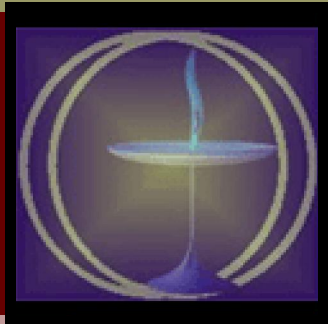


June/July 2011

www.uumidland.org



AN OASIS OF SPIRITUAL SEEKERS NURTURING OUR PLANET & COMMUNITY

# UU Church of Midland

## On the Journey with Jennifer

Even the best plans do not always go as expected. As you may have heard by now, the Rev. Byron Miller declined the call to be your next minister. Many congregations have found that a vote of 80% is not a strong start to a ministry. Rev. Miller chose to heed this wisdom and let the congregation continue in its search. Tom Parks offers an update on p. 2.

I am so proud of the congregation for following the search process as laid out by the Unitarian Universalist Association. Completing a search is daunting for any congregation. I hope you will appreciate your accomplishment.

As I said in my final sermon on May 15, my strongest counsel is to trust the process. The search for a minister is a chance for the congregation to learn



Reverend Jennifer Innis

about itself. That experience is as important as finding a new minister. The Search Committee can continue to fulfill its task with more wisdom and preparation than it had even a few months ago. The Board, the Program Committee, and I are talking about how to continue the worship and programs of the congregation during the search. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to ask.

Finally, I have to end my last column with thanks. As I reflect back on the last five years, I am so grateful for the chance to serve with you. The

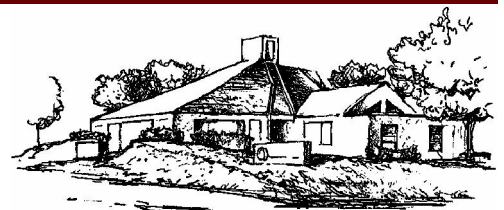
outward changes include a new sign and a beautifully renovated building. The inward changes include many new members and friends, as well as the strong continuing presence of long-term members. The strategic planning of 2009 renewed your wishes to be a powerful and vibrant liberal voice as well as a community of caring people. I have had the privilege of starting on that path with you. I have every confidence that you can become that presence and that voice.

I continue to serve the congregation until the end of my agreement with you on July 31. If I can be of any assistance, please contact me by phone or email.

Namaste,  
Jennifer

### Inside this issue:

Calendar	2
Search Committee Update	2
New Board for 2011-2012	3
President's Thanks	3
Arts and Film Schedule	4
BYOP New Book	5
Upcoming District UU Events	6



**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**

# June/July Highlights

## June 5

9:30 a.m. Forum: *Ministry in the Borderlands: Identity, Modesty, Maturity* led by the Rev. Jennifer Innis  
 11 a.m. Worship: *Flower Communion for All Ages* led by the Rev. Jennifer Innis

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

**Note:** From June 12 through August 14, the church will hold its Summer Arts and Film Festival.  
 See p. 4 in this newsletter for the Sunday schedule and program listings.

## Onward with the Ministerial Search!

It will be “business as usual” this summer as members of the Search Committee continue in their quest for a full-time minister for our church. Efforts are already underway, with an initial conference phone interview with a pre-candidate scheduled for June 8. In addition, a delegation from the committee plans to take an active search role later this month when they attend the annual nationwide UU General Assembly scheduled in North Carolina.

Members Barbara Handley and Jane Hellinghausen will attend the national conference and actively seek pre-candidates for our position as full-time minister. In addition, the committee has renewed its search through reactivating its files with the Office of Transitions at UU Headquarters, which in effect alerts candidates nationwide that the UU Church of Midland is seeking applicants.

## June/July Calendar

June	1	7:30 pm	BYOP
June	3-8		Rev. Jennifer in Midland
June	4	10 am	Program Committee
June	11	11:30 am	RE Committee at Murray's
June	12	9:30 am	Arts and Film Festival Begins (see p. 4)
June	15	7:30 pm	BYOP
July	6	7:30 pm	BYOP
July	TBA		Board and Program Committee meetings
July	17		August Newsletter Deadline
July	20	7:30 pm	BYOP

“All the preliminary work has been accomplished. Over the past year, we have laid the foundation for the search, so our efforts now will focus on selecting outstanding candidates and bringing them to Midland to assure that our congregation will end up with a full-time minister who will serve and lead us on a long-lasting, full-time, and mutually fulfilling basis,” commented Tom Parks, committee chair.

During the past year, the committee considered three pre-candidates, brought two to the

area for further consideration, and then recommended one finalist, who received less than the desired percentage of votes from the congregation to remain a viable prospect. Based on guidance and advice from the UU Office of Transitions, the final candidate declined the offer, and the Search Committee immediately renewed the search process.

