

schedule:

March 20 Rev. Barbara Jamestone will conduct a work shop.

March 21 11:a.m. Rev. Barbara Jamestone will do our Service. The title of her talk is "Passover-Reflections for a Free Church"

April 4 11:a.m. To be announced

April 18 11:a.m. Jim Becker of Jackson is guest speaker.

We would love to have you come over. Check out our website www.msuaa.org

>>>>>> **SUNDAY SCHOOL** <<<<<<<<

The Sunday School group is going strong this spring, and we are thrilled to welcome Charlotte and Lee Brewer and their parents Steve and Ashley. Our theme for the spring semester is Religion and Nature. We are exploring connections between humans and nature in a variety of religions and will be interacting with nature directly if the weather cooperates. We plan to establish a native plant butterfly garden near the back fence. If anyone has any appropriate native plants/seeds to donate, please talk to a Sunday School parent. Likewise, if our topic inspires you, and you would like to lead the group one Sunday, let one of us know. Thanks!

Sunday school meets at 9:45. All are welcome.

Spring Schedule.

Mar. 28 - open, maybe rehearse a skit for the talent show

April 2, evening, Talent Show

April 4 - Susie Adams, Buddhism and nature (remember daylight savings time!)

April 18 - Ken Sleeper, topic tba

May 2 - Steve Brewer, plant identification

May 16 - Susie Adams, topic tba

>>>>> **UU HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH** <<<<<<

Sunday March 21, Rockclimbing at Tishomingo. Let's leave from the parking lot of Northeast Mississippi Power Association at 7:30, Sunday, March 21st, either as a caravan or, preferably, carpooling. We are to meet the Ole Miss Outdoors crew at the swinging bridge at 10:00. Every climber should come with the \$25 fee or a check made to Ole Miss Outdoors. Non-climbers (i.e. me,

et al?) will enjoy a fine walk along a nearby trail. Bring your own lunch, other snacks and drinks!!! Mel and Ann will bring a cooler with ice.

Weds March 24 Planning time for the talent show. Location TBA.

Weds March 31, meeting with middle school group for card making
Location UU Hall.

Friday April 2, the famous UU Talent Show and auction!!

Wednesdays in April we will meet from 6:30-8. Specifics to be announced.

Sat. April 24. Face painting (Fundraiser) at the Double Decker Festival.

Volunteers needed!

Questions about our religious education program?
Contact Elaine at 236-2545 or egelbard@olemiss.edu.

>>>>> **TALENT SHOW / AUCTION** <<<<<<
FUN! FAME!
SAVE THE DATE!

7th Annual Talent Show!

Auction Too!

Friday, April 2

Contact Elaine to reserve your spot on the program:
egelbard@olemiss.edu, 236-2545

Contact Vicki to offer to help: vicki@reithel.com, 236-6293

This a chance to **show off** what you know a lot about, or to gather encouragement for something you're just learning. Past talent has included poetry, jokes, magic, a display of model plane collections, music, dance -- and, of course, the highlight of last year's show -- baby Sophie showing us how she'd learned to sit up.

You can enjoy the evening for free, but if you have any money, bring it to put in the donation jars for refreshments, or to bid on auction items ranging from greeting cards made by UU youth to Spring Break week at an island home.

>>>> **FROM REV. JAMESTONE** <<<<<

Leap Day

March 13 was "Leap" Day for UUCO. We spent the day envisioning how we might best leap into next year's programming! There was talk of our own "purpose driven life" at UUCO, and a walk down memory lane as we listed all the programs of the past year by which we've lived out that purpose. We dreamed together of things we'd like to experience and accomplish in the coming year or so, and we each made a personal commitment or two regarding future activities and programs. Please take a minute and read the "newsprint chronicle" of our day, which is still on the wall at the hall. Many thanks for everyone who attended, brought food, and contributed to the fellowship of the day!

