

# The Beacon MONTHLY



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Montgomery Newsletter

2810 Atlanta Highway, Montgomery AL 36109-3402

Rev. Lynn Hopkins, Minister

May 2016

## Sunday Services

### May 8: Grow

Grow ... in spirit and faith, maturity and wisdom, compassion and understanding.

### May 15: Serve

Serve ... one another and ourselves, our neighbors and our nation, our ancestors' vision and our descendants' opportunity.

### May 22: Transform

It has been said that change fixes the past. Transformation creates the future.

### May 29: Celebrate

Bridging ... with a pot-luck lunch after the morning service and fellowship to celebrate each other and time together.

## Church Events

**May 3:** 7 p.m. Auction Committee

**May 4:** 6 p.m. First Wednesday Forum,  
Montgomery Humanists

**May 5:** 7 p.m. Committee on Ministry

**May 7:** 10:30 a.m. Philosophy Group  
1 p.m. UU and You (see p.3)

**May 10:** 7 p.m. Social Action Committee

**May 11:** 7 p.m. Finance Committee

**May 14:** 9 a.m. Rental: League of  
Women Voters

**May 19:** 6 p.m. Board of Trustees

**May 21:** 6 p.m. Annual Auction

**May 27:** 6 p.m. Publicity Committee

**May 28:** 9 a.m. Religious Education  
leader training

*More Events on the next page*

# ***The Annual Auction ... Let's Party with a Party!***

Can't make it to Cincinnati or Philadelphia for the national political party conventions this year? So join us at **6 p.m., May 21**, when the *Unipublicratic Party* (part UU, part Republican, part Democratic, *very* independent) convenes at our annual auction. We expect all the festivities, food and fun of the political scene without the frenzy, anxiety and hostility.

Contact Janice Wood for more information at [jrwood.montgomery@gmail.com](mailto:jrwood.montgomery@gmail.com).

- ***Auction Items:*** As a major fund-raiser, the auction still needs items to sell for the benefit of UUFM. Special events (outings, dinners, etc.) and personal services (childcare, lessons, etc.) are always top sellers. Also requested: evening-out opportunities (coupons for movies, restaurants, etc.) practical household items, nice toys and books for children, and gift items. Don't feel restricted by this list - use your imagination! *Donation forms with a box* to receive them are available in the fellowship hall. Please submit your donation forms *by May 8*.
- ***Tickets:*** As a major social event, the auction creates fond memories in the life of the fellowship. Tickets are \$20 a person with a maximum \$50 for a family of three or more. Don't let the ticket price stand in the way, but we need each attendee to have a ticket. If you can't do \$20 right now, just contact Rev. Lynn as soon as you can.

## **Share the Plate/May: Friends of Freedom Rides Museum**

On May 20-21, the Montgomery Freedom Rides Museum will commemorate the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a 1961 series of bus rides with civil-rights workers protesting racial segregation in interstate transportation. Located in the historic Greyhound Bus Station on Court Street, the museum tells the story through artwork, quotes, photographs, videos and architectural elements.

## **More Church Events**

### *Every Sunday:*

10 a.m. Worship Service  
11:15 a.m. Second Hour/Lifespan  
Religious Education  
6 p.m. Real Connections (SA)

### *Every Monday:*

7 p.m. Course in Miracles

### *Every Tuesday:*

6 p.m. Choir Practice  
7 p.m. Refuge Recovery  
8 p.m. Young People's AA

### *Every Wednesday:*

9 a.m. CFQ Moving Meditation  
7:15 p.m. Meditation/Discussion group

### *Every Thursday:*

8:45 a.m. Buildings & Grounds  
Committee

### *Every Saturday:*

8 p.m. Young People's AA

# Ministerial Musings

By the Rev. Lynn Hopkins

In the midst of our membership drive, planning for the auction, arranging for a much-needed new roof, identifying potential nominees for leadership positions in the coming year, and minding the daily business of the fellowship, many of you have been very busy. Others of you have been getting a sense of the life and culture here, learning to decipher the abbreviations and jargon we carelessly forget to translate, and figuring out whether this is a spiritual home for you.

