

The Beacon MONTHLY



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Montgomery Newsletter

2810 Atlanta Highway, Montgomery AL 36109-3402

Rev. Lynn Hopkins, Minister

August 2015

Sunday Service

August 9: Challenge of Covenant
Covenant is at the root of our faith. Covenant with whom, for what? What does that mean, anyway? Hint: It's not a list of rules.

August 16 - Keeping Sabbath
Intergenerational service, considering what *Sabbath* means and why it matters now more than ever.

August 23 - TBA (presented by Cheryl Moyer Peele)

August 30 - The Way Things Are
An adventure into Tao Te Ching, the way that cannot be known. Auction sermon courtesy of John Lamb.

Wednesday Service

12 August: Community Worship & Supper

19 August: Community Worship & Supper

26 August: Community Worship & Supper

Church Events

9 August: 9AM Quaker Meeting

11 August: 6:45PM Choir

12 August: 1PM Social Action committee

12 August: 7:15PM Meditation/Discussion group

13 August: 6PM Sisterlight

16 August: 9AM Quaker Meeting

18 August 6:45PM Choir

19 August: 7:15PM Meditation/Discussion group

20 August: 6PM Board of Trustees

23 August: 9AM Quaker Meeting

25 August: 6:45PM Choir

26 August: 7:15PM Meditation/Discussion group

27 August: 6PM Public Relations Committee

27 August: 7PM Book Group

30 August: 9AM Quaker Meeting

30 August: 11:20AM Fifth Sunday Pot Luck

Ministerial Musings

By Lynn Hopkins

It has been a good year, and everyone has good reason for pride in all that has been accomplished.

I can hardly believe that I began as your minister just a year months ago. You made me feel so completely at home, it seems like I have known you for many years.

First, I must extend thanks to the tireless and dedicated search committee that made this possible. I hope that you all feel, as I do, that your trust in them was well placed. Many of the members of that committee went on to serve through the year as the Committee on Ministry. Together, we explored and reflected on the multiple ministries of the congregation. Some have even volunteered to continue in that service. The new Committee, elected by the new board at their first meeting, begins its work this month.

We did some new things in worship this year. While keeping the Sunday morning format largely unchanged, we hosted several groundbreaking services in evening hours. These include Montgomery's first Transgender Day of Remembrance, vigil in recognition of the violence in Ferguson, and vigils of memory for the Selma martyrs. I am grateful for Mandy Goheen's assistance in developing and enacting all of these vigils. Mandy also created our first Earth Day evening service. Most recently, we have held weekly vespers on Wednesday night, followed by rich fellowship over shared supper. As attendance has fluctuated, we have held to the same format through the summer. The planning team will meet in the next month to consider whether to continue these services, and what modifications might be constructive, in the new year.

Our engagement in social action has been dynamic and meaningful. I was truly awed by the work that went into making our Selma to Montgomery March commemoration an inspiring and uplifting time not only for our congregation, but for many others from around the country. This was the most visible, but by no means the only significant accomplishment. Our engagement with Moral Monday Alabama and its member organizations has raised awareness of who we are and what we stand for as Unitarian Universalists. Our stand on marriage equality put us on the evening news and on the front page more than once.

We have great leadership in place, with some committee chairs returning and many coming in new. In order to realize our vision of what we could be, the coming year will require much of us. It will require more money than we have ever raised, more risk taking than we have ever dared, more cooperation and collaboration than we have ever achieved. At times, we may disappoint ourselves and one another. At times, we will succeed beyond our wildest imagination. Together, we build a foundation on which later generations can stand, and a community toward which others will look in amazement. You have good reason to be proud, but you have not yet known the half of it.

There is so much more I want to say, but I am determined to keep it short. You accomplished a record-breaking pledge level in the membership drive, and hold great aspirations for what we will do together in the coming year. Thank you for inviting me to be a part of it all.

July 11, 1964 · Colbert, Georgia

Lt. Col. Lemuel Penn, a Washington, D.C., educator, was driving home from U.S. Army Reserves training when he was shot and killed by Klansmen in a passing car.

