

# UUCOMMUNICATOR

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Oxford  
November 2007

Visit us at: <http://www.uuoxford.com>  
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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 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.

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**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](http://www.UUTupelo.org).

## -----SUNDAY SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER---

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

November 4 – “Mindfulness and thankfulness: steps in a spiritual practice”  
Gail Stratton leads our service at UU Hall.  
“Closing circle: our 10<sup>th</sup> retreat” will be the theme of our brief service at Wall Doxey State Park.

November 11 – Membership Sunday

This will be our annual Membership Sunday, in which we celebrate our wonderful congregation members and welcome several new ones. Following the service will be a potluck meal at the home of Terry and Dinah Swan. Everyone is invited!

Directions to the Swans' house at 115 Lakeway Drive, Oxford (Lakeway Gardens subdivision):

From church, drive back on the highway toward Oxford. In about a mile look for a long white fence on the LEFT (condo villages are on right).

After the fence, take the second left turn (exclude driveways) on to Lakeway Drive and count houses on the left. The house is the 6<sup>th</sup> and made of gray brick. Park on either side of Lakeway Dr. and walk down the driveway. Front door is around to the right.

If you wish to drop off food before the UU service, do so. Someone will be home. Please come and share!

November 18 – “What are we doing right now?”  
Lisa Jennings, Church of the River, Memphis

Lisa Jennings is a leader of the first Unitarian church in Memphis, the Church of the River. She is a Professor in the Department of Surgery and Director of the Vascular Biology Center of Excellence at UT Health Science Center in Memphis.

November 25 – “Spirituality: who, how, and why”

The Reverend Doak Mansfield

Reverend Mansfield was ordained as a Unitarian Universalist minister in 1976. He served as minister of Heritage Unitarian Universalist Church in Cincinnati from 1975 through 1985, while also serving as part time Staff Chaplain in Bethesda Hospitals and as a U.S. Army Reserve Chaplain. He then served 15 years as minister at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Huntsville, where he was also chaplain for Hospice of Huntsville and an advisor to Compassionate Friends of Huntsville. Reverend Mansfield has been active throughout his ministry as a pastoral counselor in local congregations, community, hospice, hospitals, and the military. Currently he preaches, consults, and counsels in regional congregations.

In 2001, he retired from full time ministry and began another career as a writer. He has published two novels, *The Mockingbird's Ballad*, a historical novel, and *Jones of Old Lincoln*, a biographical novel based on the life of one of his ancestors and featuring many historical characters. A sixth-generation Tennessean, Rev. Mansfield is a native of Fayetteville. *The Mockingbird's Ballad* is his first novel. Since "retiring" from the ministry, Reverend Mansfield served as Consulting Minister with Mississippi UU congregations, and now serves with Our Home Universalist Unitarian Church in Ellisville. During the Our Home centennial celebration in September 2006, he took part in reenacting a historic debate between a Baptist minister and Rev. A.G. Strain, the Universalist minister at Our Home at the time. He took the Baptist side. "I write almost daily and am intentional about finding my voice and sharing honest history (the informing aspects of life) and refreshing notions about the human condition whether for sermons, articles, poems or fiction. I preach two to three Sundays a month offering up my reckonings on the perennial mysteries and the 'so what?' for our lives," says Reverend Mansfield. "Using creative non-traditional songs and music in my messages, I seek to engage the emotive element as well as the rational. My writing and drawing serves to balance my creative life. Be it writing, preaching, or counseling I'm about authenticity in our

engagements with the mystical, ethical, and the reasonable."

As always, the Sunday Services Programming Committee would like to invite anyone who feels moved to act as service leader for even one Sunday morning service to contact Sharon Walls, Programming Trustee, via e-mail at [skwalls921@bellsouth.net](mailto:skwalls921@bellsouth.net).

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

Sunday school provides opportunities for our children to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and their world. Here are the dates for Sunday programs in November and December:

November 18 (November 4 is retreat)  
December 2, 16

#### -----10<sup>TH</sup> RETREAT, NOVEMBER 3-4-----

More than 30 members and friends of the congregation have signed up to participate in the 10<sup>th</sup> UUCO retreat at Wall Doxey State Park. Although reservations are set for food and lodging, please feel free to pack your own picnic and come during the day. Saturday's activities begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. and will continue through the campfire after dinner. Sunday morning activities include a brief service.

If you are able to join us, please be ready to "work" (which will feel like play!) at 9:00 a.m., and bring a water bottle and comfortable shoes so that you can enjoy the outdoors in our free time.

