

Sunday Programs**In This Issue****February 1**

- 9:30 Adult Religious Education : “Sacred Texts of the World, Christianity”
 10:40 Children’s Religious Education: “Beauty in Nature”, Volunteer: Kirstin Mix
 10:40 Program: Rick Spradlin
 Title: “ The Evolution of the Gods”
 Service Leader: Marj Harlan
 Opener: John Kamisky
 Closer: Ashley Walker
 Greeters: John Land and Ursula King

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**February 8**

- 9:30 Adult Religious Education : “Sacred Texts of the World, Christianity”
 10:40 Children’s Religious Education: “Green Energy”, Volunteer: Kayla Spradlin
 10:40 Program: John Land
 Title: “Winning the Human Race”
 Service Leader: Paul Lee
 Opener: Ashley Walker
 Closer: Chris Nix
 Greeters: Ann Newland and Bill Edwards

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February 15

- 9:30 Adult Religious Education : “Sacred Texts of the World, Christianity”
 10:40 Children’s Religious Education : Art Project, Volunteers: Paul Lee and Sidney Wilson
 10:40 Program: J. Paige Sturm, RN, MSN, FNP-C
 Title: “Finding Truth and Meaning: Lessons Learned from Kids Fighting Cancer”
 Service Leader: John Nix
 Opener: Chris Nix
 Closer: Carolyn Searcy
 Greeters: Robert Burnham, and Anna Hensley
 GATP: Hope Harbour, a safe house for abused women and children

February 22

- 9:30 Adult Religious Education : “ Sacred Texts of the World, Christianity”
 10:40 Children’s Religious Education : “Enough Stuff”, Volunteer: Donna Dyer
 10:40 Program: Reverend Ed Wilson
 Title: “The Unruly Member”
 Service Leader: Thomas Sturm
 Opener: Carolyn Searcy
 Closer: Evelyn Roebuck
 Greeters: Kirstin Mix and Mark Berger

Thank you to Linda Hagberg for coordinating the February Programs.

Chris Rohrs (1946-2015)

Chris Rohrs, our VP of Religious Education, died on January 5, 2015. After joining our Fellowship in 2009, he worked hard to provide us with the necessary resources to help us understand more about Unitarian Universalism and other faith practices.

He will be missed.



Wednesday Night Discussion Group

This group meets weekly at 7 pm and is open to everyone. The topic to be discussed is announced on the website calendar a few days in advance of the next meeting.

Mindfulness/Meditation Group

This is a weekly meeting, held every Thursday evening at 7 pm. The group is led by Jon Kendrick, a mindfulness instructor. The Mindfulness Meditation website is www.pathofmindfulness.com.

Coffee House/Young Adults

This group meets every Monday at 7 pm at the Fellowship.

Women's Group

The Women's Group meets monthly on second Thursdays. The time of day and the specific plans vary from month to month. The details are usually announced a month in advance and are found in the newsletter and on the website. On Feb. 12, the group will meet at 11am at the front desk of the Discovery Center at Callaway Gardens to discuss lunch and activity options. Free gate admission. Participants are encouraged to arrange carpools.

Women's Book Club

A monthly meeting is held on the fourth Tuesday evening of each month, at 5 pm. The current book is announced a month in advance, giving everyone a chance to read it before the meeting. The book for February 24 is All Over But the Shoutin' by Rick Bragg.

Joys and Concerns

- * Remember the Red Cat Raffle that benefits the Building Fund. The raffle is for a 2000 S—Jaguar donated by John Kamisky. Tickets are \$20. each. The drawing is to be held at the Fellowship on February 8th.
- * It is a joy to welcome those who have joined our Fellowship in January: Tom and Paige Sturm, Katherine Dillard, Brother Elias, Walt Dickey, Jordan Michelle, Nate and Molly Gross and Alexandria Paich.
- * Keep our Friends and Members who may be experiencing health issues in your thoughts and prayers.
- * Barry White is caring for his 92 year old mother in Charlotte, NC at the Southminster Hospice House.



Opal Goodwin	February 2
Ursula King	February 3
Larry Meisel	February 4
Harry Underwood	February 5

Heather Saxton	February 20
Chris Nix	February 22
Austin Nichols	February 25
John Hart	February 28

Synopsis of Board Meeting on 20 January 2015

The Board Meeting was called to order by Dave Walker at 7:05 pm. Present were: Ed Wilson, Nikki Rohrs, Michelle Midgette, Kayla Spradlin, Rick Spradlin, Bill Harlan, Harry Underwood and Connie Ussery. Thomas Dyer, John Hart, John Land and Donna Dyer also attended.

Minutes were read and accepted as written. We have had an increase in membership and more people are interested in joining.

The Treasurer's report reflected that the 2014 General Fund was short, but we had enough extra funds on hand to cover expenses. Several budget items were adjusted to keep from confusing funds spent on the Double Churches property from those spent on the Heiferhorn Way property. Nikki reviewed the budget changes brought about by the move to the new property. The report and 2015 budget passed unanimously.

It was proposed that we move the church sign immediately so we can put the building up for sale. Bill Harlan will find an agent to list this property for sale.

Dick McMichael has done some preliminary work about television and radio publicity. The committee hopes to meet again next week. Bill Harlan will contact Jerry Jordan to clarify matching funds.

Harry Underwood reported on Faithify.org. This is a crowd funding service specifically for UU churches and UU projects. They will help with funding efforts, even funding a new building. He will report more details on this service at the next meeting.

