



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

The Big Blue Kahuna—Thinking Out Loud with Reverend Nathan L. Stone

Nathan's evaluation of SWUUSI 2010 = A+.

You have heard me say that the way my first SWUUSI (Southwest Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute) experience came about after 10 years in the District is by conscription. I did not choose it. It chose me. Seems that lots of things in life are like that, don't you think?

You see--in our Ministerial Alliance there is a rotation based on seniority and longevity where certain jobs befall you as your name floats to the top.

Well, my name floated and so Rev. Susan Smith, the District Executive of our Southwestern Unitarian Universalist Conference, cornered me one day in 2009 to explain my obligation. I say obligation because part of our chapter discipline is that a colleague asks another colleague only after serious deliberation, thought, and prayer. And then the answer is always, "Yes." We are not asked lightly nor are we to respond lightly.

My job title was "Adult Program Director" which means I am responsible for (1) choosing a theme and a theme speaker; (2) choosing an artist-in-residence; (3) choosing a "Sunset Talks" speaker; (4) see to it that there are about a dozen or so Adult workshops and presenters; (5) orchestrating the opening and closing ceremonies; and (6) a whole lot of other little duties; and of course (7) all other related duties.

Perhaps the best thing is that I am given a tremendous resource staff whose task it is to help me succeed. They did that and more. There is a spirit at SWUUSI that defies description. That spirit is positive and exciting.

I know it was hot in Eastern Oklahoma but it didn't seem so because of all the Sequoia trees in that Sequoia National Park and so much beautiful water.

Besides, my accommodations were hotel-like in the main lodge of the Western Hills Guest Ranch.

All that aside, the very best thing about SWUUSI was that you get to spend a week with about 300 Unitarian Universalists eating, singing, learning, and playing side by side. What a total inspiration! Just think about it: here in Waco we might connect with maybe 50 UUs in a week's time. But picture 300 women, men, and children enjoying a talent show or attending a carnival or watching a late movie outdoors or worshiping together and especially for me--singing together.

Becky Warren, Jane Derrick, Kris Cervantes, and I were in the choir under the leadership of Nick Page of Boston, a choral genius who is so charming and engaging that I swear he could get rocks to sing. Kris said that her experience of SWUUSI was like immersion therapy.

Here's my final take: if every member of our congregation were to make SWUUSI part of our regular summer fare, and if every member of our congregation were to attend DBLE (Dwight Brown Leadership Experience), we would experience a renewal and yes, even a revival, here at UUFW.

Am I planning to go to SWUUSI next year?

Absolutely.

Changed for the good.

Rev. Nathan L. Stone,
Minister

Upcoming Sundays at a Glance

September 5 - "Hallowed Be Thy Name" - Rev. Nathan L. Stone

September 12 - "What Is That That You're Doing? Job/Occupation/Career/Vocation" - Rev. Stone

September 19 - Something or other at UUFW, or join Church Under the Bridge (see "Walk," p. 5)

September 26 - "LOMA: What Is a Calling?" - Rev. Stone

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waco

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

uuwaco.org

Web Manager/Contact:
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, middle column of this page)

Choir Practice:
Sundays, 10:00 am

(Occasionally on Fridays—see [Calendar](#) at uuwaco.org, or contact Music Director Jane Kittner at 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)

Contact Information

Children's RE (Religious Education):
tracy.villanueva@uuwaco.org

Youth Group: youthgroup@uuwaco.org

Phrog Editor: phrog@uuwaco.org

Right Relations:
ingrid.martine@uuwaco.org

Staff

Minister—Rev. Nathan L. Stone,
753-3995, nathan.stone@uuwaco.org

Board Members

President—Jane Derrick
jane.derrick@uuwaco.org

President-Elect—Joy Hayes
joy.hayes@uuwaco.org

Secretary—Kris Cervantes
kris.cervantes@uuwaco.org

Treasurer—Joe Ahlers

At-Large Director 1—Liz Turnage

At-Large Dir. 2—Claudia McLatcher

At-Large Director 3—Bruce Allen

At-Large Director 4—Anita Knight

Team Chairs

Care Team—Jim and Donna Myers

Finance—Joe Ahlers

Hospitality—Open (Contact
liz.turnage@uuwaco.org)

House & Grounds—Claudia McLatcher
claudia.mclatcher@uuwaco.org and
Fanny Rendtorff

Membership—Robyn Morrison
robyn.morrison@uuwaco.org

Ministry—Joy Hayes

Mission/Vision—Anita Knight

P.R.—April Hull and Brian Gates

R.E.—Tracy Villanueva

Right Relations—Ingrid Martine

Social Action—Becky Warren

Waldo's—Jane Kittner
jane.kittner@uuwaco.org
and David McLatcher
david.mclatcher@uuwaco.org

Worship Team—Becky Fox

For more: Church leaders see Leadership Roster on our website (log in first). Otherwise contact Membership for Members/Friends List.

