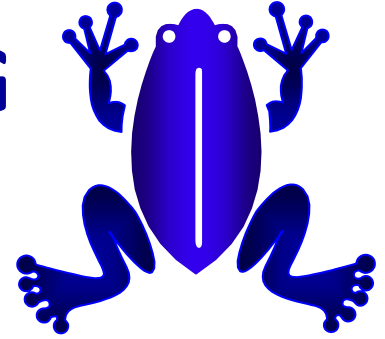




# THE BIG BLUE PHROG



Mission Statement: The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waco is an inclusive spiritual community that reaches out and inspires people to live meaningful, joyful lives of service toward the creation of a more just and loving world.

(Adopted by UUFW on 5/23/10)

## Core Values:

**COMPASSION, INCLUSION, SPIRITUAL GROWTH, INQUIRY, AND CELEBRATION**

## Letter to Our Fellow Members

*(Reprinted from a congregational mailing, Dec. 6, 2010, with minor updating edits).*

Dear UUFW Members:

We are very sorry for the anguish that we know that many in the congregation are feeling at this time. Emotions are high and there is great disagreement about what to believe and how we should act. We are aware that there are rumors that have been circulating in the absence of clear details. However, we request that you give time for the process to work itself out. Sometimes we are called to live in discomfort for a period of time.

We are committed to finding ways for people to process their feelings and achieve greater healing. We are exploring the possibility of consultants to help us with this. We are also looking at a January time frame for a meeting in which people can bring concerns and questions to the Board about processes and decisions.

We cannot tell you the details of the additional claims against Rev. Stone; however, the highest level at the UUA Department of Ministerial and Professional Leadership is investigating the claims; has spoken personally to the claimant and has collected corroborating information. They will not be able to take

action until Rev. Stone has had a sufficient opportunity to respond to the claims. The Ministerial Fellowship Committee (MFC) meets again in March. However, the UUA recommended that Rev. Stone be given the opportunity to resign or retire gracefully. Short of that they recommended that he be fired or put on leave until the MFC could make a final determination. Rev. Stone made the decision to retire at this time. The UUFW Board made the decision to accept his retirement decision.

In times when we disagree we get a chance to see if we are really Unitarian Universalists, abiding by our values and principles and living our Covenant of Right Relations. We ask you to refrain from spreading rumors and/or forwarding emails with sensitive information. If you have a question or a concern please ask one of us and we will tell you as much as we can. If you have a disagreement that you need help with, please contact one of us. We will be temporarily serving as the Right Relations Team.

Also, we are in the process of revising our membership procedures and will not be accepting new members until they are revised.

*(Continued on page 3a)*

## Upcoming Sundays at a Glance

**January 2 - "The Scandalous J.D. Shaw: An Early Freethinker in Waco's History" - Terri Jo Ryan**

**January 9 - "The Class of '71: What Have We Done?" - Mark Pantle**

**January 16 - "Struggling With Christianity - Yearning to Learn" - J. P. DeMerrit, (American Red Cross, Emergency Services)**

**January 23 - "Albert Camus and Humanism" Jim McKeown**

**January 30 - "Struggling With Christianity - Time to Break Free" - J. P. DeMerrit, (American Red Cross, Emergency Services)**

## Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waco

4209 N. 27th Street  
Waco, TX 76708  
254-754-0599

[uuwaco.org](http://uuwaco.org)

Web Manager/Contact:  
[brian.gates@uuwaco.org](mailto:brian.gates@uuwaco.org)

### Sunday Services: 10:45 am-12:00 pm

Nursery care provided


Snacks for all before and after in the Fellowship Hall

Youth and Children's Religious Education:  
Approx. 11:20am-12pm  
(See Contact Information, R.E. Children's and Youth Group, third column of this page)

Choir Practice:  
Sundays, 10:00 am

(See [Calendar](#) at [uuwaco.org](http://uuwaco.org), or contact Music Director Jane Kittner at [jane.kittner@uuwaco.org](mailto:jane.kittner@uuwaco.org))

### Our Affirmation

 *Love is the doctrine of this Fellowship, the quest for truth is its sacrament and service is its prayer. To dwell together in peace, to seek knowledge in freedom, to serve others in community to the end that all souls shall grow into harmony with creation; thus do we covenant with each other.*

### An Official Disclaimer

*The opinions expressed and the ministries described on our website or newsletter do not necessarily represent the opinions of all members of the church, nor the organizations with which it affiliates, but if you are a Unitarian Universalist, you already know that.*

(Adopted by UUFW Board on 1/15/06)

## Covenant of Right Relations

We, the members of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waco, adopt this covenant for the purpose of being in right relationship with one another.

