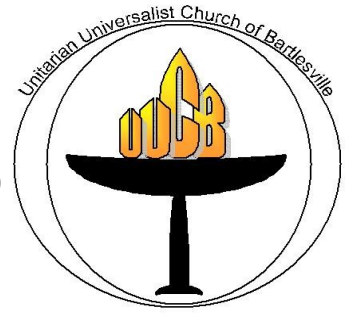


Unitarian Universalist Church of Bartlesville



UUUCB News



February, 2015

**MISSION
STATEMENT
of the
UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH OF
BARTLESVILLE**

*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.*

June 2012

Bring a Friend to Dinner and Silent Auction February 28th

The holidays are over with and that usually means a few months of nothing going on at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bartlesville. But not this year! For the first time ever the annual Dinner and Silent Auction is being held after the New Year. On Saturday, February 28th doors will open and bidding will begin at 6:00pm. Dinner is at 7pm and bidding closes at 8:30pm. Join us for wonderful food and conversation as well as friendly, but competitive bidding.

We need to hear from folks ASAP in regard to what they will be donating, or receiving as donations from others. Some of the items up for auction include such electronics as a 42-inch plasma HDTV and a Nintendo Wii. There will also be a variety of art pieces and craft items. We typically have many offerings of non-material items as well. Some of the unique things offered in the past have been guitar lessons, upholstery, carpentry, a day sail on Lake Oologah, restaurant gift certificates and many other treasures.



There will be a nominal charge to cover the dinner expenses: \$12 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. Don't miss it!

Your 2015 Board

The January 11th Congregational Meeting elected the following as Board members for the coming year:

President: Trish Winters

Vice President: Jason Peacock

Secretary: Kristin Duncan

Treasurer: Debbie Tipton

Member at Large: Virgil Reese

Member at Large: James McColloch

Past President: Tom Perrine

February Sermons

February 1 — Steven Williams: "Unity in Diversity: The UU Moral Imperative." -- "I don't see color." "I don't care what race (or gender, or religion, or sexual orientation) you are." "We're all the same, really." How many times have we heard (or said) such things when discussing the differences that can seem so divisive in our society? Does this attitude really serve to mend those fences, or does it widen the gaps? So often in our churches, as much as out in the world, UUs try so hard to find common ground that we miss out on the beauty and strength that comes of human diversity. This sermon explores our obligation, as members of a religion of plurality, to lean into difference in a colorblind culture.



February 8 — Warren Sapp: TBA

February 15 — Steven Williams: "What is Love?" Chocolate-filled hearts. Giant teddy bears embroidered with "I Love You THIS Much." A flood of advertisements for diamond jewelry and romantic (expensive) restaurants, urging us to "show her how much we love her." Most of us are aware that this commercialized version of love is not an accurate one. But many of us are also unsure of exactly what is accurate. When we strip away social expectations, unhealthy norms, and the association of "love" with "romance," what remains? This sermon seeks to lift up the essence of love for a religion that claims to stand on its side.

February 22—TBA

Sunday Forums

Doors open at 9am and the discussion begins at 9:45 and lasts until 10:45.

February 1: Drew Marteny and Virgil Reese, The topic - a celebration of Darwin Sunday (a week early) -new and astonishing findings (pictures included) about many of the other species with which we share this endlessly fascinating planet.

February 8: Sunday Spiritual Cinema presented by Kat Closmann and Lisa Roll. See separate article.

February 15th: Steve Williams: "This I Believe... A Credo-Writing Workshop (Part I)". Part of the great beauty of Unitarian Universalism's fourth principle (the free and responsible search for truth and meaning) is its balance of "freedom" and "responsibility": the community's obligation to support individual freedom of belief, and individuals' responsibility to develop that belief intentionally and in balance with the community's needs. One way to fulfill both sides is to explore individual beliefs in a group setting. This is the first of a series on writing credos, or individual statements of belief. In this session, we will explore some basic terms and questions about spirituality and beliefs. This will set the stage for Part II, in which we will write and share our credos. A third session may be in the works... more will be revealed!

February 22: Fran Stallings: "Update on GMOs." Some new applications of genetic technology make the issues more complicated!

Coffee, tea and other refreshments provided.

Minister's Message

Dear UUCB,

Well, 2015 is off to a great start! We have a new board (congrats again) and new ideas for our new church year. In my time with you last month, we got to go deeper into the interplay of personal, social, and spiritual narratives. I am grateful to all of you for your warm receptivity as I offered parts of my own story to start that conversation.

We will continue the conversation this month as we explore what it means to us as individuals and as a body of UUs to work for justice and stand on the side of love. We will also delve into our individual belief systems in the spirit of the beloved community, as we embark on a two-part forum series on credo-writing. I look forward to getting to know all of you better in this process!

Office/Coffee Hours:

This month, I'll be in town Fri-Sun, January 30-February 1, and Sat-Mon, February 14-16. My regular office and coffee hours are as follows:

- Friday, January 30: Coffee and Conversation at Jude's, 4-6 p.m.
- Saturday, January 31: Office Hours at UUCB, 2-4 p.m.
- Saturday, February 14: Office Hours at UUCB, 2-4 p.m.
- Monday, February 16: Coffee and Conversation at Jude's, 4-6 p.m.

