

Channing Channel

Channing Unitarian Universalist Church 405-340-1213

President's Corner

What is Religion?

Dan Brown, in the Lost Symbol, has his main character state: "Religions *assure* salvation; religions *believe* in a precise theology; and religions *convert* nonbelievers." That was just too much for me.

So I went online to the Wictionary. First definition there is: "A collection of practices, based on beliefs and teachings that are highly valued or sacred." Not bad. On to Wikipedia: "A religion is a set of beliefs concerning the cause, nature and purpose of the universe, especially when considered as the creation of a supernatural agency or agencies, usually involving devotional and ritual observances, and often containing a moral code governing the conduct of human affairs." This sounds better, more in line with my own thinking.

Please Remember
March 7th is Potluck Sunday

President: Pat Hervey

President-elect: Dana Spears

Secretary: Linda Gray

Treasurer: Liz Duncan

Trustees: Lucy Almitra, Hal Yocum, Katherine Williams, Val Zemke

Newsletter Editor: Kathleen Joslin

Let me pass on to you what the Rev. Jack Bryant of Hope Unitarian Church in Tulsa had to say in a recent newsletter: "Most think of people who attend church as religious people and those who don't—especially those who proclaim themselves atheists or agnostics—as non-religious or secular. I disagree. I believe the question of who is religious or not is not about the particulars of what one believes, but whether one is engaged with the questions. The real atheists aren't the Christopher Hitchens and Richard Dawkins of this world; they pose no threat to religion. The real atheists, those who genuinely threaten the future of religion are those sitting in the pews and not thinking about what they are saying, the people who apathetically recite the creeds and dogmas and who follow without thinking; if the future of religion is in peril it is from such apathy, not strident denial."

Food for thought.

Pat Hervey, President
Channing UU Church

PFLAG IS BACK!**PFLAG OKC/EDMOND**

Will be meeting the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM at Channing.

OUR NEEDS

In a previous newsletter, your President complained about our having too much stuff. The Board has responded to this complaint by formulating a procedure to be followed.

If you have something you think the church might like to have, contact our President-elect, currently Dana Spears, and talk to him about it. He will either make a decision about it or refer you to the person who should make that decision.

At the same time, we will have a newsletter column in which we list our needs. Committee chairs will send in their needs to be listed in that column.

March Birthdays

Sue Ann Comby-Young	3/5
Natalie Campos	3/6
Lois Taylor	3/9
Wil Woodland	3/11
Nancy Myers	3/12
Dasha Benson	3/14
Bob Welch	3/14
Liz Duncan	3/15
Pat Hervey	3/17
Paul Plowman	3/20
Harriette Porter	3/20
Lea Ratliff	3/21

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL OF YOU!**CARE AND CONCERN**

MaryLee Welch is still recovering from her surgery and has gotten a port put in for chemotherapy.

Jo Clevenger continues with her chemotherapy every three weeks.

George Taylor is home from the hospital and continues his recuperation.

Please keep these people in your thoughts and send healing energy.

“Blessings only come to those who notice”
(from inside a Dove candy wrapper)

GROUPS

Channing Women's Luncheon: Meets the second Tuesday, March 9th, at 11:30 AM. In March we will be meeting at a new location, NuNu's, on Memorial, East of May Ave. (3131 W. Memorial): All are welcome. Contact Lucy Almitra, lalmitra@cox.net 464-6128

Stitchers: Will meet March 13th at 2:00 PM at the home of Dee Welch, 704 Ridgecrest Road, Edmond, OK 73013. Contact Kathleen Joslin at 340-5884 for more information.

Choir: Meets at Channing on Thursday nights at 7:30 PM-8:00 PM.

Writers Group: Meets the 3rd Sunday of every month in the Library at Channing from 12:15 PM-1:15 PM. Visitor and listeners are welcome to join in the fun.

Theater Group: Theater Group attends at least one play a month chosen by the group. Contact Liz Duncan at 348-2713 for more information.

Literary Group: Meets on March 23rd at 7:00 PM at the home of Lucy Almitra (464-6128). We are reading My Life and Hard Times by James Thurber.

Labyrinth Group: Will walk at the First Methodist Church, Edmond, 304 E. Hurd, on Monday, March 15th. It is open from 6-8 PM so come and go at your own spirit's guiding. There are docents to explain this simple but ancient form of walking meditation, so come and join us even if it is new to you.

Spiral Circle CUUPS: Will meet Sunday evening, March 21st at 6:00 PM at the church for a potluck dinner and to celebrate Ostara, the Spring Equinox. All are invited to join us.