Through this covenant, we make a commitment to act with mutual trust and support in this liberal religious faith community.

We covenant to:

- listen deeply and speak with openness, caring, and respect;
- engage newcomers, youth and young adults in the life of the congregation;
- contribute time, ideas, and income in support of our mission and our community outreach, according to means and abilities;
- foster stable congregational growth by drawing on new people and new ideas while maintaining the best of our Unitarian Universalist traditions;
- resolve conflicts in a timely manner with compassion, dignity, and empathy
- communicate clearly about leadership activities and decisions; and
- create, communicate, and follow clearly-defined congregational policies.

Our true covenant will show by our actions. May this covenant deepen our connections with one another and guide us through conflict with dignity and respect for one another. We sometimes fall short of peacefully resolving our misunderstandings and difficulties. When this happens, we will strive to repair relationships and recommit to these covenants.

This is a living document, intended to reflect the needs of our congregation as it changes and grows, revisiting it as needed.

(Adopted by UUFW on 5/31/09)

## Contact Information

### Board Members

President—Joy Hayes  
[president@uuwaco.org](mailto:president@uuwaco.org)

President-Elect— Kris Cervantes  
[president.elect@uuwaco.org](mailto:president.elect@uuwaco.org)

Secretary—Michael Davis  
[secretary@uuwaco.org](mailto:secretary@uuwaco.org)

Treasurer—Marty Van Wagner  
[treasurer@uuwaco.org](mailto:treasurer@uuwaco.org)  
(Joe Ahlers continues as Treasurer until Jan. 31 - [joe.ahlers@uuwaco.org](mailto:joe.ahlers@uuwaco.org))

At-Large Director 1—Liz Turnage  
[atlargedirector1@uuwaco.org](mailto:atlargedirector1@uuwaco.org)

At-Large Dir. 2—Vacant/Phasing out

At-Large Director 3— Bruce Allen  
[atlargedirector3@uuwaco.org](mailto:atlargedirector3@uuwaco.org)

At-Large Director 4—April Hull  
[atlargedirector4@uuwaco.org](mailto:atlargedirector4@uuwaco.org)

### Team Contact or Chair

Care Team— Kris Cervantes  
[kris.cervantes@uuwaco.org](mailto:kris.cervantes@uuwaco.org)

Choir—Jane Kittner  
[jane.kittner@uuwaco.org](mailto:jane.kittner@uuwaco.org)

Finance—David McLatcher  
[david.mclatcher@uuwaco.org](mailto:david.mclatcher@uuwaco.org)

Hospitality—Carolyn Foster  
[carolyn.foster@uuwaco.org](mailto:carolyn.foster@uuwaco.org)

House & Grounds—Rob Cervantes  
[rob.cervantes@uuwaco.org](mailto:rob.cervantes@uuwaco.org)

Membership—Kris Cervantes  
[kris.cervantes@uuwaco.org](mailto:kris.cervantes@uuwaco.org)

Ministry—Joy Hayes  
[joy.hayes@uuwaco.org](mailto:joy.hayes@uuwaco.org)

P.R.— Kris Cervantes  
[kris.cervantes@uuwaco.org](mailto:kris.cervantes@uuwaco.org)

R. E. Adult Programs—Bruce Allen  
[bruce.allen@uuwaco.org](mailto:bruce.allen@uuwaco.org)

R.E. Children's—Tracey Villanueva  
[tracey.villanueva@uuwaco.org](mailto:tracey.villanueva@uuwaco.org)

Right Relations—Executive Team  
[joy.hayes@uuwaco.org](mailto:joy.hayes@uuwaco.org)

Social Action—Becky Warren,  
[becky.warren@uuwaco.org](mailto:becky.warren@uuwaco.org)

Waldo's—David McLatcher  
[david.mclatcher@uuwaco.org](mailto:david.mclatcher@uuwaco.org)

Worship Team—Becky Fox  
[becky.fox@uuwaco.org](mailto:becky.fox@uuwaco.org)

Youth Group: [youthgroup@uuwaco.org](mailto:youthgroup@uuwaco.org)

For more: Church leaders see Leadership Roster on website (log in 1<sup>st</sup>) or contact Membership for current list.

