

U2C2 Connection

A monthly newsletter published by the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Sacramento
January 2008

A Month of Sundays

Worship Services are held Sundays at 10:30am (unless otherwise noted).

Sunday, January 6, 10:30am

"Epiphanies"

On this day, when Christians celebrate the arrival of the Magi in Bethlehem, the day Jesus was "revealed" to them, it seems appropriate to think about how revelations may break in on us from time to time, what they are, and what we do with them.

Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges/Worship Associate: Jim Skow

Sunday, January 13, 10:30am

"Rare, Sweet Spirit"

The Universalist/Unitarian minister, Thomas Starr King, is credited with "saving California for the Union" during the Civil War years, among other things. As a newcomer to California, Rev. Martha will reflect on this compelling figure who was so important to our story.

Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges/Worship Associate: Kurt Schmidt

Sunday, January 20, 10:30am

"Turning the Other Cheek"

As we approach Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Rev. Martha will consider the practice of nonviolence as a revolutionary tactic and whether it has any place in today's society.

Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges/Worship Associate: Jenn Richard

Sunday, January 27, 10:30am

"Imagining Community"

Imagine a community of like-minded individuals that work together to end injustice. Imagine a community where all are accepted and supported for who they are. Imagine a community where values matter more than money. Imagine a community where no one goes hungry or homeless. Becca Sanders, candidate for the UU ministry, will share her "imaginings" with us.

Worship Leader: Becca Sanders/Worship Associate: Lucy Bunch



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January Planner 2008

If you have a meeting or event 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	3 Daytimers 10am at church Worship Committee Mtg 7pm Closing the Gap Mtg 7-9pm	4	5 Sat Supper 7 Principles Workshop 9am-12pm
6 Sunday Worship 10:30am Newcomer Welcome 11:30- 12:30	7	8	9	10 Daytimers 10am at church Board Mtg 7:15pm	11	12 Women's Group 9:30am
13 Sunday Worship 10:30am	14 Membership Committee Mtg 7-9pm	15 Newsletter Deadline	16	17 Daytimers 10am at church	18	19 Men's Group Breakfast 9am Soup w/the Minister 6pm
20 Sunday Worship 10:30am Finance Mtg 12pm	21	22	23	24 Daytimers 10am at church Church Ops Mtg 7pm (offsite)	25	26
27 Sunday Worship 10:30am  Rev. Martha's Service of Installation 4pm	28	29	30	31 Daytimers 10am at church		

Worship Support Schedule

Altar

1/6 Tonie Darling
1/13 Jim Eastman
1/20 Peter Morse
1/27 Gene Anderson

Greeters

Tonie Darling & Frieda Fergus
Tonie Darling & Frieda Fergus
Tonie Darling & Frieda Fergus
Tonie Darling & Frieda Fergus

Lighters

Everett C.
Jesse C.M.
Hannah C.M.
James L.

Ushers

Christy Clark
Christy Clark
Christy Clark
Christy Clark

Minister's Grace Notes



Befriending Janus

January is named after the Roman god, Janus, the two-headed fellow who faces both backward and forward. One face regards the past, while the other looks into the future. In his right hand, he holds a key. He is the god of gates and doors, transitions and new beginnings. Religious scholar, Joseph Campbell, wrote of such figures, "Mythology tells us that Guardians of the Threshold symbolize forces gathered on the point of transition between not only freedom and confinement, but between different stages of human evolution - moral, ethical, and spiritual progress or decline.

As I think about the New Year and its personal challenges and hopes, I think about existing on the edge of time, poised between the past and the future. How hard it is to keep that precarious balance between the two, while staying present in the actual! I think too, about this beloved community, ever-changing and yet striving to maintain its unique personality. We look backward thankfully at all that has made us strong, and regretfully at what we have lost – loved ones, old certainties and comfortable habits. We look forward with both trepidation and excitement to what we hope to become.

UUCG has been in a long transitional period, beginning with the departure of Reverend Melora, through two interim ministries, the move to a new home and the calling of a new minister. You have thought and talked a lot about the kinds of changes that happen when churches grow: the need to introduce more systematic ways of doing things, to "go through channels" instead of spontaneously acting on good ideas, the need to communicate more effectively so that isolated sub-groups don't develop and work at cross purposes. These changes, which might be summarized as learning

to think as an interconnected system rather than as a set of individuals, each acting on his or her own desires and opinions – these changes are not easy to make.

