

>>> **FROM REVEREND JAMESTONE** <<<

Dear Friends,

Our Spring of consulting ministry together is at its midpoint, and rather than following the soothsayer's admonition to Caesar that we "Beware the Ides of March", I want to invite you to **CELEBRATE** the ides of March with me, at UU Hall. Here are the three things we'll be doing on March 13 and 14.

Saturday Seminar: Our Mission and Ministry in 2004-2005 9:30-4 pm UUHall

Who should attend M&M?

- reluctant volunteers, cautious new leaders, inspired lay ministers
- past, present, and **FUTURE** church officers or committee chairpersons
- **ANYBODY** interested in these five work areas for M&M:

Sunday service, RE, Community service, Member attraction and assimilation, long range visioning

The Little Red Hen says:

Who will volunteer to be arrangements coordinator? food, set up, making copies

Who will help guarantee involvement and attendance by coordinating personal calls to members and friends of UUCO?

Evensong: "The Messiah, The Buddha, The Christ : The Divine Made Manifest"

Saturday 5-6:45 pm

Your homework for March 13 is to answer these questions:

1. Who do you say Jesus is?
2. What is your understanding of the terms "the Christ, the Buddha, the Messiah"?
3. Share some of what you know about religious leadership.
4. When times are hard, what is saving or redeeming for you? What gets you through and keeps you going?
5. What's possible?

Your answer may take the form of word responses, images, stories, drawings.

Worship Service Sunday 11--12:15

Early in April, you'll experience a Passover Seder directed by Lisa Schafer. In preparation for a full enjoyment of that event, I'll be talking with you during the service on March 14 about the central themes of Passover.

The sermon is entitled, "Passover: Reflections for a Free Church" and is based on this quote by Desmond Tutu:

"Liberation is costly. Even after the Lord delivered the Israelites from Egypt, they had to travel through the desert, to bear the responsibilities and difficulties of freedom. There was starvation and thirst and they complained that their diet was monotonous. Many of them preferred the days of bondage and flesh pots of Egypt. Liberation is costly. It needs unity. We must hold hands and refuse to be divided. We must be ready. Some of us will not see the day of our liberation physically, but those people will have contributed to the struggle. Let us be united, let us be filled with hope, let us be those who respect one another."

It will be great to see you in March—once, or twice, or three times!

with love,

Barbara Jamestone

>>>>> **MARCH 13th SPECIAL** <<<<<<

Our Mission and Ministry in 2004-2005

Saturday March 13

9:30-4 pm UUHall

In 1998 some of us gathered at the Oxford Community Center for an all day event led by Barbara Jamestone. We envisioned a future, set our hearts and intentions on it, and today much of that vision is reality. We have the Hall, and we have inspired a 2nd UU congregation in North Mississippi. We have a functioning board and work area (committee) structure. We gather for community building and inspiration every Sunday.

It is imperative that we keep dreaming, that we come together to spark the flame of the future, that we articulate our vision for six years from 2004.

We are therefore asking Barbara to come and lead us in a repeat of that great event from 1998—a booster shot! We need YOU at this all day event at

UU Hall, because otherwise there will be a “you shaped hole” in the heart and vision of UUCO. We need your energy and your belief in this wonderful force of liberal religion in Oxford.

Please come. Yes, it’s a date very near Spring break...Please bend every effort to come to “M & M 2004”. You will be entertained, informed, and inspired.

Who should attend M&M 2004?

- Reluctant volunteers, cautious new leaders, inspired lay ministers
- Past, present, and FUTURE church officers, committee chairpersons, place holders
- ANYBODY interested in these five work areas for M&M:
- Sunday service, RE, Community service, Member attraction and assimilation, long range visioning

>>>>> **HEIFER PROJECT** <<<<<<<<<

Congratulations to our own Libby on her birthday. She, kindly, asked people to donate toward the Heifer Project instead of giving her gifts. At this time, we don’t know exactly what animals ended up being involved but there was rumor that a whole goat was part of it. We can all be so proud of our UU children!!!

>>>>> **MIDSOUTH DISTRICT** <<<<<<<<

2004 Mid-South District’s Annual Assembly on the Horizon
April 30 – May 2, 2004

Mark your calendars and make your plans!! Plan to join several hundred other MSD UUs in Roswell, Georgia for the 2004 MSD Annual Assembly!!

Our theme for this year is “Learning Is For Everyone – Experience LIFE.” And our keynote speaker is certainly well-qualified to speak on that topic. This year’s speaker is Dr. Rebecca Parker, President of the **Starr King** School for the Ministry, a Unitarian Universalist school for ministry, located in Berkeley, CA. Dr. Parker is an accomplished speaker, author, and musician. In 2001 she published "Proverbs of Ashes: Violence,

Redemptive Suffering, and the Search for What Saves Us," with co-author Rita Nakashima Brock, a feminist critique of the Christian doctrine of the atonement.

Dr. Parker is often a speaker at the UUA’s General Assembly, and we are sure that she will challenge and inspire us with her thoughts.

You’ll want to be at this Assembly for many reasons!

- There will be several worship services, time to reflect and rejoice with fellow UUS.
- You’ll have workshops galore to choose from on Saturday, all focusing on some aspect of the Assembly theme. Here are a few topics planned, just to whet your appetite:
 - Building Your UU Community Through Poetry
 - Faithful Democracy: UUs Congregations and the 2004 Elections
 - Transforming Congregational Gifts into Mission and Ministry
 - Social Justice as a Spiritual Practice
 - That All May Be Welcome
 - Guided Meditation -- Part 1 (Practice) and Part 2 (Theory)
 - And many more
- Youth will be invited to participate (via the YAC) as full participants in the programming.
- Singers can join in with the Assembly Choir which will, no doubt, delight all attendees as they do each year.
- Child care will be provided for the wee ones, and child programming will be available for the older children.

Session and registration details will be available on the MSD website at <http://www.uua.org/msd> during March and will be mailed to congregations during April. Mark your calendars now!!!!

For more information, contact Betsy Applegate or Alice Dilbeck at betsyandalice@betsyandalice.com.

RUSSIAN VISITORS NEED HOSPITALITY

Many of you may remember Marina Koval who lived in Oxford some years ago. She now works for the National Peace Foundation in Washington DC. The Peace Foundation is bringing 10 Russians to Oxford for 19 to 27 March. These are young (age 30-40) Russian leaders brought over as part of the US Open-Wall Program. There are seven men and three women.

They need homes to stay in for five nights over the 19th to 27th period (the 23rd and 24th they are in Jackson). They'll need feeding breakfast only, they'll be out from early morning till night each day.

Two are spoken for so far - so eight more hosts needed.

If you are interested, please contact Allanda Dorough at 234 5970, or give us a call at 234 7173 and we can pass information on.

Many thanks

Kevin Bales and Ginny Baumann

>>>>> NAME THIS NEWSLETTER <<<<<<

Our UUCO newsletter is nameless. This announces an unofficial contest to name the newsletter. No

prizes (unless some kind soul wishes to donate something) but the winner will be announced in the newsletter.

Special Note: At our congregational meeting, coming up soon, we will be asked to vote on approval of our interim by-laws. These were sent out with the December newsletter and are also posted on our web-site (under the newsletter sub-menu). Please take the time to look these over so that you will be able to make an informed vote.

Send any comments or suggestions to:
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with the subject: For Newsletter editor