(Cont. from Letter to Our Fellow Members, page 1)

Rev. Susan Smith, District Executive of the Southwest UU Conference, spoke to the congregation on Sunday, December 12. If you missed it or would like to listen again, it is available online at our Guest Speaker Audio Broadcasts— <http://uuwaco.org/index.php/download-audio/55-sermons-by-guest-speakers/48-guest-speaker-audio-broadcasts> or go directly to <http://www.uuwaco.org/images/Audio/12122010.mp3>. It will help you to understand the situation we are in. She also met with the Board and helped us to clarify our thoughts and move forward.

In faith,  
The UUFW Executive Committee:  
Jane Derrick, President; Joy Hayes-Gates, President Elect; Kris Cervantes, Secretary; Bruce Allen, Past President and At-Large Director #3

### Board Listening Sessions: Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>

2010 Board members will be available at the Fellowship for group listening sessions on Sunday, January 2 and Sunday, January 9, from 12:30-2:30 pm. The Board will hear concerns and answer questions about policies and decisions over the last year. Childcare will be available.

### Healing Conversations, Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>

Healing conversations with facilitator **Margaret Borden** will be held on Saturday, January 15 from 1-3 pm and 3-5 pm at the Fellowship. These group sessions will provide an opportunity for congregants to express and process their feelings about the past year. The facilitator will ensure that it is a safe place to make conversations as easy and productive as possible. We are considering scheduling another session on the evening of January 12th if desired. Childcare will be available. Please contact me at 254-753-6920 or [jane.derrick@uuwaco.org](mailto:jane.derrick@uuwaco.org) if you are interested in attending a session on January 12th.

About Margaret Borden--

Facilitator information:

- Experienced mediator, facilitator, trainer, listening minister
- Member, First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin
- Consultant, Southwest UU Conference
- Mediator, Dispute Resolution Center of Travis County, 1984 - present
- Clients include IBM, several state agencies, numerous non-profit organizations

Professional associations:

- Texas Association of Mediators
- Association for Conflict Resolution

Remember the Joy!

Jane Derrick,  
2010 Board President, [jane.derrick@uuwaco.org](mailto:jane.derrick@uuwaco.org)

### "HI! MAY I HELP YOU?"

That's what you are bombarded with when you enter a "Gates BBQ" in the Kansas City area. The food is delicious and the customer service, well, you can imagine...

This past year our beloved community of UU Waco has struggled greatly. The board wants to know how we can help you? We are having a group listening session on January 2 and 9. We are hosting a Healing Conversations time with a consultant on January 15. Please use these opportunities to help the process of healing, understanding and creating peace. If these dates do not work for you, please let me know.

If we work together, remember our core values and mission, and recall that "Love is the doctrine of this Fellowship..." I have confidence that we will continue to "live meaningful, joyful lives of service toward the creation of a more just and loving world."

In peace-

Joy Hayes,  
2011 Board President, [president@uuwaco.org](mailto:president@uuwaco.org)

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### Unitarian Universalism: Revelation is continuous and open.

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Waldo's  
Coffeehouse  
Welcomes  
Albert & Gage on  
Friday, January  
14, 2011, 8-10 pm,  
UUFW.

Adults \$10, children \$5, child care and refreshments provided. Proceeds go to Planned Parenthood.

More info at [www.albertandgage.com](http://www.albertandgage.com)

♪♪♪

### The UUFW choir needs you...

♪ particularly if you are a tenor. Please come ♪  
♪ sing with us! See Jane Kittner for details: ♪  
♪ [jane.kittner@uuwaco.org](mailto:jane.kittner@uuwaco.org) ♪

♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪

## Treasurer's Report

November's receipts were \$1,200 below the month's budget but year to date we are over \$ 600 to the good.

Expenses for November were \$ 200 below the month's budget and year to date we are below the budget by that same \$200.

We had expected a deficit of \$7,000 as of the eleven months ended Nov 30 and our deficit is \$6,200.

We have almost \$45,000 in the bank.

Joe Ahlers,

Treasurer, [joe.ahlers@uwaco.org](mailto:joe.ahlers@uwaco.org)

## Social Action Updates

### Meals On Wheels

Cheryl Foster has taken over leadership of both Wednesday and Friday Meals On Wheels. She needs a permanent driver for Fridays in an area around the Fellowship. Please contact her or Rob Cervantes if you can help!