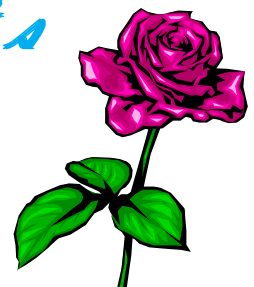
Perhaps, the greatest challenge as we look ahead toward being a larger congregation, will be to retain the quality of relationships that makes this church special – the intimacy that we prize when we look backward at our shared story.

You may have noticed that the seating at our Sunday services is getting a bit tight. This is a "problem" that we are happy to have. As our attendance gradually increases, we need to start thinking about introducing a second service. What will it be like when we become too big to fit into our little space? What will we lose and what will we gain as we grow? It is natural that this prospect should cause us some anxiety. I won't try to deny that growth can be painful. The kind of intimacy and cohesiveness that a "family-size" church enjoys is wonderful; it can also keep a church inwardly-focused and stifle spiritual growth when it shuts out people wanting to join the "family."

Janus holds that key in his right hand. The key to our future. It's in our past, as we build on our strengths and unique character – our ability to love one another. This is the paradox of Janus, the god of change. We have so much to gain, so much to learn, so much to give! Happy January and a hopeful and fulfilling New Year to all!

- Rev. Martha Hodges, UUCG Minister

President's Message



Making Room

Dear Congregation,

By the time you read this article, we will have had our first experience of having two services in the same day. The Christmas Eve service is certainly a good beginning, considering last year, we had standing room only. On the one hand, it is great to see the place packed with people who want to be there. The downside is that people who choose to visit us for the first time, might feel like there is not enough room for them, and therefore, not very welcoming. My observation is that our congrega-

tion is really beginning to settle into our space and with our new, very hardworking minister. We are forming a stable platform from which new things and systems are emerging. People are visiting and the average Sunday attendance is quite good. There will come a point (I think in the near future), where it will begin to feel like a crowded Christmas Eve service, and in order to continue presenting a welcoming environment where it feels like there is enough room for visitors, we will need to move to two services every Sunday. This will be a huge change for us seasoned UUCC'ers and one that we as a congregation need to be talking about. How do we maintain our connections to each other and still make room for the new others who will enrich our lives? This is another one of those uncomfortable, but necessary growing pains. There are actually a number of things that the Board has been working on, in coordination with other committees, and I plan to tell you more about them in the coming months via the UUCC e-digest, newsletter articles and Community Meetings. Stay tuned and stay curious.

- Marion Randall, UUCC President

From the Board

Fundraising Policy Revised



If you are planning on suggesting a fundraising event, either for the church or to benefit another organization, you need to check out the revised Board policy on fundraising. The Board has amended the existing policy to ensure that events are financially viable, well documented and have clear lines of responsibility for money handling. As before, the first step in suggesting a fundraising event is communicating with the Finance Committee, who will review the proposal and make a recommendation to the Board. The revised policy is available on our website in the area for members or you can request a copy from the church office.

RE Corner

Religious Education News

The RE program has been blessed with a core group of wonderful children who attend church on most Sundays. We are transitioning from the Old Testament to the New Testament, and studying the teachings of Jesus and how UU's view these lessons. Our dedicated teachers of Tom Rintoul, John Sugar, Ernie Tomassilli and Annette Emery with help from Rose Nelsenador, assisted Rev. Martha with a holiday pageant and a chance to reflect on what the holidays mean to each of us. Thank you to all the parents who entrust us with your children on Sundays. Anyone wishing to learn more about RE or to volunteer may contact Annette Emery.

Helping Hands

Sharing the Plate

At our Community Meeting in November, the Board reported on its decision to donate one quarter of each month's Sunday offerings to agencies working to serve local area needs. We began doing so immediately, having named the South Sacramento Interfaith Partnership Food Closet as our recipient for the remainder of November and the month of December.

As requested, the Board has considered the question about members wishing to donate one hundred percent of their offering to a particular agency on a given Sunday. While it applauds this generous impulse, the Board decided that those wishing to write checks to a certain agency should send them directly to the recipient. The goal of this effort is to act as a unified body in support of our neighbors and thereby encourage a "culture of abundance" in our congregation that will benefit UUCC, as well as, the chosen organization.

