



FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF STOCKTON
COMMUNITARIAN

Published Monthly

July 2014

Minister's Musings/Message:



7500+ miles later, I was very glad to pull into my driveway on July 10th! I truly needed a vacation after returning from this trip encompassing General Assembly, and some vacation visits to my kids, my brother, some cousins and other relatives and friends, and my house in Little Rock. It was a good trip to the East Coast and back that I may not

take again (at least in that way!). Each part worked out well and though my car now has gone over 218,000 miles, it held up well for the trip. I like to see the beauty of our country from ground level, but perhaps next time I will take the train!

Now it is time to begin thinking about the Fall start-up of the church year! Kids are back in school, colleges and Universities are starting their fall sessions, and soon (hopefully) the weather will cool enough to make our time together more comfortable and more exciting! Meetings of our Program Council, Board, Worship and Membership committees this month will help to set the tone for church events this fall, but already it looks to be an interesting array of opportunities for gathering and sharing in the life of our community. There will be challenges as well as opportunities ahead, but I am enthusiastically looking forward to our 2nd year together and the 2nd year of our church's 2nd Century of service to Stockton!

What opportunities lie ahead? Perhaps we shall get the organ fixed and host a series of concerts? Perhaps the Emerson Coffee Houses will grow to pack the house this fall? Perhaps our Social Justice efforts will continue to grow? Perhaps our lifelong religious education program will grow this year? These are just a few things that come to mind on a hot afternoon! Who knows what else may come?

I hope that your summer plans have worked out well and that you will enjoy the rest of this month in safe

but exciting and energizing activities. I look forward to seeing you during the rest of the summer, or at least for Water Communion and In-Gathering on September 7th! Remember to collect some water and send in some pictures of your summer travels and activities!

Peace,

Rev. Bob

**Sunday Services - 10:30 am
(Unless otherwise noted)**

- 8/3 Ernie & Jan Poetry
- 8/10 Ernie & Jan I-Pod
- 8/17 UU Principles IV & Our Religious Living Tradition Rev. Bob Klein
- 8/24 UU Principles V & Our Philosophical Living Tradition Rev. Bob Klein
- 8/31 Guest: Western Farm Workers Labor Day

UUA General Assembly was held June 25-29th in Providence, RI. Several programs and events, and other materials are available online. Find out what is going on in the Unitarian Universalist Association, see uua.org for more info!

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. Especially during the summer, 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

Religious Education News

What's Happening in Religious Education Sunday School for the Children

8/3-8/31 We'll wrap up our summer programming with fun science, art, and park days (when the mornings are cool enough). E-mail Lisa to request to receive weekly announcements about what we have planned and like our Facebook Page to share this with your friends.

On **Sept. 7** Don't miss two important traditions:

- **Annual Intergenerational Water Service:** Bring your water or at least your stories of water from the places you visited, and maybe splashed in, this summer to participate in our traditional UU service marking the return of many of us from travel to church.
- Afterwards join us for the annual **Church Picnic and Swim party** at Marge Flaherty's house.

Teens: please make it to this party to welcome new teens and make plans for activities you want to do this Fall.

Sept. 7 -October 18 we'll have an attendance required Sunday School program that will include:

- **Children's Choir** and music practice in preparation for a performance in an intergenerational service.
- **"Standing Up for UU and Me" Curriculum**

Children will discuss themes such as: how to stand up to bullies, how to stand up for their beliefs, how to be a good community member, how to resist stereotypes and prejudice, and how to express their authentic selves. We'll explore this through stories, songs, art, skits and games.

Please send an e-mail to Lisa to sign up for this program and indicate which of the Sundays in this time frame your child can NOT attend (please

commit to 5 of the 7 Sundays). We only require an attendance commitment in Fall and Spring for a couple of months each. It helps create a program where children look forward to seeing their friends and can have more meaningful learning and fun.

The age group for this program will depend on who signs up first.

Questions? Contact Director of Religious Education, Lisa Jones at 547-1020 (home/landline) cell phone 242-1821 or religious_ed@stocktonuu.org. Office hours Tuesdays 1-3.

Treasurer's Report

I am happy to report that we ended the year with a nice surplus which will remain in our checking account as protection against cash flow issues. The "almost final" reports are on the board in Jackson Hall.

There is very little else to report but I urge you to keep your pledges up to date over the summer, church bills and salaries do not take a vacation. Please enjoy your summer.

Respectfully submitted

Dave Hall

Congregational News & Updates

Do you like to sing?

The choir is accepting new members! If you love to sing, or have always wanted to try out performing, here's your chance. The church choir is open to anyone who would like to sing with us. We rehearse at 9am on Sunday mornings before the service. We usually rehearse and sing 3 Sundays each month. Contact Amelia Roberts, Music Director, at AmeliaRoberts@gmail.com (don't miss the middle initial "i") for more information

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 and we will soon be scheduling an introductory session!

