



Oct - Dec 2008

An Uncommon Denomination Coming of Age in the Deep South

Upcoming Services

Service at 11:00,
 childcare available

| | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 10/5/08 | |
| Ken Sizemore | Coffee Shop |
| 10/12/08 | |
| Lilian Hill | Association Sunday |
| 10/19/08 | |
| Mary Brooks | The Ethical Union |
| 10/26/08 | |
| Peter Bauer | Developing Faith and Leadership |
| 11/2/08 | |
| Chung-Hsien Hsu | Confucianism |
| 11/9/08 | |
| Kathy Garner | AIDS Coalition |
| 11/16/08 | |
| | TBA |
| 11/23/08 | |
| Seder Service at Our Home UU <i>Please note: There will be no service in Hattiesburg this day</i> | |
| 11/30/08 | |
| Valerie Rachal | Southern Pines Animal Shelter |
| 12/7/08 | |
| Dan Capper | Asclepius: The Dream Healer |
| 12/14/08 | |
| Congregation | Festival of Lights |
| 12/21/08 | |
| Andie Gibb | First Day of Yule |
| 12/28/08 | |
| | Game Day |

President's Message by Sheri Glowinski

Welcome back, Friends,

I hope the long days of summer treated you well and the cool days of fall are giving you some relief! We at HUUF are off to a running start.

Our first Adult Religious Education offering of the year took place September 29th. I do hope that if you haven't already signed up for our Conversations on Love and Forgiveness series, you will do so. As a community we will collectively benefit from your presence as I'm sure you individually will gain from the openness and depth we strive to achieve in this program. Through this process we are building our Beloved Community stronger. You can find out more about our Conversations on Love and Forgiveness by reading Susan Norduft's article on page 2.

Our Children's RE program has started as well. Loosely based on our Adult RE program, it incorporates music, movement and activities that affirm each child's worth and spirituality in the context of our Seven Principles. All children are welcome.

We have many engaging services planned for the remainder of the year. We hope that you will join us for these and for the celebration of Beloved Community that takes place before, during and after each of them. See you on Sunday!

Yours in faith, Sheri

Worship Services

This fall HUUF features a wide variety of programs that are sure to please our diverse fellowship. On October 5th UU folksinger Ken Sizemore made his return to the Hub City. His service celebrated the life and music of John Denver. There will be several new faces at the HUUF podium this fall, presenting topics ranging from eastern religion to the work being done locally for AIDS victims. There will also be some not-so-new faces, including the ever-popular Dr. Dan Capper, professor of religion at USM, speaking on the 1st Sunday in December. Dan will be presenting another of his compelling stories of ancient Greek mythology, this time on the famous healer Asclepius. And as we are approaching the holiday season, we will be revisiting some of our established HUUF traditions including the Festival of Lights, a Yule Celebration, and the Seder Service with our good friends at Our Home UU in Ellisville. We hope you plan to be a part of these presentations, and as always the Worship Committee invites you to submit your ideas for speakers or topics as we start to put together our schedule for 2009!

Worship News

Adult Religious Education in Fall 2008

Eight Conversations on Love and Forgiveness

Launched in 2006, the Campaign for Love & Forgiveness uses PBS documentaries, community activities, online resources, and networking opportunities to encourage reflection and conversation about how love and forgiveness can effect meaningful change in individuals and society. See <http://www.loveandforgive.org/campaign.php> for more information about the campaign. HUUF will be participating in these conversations and they will serve as a way of preparing the ground for creating a HUUF mission statement. The schedule is below. Contact Susan Nordurft at snodurft@bellsouth.net for questions or directions.



Schedule

**All programs are on Sunday evenings from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the home of Sharon Black
~childcare is provided~**

| | |
|--------------|--|
| September 21 | Program Presentation - HUUF Service |
| September 28 | Conversation 1 – Love (<i>excerpts from DVD – Mystery of Love</i>) |
| October 12 | Conversation 2 |
| October 19 | Conversation 3 |
| October 26 | Conversation 4 |
| November 2 | Conversation 1 – Forgiveness (<i>excerpts from DVD - Power of Forgiveness</i>) |
| November 16 | Conversation 2 |
| November 23 | Conversation 3 |
| December 7 | Conversation 4 |

