



InSpirit

Unitarian Universalist Church of Hot Springs

Located at the corner of Norwalk and Spring St Hot Springs, AR 71914-3095
501-625-3095 WWW.uuchurchhotsprings.org

The UU church of Hot Springs is a certified *Welcoming Congregation*. We welcome you, whoever you are, or whatever the birthplace of your ancestors. We welcome you whether you are young or old, man or woman. We welcome you no matter what your spiritual beliefs or physical needs. We welcome you, whomever you love.

May you find the warmth and connection you seek here.

THEME FOR APRIL IS RENEWAL

- 4/7 "Blue Marble" - Denise Marion**
- 4/14 "The Ethic that Guides Me" - Bob Nagy Denise Marion and Rebecca Ricks**
- 4/21 Church Picnic with Village Songs and Readings in The Park at 11:00 AM**
- 4/28 "Insights to Share" Ann Hair and Dane Thomas Rebecca Ricks**

Carol Stanfill	President
Alan Clark	Treasurer
Dorothy Clark	Secretary
Pat Jobin	Membership
Jane Hufstedler	Values in Action



PRESIDENT'S NOTE:

Welcome SPRING! More sunshine, new plant growth, baby animals, and active days. I love spring! We will be busy here at our church. The Stewardship Committee is planning to paint the outside of the building and take care of some maintenance inside and out. We are finalizing plans for our Church Picnic with the Hot Springs Village Church on April 21st. The Values in Action Committee has some wonderful Sunday programs planned. Saturday, April 6th is the qi gong breathing class with Leah. (see Jane for details.) The LOViT (Lake Ouachita Vista

Trail) Hike for the Cure is April 20th. The Health and Wellness Expo is April 20th at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds. (posters about each of these two events can be found on the bulletin board in our dining room.) Your board meets the last Friday of each month at 1:00.

Planning ahead, mark your calendar now for the annual congregational meeting for all members, June 9th at about 1:00. We'll have church at the usual time. Then we are thinking about a pizza lunch at the church, with the meeting after lunch. Please let me know of anything you'd like to see on the agenda for the meeting. A packet will be distributed to all members in May, so you may review some discussion items, including a bylaws change of committee structure. The nominating committee will be checking with you to see if you would like to run for a board position for the 2013-2014 year. Voting will take place at the annual meeting on June 9th.

You will receive an invitation in your email for our Two Churches Picnic on April 21st. Our church building will be closed that day. We will have a later service, probably around 11:00 at the site on the lake. Our church will be providing the barbequed chicken. There will be a sign up sheet passed around the two Sundays before the picnic, where you may sign up for potluck dishes and indicate if you will be bringing musical instruments and sports equipment. Fishing is good at the location. There is a playground for all the kids and a ball field. The pavilion is covered, so we'll be there, rain or shine.

Since we are all part of promoting membership in our church, let's continue to spread the word in the community. Wear your UU Church of Hot Springs hat or shirt. Talk about our church whenever you can fit it into the conversation. I'd like to see the day when no one in the Hot Springs area says, "UU? I've never heard of a UU Church." I just know there are others in town who would love to find us.

Happy Spring, Carol Stanfill, Congregation President

PROGRAMS

April is RENEWAL and we have some powerful services to share with you. Denise Marion will lead off the month with, The Blue Marble: Celebrating 40 years. “The Blue Marble” is the title of the most famous photograph of planet Earth. It was taken by the astronauts of Apollo 17 who saw our fully illuminated planet, a jewel suspended in the black void of space, isolated, precious, and fragile. Looking back over 40 years, what changes in human affairs have been influenced by the image of Earth from space?



The second Sunday in April, our guest speaker, Bob Nagy presenting, Solar Energy, World Peace and You. He says, “We are in the transition from being Hunter-Gatherers of our energy, to cultivators of a sustainable supply. We have to lead our leaders through this change. Luckily, it's easy to do and costs less than ever in history. By making oil superfluous, we take away a main cause of international strife and a main generator of human suffering”.

Apr 21 NO CHURCH SERVICE IN HOT SPRINGS THIS SUNDAY Instead we will have our Spring Picnic with the UU Village Church at Stephen’s Pavilion, Lake Ouachita State Park. There will be a short service at the pavilion beginning at 11:00am. Please bring any short reading or poem you would like to share about “Spring”.

Capping off the month will be a special service created by Ann Hair and Dave Thomas. Ann said, “The subject of this service is a result of our discovery that both Dane and I were especially moved many years ago by reading a book entitled If You Meet the Buddha on the Road, Kill Him, by Sheldon Kopp, a psychotherapist. We have never forgotten a list of truths listed at the back of the book, headed: An Eschatological Laundry List, A Partial Register of the 927 (or was it 928) Eternal Truths. Our service will be built around the insights we gained from reading them as well as a discussion about them with the congregation”.

