

Minister's Musings/ Message



The start of a new Church Year, like the start of a new school year, offers the excitement and energy of new ideas, new programs, new opportunities! During August we are getting ready for the start of the new church year, which for many starts the Sunday after Labor Day (9/6) with Water Communion and In-Gathering. Many of us collect a little bit of water (a pitcher will also be provided) during our summer travels to contribute to the water basin for Water Communion which then may be used to water some hardy plant after the service with a bit saved for the next year to symbolize the continuity of our community.

We also are invited to send in pictures from our summer travels and experiences to add to a slide show (selfies welcomed as well as traditional travel pictures-please e-mail to the church office by August 31st).

During our August Board and Program Council Meetings we will be looking ahead to the coming church year with thoughts about what new programs, projects and ideas we want to pursue this year. Anyone with suggestions is welcome to come to the Program Council meeting following the service on Sunday August 9th. Among other things, we will continue to consider the UU Congregational Study Action Issue on Escalating Inequality as well as to begin other studies of interest and to share one-time topics during our UU Thursday Programs (which re-start 9/17).

My sermons this month will explore the role and meaning of spirituality within our UU Tradition (somewhat a challenge for an agnostic!) Bring along your ideas and beliefs and I will try to leave time for your responses!

Hope your summer is going well and See You Soon!
Rev. Bob

Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.

8/2 Guest (Bob Vacation/Study)

8/9 Guest

8/16 I. Spirituality and Justice in Unitarian Universalism Rev. Bob

8/23 II. Spirituality and Compassion in Unitarian Universalism Rev. Bob

8/30 III. Spirituality, Compassion & Justice in Our Principles and Living Tradition Rev. Bob

Save the Date: August 12! Summer "Wrap-Up"!

Returning for its third year is our Box Supper Fundraiser. Helping 1st UU "wrap up" summer, local restaurateur Steve DeParsia will prepare a boxful of goodies: of course a delicious wrap (choose from turkey, ham, or veggie), his special pasta salad loaded with extras—even a veggie stick, a sprig of grapes, and a homemade cookie. We're adding an ice-cold beverage to go (choose from iced tea, diet and regular sodas, or water).

For \$15, you can picnic on your patio, in the park while listening to the Wednesday night concert, or in Jackson Hall on checkered table-cloths with church friends.

Tell neighbors, co-workers, friends to mark their calendars, too. Tickets will be available after church every Sunday in July and the first two in August. "Wrap up" summer deliciously while raising money for 1st UU!

Questions? Call Leslie Washington (957-8433) or Cindy Milford (477-5984).



Inside this issue:

New Members Picnic 2

All Church Picnic 2

Men's Group 2

Dream Group 2

Covenant Groups 2

Religious Education 3

Book Group 3

Social Justice Community Outreach 4

Social Justice Collection 4

Music Director 4

Alliance News 4

UU Thursdays 5

Treasure's Report 5

New Members Picnic in the Park
Saturday, August 29th, 11 A.M.
At Caldwell Park, just up the street from our church
(Just to the south and east of the S-Mart
at the corner of Pacific & Alpine)

Just a simple get-together for all those members who have joined the church in the last two years. Bring the kids, of course. We'll make it a pot-luck and we'll have some bubbles, hula hoops, balls for play (while us adults can sit idly by in chairs, watch the kids run around, and just talk!)

Mary will be there early to get a good spot. We'll keep it simple. I'll furnish the closest I can find to healthy hot dogs (Is there such a thing?), some chairs and the rest of you can bring salads or drinks. **Please let me know you can come, so that we can coordinate a little bit.**

See me at church or contact by phone or email at 477-8745 or marybee2@gmail.com

Mary Bullard, Membership Chairperson

All-Church Picnic
Mark your calendars!
Sunday, Sept. 13 at 2 P.M.

For everyone - members and friends, at the home of our generous Marge Flaherty. Big backyard, huge pool! Lots of chat and fun under shady trees. Pot-luck – no cooking! More details in our September Communitarian!

Mary Bullard, Membership Chairperson

1st UU Church Men's Group- We have started a new Men's Group, which includes time to talk with other men about Being a Man, and other issues, as well as activities depending on the interest of those interested. We usually will meet on Wednesdays 7-8:30 p.m. **The August meeting will be on WEDNESDAY/Thursday August 12/13TH ?! **check this with me!**
Please contact Rev. Bob if you are interested!

Rev. Bob Klein cell 209-684-6345 uurevbobk@gmail.com

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 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. New groups are meeting Monday and Wednesday evenings once a month. If this sounds interesting to you, please let Rev. Bob or the office know!

Religious Education News–

Director of Religious Education Office hours:
Tuesdays and Thursdays 9am-12pm or by appointment

Volunteers and Training:

If anyone is interested in volunteering please contact the DRE in person, by email or by filling out one of the RE Volunteer Interest cards in the entrance of the sanctuary. We need volunteers that are willing to commit to helping out in the cottage once a month. Religious Education volunteer training will be held **September 20, 2015 at 12:30pm** following the Sunday service.

Community Outreach:

Children and youth learn by observing and following their leaders (a.k.a. parents and respected adults). Lead by example and help teach our youngsters about generosity and join the DRE every Monday morning from 10 am-1 pm to cook and serve food at St. Mary's Dining Hall. Youth are welcome to join to serve food if they are able. Mondays are a bad day for you? (Oh, Mondays...) No problem! Contact the DRE for more information and assistance on how you can give your time to a great cause.