Children's Religious Education

The spirit of our program is this: that children *of all ages* should be encouraged to explore the meaning of spirituality in their lives in a supportive, age-appropriate, UU context. Our first session took place Sunday, Sept. 28 during our regular service. Led by Ms. Andrea McDonald, who herself graduated from a Youth RE program at HUUF several years ago, children sang "Enter, Rejoice and Come In," performed the Gandhi Peace Greeting, and explored the meaning of Faith. Ongoing sessions take place every other week on the following dates in 2008: **Oct. 12th, Oct. 26th, Nov. 9th, Dec. 14th, and Dec. 28th.** On the days that Children's RE does not take place, children are welcome to join their families in the regular service or to stay with our child care provider who is at HUUF every week during the regular service. Note that on Nov. 23, HUUF will meet at Our Home Universalist Unitarian Church in Ellisville for their annual Thanksgiving Seder, so no Children's RE will take place. Nonetheless, children and their families are welcome to join the service at Our Home on that day. Feel free to contact me with any questions. I look forward to hearing from you. – *Sheri Glowinski*

Social Action Committee: HUUF in the Community

Peace Vigil

The Hattiesburg Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is 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 and are open to the public. 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 Stacie Chandler at stacie_chandler@comcast.net. For more information about fair trade go to www.uusc.org.

HUUF T-Shirts

HUUF T-Shirts are available for purchase for \$15.00 each. The image on the back of the shirts is reproduced here. We chose to use sweatshop-free shirts in honor of our values so they are a little more expensive, however, we believe it is important to choose products that do not exploit workers. Now we can represent ourselves in a public way.



Facilitator/Worship Leader Training January 18

Here is your opportunity to contribute to our worship services in a meaningful way. We are in need of more facilitators to lead the worship services. This is a fun and rewarding way to be involved and to have some input by selecting readings and music to complement the speaker's topic for the service. The Facilitator/Worship Leader Training will be conducted by Sheri Glowinski and Nichole Werle on January 18th after the worship service. Contact Nichole at nichole.werle@usm.edu for more information.



Security Task Force

As most of you know, after the tragic shooting at a UU church in Knoxville, TN we formed a HUUF task force to develop preparedness plans and policies for emergency conditions at HUUF. After looking on the UUA website for examples of these plans and policies, we find that there are all sorts of 'disturbances' that can occur in our inclusive and welcoming congregations and there are some excellent policies already in place. Our next newsletter should contain a draft of the policies we will recommend for HUUF.

Also in response to the Knoxville shooting, Security Task Force member Chuck Chandler, an officer with USM's Campus Security, showed the instructional video "Active Shooter," to HUUF members after the service on August 24th. This video, used by universities and businesses all over the country, demonstrates the steps to take when faced with a shooter: 1) get out if possible, 2) hide if you can't get out, or 3) fight back. It was determined that if a shooter came into our building we should all throw chairs or hymnals at him. I'm serious.

Our Security Task Force now encompasses the work done so far on Disaster Preparedness. For several weeks we've asked for Emergency Contact Info for any members who need assistance during or after hurricanes or other natural disasters. One of our members did turn in the info with a request for text messages during Hurricane Gustav and I am happy to report that contact was maintained before, during, and after the storm. We also had offers of home-stay from the Oxford UU congregation in case any of our members needed to flee the storm. It is happening slowly, but a network of mutual assistance is evolving in the wake of the difficult lessons learned after Katrina.

If members wish to be included in an emergency network, either requesting help or offering to help, please contact Nell Cobb at email2nell@gmail.com.

Association Sunday October 12: Growing Our Spirit

The success of the first Association Sunday, raising \$1.4 million from 626 congregations shows what can be possible when UUA congregations come together to support common goals. The UUA second Association Sunday, scheduled for October 12, will raise funds to support projects focused on deepening our Shared Ministry. Several specific initiatives were chosen based on a survey of Unitarian Universalist leaders—to which over 1,828 responded. These include supporting lay theological education programs, continuing education programs for ordained leaders, and scholarships for promising students preparing for our ministry.



Editors Note

This newsletter covers the months of October, November and December. We will return to a bimonthly schedule January 2009.

Book Review by Marty Broadus

The Dance of the Dissident Daughter: A Woman's Journey from Christian Tradition to the Sacred Feminism

~by Sue Monk Kidd

As a “conventionally religious, church-going woman, a traditional wife and mother,” Sue Monk Kidd began to question her role in her church, family and culture, and her work as a Christian writer. This led to a struggle against the patriarchy of her church, of Christianity, and of a culture long dominated by men.