>>>>> **COMMUNITY CORNER** <<<<<<

I thought the UU's would enjoy knowing that Bobby finally did it! Culminating a succession of first place finishes at Chattanooga, Franklin and Memphis Bobby ended the regular season with an impressive victory at the Men's State Gymnastics Championships at Memphis Tennessee. With a combined score of 46.95 Bobby was the all-around champion in a class of 27 gymnasts ages 12-18. (See Commercial Appeal, Sports, Sec. D-6, March 8, 2004) This was Bobby's first season in this age group and competitive level

Bobby won 3 gold medals in still rings, floor exercise and parallel bars and bronze medals in horizontal bar, pommel horse and vault. As a result of his top scores Bobby was selected for the third consecutive year to the boy's state team and will compete with gymnasts from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Mississippi and Tennessee at the Region VIII Men's Gymnastics Championships at Millsaps College, Jackson Mississippi April 1-4, 2004.

Margarette and Bobby would like to thank all the UU's especially Mary Beasley and Betty, the Mattern-Gelbard family, the Phillippi-Warren family and Eunice Benton for their never ending support, encouragement and fellowship. He could not have accomplished this without you, UU. We

are looking forward to some weekends in Oxford!

Warm regards,
Margarette

Folks may be interested to know that Sarah has been invited for membership to Phi Beta Kappa at Washington Univ. in St. Louis. She will be initiated on April 13.

Denise Marion

>>>>> **FINANCE (IMPORTANT)** <<<<<<

The following is presented for your information and contains excerpted data from the March 17th board meeting:

1. Out of 29 pledge packets, sent out, 18 have been turned in.
2. Both our operating expenses and the building renovation expenses depend upon a steady cash flow.
3. As of this time, we are \$3,000 short of the funds needed to complete our floor (laying and finishing).
4. Some members, who pledged in the past, are not up to date on their pledge payments.
5. By a previous decision of the steering committee (unanimously carried over when we changed back to a board of directors structure), we maintain a six month "Prudent Reserve." This means that our congregation is NOT broke but the reserve's intent is to keep us operating if we have no income, for some unforeseen reason. If we continue to spend, without increasing our cash inflow, we will begin using that "Prudent Reserve."

How can you help this situation?

1. If you have not returned your pledge form, please do so as soon as possible. This will help us to plan our activities and determine what our congregation can afford to accomplish.
2. If you have made a pledge, put the information into your monthly bill paying plan (that is what I do) and treat it like you would any other obligation.
3. If you are behind on your pledge payments, do the best you can to catch up while not creating a

hardship for yourself or your family.

4. If you find that your pledge was unrealistic or that your financial situation has changed, talk with a member of the financial committee or another board member so that we can adjust our income expectations. All information will be kept confidential!

The purpose of our pledge system is to enable us to approximate our annual income so that we can create a realistic and sound budget. Please help us to accomplish this goal. Steady cash flow is necessary, since our bills keep coming in all year long. Our congregation may take a hiatus during the summer months, but the creditors do not. **Help keep UUCO financially stable!**

Respectfully submitted by the finance committee.

>>>>> **RELIGIOUS INTEREST** <<<<<<

Just One Breath Meditation

(Every Tuesday Evening) Through Tuesday, May 4th, 2004 at 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Location: Paris-Yates Chapel Meditation Room (South)

For more information, please contact: Dr. Billy Barrios 915-3784

World Religions Series - Sponsored by: Office of International Programs

For more information, please contact: Office of International Programs 915-7404

Islam

Date: Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Time: 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Location: Paris-Yates Chapel The series on world religions focuses on major world religions outside of Judeo-Christian religions. Event will consist of lecture, demonstration or film, and discussion.

Hinduism

Date: Tuesday, March 30th, 2004

Time: 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Location: Paris-Yates Chapel The series on world religions focuses on major world religions outside of Judeo-Christian religions. Event will consist of lecture, demonstration or film, and discussion.

>>>>> **NAME THE NEWSLETTER** <<<<<<

To date, I've received 3 suggestions for names and I've thought of one. Next issue, I'll publish all the submissions and ask for feedback. Please send your suggestions to me at uuoxford@bellsouth.net or call me or hand me a piece of paper, when you see me. All submissions will be considered based on how well they convey the purpose of the newsletter and whether my cat purrs when she hears them (just joking).