Book Group Meeting August 27, 7:00 pm



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

Calling on all members (not just parents)

In the summer we ask church members who don't normally participate in RE to donate one Sunday working with Lisa to plan a simple activity related to your personal hobbies or interests. Share what you know about nature, photography, birdwatching, science, or a sport. The focus is on fun and community. Contact Lisa Jones, DRE 547-1020 (home phone) with a date of availability in mind.

WATER COMMUNION Sunday SEPT 7th

Remember as you travel: Collect Water and Send in Digital Images!

The Water Communion/In-Gathering Service celebrates our coming back together in the Fall after traveling in many directions during the summer. To celebrate this, we bring back water (you can also pour some symbolically if not able to bring back any) to mingle together as we tell our stories of our summer journeys. We will also be putting together a slide show of digital images from travels and favorite waters to enhance the service.

All Church Picnic and Splish-Splash Pool Party!

An annual tradition for the last 40 years!

Sunday afternoon, from 1 P.M. To 5 P.M., on September 7th

Fun for all ages, whether you want to swim in the pool, simply dangle your feet in the cool water, or just sit under an umbrella or shady tree for some good conversation.

Bring whatever your family wants as a meat dish; we'll have grills ready for cooking hamburgers, steaks, chicken or hot dogs – or bring your favorite meat substitute.

Then bring something for others to share – a nice salad of any sort, or other side dish (baked beans, rice dish, chili, etc.), or a tasty dessert item. And those who don't enjoy preparing dishes can bring some cans of regular or diet sodas, lemonade, or iced coffee. We'll have a couple extra coolers with ice ready to receive cold drinks and a variety of accompaniments – mustard, ketchup, pickles, etc. We'll also supply plates, napkins, cups for items like lemonade and plastic eating utensils.

Don't forget serving pieces for sharing your side dishes and bring folding chairs for any in your family who need them. We'll have tables set up for the food items.

The weather should cool a bit by then, but still be plenty warm enough for water play.

Mark your calendars now!

Fun and frolic at the large home and grounds of Marge Flaherty (Thanks to Marge for always generously offering her place for our picnic.)

2020 Country Club Blvd. (close to the small Country Club shopping area near Mission).

See you there!

Mary Bullard
Membership Chairperson

Adult Classes led by Rev. Bob:

Adult Classes led by Rev. Bob: Upcoming Study Possibilities:

Let me know which interest you and/or suggest others!

Unitarian Universalist History & Theology

(based on David Bumbaugh Earl Morse Wilbur, and John Buehrens' books on UU History)

Blessing, Spirituality, and Panentheism (Matthew Fox's Creation Spirituality, based on his book *Original Blessing*, and other writings)

Escalating Inequality, the new Congregational Study Action Issue passed by the 2014 General Assembly to be considered over the next 4 years and leading toward a new Statement of Conscience. Study materials will soon be available.

The World's Religions (updated) and Our UU Living Tradition. A new look at the updated version of Huston Smith's classic, and the way the religions of the world have influenced Unitarian Universalism.

Reading the Bible Again for the First Time, (book by Marcus Borg). A look at Christian beliefs based in different readings of scripture.

Dream Group, looking at our Dreams—using Rev. Jeremy Taylor's method. (Recommended reading: **The Wisdom of Your Dreams** by Jeremy Taylor) Contact Rev. Bob for more info if interested.

Alliance News

Please mark your calendars for the first Fall meeting of Alliance members and friends.

Wednesday, September 10 3-5 p.m.

Mary Lois Thompson's home
29 Nottingham Drive 477-4180

Thank you to church members and friends who save hotel toiletries as well as purchase items for our ongoing project for the women and children who stay at DAWN House. DAWN House is the women's shelter sponsored by the Women's Center of San Joaquin County. Needed items include toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, lotion, etc. Reminder that only unused items should be donated. Dee Heszler is the Alliance member now serving and packaging your donated items for the Center.

Social Justice News

There's lots happening in our UU Social Justice and Community Outreach effort ...
Social Justice News

Our UU commitment to social justice and community outreach keeps marching on ...

- Join us at the **Pride Festival** on **Saturday, August 23rd** at Oak Grove Park! Stop by our First UU Church table.
- Our continuing Habitat for Humanity volunteer crew will be now be coordinated by Dick Abood. Many thanks to Art Cofod for developing and leading this vital service program for the past year. More volunteers are needed, so if you're interested in joining the First UU Habitat crew, contact Dick at 931-6871 (rabood@pacific.edu).

Keep up the good work!

Social Justice Collection recipient for Sunday, August 17, 2014 is San Joaquin County Pride Center.

PRIDE CENTER- The mission of the San Joaquin Pride Center is to serve the diverse LGBTQQIA community in San Joaquin County and the surrounding areas by creating a safe and welcoming space, by providing resources that enrich body, mind and spirit, and by educating the public in tolerance and respect for all people within the LGBTQQIA community.

Social Justice Collection

Our July Social Justice Collection raised **\$419.98 for The Stockton Homeless Shelter** . Thank you to everyone for your generous contributions! If you have any suggestions for Social Justice Collection Recipient please contact Lauri McKindley or Rev. Bob Klein.

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.

Minister

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