

Channing Channel

Channing Unitarian Universalist Church 405-340-1213

President's Corner

Greetings Friends of Channing!

This month the worship theme is "Commitment". This is a very interesting term, being both simple to understand and difficult to achieve. We all recognize having commitment to our spouses, family, community, church and country, but we also recognize that divorce is exceedingly high, many families are dysfunctional, communities may be hostile environments in which to live, some churches are not as supportive as they should be and our country is close to a new civil war. Is this cause to abandon commitment? Absolutely not!

In the face of diversity, commitment is more important to achieve, or rather for which to work.

Commitment is not a single event, "until death do us part", but an ever ongoing process. Marriages last only because the two work for it, families are caring, healthy and supportive only because the members work on providing the actual needs of other family members while not neglecting their

President: Dana Spears
President-elect: Kathleen Joslin
Secretary: Linda Gray
Treasurer: Liz Duncan
Trustees: Lucy Almitra, Val Zemke, Katherine Williams, Pam Dizikes
Newsletter Editor: Kathleen Joslin

own needs. Churches, like families, have members who work to heal, not to harm the whole. Communities are strengthened by members reaching out to others, and our country is...well, sorry, but I have to let that one hang for awhile.

We each bring to the commitment process different gifts and skills, some more than others but all are necessary. Come supply your gifts, exercise your skills, and tomorrow can be a better world.

Dana Spears, Channing President

Green Tip of the Month

The Health of Your Neighborhood

Using authoritative scientific and government data, Environmental Defense's Scorecard Web site provides up-to-date and extensive environmental information online. To learn about environmental issues in your community, type your zip code in the search box. Or learn about specific hazardous chemicals that you find on product labels or that are identified as emissions in your community by using Scorecard's profiles of 6,800 chemicals. Scorecard is available at www.scorecard.org.

The Garden Plot

“Gardening requires lots of water-most of it in the form of perspiration”.-Lou Erickson

The garden got its fair share of perspiration in July! With all the rain and sun we had at the beginning of the month, it looked more like a jungle than a garden. There was a lot of work to do on our work day (and for several days after that as well). We mowed, weed-wacked, thinned and pulled at least a million weeds! We even managed to find a couple of cantaloupes and an extra tomato plant out there. We also cleaned up the front flower beds and the Memorial garden.

We are currently working on setting up an automatic watering system with supplies donated by Kris and JT Hawk. Thanks guys-you are going to save us a lot of time that could be used pulling weeds! I also want to thank all the people who helped out on our work day: Betty, Sally, Jamie, Melody and Chelsey. Please take the time to tell these people how much you appreciate them keeping the garden areas looking beautiful.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, we are no longer going to be building the garden house. We are, however, going to be planning something beautiful for that corner of the garden. We want a place that people can come out and sit and enjoy the garden and each other. If you have an idea, please feel free to share it.

Angela Brown

Religious Education Program for Children

A religious education program for elementary-aged children is to begin after Labor Day. The RE committee is still in the planning stages of the program, but it will be based on “Spirit Play”, which is a liberal religious education program. Lessons are stand-alone, so that the program does not require uninterrupted attendance.

This program will rely on volunteers as teachers. Members should consider volunteering to teach one or more Sundays. Training will be provided. Scheduling of RE has been discussed. A start time of 9:45 AM might result in greater attendance at Forum, which is offered at the same time; and members may be more willing to volunteer as teachers if they could also attend the regular Sunday service.

Angela Brown will serve as our RE Coordinator.

More information will be communicated as we go along.

Liz Duncan, RE Committee

Groups

Channing Women's Luncheon: Will meet Tuesday, August 10th, at 11:30 AM at Inspirations Tea Room, 2118 W. Edmond Road. "Highly recommended and quiet". All are welcome! Please contact Lucy Almitra, lalmitra@cox.net 216-5888.

Stitchers: Will meet Saturday, August 14th, 2010 at 2:00 PM at the home of Pat Hervey. Contact Kathleen Joslin at 826-4337 for more information.

Choir: Meets every Thursday from 7:20 PM-8:30 PM at Channing

Channing Writers Group: Will meet August 15th, 2010 12:15 PM to 1:15 PM in the Forum room. Everyone is welcome!

Labyrinth Walk: Will meet at the First Methodist Church, 305 E. Hurd, Edmond on the third Wednesday, August 16th (early this month), from 6-8 PM. Come into the cool and enjoy this ancient form of walking meditation. Someone is always there to explain if you have never experienced a labyrinth walk before.

Spiral Circle CUUPS: Will meet Sunday, August 1st, 2010 at 6:00 PM at the church for potluck and a program to celebrate Lammass, which honors the bounty of the earth. All are welcome!

Book Group: Contact Liz Duncan, 348-2713 for information.

