



Minister's Message

The ART of Interim Ministry



The cycle of life continues as we get ready to enter this month of transition- from winter to spring. Many of you have heard about the tragedy in our family; the 29 year old fiancé of my daughter, Elizabeth died suddenly. I went back

to San Antonio to be with her and to perform the Memorial Service.

The Sunday I returned and shared the news by lighting the sacred candles of joys and concerns. Then right after I went, Sarah Blessinger announced that her partner, Beth, had given birth to twin boys. I thought of the cycle of life, then, that one person dies and yet another two were born!

I am always struck at how religious relationships are, and our loved ones leaving us must be balanced by those loved ones around us giving us comfort. That we must all face the grief of losing a loved one, and the only way to survive is to live through the grief, express our feelings and cry our tears. We shouldn't tell people NOT to cry at these times, which we often do because we are uncomfortable with them crying; we should be telling them to cry as much as they need to, and we will be here supporting their grief.

Just as we don't miss the well until it runs dry, we must be intentional about living

every day and about developing loving relationships, which I believe is what religion is all about. Loving one another is often called the 11th Commandment, the new one brought by the teachings of Jesus. Church should be about how to do that religiously! How to be in covenant with one another. It's not easy because we have to give up some of our desires for the wider good of the community; we must also give up some of our money for the church, especially if it is to thrive for another 100 years?

My daughter's closest friend flew in from London to be with her; they had met and become friends at a youth (Young Religious UU's-YRUU) conference; her friend was from Oklahoma City, a long way from San Antonio, but they would see each other at various YRUU meetings throughout the South West District. They remain close more than 10 years later!

Let us remember how precious every day and every person is, especially when we find ourselves needing one another. Let us especially remember that when we disagree! Let us give up our usual need to be right and instead be loving, even willing to love people we think are wrong!

Much love and shalom,

Rev. Art

Sunday Services – 10:30 am

(Unless other wise noted)

March 3. Auction Sermon: "Purposeful Frustration" Rev. Art Severance

We have to find a way to enjoy life, despite what we know. Sometimes we know that frustration is inevitable, but we must be intentional or purposeful about it.

Suggested by Dick Castile

March 10. Service Sunday- Social Justice

March 17. "St. Patrick's Day for People who don't Believe in Saints" Rev. Art Severance

Many of us do believe in the power of a 4 leaf clover, however. Is there any such thing as luck? Lucky charms? Leprechauns?

Pots of Gold at the end of rainbows? What can it all mean?

March 24. "Century Sunday; How This Church Lasted 100 Years and How to Last another 100" Rev. Art Severance

Actually, the first group of Unitarians started in 1893, but they didn't last! It was not easy getting Unitarian ministers to leave the comfort and traditions of Boston, but Unitarianism and Universalism did finally take root on the West Coast. What happens for the next 100 years depends on this present congregation.

March 31. "The Universal Message of Spring and Easter" Rev. Art Severance

Why do we rational UUs still dye eggs with our children, and tell them about a mysterious rabbit which brings the eggs and presents? Why does the date of Easter change every year, but Christmas doesn't? Henry David Thoreau said that spring was "nature's resurrection;" indeed, it is a common theme in myths and beliefs about divine figures.

Religious Education News

Call for Volunteers

We have teachers scheduled through May and our minister is searching for an RE director. If you would like to lead activities for K-6th during Religious Education time in the interim period between religious education professionals please contact Lisa at lisawritesagain@gmail.com

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

Volunteers need not have professional teaching experience!

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 lisawritesagain@gmail.com ASAP.

Social Justice News

Social Justice Collection Sunday, March 17th, 2013

This month's social justice collection is in support of Habitat for Humanity which works to provide affordable housing in our community. 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!

Congregational News & Updates

NEW SANCTUARY CHAIR PLAQUES will be dedicated at the March 24 Sunday Service we hope all those who purchased new plaques during the February campaign can attend and be recognized.

Men's Group Meetings

March 6th & 20th

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.

Adult RE Class

Will be held Wed. 1:00 pm 10 sessions

Rev. Art will be leading a new Adult RE Course called, "Let's Get Spiritual and Explore our Beliefs." He'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.

Our UU Church is 100 years old this year! Save the dates!

