



The UUCG Beacon

PRESIDENT'S NOTES



Happy Mid-Year!

“What?!?!” You may ask. Yes, of course it’s New Year’s on your calendar, but many things, including our Congregation operate on a schedule other than the calendar year. Our Congregation, as well as most other UU Congregations, runs on a fiscal year running from July through June, with new officers starting on July 1st as well as our annual budget and pledges.

So while we may individually be setting New Year’s resolutions or plans, for our Congregational leaders, now is the time to evaluate where we are in our annual goals, assessing what is necessary to achieve those goals by then end of the year. Have some already been fulfilled? Are there any which haven’t been started? Now is the time to assess situations and if necessary, get back on task while there’s still time!

This year, the Board did not set specific goals. Instead, this year is devoted to the start of our Developmental Ministry, dealing with issues of transition and beginning work on our Developmental Ministry goals as selected by the Congregation last year. Ideally, we’d like to have one goal completed by the time the year is over, but making significant progress on several can show considerable success.

Here’s to fulfilling our goals and resolutions both individually and collectively!

Rich Elkins

President, UUCG Board of Trustees

STAFF

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 Music Director: Mort Stine
 Choir Director: Sue Jefferson
 RE Director: Lilani Butler Masters

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MINISTER'S REFLECTIONS



Happy New Year, 2015!

All people matter. Yet it's hard to care if we don't know one another below surface interactions. Hearing one another's story is one way we humans come to be someone to somebody.

Would you like to explore how a Unitarian Universalist listening circle might work? I would like to schedule a Chalice Circle Demonstration early in 2015. Please let me know of your interest: revdebs@gmail.com or 850-225-3826.

Facilitators are guided by the Minister. Each facilitator will pick a monthly day, time and place for their Chalice Circle. 8 to 10 participants sign up to attend their monthly hour-and-a-half Chalice Circle for the coming five months. Circle participants listen to one another's reflections on a monthly topic ranging from secular to spiritual, ethical to cultural, serious to light-hearted. Check-in, introduction of the topic by poetry or questions, and open discussion round out the Chalice Circle experience.

Each of us has stories to tell, life experience and insights that could expand upon the wisdom of our individual lives. Unitarian Universalists across the country rave about the connections they have made with one another through Chalice Circles.

If you are a newcomer, a long-timer or a youth who doesn't know the folks you see on Sunday mornings, a monthly Chalice Circle will help you build relationships of depth and mutual trust, little by little.

Or maybe you just like being a stranger among strangers?!... No? I didn't think so!

I am so grateful for this New Year, 2015. I'm also grateful that the Board endorsed Chalice Circles (December, 2014) as a means of reaching our Developmental Goals of "Life-Span Faith Development" (5b) to address "more fully the spiritual needs of the congregation" (5a) "driven by our programs (that) involve more of our members, and stresses communication" (2).

Most of all, I think that building relationships of mutual trust and support is the primary task of our religious community (religare, Latin, "to bind together"). May we make it so.

Blessings!

Rev. Rod Debs, Minister

JANUARY 2014 – National Blood Donor Month

Friday 2 nd @ 1:00pm	Women's Lunch
Friday 2 nd @ 6:30pm	Games Night
Sunday 4 th	"Some of my Best Friends are Fictional"
Friday 9 th @ 5:30pm	Art Reception
Sunday 11 th	"Service Gives Us Meaning"
Friday 16 th @ 1:00pm	Women's Lunch
Friday 16 th @ 7:00pm	GLBT Movie Night— <i>Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil</i>
Sunday 18 th	"War Gives us Meaning"
Sunday 18 th	CUUPS group meeting
Monday 19 th	Martin Luther King Holiday
Sunday 25 th	"Humor and Faith"
Friday 30 th @ 1:00pm	Women's Lunch

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS

9:30AM Mindful Meditation
10:30AM Worship
12:00PM Lunch Groups

TUESDAYS

8:00AM Breakfast Group

WEDNESDAYS

7:00PM Choir Practice

Deadline for next month's *Beacon* is Monday, **January 26 at 8:00 pm**