

Minister's Musings/ Message



April is an earthy month, a time for digging in the ground (gardening), camping and re-connecting. A time for getting grounded and a time for giving thought to our care for Mother Earth. I don't really think of myself as a gardener, but I do like to plant things and see how they grow (though I am not big on weeding). I like to feel the earth, to see beautiful flowers, to taste the fresh fruits and vegetables that start to grow in the spring. My tomatoes are off to a good start!

The Christian Resurrection holiday of Easter often falls in April, as it does this year. Easter (April 5th) fits the rebirth of plants and the new birth of animals that happen in the spring. The Germanic fertility goddess Eostre (associated with rabbits and sometimes eggs) whose celebration preceded Easter also fits the notion of birth or rebirth in the Spring.

April 22nd will be the 45th annual Earth Day. We will celebrate our Earth Day at 1UUCS on April 19th and the Community Earth Day Celebration will be April 26th. Our celebration will be intergenerational and a Bring-a-Friend Sunday!

With such a warm and dry winter, there wasn't much drama as we passed into Spring. Let's hope for late spring rains that can help break the drought! May this be a pleasant and blessed April for all!

Peace!

Rev. Bob

SUNDAY SERVICE

4/5 Easter for Unitarian Universalists! Rev. Bob

4/12 Commitments We Make: The Sermon on the Amount! (Pledge Sunday) Rev. Bob

4/19 For the Earth....Earth Day 45! Rev. Bob [Bring –a-Friend Day!](#) [Multi-Generational!](#)

4/26 Guest Speaker Dave Hall? [Stockton Earth Day Celebration](#)

BRING-A-FRIEND SUNDAY'S

The Program Council is planning to hold 3 Bring-a-Friend Sundays in the next few months. We hope you will plan to invite one or more friends to join us on the following Sundays:

April 19 which will be our Earth Day Service (especially good for the environmentally aware)

Emerson Coffee House Friday April 10, 2015 7:00 pm

An Evening with Music Scholars

Linli Wang, the pianist for the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Stockton, will perform with other music scholars from the prestigious Conservatory of Music at the University of the Pacific. This special evening with musical scholars has become a tradition of Emerson

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New Men's Group

New Men's Group—Who's Interested?

We are thinking of starting a new Men's Group to meet 1-2 times/month (possibly Weds. eves.). It might involve one discussion night and one activity each month or whatever those interested decide. Any adult male-identified persons interested please contact Rev. Bob at uurevbobk@gmail.com

New Members

We'd like to recognize and welcome these new members to our congregation. Photos and a little biographical information will soon be posted in Jackson Hall and will be in the May newsletter.

Danielle Armendarez
Johanna Aurelius
Joseph Benzuidex
Barbara Kelly
Christina Nelson
Dara Thomson

A warm welcome to each of you!



Collectibles Roundup



Please bring your donations for the Collectibles Sale **by mid April** to the church office - vases, silver & pewter items, postcards, pictures, jewelry, collections of stamps, spoons, etc. or request a pick-up (email office@stocktonUU.org or phone message – 466-7743. The Sale is Saturday, May 16. THANKS in advance.

Dream Group

Dream Group, looking at our Dreams—using Rev. Jeremy Taylor's method based on Carl Jung's understanding of Dreams. When 5 or more people express interest I will start a new group! (Recommended reading: **The Wisdom of Your Dreams** by Jeremy Taylor: paper/kindle) Contact Rev. Bob for more info if interested.



Covenant Group

Covenant Groups: We have re-started Covenant Groups! These groups usually gather in a member's home or at the church once a month for an extended check-in and a topical discussion. Each group of 5-10 persons drafts a covenant of commitment and behavior to be revisited whenever a new member joins including the commitment to keep sacred what is shared and to support members of the group. These are not therapy groups but they often become important opportunities for members of the congregation to get to know each other in deeper ways. If this sounds interesting to you, please let Rev. Bob or the office know!

Religious Education News:

Volunteers and Training:

RE has received a few inquiries for people who would like to volunteer in the cottage. We welcome anyone interested in volunteering, however, we are currently developing new policies and procedures to ensure the safety of our youth in this congregation. These procedures include holding a mandatory volunteer screening/training session on a date to-be-determined in the next 3 months. If anyone is interested in volunteering please contact the DRE Rosalie Saucedo in person, by email or by filling out one of the RE Volunteer Interest cards in the entrance of the sanctuary. Thank you for your patience as we further develop our youth RE program.

