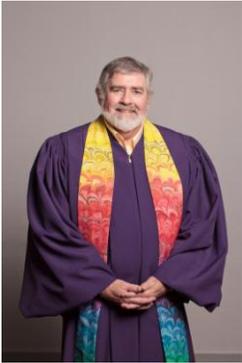




Minister's Musings/Message:



Here we are starting another New Year. What will this New Year, 2014 of the Common Era, hold? Will it offer a respite of peace amid the chronic epidemic of war? Will it be another year of wars and rumors of war? What will this year hold for our congregation, our families, and each of us?

The economic signs have been fairly positive of late. The slow recovery continues. Progress is being made in the healthcare crisis under the Affordable Care Act, though there is much more to do. Immigration, energy, and environmental degradation remain critical issues.

Like most years, 2014 rolled in to face a lot of unfinished business left from 2013! It hardly seems fair that a brand New Year would not be able to start with a clean slate, but that is the way of this time in history! Even so, we welcome you 2014, have a great year!

May this New Year also be a great year in the life of First Unitarian Universalist Church of Stockton. We also start the year facing challenges, but together we can make this a great year! Stay safe, but also remember to stretch to be the best person you can be! Together we will build up this congregation and change the world for the better! So May it Be!

Peace,
Rev. Bob

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

1/5 A Re-Covenanting Service (Bring your hopes and dreams for the New Year for yourself and the Church) Rev. Bob Klein

1/12 Goals, Mission, Vision, and the Ongoing Dance of Congregational Ministry! Building for a long-term Ministry! Rev. Bob Klein

1/19 Remembering The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Rev. Bob Klein

1/26 Tunnels, Trains, and Traffic—What can a religious community do about modern Geo-Political Problems? Rev. Bob Klein

Adult Classes led by Rev. Bob:

Starting January 17th New Adult Class led by Rev. Bob: **Misquoting Jesus** (book by Bart Ehrman) Daytime Sessions Fridays 1/17, 24, 31 10:30 a.m.-noon*. Please contact me (Rev. Bob) if you are interested but can't attend at this time! *We may switch this group to Weds or Thursday evenings. Looking ahead: New Class starting later in the Spring on Karen Armstrong's book: **The Battle for God: a History of Fundamentalism**

Anyone interested in a class on Unitarian Universalist History or Theology, please let me know! Any other topics you would like to study or facilitate, let me know!

Dreamwork Group, looking at our Dreams—using Rev. Jeremy Taylor's method

Daytime Group Thursdays January 9 & 23 1-3 p.m. Bring a Dream!

Evening Group Fridays January 10th & 31st 6-8 p.m.

(Recommended reading: **The Wisdom of Your Dreams** by Jeremy Taylor)

Minister's Office Hours:

Rev. Bob will be keeping 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, 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 new cell 209-684-6345 for appointments or emergencies**. Messages left at his home or on his cell will be checked at least daily. Feel free to e-mail uurevbobk@gmail.com

Religious Education News

What's New in Religious Education for Children and Youth Opportunities and Events

Thank you to everyone who helped with the holidays, especially Tory Sonstroem who has been planning some really stellar multi-generational services for us and has been a major force in our fundraising efforts to help fund the children's program and our church in general.

If you are not on our RE e-mail mailing list please let me know if you want to be (lisawritesagain@gmail.com). I will be sending out notices about an upcoming RE meeting for all parents/(potential) teachers and the RE council.

Please also think about parenting groups that might want to buy a table at our upcoming children's gently used clothing sale fundraiser at the church. Our church will advertise the event and groups will pay us per table plus a percentage on whatever they earn from selling baby/toddler clothing. Forward ideas for groups that might be worth contacting to participate to Tory Sonstroem (tory.sonstroem@gmail.com).

Questions? Contact Acting Director of Religious Education, Lisa Jones at 547-1020 (home/landline) orlisawritesagain@gmail.com. Office hours Thursday 11-1

Treasures Report Oct. 2013

Treasurer's Report to the Church – December 2013
I said last month that I wanted to celebrate in December, and we have much to celebrate. Pledge income is at 92% of pledges and hopefully this will be 100% by the end of the year as we try to reduce our personal tax bills by giving to the church before Dec. 31. The auction raised over \$4500, and it was a lot of fun. A generous couple bought a new Dell computer as a gift to the church and it will be installed in January.

Expenses have picked up and net ordinary income is about minus \$2,800. We have noticed that our sewer charges have increased by \$100 per month, and we are checking to see why this has occurred. As I write this, the city has promised, and failed, to respond for a week.