### 2010 Angel Tree

Thank you to all Santas who arranged a delightful Christmas for 30 children from Talitha Koum Nurture Center in South Waco this year. We appreciate your shopping time, monetary donations and continuation of this Fellowship tradition.

### Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

Once again, UUFW will celebrate the life and service of Martin Luther King, Jr. with a wreath-laying on Friday, January 14th at noon at MLK Park in downtown Waco. Please come on Monday evening, January 17th, for the annual candle lighting service on the Waco Suspension Bridge, beginning about 6:30 p.m. Bring candles and be prepared to "Lift Up Your Voice and Sing."

### Guest At Your Table

The annual GAYT to support UUSC projects is undergoing a revamp. Stay tuned.

### Souper Bowl Sunday

Super Bowl in February means the annual Souper Bowl collection to benefit the hungry in our community. The annual youth-led event began at a Presbyterian Church in the 1970s and has grown to include many faith communities working toward ending hunger in their area. More information to follow.

Becky Warren,

Social Action Chair, [becky.warren@uwaco.org](mailto:becky.warren@uwaco.org)

## R.E. Adult Programs Returns!

**You** are invited to join us in digging around in the good earth of UU history and values.

UU values and past UU heroes and heroines have been powerful forces in shaping religious and political life in America. Together, we will explore power of this history to speak us now in our individual and shared journeys. All Souls Unitarian Church in Tulsa (the largest in the nation) put together a series of short videos called "Our American Roots: Unitarian Universalism in North America." Once a few folks let me know that they would be reasonably committed to attending, I will lead a 6-8 week RE experience beginning in February that uses these brief videos as jumping off points for discussion. I would like to meet before Worship Service for 45 minutes to an hour per week. Please let me know if you would be interested in joining us by emailing me.

Bruce Allen,

R.E. Adult Programs Chair, [bruce.allen@uwaco.org](mailto:bruce.allen@uwaco.org)

## Carolers Cheer Cathy Gordon...



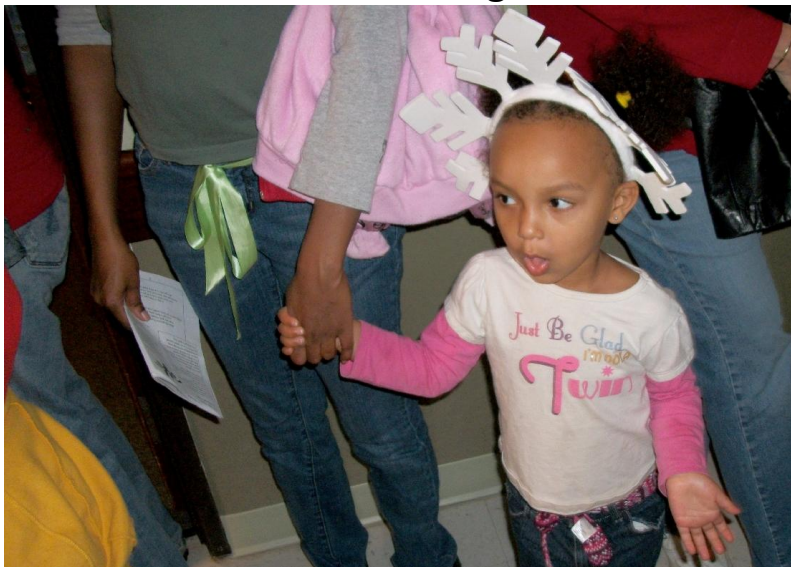
Carolers Jane Derrick, Jane Kittner, and Paul Derrick bring Christmas cheer to member Catherine Gordon at the Wesley Woods Care Facility. Below, caroling continues... Jane Kittner, Marty Van Wagoner, Jack Cervantes, Devon Seibel, John Nobis, David McLatcher, and Drake.

(Photo credits: David McLatcher above and Terri Jo Ryan below.)





### More Caroling ...



### Editorial

I feel greatly blessed to have been part of this congregation in 2010 and am very much looking forward being a part of it in 2011. I hope you'll join me in thanking, welcoming, and supporting all our new, returning, and/or retiring leaders.

For the benefit of healthy leadership and healthy followership in the coming year, here are six rules or guidelines to promote rational thinking, from the DBLE workshop I attended in 2008. Expanded form available on request.