Sunday School Registration:

All families are asked to fill out a registration packet so that we can update your children's information and to sign Media Consent Forms. You can also set up a one-on-one meeting with me if you would like. Just send an email to the DRE email listed below.

Online RE:

Find us on Youtube, Facebook and Bigtent!

Youtube/Bigtent: Search "First Unitarian Universalist Church of Stockton"

Facebook: Search "First Unitarian Universalist Church of Stockton Religious Education"



Earth Day:

This month's multigenerational service will be our Earth Day Service on 19 April.

Stockton Earth Day celebration is 26 April. Religious Education and Social Justice are working together to get bags of Milkweed seeds together to encourage citizens in the community to plant Milkweed for the declining Monarch Butterfly population. We would love our children to help! Contact the DRE for more information. (Sunday School service this day will be very low key as the focus will be in participating in the Earth Day Festival).

Plans are in the works for planting a Butterfly Garden next to the cottage. We will need volunteers to help with prepping the dirt and planting starting Saturday April 11th. Volunteer sign up will be posted on the door in Jackson Hall leading out to the cottage. We also need donations of toilet paper rolls to make biodegradable planters. Collection boxes will be placed in Jackson Hall, the main entrance and the bathrooms.

DRE email: religious_ed@stocktonuu.org

Pledge Sunday April 12

Mark Your Calendars – Paper or Electronic!

Don't Miss Attending Pledge Sunday!

Special Service and Luncheon

Make your pledge of support to the church for the coming year

immediately after our special service and then enjoy a variety of sandwiches, potato salad, chips, fruit and veggies.

Something for dessert, too. What an array it always is!

Your 2015-2016 pledge to the church will be recorded and a Pledge Steward will not be calling you or knocking on your door.

What a relief! You'll be all done!

Time to make it a party.

Watch for your pledge brochure in the mail soon.

- Your Pledge Drive Committee

PLEDGE
Sunday

Social Justice and Community Outreach News

Please join us at the **Earth Day** celebration on **Sunday, April 26th** at Victory Park from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Our church will have a fun booth promoting butterflies! Booth volunteers are needed. For more information, contact Jeri Bigbee (931- 6871; jeribigbee@gmail.com).

Keep up the good work!

Social Justice Collection

Our March Social Justice Collection raised \$ 312.21 for St. Mary's Dining Room . Thank you to everyone for your generous contributions! If you have any suggestions for Social Justice Collection Recipient please contact Nichole Ybarra or Rev. Bob Klein.

Social Justice Collection recipient for Sunday, April 19, 2015 is San Joaquin Aids Foundation is a non-profit health and human services agency. The Board of Directors, professional staff and trained volunteers of the San Joaquin AIDS Foundation consider AIDS and HIV infection a serious global health crisis, touching the lives of every American. The Foundation seeks to foster a community response to AIDS based on scientific fact, informed medical and public health policies, and compassionate care.

Founded in 1984, one year after the first person was diagnosed with AIDS inside San Joaquin County, the Foundation emerged as a cooperative partnership of concerned doctors, nurses, social service and mental health providers, religious leaders, county officials and private citizens. The Foundation was incorporated in 1986 and now receives federal, state, county and private funding.

Community contributions have allowed our services to grow and change in response to community needs. Along with cuts in federal and state funding and increased overhead, we must work harder to raise the necessary funds to support our overall operations. Contributions to the Foundation are tax deductible.

With continued community and governmental assistance, the San Joaquin AIDS Foundation will be able to continue to provide the much needed and limited comprehensive programs and services necessary to help the awareness and education in our community as well as provide quality services to persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families in the San Joaquin County.

Alliance News

The Alliance Spring luncheon and program, *Women in California History*, is scheduled for Wednesday, April 8, at O'Connor Woods. Members and guests will meet in the North Clubhouse at promptly 10:30 for the program followed by lunch in the main dining room at 11:45. Arrangements with O'Connor Woods will require reservations for lunch. The luncheon is \$10.00 and cash is preferred. Colleen Cook and Kay Owen are in charge of arrangements and will collect the money for your lunch ticket at the meeting. Directions to the North Clubhouse from the main gate will be given by Security as you enter O'Connor Woods. Parking is easy and located near the Clubhouse. Be sure and allow time for finding the location including the drive to OCW - north on Pacific, cross Hammer Lane and continue north on Thornton Road to Wagner Heights Road - turn left to 3400 and enter the open main gate. Additional information please call Colleen, Kay or Joan Briscoe.