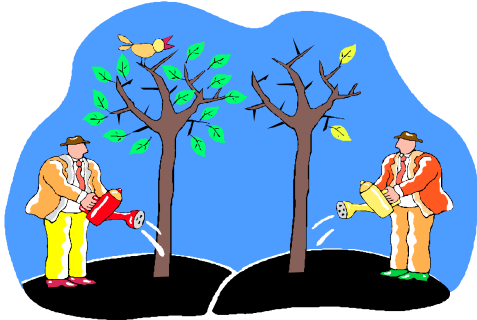
So far, the experiment seems to be working! A careful comparison of all offerings that were collected in 2006 is underway. In the meantime, we're pleased to report that you have responded generously to this invitation. Preliminary results show that our giving on Sunday mornings is significantly up, and both UUCC and SSIP have you to thank!



In Memoriam
Barbara Schnabel

We grieve the loss of Barbara Schnabel, beloved member of this congregation and greeter extraordinaire. Although she was with us all too short a time, Barbara was the kind of person that made you feel as if you had known her forever. She jumped right into congregational life and was a valued member of the Ministerial Search Committee, the Daytimers Group and the Membership Committee. She loved Unitarian Universalism and this community, and was passionate about helping the church grow. Her warmth and enthusiasm set an example of what it means to be truly welcoming. We will continue to be inspired by the memory of her warm smile, her affirming energy, her curious mind and her loving spirit. We join her children, Sharon and Greg Schnabel, in mourning her loss and wish them peace and healing. Condolences to Barbara's family may be sent to Sharon Schnabel.

Growing Together



Survey Says...

We received thirty-eight responses to our recent survey about what social justice issues you would like to see UCC focus its energies on and what adult religious education classes interest you. It's not too late to fill out this survey, which may be found on the table at the back of the sanctuary, but, in the meantime, here are our results:

The three top choices for social justice:

- Equal marriage rights for LGBT people
- Becoming a Green Sanctuary
- Health care reform

You also voted overwhelmingly to enter into a Covenant of Collaboration with the UU Legislative Ministry. Rev. Martha is talking with the UULM Director, Rev. Lindi Ramsden, about the next steps.

The three top choices for adult RE classes:

- Unitarian Universalist history and identity
- Individual spiritual growth and practice
- Anti-racism and anti-oppression

World religions, ethics and religious values, and self-expression through the arts were all close behind. Watch this space for announcements of adult RE opportunities!

We received about the same number of responses to the "UCC Skills and Interests Finder." This information is being forwarded to people in charge of various projects and program areas, and many of you have already been invited to loan your skills

to our many needs as volunteers. Thank you all for taking the time to complete these surveys. They will continue to be very helpful in matching you up with opportunities for involvement in the work of this church in ways that you will find fun and meaningful.

Welcome Our Newest Members

We celebrated the decision of several people to join us in fellowship here at UCC at our New Member Welcoming Ceremony on December 9. Sonia Duffoo, Rebecca Fain, and Leslie and Ardyn Gladney, all of whom joined us within the last year, were offered a belated recognition. Our brand-new members: Martha Carlson, Becca Woods, Ann Hodges, and Bob and Arlys Johnson were also enthusiastically welcomed. We are so glad to have you all with us and look forward to many, happy years of deepening friendships and shared exploration!

Appreciative Inquiry Update

The Committee on Ministry is pleased to report that they met with approximately half of the entire membership in our recently completed Appreciative Inquiry conversations. They are now in the process of pulling out recurring themes in your responses, so that we can use these as the basis for defining our mission and vision of the future. They will be reporting the highlights of their findings in next month's newsletter. In the meantime, thanks so much for taking the time to participate in this effort!

Special Events

Your Presence Is Requested

Don't forget to mark your calendars for January 27 at 4:00pm! You are invited to participate in the Service of Installation where we will formally recognize and welcome Rev. Martha as our settled minister. Please try to come to this auspicious and joyous celebration and plan to stay for the reception that will follow.



