



## Minister's Message

### The ART of Interim Ministry



How are your resolutions coming? Studies show that by February, we have often given up on those noble resolutions we so reasonably made in January. We WANT to change our lives, but it's so hard to do, we often give up because

we get discouraged, we LOSE FAITH in ourselves. Yes, even UU's have a faith, and we often include the "Purposes and Principles" in what we say we believe.

I'll be leading a new Adult RE Course called, "Let's Get Spiritual and Explore our Beliefs." I'll be using the book, "Spiritual Literacy" edited by Frederic and Mary Brissat, and the old UUA Curriculum, "What Unitarian Universalists Believe: Living Principles for a Living Faith," which came out shortly after the "Principles and Purposes" were first introduced. I will have a number of used copies of "Spiritual Literacy" available for sale.

This will be a 10 session course starting Wed. Afternoon at 1:00, Feb 6. Please sign up either on sheet or call the office. We can do a Wed. evening course as well, if enough people are interested.

Watch for "Compassionate Communication", a course coming up later, based on the book, "Non-Violent Communication by Marshall B. Rosenberg and leading to drawing up a Behavior Covenant. How we communicate with each other is part of building "right relationships," whether it be in our believed community of church or in our relationships with friends and especially family.

I believe that relationships are what religion is really about, and that any religion worth while will help us learn to develop healthy, loving relationships with people as well as life!

Much Shalom,  
Rev. Art

### Sunday Services - 10:30 am (Unless other wise noted)

#### Feb 3 "Darwin Sunday- How to Evolve Creatively"

The great Unitarian scientist, Charles Darwin, was born on Feb. 12, 1809; there is now an "International Darwin Day" to be celebrated on or near his birthday. Yet the majority of Americans, according to one recent poll, still don't believe in Evolution. Science is NOT the enemy of religion, as if they were mutually exclusive.

#### Feb. 10 Transitional Times

What happens when you HAVE to change horses in the middle of a stream? I'll share the pulpit with our resigning DRE, Michelle Mueller, as we talk about times of transition and the future of Unitarian Universalism, Children's Religious Education, and this church.

**Feb. 17 TBA**

## **Feb. 24 Happy Heretics**

The word "heresy" comes from the Greek word for "choice," but has meant WRONG choice and those who are considered heretics were often killed Can you imagine Jesus condemning anyone to death for not believing the same way he did? How can we prevent any religious institution from seeing the institution as more important than the religion, or even each member of the institution?

### **Religious Education News**

## **February Religious Education Activities for K-6<sup>th</sup>\***

\*On days when Youth Group does not meet, youth have the option to attend K-6<sup>th</sup> RE *as helpers* OR attend worship service.

**Feb. 3** Imbolc Candle Celebration (w/ Michelle) We invite each child to bring to RE a candle from one's household. We will have a candle communion for Imbolc or "Candlemas," a Pagan holiday that became known as St. Brigit's Day in the Catholic tradition. There will be plenty candles to share for new visitors. We will do some Imbolc songs as well.

**Feb. 10** After Michelle's Story for All Ages, K-6<sup>th</sup> children's activity with Lisa Jones for *marriage equality in California* from the UUA!

**Feb. 17 and 24** games and activities with Childcare Providers.

## **Youth Group Activities**

This month Youth Group (7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades) meets Feb. 10\*\* and Feb. 24 (10:30-11:30 AM) with Chesa Garlough using "Building Beloved Community" curriculum about race, diversity, and justice.

\*\*Date is corrected from previous emails.

## **Call for Volunteers**

We will ESPECIALLY need volunteers to lead activities for K-6<sup>th</sup> during Religious Education time in the interim period between religious education professionals. Please email [religious\\_ed@stocktonuu.org](mailto:religious_ed@stocktonuu.org) by Feb. 12 to volunteer for a Sunday between March and May. Include your scheduling preferences!

We do screen volunteers with a background check for safety, which Michelle will discuss with you.

Volunteers need not have professional teaching experience!

New to the program? Stay tuned for a date for a brief Teacher Training!

