



Minister's Message

The ART of Interim Ministry



First Unitarian
Universalist Church of
Stockton, 100 years of
Liberal Religion 1913-
2013

Yes, 2013 marks a
century of this
church's service to
liberal religion and
you've been a
presence even longer

than that, back to 1882 when the First Unitarian Society was formed, but only lasted 4 years because of financial problems. In 1911, five charter members of the original society began a second Unitarian group with Rev. Franklin Baker of Sacramento as leader. This church was formally begun in 1913 with a membership of 30 and a Board of Trustees. .

You are one of the earliest Unitarian Churches on the West Coast, and many people have worked long and hard to make it so, both ministers and lay people. Here is a list of the ministers who have served you:

Laura Horton-Ludwig (2006-2011), Carol Rudisill (2005-2006) Interim, Sofia Craethnenn (2003-2005), Joy Atkinson (2002-2003) Interim, Sean Parker Dennison (2000-2002) Interim, Nancee Campbell (1997-2000), Leslie Heyboer (1996-1997) Interim, Robert Green (1974-1996), Harold Schmidt (1958-1973), Ford Lewis (1952-1958), Samuel A.

Wright (1949-1952), Addison Steeves (1946-1949), Arthur Foote (1936-1945), Clarence Vickland (1931-1936), Milen Dempster (1926-1931), Thomas Clayton (1924-1926), Arthur Heeb (1914-1918), G. Herber Rice (1893-1896), W. E. Copeland (1892-1893)

I have talked to one member who remembers back to when Rev. Addison Steeves (1946-1949) was minister here; imagine. as the years go, many more remember the ministers who followed, each with his or her own style, personality, strengths and, yes, weaknesses. Each of us may have quite different memories and feelings about them as well. Hopefully, you will have a new minister and a next chapter of history in this New Year.

I feel privileged to be part of your history, if only for an interim ministry, and believe that there is a wonderful potential for this church to grow into the next century. I hope I have been of help to heal the hurts and grieving, and to get ready for a new minister.

There are many hard working, generous, and devoted people leading this church, but there is a danger of burn out when too few people have too many responsibilities. The future of the church lies partly in our children, our Religious Education, and our reaching out to the wider community.

So what shall the next century bring? Or to put it in another way, what will this church, each of you, bring to the next few years? How and what will you contribute to the next chapter of history, of new ministry?

Of course more money is always needed to just survive, but the church needs leadership and loving relationships to thrive.

Imagine what might happen if you decided to be intentional about growing, about spreading the "good word" of UUism to a community in which many people are looking for a church like ours and don't even know it! Surveys tell us that more and more people are being turned off by traditional religion and dropping out of traditional churches.

When is the last time you invited someone, especially a young family with children, to church? Think of where you would like to see this beloved community, or Unitarian Universalism, in the next 5 years, or 10 years. Perhaps the congregation should think about some New Year's resolutions?

Shalom,
Art

Sunday Services – 10:30 am

(Unless other wise noted)

Jan. 6 -Forgiving the Past, Co-creating the Future -Rev. Art Severance

Janus is the god for whom the month is named; he is literally two-faced- one face looks back to the past and the other to the future. So during the time of searching for a new minister, Janus is called on to deal with the past while getting ready for the future of this church.

Jan. 13 -The Theology of Creative Interchange Rev. Art Severance

Henry Nelson Wieman was an American philosopher and theologian who promoted "Natural Religion" and saw religion and even God in what he called, the "Creative Interchange" of true communication. Yes, of course he was a Unitarian Universalist, but first he was a Presbyterian minister and had many ties to California

Jan. 20- Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday- Where is the Dream? - Rev. Art Severance

We have re-elected the first Black President, yet Dr. King's Dream is not yet fully realized. We have come so far, yet there is more to do.

Jan. 27-Beyond Categorical Thinking

The UUA sponsors a special workshop and service to help church communities open their minds and hearts to ministerial candidates of all kinds, shapes, sizes, colors, sexual orientations, Sponsored by the Search Committee

Religious Education News

January Activities for K-6th Grades*

*preschoolers included as appropriate, or supervised in Childcare with Childcare Providers.

