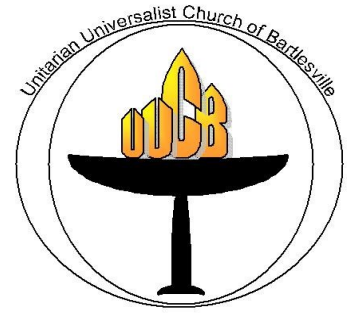




Unitarian Universalist Church of Bartlesville

UUCB News



March, 2015

**UPDATED 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

Dinner and Silent Auction Most Profitable Ever!

Despite having to reschedule due to inclement weather, the 2015 edition of the annual Dinner and Silent Auction at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bartlesville rang up more than \$1800 in proceeds. That's the best take since the recession. You have to go back to 2007 to find a comparable evening...just over \$1600 in 2007. It may very well be the single best fundraising event ever at UUCB.

Originally scheduled for Saturday, February 28th, the event had to be pushed back after 3 inches of snow made traveling on city streets hazardous. But what a difference 24 hours makes as the show was able to go on the next night. Thirty-seven people attended, enjoying food, drink and conversation...as well as bidding over \$1100 dollars on the items up for sale. An additional \$95 came through outright donations and another \$75 came from selling raffle tickets. The highest selling item was, as in years past, a service rather than material good. \$225 was paid for light construction and repair services.

This performance sets the bar high for next year. Many thanks to the organizers, people who donated items and those who braved the elements to bring off a highly successful event.



March Sermons

March 1: Steven Williams" Poverty in our Community -POSTPONED-

March 8: Steve Hine: "Jesus and Judas" a look at the world's most famous betrayal

March 15: Laurie Watkins, St. Luke's Episcopal Church of Bartlesville

March 22: Rev. Phil Douglas, visiting UU minister from Dallas

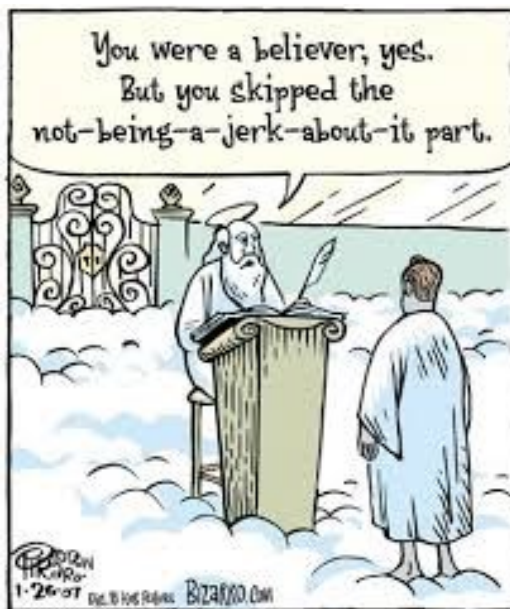
March 29: Warren Sapp



Spring Forward

March 8th

Daylight Savings Time kicks in during the wee hours of the morning on Sunday, March 8th. Don't forget to reset your clocks before going to bed Saturday night so you don't miss church in the morning!



March Forums

March 8th: Virgil Reese: Music and Art are Human Universals - a look at some of the latest theories coming out of psychology and anthropology, as to why this is so.

March 15th: Spiritual Cinema Sunday:

- In the 20 min. film "**Dutch Bird**", concerned friends rope an Irish villager into competing in a carrier pigeon race to distract him from grieving the loss of his wife. Comedy ensues!
- "**Rhinos**" is a 14 min. film in which Ingrid and Thomas are thrown together by circumstance one sunny afternoon.
- A short three-minute film follows the adventures of a blind man's umbrella, and it's called "**Umbrella**".

A lighthearted and meaningful discussion follows each screening

March 22nd: A real treat, we will enjoy some musical selections by our own gifted singer, Jennifer Vario

March 29: TBD

Message from the Minister

Hello, UUCB!

It seems that winter stored all its "fun" for a last hurrah this year! I missed you all for our March 1 service and Forum. My sermon was going to explore our responsibility, as UUs and as human beings, to engage with and work to impact the problem of poverty in our community and our world. Since I'll have to share it with you another time, I'd like to tell you about the community service project that inspired this thought process and how you can get involved in it.

For the past few weeks, I have been coming to B-Ville every Monday to work at the CONCERN Food Pantry, and will continue to do so through May. One of my goals with this service learning, which is part of my supervised ministry program, is to re-engage UUCB members in the work of this wonderful organization. For those of you who don't know, Churches United for Community CONCERN is a non-profit, inter-church operation that has been working with people in need in the Bartlesville area since 1967, and UUCB is one of its founding congregations. There are many opportunities to help out at the Food Pantry or the Child Learning Center, either occasionally or on an ongoing basis. You can do anything from packaging food or filling pantry orders to reading to children or rocking babies. Over the next couple of months, I (and others in the congregation) will announce opportunities to volunteer together as a church. I hope that many of you will join me in supporting CONCERN's good works with your hands and hearts!

