

The Beacon MONTHLY



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Montgomery Newsletter

2810 Atlanta Highway, Montgomery AL 36109-3402

Rev. Lynn Hopkins, Minister

June 2017

Theme for Sundays - "Peace"

June 4 – Peace Within

Second Hour:

- Share the Plate: Montgomery Pride United
- Course in Miracles, with Maureen Bass

June 11 – Peace Among

Second Hour: Annual Congregational Meeting

June 18 – Peace Between

Second Hour:

- Juneteenth, with Social Action Committee
- Course in Miracles, with Maureen Bass

June 25 – Building Peace

Second Hour:

- TED Talk, with Roger Burdette
- A Course in Miracles, with Maureen Bass

Consider these candidates for UUFM board positions

The election of officers and board members and the approval of a new budget will be major topics at the Annual Meeting at 11:30 a.m. on **Sunday, June 11**. Candidates include:

- President: Barbara Witt
- Secretary: Uschi Kling
- Treasurer: Rhodes Peele
- Board Members at Large: Mandy Goheen and Nordis Smith

UUFM phone: 334-279-9517

Email: info@uumontgomery.org

Web: www.uumontgomery.org

Sharing the Plate in June: Montgomery Pride United

Montgomery Pride United is a collective of individuals, businesses and organizations who affirm and support the LGBTQ community. The group provides referrals for other services and opportunities for community involvement.

According to Montgomery Pride United's website, its purpose is "to one day wake up in a Montgomery, Alabama, that is safe, inclusive, and a source of pride for all its citizens."

A representative will discuss the group's work in a Second Hour program.

Choir Appreciation Day planned for June 18

Fans of the UUFM choir can raise their own voices to thank choir members for the time and talent they give the music program at a special Coffee Hour on **Sunday, June 18**. The choir will then be on break for July and August.

Volunteers needed in Trees for Schools project

Montgomery Trees for Schools, a former Share the Plate partner, requests helpers for a follow-up project from 9 to 10 a.m. on **Saturday, June 10**. That's when volunteers will tend to trees at Goodwyn Middle School that UUFM donated. Trees Coordinator Karen Benton says mulch and trash bags will be furnished, but helpers should bring gloves and gardening tools. To volunteer, contact Beverly Shaffer at (334) 272-4115 or beverlyshaffer@charter.net.

Church Events

June 3: 10:35 a.m., Philosophy Group

June 7: 6p.m., First Wednesday Forum

June 11: 11:30 a.m., Annual Meeting

June 15: 6:30p.m., Board of Trustees

June 18: 11:15 a.m., Choir Appreciation Day

June 21: 6:30p.m., Finance Committee Meets

Weekly Meetings

Every Sunday:

9:15 a.m. Choir Practice

10 a.m. Worship Service

11:15 a.m. Second Hour/Lifespan

Religious Education 7:15 p.m. Meditation/Discussion group

7 p.m. Real Connections

Every Tuesday:

p.m. Choir Practice

7 p.m. Refuge Recovery

Every Tuesday (cont.):

8 p.m. Young People's AA

Every Wednesday:

5p.m. Baha'i Junior Youth Class

Every Thursday:

8 a.m. Building & Grounds Comm. Meets

Every Saturday:

8 p.m. Young People's AA

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At the close of another year ...

By the Rev. Lynn Hopkins

In a few days, we will hold our **year-end congregational meeting**. In June, we elect the leaders of the congregation -- members and officers of the Board of Trustees, and members of the nominating committee. We also vote on a budget for the year ahead. All of these things are essential to the life of the congregation, its strength and its longevity.

Last month, I talked about our financial situation with regard to the pledge drive. This month, I am continuing that topic, but with regard to the proposed budget. A budget is a clear and definitive statement of values – how much members and friends are willing to participate financially in the life of the congregation, and in what ways.

This is a **conservative budget**, estimating income based on what we believe is reasonable to expect, from recent history and spending not one penny more. There are a few changes but none of the awful cutbacks that we saw last year.

There were **small increases** in areas that have shown increased costs, such as utilities and kitchen supplies. A few hundred dollars was allocated to committees whose activities have been funded by individual members in the past. It is not nearly enough of an investment to demonstrate that we truly care about our programs (such as worship, social action, membership, music, etc.), but it is an important step forward.

In staffing, we have decreased expenses by creating a coordinator position instead of a director of religious education. While that role may grow if our child participation increases, the coordinator role is much more appropriate to our current size and resources.

There was a net increase in staff expense, because this budget also **restores an amount that is usually included in a minister's contract**. Federal tax law treats ministers as self-employed. For most jobs, employers and employees split the burden of FICA, which funds Social Security and Medicare. Ministers aren't eligible for FICA; Social Security and Medicare funding comes from a 15.3 percent self-employment tax (SECA), with no contribution from the employer. This creates a significant disadvantage for ministers. For this reason, the standard UUA contract includes an allowance of 7.65 percent, half of the SECA tax, "in lieu of FICA."