Garden Group: Plants and maintains the garden. Everyone is welcome to come out and help. For more information, contact Angela Brown at 206-7852.

Care and Concern

Pam Dizikes had surgery this past week. Please keep her in your thoughts and send her positive energy.

Marylee Welch continues to make improvement and says she is good, working toward great.

Lucy Almitra is making progress and feels very good about the treatment she is receiving.

Movie Night

First Friday Movie Night will feature "What About Bob?" on Friday, August 6th at 7:15 pm. It is BYOB and snacks.

This movie is a funny, light-hearted film starring Bill Murray and Richard Dreyfus. Come join us!

August Sermon Topic—Commitment

August 1st. Anna Holloway:

Sermon Title: Interconnectedness: Life Cycles and the Divine

In traditional European agriculture, the beginning of August is the beginning of the grain harvest—wheat, to be sure, but also barley and oats. Many connections with the Divine and with each other are interwoven with this season. Celebrate the feast of the first loaf and the blessings of the divine fire with Channing this Sunday!

August 8th. Scot Harvey:

Sermon Title: Commitment...to what?

Scot will speak of values-based commitment and the need for better communication.

August 15th. Donna Compton:

Sermon Title: Commitment

Commitment-in the 60s and 70s, it was known as the “big C”. Scary and, for some, to be resisted at all costs. But most of us are committed to something. Even commit-o-phobes are committed to not committing! What does it mean to make a commitment to another person, to family, to a career or a cause? What are its costs; what is its value? In some ways it is our commitments that define us.

August 22nd. Nathaniel Batchelder

Sermon Title: Commitment: Dedication to our vision of peace, justice, harmony, sufficiency, and sustainability.

As director of Oklahoma City’s Peace House since 1990, Nathaniel Batchelder balances his devotion to nudging the world lovingly toward the possibility of peace with his resolve to “look realistically at evil” while doing so.

August 29th: Kathy Weaver

Sermon Title: Prayer and Commitment

When we pray, do daily affirmations, or intentionally put thoughts out to the Universe, are we committed to the idea that we are affecting something? If so, what? If not, why do it? Join us for some thoughts about prayer, cause and effect, and deus ex machine.

FORUM

Forum will start again in September. Since I am going to be tied up getting things ready for the CROP Walk I’d like to ask for some help in planning and presenting the Forum topics for September and early October. This is your chance. If there’s a topic you’ve really wanted the group to talk about, a local organization you’d like to hear more about, an interesting speaker you’d like to have come—please make a contact, let me know, and we’ll pick a weekend that fits their schedule. You don’t have to do anything except be there to introduce the person or the group. Harriette Porter

“Don’t say you don’t have enough time. You have exactly the same number of hours per day that were given to Helen Keller, Louis Pasteur, Michelangelo, Mother Teresa, Leonardo da Vinci, Thomas Jefferson and Albert Einstein”

H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

Community Action

CROP WALK—Help Stop Hunger in Edmond and Around the World.

The CROP Walk is coming up in September, Sunday the 26th. Sunday, August the 22nd we will have the Kick-off/Orientation Pizza Party. It will be at 6:00 PM at Channing. Usually about 20-25 churches and organizations come to learn about the walk and to pick up packets of materials to recruit walkers for the walk.

If you could help set up for the party on the 22nd, or if you would be willing to help sort materials and put them in large envelopes on Saturday the 21st at 10:00 AM, please let Harriette Porter or Angie Brown know.

Plan to join us for the Walk as a walker, as a sponsor of a walker, or as a helper the day of the walk. Our goal is 200 walkers and \$100/walker=\$20,000. Help us reach that goal. Watch for more information in next month's newsletter.

Besides the CROP Walk, there are several other community walks that occur in the early fall. The Multiple Sclerosis Walk, the Aids Walk, and the Komen Race for the Cure (breast cancer) come to mind. At the time of this writing I do not have the dates for these walks, but look for more information in the September newsletter. And send me the dates of your favorite walk. Interested in joining a team for the Komen walk? Let me know and I'll get a team packet.

Harriette Porter



This is our very own Melody Joyce at the Gay Pride Festival and Parade. Please note the very creative banner she made for the Festival.

Hope Center

Please remember to bring your non-perishable food items, baby care items, and household products for the BASKET OF HOPE in the foyer. Elouise Bell and Nancy Jefferis are our delivering angels who take these items each month to the Hope Center here in Edmond.

Channing UU Church
2800 W. 15th Street
Edmond, OK

**Church of the Open Mind
and Open Heart**

August Birthdays

Carol Becker	August 1 st
Wayne Leslie	August 11 th
Jonathan Campos	August 11 th
Eric Ogletree	August 14 th
Chelsey Simpson	August 15 th
Sue Spears	August 15 th
Katherine Williams	August 26 th
Angela Brown	August 29 th
Cheryl Barr	August 31 st

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.channinguuc.org

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