



Minister's Message

The ART of Interim Ministry



This is my next to last Interim Minister column; it doesn't seem possible that my time with you is coming to a close at the end of June. My last day and last worship service will be June 30. I have accepted the offer from The UU Church of

Amherst, NY, outside of Buffalo to be their Developmental Minister (I describe it as a longer interim on steroids!), which is a 3-5 yr. placement. I am looking forward to helping another congregation while grieving that I must leave all of you behind.

One of my requirements for my next "post" was that it be within driving distance of my home in Mentor, outside of Cleveland. Amherst is about 3 hrs away! I will be able to spend much more time with my wife, Cathie.

Developmental Ministry is a fairly new approach to bridge the gap between the 2 yr. maximum stay for Interims and the "Settled." Another big difference is that the Transition Dept. at the UUA recommends one name to the church, then they interview that person and decide whether to accept or not. The interim search process is much quicker than for settled ministry, and there is usually a transition team which "hires" the interim, rather than the congregation ally appointed search committee who may narrow down to 2 or 3 "pre-candidates, have them come out to the area and spend a weekend, but the Church doesn't see them, because it is up to the search committee to narrow the field down to one "candidate" and he/she comes out for about 10 days,

preaching on 2 Sundays, the last of which is also a congregational meeting to vote whether or not to "call" the candidate as the next settled minister who will stay for an unspecified time. The whole process takes at least a year; the interim search usually is about a month! The Developmental Minister is similar to what used to be called "Consulting Minister."

I want to thank the Search Committee, Ernie Garcia, Herman Washington, Clair Trujillo, Cindy Milford, Rosemary Atkinson, Greg Harper, and Colleen Beilby, for their hard and excellent work. They will tell you that the advice from the District Ministerial Settlement Representative (MSR) was very helpful, even though many initially didn't think that they needed to follow it. I urged on them, as I did the board, my interim mantra-"Trust the Process; trust the process!"

We UU's seem to distrust any authority or hierarchy, and while it is always good to question authority, it's not always necessary to automatically reject it! There are now many studies/ articles/ books which delve deeply into congregational dynamics/psychology, and especially leadership development; since one of my favorite counseling quotes is supposedly an old Jewish saying-"If three people tell you that you are drunk, lay down!"- the advice gleaned from many sources, especially experience, can be very helpful. If just one person tells you something about yourself, that could just be his/her opinion, and the same as if two people say the same thing, that could just be coincidence, but if three people tell you something, that is a "critical mass," and you should listen.

So you are starting a new chapter in the church's century long history with a new settled minister starting in August; he will bring you his experience, wisdom, Inspiration, and love. I've included in the next few orders of service one of my favorite UU historical quotes from Hosea Ballou, early 19th century Universalist theologian:

"If we agree in love, there is no disagreement that can do us any injury, but if we do not, no other agreement can do us any good. Let us endeavor to keep the unity of the spirit in the bonds of peace."

Tolerance is good, respect is even better, and love is at the heart of it all. One of the teachings I have learned from the prophet, Jesus, is that it is important to love our neighbors as well as ourselves, each other, and God spelled with 2 "o's"- GOOD! I have felt much love here and the potential for a new loving relationship with the minister whom you have called to serve. He serves, not just the church, of course, but that Unitarian Universalist search for love, truth, beauty, and perhaps even God, or Ground of Being, Ultimate Concern, Higher Power, the Force, the Good, Spirit of Love, Spirit of Life; here we can choose our sacred metaphor. Play nice.

Much love and Shalom,
Rev. Art

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

June 2-RE Sunday "Learning the Principles and Purposes" Lisa Jones Acting DRE

June 9-"How to Behave in Church: Play Nice"
Rev. Art Severance

I'll share some of my thoughts about church, religion, and the Minister's Annual Report. As we get ready for the Annual Meeting and the inevitable discussion over the Budget and perhaps other issues, it is a good time to remind ourselves why we are here in this church and how important it is in our lives. I

believe that church conflict is the major reason that UUism is not growing and ministers are going sooner than they used to.

June 16- "It's The Journey, Not the End, That is our Task" Rev. Art Severance

The title comes from a verse I wrote when I was turning 50, and added some verses to Joni Mitchell's wonderful song, "The Circle Game." He knows now there are many years to come, and fears not future, pines not for the past." He's learned that love will live when we are done? And it's the journey not the end that is our task.

So, as I get ready to continue my journey, it will take me away from here, but your journey will continue with a new minister. We UU's search not for a Heaven after we die, but celebrate the journey of the present in which we find ourselves. How do we do that religiously?

