



The Latitudinarian

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Brazos Valley

REFLECTIONS BY REV. ERIC POSA

**APRIL
2010**

Mark Your Calendars!

- Thurs., April 1, 7:00pm— Social Justice Committee Mtg
- Sat., April 3, 7:00pm— Contradance
- Sun., April 4 —RE Children’s Easter Egg Hunt/Potluck Luncheon (following service)
- Thurs., April 8, 7:00pm— UUCBV Board Mtg
- Sat., April 10, 10:00am—Exploring Leadership
- Sat., April 10, 12:00pm—Chick Flicks
- Sun., April 11, 12:00pm— Worship Committee Mtg
- Sun., April 11, 12:00pm— RE Committee Mtg
- Wed., April 14, 7:30pm— UU Drum Circle
- Sat., April 17, 9:30am—Church Pantry
- Sun., April 18, 12:00pm—UUWF Meeting/Potluck Luncheon
- Thursday, April 22, 7:00pm— Finance Committee Meeting
- Friday, April 23, 7:00pm—Coffee House
- Friday, April 30, 6:30pm—Church wide Service Auction

Monthly Theme – April:

We value ourselves, and are valued, for our inquiring faith, explored with respect for many paths and sources of religious inspiration. (from UUCBV Vision statement)

Faith

I love parables. These brief teaching stories lead us from the simple facts they describe as surface narrative, to the deeper moral or spiritual truths they seek to illuminate. The ancient Chinese Taoist philosopher, Chuang Tzu, wrote some of my favorite parables. So, too, did Jesus.

One of the better-known parables of Jesus, recounted in the Gospels, was the “Parable of the Mustard Seed.” Jesus says that the Kingdom of God “is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden; it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches.” (Luke 13:19) The lyrics of a hymn from the Taizé community in France clarify this for me: “The Kingdom of God is justice and peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.” However we as individuals may respond to the vocabulary, “Kingdom of God,” we UUs share our hope for a world in which peace, justice, and spiritual joy can grow and thrive for all people. Such values may start as only the smallest of presences in our world, but when we tend well to them, they can grow to include so many more people than we might otherwise imagine.

Of course, this parable was not the only place Jesus used mustard seeds to teach a lesson. “If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea’, and it would obey you.” (Luke 17:6) This lesson does not stand the test of time quite as well as the parable. We (post)modern people understand that physical miracles like this are not within human power, and I, for one, believe in a God that plays by God’s own rules, rather than randomly violating the laws of nature to make some specific point. Plus, as I’ve said before, faith has little to do with believing ten impossible things before breakfast. Faith is much more, much deeper, than assent to some set of abstract beliefs. To have faith is to *trust*, in something bigger than just myself – something that I can rely on to bring about change in my life.

Regardless of our beliefs, we cannot live our lives without trust, be that trust in God, or in the universe as a whole, or in our fellow women and men, or in our highest ideals...or some combination of these. At some point, we must take the risk of placing trust in that which lies outside ourselves, of having faith in something or someone. And here’s where Jesus’ lesson about “having faith like a mustard seed” can still have

Continued on page 2

APRIL WORSHIP SERVICES

- April 4 “Easter Service w/Flower Communion”
- April 11 “The Paramount Principles of UU: First and Last”
(preaching exchange with Lenni Lissberger)
- April 18 “A Spirituality for Daily Life”
- April 25 (guest sermon by Barbara Symons)

9:30 am Religious Education
10:30am Service · Join Us for Coffee Hour After Service

REFLECTIONS BY REV. ERIC POSA (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

some meaning for us in the 21st century. We know that faith and trust are risky, though necessary. But it is fine, even wise in many cases, to start small: to begin building trust, especially in another person, by taking small risks first. By letting down our guard a little bit at a time, we can gradually build the confidence in one another to feel safe taking bigger risks, opening ourselves more and more over time as we gradually lower the emotional and spiritual defenses that previously had separated us from one another. Our small seeds of faith can, with careful tending, grow strong and large.

In our church, our covenanted religious community, we have promised to “affirm and promote an open, safe, and respectful environment in which to come together.” May we have faith in this shared, covenantal promise, and through it, come to have ever greater faith in one another, and in all that we hold sacred.

See you in church!