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)

Treasurer's Report

July was a great month for the good guys and gals of UUFW money-wise! We almost cut our deficit in half.

This was due primarily to a big increase in pledge giving in July and now pledges are ABOVE the budget by \$ 3,800.

Expenses were not great with a kick in the pants by Utilities as well as some big Harry Potter expenses. But for the seven months expenses exceeded the budget by only \$ 800.

Overall, our deficit for the year is now \$ 3,500 as compared to the \$ 5,000 we had budgeted.

Our bank balance is \$ 49,000.

Joe Ahlers,
Treasurer

Meals On Wheels Volunteer Opportunities

We'd like to give a big "thank you" to Marty Van Wagner for agreeing to drive the Wednesday MOW route right around the Fellowship - North of Park Lake, West of 19th!

We still need volunteer backup drivers for the route on both Wednesdays and Fridays. It takes anywhere from 45 minutes to an hour, beginning between 10 and 10:30 a.m. each Wednesday or Friday morning at the Fellowship.

Meals on Wheels has been operating twice weekly as a service project of our Fellowship for several years, feeding more than 70 elderly North Wacoans for several years. Please say you'll be a part of this community social action project!

If you can help, please contact Cheryl Foster at 505.920.1247, or email cheryl.foster@uuwaco.org or Nathan Stone at nathan.stone@uuwaco.org.

Extra! Extra! Members & Friends Need Your Help!

Care Team leaders Jim & Donna Myers are looking for UUs willing to give rides to other UUs. Health, location, and transportation issues are all reasons why a member or friend might need a ride to Sunday services or other UUWaco events. If you need a ride or are willing to give one, please contact Jim and Donna at axtellmyers@yahoo.com or 254-863-5922.

And finally... a photo from our highly successful vermicomposting series! →

Becky Warren,
Social Action Chair



From Your Board President

I would like to share with you some things that I brought back from SWUUSI (the Southwest Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute) in August. The four theme talks by Rev. Susan Smith and Connie Goodbread focused on the theologian James Luther Adams' "five smooth stones" of liberalism. I found them to be inspirational and affirming of what we are doing and can do as a congregation.

Stone 1. Revelation is open & continuous. As an example of this stone, Rev. Susan Smith and Connie Goodbread offered and demonstrated "A Unitarian Universalist Ritual of Continuous Revelation" which I am anxious to try out in our congregation. It involves listening and sharing.

Stone 2. Human relationships are consensual. This stone is all about Right Relations, which we are focusing on in our congregation.

Stone 3. Our responsibility to build a just and loving community and Stone 4. There is no immaculate conception of virtue--we must do good things. This presentation focused on building an anti-racist community, as did the workshop that I attended.

Stone 5. There is cause for joy. At our disposal are all the resources to build the just and loving community. This stone focused on knowing why we exist (Mission) , what we want to be (Vision) and gathering the resources to get there (Strategically Plan)--sound familiar?

And at the "Experiencing Whiteness" workshop, I was introduced to a new curriculum that could help us to "live joyful lives of service toward the creation of a more just and loving world" as we say in our mission statement. I also brought back a book it recommended, "The Heart of Whiteness: Confronting Race, Racism, and White Privilege." So I came home from SWUUSI with optimism and joy and a vial of shared water from the water communion ceremony.

Jane Derrick,
Board President

Return of the worm... the July vermicomposting sessions were very popular! Long live the 7th Principle!



UUWaco to Participate in Crop Walk, October 10th

Each October, Central Texas Interfaith Congregations participate in CROP Hunger Walk. The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waco is proud to add our voice to the project this year. 25% of the proceeds raised will benefit Caritas to help feed local people. 75% will go to Church World Service which does outstanding work around the world. Some of you may ask, "Who is Church World Service and what do they do?" The following news alert from Church World Service is just one of the things they are doing right now. When you raise money for the CROP Hunger Walk, you are making a difference in people's lives all around the world—

Pakistan Floods:

Survivors need food, shelter, and other basics now! Large numbers of people in all four of Pakistan's provinces have been driven from their homes in the area's worst flooding in more than 80 years. Church World Service Pakistan staff are working urgently to provide the basics — food packages, shelter materials and non-food essentials — to families in need. And CWS medical teams and mobile health facilities are helping to provide emergency health services.

