

HATTIESBURG

UNITARIAN

UNIVERSALIST

FELLOWSHIP

HUUF



Mar—Apr 2009

An Uncommon Denomination Coming of Age in the Deep South

Upcoming Services

Service at 11:00, childcare available

March 1, 2009	
Sheri Glowinski	Children's Sabbath
March 8, 2009	
Singers of United Lands	World Music
March 15, 2009	
Bob Buckner	How to Live in the Present Moment
March 22, 2009	
Ken Sizemore	Environmental Songs
March 29, 2009	
Jawad Niazi	Pakistani culture
April 5, 2009	
	TBA
April 12, 2009	
'Holy Rollers' Bike Trip	
April 19, 2009	
Nell Cobb	Flower Communion
April 26, 2009	
Susan Hrostowski	TBA

President's Message by Sheri Glowinski

Dear Friends,

Every Sunday morning I come to church and I continue to be amazed at the sense of community we all contribute to our worship services at HUUF. While I think our diversity of services is quite remarkable (my thanks go out to Chris Werle and to everyone who help to arrange or lead services!), for me, the most important part of my Sunday morning is the warm sense of love and concern that is created when we join together to worship, when we share candles of joy and concern, when we listen deeply to one another.

Chris recently gave a service in honor of Evolution Weekend and Darwin's 200th birthday. Afterwards he and I had a conversation about diversity – the essential contribution of diversity to the process of evolution, but also to the process of our unique unfoldings as individuals and the importance of that process in our spiritual community. As a UU fellowship, we obviously don't come together to worship in the conventional sense, but rather we celebrate our individuality and uphold our mutual support for that. This is our common ground as a community and it is powerful. This is, I believe, what I respond to every Sunday morning. As Francis David said, "We don't have to think alike to love alike."

I look forward to walking down my own life's paths while sharing the interdependent web of all our existences with you.

Yours in faith, Sheri

Worship Services

We have another slate of excellent topics to present at HUUF this spring. Plan to attend often so you don't miss out! March promises to be a very musical month as we will be featuring Ken Sizemore again, on March 22nd. And on March 8th, we will be hosting 4 young singers from 4 different countries. They are Singers Of United Lands, or SOUL, and this will be their first visit to Mississippi. Please take the time to peruse their website, www.soulands.org, and get to know these remarkable young people before their visit. During the service, they will present a song from each of their native countries, and another song in unison, so this promises to be a very special day for HUUF. On April 12th, plan to participate in the annual "Holy Rollers Bike Trip" with our very own bicycle guru, Jim Moore. This has become a very popular addition to the spring calendar, and this year we are inviting everybody to bring along a nature-themed poem or story to share at the lake. The first Sunday in May promises to be a rewarding day for all attending HUUFers, as we will be bringing in a representative of the organization, "Festival In The Workplace." Roosevelt Finlayson normally gives his presentation to companies looking to improve their morale and team spirit, but he easily transfers his ideas to the church setting and will likely provide some excellent ideas and energy as we approach the yearly transition for HUUF leadership.

Along those lines, please consider serving your religious community as a board member or committee chair this year. There are many ways to get involved and help HUUF operate, and we simply can't do it without you! If you are interested in how HUUF plans its program schedule, please don't be shy as we will be looking for a new chair for the Worship Committee in June.

HUUF is proud to announce a new group of facilitators: Laura Anderson, Bob Buckner, Karen Zynda and Jawaad Niazi all participated in a recent facilitator training workshop led by Nichole Werle. In this informative workshop, we learned how to coordinate the service with the speaker's topic and provide a smooth transition between the different parts of the Sunday service. We also discussed how enjoyable it can be to pick out a reading or song from our hymnal, getting the opportunity to use a little personal creativity. Our wonderful volunteers will each be trying their hand at leading a HUUF service in April, and we are excited to bring them on board. Please be sure to attend a service in April and thank them for their participation in making HUUF run. We are always looking for potential speakers and/or facilitators, so if you think you may be able to help with this important service please contact a member of the Worship Committee. They will be very happy you did!

Worship News

Adult Religious Education begins in April

In April, the adult RE program will offer five discussion sessions on Parker Palmer's acclaimed little book, *Let Your Life Speak*. In this book, Palmer illuminates the path for letting our highest truths and values guide our lives. At the heart of his message is listening to, and accepting "true self." With wisdom and compassion, he helps us see clearly that as we live more deeply into our selfhood, we not only find personal fulfillment, but communion with others and ways of serving the world's deepest needs. We hope you will plan on joining us. Our program will begin in mid-April and meet for five consecutive Sundays mornings from 9:45-10:45 prior to our worship service. More information will be provided in early April. If you anticipate being a part of this program (or not!), we would encourage you to purchase *Let Your Life Speak*. It is an excellent book and would be a perfect gift for your favorite spring graduate. If you would like more information, you may contact Susan Nodurft at snodurft@bellsouth.net.

