



The ComUUunicator

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Lima
Website: <http://www.uulima.org> Sep 2006



A Sign of the Times



In this case, the sign is very small, it fits on your bumper. If you will recall, one of the things inaugurated at the last Annual Meeting was the “Uncommon Denomination” program that the UUA has begun. The first manifestation of that is in the form of bumper stickers.

The Executive Committee has ordered some of these PR tools for the congregation and they are now available, currently residing on the sign-in table. We ask that everyone take one, and that if you do take one you also take the task to heart and actually put it on your bumper.

The sole purpose of these bumper stickers is to arouse an interest in someone to the point at which they ask you what this UU thing is all about. That is when you give them your pre-prepared “Elevator Speech”. That is, a short explanation of what UU is that could be given in the 45 seconds it takes for the average elevator ride.

Elevator speeches are very individual things. Yours may be quite different from mine. There is no ONE “official” elevator speech. The UUA President came up with the shortest, “One God, nobody left behind.” His full remark is at:
<http://www.uua.org/president/030115.html>

There are many others. For example, look at these:

<http://www.uua.org/world/2004/02/affirmations.html> or perhaps these:
<http://www.uua.org/world/2004/05/affirmations.html>

If you lean toward the Humanist side, take a look at this one:

“We hold conscious life precious, and we cherish the inherent worth and dignity of every member of our human family. Our beliefs are driven by a free and responsible search for truth, through careful observation and analysis, which continually increases our understanding of ourselves and the natural Universe of which we are an integral part. Because that Universe is hostile to life and Earth is a tiny oasis supporting life, we struggle to preserve our fragile environment here. So that every member of our human family may achieve the greatest possible fulfillment, we strive to create for all humanity the conditions of a joyful life – beauty, love, health, education, justice, freedom, peace.”

Note that none of these are a simple recitation of our 7 Principles. That should come later. Remember, the idea is to describe us accurately and pique their curiosity!

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

*The past is history - the future a mystery.
But today is a gift, which is why it's called
the Present!*

Birthdays

Liesl Sondheimer—September 16 (#99)
Katie Mack—September 25
Rick Siferd—September 25

Anniversaries

None on record this month.

If I missed your birthday or anniversary it is because I was not aware of it. Please inform me of same and I will add your information to the list.

Event Schedule

September 2006

- 15** — **UU Lima Newsletter Deadline!**
17 — [Rev. Chuck Thomas](#) -
New Member recognition, [Jean Cinardo](#)
12:00 pm [Executive Committee](#) -
Bag Lunch & Congregational Assessment

Special Note: Everyone please bring all your non-lawn type folding chairs to be set up for a wedding at the church.

- 18** — 7:30 pm - [Executive Committee](#) Meeting -
at the Fellowship House
20 — 12:00 pm - **Lunch Bunch** -
Bella's in Celina
23 — 6:30 pm - **Saturday Night Live** -
[Don Mack](#) Theme: Last Picnic of Summer
24 — John Timmerman - Why Are We Here?

* Full Schedule at <http://www.uulima.org> *
Did you know that we also have a Church Calendar? You may access it at:
http://calendar.yahoo.com/uu_lima
(In fact, this issue, as well as back issues, is available at:
<http://www.uulima.org/UULimaNewsletters.html>)

Treasurer's Summary

Balance 7/1/06	_____	\$8037.93
Transactions 7/1/06-8/1/06:		
Total Receipts	_____	80.00
Total Expenditures	_____	1534.67
Balance 8/1/06	_____	\$6583.26
Net for the Period	_____	-\$1454.67

Executive Committee Summary

The August 21, 2006 meeting was mostly a “nuts and bolts” session, concentrating on specifics. For example, one of the topics which engendered the most discussion was concerned with the purchase/design of a large banner to be mounted on our front porch. The UUA offers one such banner in their “Uncommon Denomination” program. It was decided that the UUA sign did not meet our requirements, but that we could come up with one of our own for about the same price (roughly \$200). **Louise Daniels** is currently looking into the matter.

In fact, most of the meeting was concerned with details about the physical plant. The other item which spawned the most discussion was about the Wayside Pulpit. The wood of the sign has faded considerably, to the extent that the whole sign sort of just fades into the background for someone driving past. **Barbara Wilson** moved to paint at least the borders of the sign a bright color to attract attention. Discussion of the color to be used took up an appalling amount of time, with the end result that the color would be left to those who actually do the work. The motion passed and Barbara and I got the job. (I haven't even looked at a brush in the past month, so don't expect it to get done soon.)

The only other major motion was one which authorized the repair of the front porch floor. That motion passed.

