



Unitarian Universalist Village Church

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Jerry Offermann '16

AUGUST 2017: Theme — UU Heritage

Mark's Trail

Rev. Mark Walz

It is official. I'm no longer a Texan.

Most of you have come to Hot Springs Village from places outside of Arkansas, so you've experienced some version of what I'm about to share. I hope it wasn't as traumatic for you as it was for me and my wife Vivian.



We had made a list of things we needed to do to transition from living in Dallas to living here. One item was a visit to the county court house. We knew that we needed to register our homestead status for our new home, register to vote, get our vehicles registered, and so forth. So off we go to downtown Benton since our home is in Saline County. Everyone there was cheerful and kind, and eager to help. Until the robbery.

They confiscated our Texas driver's licenses and our Texas car titles, and repossessed our Lone Star identity. Had we acquired sugarplum visions of dual-citizenship? It reminded me of that scene in John Wayne's movie *Rio Bravo* where the deputy made everyone leave their guns at the sheriff's office until they left town. It felt like they'd taken our boots and Stetsons, too! It was worse for my lovely wife. She was born and raised in San Antonio. Texan for life. I was taken to Texas from Ohio when I was already a year and a half... so I was just an immigrant, she reminded.

On the drive home, though, we reached that beautiful area along Highway 5 where the road winds through sun-dappled groves of oaks and pines; where the sky comes alive in mysterious and beautiful ways; horses and chipmunks and mountains in the distance; hardly a car or truck to compete with on the way to the Village. We turned into the East Gate and made our way lazily to our

new home. By the time we pulled into our neighborhood (named Serenidad) we remembered all the reasons we came here in the first place. Some call the Village paradise. Our next-door neighbor shared that they had come twenty years ago and has loved it ever since. We knew that we would love that for ourselves. Twenty-plus years here would be heaven. More, if we're lucky.

An adventure with my best friend. Time to watch the sun rise and set. Surrounded by lakes and forests. Good folks of like hearts and like minds to partner with. Feels like paradise to me. And so it begins.

See you in Church.

August Sundays at UUVC

**June Attendance: All Souls webcast: 46,
UUVC: 323**

Share the Plate: Arkansas Food Bank: \$1,324.

August Share the Plate: Garland County Humane Society

August 6, Worship, Rev. Mark Walz

August 13, Insight, Rabbi Eugene Levi

August 20, Worship, Rev. Mark Walz

August 30, Insight, Elmer Beard

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Penny Beed

WELCOME, REVEREND MARK WALZ!!!



For over 50 years, UUVC has had a lay-led congregation. Over those years, the church grew in size and strength, and increased in programming, resources and outreach. Last year, we agreed to “try out” the concept of having a minister, and we hired Reverend David Ruffin to be our part-time “developmental” minister. After that 6-month experience, the congregation decided to advertise for a more permanent part-time minister and subsequently hired Reverend Mark Walz, who has been the minister at the UU Church of Oak Cliff, TX for 13 years. Mark and his wife Vivien moved to Hot Springs Village in July, and we are very excited that he will be starting as our minister on August 1. Mark brings a wealth of experience with parishioners of different ages, cultures and backgrounds. Having spoken with leaders from his church, I know that he is admired and treasured by his congregation. He is dynamic and exhilarated by his ministry. In his application letter, he stated that he was seeking a religious community that “values intellectual integrity and spiritual fearlessness; a church that can embrace and be changed by the next person through the door, ...a community that believes church should be exuberant, joyous and fun!”

I am excited to think that, together, we can create a path to an even stronger future!!

2017-18 Committee Chairs

This is a list of the Committee Chairs for the coming year. If you have an interest in serving on any of these committees, contact the appropriate person. They'd love to have you join.

Building: Cliff Harrison

Finance: Kim Harrison

Long Range Planning: Jerriann Nielsen

Membership: Pam Harrison

Office Administration: Meg Koziar

Program: Mary Ann Rittenmeyer

Social: Cloe Bayer

Social Action: Meg Koziar

TREASURER'S REPORT

Kim Townsan

Yes, UUVC members and friends met the challenge in Fiscal Year 2016-2017! Income from Pledge and Non-Pledge contributions exceeded budget by over \$7,000! And while UUVC did have lower expenses last fiscal year related to ministerial costs, expense management by our Committee Chairs, and their committee members, resulted in income exceeding expenses by \$27,000. Thank you to everyone who contributed to those results!



