



November 19

December 3

December 17

Teens will meet at other times during the week but are welcomed to attend RE on Sunday as well. For more info on Teen meetings please contact Beth Boerger or Elaine Gelbard at 232-8980 or 236-2545.

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

>>> **From UUCO President, Gail Stratton** <<<

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Oxford will be celebrating its 10th Anniversary this year, and we have lots to look forward to! We anticipate a year with interesting and inspirational Sunday services and excellent Religious Education opportunities for our young people. And, next March we hope to celebrate an anniversary and a homecoming, inviting people who have been part of this congregation but have moved elsewhere.

A lot has happened around UUCO since last May!

The UUCO board has now met twice and is getting a handle on the challenges we face. Board meetings will be on the third Wednesday of each month, starting at 6:30. Board meetings are open, but please let us know ahead of time if there is something you would like to see on the agenda.

The Sunday Services Committee has been meeting through the summer to line up speakers and ministers and to prepare for Sunday services. As a lay-led congregation, we continue to develop the skills to have meaningful services. Plans for the fall include training for program leaders and more opportunities for live music at our Sunday services. You'll see the Sunday line-up in this newsletter.

The Religious Education (RE) group met several times over the summer and has been busily planning for 3 different aged groups!! The involvement of our youth is so important! See other parts of this newsletter for details about RE.

We are a resource-rich denomination, and there is a

full slate of programming available through the Mid-South District. I hope many people will avail themselves to this programming this year. In May, Adrian Aumen, our vice president, attended the Mid-South District President's Convocation as our representative. She came back with lots of good ideas about fundraising and community building.

Connections to other UU congregations in Mississippi are growing as well. There is a Mississippi Planning Group in place that has been meeting since last year with the goal of better connecting our congregations and finding ways where we can help each other. The MS Planning Group has met three times so far and will meet again in September. Luanne Buchanan and Gail Stratton are the reps from UUCO to this group and Sharon Martinez joins us as the Administrator for Mid-South District.

Some more good news is that a UU Community Minister has been hired for the Gulf Coast. As a community minister and volunteer coordinator, Jinnie Trabulsi will coordinate UUs and other volunteers, be an advocate for UU values and support for Unitarian Universalism in Mississippi, especially for the Gulf Coast UU Fellowship in Gulfport. The Mississippi Planning Group supported the establishment of Jinnie's position, which was funded by the UUA Gulf Coast Relief Fund. Jinnie will also be a visiting minister for each of the Mississippi congregations at least once this year, and Oxford will get to meet her in February. A recent online UU World edition has an article about Jinnie, which you can find at [www.uuworld.org](http://www.uuworld.org). We welcome Jinnie Trabulsi to Mississippi in this position.

It is one year since Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast. Members of our congregation have been to the coast to aid in rebuilding, a process that is going to be a long and difficult, and I very much hope that we can organize some more groups to help on the coast.

UUCO is all of us. I urge everyone to be as involved as they want to be. We are going to have a good year!

>>> **BOARD MEETING SUMMARY** <<<

Your 2006-2007 UUCO board held its first meeting on July 19, 2006. Members are president Gail Stratton, vice-president Adrian Aumen, secretary Luanne Buchanan, membership trustee Pat Miller, programming trustee Sharon Martinez,

communications trustee John Schuster, financial trustee David Smith, and religious education trustees Ken Sleeper and Elaine Gelbard (ably represented on July 19 by Susie Adams).

We reviewed our governance structure and began a review of our by-laws, which you can read in your 2006-2007 church directory, to be available shortly. Keeping in mind its mandate to attend to the practical, business end so that the congregation can focus on the life of the spirit, we talked about activating our leadership development committee soon so that they can advise us about how to grow leaders for the congregation all year long. We also looked at the details of last year's budget and did our first review of a proposed budget for next year. The budget has some significant innovations from previous ones: we would like to dedicate more funds to Sunday services (honoraria to speakers, live music, appointment of weekly service "managers" who will help things flow smoothly, two child-care providers rather than one, among other suggestions); we want to support three Sunday school groups in order to appeal to the varying needs of our children; and we would like to make more regular financial contributions to support the less fortunate in our community. The budget is still open for input from the board and congregation, with final approval to be conferred in August. Other works in progress with your board: we are finalizing a building usage policy drafted for us by Elaine Gelbard, and we are working on making our congregation a safe congregation for our children in observance of UU guidelines.

