

U2C2 Connection

A monthly newsletter published by the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Sacramento
August 2007

Inside this issue:

Descriptions of worship services [p. 1](#)

Calendar of events [p. 2](#)
Monthly birthdays [p. 2](#)
Worship support schedule [p. 2](#)

From Our Minister [p. 3](#)
From Our Director of RE [p. 3](#)

From Our President [p. 4](#)
Raley's Card Income [p. 4](#)
Recycle These Items [p. 4](#)
Theater Group [p. 4](#)
Women's Group [p. 4](#)
2nd Saturday Supper [p. 4](#)

Canvass Celebration Results [p. 5](#)
Save the Dates [p. 5](#)
Message from Our Treasurer [p. 5](#)
Letter to UUCC [p. 5](#)

First Sunday Collection [p. 5](#)
All-Church Outing [p. 5](#)
Church Logo T-shirts [p. 6](#)
July 1 Sunday Service [p. 5](#)
UUCC Link on Sacyouth.com [p. 5](#)

Thank You Kurt & Dick [p. 7](#)

UUCC Camping Trip [p. 8](#)
Healthcare Rally [p. 8](#)
NCUUCC Labor Day Camp [p. 8](#)

Mission [p. 9](#)
Membership [p. 9](#)
Affiliates [p. 9](#)
Contact [p. 9](#)

Worship Services

Services are held at 10:30am every Sunday.

Sunday, August 5, 10:30am

"Spirituality of Gardening"

The first day of August is the celebration of Lamas, the pagan celebration of the harvest, and the midway point between the Summer Solstice and the Fall Equinox. At this time of year, we will explore the spiritual dimensions of gardening through poetry, song and personal reflections. Please bring something from your garden to share.

Worship Leader: Lucy Bunch

Worship Associate: MK Menard

Sunday, August 12, 10:30am

"Exploring the Baha'i Faith"

The Baha'i faith has much in common with Unitarian Universalism. With guests, Azadeh and Nabil Fares of the local Baha'i community, we will explore together, the tenets and traditions of the Baha'i faith and what we might have in common.

Worship Leader: Karen Gunderson with guest speaker

Worship Associate: Jane Churchon

Sunday, August 19, 10:30am

"Our Spiritual Quest"

This Sunday, many of our congregants will be away at the church camping trip. Those of us in town will come together for a quiet service of readings, meditation and time for personal reflection.

Worship Leader: Lucy Bunch

Worship Associate: TBD

Sunday, August 26, 10:30am

"Stowaways and New Beginnings"

As we begin our new ministry together, Rev. Martha will reflect on our human longing to start over and the difficulty of choosing wisely among the "baggage" that we carry with us. Despite our best efforts, some ghosts inevitably stow away in our carefully packed suitcases. Can we make peace with them in order to begin again... and again?

Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges

Worship Associate: Allison Claire



August 2007

If you have a meeting or birthday this month and don't see it listed, please contact the office at 689-2008 or uucc@cwnet.com.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Daytimers 10am at church	3	4
5 Sunday Worship 10:30am	6	7	8	9 Daytimers 10am at church Board Mtg 7:15pm	10 Chalice Circle mornings 10am Theater Group 7pm	11 2nd Sat Supper
12 Sunday Worship 10:30am Religious Ed Committee Mtg after church	13	14 Chalice Circle evenings 7pm	15 Newsletter Deadline	16 Daytimers 10am at church	17 UUCC Camp	18 UUCC Camp
19 Sunday Worship 10:30am Finance Mtg 12pm UUCC Camp	20	21	22	23 Daytimers 10am at church	24 Chalice Circle mornings 10am 4th Fri Fun & Games 6pm at church All-Church Outing	25
26 Sunday Worship 10:30am	27	28 Chalice Circle evenings 7pm	29	30 Daytimers 10am at church	31	

Altar

08/05 Karen Gunderson
08/12 Amy Jaynes
08/19 Judi Schafer
08/26 Edie Olaughlin

Greeters

Terri Riley & Rosemary Miles
Terri Riley & Becca Sanders
Eric Walle & Merry Walle
Terri Riley & Frieda Fergus

