



The Beacon MONTHLY

*Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Montgomery
2810 Atlanta Highway, Montgomery AL 36109-3402*

Rev. Lynn Hopkins, Minister

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2015

Minister and Staff

Minister: Rev. Lynn Hopkins
RE Director: Courtney McKenny
Music Director: Melissa Galanopoulos

Board of Trustees

President: Christine Freeman
Vice President: Maureene Bass
Past President: Elizabeth Campbell
Secretary: Charles Suhor
Treasurer: Gale Wasserman
Members-at-Large: Georgia Banks-Martin
Jeanne Gregorowicz
Nordis Smith

Committee Chairs

Religious Education: Mandy Goheen
Membership: Ron Belcher
Finance: Felicia Wilburn
FUUN Team: Cyndi Brown
Building & Grounds: Jim Stephens
Public Relations: Andrew Goheen
Social Action: Adam Wasserman
FUUnd Raising: Sandy Loveday

Sunday Services for March 2015

March 1	On Income Inequality	Adam Wasserman
March 8	Someday is Now	Maureene Bass
March 15	Re-membling Considering the spiritual significance of rituals of cultural memory. Thinking of Bloody Sunday, Passover, Holy Communion and more -- ritual commemoration touches something in us.	Rev. Lynn
March 22	White Privilege	Andre Goheen
March 29	Shared Ministry It is sometimes an ideal, occasionally a practice, often little more than buzzword. What does it mean? Why does it matter?	Rev. Lynn

UUFM Building to be Re-Keyed in Mid-March

The front and rear doors will be re-keyed and the alarm code changed during the week of March 15th. Persons needing a key should see Ron Belcher or Jim Stephens.

Hard deadline for material for April issue: Friday, March 27. Submissions to: rhodes.peele@att.net.
UUFM PHONE: 334-279-9517; E-MAIL: info@uumontgomery.org; WEB: www.uumontgomery.org

Letter from Lynn

Last month was filled with surprises. We began with the historic opening of marriage to all consenting adult couples, coming much sooner than most of us dreamed. It brought widespread attention to Alabama, and gave our congregation an opportunity to stand out publicly on the side of justice. You have good reason to be proud of who you are and what you have done as a part of Montgomery's religious landscape.

Then, *you* surprised me. I was caught completely off guard when Christine Freeman called me into the fellowship hall and announced the celebration of my birthday and my six-month milestone of ministry here. She, Gale Wasserman and others pulled off a stealth campaign of gift collection that is nothing short of amazing. I know some people wanted to know the total, which was unknown at the time because there were still bills getting stuffed into the envelope up to the last minute. You, the members and friends of UUFM, presented me with a total of \$453! As I start vacation, my first agenda item is to buy that longed-for bicycle.

February did not stop there. We have enthusiastic participation in the "A Hidden Wholeness" series, and I am delighted that we are touching a spiritual hunger that exists here. Mandy Goheen traveled to Portland and came home a full-fledged Candidate. Joan Boltz has spent nearly every day cleaning and organizing in preparation for upcoming events. Barbara Witt, Jim Stephens and a remarkable team of aesthetics and building & grounds volunteers have worked tirelessly and made extraordinary accomplishments for the facility. Our choir's participation in interfaith events has made new connections and represented us well.

March promises to be a month full of activity. The commemoration events are now listed on a page of our website (see Social Action); these are subject to change as we learn of other things happening around us, so keep checking. March brings both the start of Trust Circle practice (out of our A Hidden Wholeness study) and Moral Monday Alabama actions as the legislative session begins. We will also gear up for our canvas, as we enter a season of renewing and celebrating membership in this vibrant body.

I look forward to starting this month, energized by what has gone before, enticed by what lies ahead, renewed by a week of vacation and grateful for all those who make that possible.

As we bid farewell to February, we remember these men, martyrs of the struggle for racial equality who lost their lives in Februaries past.

February 8, 1968 · Orangeburg, South Carolina



Samuel Ephesians Hammond Jr., Delano Herman Middleton and Henry Ezekial Smith were shot and killed by police who fired on student demonstrators at the South Carolina State College campus.

February 26, 1965 · Marion, Alabama



Jimmie Lee Jackson was beaten and shot by state troopers as he tried to protect his grandfather and mother from a trooper attack on civil rights marchers. His death led to the Selma-Montgomery march and the eventual passage of the Voting Rights Act.