Jan. 6- Canned Food Drive, a service-learning lesson for the Stone Soup story. Everyone attending church on Jan. 6 is invited to bring cans or boxes of food for children to sort and donate!

Jan. 13- Movie-Watching in RE: title to be determined, likely to focus on Martin Luther King, Jr. or Passover story.

Jan. 20- Children's Chapel with Michelle, *Participating in the Dream, a celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life and message*

Jan. 27 -Storytelling RE Class: Children learn the story of the Jewish tradition of Passover.

RE Meeting Jan. 27 Noon – 1 or 1:30 in the Cottage, for RE parents and volunteers.

Important meeting to determine the future of RE program...decisions about RE Chair, RE Board Liaison, and RE Council!

Congregational News & Updates

Youth Group News

Regular Youth Group meeting (for 7th – 12th grades) Sunday, Jan. 13 10:30-11:30 AM with Chesa and Deb.

We are considering *Our Whole Lives* programming for 10th-12th graders (starting January 2013). Email Michelle Mueller at religious_ed@stocktonuu.org if your family is not on our Youth Group email list and should be! If you have a friend who would be interested in Unitarian Universalist sexuality education for their youth or children, have them contact Michelle!

CPR and First Aid Training

There are still spots available Sunday, January 13, 12:30-4:30 PM @ First Unitarian Universalist Church of Stockton Cottage. Cost is approximately \$80/person. (Cost goes down as more sign up!) Email Michelle @ religious_ed@stocktonuu.org.

Social Justice News

Social Justice Collection Sunday, December 16th, 2012

This month's social justice collection, is in support of TBD. Keep an eye out for an announcement in our weekly "A Look Ahead" emails very soon!

Do you know of an organization that would be a good candidate to receive one of our social justice collections? If so, please contact Board President Ben Cervantes or board member Lauri McKindley. We meet periodically to decide who will be the recipients of our social justice collections, and we welcome your ideas!

Project Thread

Our church will be working in conjunction with Project Thread and local community members to collect warm coats, hats, scarves, gloves and mittens for those in need. Collection will go through January 25th, 2013...just look for the large box in Jackson Hall to drop off your donations!

Food Bank Donations Needed



Yvonne Derby at the Emergency Food Bank says there is a particular need for "anything in a box" such as mashed potatoes, stuffing, rice, beans, pasta, cereal, and whatever else in the dry foods category. Any kind of canned or preserved foods are also most welcome. Please bring your donation to Church this Sunday through January (at least).

Meditation Group Every Thursday



Can you find inner peace in the glow of a candle, the sound of a syllable, the intake of a breath? Come join John Peters and friends for our meditation group at the church on Thursdays at 7 PM. John has completed courses in yoga teacher training and will teach meditation techniques and lead meditations. Any and all are welcome.

Men's Group Meetings January 2nd & 16th



Meet the first and third Wednesdays 7 PM- ~9 PM. We welcome all regardless of gender. Discussion usually centers around politics, family, work, entertainment, sports, life in general and the like. It's just casual, relaxed conversation among friends. Location varies; call Al Babylon at 209-956-6838 if you'd like to try us out.

**Come join us at Emerson
Coffeehouse Saturday, January 12,
7 pm, for the unique music of Loki
Rhythm.**

Loki Rhythm is a musical group that incorporates sounds from around the world. We are comprised of central valley musicians who appreciate the diversity of California. Our goal is to design music which includes the deep cultural history found in our own local communities. Our musical arrangements have evolved into unique compositions influenced by Hawaiian, West African, Caribbean, Zydeco, Latin Jazz, Asian and Persian cultures. Our philosophy is that music should be fun, thoughtful and celebrate multiculturalism. We love to have the audience participate and be involved in the music. Our own originals include Brazilian Treetop, Alien Blues, Butano Groove, and more.

