

# UUCOMMUNICATOR

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Oxford  
September 2007

Visit us at: <http://www.uuoxford.com>  
e-mail: [uuoxford@uuoxford.com](mailto:uuoxford@uuoxford.com)

## -----CONTENTS-----

DIRECTIONS FOR HOW TO FIND US  
SUNDAY SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER  
FROM OUR UUCO PRESIDENT  
UUCO BOARD NEWS  
FROM THE MEMBERSHIP TRUSTEE  
A FALL RETREAT FOR UUCO!  
NEWS FROM THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT  
SUSAN PEDIGO AND LIBBY SLEEPER  
REPORT FROM ABROAD  
OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

## -----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.

-----  
**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 SEPTEMBER---

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

September 2: Eating Ethically: What Does This Mean for Us?

President Gail Stratton will lead.

September 9: This I Believe

Another service in our popular regular series exploring the faith journeys and beliefs of the members and friends of our congregation. Shanna Flaschka, Membership Trustee, will lead.

September 16: Animal Blessing

The Animal Blessing service is a special intergenerational event acknowledging and honoring our animal friends.

September 23: Autumn Equinox

Mary Queyja will lead a service inspired by the hospice care in Oxford.

September 30: Spiritual Being and Human Experience

Our service leader will be the Reverend Fred Hammond, UU Church of Jackson. He poses these questions for us: Do spirituality and humanity have any relationship with each other? Can Unitarian Universalists be spiritual if we have a humanist / atheist perspective? This sermon explores one person's reflection on an age-old question. Rev. Hammond became a Unitarian Universalist in 1997 and left Danbury, Connecticut to pursue the Unitarian Universalist ministry at Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago. He completed his internship at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego and a student ministry at Community Unitarian Universalists of Brighton, Michigan. He received his Master of Divinity in June 2007 and was ordained in May of 2007 at his home congregation in Danbury. He currently is serving as consultant minister at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Jackson and at Our Home Universalist Unitarian Church in Ellisville.

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). We are reaching out to involve more people in our worship service and we know you will not regret giving this service to the congregation.

-----**REFLECTIONS FROM OUR UUCO PRESIDENT, GAIL STRATTON**-----

We are an intergenerational community. That is the first part of our mission statement, and I have been thinking about that recently and all that it means. That statement is a very deep and rich part of who we are as the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Oxford. It was brought home to me today as I had a discussion with Larry Shaffer about a plaque for the new door to honor John F. Ludeman. In the same hour, I got to hear from Luanne Buchanan about her son Joseph starting college and also to talk with Ann Phillippi about child care workers for the Sunday morning service. One thing it means is that we get to rub elbows and get to know people who are in a very different time of their lives than we are in. We get to see and revisit the challenges of being young. We get to see the challenges of getting older. We get to see youth get married or head off to college. We get to see young people go through the stunning magic of growth and maturation. We get to share the pain of having loved ones in the hospital or experiencing pain. In short, we have the opportunity to get outside of ourselves and outside of the challenges of people who are exactly like us. It is an opportunity to grow in compassion. We are in this together. Being intergenerational gives us hope and depth and perspective. It is who we are.

-----**UUCO BOARD NEWS**-----

The next meeting of the UUCO board will be on Tuesday Sept. 11, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. Board meetings are open but if you have an item for the board to consider, please get it to Gail Stratton by September 4 for it to be put on the agenda.

The board has met twice over the summer, on July 11 and on Aug. 8. At the July meeting we discussed and approved hosting a YAC weekend Jan 11-13. In addition, we agreed that our next quarterly Community Contribution should go to the Food Pantry, and following the meeting \$300 was given from UUCO. In addition to discussing a proposal from Ann Phillippi concerning playground equipment, we reviewed the approved budget. A hearty thank-you was extended to Larry Shaffer who, with help from Gary Gaston, has completed the installation of our new door! A building is like a house in that it is never without its needs, and we also discussed the need for programmable thermostats and new, energy-efficient windows.

In August we began the meeting in an already comfortable room, as Larry had gotten the programmable thermostats installed. Thank you, Larry! Gail presented the financial report prepared by David Smith. We continued the discussion of playground equipment, including the possibility of a play set from a family that was moving. As it has been many years since we have had a congregational retreat, we discussed the possibility of a weekend retreat sometime in the fall. We agreed to pursue a retreat if a suitable weekend at Wall Doxey could be found and if there was interest in organizing it.

Once approved, full minutes are available from Susie Adams, Board Secretary.

Your UUCO Board welcomes your questions, comments and suggestions! Board members for 2007-2008 are:

- Gail Stratton, President
- Larry Shaffer, Vice President
- Susie Adams, Secretary
- David Smith, Financial Officer
- Sharon Walls, Sunday Programming Trustee
- Hans Sinha, Religious Education and Youth Trustee
- Luanne Buchanan, Communications Trustee
- Shanna Flaschka, Membership Trustee

**---FROM THE MEMBERSHIP TRUSTEE---**

Dear UUCO friends,

I currently run two committees that need members. First is the membership committee. Do you have ideas about bringing in new members, or would you like to find ways to serve the congregation members and visitors? If so, please email me at [sflaschka@bellsouth.net](mailto:sflaschka@bellsouth.net) or call me at 513-0021.

I also chair the new community service committee. If you would like to help with our community contributions, including deciding which organizations we should help, please contact me.

Finally, I'd like to ensure our records are totally up-to-date. Please let me know if any of your information in our congregational directory has changed or is incorrect.

