



August 2012

Volume 53 Issue 7

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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 2012

### From the Prez.

Is liberal Christianity signing its own death warrant? That was the headline of an online article I read on MSNBC today.

The premise of the article focused on the concerns of the Episcopal Bishop of South Carolina who believes that the blessing of gay unions and ordination of transgendered persons will cause further decline in membership. "I think we have entered into a time of sexual and gender anarchy" he was quoted as saying. He went on to state "It's not merely a matter of adapting the church's teaching about Jesus Christ, about salvation, about right and wrong to the culture. The culture is adrift in sexual confusion and obsession."

What eludes his Grace is that sexual freedom is merely the symptom and not the cause of liberal Christianity's declining church attendance. Traditional Judaism, Christianity and Islam all have one goal in common, power. To retain power you need to control people's behavior. And the most effective way to do so is to control their sex lives.

The real question facing liberal denominations is whether the premise that people are born in sin and therefore in need of salvation still valid? To many inquiring minds it is not.

Beginning with the Enlightenment, questioning authority and rational thinking became the order of the day. Philosophers like Locke, Hume and others laid the groundwork for the our UU concept of the inherent worth and dignity of every individual. Implicit in such thinking is the duty of every individual to think for himself or herself. Traditional "truths" are to be examined not simply mimicked.

The good Bishop's concerns do have merit. If rank individualism is all that remains, how can we function as an integrated society? Are we to devolve into a nation of narcissists?

Unitarian Universalism offers a powerful alternative; a community of likeminded seekers discovering his or her own truth within the boundaries of a supportive community.

The need for a venue such as UU St Pete is evidenced by how full the sanctuary has become during regular services. We have much to offer, an architecturally significant building, a dynamic music program, and an intellectually stimulating incoming minster. Most important, however, is our diverse non-judgmental community. We have good reason to feel proud as we look forward to this next year with great anticipation.

Greg Burton, President  
Board of Trustees

**Staff**

The Reverend  
Jim Culver  
*Music Director*

Careena Cornette  
*Director of Religious Education*

J. Peter Schultes  
*Office Manager*

Aaron Johnson  
*Custodian*

Greg Burton  
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Alec Craig  
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**MUSIC MINISTRY**

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 church 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.

UU2 BAND rehearsals resume SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 from 9:15 – 9:45 prior to the morning service. If you play guitar, keyboard or any other instrument, drop in and join a group that provides leadership for our two hymns each Sunday.

ADULT CHOIR rehearsals resume THURSDAY, AUGUST 23 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 RINGERS resume THURSDAY, AUGUST 30. Rehearsals are held on Thursdays 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 9 from 10:15 - 10:35 in the sanctuary. The children and youth will sing 3 songs of their own, 2 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.

Waves of love,

Jim



# August Calendar

## Wednesday 1st

7:00 pm Social Justice Front Office

## Sunday 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th

10:00 am Discussion Group Conway Hall

11:00 am Sunday Services Sanctuary

## Tuesday 7th & 21st

10:00 pm Handcrafters Guild

## Monday 13th

6:00 pm Homeless Ministry Front Office

## Tuesday 14th

5:30 pm Migrant Ministry Front Office

## Saturday 18th

All Day SCA Church

**Please refer to the on-line calendar at our web site for updates [WWW.uustpete.org](http://WWW.uustpete.org)**

## From Alec...

A graveside service was held at the Acorn Cemetery in Rockland, ME, for both Miles and Virginia Sawyer. Mrs. Sawyer, Virginia, died several years ago. The service was at 2:00 and nicely attended by family and friends. Family members participated with the reading of poems and placing flowers on the urn. John returned to Seminole on Tuesday the 24th. Patti, John's sister, lives in New Vineyard, ME, with her husband and their children. Miles and Virginia, high school sweethearts, were life-long Universalists from Rockland. He was a marvelous visit, a good friend and steadfast parishioner.

## Artist in Residence Wanted

Are you a hobbyist calligrapher? Do you \*know\* someone who does calligraphy and wants a good reason to practice his or her skill? If so, please get in touch with Careena (Uu.Dir.Re@Gmail.com), as the Religious Education Ministry needs a volunteer to create a custom one page certificate-- a short one, we promise!