A final note, one of appreciation, about the congregation's latest computer: this was donated for our use by Dr. Linda Chitwood of the University of Mississippi and refurbished by John Schuster.

The Board for UUCO welcomes your feedback and ideas!! Board meetings will be on the third Wednesday of each month, at 6:30 at UU Hall. Board meetings are open to voting members, youth members, friends and interested parties. If a member of UUCO would like an item to be included on the addenda or if that person would like to speak to the board, that person should notify the president at least a week before the meeting. Minutes of meetings are available from the secretary, Luanne Buchanan. A summary of each meeting will be printed with the newsletter each month.

## >>>> ANNOUNCEMENTS <<<<<

### **Our Home Unitarian Universalist Church is celebrating 100 years.**

Our Home's Centennial Celebration began February 2006, with the grand finale planned for the weekend of September 22-24, 2006.

Founded in 1906 by Mr. & Mrs. O. S Herrington, Our Home has stood for a free liberal religion in Mississippi for a century. For more information, please see their Web site at <http://www.ourhomeuu.org/>

### **2006 MID-SOUTH HEALTHY CONGREGATION CONFERENCE**

"Gratitude and Generosity", Mid-South's theme for the year, will inspire the 2006 Mid-South Healthy Congregation Conference, Saturday, October 14, 2006, in Macon, Georgia.

This is THE place for training and networking for a congregation's current and emerging leaders! A team of half a dozen folks from each congregation should plan to attend this annual Mid-South event! The conference is designed to be an accessible one-day event, beginning at 9am and finishing by 4pm (Eastern Time).

More details and registration information will very soon be up on the Mid-South website.

### **Amos Network set General Assembly for September 12**

The Amos Network will deliver a formal report on the public schools audit to school officials at a General Assembly September 12 at 6:30 p.m. at Oxford Middle School. The proposed constitution will be presented for ratification. The Amos Network meets at Burns United Methodist Church on August 24th at 12 noon to continue planning for the general assembly by reviewing the data from the school audits and discussing the constitution.

**A warm and hearty congratulations to our membership trustee, Pat Miller!!** Pat recently was awarded the Sandy Grisham Excellence in Teaching Award from Northwest Mississippi Community College. One award is given each year to honor and recognize teaching excellence. NWCC has three campuses and over 350 faculty members. Congratulations to Pat for this very high honor!

**Please Help by Donating \*Sellable\* Items to UUCO Garage Sale, Sep. 8-9**

All your functional, valuable & sellable items are needed for UUCO's almost-annual Garage Sale, happening Saturday, Sep. 9 (rain: Sep. 16). Donations of new & barely used items are encouraged & appreciated to help support our various programs & facilities. The fundraiser is in conjunction with Adrian Aumen's Moving Sale at 706 Happy Lane in College Hill Heights. Please donate only those items you believe are most likely to sell (e.g. electronics that work; clean, modern-styled clothes), & no books, please (unfortunately, they just don't sell well).

All items should be individually priced & marked with the donor's initials in advance. Goods can be dropped off at Adrian's house anytime after noon on Friday, Sep. 8 (rain: Sep. 15). ALL unsold items should be picked up on Sunday after UU services. Anyone donating several items is asked to please bring an appropriate-sized table, rack or shelf.

If you have any questions, feel free to call Adrian at 281-8601 or 801-3163. Your support of UUCO is always deeply appreciated!

**Luanne Buchanan and Mike, Joseph and Jean Hoffheimer** would like to thank the UUCO for the beautiful flowers that were present at their mother/grandmother's memorial service in Virginia in July. Sarah Buchanan was a tolerant, loving and inquiring person who would have felt quite at home with UUCO. It was a comfort to her family to look at the flowers and feel accompanied by Oxford friends.

**UUCO women's group forming for adult women.** The idea for this originated with the "Souper supper" that was started by Lisa Schaffer. Thanks to Lisa for such a good start! We will be meeting for food and fellowship and simple potluck suppers on the following dates (always from 5:30-7:00) at UU Hall.

Friday Sept. 8

Tuesday Sept. 26

Friday Oct 13

Tuesday Oct. 24

Friday Nov. 10

**MALONE COMING OF AGE**

Saturday, October 7 Tom Blue Wolf will perform Rachel Malone's Coming of Age Ceremony. The Ceremony will be held at UUCO Hall at 6:00 p.m. All members and friends are welcome to attend.