MINISTRY NOTES

Adult Religious Education: We continue the *Spirit in Practice* curriculum at our 9:30 AM Sunday Adult RE sessions in the church’s Jesse Coon Room. You need not have attended previous sessions to join us. This month we focus on “Life Practices,” which explore the spiritual qualities present in everyday life activities:

- Apr. 4: The Story of the Wise Fool; The Presence of the Spirit
- Apr. 11: Sacred Rest
- Apr. 18: Spirituality and Money
- Apr. 25: Eating in Community

Split-the-Plate: On the second Sunday of the month, April 11, we will once again Split the Plate, sharing our offering with a worthy charity in our Brazos Valley community. This month, we will split or plate with the Prenatal Clinic. Please come and give generously.

Exploring Leadership re-scheduled: Are you interested in leadership? Interested on becoming more of a leader: in our church, at work, elsewhere? What are some qualities for effective leaders, esp. qualities consistent with Unitarian Universalist values? Come join us at church, on Saturday, Apr. 10, 10:00 AM – Noon, for a workshop on Exploring Leadership. All church leaders, prospective leaders, and interested members & friends are welcome; contact Rev. Eric Posa for more information

Continued on page 3

MINISTRY NOTES (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

New & Prospective Members: Are you ready to become a member of this church? Our church will begin a new practice this month, of welcoming new members during worship on the first Sunday of each month (that is, each month in which one or more prospective members are ready to join). A couple of new members will join us on April 4 – Easter Sunday – and at least one or two others are planning to join on May 2. If you are interested in joining the church, contact Rev. Eric Posa, or Membership Committee Chair, Katie Womack, at least 72 hours before the monthly Signing Ceremony.

Further RE Conversation: At the Conversations on Religious Education our church held in late February, a number of fruitful topics of discussion were raised, topics that dealt with the overall health of the RE program and its relationship with the whole ministry of the church. Unfortunately, the focus on our DRE Search process, and our limited time for those sessions, prevented us from exploring those issues in more depth. A follow-up conversation is in the process of being scheduled, to provide an opportunity for focusing, more intentionally, on these broader topics. The date and time has not yet been finalized as of this writing, but they will likely take place in late April or early May; we will contact the congregation with further details as soon as they are available.

DRE Transition: As some of you have heard, our Interim DRE, Mary K. Isaacs, has resigned from our congregation; the board accepted her resignation at its March meeting. While our church's attempt to work w/ an Interim DRE in another community did not work the way many of us had hoped it would, I do thank Mary K. for the service she did provide our congregation. I also thank the many lay volunteers (teachers, RE Committee members, etc.) who are filling in the gaps until our new DRE is hired. The board has created and charged the DRE Search Committee; it hopes to select our next DRE no later than our Congregational Meeting (following worship on May 23), for a June 1 start date. Please contact me if you have any questions about this process.

BOARD LEADERSHIP

Board of Trustees:

Rob McGeachin (rmcgeach@lib-gw.tamu.edu) President
Harriet Smith (harriet@deancode.com).....President-elect
John Ivy (johnivy@tamu.edu)..... Past President
Lisa Peterson (lisaspeterson@gmail.com) Secretary
Gaye Webb (angels@hal-pc.org) Treasurer

At-Large Trustees:

- Martha Scott (mlrscott@aol.com) • Steve Wikse (bonniewikse@verizon.net)
- David Pate (tamuaviator@msn.com) • Pat Childress (pachildress@verizon.net)

CELEBRATIONS AND MEMORIALS BY GAYE WEBB

Many thanks to the following people for their generous contributions:

- Ken and Kathy Appelt in celebration of Ken's birthday, to the Property Enhancement Fund.
- David and Lisa Cairns, in honor of their daughter Leah's birthday

Congratulations to you all on achieving these important milestones, and thank you for including your church in your recognition of these very special occasions

CHILDREN'S RE EASTER EGG HUNT/POTLUCK LUNCHEON

Easter Sunday, April 4

During worship, we will have flower communion. You are welcome to bring a flower to share.