First Friday Night Movie

The First Friday Night Movie in March will be Room With A View. This is the movie version of the Literary Group's February read and was adapted for the screen in 1986, starring Helena Bonham Carter, Julian Sands, and Maggie Smith. It won the Best Adapted Screenplay Oscar for that year.

Come join us Friday, March 5th at 7:15 PM. BYOB and snacks.

Please check the calendar at our website, www.channinguuc.org for up to date information on church events. This is an active calendar; events are added to it frequently. You are welcome to join any Channing Group!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please Mark Your Calendars!

April 10th, Pledge Dinner

April 24th, Spring Clean up

Hope Center

Please remember to bring your non-perishable food items, especially protein-containing items, for the Basket of Hope for the Hope Center. They also need items such as baby diapers, TP, and Kleenex etc. The next time you shop, grab something extra for the basket. The basket is on the hearth in the foyer and Elouise Bell is our delivering angel.

March Sermon Topic is “Faith”

March 7th: Donna Compton

Sermon Title: “I believe in...”

Probably one of the most abused, overused phrases in the English language, topped only by last month’s topic “I love”. A series on NPR called “This I Believe” presents individual statements about what people believe with amazing variety and creativity. How we fill in the blank really matters. What would you offer in your “I believe” statement? We’ll explore together.

March 14th: Scot Harvey

Sermon Title: Faith of the Free

“Whatever our plight, thy law, thy liberty, thy light, shall be our blest possession.”

What does our liberal faith demand from us? If we aren’t required to embrace creeds or dogma, then what is our faith about?

March 21st: Anna Holloway

Sermon Title: In the beginning was the conversation...

Trusting in the word demands some understanding of the words and their origin. This week’s message will explore the words on which so many people around the world build their understanding of “faith”.

March 28th: Catherine Shearer

Sermon Title: I Will

Explore will power as surrendering to that which is your greater, more true, more loving, self and to That which is greater than you are.

Forum

March 7th: Jason Clark will lead us in a continuation of our discussion of Islam and especially Sufism.

March 14th: Dorothy Driver will continue our series on Spirituality.

Other coming topics will include: “The Future of Faith” a video with Harvey Cox, Harvard Theologian. “Good Without God” a video with Greg Epstein the Harvard Humanist Chaplain. The sacred scriptures of Hinduism, Buddhism, and B’hai. Dates are not yet set for these topics, but be sure to watch for Pat’s “Sunday at Channing” to see what’s coming next.

COMMUNITY ACTION

Spring charity walk season is coming so get out your walking shoes and be ready to represent Channing in the community and to support UU Values. I am unaware of any walks in March but there will be some in April I am sure. Let me know of any organizations you would like for us to support and we’ll get the word out.

Slow Food

The Slow Food Manifesto

The Slow Food international movement officially began when delegates from 15 countries endorsed this manifesto, written by founding member Folco Portinari, on December 10, 1989.

Our century, which began and has developed under the insignia of industrial civilization, first invented the machine and then took it as its life model.

We are enslaved by speed and have all succumbed to the same insidious virus: *Fast Life*, which disrupts our habits, pervades the privacy of our homes and forces us to eat Fast Foods.

To be worthy of the name, *Homo Sapiens* should rid himself of speed before it reduces him to a species in danger of extinction.

A firm defense of quiet material pleasure is the only way to oppose the universal folly of *Fast Life*.

May suitable doses of guaranteed sensual pleasure and slow, long-lasting enjoyment preserve us from the contagion of the multitude who mistake frenzy for efficiency.

Our defense should begin at the table with *Slow Food*. Let us rediscover the flavors and savors of regional cooking and banish the degrading effects of *Fast Food*.

In the name of productivity, *Fast Life* has changed our way of being and threatens our environment and our landscapes. So *Slow Food* is now the only truly progressive answer.

That is what real cultures is all about: developing taste rather than demeaning it. And what better way to set about this than an international exchange of experiences, knowledge, projects?

Slow Food guarantees a better future.

Slow Food is an idea that needs plenty of qualified supporters who can help turn this (slow) motion into an international movement, with the little snail as its symbol

(This information is from the Slow Food website. Oklahoma City has a group which can be accessed at <http://slowfoodokc.wordpress.com>. There is a lot of information there about the program and restaurants who are involved in the movement.)

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Channing UU Church

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Edmond, OK

Phone:

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Motto

Church of the Open Mind
and Open Heart



We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.channinguuc.org

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