

>>>>>>> **UU YOUTH** <<<<<<<<<<

The UU Middle School group will announce its first planning meeting shortly. Based on past successes, this year we hope to continue with supper discussions, trips to the Turner Center, outdoor activities such as rock climbing and cycling, planning a service for the congregation, and working on a talent show and a community project. If you have ideas or want to participate, please contact Luanne at lbuchana@olemiss.edu or 234-3833. We'll be organizing soon!

>**YOUTH PLANNING SESSION & PICNIC** <
August 27, UU Hall, 5:30

All UU children (members and also non-members who are interested in participating) and their parents are invited to a pot-luck picnic at UU Hall on Friday, August 27.

We will eat from 5:30-6:15, then discuss and schedule fall semester activities from 6:15-7:30.

Older children who do not wish to join the meeting can look after the younger children.

What to bring:

1. Food
2. Your children's scheduled activities that we will have to work around
3. Your ideas regarding content, frequency, and meeting days for your child's age group
4. An open mind. Nothing has to be done the way it was done, or the way that first comes to mind for you. We will have to compromise to accommodate as many as possible

Hope to see everyone there! Looking forward to a fun year together.

>>>>>>> **BILLY AND TONI** <<<<<<<<<

Billy and I are coming for a visit to Oxford in September. We will be in Oxford from September 8-13 and be at the September 12 service. Also, I am offering a couple of meditation workshops at UU Hall. I have spoken to Elaine about this and have her go ahead. So please put the following announcements in the news letter. Thanks, Toni

Our telephone number while we are in Oxford is 662/234-6616. Love to all, Toni & Billy .

Meditation Classes offered at UU Hall:

Affirmation, Visualization, and Spirit

A powerful class using a combination of affirmations to help lift us in our daily life with a transformative visualization around loving and blessing ourselves and our families, (both living and in spirit), plus time to be in silent communion with our higher selves and Spirit. This visualization around family was taught to me in California at the Expanding Light Retreat Center and I found it truly a gift. Wear loose comfortable clothing. Please do not wear perfume or after shave to class as some folks are chemically sensitive.

When: September 8, Wednesday 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Where: UU Hall - (Unitarian Universalist Congregation)

Fee: \$20 per person

Meditation: the Heart is Open, the Mind is Alert & Still, the Body is Comfortable and Energized

We review and practice the basics of energization, yoga, chanting and the Hong Sau technique of meditation. Hong Sau means □I am SpiritE. No experience required. All ages and physical abilities are welcome. Wear loose comfortable clothing. Please do not wear perfume or after shave to class as some folks are chemically sensitive.

When: September 11, Saturday 9:30 am - 11:30 am

Where: UU Hall - (Unitarian Universalist Congregation)

Fee: Donations gratefully accepted for the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Oxford

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

Mid-South's 2004 Healthy Congregation Conference, named WAY TO GROW for its emphasis on growing congregations, will happen on SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2004, in COLUMBUS, GA, and feature UUA Director of District Services Harlan Limpert. Harlan will speak in the Ingathering Worship and participate in

the Leadership and Growth Tracks for the one-day event, which will begin at 9am and finish before 5pm.

This annual conference is designed to provide inspiring, affordable, how-to information for congregations about the various areas of church life:

- Leadership
- Membership and Communications
- Finance and Stewardship
- Worship and Ministry
- Lifespan Religious Education
- Youth Programs
- and feature track: Growing Your Congregation

Although the tracks at the conference are consistent annually, the materials and presenters for each track differ each year. Each congregation is encouraged to send a team of leaders so that the congregation can benefit from attendees at a number of the tracks/workshops.

Details about the various presenters and the specific focus points of this year's workshops will be on the Mid-South website (www.uua.org/msd).

Registration can be done via the website, with all registration fees payable at the door on the conference day.

For more information, contact June Bryant, Coordinator for the Healthy Congregation Conference, at junebryant@cox.net or call 478-784-7604.

MIDSOUTH DISTRICT CHOOSES THEME

Mid-South Theme is “**Deeper and Wider – Way to Grow**”

Each year Mid-South District chooses a theme for the year ahead, a theme that will be highlighted when we come together at the Healthy Congregations Conference on October 9th and at our Annual Assembly April 23rd – a theme that, we hope, might inspire conversation and reflection in our home congregations. This year our theme is: ***Deeper and Wider – Way to Grow.***

As a member of Mid-South District’s Growth Team, and a self-proclaimed Unitarian Universalist

evangelist, I believe one of our primary purposes is to proclaim the good news we have as often and as widely as possible! Yes, I believe in growth – spiritual, emotional, institutional – with all my heart. I believe in it not so that we can have bigger budgets or more members (although those are good too), but because people in our world are spiritually hungry and religiously homeless. This reality invites us all to go deeper and wider -- and this is how, I believe, we will grow.

Our invitation this year is to go deeper and wider as congregations and as individuals. My sense is that we yearn to go deeper in our souls, in our faith, and in our relationships with others. My sense is that we yearn to go wider in our quest for truth and love, in our connections with people in our denomination and in our communities.

My hope is that we can deepen our spiritual growth this year – that we can deepen our understanding and practice of Unitarian Universalism, and that we can deepen our sense of intimacy and caring with each other and with the hurting world around us.

My prayer is that we spread our faith and its healing message wider this year – that we widen the circle of kinship we have with other Unitarian Universalists and other faith traditions, that we widen our social justice work so that we share our faith, our love, our dreams – ourselves – with more people.

This is what ***Deeper and Wider – Way To Grow*** challenges me to do. What will it challenge you and your congregation to do?

The Mid-South Growth Team and our district leaders and I, look forward to exploring how we can do this together, and we look forward to sharing our successes and struggles along the way.

Blessings,
Rev. Don Southworth, Minister, Northwest Unitarian Universalist Congregation (Atlanta)
For the Mid-South District Growth Team