



August 2011

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**UUSP Mission Statement**

“Providing a compassionate and welcoming community, inspiring spiritual and intellectual growth, and serving as a beacon for social activism and service.”

# SCOPE

Unitarian Universalist Church of St. Petersburg  
719 Arlington Avenue North

August 2011

## Waves Of Love From Jim

All existence is connected.  
My behavior matters.  
Act now.

As we begin our fourth church year together, it’s time again for me to share those ideas that I feel so passionate about that these thoughts will permeate our next 52 weeks of services, sermons and musical messages.

Last season we explored the concepts of “spirituality” and “God.” Beyond sharing with others the commonality of what we love, I encouraged you to dialogue authentically and personally about what YOU believe, explaining that the give and take that occurs during the sharing of our own unique journeys is part of the learning experience for Unitarian Universalists. No two answers to “God” type questions could or should be alike. I shared that if I were answering “God” questions or “religion” questions, I’d reply that I believe we experience the presence of what many call God WITHIN when you have taken time to transform your inner self to that point where your inner self matches your outward actions. You experience God BETWEEN when the differences between you and others fade away and you become one. You experience God BEYOND when your own deepest personal experiences, your own intuition leads you to that “aha” moment when a deeper understanding of what it means to act with loving compassion washes over you. To my understanding, then, a religion or a spiritual life is that which inspires us to TRANSFORM WITHIN, make CONNECTIONS BETWEEN, and live with LOVING COMPASSION BEYOND.

Also last season, our UUA President the Rev. Peter Morales urged us to put this centuries-old and ever-evolving faith into a few words in order to seize the moment and allow this liberal religion to become a religion for our time.

See “Waves” page 5.....

## Staff

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## President's Column

At General Assembly, several members of our delegation attended a meeting regarding a program called *Gathered Here*.

*Gathered Here* is an invitation to all Unitarian Universalists to “discover our common aspirations and unleash the power of our faith”. It is a joint initiative of the UUA Board of Trustees and the UUA Administration.

Based on a process known as appreciative inquiry, a series of small and large group conversations, as well as one-on-one interactions, engage stakeholders to identify what’s working well in an organization.

*Gathered Here* will encourage UUs from across the continent to participate in structured interviews with other UUs. Participants will be invited to think about their lives as UUs, their experiences in congregations and communities, meaningful moments, and times of growth to reflect on how these positive experiences are relevant to our larger faith and how they might be applied to our collective future.

The goals of *Gathered Here* are to inform and deepen our collective understanding of congregational values and aspirations and to develop a compelling shared vision of the future of Unitarian Universalism and help us define our future in the process.

Reflect for a moment on some teaser questions:

### Your UU beginnings

Tell me about yourself and your beginnings in this tradition.

Where and when did you claim Unitarian Universalism as your own – as an expression of your faith? What was it that made you say *yes* to its “calling”?

### Staying at the common table

The world cries out for compassionate people who stay in relationship – at the common table - to bring their stories, passion, commitment and vision to a clear, shared goal despite difficulties. Time and again, we as UUs demonstrate our commitment to bring love, joy and a sense of celebration to the hard work of staying at the common table.

Tell me about a time when a group of UUs – that may or may not have included you– surmounted a period of challenge and conflicting goals by staying at the common table. When and where did this take place? What made you and others willing to stay involved? How were the obstacles overcome?

### Imagine ...

It is 5 years from now. A really important change has taken place in the world – something about which you and other UUs have cared deeply – and it seems that a powerful coalition of more than a thousand UU congregations and communities played a leading role in bringing this about. Tell me the story.

What is this positive change that UUs have helped bring about? Give me the details. What made it possible for these communities to work together?

What allowed you and others to set aside your individual concerns and join with something greater? What choices did we make back in 2011 and 2012 that paved the way for the future you’ve just described?

There are opportunities for volunteers to help in this process both in our own community and elsewhere. Visit the *Gathered Here* website at [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org) to find an overview of the initiative and learn out about volunteer opportunities.

Stay tuned for more information as we roll out *Gathered Here* at UUSP this fall.