Thank you for your patience as we further develop our youth RE program.

Find us on Youtube, Facebook, Instagram and Bigtent!
Rosalie Saucedo (DRE) email: religious_ed@stocktonuu.org



Book Group: Will meet the last Wed of the month. For more information contact Herman Washington at lhwash@comcast.net.

August 26: *An Unsuitable Job for a Woman* by P.D. James. Presenter is Leslie Washington

September 30: *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* by Mark Haddon.
Presenters: Claire Trujillo and Jill Duthie

October 28: *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander. B Presenter Pat Davis

November 18 (3rd Wed to avoid night before Thanksgiving)
West With the Night by Beryl Markham presented by Barbara Kelley

December Potluck Date to be decided. We will each read a poem we would like to share.

January 27, 2016: *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng. Presenter is Carol Clark

February 24, 2016: *The Faraway Nearby* by Rebecca Solnit. Presenter is Sara Milnes

March 30, 2016: *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry: A Novel* by Gabrielle Zevin. Presenter is Darrell Burns

Social Justice/ Community Outreach

There are lots of exciting things happening with our Social Justice and Community Outreach efforts ... On Sunday, July 19th, Tom Amato, the Executive Director of PACT (People and Congregations Together - <http://www.pact4sjc.org/>) provided the sermon and described the important community work this interfaith group is doing. We look forward to collaborating with PACT more in the future. Roy Childs will be leading this effort (thanks, Roy!).

On **Saturday, August 22nd** we'll again be hosting a booth at the **San Joaquin Pride Festival** in Oak Grove Park in Stockton. If you'd like to volunteer to help in our booth, please contact Jeri Bigbee (931-6871; jeribigbee@gmail.com).

On Sunday, **August 23rd** the UU Justice Ministry of California is hosting a workshop on Equity

Ministry at the UU Church of Palo Alto (505 E. Charleston Rd.) from 12:30 - 2:00 pm. Equity Ministry is a spiritually based engagement of social justice as it specifically intersects with issues of race, class and culture. For more information, contact: Amy Zucker Morgenstern, parishmin@uucpa.org, [650-494-0541](tel:650-494-0541) x26

Our DRE, Rosalie Rae, is leading an ongoing volunteer outreach effort at St. Mary's Dining Hall in Stockton (thanks, Rosalie!). The First UU volunteer kitchen crew will meet every Monday in August from 9:30 am - 12:00 pm and/or 10:45 am - 1:00 pm. If you're interested in joining in, contact Rosalie (rorsauced@gmail.com).

- Mark your calendars ... we'll also be participating in the **San Joaquin Coastal Clean-up Day on Saturday, September 19th**. Plan on joining our First UU Church team!
- The Social Justice/Community Outreach planning committee is meeting at **9:30 a.m. on Sunday, August 16th** (in the church conference room). Everyone is welcome to join us!

Social Justice Collection

Our July Social Justice Collection raised \$ 241.00 for PACT. 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, August 16, 2015 is TBD

New Music Director

Please welcome Ian Kirk, our new Music Director, his wife Amy, and their two children. Ian teaches music and choir at Franklin High School in the Stockton Unified School District. Members of the Music Committee are delighted to work with Ian, who will begin with the choir at Sunday services beginning September 13.

The Alliance

Vacation Days? Please remember to save your motel/hotel shampoos, lotions and other items given away in your accommodations. Currently our donations are going to The Haven of Peace. Selected items must be unopened.

New tables for church use have recently been purchased by The Alliance.

Our annual Fall Raffle (\$250, gift card for use at Lincoln Center) will be held the month of October. Tickets will go on sale Sunday, October 4. The winner's name will be drawn after church on Sunday, November 1. Tickets are \$5,00 each and will be available only during the four October Sundays.

UU THURSDAYS!

at First Unitarian Universalist Church

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 will start up again September 17th. We are looking for volunteers to lead classes such as:

Dry-land gardening, rain-barrels, and drought preparedness, Organic Gardening and Healthy Cooking, Canoeing & Kayaking, Hiking & Camping, 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, Youth 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



Treasurer's Report to the Church – for August 2015

I am pleased to report that we ended the church fiscal year with a net income of almost \$7500. This is due, in part, to a surge in pledge income in June and the profit from our rental units. The sale of the Bristol St. property was approved by the congregation at the annual meeting. The Board has accepted the best of four offers and the property is already in escrow at a selling price of \$200,000, which is more than the listed price. The buyers are already qualified and very happy with the home.

In the future, our income statements will look different, and better, since we will no longer be paying mortgage interest. The June 30 financial reports are in Jackson Hall for all to see.

We start the new fiscal year with lower pledged income due to the loss of several generous members and the overall state of the economy. We balanced the budget by increasing our withdrawals from investments and reduction of some expenses. It is our hope that increases in the size of our membership will increase the donations to the church and the withdrawals will not be necessary by the end of the current year.

Respectfully submitted
Dave Hall

Minister's Office Hours

During the summer, Rev. Bob does not keep regular office hours, so call or text to check when he is available 209-684-6345. (He will be out of town the first week of August.)

During the main church year, 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.

Minister

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