Some other key financial stats from last year:

- Available cash as of 6/30/17 was \$222,874... as compared to the previous June's \$206,093.
- Our mortgage principal was paid down by another \$16,000...leaving us with a balance on our loan of \$277,973.
- Improvements to UUVC building and property during the year included paving of the parking lot, installation of two new heat pumps, and a railing for the stairs in the sanctuary. A total of \$29,000 of additional investment in UUVC.
- Income to the Building Fund increased to \$35,670 as compared to the previous year income of \$29,797. Building fund income is generated by way of pledge and non-pledge donations, and investment income. Investment income for the year was \$11,495.

As a reminder, if you don't like having to remember to “write the check”, you may want to join our members who have set up automatic bill pay through their bank. You don't need to have any UUVC account information...just set up to have the bank automatically send a check directly to UUVC...all you need is our address of 403 Barcelona, Hot Springs Village, AR 71909. One less thing to remember!

Health is the greatest gift. Contentment is the greatest wealth. A trusted friend is the best relative. A liberated mind is the greatest bliss.

Buddha

What's Happening

Social Action Committee

Meg Koziar



Our "Blue Jeans for Kids" collection is in full swing. These are needed for the beginning of the school year; so if you are browsing yard sales or resale shops in the next couple of weeks, look for gently worn jeans in kids sizes. Or add jeans to your shopping list, along with a few boxes of pasta or other non-perishable food for the Jackson House pantry. These can go in the bins near the office.

Thanks to those who have recently contributed personal hygiene articles for Clarion Call residences. Alana Clegg will deliver them, along with the sheets and towels that have been donated. Donations of similar items may be placed in the bin near the office, or contact Alana if you have larger items to contribute.

The Social Action Committee encourages you to recycle. While we collect in the bins near the office only batteries, aluminum cans, ink cartridges, and office paper generated at UUVC, we are pleased that the Hwy. 7 North Recycling station is now taking mixed paper (including JUNK MAIL, and magazines), and encourage you to use that facility, or the one in Hot Springs, instead of your trash can for these items.

Share the Plate: Thank you for your generous contributions to the Literacy Council, our July Share. Total amount will be posted in the Community Hall at month's end. In August our Share the Plate donations will go to the Humane Society of Garland County, which has just built a new animal shelter. All cash in the plate on August 6 will go there. For the rest of the month, use the envelopes to contribute to Share --add your name if you want a record kept for tax purposes--or write a check to UUVC with Share on the memo line any Sunday.

New Direction for Dinners

Brenda & Tom Tirrell

This fall we will be starting two different kinds of Dinners groups for UU'ers and Friends. It's a great way for new faces to get to know fellow UU'ers on a more social level.



1. As in the past, our regular "Dinners" groups will form and meet in UUVC homes on a monthly basis. The fall groups' size will be limited to **"Dinners for Six"** and will meet in Sept. Oct. and Nov.

2. Feedback has indicated interest for a new **"Dining Out"** group as well. They too will meet monthly in Sept., Oct., and Nov. People in those groups will pick their own restaurant for each month. Here the emphasis will be exploring dining options in the greater Hot Springs area--unless the group wants to venture further! We will try to keep these groups to the same size (six).

So what's your pleasure? **"Dinners In"** or **"Dining Out"**? If social dining is your cup of tea why not sign up for BOTH groups? Signup sheets will be on the tables in the Community Hall on Sundays.

See Brenda or Tom Tirrell if you have questions.

Building Blocks

TerryLynne Marx



Our lighting project, consisting of changing all of our fluorescent tubes to LED tubes, was completed this month. It took only 4 days and came in under budget.

If you correct your mind, the rest of your life will fall into place.

Lao Tzu

What's Happening? (cont.)

MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENT

Kat Wheeler, Communications Committee Chair



Hear Ye, Hear Ye, or maybe See Ye, See Ye would be more appropriate.

If you have noticed the flashing red light over the middle area between the doors during the services; you have an eagle eye. The services have been recorded for a few weeks along with editing and hard work from Dane Nielsen and Loren Loberg to perfect the sound quality; they are ready for viewing.

Several services are posted so if you missed a recent one, you can catch up. Planning to be out of town or feeling under the weather and unable to attend? You won't miss anything except the antics during coffee and conversation.

Simply head out to www.uuvc.org; under "Who Are We" and "Video Sermons."

Haven't had a chance to join one of our services? This is a great way to get a feel for what we are all about...but nothing beats an in-person experience!

Hope you enjoy the recorded services. Please let us know if you experience any challenges.

Happy viewing!



UUVC Education

Warren Searls

August 6, Current Issues 11:15 Room 2

A discussion led by Warren Searls of Issues and Controversies that are in the news of the day.

August 13, 2017 11:15 in the Community Hall:

TRINITARIANISM AND UNITARIANISM - A 2,000 YEAR PERSPECTIVE



Where did the concept of a triune Godhead (trinitarian) versus a unified single Godhead (unitarian) come from?

Was the concept of the Holy Trinity first created at the Council of Nicaea or were the origins much earlier?

Have all Christians been Trinitarians or were there also unitarian Christians?

Could this be of such significance that the discussion has not stopped for two millennia? Yes.

On August 13th after the Insight service Dane Nielsen will give a 45-minute PowerPoint Presentation of a talk developed by Dr. Allen Ward of the Little Rock UU Church and delivered to the UUVC in 2008.

August 20, 2017 11:15 in Room 2

Sue Loberg will lead a discussion on a yet to be determined article from the UU World magazine.

August 27, Sunday Funnies

A discussion of Editorial Cartoons from newspapers across the country. Differing opinions of current events.

Coming in September "How Jesus Became God"

Be sure to sign up for this six-part series conducted by Dave Welch on September 3 and 17, October 8 and 22, and November 5 and 19 at 11:15.

Jesus of Nazareth was a preacher in ancient Israel who, in the last week of his life, took his message to Jerusalem where he was arrested, charged with imagining himself the future king of the Jews and condemned to death. He died as a powerless and forsaken Jewish preacher of an apocalypse that never came.

Yet, four hundred years later, millions of people believed him not to be a failed prophet but a divine being. How did a rejected Jewish preacher come to be thought of as the Lord and creator of the universe? Equal to God the Father as a member of a divine Trinity. How did Jesus become God?

This class addresses and seeks to answer that question. The six- part class will use audio/visual materials produced by Professor Bart D. Ehrman and be led by UUVC member David Welch.

Each hour-long class will begin with a video by Dr. Ehrman followed by a class discussion of the video led by Dr. Welch.

The six classes will be:

1. Did Jesus Think He Was God?
2. The Disciples' Visions of Jesus.
3. Paul's View.
4. John's View.
5. The Birth of the Trinity.
6. The Council of Nicea.



Birthdays

8/1 Lavern Selph
8/10 Helen Stark
8/11 Bette Clark
8/11 Betty Lou Helsel
8/14 Larry Enders
8/15 Jean Holmes
8/17 Kay Croshaw
8/18 Penny Beed
8/18 Lisa Clem
8/18 Jeanne Sabino
8/19 Norm Elliott
8/19 Laura Nick
8/21 Ron Saldino
8/22 Pamala Reeder
8/22 Lee Zuege
8/25 Mike Gold
8/29 Tom Henderson



Anniversaries

8/1 Brenda & Tom Tirrell
8/3 Marjorie & Paul Lakey
8/8 Madelyn & Robin Young
8/13 Cloe & Ed Bayer
8/18 Phyllis & Wally Johnson
8/21 Marie & David Welch
8/24 Lee & Jack Iafrate

The law of heaven is love.
Hosea Ballou

Social Committee

Chloe Bayer, Chair

PICNIC IN THE PARK IS COMING UP!