Action Auction



The holidays have come and gone, and perhaps, you have received the perfect gift from loved ones or friends. Sometimes though, the perfect gift isn't always something you can use. So what to do? Don't worry, we have the solution! Donate that gift to be raffled off or bid on at the Action Auction. This way, everyone wins. You won't have to watch it sit unused on a shelf collecting dust and it may turn out to be perfect for someone else! The Action Auction is scheduled for Saturday, February 23 from 5 to 9pm. The entry fee will be \$9 for adults and \$3 for students. The fee will cover dinner and any child care needed. We are currently soliciting donations for the Auction and Silent Auction. In addition to unused holiday gifts, other donation ideas are: tickets to a sporting event/concert/play, house sitting, housecleaning or home repair services, artwork, childcare, pool parties or hosted dinners, and new or gently used household items. Do you know someone who owns a business? Maybe they would be willing to donate a product or service.

To donate an item, fill out the form included in this newsletter or get a form at the church after the first of the year.

Want to help at the event? We need lots of help in the following areas:

- Ticket sales/accounting
- Raffle
- Setup/cleanup
- Auctioneer
- Student entertainment/child care

To help, contact:
Merry Walle or Terry De Crescenzo

Ongoing Activities

Theatre Group

A theatre production has not been chosen for January yet, as pickings are usually slim during that month. Our selection will be made and publicized in the weekly e-digest and in the Sunday order of service. We may even decide to see a movie. If you would like more information or have some ideas to share, please call Frieda Fergus.

Saturday Supper

Please note that the second Saturday Supper has moved to first Saturdays. Gina Guarneri/Doug McDougall will host on Saturday, January 5. These are potluck suppers and all are welcome. Many thanks to our December hosts, Nina Weiler-Harwell/Marty Weiler-Harwell and Terri Riley/Richard Leimbach. If you wish to attend in January or host in February, please call Gene Anderson.

Women's Group

The Women's Group is being reinvented and reinvigorated. We have met on Sundays at 4:00pm for approximately 10 years. Since the UCC service times have changed, the Women's Group has been considering a new meeting time and focus for the group. We will continue to meet monthly to share ideas, emotions and food, but on a new date. Starting in January, the Women's Group will meet on the second Saturday of each month at 9:30am. We will also focus our discussions around current articles in the UUA World Magazine and will continue the topic over the course of three Saturdays. The group is open to all women who may join at any time. Our first meeting with this new format will be Saturday, January 12 at 9:30am at church. Please contact Annette Emery for more information on the Women's Group.

Submit This

2008 Action Auction Donation Form:

Action Auction - February 23rd from 5:00pm - 9:00pm

It's time to get the descriptions of your Action Auction donations to Merry Walle! She's ready to begin creating our catalog. Donating is super simple with the form below. Simply fill in the blanks below and give to Merry in person, via email, or by phone, and *voila*, your hot item will be included in the catalog. Now's the time to *think, think, think*, and then spring into action. What will you donate?

Donated by: _____

Donor's Phone Number: _____

Solicited by (if different): _____

What is being donated? _____

Flowery Description: _____

Market Value: \$ _____

Minimum bid: \$ _____

Particulars (if applicable):

Date: _____

Location: _____

of people, maximum: _____ to _____ people (give an even and odd number, for ex: 5-6 people or 9-10 people.)

If it is a business donation, please give address: _____

All business donations must include the item, a gift certificate or something tangible, not just a verbal promise to donate. All business donors will receive a thank you letter for their tax records.

About Us

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.

UUC 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 UUC church address, phoned in to 689-2008, faxed to 689-2282 or emailed to uucc@cwnet.com by the 15th of each month.

Editorial Advisor - newsletter:

Nancy Flagg 689-2008

Website

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UUC office 689-2008 or uucc@cwnet.com

Editorial Advisor - website:

Nancy Flagg 689-2008

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Email: uucc@cwnet.com

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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:

[to be determined]

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: Rev. Martha Hodges

Religious Education Committee: Alison Navas

Worship Committee: Lucy Bunch (chair)

Imagine...

- a religion that embraces many different beliefs,
- a faith that finds meaning in many traditions,
- a church where people nurture their spirits,
- a congregation that works together to make a difference in communities and the world.



We are the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Sacramento. Please come for a visit and find out what we are all about! We would love for you to be a part of our church community.



Unitarian Universalist Community Church
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Sacramento, CA 95828

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