

Unitarian Universalist Church of Bartlesville

UUCB News



November, 2014

**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

Message from the Minister

Dear UUCB,

October was a month of blessings for our church community. To "bless" means "to consecrate, to make holy, or to give thanks," and we did a good deal of that at UUCB. We observed the Jewish Day of Atonement, blessing our church year to come with resolve to better ourselves, relationally, as a church. We blessed each other's journeys, hearing tales of travels and saying "til later" to a long-time member as he prepared to move away. And, most momentously, we blessed a union that has blessed our lives for some time now, making legal and protected what has been sacred and binding for 35 years. It was a great honor and privilege for me to officiate Jim and John's wedding this weekend, and it warmed my heart to see so many of our congregants there.

As we move into November and the days are getting shorter and (hopefully) cooler, a season of blessing is upon us as we prepare to celebrate harvests and families (both blood and chosen), give thanks for what we have, and consecrate our relations with each other. In that spirit, I will be preaching reflections on the ways we understand our relationship to the big picture of reality, both horizontally, among ourselves, and vertically, in regards to that which connects all life. I will also be coming up outside of my regular schedule to participate in an Interfaith Thanksgiving Service later in the month; watch the email blasts for details!

In the spirit of connection, I will remind you that I have office hours and that I would love to connect with you. You don't need a problem to come hang out! With that in mind, I am changing the way I do office hours to make them both more consistent and more accessible. For pastoral care purposes, I will have standing hours at the church from 2-4 every first and third Saturday, and otherwise, by appointment. For getting to know each other more casually, on alternating days, I will have Coffee and Conversation times at different cafes. This month, the schedule is:

Saturday, Nov 1, 2-4: Church office hours

Sunday, Nov 2, 2-4: Coffee and Conversation at Starbucks, 3801 E Frank Phillips

Friday, Nov 14, 4-6: Coffee and Conversation at Jude's, 2503 SE Washington Blvd

Saturday, Nov 15, 2-4: Church office hours

Have a blessed month!

~Steven

November Sermons

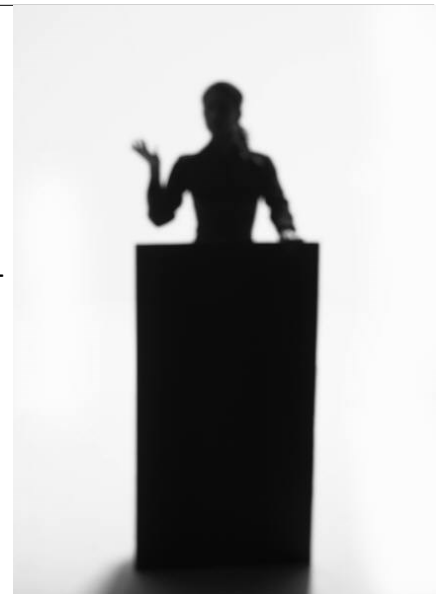
November 2: Steven Williams: "Humanism and God" Are humanism and theism mutually exclusive? Does humanist spirituality replace the need for God, or reinterpret it?

November 9: Warren Sapp: TBA

November 16: Steve Williams: "What Unites UUs?" UUs are a "free church" tradition that preaches, "We need not think alike to love alike." Still, we often have trouble explaining what we are all about - to each other, as much as to outsiders. What is it that binds us together, and how is it religious?

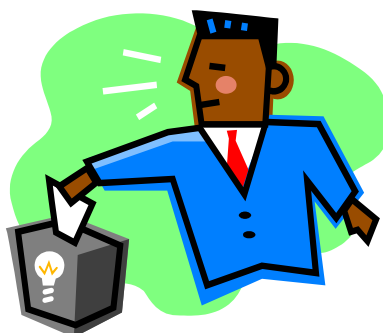
November 23: TBA

November 30: Deb Garfinkle : TBA



"Ask the Minister" Nov. 16 Forum

Want to know the difference between Humanism and Transcendentalism? Have a follow-up question from Steven's getting-to-know-you forum? Want to know more about seminary, the MFC, or the ordination process? If you think Steven might know the answer, ask away! He'll answer as many of your questions as he can during the Sunday forum on November 16. A



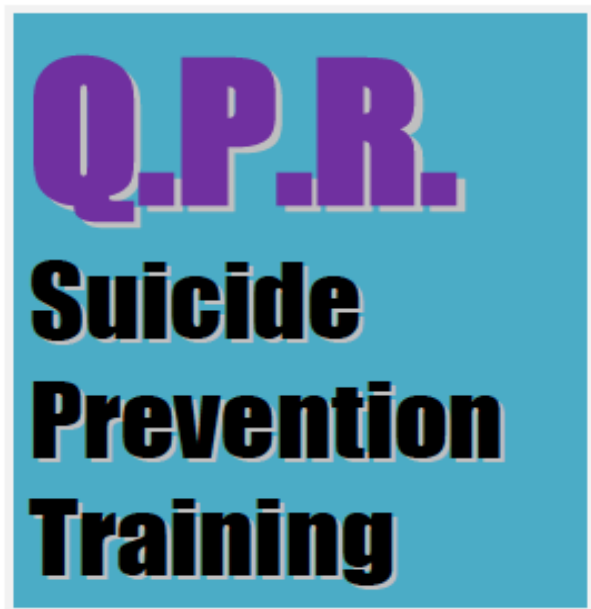
Question Box and index cards will be sitting in the May Room from November 2-14 to collect your queries!"