Loki Rhythm attempts to gravitate towards people who are willing to celebrate, enjoy and experiment with rhythm and melodies. Listening to Loki Rhythm will bring on good will and positive fun within a unique auditory experience. Our music is designed to break the mold of contemporary thought and merge different cultural sounds, instruments, and rhythms. We fundamentally believe that music has at one time or another, saved our lives.

Band members include: Manny Moreno (drums, vocals), Seren Moreno (sax, ukulele, vocals, drums), Roy Santos (guitar), Sen Kironde (vocals, frottoir/washboard, drums), Ben Buckman (violin and voice), Robert Scott (trumpet), Karl Udang (alto sax, soprano sax, flute, flugal horn, drums, vocals), Ron Strauther III (bass), and Tanya Moreno (keyboard, vocals, clarinet, ukulele, drums).

Book Group Meeting



The Book Club meets this month on January 23 at 7:00 p.m. in Jackson Hall. We will discuss The Bondwoman's Narrative by

Hannah Crafts edited by Henry Louis Gates facilitated by Herman Washington

**BOOK CLUB READING SELECTIONS for
JANUARY - AUGUST 2013**

JANUARY: The Bondwoman's Narrative by Hannah Crafts. Facilitated by Herman Washington.

FEBRUARY: The Beekeeper's Apprentice by Laurie King. Facilitated by Dwane Milnes.

MARCH: The Time In Between by Maria Duenas. Facilitated by Sara Milnes.

APRIL: The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Frye by Rachel Joyce. Facilitated by Pat Davis.

MAY: Mistakes Were Made (But Not By Me) by Carol Tavris & Elliot Aronson Facilitated by Dwane Milnes.

JUNE: Dreams of Joy by Lisa See. Facilitated by Leslie Washington.

JULY: The Crucible (a play) by Arthur Miller. Facilitated by Anne Struck.

AUGUST: Truth and Beauty by Ann Patchett. Facilitated by Sigrid Eilers.

New members or "drop-ins" are always welcome. If you are interested in joining us contact Herman Washington at 957-8433 or lhwash@comcast.net

Ministerial Search Committee Up-date

BEYOND CATEGORICAL THINKING

On the weekend of January 27th, our church will participate in the Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop offered by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) for congregations involved in the search for a new minister. The Search Committee invites all congregational leaders, members, and friends to participate in this workshop. Stay after church for a light lunch before this UUA-sponsored workshop, led by Jo Victoria and Maud Steyaert.

“Will the new minister hear me? Will my concerns and needs be met? Will the minister understand what I’m living with? How will the community respond to our minister?”

In answering these questions, a picture of the “ideal minister” (categorized by age, gender, gender identity, nationality, physical ability, race, and sexual orientation) comes to mind. With this picture in place, it can be easy to unintentionally exclude ministers who fall into certain categories. At times, as we get caught up in comparing candidates to our “picture,” we can even forget what it is we hoped for in a minister.

The Beyond Categorical Thinking program is designed to promote inclusive thinking and help prevent unfair discrimination in the search process for a new minister. This program includes a Sunday morning service with BCT workshop facilitators followed by a three hour workshop. In the workshop, members and friends of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Stockton will:

- Consider the hopes, expectations, and concerns they have for a new minister
- Learn more about the ministerial search process, and

- Explore how thinking categorically about people sometimes interferes with choosing the best candidate.

The selection of a minister is important. The Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop is another opportunity for everyone in our congregation to be a part of that process. This experience will provide guidance for the search committee in our work.

UU Alliance News

The Church Women United will have their annual tea at Temple Israel on February 14 beginning at 1p.m. with a speaker. The tea follows and the Alliance will have a table featuring a variety of fresh foods. Kay Owen and Janet Bonner will be needing volunteers to help with the set up, serving and clean up. Please let them know when and how you can help and remember to attend!

Kitchen Freezer

The kitchen freezer is available for short term use items. Ice bags should not be stored as they put pressure on the electricity and add to the frost in the freezer. The Alliance members take turns monitoring the kitchen and try to defrost the freezer monthly. Large stored items make it hard to defrost. Please make arrangements to store food needing freezing

DAWN house, *Directions for Abused Women in Need*, a program of the Women's Center, appreciates the motel toiletries and other purchases (toothbrushes and paste, deodorant, etc.) church members have been donating for several years.