We have had a water leak at Bristol that will require some repair money, probably about \$1600. There are no surplus funds in the rental accounts to cover this. The furnace for the sanctuary has been repaired at a cost of about \$1300, quite a bit over our church repair budget. The board has moved funds from the computer purchase line item, and two other expense items that are running below projections and placed the money to the repair fund.

The investment at Morgan Stanley is growing due to the market increase but who knows what will happen. Our balance sheet is about \$14,400 better than last year.

All four of our assisted hearing devices have disappeared from the church and we may need to replace them. If you accidentally took one home, please bring it back.
The membership data is being updated this month and drafts of the directory are out for corrections each Sunday in December. Please check the drafts in Jackson Hall by Dec. 31, or call the office to confirm. We intend to ship the data to the photo company in January.

Respectfully submitted
Dave Hall

Social Justice News

Social Justice Collection Sunday, January 19th 2014

Thank you to everyone for your generous contributions!

Social Justice Collection

Our December Social Justice Collection raised **\$359.80** Thank you to everyone for your generous contributions!

Social Justice News

There's lots happening with the First UU Church Social Justice/Community Outreach efforts!

Our UU Habitat for Humanity crew has been hard at work. On November 9th church members Mary Bullard, Bev Blum Melanie and Gil Parker, Liz Newman, Cindy Milford, Alan DeLagoon, Pat Davis and Art Cofod volunteered at the Habitat for Humanity project at Dream Creek finishing the landscaping for a home that had just been completed. The crew will be working on another Saturday soon. If you're interested in participating, please email art@cofod.net and include the word Habitat in your subject line.

On November 23rd several church members (Al Babylon, Juanita Palaganas, Harry Welte, Dick Abood and Jeri Bigbee) participated in the Western Farmworkers food distribution that was hosted by our church (see the pictures below). It was great fun! We'll be doing it again on December 21st. Hope to see you there!

Our Adopt-a-Family project was a great success. This annual effort supports the vital services provided by the Women's Center to assist local families in need. Thanks to Liz Newman and Lauri McKindley for their coordination!

In December, the Church also continued our tradition of supporting the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) Guest at Your Table Program. Thanks to Lisa Jones for leading this effort.

Our First UU Church T-shirt campaign was a great success! 37 shirts were ordered and will be delivered soon. We appreciate your support as we spread the word about the great work we do as a church community!

Mark your calendars ... We're organizing a community service event on MLK National Day of Service (January 20, 2014). Stay tuned for more information or contact Jeri Bigbee (931-6871).

The Social Justice/Community Outreach committee will be meeting on **January 5th** after church to plan our upcoming efforts. A light lunch will be provided. Join us!



Congregational News & Updates

LOTS A PASTA

Tuesday, January 14th, 5 PM to 7 PM, at Ciao Bella, 5644 N. Pershing

Snap up tickets now for our warm and delicious Ciao Bella pasta buffet. The owner is offering a meal everyone will love at the regular menu price to ticket buyers, but giving the church a terrific break and we can eat at the restaurant! Buffet includes chicken pasta in a light sauce and/or lasagne, plus, on request, spaghetti with marinara sauce and Parmesan cheese for those who are vegetarian. Also included is his great salad and the best garlic bread in town.

The price is just \$16, which includes a gratuity for buffet workers. Drinks are on your own, of course - sodas, wines, mixed are all available.

A great family outing to start off the new year and, like the Texas Roadhouse dinner, the church has a chance to make a very nice amount of money. So gather family and friends - but there's not much time!

Tickets available at church services, or you may contact either our administrator, Nichole Ybarra or Mary Bullard for delivery of tickets. Make checks to Stockton UU Church, with "pasta" in the memo line.

It will be fun and it will be satisfying - and the more who attend, the more profit our church makes!!

Mary - marybee2@gmail.com or 477-8745

Nichole - office@stocktonuu.org or 466-7743

Photo Directory

As you probably remember, we had photos taken for a new church directory. A draft of the text will be available for proofreading on Sundays during December. Please stop in Jackson Hall and check your listing for accuracy.

Book Group Meeting



January 2014: Proof of Heaven: A Neurosurgeon's Journey by Eben Alexander. Facilitated by Pat Davis

February 2014: The Long Walk to Freedom by Nelson Mandela. Facilitated by Anne Struck

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

Emerson Coffee House Collective



Time to get out your 2014 calendar. Mark January 11, 7:00 pm for Emerson Coffee House. We will be treated to a lovely evening by two amazing musicians, Seren Moreno and

Linli Wang. Seren, a gifted young artist, was here with Loki Rhythm in November. This time he will perform with his many instruments accompanied by his mother and father, Manny and Tanya Moreno. Our very own church pianist, Linli Wang, will round out the evening with her lovely piano music.