## Standing on the Side of Love with Immigrant Families

*Immigration As A Moral Issue* was selected as the Congregational Study/Action Issue for 2010-2014 at last year's General Assembly. In this spirit Unitarian Universalist congregations and districts were encouraged to begin programs of education and reflection, service, community organizing, advocacy and public witness.

At UU St Pete your Migrant/Immigrant Ministry developed and presented the educational skit, *Arizona Is Our Town*, and then we actively engaged in an email campaign against punitive immigration legislation being proposed here in Florida.

This year we plan to continue to advocate for comprehensive and compassionate immigration reform. To do so we need to remain informed. These upcoming events are opportunities to expand your knowledge of this complex issue:

**August 6<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30pm** movie & potluck at the Coales. The film is *56 Hours in Phoenix: A National Day of Non-Compliance* which documents the events surrounding the gathering of hundreds of UUs, immigrant families and people of color who are threatened by AZ law SB1070 and the oppressive and racist tactics of Sheriff Joe Arapaio and the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office. Please RSVP at 898-8038 or [kcoale@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:kcoale@tampabay.rr.com) so we have enough chairs.

**September into early December** workshops using the UUA developed curriculum *Immigration As a Moral Issue*. The dignity of all the world's peoples is core to Unitarian Universalist principles and values. Given the justice-oriented nature of the UU faith, UUs are called to be leaders in the struggle for immigrant and refugee rights, and to view immigration not only as a legal issue but also as a moral issue.

Here are the topics and tentative dates for the workshops – which will be held at **12:30pm after service**. Lunch will be provided – some workshops coincide with the First Sunday Luncheon.

**September 18<sup>th</sup>**: Understanding the Causes of Migration

**October 2<sup>nd</sup>**: History of Immigration in the U.S.

**October 16<sup>th</sup>**: Economics of Immigration

**October 30<sup>th</sup>**: Security, Enforcement, and Human Rights

**November 13<sup>th</sup>**: Who Benefits from a Broken System?

**December 4<sup>th</sup>**: Seeking Solutions

### Share the Plate Sunday – August 28<sup>th</sup>

One half of the non-pledge portion of this Sunday's collection will be used to purchase back-to-school supplies and clothing for one of our two adopted families. Some of you met Maria and two of her children at the film and potluck dinner at our home this month. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

### Help Plan Outreach and Social Actions – August 16<sup>th</sup>

The Migrant/Immigrant Ministry meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm in the Church Office. Use Arlington Ave entrance. Help plan outreach projects such as food collections, migrant camp visits and the Holiday Gift Distribution as well as advocacy actions.

# August 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 8:00am Summer Camp 9:30am Zumba	2 8:00am Summer Camp 10:00am Handcrafters Guild 5:30pm Zumba	3 8:00am Summer Camp 9:30am Zumba	4 8:00am Summer Camp 5:30pm Zumba	5 8:00am Summer Camp 9:30am Stretch And Tone 6:45pm Picnic In The Playground	6 9:30am Zumba 5:30pm Movie & Potluck
7 11:00am Sunday Service 11:00am Food Collection	8 8:00am Summer Camp 9:30am Zumba 4:45pm Beacon House 6:00pm Homeless Ministry Meeting 7:00pm Transition Movement	9 8:00am Summer Camp 5:30pm Zumba	10 8:00am Summer Camp 9:30am Zumba 7:00pm Board of Trustees	11 8:00am Summer Camp 5:30pm Zumba	12 8:00am Summer Camp 9:30am Stretch And Tone 6:45pm Picnic In The Playground	13 9:30am Zumba
14 11:00am Sunday Service 12:30pm Program Council	15 8:00am Summer Camp 9:30am Zumba 4:45pm Beacon House	16 8:00am Summer Camp 10:00am Handcrafters Guild 5:30pm Zumba 7:00pm Migrant/Immigrant Ministry	17 8:00am Summer Camp 9:30am Zumba	18 8:00am Summer Camp 5:30pm Zumba	19 8:00am Summer Camp 9:30am Stretch And Tone 6:45pm Picnic In The Playground	20 8:00am SCA Meeting 9:30am Zumba
21 11:00am Sunday Service 11:00am Food Collection 12:00pm Lunch	22 9:30am Zumba 4:45pm Beacon House 7:00pm Transition Movement	23 5:30pm Zumba	24 9:30am Zumba	25 5:30pm Zumba 6:15pm Handbells 7:00pm Adult Choir	26 9:30am Stretch And Tone 6:45pm Picnic In The Playground	27 9:30am Zumba
28 11:00am Sunday Service	29 9:30am Zumba 7:00pm Transition Movement	30 5:30pm Zumba	31 9:30am Zumba			

