

The Community Spirit

Newsletter of the Northwest Community Unitarian Universalist Church of Houston

Vol. 9 Issue 8 September 2003

Services are held each Sunday at 10:00 a.m.
at 5920 Highway 6 North
just south of West Little York, behind the Casa Ole
in Houston, Texas.
For further information call 281-550-8884
or check our web site at
www.nwcuuc.org



Upcoming Services

September 7

"Love, Life and Razzle Dazzle"

by Rev. Robert L. Hill

Bob Hill is a former minister of our church and is currently District Executive of the Southwest District of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

September 14

"Visioning The Future"

by Dr. Barbara Coeyman

Imagine a world grounded in liberal religious values: in goodness, not sin and evil; in beauty, not depravity and want; in interconnections, not divisiveness. Imagine that world, embodied in our families, in our social and work communities, in our relationships with neighboring countries. Imagine what it would take for each of us to contribute just a small part to making that world happen, day by day.

September 21

"A Revolution From The Heart of Nature"

by Cath Colon

There is so much goodness out there and so much that we can do if we could only learn to listen. much of the world does not speak with words so we have to learn to listen using different "listening" skills.

September 28

"Humanities Team"

by Bil and Rita Cusack



President's Letter



"The answer to 'How' is 'Yes.'"

I picked up that little tidbit, among others, at SWUUSI, the Southwestern UU Summer Institute. Normally, I don't go in for hokey sayings. When my boss put up a poster that said "There is no I in Team," it was I who pointed out that there is, however, an "M-E" in team. (Sometimes being helpful and pointing out such things is not appreciated.)

I am drawn to this statement. The answer to How is Yes. So often, as we come up with great ideas, we get bogged down in the details of how it will be accomplished. Where the money will come from. How many volunteers it will take.

We'll be having our Visioning Sunday on September 14, and I want this to be our refrain on that day. This will be the time to come up with our grandest sights of where we want our church to go. The details will be taken care of later. This will be the day in which we determine the direction NWCUCUUC will head.

The week before that, Sept. 7, Rev. Bob Hill will be down to lead a Covenant Group Facilitators Training class. If you think you might want to lead a covenant group at some point, give me a call so we can fit you in. I'm a big believer in covenant groups. They've been described aptly as "a conversion experience" -- once you have been a part of one, you see how they work, and see the potentials. They're a way of keeping the intimate feeling of community as our church grows. They're a way for us to connect with each other and encourage each other.

Using another admittedly overused phrase -- "if you build it, they will come" -- the Board has agreed to begin offering childcare from 7-9 pm every Wednesday evening, our Covenant Group Night. Covenant groups can meet at anytime and anywhere, but if you meet at the church during that time, your members will have childcare available. We have about four rooms that would work for Covenant Groups and will be putting up sign up sheets for those rooms. (This is for covenant groups and not committees -- we want Wednesday night to be about community, not church business.)

And, we'll be starting up some new covenant groups. You'll see sign up boards in the fellowship area. Some proposed ideas are to have a Writer's covenant group, a "Great Questions" covenant group ... what are your ideas? Please write to me -- president@nwcuc.org -- and let me know what kind of covenant group you would be interested in attending.

The answer to How ... is Yes.

Ministerial Musings



When we come together on a Sunday morning in our worship service, we are together in sacred space. The room that is our sanctuary is made sacred by our presence together, in worship. Our being together as a community--young and old, new-comers and old-timers, persons from all theological views and beliefs--turns our sanctuary into sacred space.

That hour on a Sunday morning is important time. It is an hour different from all other hours of the week. It is a time dedicated to our free searching and contemplation. It is a time removed from the daily routine. It is a time in which we may experience some change, for that day, perhaps for the rest of your life. I want to encourage each of us to be intentional, physically as well as mentally, about how we come together in creating sacred space.

Sometimes I wonder if don't often underestimate what it takes to transition into new space, of any sort--sacred space, work space, home space. I know that if I'm aware of my breathlessness as I sit down at a meeting, it generally takes me five or ten minutes to leave behind the traffic or the unfinished writing or the grumpy clerk and be fully present at the meeting. I suspect the same holds true for Sunday morning time. Some of us may need transitioning time, into the sacred space and back out again.

If you are a 'transitioner,' then you may want to take advantage of some of the new operating procedure on Sunday mornings. For one, the musical prelude will begin before the hour, to end on the hour. This not only provides time for transitioning before the service, but helps end the service in a timely way. Listen for the sound of the gong to tell you that the prelude is about to begin. And our goal is to have all service preparations finished no later than ten minutes before the hour, so that for those of you wishing to be in quiet space before the music starts, the sanctuary will be available for you.

When our hour together is over, some of you may again want time before leaving sacred space. The musical postlude could provide that time for you, to sit for a few minutes and reflect on our time together.

Being in sacred community, in sacred space, is important. Let us be intentional about our sacred time together.