Following service, all children are invited to search for Easter eggs. The entire congregation is invited to enjoy a pot luck luncheon. A ham will be provided by the children's RE program. Please sign up to bring a covered dish to share. Replies or questions: jackiegir@suddenlink.net

BOARD BRIEFS BY LISA PETERSON, BOARD SECRETARY

At its regular monthly meeting, the Board of Trustees took the following official actions:

- Accepted the resignation of Interim Director of Religious Education Mary K. Isaacs

Other business discussed by the Board included:

- The RE Conversations and the search for a new Director of Religious Education

COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

Mary Ellen Pate (mepatenp@hotmail.com)Chair, Caring Committee
Kathi Appelt (kcappelt@verizon.net)Chair, Finance Committee
Kathy Wheeler (khmwdvm@aol.com)Chair, Finance Committee
Katie Womack (kwomack@tamu.edu)Chair, Membership Committee
Sue Bloomfield (sbloom52@gmail.com)Chair, Committee on Ministry
Ken Appelt (klappelt@verizon.net).....Chair, Property Committee
Lisa Cairns (lcairns@alumni.uchicago.edu).....Chair, Religious Education Committee
Mark Abel (mrabel97@yahoo.com)Chair, Social Justice Committee
Carolyn Clark (cclark@tamu.edu)Chair, Worship Committee
Martha Scott (mlrscott@aol.com)President, UU Women's Federation

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS BY THE CARING COMMITTEE

March has come in like a lion and some of us were nearly blown away by wind and swirling leaves! The church is looking good, due to the efforts of the Ken Appelt, loyal steward of the Property Committee and 6 volunteers, who worked on March 20th to clean and organize. Thank you so much for taking care of our church. The first day of spring has sprung, and along with the promise of flowers, new buds and bountiful gardens, here are some of the joys of March:

Ken Appelt's brother is doing well over a year after extensive treatments for cancer.

Sue Bloomfield's nephew is doing remarkably well during his ongoing cancer treatment.

Karen Bachman's daughter was in Chile during the earthquake but made it through, and Karen was able to visit her daughter there after the quake.

Our youngest member, Caitlin Collins, celebrated her 6 month birthday, as her brilliant mom, Melissa Collins, is in the process of defending her doctoral dissertation in Biomedical Science.

One of our oldest members, Clint Phillips, just moved to a new place, and will celebrate his 85th birthday on April 10th. Please join us for barbecue and cake at church after service on Sunday, April 11th.

Some sorrows and concerns for March:

Leila Payne's younger sister died suddenly. Our sympathy to Leila, her husband, Rob McGeachin, and their family.

John Krajicek's brother-in-law died of Alzheimer's disease. We send our comforting thoughts to John and his family.

Wayne Sadberry's sister, Conchita, passed away. Our hearts are with him as he is traveling to be with his family in St. Louis.

Della Pearson, longtime, colorful friend of our church and editor of the Lat many years ago, died. A "Gala" memorial service at A&M Methodist Church brought together many friends, including numerous UUs who admired and loved her.

Church member Keith Shoun died on March 25. A memorial service was held at our church on March 29.

Past member Robert Finley McGregor died; we send our sympathy to his wife, Melissa.

Rev. Eric's mother was admitted to the hospital, but joyfully she is now being treated on an out-patient basis and is doing better.

Mark Abel and Aimee Nguyen's beloved cat died, and we know he will be missed.

If we've forgotten anyone, please let us know, and remember that we are here for all of you. As always, let us know if you need anything.

And a friendly reminder: The Caring Committee asks that you please take the time to update your "In Case of Emergency" form to be sure we have the most current information for every family. The forms can be found at the church entrance on the big table.

Happy spring to you all from the Caring Committee !

The Caring Committee:

Mary Ellen Pate (Chair), 696-6142

Rev. Eric Posa, 209-4019

Pat Childress, 690-8613

Carolyn Clark, 823-0676

Judy Hart, 764-7866

Sonja Allbritton, 693-7584

Lauralee Phillips, 220-5645

Joe Castiglioni, 690-0640

Carole Johnson, 690-6561

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE BY JUDY MCCOY

The Social Justice Committee is trying to determine whether or not there is sufficient interest in having a blood drive to make an appointment with the Red Cross. If you are interested in donating blood some Sunday after church, please tell Mark Abel, Judy McCoy, Martha Scott, or someone else you know on the Social Justice Committee.

The committee is currently engaged in planning the forthcoming year's activities. Please let one of us know if you have a particular social justice activity or interest to bring to our attention. The committee is also working with the board to determine possible groups to receive donations from the proposed split the plate project mentioned in last month's Lat.

When the new website (now under construction) is in place, the Social Justice Committee will have a link from the home page so that visitors can find out about current committee projects and activities.

August meeting will be held Thursday, August 6th at 7:00 p.m. in the Jesse Coon Room. Anyone who wants to learn more about the committee and participate in its activities and programs is welcome to attend.

