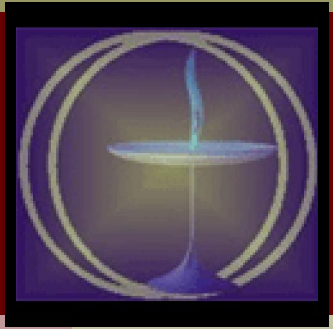


March 2010  
www.uumidland.org



AN OASIS OF SPIRITUAL SEEKERS NURTURING OUR PLANET & COMMUNITY

# UU Church of Midland

## Get the News Fast and Easy

As the UU Church of Midland strives to reach out in multiple ways, we hope you find our newsletter format easy to share with others.

Copies will be available in the front lobby for those who prefer to pick one up. For those receiving this electroni-

cally, please share with others as you like and provide email addresses you would like included to Ginny in the office.

This longer format offers room to introduce new members, learn about future dreams and other details of the news and activities of the UU

Church of Midland.

Here's one way the UU Church of Midland is saving trees and living our green values.



## On the Journey with Jennifer

"Where two or more are gathered in my name, I am there." While this quote comes from the Christian Bible, I believe it translates to every moment when people are together out of a desire for company, the sharing of beliefs and a passion for the spirit of life. Last month I found such a moment when I took advantage of an opportunity to spend part of my morning with the children's class.



*Reverend Jennifer Innis*

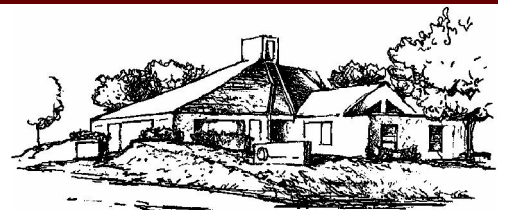
Maureena, Alex, Analia and I talked about the search for truth and meaning and how Charles Darwin kept looking for answers to how the Earth's creatures live and die. We made fun

of worms and fishes and traced Darwin's route on a map of the world. If you have spent this kind of time with our children, thank you! If you have not, may I suggest a call to Amber Scott to schedule a change of direction one Sunday morning. Make a left turn upon entering the front doors and walk down the hall. At least a few will be gathered there.

Namaste,  
Jennifer

### Inside this issue:

On the Journey with Rev. Jennifer	1
Calendar and Sunday Schedule	2
Featured Forum on Minister Search	2
March Mystery Member	3
New to Unitarian Universalism	4
Green Sanctuary Certification	4
New Building Your Own Philosophy	5



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# March 2010 At A Glance

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## March 7

9:30 a.m. Forum: *The Future of Ministry* led by the Board  
11 a.m. Service: *Reaching through a Broken Heaven* led by the Rev. Jennifer Innis

## March 14

9:30 a.m. Forum: *A Sense of Wonder*, video by Rachel Carson facilitated by Kathryn Shelley and Cristi Branum  
11 a.m. Service: *Saving Our Planet, One Woman at a Time* led by Cristi Branum and Kathryn Shelley

## March 21

9:30 a.m. Forum: Draft Budget Presentation led by the Board  
11 a.m. Service: *Living Our Covenant* lay led by the Rev. Jennifer Innis

## March 28

9:30 a.m. Forum: *Emerson's Influence*, Transcendentalist video facilitated by Richard Davis  
11 a.m. Service: *Justice Sunday: Advancing Economic Justice* led by the Program Committee

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.

## March Calendar

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March 3	7:30 pm	BYOP/Building Your Own Philosophy
March 5-9		Jennifer in Midland
March 6	10 am	Program Committee
March 7	12:30 pm	New to Unitarian Universalism
March 8	7 pm	Board Meeting
March 13	2-4 pm	Quantum Dreamers
March 14	12:30	New to Unitarian Universalism
March 17	7:30 pm	BYOP/Building Your Own Philosophy
March 19-24		Jennifer in Midland
March 20	11 am	Religious Education Committee Meeting
March 21	12:30 pm	New to Unitarian Universalism
March 21		Deadline for April Newsletter
March 26	6:30 pm	Game Night
March 27	2-4pm	Quantum Dreamers

## Featured Forum March 7

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Your survey results regarding interest in calling a full time minister have been tabulated. 33 members and friends responded to the survey. 29 of the respondents are in favor of calling a full-time minister. An equal number of people indicated that they are willing to at maintain or increase their current pledge to help fund the compensation package for a full-time minister. Join us March 7th as the Board of Directors leads a discussion and outlines the Search Process. Many of us have never been through the process or may have forgotten all that it entails. Plan on attending this most important forum.

