

# The Beacon MONTHLY



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Montgomery Newsletter

2810 Atlanta Highway, Montgomery AL 36109-3402

Rev. Lynn Hopkins, Minister

September 2015

## Sunday Service

September 6: From a single stream.  
Ingathering and water communion

September 13: Growing up and growing down  
Thoughts about the burdens and opportunities  
inherent in congregational growth.

September 20: Hope  
On the UN International Day of Peace,  
reflections on the real possibility of human  
evolution and global community

September 27: TBA with Maureene Bass

## Wednesday Service

This is a brief vesper's service consisting of  
quiet reflection, prayer and meditation  
starting at 6p.m. Afterward, we join for an  
informal supper. All are welcome.

## Church Events

Every Monday:

7PM Course in Miracles

Every Tuesday:

6:45PM Choir

Every Wednesday:

9AM CFQ Class

6:00PM Vespers

6:30PM Community Supper

7:15PM Meditation/Discussion group

Every Thursday:

5:30PM Taoist Tai Chi

10 Sept: 1PM Social Action committee

10 Sept: 6PM Sisterlight

12 Sept: 2PM Rev Lynn Hopkins Installation  
service

13 Sept: 4PM RE Teacher training

14 Sept 6:30PM COCO Meeting

15 Sept: 6PM Finance Committee

17 Sept: 6PM Board of Trustees

19 Sept: 9AM Yard Sale

24 Sept: 6PM Publicity Committee

# Ministerial Musings

By Lynn Hopkins

It is a time of newness and beginnings, the start of another church year. I hope you are excited for the possibilities as I am. We begin with our water communion service on the first Sunday. That week concludes with an installation service on Saturday, September 12 at 2:00pm.

The installation is an event that occurs rarely in the life of a congregation. Those who have been members here for decades may have attended a few, but most of you will not have seen one before. It is as near as we come to 'high church' -- a procession of ministers in robes, elegant language, pledges of lasting integrity and fidelity. In short, it is the ceremony of marriage between minister and congregation. This is the moment when we officially and publicly commemorate the congregation's decision last summer in which you called me to serve.

Why are we doing this *now*? It is customary to hold an installation service four to six months after a new minister has arrived. There are many reasons for that, but primarily it is because a new minister (who is responsible for planning the event) has much more important things that require attention and focus, and because it tends to be a much more meaningful and engaging event if you know the person you are installing. Of course, sometimes the congregation or the minister discovers that the match was not a good and healthy fit after all; the brief delay also gives a sort of 'probationary period' during which the tie can be broken without so much fanfare.

Last year, four to six months from my arrival, we were gearing up for and then marching in Selma. I realized almost as soon as I got here that winter-spring 2015 was not going to be a feasible time to plan and carry out an installation. I said we would wait until summer or fall. Then, I forgot all about it. I have felt so at home and engaged in the life of UUFM that I forgot I was new! During the time of Board transition, outgoing president Christine Freeman brought it back to my attention. She persuaded me that we needed to mark this moment in the life and history of the congregation (even if it is a little bit past due).

I feel so enthusiastically welcomed, encouraged and supported. Still, the way that both congregation and new minister jump right into working together at an immediately frenzied pace does not provide for that moment of celebration. Just as a long-established couple may choose to have a wedding, with all of the festivity and activity that entails, so we will hold this ceremony next week to honor and celebrate something that is much more than any of us or all of us -- a covenant of ministry together.

Once that is behind us, more newness is on the horizon. Through the summer, we held a brief service followed by a shared meal every Wednesday night. Now, as the church year begins anew, we are expanding and diversifying that program in hope of better serving a wider community of religious seekers starting in October. It will continue to be on Wednesday night at 6:00pm, but each Wednesday of the month will be different. On the first Wednesday, we will have the First Wednesday Talk. It will resemble the UUFM programs of early days, featuring an informational lecture by an expert in a

particular academic field. There may be spiritual relevance, but this is more intellectual than spiritual in nature. Second Wednesday will be a vespers service, a time of quiet and contemplation and ritual like the services we held through the summer. For the third Wednesday, Diana White and Jimmie Ilachild will facilitate a worship sharing service in Quaker style. Fourth Wednesday features Maureen Bass sharing metaphysical teachings, exploring religious ideas shared by many in the congregation but rarely discussed on Sunday morning. Fifth Wednesdays, when they occur, will vary. The first one falls in the week between Christmas and New Year, and will open a space for community fellowship especially for those who struggle with the prominence of Christmas in our culture.