WINE/JAZZ/AUCTION

Friday, April 30, in the Sanctuary

Have you ever longed to spend a weekend on the Texas coast reading a stack of books, drinking wine, and enjoying the sunset? "Books at the Bay" is just one of the items we've got for auction! An original painting is another. And oh so many other goodies.

So put on your best duds and join us for the decade's first big fund- raiser: an evening filled with good music, good friends, and great chances to go home with something wonderful.

Friday, April 30th will mark our first service auction in several years and we're planning to make it a great one. So, get dressed up, bring your checkbook (we can't take credit cards), and dive in. Cooper Appelt's band, New Vintage, will be playing--they're hot! There will be refreshments--yum! And of course, lots of great items and services to bid on--yeehaw!

We're still accepting goods and services. You can either fill out a form at church, or contact one of the committee members.

For more information, contact anyone on the Events Committee: Kathi Appelt (kcappelt@verizon.net), Melissa Collins (melissa.collins@tamu.edu), Walter Causey (wlcausey@yahoo.com), Sue Bloomfield (sbloom52@gmail.com), Pat Childress (pachildress@verizon.net), or Gaye Webb (angels@hal-pc.org).

Babysitting will be provided.

APRIL 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 9:30am-Religious Education 10:30am-Service Children's RE Easter Egg Hunt/Potluck Luncheon (following service) 3:30pm—BBA meditation 4:30-BBA Book Club	5 7:00pm-BBA Meditation, Reading and Chanting	6 10:00am-Bagel Break	7 12:15pm-BBA Noon Meditation 5:30pm-Adult Choir Practice 7:30pm—Book Club	1 7:00pm-Social Justice Committee Meeting	2	3 7:00pm-Contradance
11 9:30am-Religious Education 10:30am – Service 12:00pm-Worship Com Mtg 12:00pm-RE Com Mtg 3:30pm—BBA meditation 4:30-BBA Book Club	12 7:00pm-BBA-Meditation, Reading and Chanting	13 10:00am-Bagel Break	14 12:15pm-BBA Noon Meditation 5:30pm-Adult Choir Practice 7:00pm-UU Drum Circle	15	16	17 9:30am-Church Pantry
18 9:30am-Religious Education 10:30am—Service 12:00pm—UUWF Meeting/Potluck Luncheon 3:30pm—BBA meditation	19 7:00pm-BBA-Meditation, Reading and Chanting	20 10:00am-Bagel Break	21 12:15pm-BBA Noon Meditation 5:30pm-Adult Choir Practice 7:30pm—Book Club	22 7:00pm-Finance Committee Meeting	23 7:00pm-Coffee House	24 9:00am—One Day Meditation Workshop
25 9:30am-Religious Education 10:30am – Service 3:30pm—BBA meditation 4:30-BBA Book Club	26 7:00pm-BBA-Meditation, Reading and Chanting	27 10:00am-Bagel Break	28 12:15pm-BBA Noon Meditation 5:30pm-Adult Choir Practice	29	30 6:30pm-Churchwide Service Auction	

**The Monthly Newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist Church of
the Brazos Valley**

305 Wellborn Rd.,
College Station, TX 77840
(979) 696-5285/brazosuu@verizon.net

UUCBV Office Hours:
Tuesday 9:30am-1:30pm
Wednesday & Thursday 12:00pm-4:00pm

Minister's Office Hours: Tuesday 10am - 2pm
and Thursday 2pm - 6pm
A&M Campus Hours: Monday 12pm - 4pm



Address Service Requested

UUCBV Covenant

We, the members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Brazos Valley, covenant with one another to:

- ...affirm and promote an open, safe, and respectful environment in which to come together for worship and fellowship,
- ...encourage spiritual and intellectual growth in our children, youth, and adults,
- ...respect one another's viewpoints and experiences,
- ...offer our individual talents and resources, to be honest about what we can and cannot do, and celebrate our connections to one another and the sacred circle of life.

Easter Sunday, April 4
Flower communion during service.
Please bring a flower to share.
Children's RE Easter Egg Hunt/Potluck
Luncheon following service

**WINE/JAZZ/AUCTION
FRIDAY, APRIL 30TH,
7 P.M. IN THE SANCTUARY**

Cooper Appelt's band, New Vintage, will be playing—they're hot! There will be refreshments—yum! And of course, lots of great items and services to bid on—yeehaw!

See Page 6 for more information