## “Waves” from page 1.....

This church year, I am passionate about growth. Growth of our special place that is a by product of our own individual personal growth as processed through more deeply exploring the first of our prior season’s ideas... transforming through the exploration of the God WITHIN. During the past several years, many people have had meaningful, enjoyable experiences at UUSP. However, few people have adopted sustained spiritual practices, and no one has shared stories with the community concerning transformed behavior in their daily lives.

Until we all, each of us, devote the time and effort to daily transform our inner selves to that point where our inner self matches our outward actions, membership in this beloved community will only be an enjoyable experience rather than a life changing transformation understood by the many rather than the few.

So what will this 2011-2012 church season of growth bring? For our religious community to take the next steps in our continued growth, I offer no suggestions that utilize Seven Habits, 10 Keys or 12 Steps. I offer hard work, commitment, love and passion shared by the many rather than the few. We won’t find answers from the UUA in a “How To Do It” church leadership book or a best practices workshop. We already know what we need to do. All of us want to serve, so each can transform our inner selves until ALL of us serve. All of us want a financially healthy community, so each of us can experience inner transformation, aligning our priorities until ALL of us give. All of us want a spiritual community that goes beyond our everyday experiences, so we each can work daily on our own unique life journeys. ALL of us. In this country today, there are many more churches in decline than in growth. Declining churches expect their answer to come from the outside. We will take responsibility for our own solutions. We will commit to the hard work of transforming within, and by doing so, further transform our beacon of liberal religion in St. Petersburg. To begin this process, on Homecoming Sunday, September 11, I’ll invite you to create a mantra that resonates with you. Mine is at the beginning of this article.

Then we will open our hearts and our doors so that our friends and neighbors might DISCOVER here their own unique journeys and their capacity for love; We will DEVELOP within each of us an awareness of our own talents and gifts, our own deepest spiritual experiences; We will LOVE & SUPPORT each other while on our own unique journeys, journeys that inspire us to TRANSFORM WITHIN, MAKE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN and act with LOVING COMPASSION BEYOND; We will INSPIRE each other to share our talents as a ministry both in our own church home and in the world, for IF NOT US, WHO? IF NOT NOW, WHEN? We will do these things in the same spirit and for the same reasons that we do all that we do, to bring Dignity, Meaning, Worth and Joy to all our days.

Waves of love.  
Jim

## **Group Contacts**

### **Administrative**

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### **Building & Grounds**

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### **Care Ministry**

Rev. Alec Craig  
393-3499

### **Children’s Religious Education**

Dolores Benjamin &  
Shannon McMahan, co-  
chairs

### **Ministry on Ministry (MOM)**

McKell Moorehead  
894-0264

### **Communications Working Group**

Morgan Gresham  
327-6075

### **Hospitality Team**

Cheryl MacNeill 323-1439

### **Congregational Life Ministry**

Dave Coale 898-8038

### **Music**

Jim Culver 616-318-4664

### **Parish Nurse**

Rose Farrow 289-6952

### **Program Council**

Tina Spangler 896-6823

### **Scope**

J Peter Schultes 898-3294

### **Social Justice**

GBLT Subministry  
Homeless Subministry  
Reggie Craig 631-1031  
Migrant Subministry  
Karen Coale 898-8038

### **UU Service Committee**

Marilyn Barber 298-5096

### **Worship Ministry**

Margie Manning 374-0570

### **Yoga**

Vandana Dillon 896-5856

## Happenings and Events

### August Celebrations Anniversaries

7--Jim & Marilyn Barber  
 17--Dave & Karen Coale  
 18--Kent & Jane Fanning  
 25--Mark & Sheryl MacNeill

### Birthdays

3--Deb Carter  
 14--Barbara Rowell  
 19--Bill Wallace  
 21--Margie Manning  
 25--Dean Robinson

### A Month of Sundays

7th---Hymn Sing Dorothy Byrne will lead us in some of the old favorites.