#### Rules to Promote Rational Thinking:

**The situation doesn't do anything to me.  
Everything is exactly the way it should be.  
All humans are fallible creatures.  
It takes two to have a conflict.  
The original cause is lost in antiquity.  
We feel the way we think.**

Brian Gates,  
Phrog Editor, [phrog@uwaco.org](mailto:phrog@uwaco.org)

### Sisters On A Journey

We will begin a book study for 2011, Wild Girls: The Path of the Young Goddess by Patricia Monaghan.

Meetings will be the 2nd Wednesday of each month. (1st meeting January 12th)  
Potluck meal 6 - 7 PM Book study 7 - 8 PM

Women of all ages, teen girls, and younger girls are invited to explore feminist stories of girls and women with multicultural awareness and examining the rites of passage into womanhood. The book can be found at Barnes & Noble online store and other used book sellers online. You do not need a copy of the book to participate. Please join us!

**Sisters on a Journey** is an eclectic group of women (Crones, Grandmothers, Mothers, Aunts, Friends, Sisters, Daughters, etc.) who are exploring feminist, earth-centered spiritual paths and consider Unitarian Universalism as a nice umbrella to call home. Contact: Joy Hayes

[joy.hayes@uwaco.org](mailto:joy.hayes@uwaco.org)

### January Events

Jan 2 - Cereal Sunday donations for Caritas collected.

Contact: Social Action, [sa@uwaco.org](mailto:sa@uwaco.org)

Jan 2 and 9 Board Listening Sessions, see page 3a for details.

Jan 12 Sisters on a Journey, 6pm

Contact: Joy, [joy.hayes@uwaco.org](mailto:joy.hayes@uwaco.org)

Jan 14 MLK wreath laying, noon

Contact: Social Action, [sa@uwaco.org](mailto:sa@uwaco.org)

Jan 14 Waldo's--Albert & Gage, 8pm

Contact: Waldo's, [waldos@uwaco.org](mailto:waldos@uwaco.org)

Jan 15 Collage Workshop, 10am

Contact: Terri Jo, [tj.ryan@uwaco.org](mailto:tj.ryan@uwaco.org)

January 15 Healing Conversations, see page 3a for details.

January 17 MLK Candlelight Vigil 6pm

Contact: Social Action, [sa@uwaco.org](mailto:sa@uwaco.org)

(See also [Calendar of Events](#) at [UWaco.org](http://UWaco.org) for most up-to-date calendar.)

**Unitarian Universalist  
Fellowship of Waco, Texas**

4209 N. 27th Street  
Waco, TX 76708

Phone: 254-754-0599  
Email: [brian.gates@uuwaco.org](mailto:brian.gates@uuwaco.org)  
Website: <http://uuwaco.org/>



**Covenant Groups**

**INTERESTED IN MAKING  
CONNECTIONS?**

*Join a Covenant Group!*

“Reading Circle”

Kris Cervantes  
[kris.cervantes@gmail.com](mailto:kris.cervantes@gmail.com)  
Second Mondays, 6:30 pm

“Let’s Go To the Movies”

John Nobis (756-4653)  
3rd Wednesdays

“Humanism Interest Group”

Jane Derrick (753-6920)  
Every 4 (±1-3) weeks, more or less  
Next meeting Jan. 19th, 6:30pm

[uuwaco.org](http://uuwaco.org)



mailing label goes here

**UUFW Calendar:**

See [Calendar of Events](#) at [UUWaco.org](http://UUWaco.org) for most up-to-date calendar and email Claudia McLatcher at [claudia.mclatcher@uuwaco.org](mailto:claudia.mclatcher@uuwaco.org) to schedule events at UUFW facilities.

**UU Web**

Browse the Winter *UU World*—<http://uuworld.org/>, featuring Doug Muder’s “Heroes and Mentors: Reclaiming Krypton,”  
<http://www.uuworld.org/ideas/articles/172751.shtml>

Leaders check out the *Monthly Bulletin for Congregations* at UUA.org:  
<http://www.uua.org/leaders/announcements/congregationalmonthly/index.shtml>.

Interested in Social Justice? See <http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/>.

**Unitarian Universalist Principles**

*We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association,  
covenant to affirm and promote:*

- I. The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- II. Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;
- III. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- IV. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- V. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- VI. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- VII. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.