There was much discussion about the repairs/renovation of the new building. It was decided to go ahead with plumbing repairs to the upstairs toilet, Meeting House repairs and closing off the plumbing in the pool building. All HVAC expenditures were authorized and cleaning the ducts in the Meeting House was also approved. The Design Team will be asked to choose alternative lighting fixtures for the stairwell and find an electrician to install them. Thomas and Donna Dyer presented a proposal for our children's program. Donna Dyer explained that the upstairs rooms need to be assigned for children's RE. The Dyers think the largest room should be for 2,3,4 year olds. The conference room should be used for kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade and the room across the hall should be for 3rd, 4th and 5th grades. Each room must be manned with teachers each Sunday. Thomas said that we already have 26 children of various ages who attend at different times. He said that we need to think about our needs as we grow to a larger membership. This led to a discussion of allocating space for various purposes. Dave suggested that the Dyers discuss the allocation of the upstairs with the Design Team and organize a committee to manage the Children's Programs. Rooms can be managed as multi-purpose rooms since Children's RE programs are held during the regular Sunday service only. The Dyers agreed that the first and smallest upstairs room on the right will be the records room for the office administrator. The last room on the right is the nursery for parents to be with their babies. Nikki asked that the Children's Committee prepare a list of needed items with a budget. Rick Spradlin moved that we accept the use of the upper floor as the Dyers requested. This passed with a unanimous vote. Bill Harlan moved that Thomas and Donna Dyer form a Children's Committee. Discussion clarified that roles and duties of this committee include responsibility for a multi-age RE program and curriculum, coordination of volunteers for managing the children's rooms and allocation of space on the upper floor of the Heiferhorn building. They will coordinate the move of the children's area to the Heiferhorn location. They will also get approval for spending on items needed for safety, including a gate to block access to the fire escape. The VP of Children's RE will chair this committee. This motion passed.

The position of Director of Development is still under review by the Board. After discussion, the Board determined that many tasks delineated in this proposal might be handled by the President. Dave said that he will work with Michelle to determine a move-in date.

John Hart said he thought the freezer should be sold rather than donated by pickup by Salvation Army. Other items will be removed from the pool house area so that doors can be installed and that space can be used for storage.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25pm.

Note: At the Jan. 18 business meeting, it was voted that our new building be named Grace Fellowship Hall. Rick Spradlin was elected to be our Vice President of Adult Religious Education.

Social Action Committee Update:

- * Our Give Away the Plate program is funded by donations on the third Sunday of each month. Any money in the offering not designated to the Fellowship is donated to a charity. In 2014 our Fellowship donated a total of \$3,063.50. The money was dispersed to the following charities: Good Shepherd Clinic, Alterna, Trees Columbus, Open Door, Boys and Girls Clubs, Homeless Resource Network, House of Time, Muscogee County Autism Support, House of Heroes and the Anne Elizabeth Shepherd Home. In addition, we collected mittens, gloves, caps and a small doll which were given to the Homeless Resource Network.
- * In January 2015 we donated \$307.00 to the Ferst Foundation for their Childhood Literacy Program. **Our designated charity for February will be Hope Harbour, a safe house for abused women and children.**
- * In coordination with our First Sunday potluck lunch on Feb. 1st, the congregation is asked to bring in non-perishable food to donate to Feed the Valley Food Bank. In 2014 we collected 1,049 pounds of food which surpassed our 2013 total. We are hoping to do even better this year.
- * This year we are also collecting backpacks and suitcases for the Homeless Resource Network. Donated items will be brought to HRN for clients to use to store their belongings.
- * Our plastic mat program will be suspended after completion of our initial mats.

Grace Fellowship Hall Update:

The Design Team, Repairs and Renovations Committee, and the Board have been working since late December on steps needed to relocate to our new property at 8827 Heiferhorn Way. Parents of young children, as well as volunteers who work with Children's R.E and childcare, toured the facility on Jan. 10 to help the Board make its decision on the best place for our childcare and children's program. It was decided that four of the upstairs rooms would best meet the needs of the children. At the Board meeting on Jan. 20, a Children's Committee was approved to assist the Vice President for Children's R.E., Kayla Spradlin, in all matters relating to the children's rooms, curriculum, and childcare.

Safety and function have been the top priority in all work done to date. The Design Team considered all spaces available and determined the best use of various rooms to meet the needs of all the different groups that will use Grace Fellowship Hall and the Meeting House (formerly the annex). The goal is to ready the Meeting House for the various group meetings, and to use the Great Hall for Sunday services.

Work completed so far includes changing the exterior door locks on both buildings, installing an alarm system, evaluating lighting and repairing or replacing fixtures, having a safety inspection on the heating system and repairing/replacing some parts, and thoroughly cleaning the kitchen area. Work is currently underway to install doors on the former swimming pool bathrooms as a safety and security measure. Major plumbing work will begin soon in the Meeting House in order to repair the broken pipes and restore the toilet, sinks and hot/cold water service. Painting is also in progress for the interior of the Meeting House.

Other smaller tasks will be accomplished in the next few weeks. A target date to move in will be set when the plumbing project is completed and plans can be finalized for the move from one facility to another.

A big thank you to all our volunteers at the work parties and to all the committee members for their many hours of hard work. We appreciate your help and look forward to our joint efforts in the weeks to come. How wonderful it will be when all the repairs are completed. We can say good-bye to the liquor store parking lot and begin to enjoy the beauty of our new wooded location by Heiferhorn Creek.

**UU Fellowship of Columbus
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A Free and Responsible Search for Truth and Meaning!