and multiple conversations with each other. We will commit to both speaking and listening with open hearts, especially listening. Covenants are individual to each congregation, because as the promises we make to each other we need to spell out what that means for our congregation and the people within it. We are literally the body of the church and it is our caring covenant that brings the congregation to life. Think about what you want HUUF to be. Identify what you value about how we are currently now. We don't want change for change's sake. How will we move forward together into the future as a congregation?



## Need a Ride to HUUF?

If you are a visitor, friend or member that needs a ride to our Sunday morning service, we want to help! For transportation assistance, contact Susan Nordurft at [snodurft@bellsouth.net](mailto:snodurft@bellsouth.net)



## Sheri Glowinski leads Children's Service

The 4th Annual Children's Service was led by Sheri on February 21, 2010. We had a good amount of children in attendance (and their families). The children were



involved in all aspects of the service including a modified version of chalice lighting in which they dropped pebbles into a glass vessel and shared their wishes for the world. Sheri led a story for the children and then a service for the adults which emphasized how much we should value the children in our lives and in the world. Camille, Sheri's daughter, read a blessing from a UU book of children's blessings. The adults also learned a song and joined the children in singing "I Think You Are Wonderful."

## Flower Communion and Plant Swap

As most of you know, a Flower Communion service is an annual event at HUUF. We usually hold it in conjunction with a holiday like Mother's Day or Easter and this year it will be held on the first Sunday in May to celebrate May Day. As we have done for the past several years, the Flower Communion service will be followed by a plant/seed swap. If you have extra plants or seeds from your garden, bring some to the service to swap for something you don't have. This early notice is to remind you to get your plants ready for the swap. Dig up the extras and put them in a pot or Styrofoam coffee cup or some other container, label with the plant name if you know it, and bring them to our service on the first Sunday in May. Everyone will go home with something to plant, even if you don't have anything to bring to the swap. See you in May!



***RELIGION OFTEN SEES GOD AS AN ANSWER.  
SPIRITUALITY SEES GOD AS A QUESTION.***

**ANONYMOUS**

## From the MidSouth District

### **SOUTHLAND – WHAT’S THAT?!**

The larger UU family is looking at new ways of linking congregations to each other and to the resources they need to be the best they can be. We’re “thinking outside the box!” One outside-the-box idea is the creation of ‘regions,’ geographic linkages that will connect congregations and districts to open up opportunities for wider communication and sharing. It’s cool! And it creates “Southland!”



The “Southland” Region includes Mid-South, Thomas Jefferson, Florida and Southwest Districts – a wide swath that links over 200 UU congregations, their leaders, and the UUA and District Staff folks who serve them. One of the first projects of the Southland Region is the creation of “leadership schools” that will be open to congregation leaders (lay and professional) across the four districts. Another initiative is the coordination of a single calendar that will make many events, including webinars, in all four districts accessible to congregation leaders across the region. Yet another Southland project is the training and linking of ‘congregation consultants’ who can serve congregations as extensions of staff. To make all of these good opportunities visible a web site – [www.uusouthland.org](http://www.uusouthland.org) – is set up! Visit [www.uusouthland.org](http://www.uusouthland.org) to view the calendar, to find out about the Southland UU Leadership Experience (at The Mountain in August), and to read about other news and opportunities!

### Contributions to UU Haiti fund near \$1 million



Unitarian Universalists have contributed almost \$1 million to a relief fund created by the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee and the Unitarian Universalist Association to help victims of the January 12 earthquake in Haiti. As of February 15, the UUSC had processed donations of \$988,369, according to Dick Campbell, senior associate for media and public affairs for the UUSC. The 7.0-magnitude earthquake, centered near Port-au-Prince on January 12 killed at least 212,000 people, injured more than 300,000, and left a million people homeless.

Campbell said the generosity is overwhelming. “This is a very good total,” he said. “We’re quite pleased with the generosity and speed with which Unitarian Universalists have responded. It really motivates us to do the best we can with the money.” He said that Martha Thompson, the UUSC’s program manager for Rights in Humanitarian Crises, went to Haiti on February 5 on an eight-day assessment mission to determine how the UUSC can best respond to long-term needs. The UUSC is working in partnership with several groups involved in Haiti, including the Papaye Peasant Movement and the Lambi Fund of Haiti.

The Papaye Peasant Movement is helping people leave damaged areas, running a shelter, and providing food to survivors. The Lambi Fund is supporting rural groups that are in turn supporting groups of quake survivors from the city. The UUSC is also working with ActionAid USA to coordinate supplies for two grassroots groups, Platform of Community Organizations of the Port-au-Prince Metropolitan Zone, and Regional Coordination of Southeast Organizations.

### Standing on the Side of Love

At this very moment a daughter is fearful that her hard-working immigrant mother might not come home from work. Our immigrant neighbors have citizen children and spouses, they own businesses and homes, and have deep roots in their communities yet face deportation every day. Immigrant families are paying too high of a price for an immigration system that is inefficient, ineffective, incoherent, and inhumane.

Illinois Representative Luis Gutierrez has introduced comprehensive immigration reform (H.R. 4321) that addresses all three dimensions of a pragmatic and humane immigration policy reform: enforcement, legalization, and future flows of immigrants into the country. This is the best piece of legislation advocating comprehensive immigration reform that I have seen in a long time and we need to move fast. An historic coalition of immigrant groups, labor unions, religious groups and more have come together to support this bill. But Congress is up for reelection in November and the closer we get to Election Day, the less likely any major reforms will pass. See <http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org/standing-on-the-side-of-love-with-immigrant-families/> to support this effort.



STANDING ON THE SIDE OF

**LOVE**

Harnessing love’s power to stop oppression.

## The Back Page

### A Church is a People

A church is people. It is not a body of belief, a set of principles, or an impressive structure of stone, wood, and glass. A church has roots in the past no matter how recently the congregation was organized. A church represents a long procession of people willing to work with others toward shared goals, worship with others of similar belief, and hold in honor the wise and courageous people who have gone before them.

The people who constitute a church come with their needs as well as their gifts. To the extent that they can share their concerns and vulnerabilities and become sensitive to those of others, they will be part of a beloved community.

A church consists of people who are not too sure they are right, who are willing to be somewhat uncomfortable in order to correct what they see as wrong. It is made up of people who order their priorities and choose their way with a generous spirit (and often considerable rhetoric).

In a church there are those who are practical about institutional needs as well as the needs of the human family. There are people who understand our interdependent web of existence, those who can share the poetry they find in the stars, and those who can circulate a petition to save the wetlands.

There are those who can speak out against nuclear madness and those who can remember that the roof needs mending. Churches need people who can help feed the hungry of the world and people who can help feed the hunger deep within the souls of those gathered.

A church is composed of people who continue in the long procession knowing that others will follow—others for whom they must make a better world, to whom they owe a heritage of carefully examined discoveries and challenging possibilities. A church is made up of people eager to be part of that procession yet fiercely aware of their individual identities within it and alert to the fragility of the relationship.

A church is a granite base and a silken web, a crystal ball and a cup of fire.

*By Janet H. Bowering, minister emerita of the Universalist Unitarian Church of Haverhill,*

<p>Many members contribute to our fellowship.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The HUUF Leadership consists of a Worship Team and Stewardship Team, both coordinated by Susan Nodurft</li><li>• Contact Lilian Hill regarding the Newsletter at <a href="mailto:lilian.hill@usm.edu">lilian.hill@usm.edu</a></li></ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>HUUF Mission</b></p> <p>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.</p>
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### 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.