Members of the committee include John Kullman, Cristi Branam, Alice White, Jane Hellinghausen, Barbara Handley, and Tom Parks.

# President's Thanks

---

This has been a very busy and exciting year at our Church. Many hands made great improvements to our Church building and activities. The Committees of our Church were so active in providing thought-provoking forums, inspiring worship services, incredible education for our youth, a lovely building and grounds for all of us to enjoy, and the search for a full-time minister.

I would like to give an extra-special thank you to those who served on the Church Board this past year: Barbara Handley, Linda McConathy, Harry Nutter, Kathryn Shelley, Emmy Ulmschneider, Alice White,

and David White. They are wonderful, caring, hard-working individuals who made Church activities a priority.

Also, I appreciate and thank the employees of our Church that worked tirelessly this year: Rev. Jennifer Innis, Lisa Jebesen, Ginny Lang, and Terri Adkins.

Members and friends of UUCOM, I appreciate your support of this wonderful religious community.

Regards,  
Carol Kullman  
President, UUCOM Board of Directors

## Mystery Member Hiatus

---

The featured Mystery Member is taking a summer break and will return in August. What is a Mystery Member?, you might ask. How may I contribute to the Mystery Member column? Each month we 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.

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.

## Catch Up on Pledges!

---

Now is a great time to catch up on pledges for this fiscal year. Check with Treasurer Alice White about the status of your financial giving to the church. And thank you for your generosity!

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

JAMES LUTHER ADAMS

## UUCOM Board

Carol Kullman, President  
Open, President-Elect  
Emmy Ulmschneider, Programs  
Barbara Handley, Membership  
Kathryn Shelley, Secretary  
Alice White, Treasurer  
Open, Social Outreach  
David White, Building & Grounds  
Barbara Handley, Religious Ed. Rep.  
Lisa Jebesen, Religious Ed. Director

## UUCOM Staff

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

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

## New Officers

---

Effective July 1 the following will be taking office on the Board:  
President—Carol Kullman  
President Elect—Barbara Handley  
Programs—Emmy Ulmschneider  
Membership—Alice White  
Treasurer—David White  
Secretary—Kathryn Shelley  
Religious Ed Rep—Sally Flores  
Social Outreach—Edith Stanton  
Buildings and Grounds—John Kullman

# UUCOM Summer Arts and Film Festival

## Come Enjoy, Share, and Learn!

---

Instead of the usual schedule of Forum and Worship, in the summer this congregation offers a chance for reflection and response to provocative films and creative expression. The program begins with announcements, a chalice lighting, sharing joys and sorrows, and receiving the offering. The presentation is followed by discussion.

Due to the length of most movies, we must begin promptly at 9:30 am. Coffee will be ready at 9:15 am for those who wish to sip and visit. Parents should use their discretion or ask the facilitator regarding the theme and content of the program. Suggested age appropriateness is shown for each Sunday's program. Childcare is available. See Lisa Jebson for information about children and youth participation.

**June 12th – “The Last Station”** Based on the life of Leo Tolstoy as a philosophical icon and as a family man. A superb cast dramatizes the tensions which arise from the ideals of Tolstoy coming into conflict with domestic life. (Rated R)

**June 19th – “Babies”** Directed by award-winning filmmaker Thomas Balmès, from an original idea by producer Alain Chabat, *Babies* simultaneously follows four babies around the world – from birth to first steps. (Rated PG)

**June 26th – “Botany of Desire”** Michael Pollan's documentary will change the way you look at plants. He argues the case for the bonds between plant and human desires: sweetness, beauty, intoxication, and control. In the end you will wonder: “Who is really domesticating whom?” (Suitable for older children)

**July 3rd – The Fine Art of Barbecuing with David White** What could be more American than the Fourth of July, apple pie, and the barbecue grill? Help us trace the roots and science of barbecuing. There will be samples! (Suitable for all ages.)

**July 10th – “Inside Job”** As the 2011 Winner of the Academy Award for Best Documentary, this film exposes the truth behind the economic crises of 2008. (Rated PG-13)

**July 17th - Fiber Arts with Emmy Ulmschneider** Take a brief romp through the fascinating history of human interest in fibers and try your hand at taking raw fibers and turning it into clothing. (Suitable for all ages.)

**July 24th - Quilting with UU Quilters** Quilts turn the utilitarian into the sublime! They have been used through the ages to comfort us both physically and visually. Today, quilting is an art form combining historical roots with new patterns and technology. Come explore this world with our experts! (Suitable for all ages.)