Come, pour out a hot drink and sit back to relax after the busy holidays.

GROW WITH U- What's next



Not your usual COUPON BOOKS

\$12

"I saved \$8 with my first coupon!"

Dave Hall

Dozens of items not just fast foods. \$6 of every book stays with the church. The books are Good to Dec. 2014. Great gifts. Check them out, sell to friends. Available most Sundays in Jackson Hall.

Workshop Goals/Priorities and Specific Objectives for 2014

Strategic Priorities

- Increase membership and diversity
- Religious Education – Children
- Church visibility in the community and outreach to the community
- Sufficient Number of Volunteers
- Strengthen relationships in the church

Specific Objectives That We Will Try to Accomplish in 2014

Section 1.01 Membership Committee

- Committee member at the door each Sunday to greet visitors, assist with name tags and filling out visitor cards
- Committee member will make visitor feel welcome during coffee hour and engage others with the visitor
- Committee member will make UU information available to the visitor
- Visitor cards will be given to office administrator to mail a welcome letter and include those interested in receiving our newsletter
- Membership chair will followup with those visitors expressing interest in certain activities
- Membership Class every three months
- Restart the Souper Sundays for the winter and begin Salad Sundays when the weather warms again
- Reestablish Covenant groups
- Make sure hymnals are distributed among the chairs so that visitors can always access the proper hymnal

Section 1.02 Religious Education Committee

- Involve the youth in intergenerational programs, church outreach programs and church activities/events

- Get volunteers to assist in leading the youth with Rev Bob
- Get volunteers to assist in K-6 in the cottage
- Represent RE at community events
- Reach beyond our church to youth in other UU congregations and others in the community to participate in the OWL program
- Continue offering Adult RE classes and events and partner with other churches to offer joint Adult RE classes

Section 1.03 Community Outreach and Social Justice Committee

- Church member participation in ongoing activities (Habitat, Water project)
- Social Justice Sunday Offerings and have an introductory description of the Community Recipient Organization during the church service
- Church member participation in Community events/short term projects (e.g. "Adopt a Family", Pride Festival, Earth Day, Coastal Cleanup Day, Park and Levee Cleanup, etc.)
- Sell T Shirts to Church members with a distinctive color and church logo, to be worn when church members participate in community activities.

Section 1.04 Board of Trustees

- Assign a short term committee to review and recommend changes in the organization of things within the church building such as chairs on the pulpit area, the foyer, Jackson Hall, the middle storage room and the conference room
- Assign a short term committee to research use (including zoning and parking restrictions) and possible sale of rental properties
- Ask the Building Committee and the Safety Committee to assess major repair/maintenance needs for the church buildings and property and develop a schedule to accomplish these.

Church Goals and Objectives

On the first weekend of this last October, many of our church members had an opportunity to meet with UU Pacific Central District representatives. We discussed broader goals and specific objectives or tasks that we would like our church to complete during 2014.

This past month the UU Board of Trustees reviewed the material and concurred that the goals and tasks for 2014 are quite well stated in the “*Workshop Goals and Specific Objectives*” that is attached as the last pages in this Communitarian. Please take a few minutes to read these and see how you might fit in to the tasks.

What was most interesting was the general agreement around both the priority of goals and the specific things that we should be doing this coming year. Since we are a UU congregation, we did not agree on everything. But the consensus was pretty clear; and the opinions reiterated priorities that the church members expressed in our search for Rev Bob.

These tasks, of course, are not the only ones we will do. Various committees have already expanded on the tasks to complete and new people are already coming up with new ideas to implement.

As we “settle in” with Rev Bob, this coming year will be an exciting time to think ahead and undertake many of the tasks that we have often said “This needs to be done”, but somehow the idea does not take flight. Our bird has taken wing!

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

Rev. Robert Klein466-7743

E-Mail.....minister@stocktonuu.org

Director of Religious Education

Lisa Jones.....466-7743

E-Mail..... religious_ed@stocktonuu.org

Music Director

Amelia Roberts.....466-7743

E-Mail.....music@stocktonuu.org

Administrator

Nichole Ybarra.....466-7743

E-Mail.....office@stocktonuu.org

Board of Trustees' President

Dwane Milnes 467-0224

E-Mail president@stocktonuu.org

How to Contact Us

Phone (209) 466-7743

Fax (209) 466-6474

E-Mail contact@stocktonuu.org

Web www.stocktonuu.org

Mail/Office 2737 Pacific Avenue

Stockton CA 95204

Office Hours.....Mon. - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.