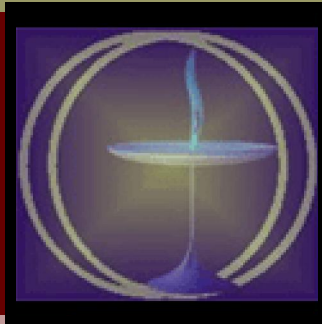


April 2010

www.uumidland.org



AN OASIS OF SPIRITUAL SEEKERS NURTURING OUR PLANET & COMMUNITY

UU Church of Midland

Does the Newsletter Make a Difference?

Thank you for giving the new newsletter format two thumbs up! We hope you find our newsletter easy to share and easy to read. Now that we have launched the new format, the office wants to be sure to you are receiving the newsletter

in the medium that fits you best. If you would like a paper copy of the newsletter sent to your home, contact Ginny. Of course, paper copies are available in the front lobby for those who prefer to pick one up.

Our electronic newsletter is one more way the UU Church of Midland is saving trees and living our green values.



On the Journey with Jennifer

The poet Denise Levertov reminds us, "So much is unfolding...so much is in bud." So much is unfolding as we begin the annual stewardship campaign for 2010-2011. The Board has a budget that continues the good works of this congregation and provides for paying a part-time director of religious education and the search for a full-time minister. David White, Cristi Branum and others are



Reverend Jennifer Innis

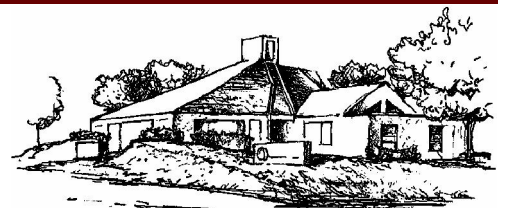
coming place for our children. The Board and I are reviewing my shift from ongoing minister to transitional minister while I assist the church with its search for a new minister to begin in September 2011.

looking at options for renovating the church, including paint and carpet in the sanctuary and a new floor in the rest of the building. Plans also include replacing the playground to create safe and wel-

Come to the Stewardship Dinner on April 10, or talk with me or with members of the Board, and be part of the unfolding growth of this great church. So much is in bud!
Namaste, Jennifer

Inside this issue:

Calendar and Sunday Schedule	2
April Mystery Member	3
Fair Trade Gift Fair	4
Annual Meeting	6
Stewardship Dinner	6
Religious Education Calendar	7
Ministerial Search Committee	7



3301 Neely at Midkiff
Midland, Texas 79707-5808
Office Hours: Tues & Thurs 9-1
Phone: (432) 694-4308
Web: www.uumidland.org
E-mail: office@uumidland.org
www.uumidland.org

April 2010 At A Glance

April 4

9:30 a.m. Easter Brunch Potluck—All are invited to bring your favorite breakfast foods to share.
11 a.m. Worship: *Remember These Hands* led by the Rev. Jennifer Innis

April 11

9:30 a.m. Forum: "What is Important in Life?" from *The Gospel According to the Simpsons*
led by Richard Davis
11 a.m. Worship: *The Demotion of Reason* led by the Rev. Paul Beedle

April 18

9:30 a.m. Forum: *How Do We Say We Are a Green Sanctuary?* led by Niki Widmayer
11 a.m. Worship: *We Are Stardust: An Earth Day Service for All Ages* led by the Rev. Jennifer Innis

April 25

9:30 a.m. Forum: Book Review on the theme of "Fear" led by Glen Aaron
11 a.m. Worship: *From Here to Antiquity* by the Rev. Ronald Hersom, A Video Sermon from Albuquerque

UU Children participate in religious education from 9:30 to 10:30 each Sunday morning.
At 11 a.m., children join the adults for the beginning of each service.
After a children's story, they engage in supervised projects or play through second hour.
Free childcare is available each Sunday.

April Calendar

April 2-6		Jennifer in Midland
April 4	9:30 am	Easter Brunch
April 5	7 pm	Board Meeting
April 7	7:30 pm	BYOP/Building Your Own Philosophy
April 10	11 am	Religious Education Committee Meeting
April 10	2-4 pm	Quantum Dreamers
April 10	6:30 pm	Stewardship Dinner
April 16-20		Jennifer in Midland
April 21	7:30 pm	BYOP/Building Your Own Philosophy
April 17	10 am to 6 pm	Fair Trade Gift Fair
	10 am	Program Committee Meeting
April 18		Deadline for May Newsletter
April 18	12:15pm	Benefit Potluck for Keep Midland Beautiful
April 24	9:30am	Clean Up Party for Religious Education
April 24	2-4pm	Quantum Dreamers
April 30	6:30pm	Garage Sale Preview Party

Featured Speaker

Our guest minister for April is the Rev. Paul Beedle. He serves as Chaplain at Houston Northwest Medical Center. He is on the UUA's Music Leadership Credentialing Committee and on the Board of UU Mystics in Community, and he sings tenor in the Houston Masterworks Chorus. His hymn, "The Flame of Faith," has fans across the country. His question for the message on April 11 is: "New genetic research supports the notion that we evolved to be religious beings who are inherently moral. How do we wrap our reason around that?"