Lighters

on summer break
on summer break
on summer break
on summer break

Ushers

Richard Leimbach
Barbara Schnabel
Terry Checkon
Barbara Schnabel



From Our Minister

Grace Notes - Getting to Know You

My first order of business as your new minister will be to get to know you. This will take awhile, I know, and will necessarily take many forms. The special relationship between a minister and her congregants, like other deeply felt bonds, develops at its own speed. Some of you may feel an immediate connection; others will reserve judgment for awhile, taking a “wait and see” approach. Still, others may enter into this new relationship with more trepidation; hearing echoes of other ones that left you dissatisfied. Whatever the case, I hope our relationships will deepen over many months and years.

We already have a Committee on Ministry whose job is to help me set priorities, think through plans and problems and, most of all, keep me informed of what’s going on in the congregation that I may have missed. These folks, Tom Rintoul, Richard Leimbach and Celia Buckley, will be meeting with me once a month and asking you for feedback on how we’re doing in our shared ministry. If there is ever a time when you have a concern you’re reluctant to share with me personally, these are the people you should talk with and they will pass it on to me. Of course, it’s always best to talk with me face to face when something like this comes up, but if you’re ever uncomfortable doing this, remember the Committee on Ministry. They want to hear from you! I’ll also be talking with them about setting up house meetings or other events at which I can get to know the members of U2C2.

In the meantime, please do come and see me! I will be holding regular office hours at the church and you are encouraged to call or drop by. My office hours are tentatively set for Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 12 to 3pm. I am also available by appointment on pretty much any day or evening except Tuesdays (my day off.)

When should you call me? Ministers over the years have created various lists of “Times to Call the

Minister.” Here is my version: Call me when –

- You want to talk about a crisis or problem at home, at work or in a relationship
- You’re thinking about joining or leaving the church
- You’re faced with a difficult decision and want to talk it through
- You’re getting married or divorced, adopting or giving birth, expecting a death in the family and you need to grieve or celebrate some other life passage
- You are facing an illness or know someone who is ill, in a nursing home or in prison, and you think they would like a call or visit from me
- You’re pleased or displeased with some aspect of church life
- You want to explore some idea you heard in a sermon or something I wrote
- You want to talk about your spiritual journey, your questions or discoveries
- You want to get more involved in the life of the congregation
- You just want to get better acquainted
- You baked too many cookies and want to get rid of some

I hope to hear from you!

Minister of UUCC,
Rev. Martha Hodges

From Our Director of Religious Education

Our summer Religious Education Program entitled “A Festival of Stories” will honor and celebrate various storytelling traditions from around the world. Come join us for our journey of discovery in August.

August 5 - Poetry and Rhyming
August 12 - Mime/”The Great Bear”
August 19 - “Music All Around Us”
August 26 - “Long Leather Bag”

The Religious Education Committee will meet on Sunday, August 12 after church. Call Dawn Rose for more information.

Director of Religious Education,
Dawn Rose

From Our President

Dear Congregation,

I am looking forward to this next year as your President. Over the past year or so, we have accomplished some important things; the move to our own space and the calling of our new settled minister. These things serve to provide us with a new platform from which new wonderful things will no doubt spring. It is this potential that speaks to me and my desire is to provide the leadership that brings some of this potential into reality. This is my personal vision for the year.

I will also tell you that I come to this position with an agenda at least in a couple of areas. The first one, is in regards to church infrastructure. I define this as our ability to put process and procedures in place that support the administrative functions of the church. In my view, this is a critical element in functioning like a pastoral size church, and ultimately, will better support the growth we desire and anticipate.

Secondly, the work that we have done over the last year has required us to stay very inwardly focused. In the coming year I would like to be able to help turn our focus a bit more outward to a larger community. Going to GA this summer reminded me of how many great things are happening and how wonderful it is to feel connected to something so much larger than yourself or even your own congregation. My desire is to work with others to bring a little bit of GA to our congregation as just one way to help us gain some outward focus and perspective.