Children's Religious Education

Children's RE continues to take place every other week under the guidance of Andrea McDonald. The week of 2/22/09 our children learned about a naked mole rat who wanted to be different and his relatives who didn't want him to be different. Thankfully the very old and very wise Grand-pah saw the light and shared it with everyone: it's OK to be different and it's OK to be just who you are. This is a message the whole world could stand to hear! Our ongoing classes take place on 3/8, 3/22, 4/5 and 4/19.

Children's Sabbath Service

Our annual children's service was held on March 1st. Surrounded by many wonderful young ones, Sheri read "On the Day You Were Born" by Debra Frasier, we sang "Planting Seeds of Love" by Pam Donkin and the adults participated in a Blessing for all children near and far. Children also received a special coloring page reinforcing the message from the previous week's Children's RE class that each child is unique, smart, important and much loved at HUUF!



Social Action Committee: HUUF in the Community

Help "Unadoptable" Dogs at Pine Belt Animal Sanctuary

The Social Action Committee continues to collect dog food and/or cash for the Sanctuary for "unadoptable" dogs located in Lamar county. The next time you go shopping, pick up an extra bag of dog food. Janet or Stacie will take it to the Sanctuary for you.

Domestic Abuse Family Shelter

The Social Action Committee continues to collect donations for the Domestic Abuse Family Shelter. If you forgot to bring your items, it's not too late. See Janet for a list of needed items.

Register to Vote!

Register to vote or update your registration at HUUF! If you just turned 18 or if you have moved recently and need to change your address, see social action committee members for voter registration forms.

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. Don't think that Fair Trade coffee is too expensive—it actually costs less than Starbucks and it's twice as good!

Celebration for Sharon and Carey Varnado

On February 15, 2009 a celebration was held to honor the recent wedding of Sharon and Carey. Carey indicated that he and Sharon would never have had the opportunity to meet if they had not become HUUF members. We wish them all the best for a happy marriage.



Volunteer Opportunity

HUUF needs a volunteer to maintain the HUUF website at <http://www.huuf.us>. If you are able and willing to take on this valuable task please contact Sheri after a service or at sheri_glowinski@yahoo.com.

HUUF is on Facebook!

Facebook is a social utility that connects people with friends and others who work, study and live around them. Sheri created a Facebook page for HUUF in order to communicate our activities to our members and people who might be interested in attending our services and joining our congregation. If you're not yet a member of Facebook it is a free service that is easy to join. Go to <http://www.facebook.com> and create a login and password. Then search for Hattiesburg Unitarian Universalist Fellowship and you'll find our page.

Farewell to Enku

Enku Ide is embarking on a journey and will be spending some time at a Buddhist retreat center in Mississippi. Enku indicates that we will be seeing him again but at this point he is not sure when. We will miss him and wish him safe travels and a rewarding journey.

UUA President, Bill Sinkford, Writes Memo to Obama

I learned of your election on a late-night flight to Africa. When the pilot announced that you would be the 44th president of the United States, many of us wept with joy. The hopes Americans have placed in you are so high, and the challenges are so daunting. You will lead us during a critical period of war, recession, and mounting ecological threats. Some might say you have taken on a thankless job; I am deeply grateful for a president who seems equal to these challenges.



And I am hopeful that your vision will encompass all of us. America is facing big problems, but I urge you not to view our country as a hierarchy of competing needs, with minority rights taking a backseat to issues like the economy. Instead, I pray that you will see our society as a diverse, interconnected web, where the health of our nation depends upon the well-being of each of its citizens. It will take an act of deep faith to believe that protecting individual rights and strengthening a small percentage of families will benefit the entire country. But it will.

For more, see <http://www.uua.org/news/newssubmissions/128077.shtml>

Flower Communion April 19

We will celebrate our annual Flower Communion Service on April 19th in conjunction with Earth Day. The theme will reinforce our UU commitment to honor the earth and all its creatures and plants. Remember to bring a flower from your yard for the communal vase, (there will be extras in case you don't have any). Following the service Nell Cobb will conduct her usual springtime ritual of giving away or swapping veggie seedlings with others who want to try growing something to eat. If you have plants to share, now is the time to root some cuttings or start some seedlings to have them ready for the plant swap.



Front

HUUF T-shirts available for sale

Enjoy wearing a HUUF T-shirt. Made of Fair Trade Cotton, they are lovely and soft. HUUF's emblem is included on both back and front, and the background is ivory and the print is green and black. A range of sizes are available and the shirts cost \$15.00.



Back

The Importance of Presidents

February's Presidents Day is a reminder of the importance of presidents! In a time when we have just elected and inaugurated a new president for our country, we will also elect a new president for our Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. Involvement in this democratic process is a sacred responsibility! The presidential election at our UUA deserves our attention.