February 27, 1967 · Natchez, Mississippi



Wharlest Jackson, the treasurer of his local NAACP chapter, was one of many blacks who received threatening Klan notices at his job. After Jackson was promoted to a position previously reserved for whites, a bomb was planted in his car. It exploded minutes after he left work one day, killing him instantly.

Reflections on RE

It may be a little UU geeky but I have a favorite principle. Don't get me wrong; I think all seven of our principles are pretty awesome. We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Really great stuff! But it is the first one I find myself using everyday, frequently saying it to myself under my breath.

When I'm driving and someone cuts me off in traffic? I affirm and promote their inherent worth and dignity. When someone buys the last of my very favorite bagel at Panera right in front of me in line? I affirm and promote their inherent worth and dignity. When someone is spewing hate speech so vile that it makes my stomach turn? It is difficult, but I affirm and promote their inherent worth and

dignity too. I spend a lot of time respecting other peoples worth and dignity. But do you know whom I often forget? Myself! I don't always respect my own worth or my own inherent dignity. The other day I was I came across an image while searching online for a new screensaver. It simply said "Remember your own inherent worth and dignity." That short phrase was powerful.

Some days I forget that our Unitarian Universalist principles I strive to live my life by should not only be how I treat the world around me but also how I treat myself. I might be the only person who struggles with this, but I can't imagine I am the only person who put the needs of others before his or her own. I need to remember that I am just as worthy of that respect, compassion and acceptance as my fellow human beings. I, too, am on a path seeking truth and meaning. It is difficult to remember to be kind to ourselves in our every day struggles and gentle to ourselves when we stumble along the way. We don't always forgive ourselves, which is often harder than forgiving others.

For me, I started by putting this phrase on the wallpaper of my phone. I wrote it on my mirror too. Every morning I see that message and I smile. I know that I am doing good in our world just a little at a time. And I remember to love myself and even my flaws, knowing that I am inherently worthy.

- Courtney McKenny, DRE -

Dishwashers & Coffee Servers

Date	Dishwasher	Coffee Servers
3/1	Teri Sweeney	Uschi Kling Joan Boltz
3/8	Karen Ross	Karen Ross Katherine McKenny
3/15	Roger Burdette	Mac Hollinger AVAILABLE
3/22	AVAILABLE	Deborah Little AVAILABLE
3/29	Marion Parker	Nordis Smith Don Parker

Lunch Bunch

3/1	Fried Tomato Buffet	6050 Atlanta Hwy.
3/8	Panera Bread	2998 Carter Hill Rd.
3/15	Hibachi Sushi Buffet	181 Eastern Blvd.
3/22	Maki Fresh	2938 Carter Hill Rd.
3/29	San Marcos	61 N. Burbank Drive

Please join the "Lunch Bunch" after 2nd hour on Sunday, usually around 12:30! The group wants to grow larger!

UUFM Communications Media

Multiple avenues of communication with UUFM are available! Among these are:

Beacon Weekly Announcements --- An email sent once a week, usually no more than a couple of screens long. This is information about the service and events coming up this week. It is a good way to keep abreast of the goings on at the Fellowship. To subscribe send an email to info@uumontgomery.org with your name and email address. Your email address will be added to the distribution list.

Beacon Monthly Newsletter --- An email sent once a month and containing internet links to the UUFM monthly newsletter and the UUFM calendar. Both versions of the Beacon list Fellowship officers, committee chairpersons, and such.

UUMontgomery website --- Our website is usually pretty current for the month. uumontgomery.org has information on Sunday services and topics, upcoming events, and other tabs with a variety of information about the Fellowship.

UU World magazine --- A monthly print publication of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations, commonly known as UUA. Subscription is done periodically by the Fellowship office.

UU World Newsletter --- UU World also distributes a weekly email newsletter that includes both articles and links to stories published in external sources (mostly UU ministers' blogs, sometimes news media).
<http://www.uuworld.org/subscriptions/emailnewsletter.shtml>

Facebook --- Yes, we have a Facebook account. If you don't already have one, you will first need to create one at facebook.com. Then, in the "Search Facebook" box on the upper left corner, type "Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Montgomery" and click on the search button. On the page that comes up, click on the green "+ Join Group" button.

email, of course --- The UUFM office email address is INFO@UUMONTGOMERY.ORG. It is used for office business. The church office is not attended at all times. The Minister, the Religious Director and the Treasurer will often be there.