The next event on the Social Calendar is "Picnic in the Park" on Monday, August 7. Bring a picnic basket, a lawn chair, your favorite beverage, and sit back and enjoy the last concert of the season by the Hot Springs Concert Band. The program for this concert is "A Celebration of Our National Parks;" start time is 6 PM. UUVU is providing the ushers for this program, and we hope to have a good turnout of our members and friends to represent our church and all the good it does in our community. Since parking is limited in Whittington Park, there will be a car pool from our church parking lot, leaving at 4 PM. If you have never been to these concerts, this would be a good time to see how much fun they can be, especially with so many folks from UUVU to enjoy the music with you. Sign up sheet for the car pool is in Community Hall.



Our next event will be the Ice Cream Social on Saturday, September 2, the next one after that is Oktoberfest on Saturday, October 7.

A year of exciting events is planned for 2017-2018, so keep following this column for updates.

Fourth Friday Film Fest

Cloe Bayer



The movie chosen for August is "*20th Century Women*," starring Annette Bening, and featuring Greta Gerwig, Billy Crudup, and Elle Fanning. During the summer of 1979, a single mom and boardinghouse landlord, decides the best way she can parent her teenage son is to enlist her tenants: a quirky punk photographer, a mellow handyman, and her son's shrewd best friend, to serve as role models in a changing world. All the reviewers described it as a character study; one said "Few films are imbued with such love for its characters" and another that the actors fit their parts so well that you forget they are not the real people they are portraying. One said, "Annette Bening gives us a master class in acting". Yet another, "*20th Century Women* takes a while to kick in, but eventually finds its groove." Sounds very thought provoking!

Hope to see you on August 25 at 7 PM to enjoy this film. As always, popcorn is provided.

Resolve Your Conflicts

Steve Rittenmeyer

The Conflict Resolution Committee stands ready confidentially to assist members and friends in resolving disputes and misunderstandings with other congregants that affect their lives in church. For more information about the conflict resolution process, please contact:

Steve Rittenmeyer, 915-0575,
SD-Rittenmeyer@wiu.edu
or

Cloe Bayer, 922-3810,
cloebayer29@sbcglobal.net

Poetry Corner

THE FLIGHT OF THE BUTTERFLY

Once, in the month of August,
When happy I was to be
Outside seated at a table
A butterfly lit there by a must!

Alarmed at its wobbly dive
I poured a sweet drop
From my drink to the table top
And watched a thin tongue do jive.

It siphoned the nectar bubble
And searched for another.
No motion of any other
Stopped its work in its trouble.

When sated and revived
It ignored my prompt to wait
And offered to meet its fate.
I hope it survived.

Should a butterfly alight
To cause your lives to intertwine
Be divine and pour it wine.
Serve this creature in its plight.
—Anne Simpson



Try the UUVV Website:
www.uuvc.org

Interest Groups (IGs)

Ronnie Zuege, IG Coordinator



Enjoy the company of people with a similar interest by participating in one of the Interest Groups (IG). Stop by the IG table on Sunday mornings to check out the folders that provide information about each group. It's great to participate in more than one.

Also, if you have a special interest that is not currently represented, contact me (501-781-8489 or email: vzuege@gmail.com) to inquire about starting a new group.

Game Night



Come to play board/card games on the 2nd Saturday of each month (August 12.) Game night will be held @ **5:00 PM**. We will eat first and play games afterwards. Bring a dish to share. It's always a surprise! (Marjorie Lakey)

Fourth Friday Film Fest

Please watch the bulletin for information on the film selection but please mark July 28, at 7pm on your calendars for the next film night. (Cloe Bayer)



Grief Support Group



The Grief Support group is taking a hiatus over the summer. However, if you would like to have a one-on-one conversation about some subject relating to grief/loss, you may contact Liz



Miller at 922-5457 or Cynthia Saalfield at 915-8577.

Dinners ...

See article on page 3 about the new concept in Dinners for Six. Prepare to sign up in the Community Hall.

Table Tennis

Table Tennis will resume in the fall. Look for the announcement.

Meditation, like a cool lake, has room for all the unexpected birds.

Jacob Trapp

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UUV**