As always, I hope that you will share your thoughts and feelings about UUFM programs with me freely. The new Committee on (Shared) Ministry has begun its work, meeting monthly to assess and encourage the vitality and effectiveness of all areas of ministry. Its members will welcome your input as well. They are, in alphabetical order: Charlie Suhor, Liz Campbell, Marian Parker, Pat Thomason and Sharon Sexton.

## **Notable Announcements**

### **Reverend Lynn Hopkins Installation Service**

Saturday September 12 at 2 p.m. is Rev. Lynn Hopkins' installation. Installation is recognition that our minister is settled in our congregation; it highlights and affirms the bond between the minister and the fellowship. Attending the installation is our way of showing, as members and friends of UUFM, how pleased we are that Rev. Lynn is here, and that we support her on this very important day. Please RSVP to Rev. Lynn so that we have a head count for the reception.

### **Yahoo Groups**

Communication Avenues in the congregation have become too dispersed. To this end the board has made the decision to close down the Yahoo Groups. Membership of the groups is actually a small subset of our congregation membership and much of the purpose of those groups has been supplanted by Facebook and the website. The date selected for taking the groups down is 30 September. If you have questions or concerns you may bring them to Andre Goheen or Diana White

## Column from Courtney

Director of Lifespan Religious Education Courtney McKenny

The kids are heading back to school. The summer is winding down, though the heat seems to be sticking around for a while. Families are settling back into their non-summer grooves. I think it is safe to say we are all looking forward to slightly cooler weather!

Just as things start to get back in order around my house, things get very exciting at UUFM! After our Ingathering service on September 6<sup>th</sup>, our new RE year begins. The children and youth have had a fun summer getting to know each other and their families by sharing our stories with each other in Evensong but I am looking forward to getting back in our classrooms with our friends! We will be using three fantastic curriculums this year.

Our Pre-K to 2<sup>nd</sup> graders will be using the Tapestry of Faith curriculum, *World of Wonder*. This program delves deep into our Unitarian Universalist seventh Principle. It instills respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part, and appreciation of its beauty, excitement, and mystery. It is founded on the premise that direct experience in nature is essential to children's physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual development. Time spent experiencing nature during these years can set a pattern for the rest of children's lives, bringing lasting openness to the wonder nature can spark.

The Elementary class (grades 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup>) will be jumping into social action via the world of Harry Potter. *Harry and UU* is based on the *Harry Potter* series of books written by J.K. Rowling, books that immerse children in the idea that one can work to make the world better. The curriculum includes many fun wizarding activities, but the main purpose of the curriculum is social action. The class forms a chapter of Dumbledore's Army and fights against seven Horcruxes during the year. The Horcruxes are real world social action projects.

Our Youth (grades 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>) will be doing a little time traveling themselves, stepping into the curriculum, *The Fifth Dimension*. The television series, *The Twilight Zone*, tackled a diversity of social issues and political statements not seen in shows of its time. Its creator, Rod Sterling (himself a Unitarian), believed that controversial messages and dialogues were needed to get a point across, and purposely created a science fiction show to get such messages past corporate censors. The result was five seasons of timeless episodes that resonate as strongly today as they did in the late fifties and early sixties. *The Fifth Dimension* uses episodes of *The Twilight Zone* as the basis for in-depth discussions of a wide variety of topics.

And that is just the fun and excitement happening with the children and youth! We have lots of amazing opportunities coming up in Adult RE this year as well. Do you have something you would like to share with our community? Would you be interested in facilitating an existing adult curriculum as a 2<sup>nd</sup> hour option? Do you know someone who would be great at facilitating conversations with our diverse congregation? Please talk to me or drop me an email. It is a wonderful opportunity to get to know your friends and neighbors at UUFM.

## Civil Rights Martyrs

Throughout this year, the Beacon has been recognizing the Martyrs of the civil rights movement. This month we present those who died in September and October. This is the last installment. Even though we know that there were many others who died for the cause below are the last that have been specifically recognized by the Southern Poverty Law Center.