The things spoken to above are just my own ideas and desires. I know that there are many other ideas out there. Over the next year, I will be working with Rev. Martha, the board and other church leadership to further define and prioritize the goals for the year. I will do my best to keep you informed on the working of the board and I invite you at any time to share your ideas for making our potential a reality. I encourage all of you to be curious and engaged.

Blessed be,
Marion Randall



Raley's Card Income

There seems to be a reduction in the use of the UUCC Raley's card. Last month was the lowest income, since we started the program three years ago. A list showing the amount that each card holder has earned through their purchases will be posted in the UUCC Church E-digest.

Dick Tarble,
Coordinator

Recycle These Items

Please save your eye glasses and used computer printer ink cartridges. You may put them in the containers provided at the church. The eye-glasses will be donated to those who are in need of them. The ink cartridges will be sold to a recycling company and the money will go to the church operations fund. We will no longer be collecting old cell phones, as unfortunately, they did not result in providing much of an income for us.

Dick Tarble,
Coordinator

Theater Group

We will see "The Big Bang" at the B St. Theatre, B2 space, 2711 B St. on Friday, August 10, 7:00 PM (please note early starting time). Reservations are \$35. The play has been so popular, it has sold out most performances. Reservations may no longer be available, but if you want us to try, please call Frieda Fergus.

Women's Group

The UUCC Women's Group meets on the third Sunday of each month at 4:00pm. The group gathers to share their life stories, laugh, cry and eat. This group is open to all women. Please contact Annette Emery or email for more information. Note: the August 19 meeting is cancelled.

2nd Saturday Supper

Lisa Pray/Carolyn Crabtree hosted a barbeque potluck in July. Everybody had a great time. Thank you. Our August supper will be Saturday, August 11. If you would like to attend or host a supper, please contact Gene Anderson.

Canvass Celebration Results



Thank you to everyone. The 2007-08 annual canvass was a tremendous success. The canvass chair received \$105,685 in pledges by the end of June, representing 60 pledging units. Compared to the 2006 results, where at this same time, the canvass chair had received \$87,720 in pledges from 58 pledging units, we have demonstrated tremendous momentum towards our church dream! We anticipate further increasing our pledge income from new members and from the few outstanding members who have not yet completed their pledge for this year. Well done everyone!

Your canvass committee - Celia Buckley, Chris Carter, Doug McDougall & Judi Schafer

Save the Dates

Saturday, September 22, will be the Start Up Retreat with our Pacific Central District (PCD) personnel, Reverend Martha and church leaders here in Sacramento. This is a special retreat for those congregations who have new ministers. The purpose is to establish a sound relationship between the professional and lay leadership - clarifying roles, goals and expectations of one another, right from the very beginning. Churches who participate in this workshop tend to have more satisfying transitions than those who do not.

Sunday, September 30 & Monday, October 1 (2:00-9:00pm on both days) is our Photo-Op Day! *Lifetouch* will be here to take pictures of the congregation for our new church directory. Each household will sign up (online or at church) for a specific time. More information is to come. To help organize the event, please contact Laura Osborne.

Message from Our Treasurer

UUCC donated \$207.00 to the Elk Grove Food Bank for July's First Sunday Collection.

Letter to UUCC

The following letter is a "Thank you" to UUCC from the American Action Fund for Blind Children and Adults for our June 3 First Sunday Collection.

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your recent contribution on June 15 in the amount of \$156.33 to the American Action Fund for Blind Children and Adults. Although you do not have the opportunity to meet personally most of the people you help, your help is deeply appreciated by blind and deaf-blind Americans across the country. What you do matters to many people and we are grateful. We are proud of the progress we are making and we want you to know that it would not be possible without your ongoing help.

*Sincerely,
James Omgig, Treasurer
American Action Fund for Blind Children and Adults*

First Sunday Collection



For nearly a half-century, Project HOPE has expressed the generosity and compassion of the American people in the form of medicines, health care services, training and knowledge all over the world.

The US Agency for International Development (USAID) and other funders will match and multiply gifts made by donors to Project HOPE up to six times their amounts. This means a gift of \$25 will have six times the impact on children in desperate need for health care and life-saving medicines around the world.

