

# U2C2 Connection

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

## **Worship Services** *UUCU worship services are held every Sunday at 10:30am.*

### **Sunday, September 2, 10:30am**

*"The Sweat of Our Brows"*

"Birds do it, bees do it, even educated fleas do it..." Cole Porter had something else in mind when he wrote these words, but they are as true of work as of love. Every creature works to eat, but we humans have a uniquely ambivalent attitude toward it. We're the only animals, as far as we know, that complain about it, and the only ones that expect it to provide intrinsic rewards. This Labor Day weekend, we will take a look at the nature of work and how it may or may not contribute to the life of the spirit.

*Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges/Worship Associate: Lucy Bunch*

### **Sunday, September 9, 10:30am**

*"Home Again: Ingathering and Water Ceremony"*

This Sunday marks the official beginning of the church year. In this intergenerational service, we will celebrate our being together and our journeys of summer, whether they be geographical or metaphorical. If you remembered to bring home a small container of water representing your travels, bring it. If you stayed home, bring some tap water or pool water representing that. You needn't have journeyed to exotic places to be "coming home" once again. We will combine these waters in celebration of our shared lives.

*Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges/Worship Associate: TBD*

### **Sunday, September 16, 10:30am**

*"Earth - Water - Air - Fire"*

What are we doing with and to the earth, water, air and fire? Let's explore what is going on and what we need to do to respect the place that gives us life. This service will be an interchange of our thoughts and concerns.

*Worship Leader: Dick Tarble/Worship Associate: Allison Claire*

### **Sunday, September 23, 10:30am**

*"Reviving Life"*

On this day of Yom Kippur, we will explore the Jewish tradition of atonement and getting right with the Ultimate and one another. On this most holy and solemn of days, the Jewish Day of Atonement; we welcome the sorrows, regrets, and dark thoughts that crowd our minds when we review our failures of the past year. To paraphrase the poet Rumi; we meet them at the door, laughing, and invite them in with gratitude for yet another year, another day, and another chance to clear our minds of shame and sorrow - to clear our hearts for new delights.

*Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges/Worship Associate: TBD*

### **Sunday, September 30, 10:30am**

*"Who are UU?"*

Our congregation offers a spiritual home to many seekers, each come with their own history, needs and expectations. This Sunday several of your fellow congregants will share with you what attracted them to Unitarian Universalism and why they have stayed.

*Worship Leader Lucy Bunch/Worship Associate Jim Skow*

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## September 2007

If you have a meeting or birthday this month and don't see it listed, please contact the office at 689-2008 or [ucc@cwnet.com](mailto:ucc@cwnet.com).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> <b>Sunday Worship</b> 10:30am <b>Sr. High Grp</b> 6pm	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <b>Daytimers</b> 10am at church	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>2nd Sat Supper</b>
<b>9</b> <b>Sunday Worship</b> 10:30am <b>Religious Ed Committee Mtg</b> 7pm <b>Theater Group Reservations Due</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <b>Chalice Circle evenings</b> 7pm	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <b>Daytimers</b> 10am at church  <b>Board Mtg</b> 7:15pm	<b>14</b> <b>Chalice Circle mornings</b> 10am	<b>15</b> <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>  <b>Men's Group Breakfast</b> 9am <b>Theater Group</b>
<b>16</b> <b>Sunday Worship</b> 10:30am <b>Finance Mtg</b> 12pm <b>Women's Group</b> 4pm <b>Sr. High Grp</b> 6pm	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>Daytimers</b> 10am at church  <b>Membership Committee Mtg</b> 7-9pm	<b>21</b> <b>PCD Presentation/Workshop</b> at church	<b>22</b> <b>PCD Presentation/Workshop</b> at church
<b>23</b> <b>Sunday Worship</b> 10:30am	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <b>Chalice Circle evenings</b> 7pm	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <b>Daytimers</b> 10am at church <b>Church Ops Mtg</b> 7pm (offsite)	<b>28</b> <b>Chalice Circle mornings</b> 10am  <b>4th Fri Fun &amp; Games</b> 6pm at church	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> <b>Sunday Worship</b> 10:30am <b>Picture Directory Day</b> 2-9pm at church						

### Worship Support Schedule

**Altar**  
 09/02 Celia Buckley  
 09/09 Gina Guarneri  
 09/16 Sybil Lawson  
 09/23 Georgene Tarble  
 09/30 Jenn Richard