Thanks so much to all of you for helping to make my transition to this position run smoothly!

Shanna Flaschka

**-----UUCO PLANS FALL RETREAT!-----**

SAVE THE DATE!!! Congregational retreat and lots of fun!

Mark your calenders for the weekend of Nov. 2-4, for a congregational retreat at Wall Doxey State Park!! The retreat will be an evening and a day with the opportunity (for those who want it) to stay at the Park. The agenda includes lots of fun and a great campfire. If you would like to be part of the planning group, please contact Gail Stratton at [byges@olemiss.edu](mailto:byges@olemiss.edu). More details will be in the October newsletter.

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

Mid-South District is delighted to announce a new website!

Pay a visit to <http://www.msduua.org/> and tour around! More content is being added daily. Check out the map and congregation web sites under CONGREGATIONS! Find the MSD Calendar easily through several links! Find answers to "Frequently Asked Questions" and links to other popular information in the quick-links box on the right of the front page. Find contact information for district staff and leaders easily. The Mid-South District Staff and Board hope you find the new site enormously useful!

**2007 MID-SOUTH DISTRICT HEALTHY CONGREGATION CONFERENCE**

UUA Vice-President Kay Montgomery will deliver a homily on the topic of "Living Unitarian Universalism," Mid-South's theme for the year, as the keynote speaker for the 2007 Mid-South District's Healthy Congregation Conference. The Healthy Congregations Conference is set for October 6. The conference will be hosted by the UU Congregation of Gwinnett at Canon United Methodist Church, 2424 Webb Gin House Road, Snellville, Georgia, just outside Atlanta.

Some of the sessions planned:

Connie Goodbread, the Mid-South District's Lifespan Program Consultant, will offer the Leadership Track presenting her work on "The Smart Church."

Rev. Arlen Goff of High Street UU Church, Macon, Georgia, will offer a session based on the survey on the Seven Principles prepared by the Commission on Appraisal. Lyn Connelly, the MSD Trustee to the UUA Board, has agreed to introduce this session and the purpose of the Commission on Appraisal.

Bob Day, MSD Compensation Consultant, will prepare the Financial Track, offering a session on Fair Compensation and one we call the "nuts and bolts" of congregational finances.

There will something good in each of these tracks: stewardship, leadership, membership and communications, religious education, social justice, worship and ministry, and youth.

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 will very soon be up on the Mid-South website at [www.msduua.org](http://www.msduua.org). Registration opens September 1.

-----**REPORT FROM ABROAD!**-----

Susie Pedigo and intrepid traveling daughter Libby Sleeper are on an adventure as Susie spends her sabbatical in England and in Europe. Here are some highlights they've sent us:

We first lived in the top floor of an apartment in Kensington. It was a great location that I came to appreciate more the longer we were there. The stairs were steep and there were 80 of them. After getting the bags up, it was OK. Good exercise, Elaine! The Tube line ran directly behind our apartment and was amazingly loud. It was great-the whole city experience. There was a bump in the tracks and the trains sang little repetitive tunes to us as they rolled past. Different days, different messages.

There is a lot to do in London and we just barely scratched the surface. We saw three plays in the West End- Libby and I loved the musical theater there. And, we went to "Othello" in the New

Globe. (When the tickets say "standing," they mean it. I loved it, Libby didn't.) We went to the Tower of London, Natural History Museum, Imperial War Museum, Buckingham Palace (too much), and several street markets (really fun, but so crowded). Libby went up in the Eye and bungie-jumped with my cousin Scott, who visited from his home in Zurich. But I think the best part of London was just sitting in Leicester Square and watching all of the people in that fabulous place. We also took a boat ride to Greenwich. We spent an afternoon in Oxford. We both loved it and spent the time brainstorming on how we might set up an extended stay there.

Now we are living in a small community on the outskirts of Manchester. We share a basement apartment with a married couple. They work full time and are gone all day, so we hear them leave in the morning and then see them for dinner at night. We have been hanging around the apartment in the morning and then going out on little excursions in the afternoons. We bought a bus pass and have been learning our way around downtown Manchester. Manchester is a revitalized city that had its heyday as the heart of the industrial revolution in England. It turns out that the cotton from the American South was a major contributor to the success of the textile industry in this area. There is a canal system through the city that is entertaining, and architecture from the Victorian period. Today we plan to go to the cathedral. It is significantly older (14th century) than the rest of the city.

We walk to the grocery and to the bakery every day for supplies and a reward, respectively. The bread here is great. And, how is it that I haven't heard of CLOTTED CREAM before? We haven't gone to High Tea, but we plan to do that here at half the price of London.

-----**OTHER EVENTS AT UU HALL  
THIS MONTH**-----

UU Hall is the scene of diverse activities this month:

Tai chi classes are taught weekly by Chris Aloia, Classes meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. The cost is \$6.00 per class and everyone is welcome. Additional information from Chris can be found by contacting him at <9pearls@watervalley.net>. See also his blogs at [http:// taichiamerica.blogspot.com](http://taichiamerica.blogspot.com).

UUCO member Elaine Gelbard teaches dance classes. Please contact her at [egelbard@bellsouth.net](mailto:egelbard@bellsouth.net) or 236-2545 for further information.

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

John Schuster's newsletter shoes are impossible to fill— and I have volunteered to prove it!

Please let me know of corrections, additions, and any news that you might have for our next newsletter, due out at the end of September. Our deadline for submissions is September 22.

Thanks for your patience!

Luanne Buchanan  
[lbuchana@olemiss.edu](mailto:lbuchana@olemiss.edu)