Here are some reasons that you can truly feel good about giving to Project HOPE:
-Save precious lives. You'll help protect people around the world from death and disease - especially vulnerable children.

-Your gift multiplies. Every dollar Project HOPE receives will be matched and multiplied up to six times until the \$808,493 grant requirements are met.

-Project HOPE is one of the most efficient and effective non-profit organizations in America. 92 percent of expenses goes to programs.

Help give hope to those in need on August 5 by participating in UUCC's First Sunday Collection.

All-Church Outing: River Cats Game

On Friday, August 24, the UUCC Men's Group will sponsor an all-church outing to watch a Sacramento River Cats game. Everyone is welcome! If you are interested in attending the event, please contact Patrick Cody for more details.

Church Logo T-shirts

Twenty eight church logo t-shirts have been sold to date. You can purchase one from Dick Tarble for \$6.00. Both adult and children's sizes are available. All of the money earned goes to the church operations fund.

July 1 Sunday Service

Certain portions of the UUCC worship service on Sunday, July 1, 2007 were recorded by www.RedDogRecords.com and includes the complete performance of Ellen Skow's brass quintet. Among other selections, they performed Loren Richmond's original composition, American Honesty. For \$20 each, Andrew Bower will make copies for anyone who wants one. Also, Jim Skow can provide anyone who wishes to have a copy of his sermon for free. Please contact Jim Skow for more information.

UUCC Link on Sacyouth.com

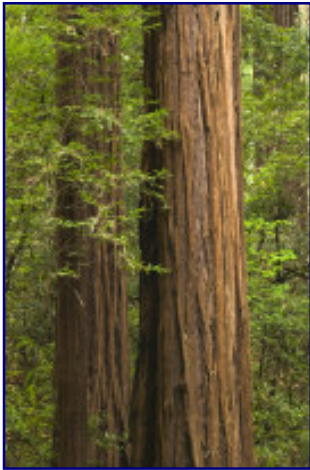
Sacyouth.com is a website that features religious-based activities for Sacramento area youths. This is sponsored by the Sierra Health Foundation, Area Congregations Together and the Sacramento News and Review. Check out this website link to the UUCC RE program, <http://www.sacyouth.com/sacramento/youth/showorg/?oid=47610>. A big thanks to Patrick Cody for submitting updated information to this site.



Kurt Schmidt & Dick Tarble

Thank you Kurt and Dick for completing your terms as President and Vice President on the UUCC Board of Trustees. Your work during these past years is very much appreciated. You were leaders during a time of unbelievable changes – a successful new home hunt, a move and three ministers! Your strong leadership during these years was needed and is much appreciated.

UUC Camping Trip



The UUC Group Camping Trip will be August 17 to August 19. The group campsite at Calaveras Big Trees State Park is on the western slope of the Sierra Nevadas, northeast of Stockton and four miles from the town of Arnold - only a short two hour drive. This park features two giant groves of some of the oldest living redwood trees in California. There will be lots of hiking trails to discover, picnicking and swimming alongside the Stanislaus River. Check out the web site at: http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=551. If you plan on joining this UUC annual event, please contact Sybil Lawson.

We'll be putting together a list of those who are attending, those who have extra room in their vehicles, and the names of those who would like to ride in a carpool to the mountains. It took a great deal of time searching for the "perfect" place to camp and we think this site will be very beautiful. Tent and RV campsites, a large fire ring, flush toilets, coin showers, picnic tables, and piped water. Unfortunately, there are no cabins to offer, yet the campsite isn't too far away for those who want to attend during the day and not sleep under the stars.

Your camping organizers for 2007,
Sybil Lawson and Bev Boido

Healthcare Rally

To highlight the need for affordable, accessible, quality and long-term health care for all Californians, we will raise our voices to let our elected officials know that they must all work together to address this very critical issue NOW! Get involved, have your voice heard and make a difference!

August 22, 2007
West Steps
California State Capitol
Sacramento, CA
10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Please RSVP to Nina Weiler-Harwell. We will provide participants with lunches, t-shirts and caps.