March 23, Saturday at 6 pm in Jackson Hall

An Opening Celebration

Hors d'Oeuvres, Music, Tales from Our History, Pie and Ice Cream

\$20 for Adults, \$10 for Children

Please obtain tickets from
The Church Office, Sunday Service, A
Board Member, or At Coffee Hour

March 24, Sunday Church Service

Celebrate our History

**Meditation Group has been canceled.
Thank you to everyone who has
attended.**



NEWS FROM THE MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

The question most frequently asked by people who are not thoroughly acquainted with the UUA search process is: "Why can't we meet all the top candidates for Minister and hear them preach? Isn't it undemocratic for the search committee to present us with only one final candidate?"

The reason that serial candidating --- the process of presenting more than one candidate to the congregation --- is frowned upon is that it tends to be destructive to the candidates and to the congregations to which they are presented. Suppose one group likes and politics for Candidate A and another is for Candidate B. The congregation could be split asunder before the process has been completed and it is unlikely that any candidate would receive the vote of confidence needed for a successful ministry. From the point of view of the candidates, the confidentiality of the process would be broken and their effectiveness in their current congregation seriously impaired.

So, at the end of a long process of interviewing, evaluation, reference-checking, and consensus-building, your Search Committee will present you with the one candidate who is, in their opinion, best for our congregation. Then, after a full week of Sunday services, meetings, and social engagements, when you will be able to meet and size up the candidate for yourselves, you will make the final decision in the congregational vote to call or not to call.



Book Group Meeting



The Book Club meets this month on February 27 at 7:00 p.m. in Jackson Hall. We will discuss *The Time In Between* by Maria Duenas. Facilitated by Sara 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

Thanks,
Herman

BOOK CLUB READING SELECTIONS for APRIL - AUGUST 2013

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

Emerson Coffee House Collective



Show starts at 7:00 p.m.
doors open at 6:30 pm the
cost is \$15.00 per person.

March 16 Tom Neilson *"A Delightful Blend of Art and Activism"*

Tom Neilson is a folk singer. There are lots of folk singers, but Tom is truly special. He has been a winner at folk festivals, recognized in the annual Independent Music Association Awards, AND we know the subjects of his songs. Folk songs are about our lives, and Tom sings of things that are important.

Tom provides a voice for all those who believe in the power of folk music to effect change. His travels are reflected in his songs, intertwined with his farm roots, and a fervent commitment to social justice. Yes, it is political activism. But the truly memorable folk songs are about current issues sung with passion, compassion and humor.

Please join us at the Emerson Coffee House where the songs of Tom Neilson will be politically cutting-edge, incisive, satire, warm, & very funny. Tom will leave you thinking and laughing.

Your musical wanderlust will be satisfied if you bring it along to the Emerson Coffee House.

Refreshing Beverages and Snacks are provided.

Up Coming Performances:

April 13 Open

May 18 Seaport Quintet

June 8 Frankie and Annette

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. The barrel will be next to the piano in 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.

UU Alliance News

Church of Women United News

Twelve members from our UU church attended the Church Women United annual tea on Thursday, February 14, held at Temple Israel. Every attending church provides a table of delicious food and The Alliance selected fresh vegetables and dips as their contribution. Prior to serving refreshments the program included Karma Fordis Lender, Temple Cantor, reading from the Torah both in English and Hebrew.

The next event of CWU, World Day of Prayer, will be March 1 at 1 p.m. at St. Bernadette's church.

April Alliance Meeting

Wednesday, April 10, 11:00 a.m., in Jackson Hall Betsy Keithcart will present a program on Music Therapy. A catered lunch will follow. Cost will be \$11.00.

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 Hulseley, 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

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, 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 or (510) 482-0669.

Stockton Area Events & News

Girl Scout's are out selling cookies in the Stockton area. They are \$4.00 per box If you would like to purchase cookies contact Nichole at 594-9170.

Thin Mints

Purchasing a box of Thin Mints – our round, mint-flavored cookies covered in delicious dark chocolate

Samoas® / Caramel deLites®

A tasty treat isn't all that's involved with a box of our caramel and toasted coconut-covered cookies.

Peanut Butter Patties® / Tagalongs®

A layer of peanut butter covered in rich chocolate? Mouth-watering treats.