Mystery Member

Each month we will spotlight the “super” characteristics of one UU member. After reading a descriptive article, you will be asked to name that member! To check your answer, you will be directed to scroll (or turn) to the last page of the newsletter where you will find his or her true identity. Fun!

UUCOM members are busy helping others, have fascinating work (volunteer or paid), interesting hobbies, and do many behind the scenes tasks for our church. If you'd like to nominate someone as a featured spotlight, email KathrynShelley@yahoo.com.

April Mystery Member

April's Mystery Member is obsessed with sudoku. She is also likely to be found reading. As a “sucker” for British family sagas, a few of her favorites would include *Coming Home* by Rosemary Pilcher, *The Cazalet Chronicles* by Elisabeth Howard, and British mysteries by Peter Robinson, Reginald Hill, Deborah Crombie, plus too many more to mention. When she isn't lost in a captivating book, you might find her volunteering at Sibley Nature Center or playing around with pastels.

This woman would be content eating her favorite Italian or barbeque dish paired with one of her top movie selections: *The Red Shoes*, *Dr. Zhivago*, *Lord of the Rings* or *Once*. One of her most memorable events occurred at age 57. The University of North Texas offered outreach classes at Lubbock which allowed her to complete a masters of library and information science degree. “The only time I was actually on the UNT campus was graduation day!”

There are many music lovers at the UU Church of Midland, yet the field of mystery members might be narrowed by knowing this member's favorite composers are Mozart and Brahms. Although her last job was Head of Technical Services at the County Library, she also taught piano for many years. She has always enjoyed making music with other people, whether playing two-piano music with a friend, accompanying a choir or working with hand chimers.

When she joined the UUCOM, she began sharing her gift of music with all of us. You'll find our wonderful Mystery Member doing now what she began soon after she joined the UUCOM 35 years ago - playing the piano every Sunday. So many past and present inspiring musical moments are the result of the Unitarian OK Chorale or the Bell Wethers hand chimers, both under the dedicated leadership of April's Mystery Member.

UUCOM Board

Barbara Handley, President
Carol Kullman, President Elect
Richard Davis, Programs
Linda McConathy, Membership
Kathryn Shelley, Secretary
Alice White, Treasurer
Michael Wright, Social Outreach
David White, Building & Grounds
Amber Scott, Religious Ed Rep.

UUCOM Staff

Rev. Jennifer Innis
(972) 639-7900 cell
revjinnis@earthlink.net
minister@uumidland.org

Ginny Lang, Church Administrator
(432) 694-4308
Office hours: Tues and Thurs
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Email: office@uumidland.org

Fourth Friday Fun

Thank you to everyone who joined us for a great night in March.

Fourth Friday Fun will return in May.

Fair Trade Gift Fair at UUCOM on Saturday, April 17



When you purchase hand-made crafts and textiles from Colores del Pueblo, you support artisan

cooperatives from Guatemala, Mexico and Ecuador as well as the UUCOM. Saturday, April 17th from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., you'll find top quality hand-woven clothing, scarves, shawls, tablecloths, and

other textiles as well as wood crafts like masks and santos.

Your dollars give people an alternative to leaving their homes, going to a big city, living in a shanty town and working in a sweat shop. Twenty percent of the proceeds benefit UUCOM. Shop now for Earth Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day or the holidays knowing you've endorsed social justice and cultural preservation through economic fair trade.

To learn more about Colores del Pueblo, go to www.coloresdelpueblo.org. Or ask UUCOM friend Deborah Brown.

Program Committee

Ever wonder how all those great services and forums mysteriously appear every Sunday? Find out more on April 17 at 10:00 a.m. We need new members and a new chair to succeed Jane Hellinghausen.

Green Sanctuary Final Steps

After three years, we are almost finished with the Green Sanctuary Process. For the forum on April 11, we will discuss how the Green Sanctuary experience has made a difference in our personal lives and at the church. Also, we will consider wording for the congregational statement to be voted on at the Annual Meeting on May 16. Niki Widmayer is donating her time

to finish the application. Send her notes or stories of the "Green" changes you have made. Please contact her or attend the April 11 forum. Thank you for all your efforts towards making this a more just and sustainable planet! For questions or contributions, email Niki at nwidmayer@suddenlinkmail.com

Come to Choir

The choir is starting again with many friendly faces. They expect to meet after the service on most Sundays. If you would like participate, meet at the piano after worship or contact Beverly Wise.