**Greeters**  
 Frieda Fergus & Rebecca Fain  
 Frieda Fergus & Rosemary Miles  
 Frieda Fergus & John Sugar  
 Frieda Fergus & Eric Walle  
 Frieda Fergus & Terri Riley

**Lighters**  
 TBD  
 Ben C.M.  
 Jesse C.M.  
 Hannah C.M.  
 Annika L.

**Ushers**  
 Terry Checkon  
 Terry Checkon  
 Terry Checkon  
 TBD  
 Terry Checkon



### **From Our Minister** **Grace Notes - Changing Times**

Change may be good for us...we certainly hear that often enough. But change, even good change, is also the cause of much anxiety. The unfamiliar may not fit so well within the neat frames we have constructed to contain our understanding of reality. The corners of the frame may become a bit crooked or the whole thing may threaten to fall apart as we struggle to fit new insights into a frame that suddenly appears shoddy, too small or just... not quite right. New ambitions, questions, or practices; new people in our lives; new information about how the world works; new roles and unfamiliar decisions: these all demand that we re-frame our understanding of ourselves, of reality as we know it, and of our own place within that reality.

This is true of us as individuals. As Unitarian Universalists who resist absolute and final answers to anything and embrace the idea that truth is ever-changing and unfolding; it may be especially so. It is also the case with families, organizations, communities and nations. When one of these collective entities faces change – a child leaves home, a new leader steps up, resources dwindle or multiply, the balance of power shifts – when any of these entities encounter such a change, for better or worse, it must adjust its frame to fit a new self-understanding and a new reality.

This is true of congregations too. Congregations are living systems, and as such, are constantly changing. The arrival of a new minister is only a more dramatic change in a community that is constantly, if subtly, re-inventing itself. Members come and go; new leaders are chosen; money; volunteers and buildings are lost and gained; and friendships and interest groups undergo complex and often invisible adjustments. As all this continues, the members of a church may feel uncertain and anxious. This is true even when the change is welcome.

How will our church's ambitions, questions and practices evolve over the coming year? The professional literature warns an incoming minister not to introduce change too quickly. It's suggested that for the first six months in a new congregation, a minister should just observe, listen and learn. This sounds like a good idea, but maybe not too practical. This congregation is not going to stand still for six months. It won't – nor should it -- put everything on hold while I get my bearings. I'll just need to keep up as best I can with your patient help.

Friday the 21st will begin a "start-up workshop" facilitated by our Pacific Central District Executive, Cilla Raughley. This is standard recommended practice for new ministries. It gives a chance for minister, staff and lay leaders to consider priorities and roles, talk about authority and responsibilities, and agree on some mutual expectations. You are invited and encouraged to attend the meeting on Friday evening that will help us get started in this process.

By keeping our communications open and clear and by listening carefully and kindly to each other, we will build the kind of trusting relationships that sees a church through anxious times. Together we can keep adjusting that frame to hold our growing reality, changing times and evolving story - comfortably and beautifully.

Minister of UUCC,  
Rev. Martha Hodges

## From Our President

Dear Congregation,

If you have been away from the church - welcome back! I know that September is often referred to as the "official" start of the church year. While I understand this, it always seems a little weird to me because in fact a lot of things happen over the summer. This summer, the worship committee has continued to produce quality lay led worship services; the membership committee has been hard at work on a couple of grants that will enhance our outreach efforts; the recruitment for a new Director of Religious Education is underway; the operations group is hard at work on some policy development; and your new board and new minister are settling in and dealing with church business. And last but not least, your new president has had to write two newsletter articles already. I can't believe how fast this honor comes around each month.

One of the important happenings this month is the "Start Up Retreat", September 21 and 22. What is this you ask? It is a day and a half long workshop facilitated by a trained person from the PCD (Pacific Central District). UUA (Unitarian Universalist Association) studies have shown that congregations who kick off new ministries (enter Rev. Martha) with a Start Up Retreat are significantly happier with those ministries down the line than others are. The purpose is to establish a sound relationship between the professional and lay leadership - clarifying roles, goals, expectations and priorities for the coming year.

### Friday Evening Sept 21:

- It will take place at the church.
- We start on Friday evening with a two hour data gathering session that is described as fun and interesting. All members of the congregation are welcome and encouraged to participate.