## Months of Sundays

August 5	Don Chambers "Climate Change- What are we doing to our Garden of Eden?"
August 12	Generosity Victor and Jane confirmed
August 19	Dorothy Hymn Sing
August 26	Careena Confirmed
Sept 2	Victor has a new speaker, Steve O'Brien on "Bullying" Confirmed

## August Celebrations

### Anniversaries

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

### Birthdays

3rd--Deb Carter  
 14th--Barbara Rowell  
 21st--Margie Manning  
 25th--Dean Robinson

## UUA Trustee Tidbits from Joan Lund

GA has been over for a month and you have probably had ample opportunity to go on our UUA web site to read, listen, and learn about the many events, activities, workshops which are of interest to you. From my perspective and those with whom I have spoken GA was a marked success. I have written a report which will go out in the District e-news. In our on-going work looking at the long-term future of Unitarian Universalism, during the spring and through the summer the UUA Board of Trustees (BOT) has been involved in various aspects of a process called **scenario planning**.

The practice of scenario planning begins with the definition of a focal issue or decision. The BOT asked the question: What differences do we want to make in Unitarian Universalism, for whom and at what priority by the year 2050? The purpose of scenario planning is not to pinpoint future events but to highlight large-scale forces that push the future in different directions. It's about making these forces visible, so that if they do happen, the planner(s) will at least recognize them. It is about helping make better decisions today. The practice of scenario planning is not difficult to describe but is can be difficult to do with skill and expertise. The "issue": The future of our UUA. The BOT has brainstormed a long list of key factors and environmental forces that might influence the outcome of our UUA future and determined two trends: 1) more people becoming spiritual, not religious with less interest in organized religion; and 2) differences in wealth, class, and income, with an increasingly unstable economy. Each trend is assumed to either continue, or reverse, and the four different combinations then make up the four different assumptions of the BOT's self-selected four teams.

From the trends, four teams emerged: 1) As the income gap grows and the economy becomes unstable, more people turn to religious and church life. 2) As the income gap grows, and the economy becomes unstable, people continue to leave organized religion. 3) Greater income equality stabilizes the economy, with a substantial increase in religious and church life. 4) Greater income equality stabilizes the economy, as people continue to leave organized religion. I am on this Team.

Each Team will meet three times by conference call prior to September with the end goal to write a "story" identifying trends and other issues related the assigned assumption. Youth and Young Adults will be invited to comment on the scenario work and add their own. After the scenarios are finalized and distributed to the BOT in September, they will be considered as part of our ENDS review in October.

Your Florida District Trustee realizes there may be questions and/or confusion regarding what has been described in the column. It's a lot to digest. Because I may write further on this topic and your thoughts are important, I would like to hear from you. Thanks...and continue to enjoy our long, hot summer!

Joan Lund, August, 2012 [jlund@uua.org](mailto:jlund@uua.org) or 813-931-9727

### **Group Contacts**

#### **Administrative**

Jeff Baughman 403-0655

#### **Building & Grounds**

Fred Russell 542-5449

#### **Care Ministry**

Joan Barclay  
520-8922

#### **Children's Religious Education**

Dolores Benjamin 360-7592 & Shannon  
McMahon, 204-8319  
co-chairs

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

McKell Moorehead  
894-0264

#### **Communications Working Group**

Morgan Gresham  
327-6075

#### **Hospitality Team**

Pat Passarello 525-2753

#### **Congregational Life Ministry**

Dave Coale 898-8038

#### **Music**

Jim Culver 616-318-4664

#### **Program Council**

#### **Scope**

J Peter Schultes 898-3294

#### **Social Justice**

Handcrafters Subministry  
Dani Skryzpek 488-3601  
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

## UU College of Social Justice

Dear Friend,

Last month at the 2012 Justice General Assembly in Phoenix, Ariz., we officially launched the UU College of Social Justice (UUCSJ). A joint program of the UUA and UUSC, this collaboration offers us a bold new way to live our faith in the world. Linking resources, people, programs, and creativity under one umbrella, UUCSJ is one of the most exciting initiatives I've seen in my 25 years as a parish minister, and I am honored to serve as its inaugural director!