On a personal note: As I announced at our February services, I will not be seeing you the third weekend of March. I was originally scheduled to be recovering from surgery (the last phase of my transition process) but have been forced to postpone that due to my insurance company's refusal to cover it. I am embarking on what may turn into a legal battle to appeal their decision, and I am grateful for my strong support network, including UUCB, as I move forward in that process. Since the liturgy committee has already filled the pulpit that weekend, I will be taking a much-needed week off to rest and prepare for this leg of my activist journey. I'll keep you posted on any new developments. Meanwhile, please welcome Lauri Watkins from St. Luke's Episcopal as she leads the service that week!

Also, please welcome Rev. Phil Douglas as your visiting minister on March 22. Phil is a UU minister who has worked in a developmental capacity with several congregations in the Southwest District, and is currently living in OKC with his wife. I have enjoyed getting to know him in our area clergy meetings, and I hope you will like him as much as I do!

Due to the fact that our first Sunday falls on March 1, my only office hours for the month will have already passed by the time you read this. However, you can always reach me for pastoral care needs by email or phone: slwilliams83@gmail.com / 918-574-4554. My regular office hours will resume Easter weekend (April 4).

Yours in faith and fellowship,

Steven Leigh Williams

Interim Student Minister

Oklahoma's "Gay Conversion" Bill Goes Against the Tide

Following a slew of defeats in 2014, the movement to ban gay conversion therapy for minors has its hopes pinned, for now, on two states where bills are making progress this year. Last week, both SF 334, a senate bill in Iowa and HB 15-1175, a house bill in Colorado, passed out of their respective committees on party-line votes. The bills would prohibit mental health providers from trying to change the sexual orientation of minors.

At this point, the medical establishment more or less unanimously agrees that conversion therapy does not work, and can be abusive. The American Psychological Association has been saying this for well over a decade.

Gay groups argue that parents should not force minors to undergo these treatments; through bans, they have sought to make the services unavailable. Opponents say that such laws violate parental rights as well as religious freedoms.

It has been exceedingly difficult to pass laws that would stop therapists from trying to "straighten out" children. Only two states, California and New Jersey, have bans on the books. Washington, D.C. joined in December. Similar measures failed last year in New York, Michigan, Minnesota, Maryland, Wisconsin and Vermont, to name a few. Just this January, a Virginia bill died in committee.

Then there is the matter of Oklahoma, which is moving to make conversion therapy for children emphatically legal. Rep. Sally Kern (R) introduced HB 1598 because she wants to make sure parents are able to put their children into counseling for same-sex attractions, she explained to *The Oklahoman*.

Last week, the committee that Kern chairs passed an amended version of the bill, 5-3. The new language still affirms conversion therapy for minors, with the exception of procedures that involve "physical pain, such as electroshock or electroconvulsive therapy, touch therapy, pornography exposure or vomit-induction therapy." (These are all techniques that have been tried to curb the sexuality of gay people.)

Oklahoma seems to be the conservative exception; in recent weeks, legislators in several other states—Arizona, Florida, Ohio, Oregon and West Virginia—have introduced bills to ban conversion therapy, though there has been little movement. Even in Iowa and Colorado, the bills face a tough climb out of each state's divided legislatures.

In California and New Jersey, the laws have withstood legal challenges so far. In 2013, the liberal 9th Circuit ruled that California's ban does not violate the First Amendment because the ban "regulates professional conduct, not speech." The Supreme Court declined to hear California's case last year, letting the 9th Circuit's decision stand.

In September, the 3rd Circuit upheld New Jersey's gay-conversion ban for a slightly different reason. In contrast to the 9th Circuit, the 3rd Circuit said that conversion therapy can and does resemble speech — albeit professional speech — and therefore it does deserve some First Amendment protection. Nevertheless, the judges ruled that the New Jersey ban for minors remained constitutional because the state had given really good reasons to ban conversion therapy, good enough to override the First Amendment concerns.

The courts ruled in favor of the California and New Jersey bans because they recognized that the government has the power to regulate what professionals do. Ironically, that gets at one of the huge loopholes in these kinds of laws: They only spell out consequences for licensed professionals, while many conversion programs are run by unlicensed, often religious groups.

These days, it is outside of the doctor's or therapist's office where some of the ex-gay conversion practices have been the most bizarre. For instance, the adult plaintiffs in a lawsuit against the gay conversion outfit Jews Offering New Alternatives for Healing (JONAH) say that they participated in naked therapy sessions and beat effigies of their mothers with tennis rackets.

Their civil lawsuit alleges that JONAH committed consumer fraud—that it promised to make participants straight, and failed. In February, a superior court judge in New Jersey agreed, in a preliminary ruling.

March 2015



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Service 11am Discussion 9:45am	2	3	4 Contemplative Service 6pm	5	6	7
8 Service 11am Discussion 9:45am Board Meeting	9	10	11 Contemplative Service 6pm Drumming 7pm	12	13	14
15 Service 11am Discussion 9:45am Potluck	16 BPSD Spring Break	17 St. Patrick's Day BPSD Spring Break	18 Contemplative Service 6pm BPSD Spring Break	19 BPSD Spring Break	20 BPSD Spring Break	21
22 Service 11am Discussion 9:45am	23	24	25 Contemplative Service 6pm Drumming 7pm	26	27	28
29 Service 11am Discussion 9:45am Palm Sunday	30	31				

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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