So please plan to join us for a beautiful Spring of Renewal at our church. Thank you for your continued support and your willingness to share your gifts with us all.

Jane

One of the ways we can express our concerns about Social Justice is to publicly express our opinion. Ann Hair's recent letter to the editor of the *Centennial Record* is a fine example of that expression. Way to go Ann.

Dear Editor,

I recently contacted the office of Tom Cotton, my representative in the House of Representatives asking him to support the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). He didn't vote for the Act, and yesterday, I received a reply.

I quote from his letter omitting, for brevity's sake, parts which are not germane to his argument.

"However, I could not support either the Senate or the House version of the legislation because both subject American citizens to Indian tribal-court jurisdiction without...constitutional safeguards. Tribal judges make many ...rulings essential to a fair trial, yet these judges often lack the independence that come with tenure and salary protection. American citizens accused of crimes on Indian reservations should have the unqualified option to proceed with their trials in state or federal court, which currently prosecute crimes against non-Indians arising out of Indian reservations."

This excuse did not ring true to me, so I spoke with an attorney in the Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs and also spoke with an attorney at the National Congress of American Indians about how the VAWA will be interpreted in regard to tribal lands.

In the first place, I was assured that American Indians are in fact Americans, and all protections of the law should be extended to them as well as to any non Indians living on tribal lands.

Here we have the problem that Rep. Cotton did not research carefully enough before using it as an excuse for his negative vote.

Before VAWA was reenacted, Indian women had great difficulty getting their cases of domestic violence heard when their abusers were non Indians since they could only be tried in state or federal courts often hundreds of miles from the reservations. At the behest of federal prosecutors dealing with these problems, in the new VAWA, tribal judges were given the right to hear only cases of domestic abuse, date violence or violations of protection orders even when the perpetrators were non Indians as long as these perpetrators had shown by their implied actions such as marriage to an Indian woman, dating a native American, or living on the tribal lands that they consented to the laws of the community. It is hoped that this will help Indian victims get better justice for their domestic abuse since the courts will be closer.

The jurisdiction of Tribal judges does not apply to cases of rape, murder or other problems.

These must continue to be heard by state and federal judges.

This is all very far from Hot Springs.

But what tells me is that our representative in Congress, Tom Cotton, would rather vote against the Violence Against Women Act which would better the lives of millions of women, many of whom live in Arkansas, and are abused, than have some white men who abuse their Indian partners and live on reservations get their domestic abuse cases heard by Indian judges.

I conclude that women in Arkansas have no friend in Tom Cotton.

Cordially,

Ann Hair



Glenda Field contributed this interesting little tidbit, which we might want to work into our summer plans.

WhaleCoast, Alaska

I found this site to be interesting and am familiar with the program. Last summer Larry and I helped with a tour group that was traveling and staying with UU'ers in Fairbanks. I'm just copying this information off of their website. Maybe someone in our congregation would find it an interesting way to travel to Alaska.

The name of the program is WhaleCoast, Alaska www.whalecoastak.org.

It is a Unitarian Universalist eco-cultural and spiritual program for people who are looking for a more authentic Alaskan Experience. WhaleCoast Alaska is operated in cooperation with four UU Alaska fellowships- Fairbanks, Anchorage, Juneau, and Sitka- that provide the hosts for the programs, home stays for the travelers and dinner parties for all the participants.

This group travels through Alaska to see wildlife in their natural habitats-humpback and Orcas, sea lions, seals and sea otters, bears, wolves, moose, caribou, Dall Sheep, eagles, murrets, puffins, and other birds in some of North America's most beautiful scenery. When we were there, Larry helped with a canoe trip down the Chena river. The UU congregation also had a welcoming dinner after one of the Sunday's for all the participants. The people in the tour were from all over the US. It was a relatively small group and is designed to be that way. There is a slide show on their website.

Phone number is [907-322-4966](tel:907-322-4966), or email dfrey@whalecoastak.org. David Frey is the tour director and we met him last summer there in Fairbanks. Could be a fun adventure for someone!

