

First Unitarian Universalist Church

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March 2011 Newsletter



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Church Office Hours

Church Administrator:
11:00am – 5:00pm
Tuesday – Friday

Rev. Jane Bechle:
Tues, Wed & Thurs
during the week between
sermons. Other times by
appointment: 501-217-
0663 or the office at 883-
3922

**Director of Lifespan
Religious Ed:**
Tuesday (Home),
Thursday (Church) 9am –
12pm each day

From Our Minister

Ah, the anticipation of SPRING!! By the end of this month the calendar and the place of the sun in the sky will assure us that the new season has begun. If we're lucky, nature will be good to us (not that we deserve it), and it will be a season of new life bursting forth. New life, new color, new energy, new possibilities. What a wonderful season!

As we begin this month, I'd like to offer two quotes that have had a tremendous impact on me, personally. I share them with you with the hope that they find an important place in your minds:

Loretta Gizartis: *If someone listens, or stretches out a hand, or whispers a word of encouragement, or attempts to understand a lonely person, extraordinary things begin to happen.*

Abraham Lincoln: *I am slow but I never walk backwards.*

As we move into this new month and new season, may we continue our slow but steady movement forward. Never forget how much this community and this planet needs what Unitarian Universalism has to offer, and that it is up to each and every one of us to offer our best expression of our Principles and Purposes.

It is my sincere hope that each and every one of you who is able will participate in the meetings with our District Executive on March 11 – 13. (You will see a schedule in this newsletter). We are greatly looking forward to her time with us! During her time with us, we will be able to get to know her better, and to have her guidance and assistance in our slow but steady movement forward!

Rev. Jane Bechle



SUNDAY SERVICES:

Sunday Services
Begin at 11 A.M.

March 6th – "The Old Testament Revisited"; member Doris Ewing will present recent archeological findings and experiences that relate to our Judeo-Christian heritage.

March 13th – District Executive Rev. Susan Smith will Speak – Don't Miss her! Rev. Jane Bechle as Service Leader

March 20th – "Spring, Equinox, Balance" Rev. Jane Bechle. Singing by the Children's Choir

March 27th – Intergenerational Service with Michelle







Book Swap

Bring a book, take a book from the table outside the office.





Notices and Upcoming Events

-  Thursday, March 17th at 7pm – “An Evening with Mark Twain” a FREE performance by Will St. Clair.
-  Saturday, March 19th at 8am – It’s moving day for the Archive Room. Come join us!
-  Sunday, March 27th at 12:30pm – The Caring Committee will be re-organizing from forms that will be handed out on March 20th and 27th for those who want to help us take care of our members.
-  Friday, May 6th – Service Auction/Potluck
-  Saturday, May 14th – The Young Families Group will sponsor a Garage Sale.
-  The next Congregational Meeting is on May 15th, 2011

Living Our Principals

Many thanks to **Marlene Smith, Padgett Smith, Ross Bebout, Scoop Peery and Claudia and Mike Brown** for volunteering on behalf of 1st UUC at the Crosslines Crisis Food Pantry in December, January and February.

Demand remains high for food and hygiene items in this difficult economic environment. Please **continue to bring food and hygiene items each Sunday** for the children to pick up during the service. Additionally, **your financial support** for this worthy outreach to our community is very important. Simply add some into your giving to the church and write on the memo line of your check how much you wish to designate for Crosslines. It will be put to excellent use buying the fresh fruit, fresh vegetables, eggs, and protein we contribute to Crosslines each month.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minister: Rev. Jane Bechle

President: Lynn Dalton

Vice President: Josh Garrett

Secretary: Doris Ewing

Treasurer: Don Underwood

Finance: Will St. Clair

Building and Grounds: Mike Brown

Religious Ed.: Chris Landorf

Social Justice: Padgett Smith

Trustee at Large: Rebecca Reynolds

Heavenly Hosts

March – July 2011

- 1st Sunday: Greeters – Culah Nixon and Michael Rodrigues
Coffee maker – Barbara St. Clair
- 2nd Sunday: Greeters – Lois Woods and Cynthia Moore
Coffee maker – Bonnie Bonner
- 3rd Sunday: Greeters – Joye and Jerry Norris
Coffee maker – Harold Watson
- 4th Sunday: Greeters – Doris Ewing and Ann Morris
Coffee maker – Guy Pollard
- 5th Sunday: Greeters – Millie and Dennis Donohoe
Coffee maker – Barbara St. Clair

Check out our website and the Google calendar which will be updated as needed and can be printed out.

www.springfieldunitarians.com

February Board Meeting Notes



1. Approval of the January Minutes.
2. Appointment of Jeff Van Sickle as the Membership Chair - Thanks Jeff!
3. Tiffany decided not to attend the RE conference in Dallas so that the money could be used for OWL training later this year.
4. The Board approved Building & Grounds recommendation to construct a six inch high enclosure around the church playground and equipment and to fill it with sifted mulch for an estimated cost of \$301.54.

The Board is recommending that we change the church fiscal year to the calendar year. This would mean that the coming pledge drive would be for only six months so that we would be ready for the change in Jan. 2012. This decision requires a vote of approval by the congregation at the next Congregational Meeting on May 22, 2011

The UU District Executive Director will visit our church March 11-13th and the Board is busy planning the agenda for that weekend. What vision do you have for our church and how do you feel we can best move in that direction? This should be a very productive weekend for our congregation.