The Rev. Dr. Laurel Hallman and the Rev. Peter Morales are the candidates for the UUA presidency. And, while the election will occur at the 2009 General Assembly, in Salt Lake City, UT, next June, Unitarian Universalists everywhere are considering which of these leaders they will choose. Each congregation votes in this process. The UUA's Elections webpage has campaign-related materials at: <http://www.uua.org/elections> This site was established to provide accurate, up to date information regarding the upcoming Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) elections for President, Moderator, and Financial Advisor (June 2009), as well as rules, policies of the UUA Board of Trustees regarding the election, and links to the websites of announced candidates for President, Moderator, and Financial Advisor.

From the Midsouth District: Electing Our New UUA Trustee

Democracy is a matter of principle for UUs. Specifically, our fifth principle affirms "the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large." This year Lyn Conley reaches her term limit as the Mid-South Trustee on the UUA Board, and the vote for her successor will take place on May 2 at our district's Annual Assembly in Nashville. Our next UUA Trustee will have large shoes to fill. During her eight years on the UUA Board, Lyn has served our association tirelessly in many ways, including as Finance Committee chair.

Each of the 20 districts in the Unitarian Universalist Association elects a trustee to serve on the board that sets UUA policy and plans for the long-range welfare of our movement. Trustees also function as communication links between the UUA and their district and its congregations, and they participate in district board meetings and conferences.

A UUA Trustee Election Committee, chaired by John Malluck, was appointed to oversee the nomination and election process. We are fortunate that, at this writing, congregations in our district have nominated at least two people by the February 19 deadline. The Election Committee will mail each congregation a description of the election process and a ballot of nominees by March 6. The process and the nominees' resumes and qualifications will be posted on the MSD website. You can also read the relevant MSD Bylaws (Article VIII) at: http://www.msduua.org/home/Home_Structure/MSDbylaws2006.htm

Loaning 'Library' at HUUF

These titles are available at HUUF for borrowing. Political books donated by Tommie Hildman.

- All the King's Men by Robert Penn Warren. A novel set in the 1930s, it traces the rise and fall of a fictionalized version of Huey P. Long of Louisiana.
- The Last Hurrah by Edwin O'Connor. A fascinating account of big city bosses and machine politics.
- Advise and Consent by Allen Drury. Described as a political masterpiece of power struggles and government influence, Advise and Consent won the Pulitzer Prize.
- Anything for a Vote. True tales of political hijinks in an effort to win the race.
- Secrets of US Presidents. Exactly what it sounds like: little-known facts of each president. A fun read.
- State of Denial by Bob Woodward. An expose' of George Bush's tactics written by the newspaper reporter of Watergate fame.
- World's Religions
- Fundamentalism and Society
- Fundamentalism and the State
- Fundamentalism Observed
- The Protestant Reformation
- Mahatma Ghandi - Peace
- Various magazines: Science News, Science and Spirituality, National Geographic
- Catalogs: Isabella Catalog - items for meditation, spirituality, etc.

CHURCH IS A PLACE WHERE YOU GET TO PRACTICE WHAT IT MEANS TO BE HUMAN.

JAMES LUTHER ADAMS

Meet our Members: Susan Nordurft

I Am a grateful person – grateful for a wonderful family, cherished friends, good health, and, with my recent retirement, the freedom to listen to life more carefully and respond to new possibilities. In May, 2007, I brought to a close a teaching career of over 30 years - a vocation that was my passion and joy. From this perspective, I find myself more appreciative than ever of those who shared that life, touched me deeply and are so a part of who I am. All that is *not* to say that I am not thrilled with my new life that’s much like being a kid again – filled to the brim – with family, friends, and fun. The fun includes continuing to direct the MS Courage to Teach program leading workshops and retreats designed to help educators and other professionals listen to their hearts, connect with “who they are” and discern their life path.

How did I get here? My journey here began as a teenager sitting on a hillside of our family farm ruminating on questions such as, “what is the meaning of life?” and “what constitutes a meaningful life?” In retrospect, it was following the thread of those questions that shaped my story and brought me to HUUF some 5+ years ago. That story includes being a Minnesotan transplanted in Mississippi in the mid-40s and growing up with two brothers on “the farm.” Our family struggled as most did in

those days to make ends meet. But, it was a good life and there were gifts – living close to the land imprinted me with awe of the natural world and parents who encouraged “free thinking” enabled me to explore my world with openness and curiosity. The path from the farm included marriage, four beautiful children, life lived among wonderful people and places (MS, WS, NC), biology degrees, a teaching career and grandchildren! The thread of those questions wove its way through the events – from awe, to idealism, to embracing the sacred first through the mysticism and social action of an invigorated Catholic Church in the 60’s and later through explorations of various spiritual traditions, both East and West. Today those questions are held loosely - a holding UU does well. It is a gift to stand with our community in that Mystery each Sunday with inquisitiveness and gratitude for the opportunity of simply being a part.

Hobbies: Reading, kayaking, hiking, movie buff, and spending time with family!



HUUF Board		HUUF Mission
President	Sheri Glowinski	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.
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	

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