President's Pulpit

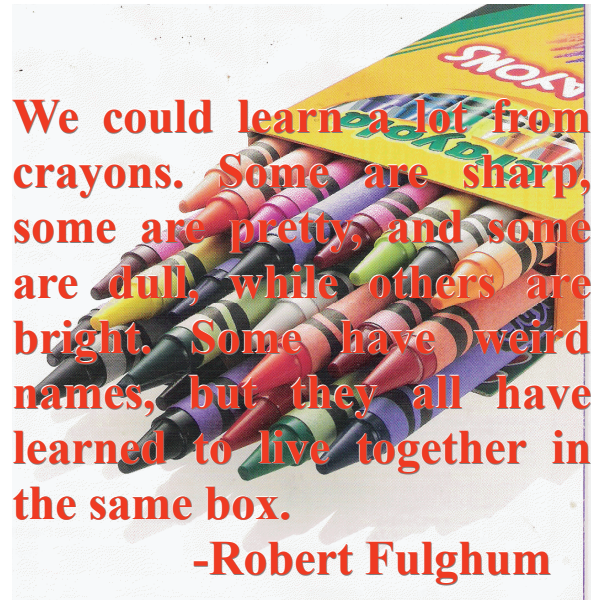
A funny thing happened on the way to the Water Service. Like a high Mass, some of us wore a habit. Well, not really, it was more a case of a mental habit.

Our leadership tends to run on habit sometimes. That is because things just don't change all that much. That is a bad thing. In this case, I am referring to the fact that there were no service bulletins for the service.

Don Mack and I both were guilty of relying on the habit of **Rick Siferd** printing the bulletins each week—so much so that neither of us gave consideration to his current lack of time as a result of his campaign for congress. After the service Don and I put our heads together (ouch) and realized that, if Rick is elected we will have to make other arrangements anyway. Since this would be the best of all possible outcomes as far as the two of us were concerned, we decided that Don would do the service bulletins for a while.

Talking about Rick's campaign brings up another aspect of our church. Namely, our non-profit status. We are organized under the 501(c)3 portion of the IRS law. As such, we may not publicly support any candidate or political issue AS A CHURCH. We would have to be organized under 501(c)4 to be able to do that. Those organizations are called PACS. If we were to plant a "Siferd for Congress" sign on our front lawn, we could possibly lose our non-profit status. We can support anyone as INDIVIDUALS as much as we wish, just not as a group.

This is why it sometimes seems that we are not supporting one of our own. Such is not the case. I am sure Rick, as a lawyer, is well aware of our limitations. Our support is there on an individual basis. Just listen...



Mini-Strations

By Rev. Chuck Thomas

Recently, while driving and listening to the radio, a thought came into my mind. (Not an uncommon occurrence, but a welcome surprise none the less.)

Actually it was a phrase which came to mind, quickly followed by a question. The phrase was "Healthy, Wealthy and Wise". Bet you've all heard that one. The question which followed was, "Where do Happiness and Love fit into the scheme of things longed for?" Since then a part of my mind has been trying to rank these five characteristics in order of importance. (I don't know how my mind works either.) I thought if I shared this with you my mind might let go and free up for other work whatever part has been focused here.

In each of my ranking efforts, the easiest position is fifth and last. For me, wealth always seems less important than the others. Maybe this is because it has been a LONG time since my essential needs have been threatened. Also, the concept of "Wealth" implies much more than just having essential needs met. Just as "Health" implies more than just clinging to life. "Happiness" implies more than blissful ignorance, "Love" implies more than having lots of acquaintances, and "Wisdom" implies more than having your comments accepted by your barber.

For years the path to more money than I was then making was clear to me, but I didn't want the money nearly as much as I wanted not to travel that path. Anyway! Wealth is so comfortably in last place in my ranking order that maybe it shouldn't even be on the list.

The other four are much more difficult to sort out and perhaps more difficult to deliberately attain. They are also interconnected like the web of existence. For example, like health and happiness. Can you be healthy if you are NOT at least reasonably happy? On the other hand, good health is certainly something to be happy about.

It needs to be stated that the concept of "Love includes both "loved" and "loving" and how could you be loved and loving and NOT be happy?

Sometimes, writing things down helps to sort them out. I seem to be moving "Wisdom to the next lowest position. Perhaps I've had less personal experience with feeling "wise." Wisdom is better thought of as a collective thing anyway. No one person can ever be knowledgeable about all the different areas where they need wisdom. Perhaps the chief function of "Wisdom" is in knowing when you have the other three and ENOUGH wealth.

There are a lot of people who are in very poor health who are happy, loved and loving. I guess that means that "Health" is next

on this list, working up from the bottom. (Don't remind me of those who are healthy and are NOT happy, loved, or loving. I'm having enough trouble.)

This is impossible, but I've started and compulsively want to finish. In my process today, I seem to be evaluating every item by its contribution to happiness. (It hasn't come out like this every time my mind has done this, but for the moment my ranking is; HAPPINESS - LOVE - HEALTH - WISDOM - WEALTH.

OH MY GOD! I've forgotten a "Sense of Humor". GAAA!!!

Chuck

Imagine a
religion
where **inspiration**
comes from not one
but **many**
spiritual
sources.

The Uncommon Denomination

Unitarian Universalists - UUA.org