UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF OXFORD NEWSLETTER
September, 2003
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>>>>>>>>>>>> CALENDAR <<<<<<<<<<<<<<<

Directions to UU Hall from Jackson Avenue:.

1. Travel on College Hill Road towards Clear Creek.
2. At the intersection with Old Sardis Rd.(stop sign) continue straight onto CR 314 for 3.5 miles.
3. Turn right onto CR 198 (should be white sign saying Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Oxford, but sometimes it blows down).
4. Go .2 miles. UU Hall is on left immediately past CR 145. A yellowish-tan building with trailer next to it.

October 5, 2003
Rev. Doak Mansfield is guest Minister. A native Southerner and career Unitarian Universalist minister, Doak is now retired and lives in southern Mississippi.

October 12, 2003
“Blessing Our Animal Friends," led by Laura Antonow.

October 19, 2003
Discussion. From the book, Making Peace, (contact David or Lisa for copies) we will discuss chapter 2, Keeping the Peace, and chapter 3, Parenting Partnerships.

October 26, 2003
Community. Pot luck and work day. Last chance to prepare for building dedication next month.

Special thoughts would be appreciated to go toward Mary Smith. She is unable to walk due to a back injury, which may result in an operation.

>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>> RE <<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<

FALL 2003 UU SUNDAY SCHOOL
Sunday School will meet on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month at 9:45 (but see exceptions below). The curriculum is loosely geared to 1st through 4th graders, however children of all ages are welcome! We will focus this fall on earth/life creation stories and theories, including scientific theories and creation stories from the bible and from other cultures. As we listen to stories, we will make our own Creations, inspired by what we hear. We will use clay for many of the crafts and plan to end the semester by making and breaking a pinata (the creation/destruction cycle!).

Each session will begin with the lighting of the chalice, then we'll do the lesson that will include involving the kids in discussion, reading a creation story, and having some more discussion or action revolving around the story. We'll do the craft during or after the lesson. We'll then have our closing, followed by a snack.

Questions? Call Susie Adams (234-3064), Vicki Reithel (236-6293), or Ken Sleeper (513-6219).

Fall 2003 schedule (changes from normal date/time are bold):
9/7 - Susie A. - Kids ingathering and scientific creation theories.
9/21 - Ken - Creation story from another culture.
10/5 - Vicki - Biblical creation stories.
10/12 at 11:00 (Intergenerational Service) - Blessing of the Animals.
11/2 - Susie A. - Creation story from another culture.
11/16 - Vicki - topic TBA
12/7** - Ken - topic TBA (or Elaine may lead a Hannukah celebration, perhaps with the Middle Schoolers). Last meeting for fall.
**Date is tentative.

>>>>>>>>>>> YOUTH GROUP(S) <<<<<<<<<<

Schedule for the UU Middle-school Youth Group -- UMYG -- for fall 2003

All meetings are set for 6:00-8:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted. A meal will be provided by the parent in charge. Most meetings will include religious

education based on UU-approved materials about character building.

September 3
Jillian's house, 309 Philip Road
Getting started on what we stand for
Elaine in charge

September 17
Lamar Park
Bikes
Please note that this meeting is for 6:00-7:30 p.m., since the sun is setting earlier now.
In case of rain we will meet FOR THE FULL TIME at Jean's, 309 Garner Street, for dinner, movie and/or discussion
Luanne in Charge

October 1
UU Hall
Making plans for a St. Francis Day service for the congregation
Laura in charge

October 12
UU Hall
This will be held during the regular service time, beginning at 11:00 a.m.
UMYG holds the St. Francis service for the congregation

October 15
UU Hall
Planting and maintaining our garden
Vicki in charge

November 5
UU Hall
Card-making
Elaine in charge

November 19
Turner Center
No food at the Turner Center, so eat before you come
Meet at the entrance at 6:00
Luanne in charge

December 3
Riki and Kara's house, 3342 Whippoorwill
Summary of themes from our discussions about character, gift gathering for adoptive family, party for MSUU and family members
Laura in charge

The High School Youth Group is off to a good start. MANY THANKS to Gail Stratton for anchoring the advising, and also to new advisor Jennifer Mizenko.
Meeting time for now:
Weds 7:30-9:00 at UU Hall.