14th---"Personal Experience--Transform Within" Victor Beaumont relates his own thoughts and visions.

21st---"Personal Experience--Connection Between" Margie Manning's revelations of her past awakening.

28th---"Personal Experience--Serve Others beyond" Presenter To Be Announced

### Summer Plans for the Craig's

Penny and I will be leaving for Maine shortly after June 1st. We are not quite sure exactly when.

We will NOT have a landline this summer. To reach us you must call Penny's cell phone: (727) 215-2002. The other option is snail mail: General Delivery, Sangerville, ME, 04479. Please do NOT email anything important because we access our email at the library, about once each week.

Penny is flying back early as she begins teaching for St. Petersburg College around the 20th of August.

The other thing for you to do is have a safe and wonderful summer. In faith and love, Alec and Penny

### Welcoming Our Visitors with Radical Hospitality

As many of you know, I went to UU General Assembly in June, and this gave me a chance to interact with and learn from other UU congregations and leaders. I would like to share with the concept of "radical hospitality." This term includes but is not limited to every member wearing our name tags and shaking hands with visitors. Also, it is not necessarily easy, and I would like to share the following quote from the Rev. Marilyn J. Sewell of Portland, Oregon: *So what does...Radical Hospitality... mean for us as a church? We are committed to being a welcoming community. We say we believe in the 'inherent worth and dignity of all.' And yet we are human beings, and we have the same challenges that all human beings have. We feel more comfortable when we're with people we know. We come to church, we gravitate to people we know. We feel less comfortable when we are with people who have different ideas and interests, different cultural assumptions. Tribalism is strong, and we need look no further than our church.*

I hope that we at UU St. Pete continue to limit our "tribalism" and make all who come for a visit truly welcome. -- Dave Coale, Congregational Life Ministry

## UUA Trustee Tidbits from Joan Lund

It was good to see many of you in June at GA. Hope you experienced a rewarding, challenging, and fun time in Charlotte. There is a Trustee-written GA June, 2011 report sent to the District office earlier this week, my reflections of important happenings at GA; and of course much information may be found at UUA.org, linking to GA 2011. I made a pledge to myself, and now to you that I plan to devote Trustee Tidbits columns from now until next March or April to our Justice GA 2012 to be held in Phoenix next year. I think it will be one of our most important gatherings in our over fifty year history. Please make plans to attend.

What I know about GA 2012: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, minister of the UU congregation of Phoenix, has accepted a key leadership role in the Arizona immigration effort. Rev. Harlan Limpert, Vice-President for Ministries and Congregational Support, and Susan, with input from Rev. Ken Brown and others, are in the process of finalizing specific roles, responsibilities of those involved. Rev. Frederick-Gray is widely respected as a minister, and outstanding spokesperson on justice issues, and partner with Arizona congregations and other Arizona immigration groups and their leaders, with whom the UUA is already working, and will continue to do so in the coming months.

Many relationships have been formed, maintained, and expanded in recent years between UUA Staff, lay and professional leaders in Arizona congregations, and individuals and organizations in Arizona committed to immigration reform and human rights issues. These relationships are critically important to any work that occurs during the coming year, during GA2012, and in the months and years following Justice GA. Our UUA has committed \$150,000 towards an Arizona immigration fund for fiscal year 7/1/11 to 6/30/12. There was a collection at the GA in Charlotte specifically for this fund and the GA Planning Committee has contributed to it. There is commitment to ensuring that the 2012 Justice GA impacts the justice work of our UUA for many years to come.

We know numerous other states are contemplating, or have passed, laws as oppressive as those passed in Arizona that have impacted the work and ministry we do together. Training and education throughout the year will be provided; hopefully this will have a big impact on justice work in congregations. The best place to find information valuable to your congregation will be at our UUA website. Bottom line: The very fact that GA will take place in Phoenix in 2012 is positive. It creates opportunity for making a difference in ways seldom seen.