### September 15, 1963 · Birmingham, Alabama

Virgil Lamar Ware, 13, was riding on the handlebars of his brother's bicycle when he was fatally shot by white teenagers. The white youths had come from a segregationist rally held in the aftermath of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church bombing.



### September 15, 1963 · Birmingham, Alabama

Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson and Cynthia Wesley were getting ready for church services when a bomb exploded at the Sixteenth Street Baptist

Church, killing all four of the school-age girls. The church had been a center for civil rights meetings and marches.



### September 25, 1961 · Liberty, Mississippi

Herbert Lee, who worked with civil rights leader Bob Moses to help register black voters, was killed by a state legislator who claimed self-defense and was never arrested. Louis Allen, a black man who witnessed the murder, was later also killed.



### September 30, 1962 · Oxford, Mississippi

Paul Guihard, a reporter for a French news service, was killed by gunfire from a white mob during protests over the admission of James Meredith to the University of Mississippi.

### October 22, 1955 · Mayflower, Texas

John Earl Reese, 16, was dancing in a café when white men fired shots into the windows. Reese was killed and two others were wounded. The shootings were part of an attempt by whites to terrorize blacks into giving up plans for a new school. *(photograph unavailable)*  
(Information from SPLC; thanks to Diana White for compiling this list.)

# Living in Covenant

By Diana White

Rev. Lynn talked about covenant in her August sermons. We wrote a covenant together, as a congregation, and we read it on Sundays. What does covenant look like, as we live our lives?

We see our covenant come alive in worship, in fellowship, in religious education... but in a moment-to-moment way, what does it look like? How do we live in covenant?

The basis of covenant, the holy ground of covenant, is communication. We are respectful, we listen, we speak in I-statements, we take our concerns to the person with whom we have a concern, and we read *The Beacon Weekly*.

We talk about communication. We complain about it. I hear people say we don't do it well. We examined the question of communication at the August Board of Trustees meeting. Here's what we found.

1. All the ways to communicate with each other were published in the *Beacon* in March of this year. There are many ways we communicate, in sometimes overlapping methods. There are no shortage of communication vehicles.... Facebook, the calendar, the website, Yahoo groups, and *The Beacon Weekly*, among others.
2. Our website <http://uumontgomery.org/> is kept up to date and has lots of information for members and people in the community who are interested in us. Andre Goheen maintains the website. Rev. Lynn also makes frequent changes there.
3. The single most important vehicle has become the UUFM calendar, because we are busier, and because we are more engaged with the community. <http://uumontgomery.org/calendar-3/>
4. There are a few members who rely on paper communication and we continue to see that they get mailed information.
5. We, all of us, the members and friends of UUFM, need to be responsible to make sure communication works. If we are committee chairs, we need to communicate to members. If we are working on a special project, we need to communicate with others who are needed for that work. If we are not sure who we need to talk to, we can find that out.

The Board of Trustees decided to simplify our communication options. The Yahoo groups will be laid down at the end of September. Those who have used the Yahoo group to post notices will be able to do that through *The Beacon Weekly*, which reaches many more people. It is usually published on Friday but can go out at any time with a special announcement. The individuals to contact are Steve Pearson in the office or Rev. Lynn.

Our single most important vehicle is the calendar. ***The calendar is our covenant in action, our daily lived ministry.*** It is crucial that anyone working on a project, committee chairs, and everyone else check the calendar before making plans, and then arrange to get any new meetings or events on the calendar. Steve Pearson can add to the calendar, if you send him an email at UUFM [info@uumontgomery.org](mailto:info@uumontgomery.org). Be sure the subject line indicates that you are asking for a new date to go on the calendar. We need to learn to ask ourselves, and each other, "Have you checked the calendar?"

**Minister and Staff**

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

**Board of Trustees**

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

**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

**Dishwashers & Coffee Servers**

Date	Dishwasher	Coffee Server
9/6	Karen Ross	Indee Goheen Katherine McKinney
9/13	Open	Mac Hollinger
9/20	Roger Burdette	Deborah Little
9/27	Maran Parker	Nordis Smith Don Parker

**Greeters**

Date	Greeters
9/6	Open
9/13	Nordis Smith
9/20	Jody Chritten
9/27	Nordis Smith James N.