June 23-"Father's Day; Our Problem with Authority Is All His Fault"

Rev. Art Severance

God's name is not Art, though a child has written as their recollection of starting the Lord's Prayer-"Our Father, who is Art in Heaven." What was your relationship with your father? If that does not talk about your experience, ask why God is usually portrayed as "our Father," rather than "Our Mother." But at the heart of religion, the search for meaning depends on our histories and our previous relationships. What's the real difference between Father's Day and Mother's Day?

June 30-"Endings as Beginnings; The Last Sermon" Rev. Art Severance

This will be my last day and last sermon with you. I'll share some of my observations, recommendations and my deep gratitude for the religious relationship we have developed since February, 2012.

Religious Education News

Dear Congregation (especially potential teachers and parents):

Please attend an open RE Meeting to be led by our RE Council **June 4 at 7 p.m.** We need to hear from you, so we'll know how to plan the program you seek.

We will talk to Jeri Bigbee about our relationship with the board.

We will elect our RE council chair.

We will talk about what we want RE to be.

Let us know if you want to teach!

Please also attend the annual meeting on June 9.

What we've been up to:

*RE service

*Formed an RE Council

*Hosted YRUU Conference--see their thank you poster in Jackson Hall

*Held YRUU planning discussion with the youth

*And a number of other tasks!

Social Justice News

Social Justice Collection Sunday, June 16th 2013

This month's social justice collection is in support of Emergency Food Bank. 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!

Thank you to everyone for your generous contributions!

Social Justice Collection

Our May Social Justice Collection raised **\$294.00** in support of **Stockton Shelter for the Homeless**. Thank you to everyone for your generous contributions!

Congregational News & Updates

These are happy times. We are preparing for the arrival of Rev. Robert Klein, our new settled minister. Even as we are saddened to see Rev. Art Severance wind down his days with us, (He will be leaving to serve as a Developmental Minister in Amherst, New York, the last part of June.) we are happily preparing for the arrival of Rev. Klein. Rev Klein says his goodbyes to the folks at the UU Church in Little Rock, Arkansas, at the end of June and will be moving to Stockton during the month of July. His first Sunday with us will be August 4.

We want to make his transition as seamless as possible. A transition committee is planning for his arrival. We will be letting you know as activities are planned so that everyone can take part.

Look for a photo and a short biography of Rev. Klein on the bulletin board in Jackson Hall in the coming weeks.

Men's Group Meetings June 5th & 19th

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.

Food Bank Donations Needed



Please bring your donation to Church any Sunday. The barrel will be next to the piano in the fireside Room.

Collecting Bottles and Cans



The Church is collecting aluminum cans and plastic bottles (water, soda, & juice ONLY – no other plastics) for recycling. Two barrels for your donations are in Jackson

Hall. Please drain all liquids before placing in receptacles. Every Monday the cans and bottles will be taken to a recycling center. For more information, contact Judy Andrews at (209) 476-9828.

Emerson Coffee House Collective



Frankie and Annette in Concert
Saturday, June 8, at 7 p.m.

Frankie & Annette have a mutual love of popular music: the kind of music people like to hear when they're doing something they really enjoy. It's '60s pop and old cowboy weepers, Tom Jones, the Everly Brothers, the Beatles and Van Morrison.

They interpret exceptional songwriting through clear harmonies and impeccable timing. Their original music is romantic and unique, with the occasional high, fast and inside emotional curve-ball.

Through songs we all know and love, Frankie and Annette connect with an emotional world of love, tragedy and hope.

Frankie, originally from San Diego, spent many years working the rock and jazz clubs of San Francisco. Annette, who hails from Redondo Beach, has a long history of

performing and appearing in musical theater in and around Los Angeles and Sacramento. Her voice is as beautiful as her soul.

Coffee House doors open at 6:30 p.m. and Frankie and Annette fill the room with song beginning at 7 p.m.

The cover charge is \$10 at the door.

Up Coming Performances:

We will not be hosting the Emerson Coffee House in July or August but will resume in September.

Will There Be Coffee For the Coffee Hour?

Yes, there will always be coffee for the coffee hour. But it seems that the cost is more than the donations that wind up in the donation cups.

Please help enliven our coffee hour with your donation as you enjoy that wonderful coffee and the desserts after church services each Sunday.

Coffee prices are going up and we hope the donations do as well.

Help Save Mart donate to our Church!

This may seem a little strange, that a grocery store could donate to a church. But here is how it works.

If you shop at Save Mart and show the "Save Mart Share Card" at the time of purchase, then 3% of the purchase amount will be donated to the church. This is like free money. Sara Milnes has Share Cards and will be happy to give you one.

Book Group Meeting



The Book Club meets this month on June 26th at 7:00 p.m. in Jackson Hall. *Dreams of Joy* by Lisa See. Facilitated by Leslie

Washington.