*I'm not afraid of storms, for I'm learning how to sail my ship.*

- Louisa May Alcott

## Mystery Member

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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.

## March Mystery Member

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**Our mystery member** was eight when he questioned the dogma of the churches, and his questioning grew as he did. At 18 he became a Unitarian, and seven years ago when he moved to Midland, he immediately joined the UUCOM.

As an educator for 50 years, he's been a high school teacher, state administrator, and university professor. He's authored books, poem collections, short stories, a children's novel and was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize for a newspaper series about fingerprinting teachers.

He founded "Call Me Mister," a program to recruit Black men to teaching, now in 19 states and featured on *Oprah*. When he retired from South Carolina, the State Legislature and Governor awarded him the Order of the Palmetto, the highest recognition for a private citizen. With a Ph.D. in English linguistics from Vanderbilt, his hobby is collecting miniature books.

When he retired seven years ago and moved to Midland, he was surprised to find he did not like retirement and was appointed professor at UTPB, where he taught graduate courses and spearheaded the effort to bring the doctoral program to the University, which he did. Now in his second retirement, he is enjoying it immensely and is writing three books -- all different enough to keep him occupied.

In his view William Faulkner and his long short story "The Bear" represent the best in writing. He welcomes any music because "it is the soul celebrating." His favorite singers are Anne Murray and Bob Seger because they believe the songs they sing. His favorite meal would be a plain omelette, green salad, buttered toast, and a glass of white wine. But he "ain't particular!" The best part of his world is his partner of 37 years. Scroll (or turn) to the newsletter back page to name our 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

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Join us for game night at the church Friday, March 26 at 6:30 pm. You'll find friends, fun and food. Pizza provided. \$5 per person suggested donation. Feel free to pay only what you can. Bring your beverage of choice, especially if you have kids. Childcare provided.

## New to Unitarian Universalism series begins March 7

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You are invited to this introductory series beginning at 12:30 p.m. on March 7, 14, and 21. This series is a great opportunity to meet other newcomers and members of the congregation on a quiet Sunday afternoon. We will fill you in on our congregational history, current programs and opportunities for involvement, and answer your questions about the Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland. This is a good time for us to find out what you are

looking for in a spiritual community and for you to find out if this is the one for you. Members and friends seeking a review of Unitarian Universalism are welcome, too. Bring potluck finger food to share or just bring yourself. Each session will end by 2pm. For information or to reserve childcare, see Linda McConathy, Membership Chair or Rev. Jennifer.

## Green Sanctuary Certification

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By Niki Widmayer

We are winding up the process of becoming a Green Sanctuary. All that remains is to write a 6-10 page paper to accompany our application for accreditation plus a congregational vote affirming those intentions. I would like to include a sense of what kinds of "Green" changes you have made. Whether

it be changing out light bulbs and recycling more to buying bigger ticket items like solar panels or a more fuel-efficient car, please let me hear from you in the next few weeks. Thanks for all your efforts towards making this a more just and sustainable planet!

Email me at [nwidmayer@suddenlinkmail.com](mailto:nwidmayer@suddenlinkmail.com)

## Kudos, Applause and Thanks

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Auction appreciation to **Barbara Handley** and **Carol Kullman** for organizing the annual Auction.

To everyone who donated items and services, sold raffle tickets for the quilt, shared wonderful food, and brought guests for the big night.

To everyone who gave generously

and helped make the event a wonderful success.

A special thanks goes to **Harry Nutter** for donating the quilt back to the church for an additional live auction.

To **Amber Scott** for her continued leadership in religious education for our children.

