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Sunday Program and Service Leader Schedule**May 2**

9:15—Adult RE: UU Theology of Personal Experience

10:40—Rev. Rhett Baird, from the High Street Church in Macon, will present, “What are Friends for Anyway”.

Service Leader: John Nix

Opener: Michelle Midgette

Closer: Chris Nix

Greeters: Mona Crawford & Tanya Davis

May 9

9:15—Adult RE: TBA

10:40—Rev. Ed Wilson will be our speaker.

Service Leader: Katy Clyde

Opener: Chris Nix

Closer: Paul Lee

Greeters: Mark Berger & Don Nahley

May 16

9:15—Adult RE: TBA

10:40—Matt Hanes will present, “Issues with the Virtual World of Warfare and its Seven Million Daily Gamers”.

Service Leader: Barry White

Opener: Paul Lee

Closer: Barry White

Greeters: Marge Hall & Mary Lynn Lobello-Hall

May 23

9:15—Adult RE: TBA

10:40—Dr. Belle Harrell will present, “Alternate Spiritual Paths to Wholeness and Health”.

Service Leader: Paul Lee

Opener: Barry White

Closer: Rick Spradlin

Greeters: Barry White & Bill Edwards

May 3

9:15—Adult RE: TBA

10:40—Connie Ussery will present, “The Devil You Say”.

Service Leader: Norm Horofker

Opener: Rick Spradlin

Closer: Pat Hart

Greeters: Nancy Awtry & Ann Newland

Joys and Concerns

The Fellowship is asked to remember those families who have recently had loved ones to pass away. Sidney Wilson's Mother and Ann Newland's Father passed away recently. Remember their families in your thoughts and prayers.

Mona and Claire Crawford's dad is recovering from bypass surgery. They would appreciate it if the Fellowship would remember him in your thoughts and prayers.

A big thank you to John Nix, Linda Hagberg, Hal Midgette, Rick Spradlin, Brenda Stevens, and Paul Lee for their clean-up efforts on April 17, 2010. The deck was stained, bushes trimmed, grass cut, and weeds pulled. Thanks everyone for your time and efforts.

Congratulations to Norm Horofker. Norm graduates from the Chandler School of Theology on May 10, 2010

President's Notes from Board Meeting on Monday, April 19, 2010 by John Nix

Treasurer's Report

At the end of March, our Operations Account had a balance of \$4,132; the balance in the Reserve Fund was \$16,833; after receiving a generous donation of \$10,000 from a member who wishes to remain anonymous, our Building Fund now has a balance of \$19,849.

We had regular income in March in the amount of \$2,068, but our expenses were \$3,286; thus, we had a shortfall for the month of \$1,218; one major expense this month included payment of our quarterly UU dues in the amount of \$588. However, for the calendar year to date we still have a positive flow in the amount of \$421.

Our Third Sunday collection for Open Door was \$165.

Program—Request to Service Leaders—In regard to our Sunday Services, the Board agreed to request service leaders to try to conclude “preliminaries” not later than 11:20AM, so the speaker has at least thirty minutes for his presentation plus ten minutes for questions. Although we generally try to conclude the service by 12:00 PM, the Board wants service leaders to know that they are not bound to end the service “on the dot”.

Purchase of Chairs—The Board authorized our administrator Brenda Stevens to purchase sixteen chairs, ten with arms and six with no arms, for a total cost of about \$866 including taxes and shipping cost. The Board approved a pattern which is very similar to the pattern of the chairs that we already have.

Purchase of video disk—The Board authorized Rick Spradlin to purchase a video disk from the Teaching Company for the next Adult RE program. Estimated cost is about \$70.

Directory for the Fellowship—The Board will request Connie Ussery to make about forty copies of our Directory on disks, so all members have a current Directory. Estimated cost of the disks and envelopes is about \$20.

Southland UU Leadership Experience—The Board agreed to pay one-half the cost for the UU Fellowship President to attend this training August 8–13, 2010, at the Mountain Retreat and Learning Center, in Highlands, NC. The total cost of the training is \$700; the Board thus authorized reimbursement up to the amount of \$350 for the cost of attending the training.

Driveway Repair—The Board requested that the administrator obtain at least two more estimates for repair or replacement of the driveway.

Roof Repair—The Board considered several estimates for replacing the shingle on the roof of our Fellowship Building. The Board has requested our Administrator contact two additional repair companies for estimates.

Yard Sale on April 24—Any profits from the sale will be used for the purchase of new chairs for our main meeting room.

Maintenance of Yard

The Board agreed to appoint Hal Midgette as Chairman of the Yard Committee. Hal will exercise general oversight over the maintenance of our yard. The Board authorized Hal to purchase gloves, goggles, ear protectors, an edger, blower, and insecticides, not to exceed a total cost of \$200.

