

The Beacon MONTHLY



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Montgomery Newsletter

2810 Atlanta Highway, Montgomery AL 36109-3402

Rev. Lynn Hopkins, Minister

October 2015

Sunday Service

October 4: A Free and Responsible Search
In the UUA Fourth Principle we covenant to promote and affirm a free and responsible search for truth and meaning. What?

October 11: World Day for Abolition of the Death Penalty
Troy Davis, killed for another man's crime in 2011, made it clear even in his final words that his struggle -- our struggle -- was not simply for him, and not only for the innocent on death row

October 18: International Children's Sabbath: How long? Too long!
This event, aimed at bringing justice and peace to the lives of the most vulnerable among us, is commemorated by religious bodies of many faiths around the world. Intergenerational service.

October 25: Environmental responsibility
Bonnie Lynn Mitchell-Green leads us in considering our responsibility to the natural environment in which we live.

Wednesday Service

1st Wednesday

First Wednesday Forum: Local speakers on topics of general interest. On October 7, Diana White will speak from her experience working with people in palliative care and hospice services, sharing insights about preparing oneself and one's family for end of life care.

2nd Wednesday

Vespers Service: This is a brief service of quiet reflection, prayer and meditation. Afterwards, we join for an informal potluck style supper.

3rd Wednesday

Quaker Reflection and Sharing: A short reading will be used as the opening for those present to share reflections using the Quaker contemplative method.

4th Wednesday

Metaphysical Teachings: Rev. Maureene Bass shares from her extensive study of metaphysics.

Church Events

Every Monday:

7PM Course in Miracles

Every Tuesday:

6PM Choir

Every Wednesday:

9AM CFQ Class

7:15PM Meditation/Discussion group

Every Thursday:

5:30PM Taoist Tai Chi

Every Sunday:

9AM Quaker Meeting

1 Oct: 7PM RE Committee meeting

3 Oct: Enzweiler-Lamb Wedding

7 Oct: 6PM First Wednesday Forum, "Dying Well"

8 Oct: 1PM Social Action Committee

8 Oct: 6PM Sisterlight

10 Oct: 12PM Bowling Award Ceremony (rental)

12 Oct: 6:30PM COCO Meeting

13 Oct: 6PM Finance Committee

14 Oct: 6PM Vespers, followed by supper

14 Oct: 7:15PM Family Promise Volunteer Training

15 Oct: 6PM Board of Trustees Meeting

21 Oct: 6PM Quaker Reflection and Sharing

22 Oct: 6PM Publicity Committee

28 Oct: 6PM Metaphysical Teaching

Notable Announcements

Yahoo Groups

Last month we announced that the Yahoo groups were being shut down. This is still true however a new group will be stood up for those of you that still want a place to discuss non-church related topics. This group will not be maintained by the Publicity Committee and will not be considered a formal communication channel for the church and church related activities. An announcement will be made on Facebook and via the weekly blast prior to the implementation of this change.

Newsletter submission

Submissions for the November newsletter must be submitted no later than 23 October. Submissions can be sent to Andre Goheen at goheen100@yahoo.com and Janice Wood at jrwood.montgomery@gmail.com

Ministerial Musings

By Lynn Hopkins

October brings new events to the congregation. First, our Wednesday night programs:

On the first Wednesday of each month, we host the First Wednesday Forum. Local speakers give talks on subjects of broad general interest. Afterwards, there will be time for questions and discussion. While many may have spiritual or moral implications, these are not religious or Unitarian Universalist topics, but humanist in nature. Those who have attended small lay-led fellowships will recognize the format as similar to many Sunday morning programs. If you have expertise in a topic that you would like to share, please let me know!

On second Wednesdays, we will continue the vespers that we began over the summer. This is a brief 20-30 minute service of ritual, poetry, silence and simple song. Participants have the opportunity to speak personal joys and sorrows if they wish. Children and youth are invited to attend as well. Service is followed by a community supper, to which all are invited to bring something to share. This is a quiet and intimate experience, with typically fewer than 10 people.

For third Thursdays, we join in Quaker reflection and sharing. A short reading will be used as the opening for those present to share reflections using the Quaker contemplative method. All are welcome to attend, and to participate as you feel moved.

The fourth Sunday program will be metaphysical teachings, shared by Rev. Maureene Bass. She will offer information and insight gained from her ministerial studies in the Unity tradition, as well as her own scholarship. This is quite different from the Course in Miracles program that she leads on Monday nights, and may be of interest whether or not you have attended that. Everyone is invited.

There is not currently a regular plan for fifth Wednesdays; these will be programmed as they arise. The first one falls in December. On that occasion, I plan to lead a service of reflection and sharing for those who feel alienated or excluded by the overwhelming presence of Christmas.

Also coming in October, I will begin a Second Hour series entitled "UU and You," to deepen our understanding of the rich tradition of which we are a part. The first class will be on October 18 (third Sunday), discussing Unitarian Universalist polity. I will demonstrate how the way we locate and distribute power in our religious bodies *literally* turns the traditional hierarchical model upside down. My hope is that it will deepen our collective understanding of what words like 'membership' and 'leadership' mean in the context of Unitarian Universalism.

Polity, Policy & UUFM Vice Presidency, Oh My!

By Mandy Goheen

Fall is in the air, the Committee Fair is done, and our church year has begun with a bang! Rev. Lynn's installation, Moral Monday, Yearly Budget, Biggest Baddest Last Ever Yard Sale, and the tireless tinkering with our church AC unit are just a few of the amazing committee accomplishments so far this year. Our committee leadership is the heart beat of our fellowship.

The Council on Committees (COCO) is a gathering of all the committee chairs to discuss the monthly governance theme set by the board and to check in with each other about committee work. This is an opportunity for both communication and leadership development. The COCO meets on the Monday preceding the UUFM Board meeting every month. This month we will be gathering on October 12th and our discussion will focus on the theme of "hospitality." All committee chairs and representatives are warmly welcome and there will be chocolate!

The COCO and its convener are established in our bylaws in Article IX: A2. 228 -229 *"The Vice President shall act as Coordinator of the Council of Committees and serve as liaison between the various committees of the Fellowship and the Board."* So basically what this is saying is I am the leader servant of the committee chairs. My job is to communicate the needs of the committees to the board and if the board has a particular need of the committee.

Ok so my vice presidency is great example of how polity works in our Unitarian Universalist denomination. Y'all are my boss not the other way around. We the people elect our leaders and we the people are in charge of electing people who we trust to govern. It is a bottom up model of the democratic process. One easy way to think of polity is we are the opposite of the Catholic Church, hierarchy would never tell us whom our UU pope is, we would elect them. Clear as mud?

Moving back to our bylaws Article IX: B3. 268-274, *"Committees Council: The chairs of all regular committees will form Council of Committees, which will be coordinated by the Vice President. The Council will meet at least quarterly or as called by the Vice President and will record minutes of their proceedings. The Council will be responsible for planning, scheduling and coordinating the programs of the Fellowship. The Council will advise and assist the Board to help promote the general welfare of the Fellowship. The Council shall not establish policy nor act upon any matter reserved to the Board or to the Congregation."*

Like I said the COCO is the heartbeat of the Fellowship. This is sacred work and when we do it in community and take care of each other along the way we will accomplish great things. See you at the COCO meeting on the 12th and I look forward to our conversation about hospitality.

Take Good Care,

Mandy Goheen

Minister and Staff

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

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