## **Needed: RE Liaison to the Board of Trustees**

Religious Education needs a volunteer to serve as the RE Liaison to the Board of Trustees.

Requirements:

Must be member of First Unitarian Universalist Church of Stockton of at least one year.

Expectations:

Attend monthly Board meetings (third Tuesday each month).

Attend Religious Education meetings (every few months).

Act as liaison between Board and RE Committee; represent Religious Education needs to the Board and report back to Religious Education Committee and parents about happenings on the Board.

If you would consider serving in this role, please email [religious\\_ed@stocktonuu.org](mailto:religious_ed@stocktonuu.org) ASAP.

## FROM THE DESK OF THE DRE



Dearest Friends, It is with deep sadness that I will be leaving as your DRE. I have very much enjoyed being your Religious Education Director,

teaching children in the congregation, and making fond memories with members of the church. In May I will complete my two years of coursework. I will be looking for a full time job.

My last Sunday will be February 10. Rev. Severance and I will share the pulpit before my departure. Please join us during Coffee Hour to celebrate our Religious Education program. A little bird told me there may be cake.

Thank you all for understanding my decision and for your support. I am truly blessed to have been a part of this community, even if for the short period of one year and a half.

The minister is taking actions to have a *hopefully quick* Acting DRE Search. Please contact Rev. Severance if you would like to be involved in the search.

Michelle Mueller, M.Div.  
Director of Religious Education

## Social Justice News

### Social Justice Collection Sunday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013

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.

## Congregational News & Updates

### 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

#### February 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>

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.

### Ministerial Search Committee Up-date

The Ministerial Search Committee invites you to visit the Congregational Packet. This is the packet that prospective ministers are looking at. For comments or to ask questions, please see any of the search committee members.

The congregational packet is on the church website. To get to it go to:

[www.stocktonuu.org](http://www.stocktonuu.org).

Click on Ministerial Search Committee

Click on Congregational Packet

Your will see a menu of all the sections of the packet.

## A PERFECT VALENTINE : Honor loved ones or heroes with a SANCTUARY CHAIR PLAQUE

On Sunday mornings we often see name plaques on sanctuary chairs with names of our forbears, loved ones and heroes. They remind us that our support community includes those of us here, those who live on in memories, and others who have inspired us. Of the 110 chairs in our sanctuary, 65 have plaques. We hope someday all will - just 45 are left.

For \$150, dedicate a chair for yourself, your family, or in memory of someone who inspired you. A current list of names on dedicated chairs is posted in Jackson Hall. Plaque Funds support Stockton UU's work.

*All plaques ordered by March 3, 2013, will be formally dedicated at a Sunday morning service later in March. Order forms in Jackson Hall. Turn in to church office with check.*

## Food Bank Donations Needed



As always, thank you to all who have contributed during the holidays and January.

Please bring your donation to Church any Sunday. If we're not standing next to the Emergency Food Bank barrel on the front steps to greet you, the barrel will be next to the piano on the fireside Room.

Yvonne Derby at EFB says they need "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.

Have you forgotten to get something to contribute when you went shopping? Write "EFB" on your shopping list and get something on sale, maybe \$5 or less. A little

bit more frequently is probably better than a lot infrequently. But that's up to you. Thanks again from your Social Justice Steering Committee.

## Emerson Coffee House Collective



Please join us on the Second Saturday of the month for the Emerson Coffee House. All shows start at 7:00 p.m. and the cost is \$10.00 per person.

### Feb. 9 Juke Joint Jimmy and the Low Profile

James Bond Haydon is a northern California trombonist, guitarist, singer and songwriter who has been writing and performing music since the 1960s.

If you enjoy hearing original blues, rock, oldies, and original tunes, you will appreciate this unique performance in a coffeehouse venue. Betsy Haydon Keithcart on harp, guitar, and vocals; brother, Tom Haydon on bass, as well as other family members.

We may even bring back the Bond Family Jug Band, by popular demand.

Up Coming Performances:

March 16 Tom Neilson

April 13 Open

May 18 Seaport Quintet

June 8 Frankie and Annette



## Book Group Meeting



The Book Club meets this month on February 27 at 7:00 p.m. in Jackson Hall. We will discuss *The Beekeeper's Apprentice* by Laurie King. Facilitated by Dwane Milnes.