In the coming year alone, **the college is offering service-learning trips to New Orleans, Haiti, India, Mexico, and Guatemala — sign up today!** As you look ahead to the coming congregational year, please consider how UUCSJ can help you — and your congregation, too — live more deeply into our faith:

**Immigration justice:** Travel to the southwest United States and the borderlands of Mexico to learn firsthand about the complex struggles of the immigrant community. This journey will help you engage your congregation in immigration justice in your own community. Trips: February and May 2013. [View the brochure \(PDF\)](#).

**Beyond the earthquake in Haiti:** Thousands of UUs supported Haiti after the earthquake, and rebuilding continues today. Work with our Haitian partners to build innovative eco-villages and learn how you and your congregation can continue this important work. Trips: January, March, and May 2013. [View the brochure \(PDF\)](#).

**Economic justice in India:** The UU Holdeen India Program works with Indian partners on economic justice, focusing on women and girls. Explore this vital work and how it can inspire new congregational initiatives for economic justice here at home. Trip: November 26–December 5, 2012. [View the brochure \(PDF\)](#).

**Education in Guatemala:** UUCSJ is partnering with the Sienna Project in building schools in rural Guatemala and supporting the rights of Mayan people to education — join us for a week of hands-on work! Trip: February 15–23, 2013. [View the brochure \(PDF\)](#).

**New Orleans equitable recovery:** Six years after Hurricane Katrina, the rebuilding of New Orleans continues. UUCSJ offers you several opportunities to live, work, and learn in New Orleans for an unforgettable week. Trips: February, April, and July 2013. [View the brochure \(PDF\)](#).

**Please visit our website for details on these and other UUCSJ programs — and register for a trip today.** Contact us with questions, ideas, or requests for congregational delegations. We look forward to working with you and your congregation in the coming year!

Sincerely,

Rev. Kathleen McTigue  
Director

## The Latest From Sally

The package arrived today ... or at least I picked it up from the PO today. It may have arrived last week, but I was out of town for the week so only got to retrieve it today.

Thank you all very much for making my life more comfortable! I appreciate everything you sent and will use every item. However, I can't think of anything more that I need or want so it may be time to take a break from packages!

So I was out of town on Peace Corps business. Along with the early weeks of training that we had after we arrived, we have three additional sessions during our two years here. Last week was the first of those. We gathered on a Sunday, had working sessions through Friday, and left on Saturday. It was an interesting mixture of fun (reconnecting with the other volunteers, swimming in the hotel pool, eating great meals, AIR CONDITIONING) and work (sitting through information sessions about project planning and grant writing, mapping out my new direction for my job, giving a presentation about my site and job, etc).

Although there are four volunteers from my group who live near enough that I see them frequently and five more who aren't far away so I see them occasionally, this conference was the first time that I had seen most of the group. We had a good time.

Did I mention my new direction for my job? I've talked so much about it with the other volunteers that it seems that I might have told you all about it, too. But I don't think so.

Although I had high hopes for the young man who now works with me in IT at the education office, he has changed his direction completely and has me looking for a different direction. He has decided that he is in charge of all computers in all the schools and he doesn't want me interfering with them. He told me that I am not to take any more help calls from the head teachers but direct all such calls to him and he will decide if I can go to the school. He instructed me to stop asking the head teachers what they want because they will get whatever he wants to give them and they have no choice.

Needless to say, this is not the way that I plan to work and it is not the way that Peace Corps wants me to work. So I've been talking with everyone I can find who will talk to me about education in Guyana, and I've proposed a new position for me that will have me working with the schools to promote math education. I will stay in the office where I am now since I will still work with all schools in this region, but I will work with our literacy coordinator to do for math what the literacy program has done for reading. The first step is meeting with the resource people at the national level to find out what they are doing in this area and to let them know that I want to help. If they have a place for me, great! If not, I'm going to search out some educational software that teaches math and see if I can get a few schools to try it.

It's an exciting direction for me and has the possibility of some real effect on the schools here. There is a self-paced reading tutorial installed in the computer labs of many schools, and that may be the reason, or part of the reason, why reading skills have improved over the past few years. I'd like to see something similar in math.