**July 31st – “Freedom Riders” with Derek Catsam** This American Experience, Stanley Nelson documentary traces the spiritual and physical journey of the first group of freedom riders traveling from Washington, D.C. through the Deep South in 1961. Featured author and historian Derek Catsam will be joining us for this special screening. (Suitable for older children)

**August 7th - “Billy Elliott”** This gritty and inspirational film is a coming of age tale about the young son of a poor English coal miner who dreams of being a ballet dancer. (Rated R)

**August 14th—Writing for You and Me** – Tom Parks is publishing the 4th annual anthology of creative writings from UUCOM members and friends. Let's delight each other with our compositions. (Ages 16 and older)

## Summer Anthology Presented August 14

---

Don't forget to mark Sunday, August 14, on your calendar now for the annual meeting of authors who will be reading and commenting on their work in the 2011 edition of our UU anthology, a book published each year as part of the Summer Arts and Film Festival. Editor Tom Parks reports that this year's edition is even bigger than the last and includes a fascinating array of poems, short stories, essays, songs, and commentaries by local authors, including entries by a Texas Poet Laureate. Stay tuned to learn about the variety of voices and presentations to be offered on August 14.

## Membership Matters

---

Have you been getting to know the church and Unitarian Universalism? Membership comes with great gifts and opportunities, as well as responsibilities to the community, such as voting in the upcoming congregational meetings. If you are considering membership, see Barbara Handley.

## Program Committee

---

Have an idea for worship or forum? Want to help with crafting the liberal religious message of this church? Be part of the Program Committee. The next meeting will be announced as soon as possible. Contact Emmy Ulmschneider with any questions.

## Thousands of UU's in Charlotte, NC

---

The annual General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association will be in Charlotte, NC for June 22-26. Several members and friends from this church will Attend. We wish them safe travels and a great experience. But don't

wait to hear their stories. See for yourself by following the live coverage of the GA at <http://www.uua.org/ga/2011/index.shtml>.

## Quantum Dreamers on Summer Break

---

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. Our current book is *Lucid Dreaming: Gateway to the Inner Self* by Robert Waggoner. "Lucid dreaming provides a path to greater creativity, self understanding, and exploration.--- It is a unique psychological tool with which to consciously investigate dreaming and the subconscious." ---From the Acknowledgments and Preface of [Lucid Dreaming: Gateway to the Inner Self](#) by Robert Waggoner.

The next meeting is TBA. Contact Alicia Gardner for any questions at 570-0703.

## Let Your Voices Sing!

---

The choir is up and singing. If you would like participate, contact Beverly Wise at 686-2791 for the summer schedule.

## Building Your Own Philosophy

---

BYOP, the Building Your Own Philosophy book group, has selected Great Conversations 3 for its next title. The cost is \$24.95 plus \$2.00 shipping and handling for a total of \$26.95.

The deadline to order was June 1st. See Walt McConathy for information about the new book, 432-212-2416.

BYOP is open to all in our church and the community. It meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays from 7:30 - 9:00 pm in the fellowship hall of the church.

Below is a sampling of the upcoming readings. Makes you want to join the conversation, right?

*The Open Boat* by Stephen Crane  
*Death in the Woods* by Sherwood Anderson

*The Garden of Forking Paths* by Jorge Luis Borges  
Introduction to *The Second Sex* by Simone de Beauvoir  
*An Interest In Life* by Grace Paley

## Not to Miss UU Events!

---

Feel a need to meet more Unitarian Universalists in the world? The summer is hopping with activities in the Southwestern Unitarian Universalist Conference and beyond. If you cannot make it to the General Assembly in Charlotte, NC (see p. 5), then look at the SWUUC calendar at [www.swuuc.org](http://www.swuuc.org). There are camps for children and youth at U-Bar-U near Kerrville. Families and friends of all ages will gather July 24-29 for SWUUSI, the Southwestern UU Summer Institute west of Tulsa, OK and study the theme of "The Once and Future Church". In the fall, there is even a cruise during October 6-10 leaving from Galveston for Cozumel. The cruise will be a great chance for all ages to be a worshipping and learning community at sea. Hope to see you there!

## Our Mission and Covenant

---

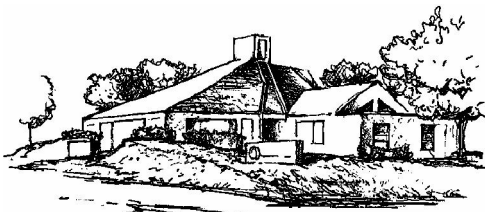
The Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland is an oasis of liberal religion empowering people to pursue spiritual growth and work toward a just, equitable, sustainable society. As a congregation, we covenant together before the wonder and mystery of life to provide a welcoming, safe, and tolerant religious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