New members or "drop-ins" are always welcome. If interested in joining us contact Herman Washington at 209-957-8433 or [lhwash@comcast.net](mailto:lhwash@comcast.net)

Thanks,  
Herman

## BOOK CLUB READING SELECTIONS for MARCH - AUGUST 2013

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.

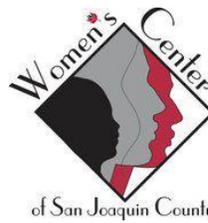
JUNE: *Dreams of Joy* by Lisa See. Facilitated by Leslie Washington.

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](mailto:lhwash@comcast.net)

## 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!

**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 Hulsey, 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.



### TRANSITIONS WORKSHOP FAMILY TO PASTORAL TO PROGRAM

Is your congregation stuck? Having difficulty breaking through membership boundaries? Been in transition so long that it has become a lifestyle? Then, this workshop is for you and your congregational team!

In this presentational and interactive workshop we will explore;

- The characteristics of three primary attendance size cultures (Family, Pastoral, and Program) and what makes them work
- The factors that tend to impede forward progress in size transitions.
- How this paradigm can empower congregations to move into a new future.

Outcomes:

- Understanding the culture of each congregational size and how to transcend the transition.
- Learn the leadership skills need to navigate the transition.
- Develop a game-plan for processing this paradigm in congregational life which you can implement in your own congregation.

This workshop will be offered in two locations to support cross-congregational learning. There will be an option to remain in a learning community post workshop via private Facebook groups, virtual meetings and conference calls.

Saturday, February 23, 2013  
UU Church of Davis  
10 am 4 pm, registration at 9  
\$45.00, breakfast goodies and lunch included

Saturday, March 16, 2013  
First Unitarian Church of San Jose  
10 am 4pm registration at 9  
\$45.00 breakfast goodies and lunch included.

The presenter, the Reverend Robert T. Latham has written a book about applying this paradigm to the peculiarities of Unitarian Universalism. Questions? Please contact PCD District Administrator Chuck Rosene at: [pcd@pcd-uua.org](mailto:pcd@pcd-uua.org) or (510) 482-0669.

## Regular Church Activities – Come Join Us!

Regular Groups & Meetings	Monthly Meeting Date(s)	Date(s)	Contact for More Information
<p><b>Book Group</b>  <i>All are invited to read &amp; discuss books selected by the group.</i></p>	<p>4th Wednesday            7:00 PM</p>	<p>February 27<sup>th</sup></p>	<p>Herman Washington            (209) 957-8433 or  <a href="mailto:bookgroup@stocktonuu.org">bookgroup@stocktonuu.org</a></p>
<p><b>Men's Group</b>  <i>All are invited who wish to participate in our conversational sessions.</i></p>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup>            Wednesday            7:00 PM</p>	<p>February 6<sup>th</sup> &amp;            20<sup>th</sup></p>	<p>Al Babylon, 956-6838 or  <a href="mailto:mensgroup@stocktonuu.org">mensgroup@stocktonuu.org</a></p>
<p><b>Meditation Group</b>  <i>All are invited who wish to participate in our meditation group</i></p>	<p>Thursday's            7:00 PM</p>	<p>February 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>,            21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup></p>	<p>John Peters, 209-808-9622  <a href="mailto:jmproductions@mac.com">jmproductions@mac.com</a>.</p>
<p><b>Youth Group</b> <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><b>Dates will vary.            Please check the church website for more information.</b></p>	<p>Michelle Mueller, 466-7743,            856-220-8888 or  <a href="mailto:religious_ed@stocktonuu.org">religious_ed@stocktonuu.org</a></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

Rev. Art Severance.....466-7743  
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### Director of Religious Education

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### Music Director

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### Administrator

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E-Mail.....[office@stocktonuu.org](mailto:office@stocktonuu.org)

### Board of Trustees' President

Ben Cervantes.....373-3957  
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### How to Contact Us

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Return Service Requested

**Time Dated Material – Please Deliver Promptly**