Church World Service has worked in Pakistan for more than five decades. Based on assessments conducted by its staff and local partners, CWS is planning to provide emergency food assistance to 35,000 people, emergency shelter supplies to meet the needs of 17,500 people, and mobile health access for 17,500 people. The food packages consist of rice, wheat flour, beans, sugar, cooking oil, tea and salt — basics for a family for a month. The shelter kits include a winterized tent and plastic sheeting. If you wish to make a donation right now, contributions to support the emergency needs in Pakistan may be made online at churchworldservice.org/pakistanfloods, by phoning 800.297.1516, or may be sent to Church World Service, P.O. Box 968, Elkhart, IN 46515. Attn: Pakistan floods.

Becky Warren,
Social Action Chair

Important House and Grounds Information—Please Read!

Lots of Fellowship activities this summer have taken place at our beautiful building. The need to cool the building for these events has offered a challenge to the three air conditioning systems which serve the facility. At times the units have been unnecessarily pushed beyond their capacity and bills for the repair of the system have resulted. You can help avoid these repairs by reading on.

The House and Grounds Team requests that when folks make changes to the thermostat settings they take a moment to read instructions posted above the thermostats. Follow the instructions and please do not push the HOLD button: it causes the unit to remain on continuously and results in freezing (literally) the lines.

Instead, arrive early for your event and set the thermostat to the desired temperature. Be sure to close doors leading to areas of the building you do not wish to air condition. There are three areas that can be separately cooled; the fellowship hall and surrounding rooms, the children's rooms, and the sanctuary. Each is cooled by its own unit, so leaving doors between areas open makes the unit you need work even harder. Follow the directions provided on the thermostats and we will stay cool and avoid repair bills. These same instructions can be followed in the fall and winter when our concern will be heating things up. (Hard to even imagine in this 100 degree weather!)

Thanks so much for helping.
The House and Grounds Team

Conflict Resolution Thoughts—NVC Excerpts

Anger Sound Bites:

- There's not a thing another person can do that can make us angry.
- When I'm connected to my needs I have strong feelings, but never anger. I see all anger as a result of life-alienated, violent, provocative thinking.
- I don't think we get angry because our needs aren't getting met. I think we get angry because we have judgments about others.
- I'm not saying that it is wrong to judge people... what's important is to be conscious that it's that judgment that makes us angry.
- To fully express the anger means getting our full consciousness on the need that isn't getting met.
- Anger... is a wake up call. It tells us that I'm thinking in ways almost guaranteed not to meet my needs... my energy is not connected to my needs, and I'm not even aware of what my needs are when I'm angry.

(From *The Surprising Purpose of Anger*, Marshall B. Rosenberg, PhD., pp 34-5. See also www.nonviolentcommunication.com)

8th Annual Mission Waco's Annual
“Walk for the Homeless”
Sunday, Sept 19, 8:00-10:30a.m.
Begins at Meyer Center, 1226 Washington

Bring your group to this 1.4 mile “educational/prayer walk” & show your support for those on our streets!

Several hundred folks joined us last year to learn about local, national and global issues of homelessness and poverty and what you can do to make a difference. Several area groups, churches and individuals joined us last year. This year we will again collect hygiene items (shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothbrushes/toothpaste, razors, and other items) and financial donations for the participating organizations which work among the homeless. You are also welcome to stay for Church Under the Bridge's 17th Anniversary Worship Service and meal at 10:45.

Hygiene items and donations accepted!

And let there be...

“Happy Feet!”
2nd Annual Shoes for the Homeless
Donate a new pair of shoes for only \$35

To be distributed at Mission Waco's 8th Annual
“WALK FOR THE HOMELESS”
Sunday, September 19, between 8:00-10:30a.m.
Beginning at Meyer Center, 1226 Washington



A discount sponsorship provided by

Academy Sports + Outdoors

is helping Mission Waco toward the total cost of each pair!

Checks may be written to: Mission Waco or donated online through
www.missionwaco.org by designating “happy feet”

Gifts are tax deductible based on IRS guidelines

**Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Waco, Texas**

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Waco, TX 76708

Phone: 254-754-0599

Email: 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

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) weeks, more or less

Next meeting Sept. 8th, 6:30pm

"Violence in any form is a tragic
expression of our unmet needs."
—Marshall B. Rosenberg, PhD

uuwaco.org



mailing label goes where?

UUFW Calendar 2010

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

UUorld UUide UUeb

Browse the Summer *UU World*—<http://uuworld.org/>.

Especially for leaders—check out the [Monthly Bulletin for Congregations](#) at UUA.org: <http://www.uua.org/leaders/announcements/congregationalmonthly/index.shtml>.

Interested in Social Justice? Immigrants’ rights? Clean Air? Check out <http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/>, and sign up for newsletters.

Interested in Meditation and Spiritual Growth? Check out the new blog started by UU Church of Akron member John Kirszenberg: www.meditationandspiritualgrowth.com.

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.