UU Montgomery Yahoo! group --- This is a Yahoo! discussion group. It is a forum for communication concerning UUFM business or events. Posts come to your email. To subscribe, go to the group on Yahoo!, click Join and complete the information requested.
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/uumontgomery>

UU Montgomery Coffee Hour Yahoo! group --- The specific purpose of this group is to provide an informal forum for discussion on a variety of topics for UUFM Members and Friends. While nothing is off topic, we respectfully request that participants adhere to the principles of our faith in this forum. To subscribe, go to the group on Yahoo! and complete the information requested.
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/uumontgomery_coffeehour/join

In addition, there are multiple forums for smaller groups within the Fellowship. For example there is the [UUFM Philosophy group forum](https://groups.google.com/forum/forum/montgomeryphilosophyforum):
<https://groups.google.com/forum/forum/montgomeryphilosophyforum>
You can learn about more of these as you become more involved with activities and groups within the Fellowship. You will generally find different sub-communities on each of these media.

Bulletin board(s) --- One or more are located in the Fellowship Hall. You can find the names and pictures of current officers and committee chairpersons there. There are also minutes from the most recent Board meeting and other Fellowship business posted there.

There is another bulletin board just outside the main office. This one displays programs and events that may be of interest, usually offered by another organization and sometimes held elsewhere.

-Ron Belcher-

Updates from Share-the-Plate Organizations

EAT South Sprouts Program Receives Tree Donations

Our three Sprouts Head Start schools are gaining beautiful and useful additions to their gardens, thanks to a generous donation of twelve dogwood trees by *Carter's Horticulture Group*, of Opelika, AL. Our preschool students are currently learning about trees in their daily classroom lessons, so this opportunity to bring the learning outside will be beneficial. We are looking forward to helping our students, teachers, and parents plant these dogwood trees on Valentine's Day at T.S. Morris Elementary, E.D. Nixon Elementary, and Cleveland Avenue YMCA.

Additionally, each of our Sprouts school gardens will be home to trees bearing apples, pears, and figs. We are receiving a lovely donation of fruit trees from *Valley Creek Farm, Inc.* to our Sprouts K-5 and Head Start programs, and we couldn't be more excited! "Our students will be able to experience the whole process of trees producing fruit," explains Sara Teel, Sprouts Head Start Vista. This addition will benefit our three Head Start locations, along with K-5 students at Wares Ferry Elementary and Peter Crump Elementary. Students will be able to learn about the growth of trees, how they affect our school garden, and why they are important to the environment. We appreciate generous donors like *Carter's Horticulture Group* and *Valley Creek Farm, Inc.* and their passion for helping EAT South's Sprouts students learn through garden education.



Project Hope to Abolish the Death Penalty

*Weekly Report from the Board Meeting
at Holman Prison, 2.18.2015.*

We have been on a roller coaster with Tommy Arthur's proposed execution slated for tomorrow. Never before had we sent out an execution alert while the individual had a stay, but we had no choice. Now we are very glad to report that there is a stay from the Federal Court. Thank you to all who have written to the Governor, both here and in Canada, France, Switzerland, Germany and Great Britain. We appreciate all of you! Last week the Alabama Supreme Court issued a stay for Billy Kuenzel and as the State had already stated that it would not appeal, this is very good news. Congratulations to all!

We are pleased to welcome two new members to our sub-board. They are Marcus Williams and Jeffrey Lee. They were chosen for their long-term participation in our Small Groups on the respective tiers, their leadership qualities and writing skills. Welcome on board! We would like to commend Jeffrey for his initiative in getting the word out to all at Holman to submit articles for our newsletter.

It is always good when new active supporters join us and so on Monday our executive director met with one of these. She has already made a difference and we are very grateful for everything she has done and will do.

The executive director did an interview with NPR about the possible upcoming execution and the death penalty in Alabama. We appreciated the opportunity to be the other voice.

This space is dedicated to providing information and news from some of the organizations that we have supported through the Share the Plate program, to remind us how our contributions impact the community around us. If you have an update you would like to see published here, forward to info@uumontgomery.org. Also, let us know if you know of a local organization in keeping with our principles that you would like to consider for Share the Plate.