No Silent Auction? Say it isn't so...

It's an annual tradition at UUCB, the dinner and silent auction in November...but it may not happen this year. As of publication time, the board was still looking for a volunteer to organize the event. It's a big job to get all the auction items and food together and so far, no one has offered to step up. Unless someone takes charge one of the church's most successful fundraising events will not happen this year...as well as one of our favorite social events. If you feel you are ready to tackle organizing the biggest party of the year among the UU elite in Bartlesville, then contact your nearest Board member. Meanwhile, the rest of us need to be ready to donate items for the auction. Many of the most popular items over the years have not been material goods, but experiences such as stargazing, cooking lessons and movie nights. Let's hope (maybe even pray) that we can have our party again this year.

UUCB Hosts Suicide Prevention Workshop

Saturday, November 15th



When:

November 15, 2014
1:00-3:00 pm

Where:

Unitarian Universalist Church
428 S. Seneca
Bartlesville, OK 74003

For More Info

918-338-9737

stella.shoff@gmail.com

www.washingtoncountysuicideprevention.com

ASK a Question... SAVE a Life!

Invest an Hour—Become a Gatekeeper
According to the Surgeon General's National Strategy for Suicide Prevention (2001), a gatekeeper is someone in a position to recognize a crisis and the warning signs that someone may be contemplating suicide. Gatekeepers include parents, friends, neighbors, teachers, ministers, doctors, nurses, office supervisors, squad leaders, foremen, police officers, advisors, caseworkers, firefighters, and many others who are strategically positioned to recognize and refer someone at risk of suicide.

As a QPR-trained Gatekeeper you will learn to:

- ❖ Recognize the warning signs of suicide
- ❖ Know how to offer hope
- ❖ Know how to get help and save a life

Call Today to Attend this

FREE TRAINING

WASHINGTON COUNTY

**SUICIDE
PREVENTION
COALITION**



Pope Francis and Gays Will Win by Losing this Round on Synod Draft

Headlines called it a “setback” for Pope Francis that the initial draft of the synod of bishops released last month that spoke of “welcoming homosexual persons” was silent on them in the final document. But I don’t see it that way at all. The pope let the genie out of the bottle. And, as we all know, it’s difficult to put him back in once released.

What the synod did at the outset on paper, Pope Francis has been doing since ascending to the papacy. He’s been talking about gays and lesbians in the Catholic Church with an unheard-of humanity and care. So what that the more conservative bishops succeeded in watering down the gay paragraphs so much they couldn’t get the two-thirds majority necessary to include them in the new document released on Oct. 18. They may have won this battle, but they aren’t going to win the bigger battle with this pope.

I found it interesting that Francis insisted not only on publicizing the vote tallies for each paragraph, but also which paragraphs failed to pass. The pope said he was doing it for transparency. And that’s great. The added benefit to such openness is the signal it sends the entire church. If the pope and the bishops can engage in a rational and respectful discussion about same-sex relationships, so can the rest of the flock. That’s the genie that is out of the bottle.

As Francis said during his homily October 19th, “God is not afraid of new things! That is why he is continually surprising us, opening our hearts and guiding us in unexpected ways.” By the time the bishops reconvene next October to finalize the synod document, we might be looking at a very different outcome.

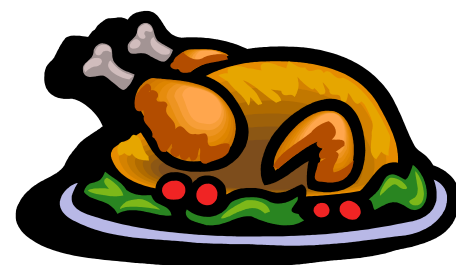
What could happen in the Catholic Church is analogous to what is happening in the United States. As I wrote this morning, in an odd way, the anti-gay political maneuverings of President George W. Bush and the sneering anti-gay Supreme Court dissents from Justice Antonin Scalia sparked a national conversation and action among lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans that has resulted in same-sex marriage being legal in more than 30 states and support for it at 59 percent.

No, no, no. I’m not saying the church or the pope will become a champion of LGBT rights. And I’m definitely not saying they are going to support marriage equality. What I am saying is that by talking about the humanity of gay and lesbian Catholics and worrying about their place in the church, Pope Francis is openly recognizing them as children of God. After centuries of demonization, that’s a revolutionary act that can’t be undone.

Editorial Opinion by Johnathan Capehart, Washington Post



November 2014



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Service 11am Discussion 9:45am	3	4 Election Day	5 Contemplative Service 6pm Drumming 7pm	6	7	8
9 Service 11am Discussion 9:45am Board Meeting After church	10	11 Veterans Day	12 Contemplative Service 6pm	13	14	15 Suicide Prevention Training 1-3pm
16 Service 11am Discussion 9:45am Potluck	17	18	19 Contemplative Service 6pm Drumming 7pm	20	21	22
23 Service 11am Discussion 9:45am	24	25	26 Contemplative Service 6pm	27 Thanksgiving	28 Black Friday	29
30 Service 11am Discussion 9:45am						

Unitarian Universalist Church of Bartlesville

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Bartlesville, Ok 74003

Church phone: 918-336-8385
Newsletter email: bashine@cableone.net

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