Sat. Sept. 20. As many UUYouth are in the HS play, we hope to be able to go see the performance.

Weds Sept. 24. Movie night. May meet at someone's house.

THANK YOU MARTY VINOGRAD!!!!
The middle school youth group parked 20 cars in Marty's driveway before the September 13 football game--and that's a lot of money raised for our youth activities. Thank you also to Jean, Jillian, Dan, and Elaine, who hawked for 3 hours. Other middle school and senior high youth have already volunteered to work future games--what a great opportunity.

>>>>>>>> MID-SOUTH DISTRICT <<<<<<<<<
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
Mid-South District's
Healthy Congregations Conference
October 25, 2003
UU Fellowship of Montgomery, AL
EXPERIENCE L.I.F.E. !!!

>>>>>>>>BUILDING RENOVATION <<<<<<<<
Here are some excerpts from the renovation committee meeting:

Flooring in the building. The committee agreed that:
1. Square vinyl flooring (good or commercial grade) was most appropriate for the back of the building (hallway, both RE rooms, and kitchen), but that installation could wait until the front of building had sub-flooring installed or even beyond. The square vinyl is hardy and allows utmost flexibility in color, design, maintenance, and repair.

2. Sub-flooring in the front of the building was top priority, and it would be desirable to have that installed for the November Open House service. The Schaffer's informed us via telephone that the "Memphis dance floor" is on indefinite hold because of leasing decisions by the buyers/sellers. The committee decided to make

September 28 the deadline for action on the sub-flooring. If the dance floor materializes, we install that sub-floor, if not we install the "blackboard/plywood" sub-floor outlined by Billy Stevens in the meeting room. In either case, the entrance hall and two side rooms will have the glued, 2x4, moisture barrier, and plywood sub-flooring. All this is contingent on costs of materials and labor to install, but the committee felt it urgent to move as funds permit.

Exterior
Windows/screening (screens are in process of being made at least for the meeting room).
Attic insulation

Landscaping.
Pat Miller is interested in helping with planning and design (with Eunice). The committee felt the front door and adjacent area might be a priority for our November Open House and spreading of the remainder of the wood chips in the front lawn area.

Signs:
We are pursuing the making and/or purchasing of signs, both for the building itself and to help people find us.

>>>>>>>>>>> TUPELO GROUP <<<<<<<<<<<
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Tupelo meets every 1st and 3rd Sunday at 11a.m. at Temple B'Nai Israel 1301 Marshall St. Tupelo. We would love to have you come over. Check out our website www.msuua.org

>>>>>>>>>>> COMMUNICATIONS <<<<<<<<<<<
Our website, www.uuoxford.com, is forming up nicely. It, now, contains:

1. A map and directions to UU Hall
2. Newsletters (all 2003, with older to be added as time permits) - the September Newsletter will be posted the same day I send it via e-mail.
3. A schedule of our Sunday events.
4. Comprehensive calendars for September and October.
5. Many other features, both current and to be added. Please visit.

>>>>>>> COMMUNITY CORNER <<<<<<<<
Season tickets are available for the Oxford High Theatre Season (four shows ranging from comedy to horror to musicals). The opening show this week ("The Women," September 18, 20, 21) features 4 of our youth group members: Sierra, Missy, Gabby, and Hannah. Call Elaine for details: 236-2545

>>>>>>>> FROM MARY BEASLEY <<<<<<<<
Our dear friend, and founding mother, Mary Beasley, has asked me to put the following in this issue:

Friends,
I am living three miles from shopping and am active in the Gulfport UU Congregation (mostly doing phone work, rather than physical stuff) and am having a good time.
We meet year round and have a pot luck the 2nd Sunday of each month.

My address is:
14269 Mosswood Dr.
Gulfport, MS 39503
Phone: 228-831-4481

I would love to hear from you and plan to attend the building dedication on Nov 8th.

John Schuster
umjohn@bigfoot.com
662-915-5072 (workdays only)