### Saturday, Sept 22 – full day:

- This is a full day session which is described as a heavy work day, but stimulating and engaging. The base group performing the work on this day will be the new minister, Board members, Committee on Ministry members, and all other committee chairs. Additionally, I know that there are other members of our congregation who are church leaders but are not formally serving in one of the positions listed above. You are welcome to attend also. So, if you identify yourself as one of these folks, I ask that you contact me directly to express your interest in attending. This will help us plan for the day.

There will be additional communications about the Start Up Retreat but if you have taken the time to read this article, please put a place holder on your calendar and come participate in setting the tone for the active and exciting year ahead.

In service and respect, Marion

## Farewell to Dawn Rose



It is with great reluctance that we say farewell (but not goodbye) to Dawn Rose. She is leaving her position as our Director of Religious Education in order to accept full-time employment at her "week-day job" as a Waldorf School teacher. We are grateful for the time and creativity and love for our children she so generously shared with us and we wish her all the best in her new pursuits. Happily for us, Dawn Rose plans to remain connected to this congregation.

In the meantime, the Operations Committee is searching for someone to fill the position of DRE. If you know of someone who might be interested, please ask Gina Guarneri or Laura Osborne for details.

## Kurt Schmidt's Chair

We can get an ad in the Camellia Symphony program in support of Kurt Schmidt's trombone chair for \$125. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please write your check to UUCC with "Kurt's chair" on the note line.

## 4th Friday

Don't forget to mark your calendars! The next 4th Fridays fall on Sept 28th and Oct. 26th. We would love to share it with more of you. Your ideas/input for September and October menus are also invited.

Our goal is to help grow this church by offering fun and all inclusive socials and fellowship opportunities on site. Potlucks are fun and easy when lots of folks attend. Your ideas/input for programs are welcomed too.

We will be celebrating our first anniversary in the new building soon. What a great time to stretch just a little bit more, move just a little bit out of our old comfort zones, and a lot closer to our goal of becoming a real pastoral church.

## Daytimers Group

What is it all about? With this question in mind, our adult discussion group a.k.a. "Daytimers" kicks off its new fall programming (every Thursday from 10am to 12pm at the church). Curious? Join us as Rev. Martha facilitates an ongoing conversation focused on "the question". Expect a free and open discussion, lively talk, and good company. Hungry? Join some of us for lunch at a local restaurant afterwards. For more information, please call Jerry Melnick or Dick and Georgene Tarble.

## Theater Group

On Saturday, September 15 at the Thistle Dew Dessert Theatre (19th & P Street), we will see "Extreme Unction", a new drama by Tom Kelly, producer of Thistle Dew and the weekly workshops from where the original dramas originate. The \$24 reservations are due to Frieda Fergus by Sunday, September 9.

## Men's Group

The Men's Group will have their monthly breakfast September 15, 2007 at the church at 9am. For information, please contact Patrick Cody.

## 2nd Saturday Supper

Many thanks to our August hosts, Frieda/Lloyd Fergus and Georgene/Dick Tarble. The September supper will be on September 8th. If you would like to attend or host a 2nd Saturday Supper, please contact Gene Anderson.

## KVIE Phonebank Success

Our KVIE Phonebank event was a great success. Nineteen of us participated, which was more than we had hoped, and station staff were very impressed. Thank you to everyone who took part!



## UUC Sunday Coffee Hour

We get lots of positive feedback from both visitors and members about our Sunday morning hospitality. Thanks to all of you who work to make our coffee hour such a success! We hope to get recognition for your efforts in future Sunday programs.

Those of you who have not yet taken the opportunity to serve our church in this way are asked to consider volunteering. We are looking for four people, each willing to provide and serve snacks on two Sundays a year. Please help us keep this valuable and successful program going. Lots of appreciation and positive feedback are guaranteed. For more information, please call Maggie Melnick.

## Kudos to our Membership Committee

This committee, headed up by Eric Walle, has done a tremendous job creating a proposal to the Pacific Central District asking for a small grant. As you may know, the Bay Area UU churches have been chosen by the UUA as a special focus area for a regional campaign for membership growth. As a congregation within commuting distance, UUC is eligible to use the same publicity materials and to receive some funding for our own growth efforts. Let's hope this proposal bears fruit and remember to thank Eric Walle, Laura Osborne, Barbara Schnabel, Frieda Fergus, John Sugar and

Mary Helen Doherty for their work on this. An extra thank you is due to John Sugar and Lori Glasgow for organizing UUCC volunteers to work the phone bank during the recent KVIE pledge drive. We had a lot of fun and got some free public exposure.