These items are sometimes packaged in small Zip lock bags and include, soap, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, all helpful to a woman

arriving without her own toiletries. Extras are included for DAWN house distribution.

Alliance member, Lois Hulse, has been sorting, bagging and delivering your gifts for the past few years.

The Alliance thanks you with a small reminder. We do not use any item that has been opened or partially used. So please new and unopened items only.

The Alliance

Other UU Events & News Beyond the Congregation

WOMEN & RELIGION, PACIFIC CENTRAL DISTRICT UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION

Celebrating: Courageous Women

The Women & Religion PCD 2013 Annual Women's Retreat **MARCH 1-3, 2013** at *Enchanted Hills Camp in the hills above Napa, California*

The weekend includes two nights lodging, 7 meals, workshops for mind, body and spirit, and conversations with new and old friends, as well as a boutique, silent auction, and book swap.

Join a wonderful group of women for a time away from the everyday world, with beautiful surroundings and delicious meals in a nurturing community.

Retreat Coordinator: Sally Ahnger
Co-conveners: Beverly Morgan and Phyllis Boyson
Workshop coordinator: Tanya Webster
Affinity circles coordinator: Megan Brooks
Registrar: Beverly Morgan

General Assembly in Phoenix, AZ, selected "Reproductive Justice: Expanding Our Social Justice Calling" to be the 2012-2016 Congregational Study/ Action Issue. In recognition of this CSAI we will honor courageous women in all walks of life - past, present and future.



Visit www.womenandreligionpcd.org for more information and to register online

District Executive Search!

Did you know that our UUA District is in search of a District Executive? Rev. Latham will complete an Interim position soon. The District Executive Search Committee would like district members' feedback for the position. What is working in the district, and what would you like to see more of? What can the District Executive do to support our congregation?

Email District Executive Search Committee Chair, Rev. Earl Koteen, at pcd.de.sc@gmail.com to send feedback. Include your phone number if you would like a follow-up phone call.

Choir Schedule

2013 dates

January 6th, 13th & 27th

February 3rd, 10th, & 17th

March 17th, 24th, & 24th

Please note dates are subject to change.

Regular Church Activities – Come Join Us!

Regular Groups & Meetings	Monthly Meeting Date(s)	Date(s)	Contact for More Information
<p>Book Group <i>All are invited to read & discuss books selected by the group.</i></p>	<p>4th Wednesday 7:00 PM</p>	<p>January 23rd</p>	<p>Herman Washington (209) 957-8433 or bookgroup@stocktonuu.org</p>
<p>Men's Group <i>All are invited who wish to participate in our conversational sessions.</i></p>	<p>1st & 3rd Wednesday 7:00 PM</p>	<p>January 2nd & 16th</p>	<p>Al Babylon, 956-6838 or mensgroup@stocktonuu.org</p>
<p>Meditation Group <i>All are invited who wish to participate in our meditation group</i></p>	<p>Thursday's 7:00 PM</p>	<p>January 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st</p>	<p>John Peters, 209-808-9622 jmpproductions@mac.com.</p>
<p>Youth Group <i>Formerly called YRUU, our youth group offers opportunities for social get-togethers and service projects.</i></p>	<p>Special Events as Scheduled</p>	<p>Dates will vary. Please check the church website for more information.</p>	<p>Michelle Mueller, 466-7743, 856-220-8888 or religious_ed@stocktonuu.org</p>

Purpose

(Article III, By-Laws of First Unitarian Universalist Church of Stockton)

We, the members of this congregation, shall foster Unitarian Universalist principles. We encourage each individual to determine his or her own creed and standard of theological belief. Toward those purposes, we are committed to creating a loving religious community through worship, study, service and fellowship while honoring diversity and respecting the inherent worth and dignity of each individual. We shall strive to render enlightened service to the various communities of which we are a part. We respect the interdependent web of all living things.

Interim Minister

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Return Service Requested

Time Dated Material – Please Deliver Promptly