The Women's Center, after many group donations, have an over supply of soaps and shampoos, etc. We are exploring other agencies that help families in our community. When we have located a source we will let our loyal members and friends who have donated through the years. Thank you for all your support.

UU THURSDAYS!

at First Unitarian Universalist Church

If you haven't been to one of our casual UU Thursday programs, come give it a try. We are continuing to develop and grow this program and are always looking for people to share additional program choices (ideas below) in a low pressure supportive setting!

We gather each week to share a simple meal prepared by volunteers and a brief worship experience before breaking into groups for 1-3 programs. In Coming weeks we hope to offer such programs as:

Quiet Meditation Practices & Mindfulness
Travelogues, Tai Chi, Yoga, Social Justice Programs
Adult Classes on UUism, Religion, and other topics of interest
Parenting Speakers/Discussion/support groups
Family Spiritual Activities with kids
Knitting, Painting, Dancing, Singing, Drumming, Jamming
Young Adult Programs/Groups
Dream Groups, Mandalas, Games for Children & Youth (all ages)

Typical Schedule:

6:00 p.m. Gather and share simple meal (not a potluck but volunteer cooks welcome to sign up)

6:30 p.m. Share Brief Worship Experience (led by Rev. Bob and/or volunteers)

6:45 p.m. Enjoy one of the Activities offered

7:30 p.m. End of Early/Family Programs

8:00 p.m. End of Longer Classes*/Workshops/Groups

Date	Dinner 6:00	Worship 6:30	Program 1 6:45-7:30	Program 2 6:45-7:30	Program 3 6:45-8:00 BK	Program 4- Children 6:45- 7:30 RS
4/2	DM		UU	Passover	Seder	
4/9			Knit w/Deb	Designing Healthy Communities-- Jeri B		
4/16			Knit w/Deb	Saint Mary's Dinning Room		
4/23			Knit w/Deb	Denali with Wes and Barbara		
4/30			Knit w/Deb			

Invitation to Share Wisdom, Learning, Skills and Fun at UU THURSDAYS

I would like to invite you to sign up to share something important to you during an upcoming Thursday evening program. Each week we will be gathering to share a simple meal at 6 p.m., a brief worship experience of 10-15 minutes, then breaking into 2-3 groups for study, meditation, or fun. If you have something that you would be willing to offer in one or more 45 minute sessions, please contact Rev. Bob

Some appropriate things to share: something artistic (painting, knitting, chalice-making, or...), especially for all ages; a way to make music or rhythm such as drumming or chanting; quiet meditation (or walking or...), leading a discussion of an important issue/concern; showing a video or slideshow to discuss, or anything creative or uplifting that could be done by a small group at the church. If you have an idea you are willing to share, please call Rev. Bob. Slots are open between now and the end of the year!

Also, volunteers are needed to help prepare a simple meal and lead brief worship time!

Call Rev. Bob to sign up or for more info! uurevbobk@gmail.com cell: 209-684-6345



Church Annual Meeting – June 14

1. Budget Review and Approval

Church Committees and the Board of Trustees have prepared a draft budget for the coming year – July 2015 through June 2016. The form of the final draft budget will depend upon the results of the Pledge Drive in April and May. With that information, a final draft budget will be adopted by the Church Board of Trustees on May 26 and then presented to the Congregation at the Annual Meeting June 14. We hope that this budget reflects the needs of the church as expressed by committees and individual church members during this past year. We are a very active church reflected in both our programs, our social justice activities and the many hours that volunteers spend participating in and helping on church projects and activities.

Copies of the draft church budget will be available in Jackson Hall. And you are all welcome to call Dwane Milnes at 209-956-2868 or catch him at church if you have any questions prior to the Annual Meeting.

2. Consideration of Sale of the Church Rental Residence at 439 Bristol Avenue

The UU Board of Trustees has reviewed the current and future use of the church owned rental house at 439 Bristol. This has been used as a rental for almost 15 years.

Since using this home in the future for church purposes appears to require the purchase of additional parking space and its distance from the church building, the Board of Trustees examined the value of selling the home and whether this might actually provide additional monthly revenue for church purposes by avoiding the payment of mortgage interest and also provide a sum for major repairs to our current church over the coming years.