Kudos, Applause and Thanks

Thanks to **Jean Junker** for meeting with Ginny and Jennifer about how to manage the mailing lists, Google group, and the church database. Thanks to **Cristi Branum** and **Kathryn Shelley** for offering a great forum and worship about Rachel Carson on March 14. Thanks to **Maureena Benavides** for donating a digital camera to the church.

Joys & Sorrows

Let us keep Harry Nutter and his family in our circle of care. Harry's father, Clifford Nutter, died on March 22 after a short stay in hospice.

If you or someone you know in the church could use a friendly call or a visit, please contact Rev. Jennifer.

Quantum Dreamers

Quantum Dreamers examines the many levels and possibilities of existence, including understanding our dreams, using our dreams to live a full life, and examining the quantum influences that affect us. We will begin discussing *The Three "Only" Things* by Robert Moss. We will meet on April 10th and 24th from 2-4 pm.

Garage Sale, May 1

Need a place to put all the results of your spring cleaning? Look no further! The annual garage sale will be on May 1. Donations can be dropped off at the church starting on Sunday afternoon, April 25. The ever-popular preview party will be open on Friday night at 6:30pm, April 30. Helpers are needed for

sorting and selling before and during the big day. Large items such as furniture are especially welcome. See Barbara Handley or Carol Kullman for information.



Wine Tasting Party

Perhaps you were unable to attend the auction or you didn't know what your schedule was going to be for April? It is not too late to join in the fun and food at the Sparkling Wine



Tasting Party. It is scheduled for Saturday, April 24 at 7:00 at Ed and Barbara Handley's home. The cost is \$25 per person. Please call Carol Kullman or Barbara Handley if you would like to participate!

New Building Your Own Philosophy Book

For upcoming discussions, the Building Your Own Philosophy book group (BYOP) has selected Great Conversations 1, an anthology from the Great Books Foundation. Discussions are lively and friendly; participants examine beliefs in the light of a rich, thought-provoking text. The group is open to all. BYOP meets 7:30 - 9:00 pm on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at the church. For ordering the book, call Linda McConathy at 687-5221.

On April 7, the group will discuss *The Epic of Gilgamesh* by

Anonymous. On April 21, the group will discuss *Prometheus Bound* by Aeschylus. If you missed the chance to order the book or attend the group in March, please join us. Each Great Conversations selection is a stand-alone reading. New readers are welcome at any meeting.

District Spring Conference in Plano

Join Unitarian Universalists from all over the Southwestern Conference for a chance to "Take a Fresh Look at Your Congregation." The annual spring conference will be at the Community Unitarian Universalist Church in Plano on April 23-25.

The presentations will help us understand what many (new and long-time) members want from a church and what cultural shifts might help us spread our message. We'll look at some fresh approaches to both church operations and worship.

We'll hear from the theme speaker, Anthony Healy, discuss the future of Unitarian Universalism, and enjoy a rousing coffeehouse featuring UU troubadour, Lu Mitchell. Go to www.swuuc.org or ask Rev. Jennifer for information.

Thousands of UU's to Meet in Minneapolis

This year's General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association is in Minneapolis, MN for June 23-27. Come hear great sermons, learn about new ideas for our faith and our churches, and visit with several Unitarian Universalists from all over the world. Go to www.uua.org for more information.

Stewardship Dinner April 10

Join members and friends for a night of great food and a chance to talk about the hopes and dreams of this fine congregation.

The Stewardship Dinner begins at 6:30 on April 10. Carol Kullman and David White will provide their considerable culinary talents. The Choir will offer their musical skills. During the evening, there will be time to share what this congregation means to us and how we want to care for the church in the coming year. As Rev. Jennifer pointed out in her sermon on March

21, if we are to build the church of our dreams, we must realize how much we are a part of the larger message of hope we proclaim in Unitarian Universalism. Each of us has the ability to renew this mission in our own hearts and remind one another that it is for us to “stand by this faith.” Every one of us has something to contribute from our time, talent, and treasure.

Because of the need for focus on financial topics, this is an adults only event. If you need childcare, see Carol Kullman.

All members and friends are invited to this event. Pledge cards and other information will be distributed at the dinner and will be available at church for those who cannot attend. RSVP your attendance to Carol Kullman by April 5.

*Stand by this faith...you are strong
enough to work for a great and true
principle...*

Olympia Brown

Membership Matters

Membership in the church is required for voting at the annual meeting. If you are considering becoming a member, speak to Linda McConathy, Rev. Jennifer, or other Board members by May 1.

No Circle Supper in April

Due to the bounty of excellent dinners and socials this month, Circle Supper is on hold until May. A Circle Supper is a gathering of about 8-10 people at someone's home or for a Dutch treat at a restaurant. These dinners are a great way to meet people at the church for a longer conversation and to partake of good cooking. If you would like to be a host or be added to the list future events, see Carol Kullman.