NCUUC Labor Day Camp

Come to the Northern California Unitarian Universalist Camps and Conferences Labor Day Camp at Mendocino Woodlands. This year's camp in the redwoods will be August 31-September 3. This annual camp for ages 18 and up offers picturesque cabins, music and arts activities, great meals, spiritual opportunities, and plenty of relaxation. There's an early arrival option for those wishing to start on August 30. Registration fees are discounted if paid before August 7. Look for a registration form at your local church or on the camp's website at <http://www.unitariancamps.org>, or you can also choose to request the registration form by contacting either Mark Meierding markmeierding@sbcglobal.net or Bill Cornelius BillQ@pon.net.

Mission

The ministry of the Unitarian Universalist Community Church is to foster open minds, caring hearts, helping hands, and growing spirits in a congregation of all ages. By living and sharing Unitarian Universalist values, our spiritual and intentionally diverse community seeks to bring compassion and justice to the world.

UUCC is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and the Pacific Central District (PCD) of the UUA.

Membership

Would you like to be a formal member of this congregation? We would love to have you as a member!

If you would like membership information or if you feel ready to sign our membership book, you may talk to Eric Walle or Laura Osborne.

Membership requirements are:

- 1) you must be at least 16 years old
- 2) you accept our principles and purposes
- 3) you make and fulfill a commitment to an annual contribution of record through a pledge of money and/or services.

We are a wonderful congregation and we will welcome you with open arms.

Affiliates

All Unitarian Universalist congregations in California's mountain and valley areas:

www.uuvalleysierra.org

Pacific Central District (PCD):

www.pcd-uua.org

Telephone: (510) 601-1437

Unitarian Universalist Association:

www.uua.org

Telephone: (617) 742-2100

UU Legislative Ministry:

www.uulmca.org

Telephone: (916) 441-0018

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee:

www.uusc.org

Telephone: (617) 868-7102

Sacyouth - Faith-Based Activities for Youth:

www.sacyouth.com

South Sacramento Interfaith Partnership (SSIP)

Emergency Food Closet:

www.ssipfoodcloset.org

Telephone: (916) 428-5290

Contact

Newsletter

U2C2 Connection Editor:

Newsletter contributions should be sent to the UUCC church address, phoned in to 689-2008 or emailed to uucc@cwnet.com by the 15th of each month.

Editorial Advisor - newsletter:

Nancy Flagg 689-2008 or uucc@cwnet.com

Website

Website Administrator:

UUCC office 689-2008 or uucc@cwnet.com

Editorial Advisor - website:

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Email: uucc@cwnet.com

Office Hours: Tue/Thur/Sat 8am-12pm

Minister's Hours: Mon/Wed/Thu 12am-3pm (and by appointment)

Leadership

Minister:

Rev. Martha Hodges, 689-2073

uucc_minister@frontiernet.net

Director of Religious Education:

Dawn Rose, uucc@cwnet.com

Board of Trustees:

President: Marion Randall

Vice President: John Sugar

Secretary: Wynne Skow

Treasurer: Steve Bakken

At-Large Members: Laura Osborne, Maggie Melnick, Ken DeCrescenzo

Endowment Trust: Mark Callicotte

Committees:

Church Operations Committee: Laura Osborne

Canvass Committee: Celia Buckley

Committee on Ministry: Tom Rintoul, Richard

Leimbach, Celia Buckley

Finance Committee: Mark Callicotte

Membership Committee: Eric Walle (chair)

Openers/Closers Supervisor: [to be determined]

Religious Education Committee: Alison Navas

Social Action (Bag Days): Celia Buckley

Worship Committee: Lucy Bunch (chair)

Beliefs Within Our Faith

Unitarian Universalism is a liberal religion that encompasses many faith traditions. Unitarian Universalists include people who identify as Christians, Jews, Buddhists, Hindus, Pagans, Atheists, Agnostics, Humanists, and others. As there is no official Unitarian Universalist creed, Unitarian Universalists are free to search for truth on many paths.



Unitarian Universalist Community Church
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