Have a wonderful February full of love and light.

Namaste,

Steven Leigh Williams

Student Minister

Second Sunday Cinema Movies

Come enjoy three SPIRITUAL CINEMA short films with lively discussion led by Lisa Roll and Kat Closmann on February 8th. THE SPIRITUAL CINEMA CIRCLE is an international film series that showcases heartfelt and soulful movies. These charming shorts bring wonder, wisdom, humor and imagination.

In the 12 min. film, "**The Wine Bar**", Henry walks into a wine bar looking for a beer and is both charming and offensive to the bartender and woman sitting at the bar. As he bumbles through his encounters, he learns valuable life lessons.

"**Help Wanted**" is a 12 min. film about Ramon, a mechanic and garage owner, who puts out a Help Wanted sign and gets more help than he bargained for.

Need a good laugh with your lesson? "**Yogin**" is a three-minute animated film about two yogis in competition.

Films critics usually analyze the script, acting or direction of a movie. Here we are personally evaluating how we are the director in our own lives and how we relate to the movie. Some of the questions asked might be: How does this touch me personally? How am I reminded about some important message or lesson in life? How am I inspired to be a better person to myself and others?

Hope to see you there for a lighthearted and meaningful discussion -

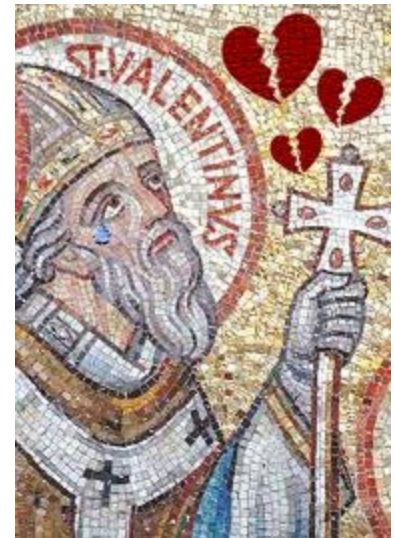
The Real St. Valentine

Starry-eyed romantics and red-rose haters alike can look to one source for their respective love or cynicism every February 14: St. Valentine. Though everyone knows the name, much less is known about the man – to wit, he may not even have been just one figure. Historical details are murky, and the prevailing theory is that one or multiple Valentines existed and may have been conflated over the years.

At least three different Saint Valentines, all of them martyrs, are mentioned in the early Catholic martyrologies under date of 14 February. One is described as a priest at Rome, another as bishop of Interamna (modern Terni), and these two seem both to have suffered in the second half of the third century and to have been buried on the Flaminian Way, but at different distances from the city. In William of Malmesbury's time what was known to the ancients as the Flaminian Gate of Rome and is now the Porta del Popolo, was called the Gate of St. Valentine. The name seems to have been taken from a small church dedicated to the saint which was in the immediate neighborhood. Of both these St. Valentines some sort of Acta are preserved but they are of relatively late date and of no historical value. Of the third Saint Valentine, who suffered in Africa with a number of companions, nothing further is known.

Fast Facts:

- One Valentine was a Roman priest and doctor who was persecuted by the emperor Claudius II for marrying Christian couples. Claudius took a liking to Valentine, but Valentine overstepped his bounds when he tried to convert the emperor, and Claudius sentenced him to death – and an ugly death at that. Lore suggests that he was beaten, stoned, and finally beheaded.
- Some accounts state that this priest had fallen in love with the blind daughter of his jailer, and signed a letter that he wrote to her “from your Valentine.” Another tale says that after his brutal death, he performed the miracle of restoring the sight of his jailer’s daughter.
- There is another Valentine who appears in early martyrologies: a bishop of Terni, Italy, who was also allegedly persecuted in Rome. It’s been proposed that this man was one and the same as the Valentine executed by Claudius.
- St. Valentine was said to be interred north of Rome on February 14, though this date may mark his death instead of his burial.
- The feast of St. Valentine was established by Pope Gelasius I in 496. Some say that Valentine’s feast day is celebrated in February because the church wanted to Christianize an ancient Roman pagan festival called Lupercalia, which centered around fertility and purification, and also took place in February.
- Valentine’s feast day has been celebrated as a lovers’ holiday and a day of romance since the 14th century, when the date was thought to be the beginning of the mating season for birds.



February 2015

Happy
Valentine's
Day

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Service 11am Forum 9:45am Board Meeting after service	2	3	4 Interfaith Contemplative Service 6pm Drumming 7pm	5	6	7
8 Service 11am Forum 9:45am	9	10	11 Interfaith Contemplative Service 6pm	12	13	14 Valentine's Day
15 Service 11am Forum 9:45am Potluck	16	17	18 Interfaith Contemplative Service 6pm Drumming 7pm	19	20	21
22 Service 11am Forum 9:45am	23	24	25 Interfaith Contemplative Service 6pm	26	27	28

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
