



Sunday Services
10:30-11:45 AM

9/6 "Thy Will Be Done"
Rev. Roy Reynolds. In a progressive faith, to what wisdom, ideal or ultimate way might we feel drawn to surrender our will? *Family Worship*

9/12 "Why Do Shame?"
Lisa Earle McLeod. Why do we expect someone to do better by making them feel worse? Is positive reinforcement a moral calling? *RE classes*
Potluck Lunch after service

9/19 "Gifts: A Fire on the Hill"
Bob Patrick. At the Autumn Equinox, we will take time to reflect on where we are in the midst of our UUCG harvest, what has brought us here, and where we are headed.
Children's Worship

9/26: "Yes, We Can!"
Rev. Roy Reynolds & Laura d. Stories of how stewardship generosity has worked in other UU congregations and holds promise for UUCG. *RE classes*

Summer Wednesdays
Programs at 7:00pm

9/1 "Experiences of Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, and/or Transgender"

9/8 "Evensong"

9/15 "Bisexuality and Biphobia"

9/22 "Evensong"

9/29 "Transgender Identity: What it means"

Roy's Reflections

Have you seen the news that Pastor Terry Jones, of Dove World Outreach Center (a fundamentalist church) plans to hold an "International Burn a Quran Day" on September 11, 2010? You talk about madness! That man is crazy and his attitude fuels a dangerous sentiment in the country. Wanna know more? Jones wrote a book titled "Islam is of the Devil," and his church sells coffee mugs and shirts featuring the phrase. On the church's website, a section lists "Ten Reasons to Burn a Koran." (Source: CNN)

Have you seen the latest Time Magazine? Its feature article asks the question, "Is America Islamophobic?" The initial story is not about the proposed mosque two blocks from 'Ground Zero.' It's about a small Wisconsin town planning commission hearing where a local MD (and land owner) is applying to open a mosque nearby. There the doctor hears comments he would never hear in the privacy of an examination room. People there openly "...pour scorn and hostility on [his] proposal... It's about [his] faith. Islam is a religion of hate, they say. Muslims are out to wipe out Christianity...One resident says, 'I just think it's not America.'" (Source: Time Magazine)

Add to this the insanity that a substantial portion (24%) of the voting American public actually think that our President, Barack Obama, is a practicing Muslim. Quite frankly, it would not matter to me in the least if he was a Muslim. But he is not, and yet this rumor continues across the nation among Americans receptive to being incited by the anger and hatred toward seemingly all people of Islamic faith.

We have here a problem that all Unitarian Universalists can help solve. How would you go about it? My recommendation, especially at the local level of a congregation, would be emphasize our

compatibilities with the Islamic faith, and show that simpatico through words and actions that made the Lawrenceville/ Gwinnett community aware that we 'Stand on the Side of Love,' to use the language of one of our hymns.

Specific action would take the form of open advocacy and support for local mosques and Muslims, hold a 'Share the Quran Dinner' and invite local Muslims, sponsor a public forum to build interfaith understanding, consider building interfaith relations through shared projects (eg, Habitat House). We could also teach the Quran in RE. I would ask the Social Justice Committee to take the lead in developing a full strategy, but I would (myself) write public letters of support and be present (if possible) for such events as the above. In Augusta, when I was interim minister there, clergy representatives from various faiths met together, including the local Imam, on a monthly basis. Now they hold an annual interfaith service on the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. There are lots of things you/we could do.

In my view, the whole matter centers on loving kindness and mutual acceptance of people of good will demonstrating solidarity through empathy and compassion. Taking a stand against people like Pastor Jones, and the anti-Islam hatred he and his congregation voice, would only fuel more hatred. Our stance needs to always be one that affirms the healing power of love through ever-building the Beloved Community.



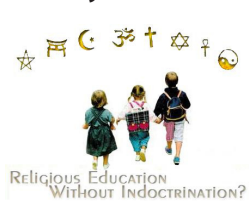
Rev. Roy

Thanks from the Finance Committee



Thank you for your thoughtful responses and inquiries at the Congregational Meeting on August 22. Our debt can now be restructured to an easily managed loan with greater financial stability for UUCG. As Rev. Roy said, "HUZZAH!"