The Board agreed to hire Shaun Woods to maintain our yard at the rate of \$30 every two weeks. Services will include cutting and bagging the grass; edging and weed eating, pruning all shrubs, collecting and removing trash and debris, blowing off all driveways and walkways, and spraying weed killer in all bed areas. Shaun will perform these services between Thursday and Saturday to help insure the yard is in good shape for the following two Sundays.

Spring Party—Grace Jordan has offered to make her lake house available for a UU Fellowship Outing. We will be in touch with Grace to schedule the date.

Social Action

The Social Action Committee would like to thank the Fellowship for their generous contributions on the third Sunday Give Away the Plate program. On April 18, 2010 the Fellowship gave \$165 to the Open Door Community House. It has been observed by the Board that this program has not had a negative impact on the overall contributions given to the Fellowship. If anyone in the Fellowship has a worthwhile charity that they would like to be considered as possible recipients for this donation, give this information to Carolyn Searcy. Thank you all for your support for this endeavor.

Movie Night

Bring your favorite snack and beverage to Movie Night on May 28, 2010 at 7 PM. The movie being shown is “No Impact Man: The Documentary”. This documentary chronicles a year in the life of Colin and Michelle Beavan as they try to minimize the environmental impact of their daily life in Manhattan. What would you be able to live without—electricity, toilet paper, a car? Come to movie night and see how they experienced life without some modern convenience.

Mid South District News

The Mid South District Annual Assembly will be held on May 7-9, 2010 in Dahlonega, GA. This year's theme is "So Our Children Can Fly". The focus of the meeting is thinking about the future. Anyone interested in attending can go to the Mid South District website for more information.

There is a MSD President's Convocation on May 28-30. This Convocation is for incoming presidents for learning and networking.

Spiritual Practices for Youth and Children by Michelle Richards (reprinted from the UUA website)

Since children are naturally full of wonder and are still able to see magic in the world, they do not need spiritual practices to help them connect; they need them in order to stay connected as they grow and mature. While children are born with an innate spirituality, most of them will lose it as they grow older and are taught (explicitly or implicitly) to ignore their perceptions in favor of intellectual pursuits.

However, engaging in spiritual practices does not necessitate leaving behind reason and logical thinking. Expressing spirituality is a way of connecting with our souls, our innermost spark, the deepest parts of ourselves; any avenue that gets us to that point is a spiritual practice. Spiritual practices are simply opportunities that enrich our journeys through life.

A spiritual practice may be as simple as lighting a candle and saying a blessing before a shared meal, or as complex as a vision quest or silent retreat at a monastery. It can be a brief, verbal expression of gratitude as part of a bedtime prayer, or it can involve the entire body like the yoga Sun Salutation. Some people find their connections through dance; others prefer inspirational reading of sacred texts. Still others may find meaning with mindfulness meditation or experience the awe of the natural world while standing under a starry sky and brightly lit moon.

Children often express their spirituality most naturally with their physical selves, particularly those who are kinesthetic learners. For them, yoga can promote inner peace as they physically manipulate their bodies into various poses. The martial arts can help them establish discipline, concentration, and focus. Free-style dancing ("as the spirit moves") is another great avenue of spiritual expression for children—at least until their inner critic kicks in. While my teenage daughter is moved to create poems and original songs that she sings with abandon and great feeling, my seven-year-old son is a runner. He loves to run as fast as he can, feeling the wind breeze by him as he soars forward. Whether or not this love of running will stay with him as he matures remains to be seen. However, they have both found meaning in these activities for themselves and have been encouraged to develop these interests while being exposed to many other forms of spiritual expression.

For, although children naturally express their spirituality through physical movement and teens often prefer creative expression, that doesn't mean their spiritual practices need to be limited to those pursuits any more than an adult must feel limited to intellectual pursuits that expand the mind. In the East, children often learn meditation as soon as they are able to sit upright, and for centuries, Native American children have been engaging in vision quests or sitting still and silent for an hour or more while experiencing the wonder of the natural world around them. While this may seem amazing and even preposterous to those of us who are dominated by a culture of busy-ness and multi-tasking that equates stillness with lethargy, these children have seen this behavior modeled by adults and older children.

Since a child's attitude toward spirituality is derived for the most part from his or her parents, the spiritual practices we engage in or introduce to our children will have an impact on their lifelong view of spiritual expression. Therefore, it only makes sense to honor our yearnings by pursuing those practices that give us the most meaning. And while our children may not ultimately choose to express their spirituality in exactly the same way we do, they will feel the freedom to explore and engage in spiritual practices that provide meaning and enrich their lives.

What spiritual practices do you find meaningful? Do you share them with your children? Why or why not? Do your children and youth engage in spiritual practices that you don't share?