Whether you are among the overworked veterans of UUFM, among the recent arrivals - or somewhere in between - I hope you'll take a moment to stop and look around.

- Enjoy the beauty of the flowers out front.
- Soak in the spirit of the worship sanctuary.
- Scan the bulletin boards.
- Make your way downstairs to take in the children's activities.
- Then, greet some people you don't know. Learn their names, and hear their stories.

Take a moment to imagine what you might find here in 10 years - or even 50 years. What do you dream for UUFM, for Unitarian Universalism, and for liberal religion in Montgomery?

I have been thinking about *mission* lately. Our mission. Not just what we are doing, but why? In this space last month, I shared some thoughts about why I come, why I feel invested here in ways that have nothing to do with a paycheck. After a lot of reading and collegial conversation, it came down to three words for me:

## **Connect. Grow. Serve.**

On Sunday mornings, in meetings, and in electronic messages, I'll be talking further about what I mean in those words.

- **Connect** - with each other, with our past, with our community, with our ideals.
- **Grow** - in our spiritual journey, in our programs, in our understanding.
- **Serve** - one another, the visitor, the stranger, the community.

During the week that I visited before you called me as your minister, I asked the board a question: What do you love, *really* love, love *most* about UUFM? One caveat: "the community" or "the fellowship" was not an answer. I wanted something deeper. I hoped to get some clue as to what it is about the community that would make someone feel it was worth serving as a trustee. I think the question I really wanted to ask was, "Why do you come to church, and why this one?"

So we are back to that question again. Have you thought about it?

## **"UU and You," 1 p.m., Saturday, May 7**

What's a member? What's a Unitarian? What's a Universalist? What do UUs do, what do UUFMers do, and why? Where is my pledge money going? Where's the fire extinguisher? It is an introduction for new members... but it's also a chance to learn stuff you think you should know already, and maybe stuff you hadn't thought of, and get acquainted! Everyone is invited!

UUFM phone: 334-279-9517

Email: [info@uumontgomery.org](mailto:info@uumontgomery.org)

Web: [www.uumontgomery.org](http://www.uumontgomery.org)

# Making Connections

By Courtney McKenny, Director of Religious Education

In an age where rapid communication is at our fingertips, how do we make authentic connections? The Internet has given us a window to friends and family who are at a distance, and we're able to find information about news and happenings from across the world. Emails, text messages, blog posts ... all give us ways to get information back and forth. But they often lack a personal touch.

When's the last time you sat down, put a pen to paper and wrote a letter to a friend or loved one? When is the last time you received a letter? Our seven principles encourage us to continue to search for truth and never stop learning. Letter writing and connecting with new people can be a wonderful way to learn! So as a part of our summer religious education program, the children and youth will take part in a pen-pal project with other UU children and youth from around the country.

The "Power of Stories Pen-Pal Project for UU Kids" is being organized by one of my colleagues in Florida. This will be a wonderful opportunity for our children and youth to connect with other UU children and youth. They will have the chance to learn about other congregations and programs. I'm excited to brush up on my letter-writing skills myself. Learning a new way to make connections will be an adventure for all of us.

If you'd like to take part in this project, you could help guide the children with writing letters and sharing their own stories. Donations of envelopes, stationery and stamps would also be helpful.

## Minister and Staff

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

## Committee Chairs

Religious Education: Christine Freeman  
Membership: Liz Campbell  
Finance: Joan Boltz, Lynn Shaw  
Building & Grounds: Barbara Witt  
Public Relations: Andre Goheen  
Social Action: Beverly Shaffer

## Board of Trustees

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

## Newsletter submission

Submissions for the May newsletter should be submitted no later than May 22. Submissions can be sent to Andre Goheen at [goheen100@yahoo.com](mailto:goheen100@yahoo.com) and Janice Wood at [jrwood.montgomery@gmail.com](mailto:jrwood.montgomery@gmail.com)