Annual Meeting, May 16

This Annual Meeting is great chance to be part of the future of the church. New items include discussion and vote on the plans for building renovations and approving the Green Sanctuary congregational statement for the final application in that process. We will hear about the next steps in the search for a full-time minister for 2011 and how

everyone can participate in the search. Also, the agenda includes voting on the slate of officers for 2010-2011, approving the annual budget, and reviewing progress on the strategic plan. More information will arrive in the May newsletter and in the mailing in advance of the meeting. For questions see Barbara Handley.

Summer 2010 Anthology Begins

FIRST CALL -- BE A PUBLISHED AUTHOR! The Summer 2010 edition of our annual anthology of writings by UU members and friends is now underway, and we're looking for poems, short stories, articles, essays, songs, memory pieces, excerpts -- any format, any

subject! We'd love to include you as an author in our book, so let us hear from you soon! Send as an e-mail attachment to Tom Parks at tparks9@suddenlink.net or give him your work before or after Sunday services by the April 15 deadline.

Religious Education for Children & Lesson Calendar for April

Our Religious Education program for children is led by dedicated volunteers committed to providing the tools for personal growth as well as experience in Unitarian Universalism. Lessons are at 9:30am concurrent with the adult forum. Children then attend the beginning of worship at 11 am. Usually after the Time for All Ages, the children leave worship for what we call the Second Hour. This time includes activities and play until worship ends around noon.

For our youngest children, infant through age 3, nursery care is available any time between 9:15am and 12:15 pm.

Religious Education Lesson Calendar for April

April 4th--Easter brunch- no Sunday school but childcare is provided. The Easter egg hunt is during the Second Hour.
April 11th- Web of Humankind lesson
April 18th- Earth Day lesson with

the Lorax
April 25th- Linda McConathy presents the Heifer Project program Read to Feed

Special thank you to Tim and Lisa Jebson for volunteering to teach RE for April

Benefit Potluck for Keep Midland Beautiful

April 18 will be the third of our four potluck lunches to contribute to the larger Midland community. Bring food to share and a freewill donation in support of Keep Midland Beautiful. Our contributions will help them improve Midland through litter prevention, waste reduction, beautification and environmental education. See www.keepmidlandbeautiful.org for information. This congregation is proud to continue our support of this organization in keeping with our Green Sanctuary practices and in the spirit of Earth Day. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board outside the church office.

Ministerial Search Committee

The Board is pleased to announce the Ministerial Search Committee. This committee will follow the process of the Unitarian Universalist Association to find a minister who can live in Midland and serve this congregation on a full-time basis. Once the Search Committee narrows the field down to one candidate, the congregation

will have a chance to meet and vote whether to call that minister next spring. The members of the committee are: Cristi Branum, Barbara Handley, Jane Hellinghausen, John Kullman, Tom Parks and Alice White. If you would like to know more about the search process, ask Rev. Jennifer or go to www.uua.org/leaders/leadership/transitions.

Easter Brunch

Join us for the annual Easter Brunch. Enjoy fellowship and delicious food starting at 9:30am.

Sign up to bring your favorite breakfast casserole, fruit, bread, juice or other yummy dish to share on Easter Sunday. Then stay for

fellowship and Rev. Jennifer Innis' service and an Easter egg hunt for children.

Happy Spring!!

Church is a place where you get to practice what it means to be human.

JAMES LUTHER ADAMS

Mystery Member Revealed



Beverly Wise is just one of the fascinating people you will find at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland. Thank you, Beverly for all of

your contributions to the fine music at church. You can meet Beverly in person at the piano after Sunday worship and join the choir!

Our Mission and Covenant

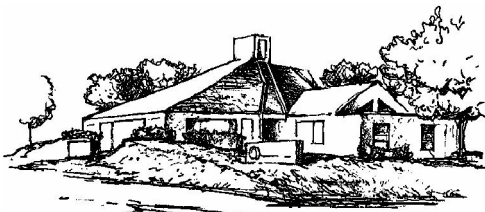
The Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland is an oasis of liberal religion empowering people to pursue spiritual growth and work toward a just, equitable, sustainable society. As a congregation, we covenant together before the wonder and mystery of life to provide a welcoming, safe, and tolerant religious community that both nurtures and challenges us in our diverse and yet shared journeys. Striving together in the spirit of love, we will listen and respond to the ethical and spiritual concerns of one another, seeking to foster a deeper sense of fellowship that strengthens us each in service to life.

- adopted 2003

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

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

Membership in our church is open to all who wish to covenant in the free, responsible search for truth and meaning. Contact the church office for more information.



3301 Neely at Midkiff
Midland, Texas 79707-5808