She quotes Maxine Kumin, “When sleeping beauty wakes up, she is almost fifty years old.” Kidd was nearing forty and unprepared for her encounter with feminist spirituality. It would change every facet of her life, as well as that of her husband, a Southern Baptist minister.

Other books by Sue Monk Kidd include *When the Heart Waits*, *God's Joyful Surprise*, *The Secret Life of Bees* (a novel), *The Mermaid Chair* (a novel).

HUUF Contributes to Helping Immigrants Displaced In MS

On August 25, ICE agents (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) conducted one of the single largest immigration raids in the country at Howard Industries just outside of Laurel, MS. Across South Mississippi, a community of immigrant workers has flourished since Hurricane Katrina three years ago, including both people working under H2B visas and those lacking proper legal documentation to live and/or work in the United States. In response to this, a violent nativist campaign has also made itself known, with anti-immigrant rhetoric propagated via local and state-wide radio stations. One of the main tactics used by this movement is legislative pressure, and throughout 2008, nearly 40 House Bills and Senate Bills were proposed in Mississippi to target all elements of life within the undocumented community.

At the center of this crisis, however, are the lives being disrupted by an enforcement-centered immigration policy which criminalizes the workforce on which the local economies depend. Within one school district, almost 200 children had no parent or guardian to come home to or to pick them up from school. Some of those, mainly women, with family needs have been released with electronic tracking devices, which serve as a constant physical reinforcement of stigma, criminalization and fear for those directly affected and the entire community. The few bonds which have been set for those detained have been around \$5,000, far outside the economic means of most working class families. Families are also left with no economic lifeline, and the strains of caring for basic needs is pressing directly on those facing the aftermath of this police action.

HUUF is among other communities who have donated funds and food items to contribute to the Latino community in need. In order to help the immigrant community financially and bring our entire community together during this time, **Youth for Community Change will be hosting a red beans and rice dinner at Sacred Heart Catholic Church School on Sunday October 5 at 3:00 pm.** Plates will be \$5.00-\$10.00 donation, and there will be musical entertainment and presenters.

Ken Sizemore's Return to HUUF and the Hub City

Our favorite Old Folkie was back in Hattiesburg on Saturday, October 4th, performing a concert at Java Werks from 7:00-9:00 pm. A good time was had by all—adult and children alike. A special thanks goes out to Java Werks for providing a great venue for this event!

On Sunday, October 5th, Ken returned to our pulpit with a thought-provoking and emotional service of tribute to the life and times of John Denver. Following the service, the congregation shared bountiful potluck lunch. If you missed Ken's visit, don't worry! We have already booked his return for March, 2009!



For us love isn't an abstraction or platitude, but the primary way of saying thank you for the wondrous gift of abundant life. Our purpose on earth is not only to discuss love, but to embody it.

~from the UUA website

Meet our Members: Conrad Hill

Name: Conrad Farrell Hill
Date of Birth: January 27, 1949
Marital Status: Born again bachelor for 16 yrs. No children.
Residence: Hattiesburg (all my life, less 2 yrs)
Schools Attended: H'burg public schools and USM (graduated with B.S and B.A)

Let me start off by saying that I think God is guilty of the crimes of ontological blackmail and racketeering; that he is actually using heaven as the carrot and hell as the stick. He's making us an offer that we can't refuse. **Just Kidding!** Do I have your attention now? As you can see I have a sense of humor. I hope that God has one also. If he doesn't, I'm in big trouble. An if God's a She, I've got even bigger problems.

Let me give you a little background information about myself. I was brought up Southern Baptist. While attending college the first time, I was a religion and philosophy major. This really tested my Christian faith. Most of my friends in the department were non-believers and in a

matter of time, I joined their ranks. I converted to Secular Humanism. Over the years I have become more spiritual so I dropped the word secular and just called myself a Humanist.

I was born under the eleventh sign of the zodiac (Aquarius). I'm not really a believer in astrology. I bring the subject up at this time because it is helpful in describing to you who I am. Aquarians are truth-seekers. They are honest, broad-minded and helpful, work with ideas, sincere, thoughtful and outgoing, sometimes shy, unpredictable, dreamers, idealistic lovers, independent, tolerant friends, like people. That's me in a nutshell. These are the positive traits. Aquarians also have some negative traits. Since most of these don't apply to me we won't go there.

Lastly, I wanted to talk to you about why I joined HUUF. I was looking for something: communion, meaning, acceptance, understanding, love. HUUF was just what I needed. I'm glad you are here and I'm a happier and better person for having found you.

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