
Unitarian Universalist Church of Bartlesville



UUCB News



December, 2013—January 2014

7 UU Principles

We Affirm and Promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person.
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations.
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Congregational Meeting January 26th

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Bartlesville will hold our annual Congregational Meeting immediately after service on January 26th. Items to be discussed and approved will be the 2014 budget, a new slate of Board members and a discussion about the ministerial future of our church. Since the death of Kathryn Reese, services and sermons have been conducted by a combination of visiting pastors and lay members. The discussion will be about ideas on the path forward and hopefully get a consensus on a how the new Board should proceed in the coming year (details inside).

If you are interested in serving on the Board please speak to a member of the nominating committee: Christa Marteny, Bill Schmidt, Peggie O'connor or Virgil Reese. There are seven positions: President, Vice President, Past President (if there is one), Secretary, Treasurer, and two at-large seats. Meetings are once a month. Qualifications for the Board are simple: you must be a member of the church for at least six months and be willing to volunteer your time to the activities of the Board, including the various sub-committees. Those committees are: Budget, Liturgy (formerly Worship), Growth & Membership, Religious Education, and Building and Grounds. This year's Board has done a great job in a difficult year. Let's keep the momentum going!

Silent Auction Successful

It is amazing that every year we cross our fingers that our annual Dinner and Silent Auction event will go well and bring in some needed cash to our coffers. And every year we are pleasantly surprised with the results. 2013 did not disappoint as we collected over a thousand dollars. For the second year in a row, one the most popular items was a night of stargazing at John Grismore's home planetarium. Bidding was lively for an evening of food and gambling at the Cherokee Casino in Ramona. Many thanks to all who donated their items. Special Thanks to Carol Llewallen who prepared the delicious food for the evening. (I especially liked the mashed potatoes)

December and January Sermons

December 15: Randy Lewis — “Almost Perfect” : Today’s reflection is not only about learning how to accept the “almost perfect “, but truly embracing the "far from perfect" life!

December 22: Steve Hine, Fran Stallings and others — “Holiday special Service”: The celebration of the Winter Solstice in tradition and for today.

December 29: Kevin Bennett — “The Parallel Sayings: Jesus, Buddha and Dr. Sues”

January 5: Warren Sapp — TBA

Guest Minister Randy Lewis

On December 15th, our sermon will be delivered by guest minister Randy Lewis, Assistant Minister at All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church of Tulsa.

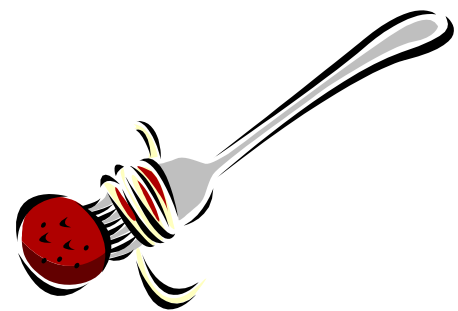
Randy Lewis is a formerly ordained Baptist minister, who led a congregation in Oklahoma City. After relocating to Tulsa, Randy accepted the position of Student Minister at All Souls Unitarian Church. He currently serves as adjunct minister. Randy holds MBA and Master of Divinity degrees. He has one daughter, Taraya and two step children, Anna and Wendall with his partner of eleven years, D.’

Guest Speaker Kevin Bennett

Kevin is somewhat new to UU. A churchgoer for the last 30 years, he was mainly going through the motions until his mid-40’s, when he experienced a suicidal depression. Doctors, counselors and meds seemed to have no effect, but he discovered that New Thought spirituality, including the wisdom of Unitarian Minister Ralph Waldo Emerson, was extremely helpful. Since then, he has become a Licensed Practitioner with Centers for Spiritual Living, and is currently training to be a certified Law of Attraction coach. Kevin’s passion is to make the world a better place by joyfully creating the life of his dreams as he supports and encourages others to do the same.

Community Dinner Jan 18th

We are opening our doors to our Neighbors on Saturday, January 18th with a Community Dinner. Spaghetti is on the menu. We will distribute flyers to our neighbors a few days before the event. If you would like to help, contact Christa or Carol. It’s a great way to meet our neighbors and maybe help some folks at the same time. We help because we can!



Potluck Dec.15, Jan. 19th

Mexican food in December? Why not. Leftover spaghetti is the theme of January’s Potluck lunch. Help us consume the inevitable leftovers from our Community Dinner the night before. Of course if you have a dish you want to contribute to the fare, it will be welcome.