*Joan Lund*

[jlund@uua.org](mailto:jlund@uua.org) or 813-931-9727

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## Religious Education Report

\_\_\_Notes from the Religious Education Ministry\_\_\_ by Careena

Although summer is typically an "off" season for the R.E. program, our committee is still going strong. Shannon M. and Laura B. volunteered to begin re-decorating the nursery, and you can see the results. Take a peek next time you walk past; it looks wonderful! The color scheme is more cohesive, the furnishings are more "energetic," and the overall feel of the room is far more welcoming to toddlers and parents.

Our shared use of the upstairs R.E. space has been just fine. The American Stage summer campers are making good use of the facilities, and I understand that a couple of families have been curious to find out more about UUSP.

Speaking of new students, we're happy to report that a dear little girl (age 5) has been attending regularly for several weeks, and seems to be fitting into the class very nicely. As always, please be sure to make new families feel welcome, and don't forget to "talk up" our Education program to nieces, nephews, and neighbors

## Musical Notes

It's that time again! Whether you sang in the Adult Choir or Children's Choir, rang with the Handbell Ringers or acted in any of our past five musicals, it's time to wipe the summer beach sand off of your flip flops and share your love of this special place with the other half of our congregation by once again lending your voice, wrists or ham bones to your music ministry. If you've not yet participated in one of our music ministry groups and are looking to become more connected to this special place, please know that there's always a spot waiting for you and yours whenever you're ready. Our music ministry has very little to do with music! It's all about community, coming together, sharing, bonding, creating, growing, transforming, connecting and serving. Sound good to you? Keep reading and check out the list below. There's a seat or a bell or a costume waiting for you!

**ADULT CHOIR** rehearsals resume on Thursday, August 25 from 7:00 - 8:30 pm in the music room on the RE floor (2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Conway Hall). This fun loving ensemble explores music reading skills and healthy vocal production in addition to preparing anthems and songs for Sunday services. Whether you sang with us previously or only sing in the shower, choir here at UUSP is all about being in a beloved community. Please also know that the love keeps going after rehearsal as we "afterglow" at the Old NE Tavern a few minutes from church.

**HANDBELL RINGER** rehearsals resume on Thursday, August 25 from 6:15 - 7:00 pm in the music room on the RE floor (2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Conway Hall). Don't let the beauty of this ensemble's music fool you into thinking that playing bells is way too complicated for you. It's not...it's fun...and it's yet another ministry that allows us to share our lives together in community.

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR** rehearsals resume on Sunday, September 10 at the usual time of 10:15 - 10:35 in the sanctuary. The children and youth will sing 3 songs of their own, 3 intergenerational songs with the Adult Choir, and 2 numbers from our Spring musical. Plus...there are lots of acting parts in this year's musical for sheep, cows, giant slayers and the schoolmates of Jack-ie (as in the beanstalk).

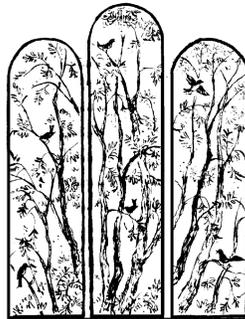
**MUSICAL THEATRE ACTORS** will have ONE musical to share with the congregation this season. Adults, youth and kids who enjoy growing together in community through musical theatre will begin rehearsing in November for a late March/early April premiere of the musical *Beanstalk*. Featuring 7 principals and chorus, this musical comedy with a UU message contains 8 songs, a live band onstage and the Adult Choir also seated onstage during the entire show serving both as musicians and the scenery. Included in the cast are Jack-ie, the widow, a narrator, a bean seller, an old bag, a golden egg laying hen, Milky-White the cow, a crowd of villagers and a giant (who went to high school with the widow and may be Jackie's father.)

SEE YOU ALL SOON!

Waves of love,

**Jim**

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### UUSP Mission Statement

“Providing a compassionate and welcoming community, inspiring spiritual and intellectual growth, and serving as a beacon for social activism and service.”