Trefoils™ / Shortbread

When a girl hands you a box of these cookies – each one in the shape of our iconic trefoil

Do-si-dos®/ Peanut Butter Sandwich

These sandwich cookies give you crisp and crunchy oatmeal on the outside and creamy peanut butter inside.

Lemonades™

Tangy lemon-icing-topped shortbread cookies

Thanks-A-Lot®

Tasty shortbread cookie with fudge on the bottom are a hit in any language. A

Mango Crèmes™

Crunchy vanilla and coconut cookies – with a mango-flavored crème filling



Stockton Celebrates Chinese New Year Sunday March 3rd Free Admission

Jackson Rancheria Casino Resort
& CNYC of Stockton Present the 35th Annual
**CHINESE NEW YEAR
PARADE & FESTIVAL**

Sunday, March 3, 2013
Downtown Stockton

PARADE - Weber Avenue, El Dorado and Center
Parade begins at 10:00 a.m.

FESTIVAL - Stockton Civic Auditorium
525 N Center St
Festival open from 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

FREE Admission

• Lion Dances • Food • Chinese Goods • Entertainment

www.stocktoncnyc.org

Year of the Snake • 4711
慶賀蛇年

Port City Roller Derby Season Opener Double Header Saturday March 9th tickets are 2 for \$20 or 1 for \$12 in advance. \$15 at the door kids are \$5. Doors open at 5:30 pm

**Roller Derby
Double Header
Saturday
March 9, 2013**

PORT CITY ROLLER DERBY vs **TOWN ROLLER DERBY**

Stockton Indoor Sports Complex
3251 Ad Art Rd. Stockton

Doors open 5:30 pm
Bout #1 6:00 pm
Bout #2 8:00 pm

\$12 Tickets Presale
\$15 Tickets at the door
\$5 Tickets Seniors/Kids

www.PORTCITYROLLERGIRLS.com
1-888-99-DERBY

EAGLE'S NEST
HARLEY DAVIDSON
977-239-1057

BROWN PAPER TICKETS

Free Admission Day at The Haggin Museum

Museum

Date: Saturday, March 3, 2013

Time: 12:00pm - 5:00pm

Location: The Haggin Museum

1201 N. Pershing Ave

Stockton, CA 95203

Stockton Civic Theatre presents "Little Shop of Horrors"

Date: Wednesday, March 6- 30 2013

Location: Stockton Civic Theatre

2312 Rosemarie Lane

Stockton, CA 95207

Directed by James Reed

Rated PG

Regular Tickets: Adults \$25; seniors \$21;

Student/Child \$15

Contact: info@sctlivetheatre.com

(209) 473-2424

"No Ordinary Woman" with Condoleezza Rice

Learning Opportunities

Date: Thursday, March 21, 2013

Time: 9:00am - 1:00pm

Location: Spanos Center

University of the Pacific

1178 Larry Heller Drive

Stockton, CA 95211

For information, contact Jennifer Torres-

Siders 209.946.3134 or

jtorressiders@pacific.edu

The Stockton Chorale presents "The Voice of Nature"

Event Type: Music/Concerts

Date: Saturday, March 23, 2013

Time: 2:00pm - 4:00pm

Location: Location TBA

The Master Chorale and Youth Chorale join to welcome spring in a program about the glories and mysteries of nature. From the mountains and oceans to our own gardens, we'll delight you with madrigals, hymns, folksongs and popular music from around the world.

One Performance:

March 23, 2013 @ 2:00pm (Location TBA)

Concert Ticket Prices:

Adult/Senior tickets - \$20

Full-time students (any age) - \$5

Season Tickets - \$80 for five concerts

Contact: info@stocktonchorale.org

(209) 951-6494



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>March 27th</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>March 6th & 20th</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

Rev. Art Severance.....466-7743
E-Mail.....minister@stocktonuu.org

Director of Religious Education

.....466-7743
E-Mail..... religious_ed@stocktonuu.org

Music Director

Curtis Mannah.....466-7743
E-Mail.....music@stocktonuu.org

Administrator

Nichole Ybarra.....466-7743
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Board of Trustees' President

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

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Office Hours.....Mon. – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

First Unitarian Universalist Church
2737 Pacific Avenue
Stockton CA 95204

Return Service Requested

Time Dated Material – Please Deliver Promptly