

UUCOMMUNICATOR

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Oxford

April 2008

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-----HOW TO FIND US-----

1. Travel on College Hill Road towards Clear Creek.
2. At the intersection with Old Sardis Road, go past the stop sign and continue straight on CR 314 for 3.5 miles.
3. Turn right onto CR 198 (you should see a white sign saying "Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Oxford").
4. Go .2 miles. UU Hall, a light-colored building with a trailer next to it, is on your left immediately past CR 145.

TUPELO GROUP: The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Tupelo welcomes visitors. They meet the first, second, third and fourth Sundays of each month at 11 a.m. in Temple B'Nai Israel, 1301 Marshall Street. Website: www.UUTupelo.org.

-----SUNDAY SERVICES FOR APRIL-----

Our services start at 11:00 a.m. and childcare is provided.

April 6 – Shanna Flaschka will lead a "Church on Loan" service entitled "Making Meaning of a Random Universe." Anne Quinney will be our service leader.

April 13 – Back by request, a "This I Believe"

service, with Hans Sinha as our leader.

April 20 – Earth Day is April 22! The Green Sanctuary Committee will conduct the service and continues our focus on becoming a Green Sanctuary. This program will be focused in "what can we do as individuals" to live more in harmony with the natural worlds and will feature a panel of 3 members.

The Green Team" also ask that everyone complete the form "Green Sanctuary Survey and Audit form." If you were able to be at the last Green service, you got a copy. the form is also available on our web page <http://www.uuoxford.com/>, listed under UUCO Documents.

April 27 – Ken Sizemore, the "Old Folkie," will bring a special music service titled "Songs of Protest and Change: the 60's Revisited". The program will include songs addressing three important "causes" that occupied much of our concern and attention during the 60's, just as they do now: human rights, war (Vietnam in those days) and environmental concerns.

Ken Sizemore has been performing folk and early pop music all over the country for more than 40 years. As a folk singer and guitarist, Ken plays songs by such artists as Peter, Paul, and Mary, The Kingston Trio, Pete Seeger, Bob Dylan, Woody Guthrie, John Denver, Gordon Lightfoot, Tom Paxton, Simon and Garfunkel, Don McLean, and many others. He also plays pop music by artists like Jim Croce, James Taylor, Roberta Flack, and even Elvis Presley. And he also pays tribute to country greats by including songs by Johnny Cash, Kris Kristofferson, John Prine, and Roger Miller.

Based in Nashville for almost 30 years, Ken performed as a solo artist, as part of the folk duo

“Judith and Ken”, and with the folk trio “The Folk Revival.” He moved to Panama City in 1999, and has been performing all around the state of Florida since then. In addition to playing concerts, coffee houses, and listening rooms, Ken has developed a number of programs that he presents to church groups, civic organizations, and clubs. His programs each are developed around a topic or theme, and all feature lots of music as well as narration. He’s also the President of the UU Fellowship of Bay County, in Panama City, Florida.

Interested in programming? Our committee is always looking for new talents and energy! Please contact Sharon Walls at skwalls921@bellsouth.net regarding this opportunity to serve.

-----SUNDAY SCHOOL AT UUCO -----

Please mark your calendars for Sunday school in April! Scheduled meeting dates are April 13 and April 27.

-----MARK YOUR CALENDAR: APRIL 13 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING!-----

Save the date! And plan to attend!!

The annual UUCO Congregational Meeting will be Sunday, April 13 after service. At this important meeting we will affirm the Mission Statement of the Congregation, vote on the board for this next year and vote on the budget for 2008-2009.

We are a self governing, independent congregation that is part of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. It is important that all members be a part of this meeting!

Gail Stratton,
President for UUCO

--FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE--
Both giving and receiving are part of the cycle of life.

The Stewardship Team wants to extend a warm thank-you to all of UUCO for the participation in the 2008-2009 Pledge drive! The pledge drive is to provide funding for our fiscal year, which will run from July 1, 2008- June 30, 2009. The pledges allow the UUCO board to do the financial planning for this next year.

On Sunday, March 30, we held a Celebration Sunday to mark the end of the pledge drive and to celebrate the generosity of so many! We are very thankful for all of the ways that members and friends give to the congregation and particularly thankful for the generous pledges from so many!

At this point, we have 34 pledging units, and we have pledges for \$21,930. This is 88% of our goal of \$25,000. 16 units have increased their pledges from last year. And, it is never too late! If you have not yet gotten your pledge in to the congregation, please do so and know it will be greatly appreciated!!

The Stewardship Team: Paula Shanks, Gail Stratton, Shanna Flaschka, Sharon Walls, Linda Iorio, and Pat Miller

-----AMOS NETWORK AT WORK-----

Thanks to Sharon Walls, the UUCO representative for the Amos Network, for the following update:

At the last leadership team meeting on February 28th, we discussed the progress of our associated program, LOU Homes, and the removal of former University faculty houses to the new subdivision for renovation and dispersal to the community as affordable housing, as well as the Amos-run future homebuyers training program.