At the time of my call, that language was removed from my contract because many people do not understand its meaning or purpose. I knew that the board at that time was scrambling to cover a serious deficit; therefore, I accepted the contract as presented. Over the past three years, I have explained this situation to congregational leaders as appropriate, hoping that this allowance would be restored eventually. By adding that 7.65 percent SECA allowance to my salary, the congregation significantly reduces my massive year-end tax liability. It also puts UUFM on a level with other congregations in terms of its ministerial compensation.

I am very grateful to Barbara Witt and Felicia Wilburn, the primary authors of this budget draft, for taking this situation seriously and finding a way to resolve this within budget constraints.

In the year ahead, we will **need to identify and support new leaders** within all of the critical areas of congregational life. Finance, religious education, social action, public relations and membership are all areas in which your talents and energies can find expression, to strengthen and grow our fellowship.

As we gather on June 11 to vote on a budget and elect new leaders, I hope you are thinking about your dreams and aspirations for our future – and seeing your place in making them real.

UUFM Income & Expenses for the Month of March 2017

Income		Expenses: Operations	
Pledges received	\$6,245	Mortgage & Insurance	(1,390)
Regular donations not pledged	155	Utilities	843
Sunday collection	978	Building & Grounds	895
Fundraising (incl. annual gifts)	1,965	Kitchen & Office Expenses	231
Building rentals	115	Operations subtotal	\$579
Total income	\$9,458	Expenses: Mission	
Expenses: Staff		Publicity	466
Wages	4,499	Pledge Drive Expense	247
	1,664	Share the Plate	539
Taxes	38	Mission subtotal	\$1,252
Staff subtotal	\$6,201	Total expenses	\$8,032
NET INCOME OR (LOSS)	\$1,426		

UUFM Income & Expenses for the Month of April 2017

Income		Expenses: Operations	
Pledges received	\$4,740	Mortgage & Insurance	1,609
Regular donations not pledged	185	Utilities	753
Sunday collection	597	Building & Grounds	1,185
Fundraising (incl. annual gifts)	688	Kitchen & Office Expenses	379
Building rentals	1,160	Operations subtotal	\$3,926
Total income	\$7,370	Expenses: Mission	
Expenses: Staff		Alabama Arise	100
Wages	4,742	Share the Plate	597
Benefits	1,836	Mission subtotal	\$697
Taxes	38	Total expenses	\$11,239
Staff subtotal	\$6,616	NET INCOME OR (LOSS)	(\$3,869)

FY2017-2018 PROPOSED BUDGET - DRAFT					
	16/17 BUDGET	16/17 PROJECTED			17/18 PROPOSED
INCOME					
Pledges	110,744	105,207			116,574
Annual Gifts	3,000	3,140			3,000
Regular Non-Pledge	5,000	2,500			3,000
Loose Collection	10,000	9,000	50% expensed: Share the Plate		9,000
Fund Raising	12,100	18,000	Conservative estimate		14,000
Misc. Donations	0	5,000	Honoraria & ad hoc fundraisers		2,000
Building Rental	10,000	6,000			6,000
Total Income	150,844	148,847			153,574
EXPENSES					
Staff					
Minister	68,000	68,000			73,272
			Incl: Salary	30,072	
			Housing	21,600	
			Medical	11,400	
			Retirement	5,200	
			Prof. Expense	5,000	
RE	15,125	8,460			12,600
Office Asst	4,306	4,151			4,478
Child Care	1,200	1,200			1,680
ASL	2,500	1,450			2,000
Sub Total	91,131	83,261			94,030
Operations					
Facility	21,600	18,200			19,320
Buildings & Grounds	14,800	13,000			14,500
Kitchen/Office Supplies	4,000	4,275			4,275
Utilities	12,700	12,000			12,900
Bank Fees	0	150			100
Sub Total	53,100	47,625			51,095
Mission					
RE/Curriculum/materials	750	500			500
Social Action	5,100	4,600			4,600
Publicity	500	465			250
Membership	0	7			250
Finance	250	247			400
UUA Annual dues	0	500			500
Sub Total	6,600	6,319			6,500
Total Expenses	150,831	137,205			151,625
Net Income (Loss)	13	11,642	□		1,949

Newsletter submissions

Submissions for the July newsletter should be submitted no later than June 24.
Submissions can be sent to Janice Wood at jrwood.montgomery@gmail.com.

Minister and Staff

Minister: Rev. Lynn Hopkins
Office & Bookkeeping Assistant: Steve Pearson
Music Director: Lynette Morse

Committee Chairs

Building & Grounds: Bill Weaver
Finance: Rhonda Thomason
Membership: Liz Campbell
Religious Education: Christine Freeman
Social Action: Beverly Shaffer

Board of Trustees

President: Barbara Witt
Vice President: Sandy Loveday
Secretary: Lynette Morse
Treasurer: Felicia Wilburn
Members at Large: Susan Enzweiler, Jimmie Ilachild, Pat Thomason