## May First Sunday Collection

A thank you letter from Sister Lucy Collins (regarding Sister Magdalen in Oaxaca):

*Please accept my deepest gratitude for your generous donation for \$346.25 in support of Sister Magdalen Kilbane's ministry in Oaxaca. Knowing Sister Magdalen, I'm sure she'll do wonders with this money. We were Novitiate companions together many moons ago. May God reward you for sharing with the poor in Oaxaca. You and your loved ones will be remembered in prayer here in San Antonio as well as in Oaxaca.*

*Gratefully,  
Sister Lucy Collins  
Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate*

## July First Sunday Collection

A thank you letter from the Elk Grove Community Food Bank Services:

*Thank you so much for your generous donation of \$207.00 to the Elk Grove Community Food Bank Services. We appreciate your support of our organization's mission to fight against the many faces of hunger and human need in our community. The Food Bank is a 501-C non-profit organization.*

*The Food Bank currently offers four programs. We want to ensure that families and individuals have access to the food they need. Our programs are aimed at breaking the cycle of hunger. The Food Bank has evolved so much over the past few years as we continually strive to help those less fortunate in our community. Without your help, we could not offer the level of quality services and programs that we are able to provide.*

*We feel truly blessed to have your support. Thank you for helping us bring our vision to life.*

*With Gratitude,  
Marie K. Jachino  
Interim Executive Director  
Elk Grove Community Food Bank Services*

## T-shirt Reminder



Order your T-shirts from Dick Tarble.  
Adult and children's sizes \$6.00 each.

## People's Rally to End the War

People's Rally to End the War  
Fri., Sept.7, 3-6 PM

We are invited to join with clergy and members of the UU Society across town and the UU Church of Davis at this rally sponsored by the Sacramento Coalition to End the War, Grandmothers for Peace, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Sacramento Peace Action and others. This is a great opportunity to build relationships with our UU neighbors and to present a strong and united UU presence at this event.

Meet up with this group on the North side of the Capitol steps between the building and the first row of big shrubs a few minutes before 3:00pm or whenever you get there. If you're interested in carpooling, please contact Rev. Martha Hodges.

We are also invited to join the Davis church the night before to make signs to bring to the rally. They will meet out under the trees on the church property and it should be a nice way to get to know some Davis UUs. If you plan to join them, contact the Davis minister, Rev. Beth Banks, at [office@uusofdavis.org](mailto:office@uusofdavis.org). She can tell you exactly when, where and what materials, if any, you need to bring. If you're making your own sign, please refrain from referring to individuals or particular pieces of legislation. As a tax-exempt body, we are allowed to take stands on issues, but not on politicians or matters overtly "political."

## 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](http://www.uuvalleysierra.org)

Pacific Central District (PCD):

[www.pcd-uua.org](http://www.pcd-uua.org)

Telephone: (510) 601-1437

Unitarian Universalist Association:

[www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org)

Telephone: (617) 742-2100

UU Legislative Ministry:

[www.uulmca.org](http://www.uulmca.org)

Telephone: (916) 441-0018

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee:

[www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org)

Telephone: (617) 868-7102

Sacyouth - Faith-Based Activities for Youth:

[www.sacyouth.com](http://www.sacyouth.com)

South Sacramento Interfaith Partnership (SSIP)

Emergency Food Closet:

[www.ssipfoodcloset.org](http://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](mailto:uucc@cwnet.com) by the 15th of each month.

Editorial Advisor - newsletter:

Nancy Flagg 689-2008 or [uucc@cwnet.com](mailto: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](mailto: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:* [to be determined]

*Religious Education Committee:* Alison Navas

*Social Action (Bag Days):* Celia Buckley

*Worship Committee:* Lucy Bunch (chair)

## Are you looking for a spiritual community...

- Where everyone is welcome and respected?
- Where children are nurtured?
- That encourages spiritual, moral, and intellectual growth and dialog?
- That respects and affirms the importance of the interdependent web of life?

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  
8231-C East Stockton Blvd  
Sacramento, CA 95828

Place  
Postage  
Here

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