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

Thanks,
Herman

BOOK CLUB READING SELECTIONS for APRIL - AUGUST 2013

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

Play Reading Group Forms: Men Needed

A new play reading group, an offshoot of the UU book group, has met for its first play reading. The group organized by Anne Struck of the book group read Oscar Wilde's hilarious "The Importance of Being Earnest" on May 13. . Our 2nd outing will be on Monday night, July 8 at 7 PM at the home of Pat Davis. Our next play will be Noel Coward's, "Blithe Spirit" written in 1941 as Britain was fighting WWII. It's a comedy about ghosts, mediums and those who would believe and disbelieve in them. The group so far is all female, but this play requires a male lead and another smaller male role.

Gentlemen, if you would like to participate

in this fun event, please call Pat Davis and volunteer. There is no acting involved, make up or memorizing. We simply read the play in the roles we have been assigned. It's a lively evening with snacks and friendship.

For those who enjoy drama, this is your group. We have agreed to meet every other month rather than monthly to avoid conflicts and overburdening ourselves. The male lead in the English movie was played by Rex Harrison, so if you fancy yourself as a Rex Harrison type, the part of Charles is perfect for you.

Grant Research and Writer Needed!

There are grants out there that can be used by our church to support programs that will benefit our church and our community. Is this your niche in life? Would you like to research grants, and if there are some that we might use, draft the grant application? If so, we need your help! Please contact Dwane Milnes and he will help point you in the right direction

UU Alliance News

Summer Potluck

Our Annual Luncheon and Program Planning will be held Wednesday, June 12, 11:00 a.m., at the home of Janet Bonner. Members and guests will furnish salads and gather to formulate Alliance plans for the coming church year. Projects will be discussed as well as possible fund raising ideas. All money raised by The Alliance is used for church needs or improvements. Contribution to the Wayside Pulpit renovation fund was a major expense this past year.

Kitchen Cleaning

Each month an Alliance member or church friend assumes the responsibility of checking the kitchen every week for soiled towels and sticky counter tops.

It is everyone's responsibility to see that the kitchen is left clean and tidy after each event. This includes not leaving dirty dishes on the counter tops.

A thorough clean up was done three weeks ago and paid for by The Alliance. However, both the refrigerator and the stove took extra time.

Please be aware that these two pieces of equipment are used over and over and should be left clean and food items marked for future use.

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 Hulseby, 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

Good News!

With great pleasure the Pacific Central District Board of Directors announces that Joshua Searle-White has accepted the position of Pacific Central District Executive. Josh will be attending the Pacific Western Regional Assembly later this month, General Assembly in Louisville, KY, and will assume his position in the PCD on July 1, 2013.

You may recognize Josh's name through his popular workshops at General Assembly The UUMA convocation or UUMA chapter retreats. He is also the author *Magic Wanda's Travel Emporium: Tales of Love, Hate, and Things in Between*, published by Skinner House. Josh is a master storyteller with deep experience helping individuals and Congregations work with their own narratives to create greater health and vitality.

He has deep roots and many years of experience in Unitarian Universalist congregations, where he has taught and served in a variety of leadership positions; and he has created and delivered well-received presentations around the country, as well as at the district and national levels.

Josh holds a Ph.D. in psychology and is currently Associate Professor of Psychology and Department Chair at Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania.

He is leaving this tenured position to serve Unitarian Universalism in the Pacific Central District. He tells us he was not looking for another job - only for an opportunity to align his work with his passion for our shared faith. We welcome his talents and enthusiasm.

The Board wishes to thank the Search Committee for their good work and excellent result. They have served Unitarian

Universalism in the PCD through an important transition.

Susan Lankford

Acting President

Pacific Central District

Stockton Area Events & News

Free Yoga in Victory Park

Date: Saturday, April 6, 2013 - Saturday, November 2, 2013

Time: 9:00am - 10:15am

Location: Victory Park

1001 North Pershing Avenue
Stockton, CA

Everyone is invited to join our family friendly morning practice!

Bring a large towel or yoga mat, with your positive attitude.

Free Admission Day at The Haggin Museum

The Haggin Museum Free Admission Day

Come enjoy FREE admission to the Haggin every 1st Saturday of the month.

All visitors are admitted free of charge from 12:00-5:00 p.m.

Go to www.hagginmuseum.org or contact museum staff at (209) 940-6300 or info@hagginmuseum.org for more info.

Downtown Stockton Certified Farmers' Market

Hunter Square

Downtown Stockton Certified Farmers' Market is held **every Wednesday from 8 am to 2 pm** on Main Street in front of the Bob Hope Theatre, May 15th, 2013 through October 30, 2013.