From the President



The 2011 board is settling in and working together well. Doris Ewing, secretary, posts on the bulletin board and a summary is published in each newsletter. We made decisions being discussed for some time and are looking forward to working on long term planning concerns, please let us know. All members are invited to attend the board meetings.

SWUUC Executive Director, Susan Smith, will be here March 11, 12 & 13. We will be discussing long range planning and some governance items. Rev Jane & I are working on the agenda. Please save some time on Sat the 12 to join us in the meetings and discussions. Be sure to attend the March 13 Sunday service led by Rev Smith. She presents dynamic and inspiring services. The visit from the SWUUC District Executive is at no cost to the congregation, it is a benefit of being full members of SWUUC.

This month I would like to draw your attention to the Church Administrator, Linda Eckels. Linda provides great service to us the work she does keeps us running as an organization. Linda also helps knit together many of the groups into a well running organization. Please read the following brief description of the work that is done to support a major contribution to the future of this church. The following is a sample of what goes on.

Administrator

1. A wedding rental on New Year's Day - \$100 deposit + \$225 rental. The refund will be \$50 because they didn't put things back where they were; we will have to re-iron the banners; and they unplugged the power to the heat which resulted in having to run the boilers on max to warm up the church on Sunday morning.
2. Changed insurance companies from Church Mutual to Grinnell Mutual, saving \$400 per year with some additional coverage.

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3. Sent the Pitney-Bowes postage meter back which was \$25-30 per month + postage; switched to Stamps.com which is \$15 per month with \$40 in free postage, thus savings about \$15 per month.
4. No longer sending the newsletter by mail (except for 13 persons) saves approximately \$180 per month.
5. Changed our accounts at bank to Non-Profit accounts, thereby saving bank fees.
6. Purchased QuickBooks Payroll software + subscription to be able to accurately prepare tax files, payroll, etc. on advice of Diann Gambill (QuickBooks Expert) that I have been working with to iron out financial problems. \$16 per month
7. Purchased a new printer for \$129 after our HP LaserJet printer died. Old toner was \$149 per unit; new one is approximately \$70.
8. Working with Diann Gambill to work the bugs out of QuickBooks – we will have it all fixed by this weekend, we hope.
9. Had a productive meeting with the Financial Committee, along with Diann Gambill to work on what reports would best give us understandable information.
10. Gave our ill members calls to check up on them.
11. Developed a new newsletter template.
12. The Share the Plate for January was for CARE No-Kill Shelter. We gave a donation of \$185.
13. Love my job and the people I work with! Respectfully submitted: Linda Eckels
Many thanks to all the good work Linda accomplishes on a part-time basis. Simply Amazing !

Lynn Dalton, Congregational President 2011

Welcome New Members!

Please WELCOME and CONGRATULATE our NEWEST MEMBERS



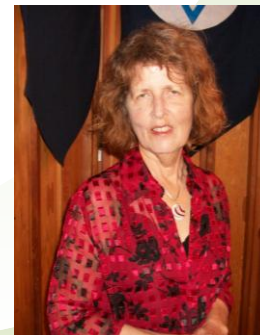
Dean Bliss



Rebecca Bliss



Jim Caffey



Esther Bultas

The Humanist Group



HUMANISTS EXPLORE A VARIETY OF TOPICS

At the December meeting of the UU Humanist group the topic was Robert Ingersoll. He was quite famous during the last part of the 19th century and his ideas should be of interest to many Unitarian Universalists. Ingersoll was a political leader and orator during what many have called the Golden Age of Freethought –roughly from 1860 to World War I.

He made many speaking tours across America and spoke on a variety of subjects –including literature, science and religion. His friends included the likes of Mark Twain, Andrew Carnegie and Elizabeth Cady Stanton as well as several Presidents. He was noted for being an advocate of science and reason.

Robert Ingersoll was forthright in expressing his beliefs. A taste of his philosophy emerges from quotes such as these:

“Courage without conscience is a wild beast”

“Give to every human being every right that you claim for yourself”

“An honest God is the noblest work of man”

Ingersoll popularized Charles Darwin’s *Origin of Species* and was a strong advocate for woman’s suffrage. He supported political, scientific and social trends that clashed with religious orthodoxy. Both friend and foe have labeled him “The Great Agnostic”.

At the Ingersoll Birthplace Museum in Dresden, New York, maintained by the Council of Secular Humanism, visitors can pick up a headset and hear a tinny voice declare:

“While I am opposed to all orthodox creeds, I have a creed myself; and my creed is this. Happiness is the only good. The time to be happy is now. The place to be happy is here. The way to be happy is to make others so. This creed is somewhat short, but it is long enough for this life, strong enough for this world. If there is another world, when we get there we can make another creed.”

If you are interested exploring ideas about the world and human kind, you might like to attend a meeting of the UU Humanist group. At our next meeting, Professor Chris Landorf will provide us with information and insights regarding CARBON. Chris understands that the scientific background of his audience is likely to be minimal. So his presentation will be on the Carbon 101 level.

The UU Humanist meeting will take place on Wednesday March 2, at 7:00 pm in the library on the lower level of the Church. Please use the back door. Come join us!

Article submitted by:

Charles E. Gray (Co-facilitator of UU Humanist group)

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