There's a summer vacation period during July and August so this is a good time to be making plans for the upcoming school year. It's also the time when many people take vacations so I can't always get appointments when I want them, but I know it will work out eventually, or as the Guyanese say, "just now."

Three of the schools in my region are accessible only by boat, and I'm going to visit one this Friday. It's in an Amerindian village. I'll have pictures to share and descriptions to write, I hope. Thanks again for the supplies! You're the best support system ever!

Love to all  
Sally

## “Tampa Bay Soapbox” Information Sheet

TBCN is producing a new program called “Tampa Bay Soapbox” to highlight the public’s views on different topics. The first edition will contain comments to the 2012 Republican National Convention being held in Tampa in late August. It will be broadcast on local cable TV, stream and be available on-demand over the Internet before, during and after the 2012 RNC.

How comments are included: [1] They are recorded by our staff in our studio at University Mall or over Skype. [If you use Skype, be sure background, lighting, audio & webcam angles are good.] OR [2] You may send us a pre-recorded digital video file that is technically sound – good audio & not grainy.

What can & cannot be recorded? We will only record and/or accept pre-recorded video for airing that contains a single person on camera – meaning no more than one person can appear in any segment. No “B” role [extraneous photographs or video] will be accepted. Because the program will air before 11 PM, mature audience language, content and/or background are prohibited. See page 25 <http://tbcn.org/images/stories/pdf/p-and-p.pdf> for mature audience details.

How much time will I get? Up to five FREE minutes is allotted for each individual or group representative to make comments. Extra time—up to a ten-minute maximum – is available for \$50. Additional five-minute segments by an individual or group that has already taken advantage of a free comment period is available for \$50 each.

What can I talk about? It’s entirely up to you. Examples: veteran concerns, stand your ground laws, war, animal rights, politics, the environment, social issues, education, unions, energy issues, oil drilling, global warming, reproductive rights, voting, child, senior and health care issues; etc.

Where will the show be broadcast? Local cable TV channels: Verizon 30 & 36, Comcast 20 and Bright House Networks 949 & 950. Streamed over the Internet: [www.watchus.tbcn.org](http://www.watchus.tbcn.org). On-demand via [www.youtube.com/TampaBayCommunityNet](http://www.youtube.com/TampaBayCommunityNet) with links on our Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Pinterest & website pages.

When? Before, during & after the RNC. Dates and times will be announced on our website.

Who is the audience? RNC delegates & attendees; local cable TV and Internet viewers

What’s required? [1] Advance appointment – no walk-ins or unscheduled Skypes; [2] Punctuality – if you’re late, your first appointment will be rescheduled. If you’re late a second time, you will forfeit the opportunity to record your comments; [3] Advance preparation – know what you’re going to say ahead of time as we will not provide “re-takes,” stops, re-starts or previews. [4] Government-issued photo identification; [5] Signed TBCN Talent Release Form; [6] Your email address; [7] How you wish your name to appear on-screen; [8] Any payment due if you exceed the five minutes of free time or if you record additional comments. [If unpaid, comments will not air.]

Will TBCN edit my comments? No. Neither you nor TBCN will be permitted to edit your comments while or after they are recorded. We will, however, “bleep out” mature audience language since the program will air before 11 PM. Mature audience language is defined as: Slang, vulgar or colloquial expression which refers to sexual intercourse, masturbation, anal or oral sexual contact, to human genitals, or to human elimination. See <http://tbcn.org/images/stories/pdf/p-and-p.pdf>

May I purchase DVDs of my comments or the entire program? Yes. Call Programming @ 813-977-5200.

Tampa Bay Community Network is a service of Speak Up Tampa Bay, a 501c3 non-profit organization. TBCN’s award winning staff produces ten community-oriented series, public service announcements and video productions of all types.

The organization provides video production training, studios, edit suites and the equipment and production crew needed for individuals and non-profits to get their messages out on the Internet and local cable television. Viewers can find TBCN programs on Verizon cable channels 30 and 36, Bright House Networks channels 949 and 950 and Comcast channel 20 as well as via [watchus.tbcn.org](http://watchus.tbcn.org).

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