After examining this, the Board has recommended that the congregation approve selling the home on Bristol, using the proceeds to pay off the mortgage on the Pacific Avenue duplex adjacent to the RE building, setting aside the remaining proceeds in the Endowment Fund for use in major church repairs, and using some of the added annual earned interest on these monies to supplement the annual church operating expenses.

The summary below briefly explains the rationale developed by the Board in making this recommendation. A more detailed explanation has been sent to church members. If you would like another copy or would like to discuss this, please call Dwane Milnes at 209-956-2868. Dwane will be gone from April 17-May 19, but will be pleased to discuss this with anyone other than during those vacation dates. You can also call Dave Hall at 474-7421 or Mary Bullard at 477-8745

The congregation will be asked to vote on the sale of the Bristol house at the June 14 Annual Congregational Meeting.

Church Owned Bristol House Sales Proposal

Summary

The UU Church owns not only the current church property and RE cottage, but also a house on Bristol (439 Bristol, just west of the church and separated by the privately owned property next to our parking lot) and the duplex north of and adjacent to the cottage building along Pacific.

There has been a proposal from the Board of Trustees that the Congregation authorize selling the property at 439 Bristol and use the money to pay off the mortgage on both the Bristol and the Duplex properties. The proposal is then to use the remaining proceeds (an estimated \$92,413) as a reserve to generate annual income for the church of approximately \$2,700 in interest and provide a reserve for major maintenance.

We would also continue renting the duplex. The net rental income from renting only the duplex without a mortgage, as opposed to renting the Bristol house and duplex with mortgages, is about \$2,400 more income for use on church daily operations than we now receive from both rentals after we make current mortgage payments.

Thus, selling the Bristol property would generate approximately \$2,700 more in interest and \$2,400 more in rental income, for a total of \$5,100 additional annual operating income. In addition, the church would have an additional reserve of \$92,413 to use for generating income and paying for major repairs if needed.

Keeping and using the Bristol property for church purposes will require the church to find and build additional parking if the use increases in any way the number of people attending the church. Additional parking is not available. Even buying and tearing down the Bristol house next to the church would cost the church over \$200,000 in purchase and construction of parking. This is just not feasible for us.

The Board of Trustees believes that the current church owned house on Bristol cannot effectively be used by the church without finding additional parking. Sale of the house will provide both additional annual operating income to the church but also a significant reserve for major repair and refurbishment of the current church and RE cottage as determined by the church.

We will be holding information sessions to discuss the sale well in advance of any decision by the church to sell the Bristol property.

3. Election of Members of the Board of Trustees, Endowment Committee and the Nomination Committee

The Nominating Committee is developing a recommendation for consideration by the Congregation in electing people to fill these committees that help operate the church and its finances. When the list is final, we will provide that to the congregation prior to the Annual Meeting. Members of the Congregation can also nominate people to serve in these committees at the Annual Meeting prior to the election.

Treasurer's Report- for March 2015

Pledge income is still slightly down, due in part to the fact that some people who pledged have died or left the church. All extra giving will be appreciated and hopefully all pledges from current attendees will be fulfilled.

Expenses are slightly down from last year and are well below budget for this year due to the lack of an RE director for part of the year. Some urgent maintenance issues have arisen and need to be dealt with this month. The Board has received an excellent report on the physical status of the church buildings and will be preparing a list of priority items needing capital improvement. When we have successfully completed the Pledge drive this month we will, if possible, add items of capital improvement to the budget.

Financial reports are posted in Jackson Hall for those who like to look at data.

Respectfully submitted

Dave Hall



Ministers Office Hours

Minister's Office Hours:

Rev. Bob generally keeps walk-in hours on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 10-12 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. *Please call to be sure that he is in and available as occasional meetings, hospital visits, trips, and other appointments may need to be scheduled during these times. Rev. Bob is also available by appointment at other times.* Please call his home 209-227-7591 if he is not at the church, or **call his cell 209-684-6345 for appointments or emergencies.** Messages left on his cell will be checked at least daily. Feel free to e-mail uurevbobk@gmail.com

General Office Hours

Office Hours.....Mon. - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

The Mission of our church
Is to nurture individual spiritual/ethical growth,
to be inclusive of all people,
and to be an active voice of conscience
in the greater community.

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