Hello Congregation,

We hope you have been enjoying the variety of ministers and lay leaders that have come to our aid during these difficult months since Kathryn's death. The greater UU community has been wonderful. Although our loss is still felt very deeply, the UU Board is starting to think about what is next for us as a congregation. The board discussed some of the possibilities, and gave us the task of making inquiries to see what options might be a good fit for us. When we say a good fit, we mean what option will best help us meet our mission statement: The Unitarian Universalist Church of Bartlesville seeks to create a loving community that nourishes the spirit and mind; whose members joyfully work to build a just and sustainable world. And we need to be able to meet that mission statement within our budget.

We are considering forming an ongoing relationship (for a finite period of one or two years) with a whole church, like All Souls in Tulsa, or with an individual minister. We are in the process now of talking with individual ministers and with UU Tulsa churches to see if there is mutual interest in pursuing an ongoing relationship. The many different forms that the ongoing relationship could take are varied and will also be discussed. For example, would the minister be a half-time minister? Would she or he provide sermons only, or teach adult education and provide pastoral care too?

If we form an association with another church, like All Souls, would we live stream the sermons or would they send a minister to us once or twice a month? Would the church be able to provide pastoral care and religious education opportunities? We have also been told of another model that Stillwater UU uses in which we could have yearly contracts with a number of ministers, each of whom would lead the service one set Sunday a month.

These are just a few of the varied forms that an ongoing relationship with a church or an individual minister might take.

We have contacted the Rev. Susan Smith, our Unitarian Universalist Association Congregational Life Consultant, and she has been supportive of our exploratory efforts. She explained the following in an email:

"I think you will want to be aware of what sort of ministry you are seeking. An interim ministry usually puts the congregation through some processes that focus their minds about their own mission and help them understand what sort of minister they will seek for the end of the interim period. They are not eligible to take the upcoming position. On the other hand, a consulting or developmental ministry can have specific tasks and scope for a limited period of time but be renewed indefinitely or converted to a called ministry if both parties agree."

These are big decisions for our congregation, and we anticipate that the board will review the options and make recommendations to the congregation for a vote in January or February. Please feel free to talk to one of us if you have questions or suggestions for us during this exploratory process. We are honored to undertake this important task for our congregation and ask for your support and guidance throughout the process.

Warm regards,

Tom Perrine, Board President

Kat Closmann, Member at Large

The Life and Legacy of Nelson Mandela

December 6, 2013

The Rev. Peter Morales, president of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), issued the following statement on the life and legacy of Nelson Mandela:

"As we begin to grieve the death of Nelson Mandela, I am reminded of his words, 'I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear.'

As members of a faith community committed to equity and justice, we remember the life and legacy of Nelson Mandela. He shines as an example of how one person can change the world and make it a better place.

Today and every day let us face our own fears of the unknown and the misunderstood. Remember Nelson Mandela's words so that we may embrace that fear, conquer it, be courageous, and change the world."

December 2013



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 Interfaith Service 6pm	5	6	7 Dinner and Silent Auction
8 Service 11am Discussion 10am	9	10	11 Interfaith Service 6pm	12	13 Karaoke 7pm	14
15 Service 11am Discussion 10am Potluck "Mexican"	16	17	18 Interfaith Service 6pm Drumming 7pm	19	20	21
22 Service 11am Holiday Service Discussion 10am	23	24	25 Christmas	26 Kwanza	27	28
29 Service 11am Discussion 10am	30	31 New Year's Eve				

January 2014



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 New year's Day	2	3 Cotton Bowl OSU vs Mizzou	4
5 Service 11am Discussion 10am	6	7	8 Interfaith Service 6pm	9	10	11
12 Service 11am Discussion 10am	13	14	15 Interfaith Service 6pm	16	17	18 Community Dinner
19 Service 11am Discussion 10am Potluck	20	21	22 Interfaith Service 6pm	23	24	25
26 Service 11am Congregational meeting after service	27	28	29 Interfaith Service 6pm	30	31	

Unitarian Universalist Church of Bartlesville

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Over 50 Years of
Liberal Faith in
Bartlesville

**On the web at
www.uubville.org**



What do UUs believe?

What Do You Say When Someone Asks You . . .

"So What Do Unitarian Universalists Believe In . . . ?"

Sometimes new Unitarian Universalists are unsure about how to explain their new religion to friends, relatives or coworkers. Here is a response to consider:

Rather than saying, "I'm a Unitarian Universalist because I can believe anything I want . . ."

. . . it's better to say that Unitarian Universalism is a faith tradition (or religion) which encourages each individual to develop a personal faith. It draws from many different religions, in the belief that no one religion has all the answers and that most have something to teach us. From Christianity we take the teachings of Christ. From Buddhism we take the power of meditation. From Judaism we take the belief that working together we can achieve peace and justice. From Native American and other earth-centered traditions we take respect for the earth and reverence for natural cycles.

For other excellent response ideas, go to <http://www.uua.org/interconnections/membership/believe.html>.

from UUA InterConnections