## Quantum Dreamers

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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 our daily lives. We will begin discussing *The Three "Only" Things* by Robert Moss. In March, we will meet on the 13th and 27th from 2-4 pm.

## Joys & Sorrows

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

## Program Committee

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Ever wonder how all those great services and forums mysteriously appear every Sunday? Find out more at our next meeting on March 6 at 10:00 a.m. We are looking for a new chair to succeed Jane Hellinghausen plus new members.

## Come to Choir

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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.

## Religious Education

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Join us on March 20 at 11am to discuss upcoming plans for Religious Education for Children. See Maureena Gibson for details. Bring grandchildren, nieces and nephews to see what fun things we are doing back in religious education.

# Justice Sunday 2010: Advancing Economic Justice

On March 28, Justice Sunday, we will stand up with Unitarian Universalist congregations nationwide to put our principles into practice.



global economic crisis. Our worship will spotlight issues affecting workers both close to home and around the world.

With the Unitarian Universalist Service

This year's Justice Sunday will advance economic justice. While there is significant progress in recognition of workers' rights as human rights, efforts are up against bigger challenges in the context of

Committee, we will offer meaningful advocacy actions so together we can put our Unitarian Universalist principles into action moving the world closer to justice.

*"First they ignore you.  
Then they laugh at you.  
Then they fight you.  
Then you win."*

- Mahatma Ghandi

## District Spring Conference in April

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 [communityuuchurch.org/pages/springconf](http://communityuuchurch.org/pages/springconf) or ask Rev. Jennifer for information.

## 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. Book orders with payment will be taken at the meeting on March 3rd. The group cost per book is \$24.95 + \$1.99 shipping & handling for a total of \$26.94.

There are 15 readings which will take eight months to cover. Each reading stands alone. The table of contents is listed below. For ordering info, call Linda McConathy at 687-5221. She'll have a book at church on Sunday, Feb. 28th and at the BYOP meeting on March 3rd.

### Great Conversations 1 Contents

The Epic of Gilgamesh - Anonymous, Prometheus Bound by Aeschylus, Of Friendship and Of Solitude by Michel de Montaigne, Pensées\* by Blaise Pascal, Self-Reliance by Emerson. Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rock-

ing by Walt Whitman, Democracy in America\* by Alexis de Tocqueville, An Enemy of the People by Henrik Ibsen, The Value of Science\* by Henri Poincaré.

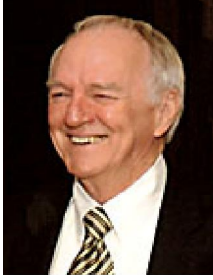
Thoughts for the Times on War and Death by Sigmund Freud, The Secret Sharer by Joseph Conrad, The Theory of the Leisure Class\* by Thorstein Veblen, The Stages of Life by Carl Jung.

Tell Me a Riddle by Tillie Olsen/  
Boys and Girls by Alice Munro.

\*Indicates a selection from a longer work.

## Mystery Member Revealed

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Tom Parks, just one of the fascinating people you'll find at the UU Church of Midland. He states, "UU's are the most varied and interesting

churchgoers you can find. Any other church collection would be reduced to unyielding dogma, but not UU's. It defines us. I'm already underway with our third annual writing collection, and I need our UU's to keep those poems, articles, essays, short stories, memory pieces coming. The deadline is April 15." Email Tom at [tparks9@suddenlink.net](mailto:tparks9@suddenlink.net).

## Our Mission and Covenant

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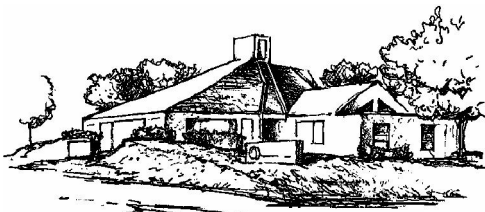
The Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland is an oasis of liberal religion empowering people to pursue spiritual growth and work toward a just, equitable, sustainable society. As a congregation, we covenant together before the wonder and mystery of life to provide a welcoming, safe, and tolerant religious 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.



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