Sunday RE Classes & Coming of Age for Children and Teens



Sunday Religious Education classes for Children and Teens resume on September 12. Please register online or use one of the forms on the blue RE bulletin board. Teachers ask questions with the kids and grow too. If you are interested, please contact Lisa @ Lisa@Triangleoftruth.com.

This month, Coming of Age families will be nominating members of the congregation to serve as mentors for 7th-10th graders. For Coming of Age details, Contact Donna at donna_donohue@bellsouth.net.

Care Ring Social Gatherings on October 23 and 24

The Care Team has been busy planning for the first social gatherings for the Care Rings to occur October 23rd and 24th. You will be hearing from a Care Ring Coordinator about the details of your Care Ring's event. Each member, and friends who have requested, are assigned a care ring that is geographical in nature. Come & see who lives just down the street at these afternoon fun, family centered, parties. Contact Sue-Ann at 770-338-7747 or at sals@charter.net.

Joys, Concerns, and Gratitude



- Congratulations to **Ed Knights** and Ellie Johnson who will be getting married on Sept. 18. All are invited. Ceremony is at 4:00.
- **Nancy Beer's** heart surgery went well and she is home recovering. Cards welcome.
- **Pat Holt** was visiting relatives in Wisconsin two weeks ago and was involved in a serious auto accident. She is anxious to get well enough to go to a home she still owns near there. Cards welcome. Pat Holt, 1718 Aurora St., Middleton, WI 53562.

Georgia UU Social Justice Conference in Macon

On Saturday, September 11th, the 1st Annual Georgia UU Social Justice Conference will take place at High Street Church in Macon. UUs from three different districts will converge from 10:00-5:00 to learn from each others' experience, share the lessons we've learned from our work, and discern ways in which we can work together in the future to maximize our impact in the public arena. Registration is only \$25. The program includes an opening worship service, led by Reverend Rhett Baird, a keynote speech by Ana Garcia Ashley, breakout sessions on: GLBT issues, the environment, congregation-based community organizing, immigration and racial and ethnic concerns. At the conclusion of the day, we will make plans for the future. All are welcome. Details online at <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e2yv0v04905d57cf> or follow the link from the uucg website or call Debra at (404) 234-2478.

Singing Meditation Workshop in Chattanooga

A workshop for those who to deepen their spiritual connections through music. To register and learn more, visit www.uucg.org and follow the link for the singing meditation workshop on September 24 and 25.

Countdown to General Assembly 2011

Mark your calendars to be at the 50th Anniversary of the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Associations of Congregations in Charlotte NC from June 22-26, 2011. UUCG hopes to send at least 20 people! 2011 Ware Lecturer will be Karen Armstrong, one of the leading commentators on religious affairs and a best-selling author. Details at www.uua.org.



Healthy Congregations Conference

The annual Mid-South District Healthy Congregations Conference will be in Auburn, Alabama on October 9. This conference is designed for those new to lay leadership or new to district involvement. Please mark your calendars and join the carpool crew from UUCG. Details at www.msd-uua.org.



Social Justice Committee update on Troy Davis case

(drawing in part on August 25 AJC story by Bill Rankin) On August 24, U.S. District Court Judge William Moore rejected death row inmate Troy Anthony Davis' claims that he had been wrongfully convicted of the fatal shooting of an off-duty Savannah police officer. Judge Moore ruled that Davis' lawyers had failed to prove his innocence. Davis was accused of the 1989 shooting of Mark Allen MacPhail solely on the basis of eyewitness testimony. At an evidentiary hearing held in June, most of the witnesses who had testified against Davis at the original trial recanted, stating that they had been pressured to finger him by the police and prosecutors. However, the judge dismissed the witnesses' recantations as not credible. He failed to explain how, if the witnesses' statements are not credible now, their statements at the original trial are somehow sufficiently credible to provide the sole basis for executing Davis. The witnesses had nothing to gain by recanting their testimony, and took a considerable risk by doing so, including facing potential perjury charges. The judge also dismissed witness statements that another man confessed to being the actual shooter. Davis has come within hours to days of execution on three separate occasions, only to be spared by eleventh-hour appeals. Davis' sister, Martina Correia, said that his family will continue its fight for justice. Martina spoke at UUCG in 2008, and several members of our congregation have visited with Troy and his family as well as attending protests, writing letters, and speaking out on Troy's behalf.