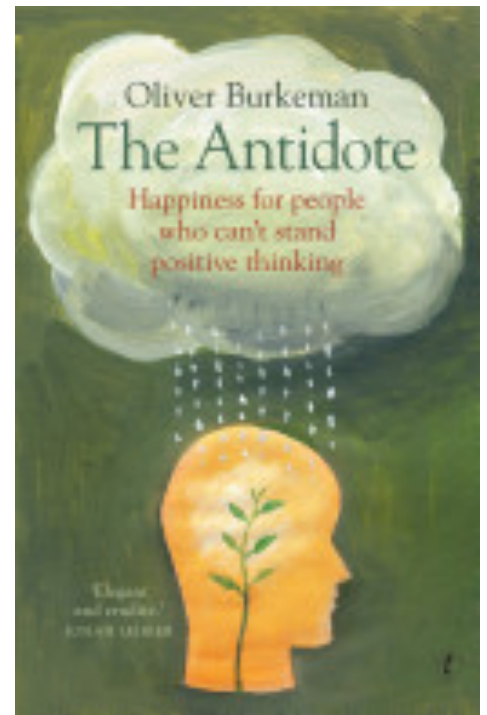


Wisdom Seekers
Meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays
From 9 to 10

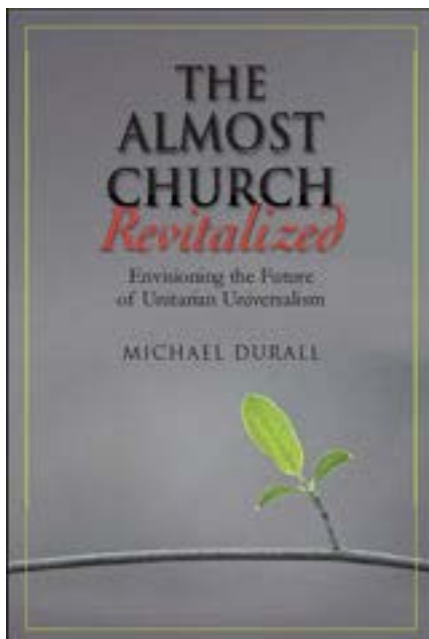
Wisdom Seekers have selected:

The Antidote: Happiness for People Who Can't Stand Positive Thinking,
by Oliver Burkeman.

From the Amazon review: “*The Antidote* is a series of journeys among people who share a single, surprising way of thinking about life. What they have in common is a hunch about human psychology: that it’s our constant effort to eliminate the negative that causes us to feel so anxious, insecure, and unhappy. And that there is an alternative “negative path” to happiness and success that involves embracing the things we spend our lives trying to avoid. It is a subversive, galvanizing message, which turns out to have a long and distinguished philosophical lineage ranging from ancient Roman Stoic philosophers to Buddhists.”



The Antidote will be discussed over the next few weeks



Next we'll look at, **The Almost Church Revisited** by Michael Durall. A controversial UUA look at who UU's are and where we're going, or not.

Religious Exploration

The Religious Exploration class will be on the 1st and 3rd Sundays at 9:00 with DVDs from Great Courses.

The Course is titled "**Jesus to Constantine**", by *Bart D. Ehrman*.



Jesus to Constantine is a study of the first 300 years of Christianity. How it started as a small Jewish cult *of* an apocalyptic preacher, in a remote corner of the empire, to a major political and religious influence *about* that preacher. The series has been very enlightening and generated a lot of interesting dialog. Everyone is invited to come join us. If you've missed some (or all) of the previous lectures you can easily catch up by viewing the missed DVD(s).

This month we'll be covering:

Lecture 11 *The Early Persecutions of the State*

Lecture 12 *The Cause of Christian Persecution*

Services for May - Peace

- 5/5** **Cinco de mayo Glenda Field /Rebecca Ricks**
- 5/12** **Mothers Day Claire Beam**
- 5/19** **Bud Hearn Denise Henderson**
- 5/26** **Memorial Day Service John and Hazel Nino /Rebecca Ricks**

THE GO-TO PEOPLE

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. President - eMails, Website | Carol Stanfill |
| 2. Circle Suppers | Linell and Scott Lasiter |
| 3. Fouth Friday Film | Claire Beam |
| 4. Grounds, Street | Oliver Driver, Larry Field, Rocky Vannucci |
| 5. Kitchen | Claire Beam, Hazel Nino, Glenda Field |
| 6. Langston School | Jane States |
| 7. Church Library | Mary Arthur |
| 8. Music and Sanctuary | Joe Sturgill |
| 9. Parliamentarian | Denise Marion, Dorothy Clark |
| 10. Sound, a.v. Equipment | Joe Sturgill, John Nino |
| 11. Membership directory | Geary Hufstedler |
| 12. President | Carol Stanfill |
| 13. Membership chair | Pat Jobin |
| 14. Values in Action chair | Jane Hufstedler |
| 15. Stewardship chair | Alan Clark |
| 16. Secretary | Dorothy Clark |
| 17. InSpirit newsletter | Geary Hufstedler |
| 18. Local newspapers | Jane Hufstedler |
| 19. Mail | Alan Clark |
| 20. Historian, advisors | Betty Henderson, Oliver Driver, Jane States, Dorothy Clark,
Denny Hemphill |