The Market is organized by the [San Joaquin Certified Farmers' Market](#) on the East Main Street in front of the historic [Bob Hope Theatre](#). The market offers fresh fruit, vegetables and cut flowers as well as baked goods, oils, vinegars, herbs, nuts, and fresh mushrooms. Back in 2013 is live music at lunch time.

Concerts in the Park - Summer 2013

Wednesday, June 5, - Wednesday, August 21

Time: 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Location: Victory Park

Spend an evening in the park with your favorite person, a picnic supper, and some great music as the Concert in the Park series continues for its 61st year! The 12-concert series typically attracts in excess of 12,000 people!

Concerts are free - Lawn chairs and picnics welcome!

Schedule:

- **June 5:** [Snap Jackson & the Knock on Wood Players](#) -- Genre: Americana, Bluegrass
- **June 12:** [Valley Concert Band](#) -- Genre: Big Band, 30-piece band
- **June 19:** Steve Trucco
- **June 26:** [RB/X](#) -- Genre: 50's & 60's
- **July 3:** [Valley Concert Band](#) -- Genre: Big Band, 30-piece band
- **July 10:** Dixie Ink
- **July 17:** Tropical Nights
- **July 24:** Swingaires -- Genre: Big Band, Swing era
- **July 31:** [Summit](#) -- Genre: Rock cover band
- **Aug. 7:** [Valley Concert Band](#) -- Genre: Big Band, 30-piece band
- **Aug. 14:** Nick Isaak Band
- **Aug. 21:** [Waterloo](#) -- Genre: Northern California's premier Abba tribute band

San Joaquin County Fair

Wednesday, June 12 - Sunday, June 16
12:00pm - 10:00pm
San Joaquin County Fairgrounds

The San Joaquin County Fair in Stockton is one of Northern California's premier county fairs. It features fun for everyone with big-name concerts, horse racing, a carnival, agriculture, livestock, food, live entertainment, and exhibits. There's something to do for everyone which makes the Fair a great event to take your family and friends.

LIVE! At Lincoln Center: YMCA Wine Stroll

Friday, June 14, 2013
Time: 6:00pm - 9:00pm
Location: Lincoln Center

Lincoln Center is hosting three LIVE! events this summer. The season kicks off with the YMCA Wine Stroll on Friday, June 14th, 6:00 - 9:00 pm. Join us for shopping, strolling, snacking and sipping through our stores!

Admission to the event is free. Cost for wine tasting is \$20 per person and includes a commemorative Lincoln Center wine glass. Wine tasting tickets can be purchased in advance from YMCA board members and at the Lincoln Center Marketing Office. They will also be sold at the event. Proceeds benefit the YMCA of San Joaquin County. For musical entertainment, performers include Mojo Swingers, Bill Erikson and Travis Vega. There's plenty to do and see with in-store promotions and trunk shows, fabulous food and local wine.

Participating local wineries include:

- Jessie's Grove Winery
- Barsetti Vineyards
- Weibel Family Vineyards & Winery
- Dancing Coyote Wines
- Kidder Family Winery
- Estate Crush
- Omega Cellars

- Peltier Station Winery
- Jeremy Wine Company
- Oak Farm Vineyards
- Watts Winery and Vineyards
- Sobon Estate/Shenandoah Vineyards
- Van Ruiten Family Winery
- Ironstone Vineyards
- Benson Ferry/Lodi Wine Cellars
- Borra Vineyards
- Harmony Wynelands

Stockton POA Father's Day Benefit Basketball Game

Event Type: Sports

Date: Sunday, June 16, 2013
Time: 3:00pm - 6:00pm
Location: San Joaquin Delta College
5151 Pacific Ave
Stockton, CA 95207

Benefiting the Stockton Police Youth Activities, come on out to for a Father's Day Benefit Basketball game between members of the San Francisco 49ers and the Oakland Raiders against members of the Stockton Police Department!

Admit 3 Ticket: \$29

Admit 5 Ticket: \$39

All tickets come with a \$10 off coupon to Arroyo's Cafe! Your ticket purchase will also enter you into a free drawing to win a flat screen TV and other great prizes including 49ers and Raiders autographed NFL memorabilia. Grand prize winner gets to attend post-game dinner party at Arroyo's Cafe. Drawing to be held on June 8, 2013 at 2pm at Arroyo's Cafe. Need not be present to win!

For more information, contact the Stockton Police Youth Activities at (209) 937-8209. Tickets available at Arroyo's Cafe at 2381 W. March Lane

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>June 24th</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>June 5th & 11th</p>	<p>Al Babylon, 956-6838 or mensgroup@stocktonuu.org</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>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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Thurs. 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

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Return Service Requested

Time Dated Material – Please Deliver Promptly