We look forward to reporting back to the entire congregation about our work on the UUCO mission statement and other issues of importance to our community.

**-----UUCO FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF FISCAL YEAR-----**

In the able hands of David Smith, UUCO finances continued to be steady as we proceeded through the first quarter of this new fiscal year. A PDF statement of income and expenses will be available shortly for interested members to see. The UUCO Board of Trustees regrettably accepted David's resignation in October and are very grateful for his fine service as our financial leader.

**-----AMOS NETWORK NEWS-----**

The Amos Network has planned a Delegates' Assembly 5:45 p.m. Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, at T.O.M.B. Assembly Hall, which is on Hwy 334 north of the Hwy 6 overpass, down from Chandler Motors. We will learn of some planned community actions from the Public Transportation Action Group and the Youth Action Group.

Thanks again to Sharon Walls for leading a Sunday program at UUCO, which allowed us to express our hopes for AMOS, and for sharing our information with the Network.

**-----MID-SOUTH DISTRICT NEWS-----**

Here's an update from Eunice Benton:

Mid-South District is our "neighborhood" of congregations – 33 congregations in Alabama, Mississippi, most of Georgia, and parts of Florida and Tennessee. We want to be good neighbors for each other. We also want to keep growing Unitarian Universalism, and we are gently accomplishing that in MSD.

New things happen all the time that are part of our growing story. For example, this fall the website for Mid-South District — [www.msduua.org](http://www.msduua.org) – was re-done! Pay a visit and you'll find, under the "Congregations" tab, a map that locates our congregations and links to their websites. "Resources" provides exactly that. The "Home

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A big piece of news this year is the "arrival" of a new congregation – the UU Congregation of Tupelo, Mississippi! Their congregation has been growing folks and developing programs for several years, and this year they have formally affiliated. We congratulate them and welcome them to Mid-South and the UUA!

Always a big success for Mid-South is our Chalice Lighter Program, a real neighbor-to-neighbor support program to help individual congregations start new programs and grow to new places. Ask about this in your congregation! And read about it under "Resources" at the Mid-South website.

It's great to be a neighbor in the community of congregations that is Mid-South District -- and great to stay in touch!

**-----WARM FAMILY FUND-----**

Please join UUs in helping to keep a family warm this winter!! A family in town needs help to fill their propane tank this fall for the winter. UUCO board has approved some funds for this but we need to raise \$200 more. Please join us in this effort. Donations can be to UUCO with a

notation that it should go to "Keeping friends warm!" If 8 people donate \$25, we will be able to fill their tank. Questions to Gail Stratton (281-0868) or Ann Phillippi (236-1456). Thank you!

**-----NEW ZEN MEDITATION GROUP FORMS IN OXFORD-----**

A Soto Zen meditation group (the school of Zen discussed by Tony Bland last year at a UU service) has recently begun gathering on Sunday mornings for meditation. The meetings are at the Center for Healing & Wellness, 401 E. Jackson (between Oxford Bicycle Co. and the walking bridge). The schedule is as follows:

7:15 - newcomer orientation

7:30 – zazen (sitting meditation)

8:10 – kinhin (walking meditation)

8:20 - zazen

8:50 - cleanup & prep break

9:00 - tea

Everyone is welcome to attend any/all portions of the schedule.

After the second zazen, we chant the Prajna Paramita (Heart Sutra). We are chanting in English but will soon begin alternating with the Japanese version.

For more information, please contact Jimmyle Listenbee by e-mail ([jlistenb@earthlink.net](mailto:jlistenb@earthlink.net)), or if you don't do e-mail, you can call Susie Adams (234-3064).

**-----OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS-----**

A notice from the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee about a worthwhile fundraiser:

You can share special holiday greetings with your loved ones, while helping to make a difference in our world, by purchasing UUSC holiday cards. Visit <http://www.uusc.org/holidaycards> today.

Three beautiful new UUSC holiday cards are now available, including an original design by Holiday Card Contest winner Megan Miley of Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Goleta, California. Cards can be ordered on consignment or purchased directly.

Proceeds from the sale of holiday cards help UUSC advance justice and work for basic human rights in the name of UU principles. Order your holiday cards today!

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

Please let Luanne know of corrections, additions, and any news that you might have for our next newsletter, due out at the end of November. We especially welcome news about awesome activities with our young members and interesting things that all of us have done. Our deadline for submissions is November 24. Luanne can be reached at [lbuchana@olemiss.edu](mailto:lbuchana@olemiss.edu), or at 234-3833. Have a great November!