July 18, 1965 · Anniston, Alabama

Willie Brewster was on his way home from work when he was shot and killed by white men. The men belonged to the National States Rights Party, a violent neo-Nazi group whose members had been involved in church bombings and murders of blacks.

July 30, 1966 · Bogalusa, Louisiana

Clarence Triggs was a bricklayer who had attended civil rights meetings sponsored by the Congress of Racial Equality. He was found dead on a roadside, shot through the head.
(*photograph unavailable*)

August 13, 1955 · Brookhaven, Mississippi

Lamar Smith was shot dead on the courthouse lawn by a white man in broad daylight while dozens of people watched. The killer was never indicted because no one would admit they saw a white man shoot a black man. Smith had organized blacks to vote in a recent election.

August 20, 1965 · Hayneville, Alabama

Jonathan Myrick Daniels, an Episcopal Seminary student in Boston, had come to Alabama to help with black voter registration in Lowndes County. He was arrested at a demonstration, jailed in Hayneville and then suddenly released. Moments after his release, he was shot to death by a deputy sheriff.

August 28, 1955 · Money, Mississippi

Emmett Louis Till, a 14-year-old boy on vacation from Chicago, reportedly flirted with a white woman in a store. Three nights later, two men took Till from his bed, beat him, shot him and dumped his body in the Tallahatchie River. An all-white jury found the men innocent of murder.

(Information from SPLC; thanks to Diana White for compiling this list.)

Committee Updates

Your Publicity Committee

By Andre Goheen

I would like to start by thanking Rhodes for all his hard work on the newsletter over the last several years. His hard work has kept you informed through the years and I only hope I can maintain the high quality to which you have become accustomed.

I see the publicity committee as the frontlines for getting new members for our congregation. We have done a few things over the years to get our name out there. Our Minister is doing her part by speaking to the press, giving interviews, etc. The publicity committee has sponsored a segment on the Alabama Public Radio. We need to more and we need your help to do it.

It has been a little slow getting rolling but I am finally ready to start putting some of my vision into place. A few things that are on the publicity committee's plate include the an update to the website, more picture taking or an avenue for congregants to submit pictures for the website, building a mobile app for the congregation, recording and posting sermons, a looping radio broadcast with information about the fellowship and upcoming events, broadcasting the service, and standing up a website for The Wedding Place.

As you can see there we have a lot of work ahead. The committee will be having a recurring meeting the 4th Thursday of every month. The next one will be 27 August at 6pm in the Fellowship hall. Please come out and join us.

Minister and Staff

Minister: Rev. Lynn Hopkins
RE Director: Courtney McKenny
Music Director: Melissa Galanopoulos
Office Assistant: Steve Pearson

Board of Trustees

President: Diana White
Vice President: Mandy Goheen
Past President: Christine Freeman
Secretary: Ron Belcher
Treasurer: Felicia Wilburn
Members-at-Large: Georgia Banks-Martin
Jimmie Ilachild
Susan Enzweiler

Dishwashers & Coffee Servers

| Date | Dishwasher | Coffee Server |
|------|----------------------|---|
| 8/9 | Paul Hayes | Lisa Murphey |
| 8/16 | Roger Burdette | Cheryl Peele Rhodes Peele Janice Wood |
| 8/23 | Brian McKenny | Liz Campbell |
| 8/30 | Fifth Sunday Potluck | |
| | Teri Sweeney | Uschi Kling |
| | Jimmie Ilachild | Ruth DeRamus Marian Parker |

Committee Chairs

Religious Education: Christine Freeman
Michelle Alger
Membership: Cyndi Brown
Finance: Lynn Shaw
Joan Boltz
FUUN Team: Terry Woosley
Building & Grounds: Jim Stephens
Public Relations: Andre Goheen
Social Action: Beverly Shaffer
Bonnie Lynn Mitchell-Green
Development: Don Parker

Greeters

| Date | Greeters |
|------|------------------------------|
| 8/9 | Nordis Smith Ruth DeRamus |
| 8/16 | Uschi Kling Nordis Smith |
| 8/23 | Nordis Smith Ruth DeRamus |
| 8/30 | Nordis Smith |