One requirement is that they must go through the homebuyer's training as one of the steps toward applying for an LOU Home. Please pass on this information to anyone in your church who is looking for affordable housing. Please direct them to <http://www.amosnetwork.org/homebuyers.htm> for a schedule of upcoming training sessions or to

<http://www.amosnetwork.org/registration.htm> for a registration form.

We also received updates on the present Action Teams, and while all are making progress on their projects, they could use additional help. If any of your church members would like to participate in working on a summer job program for youth, safe public spaces for children (playgrounds), or public transportation, please let your Amos Network contact person know, or write webmaster@amosnetwork.org to add them to the meeting reminder list for the group for which they are volunteering.

One last item that we discussed was becoming more organized in our dues collection. Until now, we have collected dues from member churches throughout the year (in other words, whenever), but are now asking that member churches pay dues before or by April 15th of each year, so that we will know what funds are going to be available for the next year's work.

If you would like to help Oxford and the Amos Network with an upcoming assessment they hope to conduct regarding health and human services for our area, tentatively scheduled for the evening of April 17, please contact Sharon Walls at skwalls921@bellsouth.net for further information.

If you can't help now but would like to be on an e-mail list to learn about future opportunities to work with Amos, please notify Luanne at uuoxford@uuoxford.com. or at 234-38333. She will forward e-mail addresses from UUCO to Amos.

-NEWS FROM THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT-
Are you ready? It's the **2008 ANNUAL ASSEMBLY -- May 2-4**, UU Fellowship of the Emerald Coast, Florida.

Sunshine! Beach! Fun! Fellowship! Friends! All of this and much more is happening at this year's **Mid-South Annual Assembly**.

Things begin Friday night with the **Service of the Lively Tradition** at 7:30 pm, preceded by the Lively Choir rehearsal at 5:30 and a light supper at 6:00 pm.

This year's theme – **“Living Unitarian Universalism,”** – will be explored throughout the weekend through inspiring stories about what it means to be a practicing Unitarian Universalist and workshops in breakout sessions on Saturday.

UUFEC is celebrating its 50th birthday and invites Mid-South folks to celebrate this milestone with them! Come be part of this historic anniversary!

Plan to stay overnight and attend *Coffeehouse LIVE!* at 7:30 pm. and the Sunday service the next morning at 10:00am. Slip away to the beach for some time to walk barefoot in the sand and to breathe in the fresh, salty air.

Registration will be available in early April at www.msduua.org. Contact MSD Trustee June Bryant for more info. (junebryant@cox.net)

Come be energized and inspired by stories about living our faith! Renew your commitment to the principles and practices of Unitarian Universalism! Learn about projects and practices to adapt for your congregation!

Be there on the Emerald Coast May 2 -4, 2008!

June Bryant -- TEACH Trustee, MSD Board

---ARE YOU A CHALICE LIGHTER?-----
Last month we ran a notice about the Chalice Lighter program and about an opportunity to help out another congregation whose dreams include a front entrance as beautiful as ours! Would you like to help? That makes you a Chalice Lighter in spirit! Read on to find out how to act:

The Chalice Lighter Call for the Georgia Mountains UU Church of Dahlonga, Georgia, is in the mail to Mid-South District Chalice Lighters!

Your Chalice Lighter contribution of \$10 (or more!) will be a gift to support the overall growth of Unitarian Universalism in Mid-South District and across the country as well as growth at the Georgia Mountains UU Church of Dahlonega.

If you are already a Chalice Lighter -- check your mail and send in your contribution! If you would like to join the Chalice Lighter program, you may send a contribution along with your name, congregation, and contact information to:

Chalice Lighter Program
Mid-South District Office
9 Meaders Lane
Oxford, MS 38655

Repairs and modifications to the Georgia Mountains UU building are essential to make their dreams come true. Targeted especially are renovations to the lower level to accommodate a larger religious education program and a new front entry with landscaping.

This Chalice Lighter grant will help the Georgia Mountains UU Church of Dahlonega reach its growth goals! Support the growth of Unitarian Universalism in Mid-South District! Contribute generously to the Chalice Lighter Program!

-----A CLOSING THOUGHT -----

“It appears to me, one gradually formulates one's religion, be it what it may. A person has no religion who has not slowly and painfully gathered one together, adding to it, shaping it; and one's religion is never complete and final, but must always be undergoing modification.”

~ D.H. Lawrence

-----NOTE FROM THE EDITOR-----

Please let Luanne know of corrections and additions. We also welcome any items that you might have for our next newsletter, due out at the end of April. In addition to sharing congregational news, we're happy to include announcements of events of interest to our congregation as well as news about you and your family. You can send submissions to uuoxford@uuoxford.com, putting “for the newsletter” in the subject line, or to Luanne at lbuchana@olemiss.edu. She'll also be glad to be called by you, at 234-3833. Special thanks to this month's contributors, Gail Stratton and Sharon Walls.