

SIMPLE GIFTS

ALL SOULS UNITARIAN CHURCH OF TULSA, OKLAHOMA

JANUARY
2011

Creation

VOL. VIII
ISSUE V

WHAT ON EARTH ARE WE DOING?



“The good life,” as it has come to be known in our culture, is a fallacy. In pursuit of it we find ourselves consuming too much, getting stressed out, and causing unwanted destruction. What most of us really want is time with our friends and family, clean air and water, a beautiful world,

security, and children who have hope for the future. We can see a great spiritual and cultural awakening in the efforts to redefine success in ways that help sustain our planet and our health.

The environmental crisis is an outer manifestation of an inner crisis. It is a spiritual crisis because it challenges our core values and the assumptions regarding how we (humans) fit into the larger universe. The values that guide our culture and our daily lives too often cut us off from what gives our lives joy. People have become so busy and driven to achieve wealth, fame, property, and prestige, that they do not have time – or do not take time – to remember what their lives are really about. I am talking about the way we get infected by a contagious, socially-transmitted disease characterized by overload, debt, anxiety, and waste. It’s a dis-ease that causes us



-by Rev. Marlin Lavanbar, Senior Minister

to unthinkingly live in constant pursuit of more and more and more.

We live in a time, and in a country, in which the acquisition of material goods is at an all-time high. But, also at an all-time high, is the number of people living with a deep existential feeling of emptiness. We live in a culture that promises happiness through the accumulation of more stuff. This dis-ease is so pernicious that at the time of our country’s great anguish and confusion after September 11, 2001, we were instructed to *go shopping!*

As our country currently faces the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, with hunger, homelessness, and unemployment on the rise, we are told that more consumer-spending is an important part of the solution. There is a deeper yearning in us that is being buried under the piles of goods, the heaps of trash, and the pace of our lives.

In January our theme for the month is Creation. This “Green Issue” of our Simple Gifts Journal is a chance to begin the re-creation of values that can sustain us. Let us redefine “the good life” and then go about living it. †

THE
All Souls
JOURNAL

The GREEN Issue

*Printed on 30% recycled materials.
Find out how to sponsor
eco-friendly printing inside!*

REVITALIZING OUR GREEN TEAM

-by Rev. Tamara Lebak, Associate Minister



We have said *adieu* to last year's Green Team Chair Marilyn Ihloff, who will continue to serve in an advisory capacity. Marilyn saw the Green Team Task Force through its beginnings – including initiating an environmental audit and launching our local foods dinners. She also provided initial leadership and oversight in fine-tuning our recycling and

energy usage.

Now, it is my pleasure to introduce to you our new Green Team Task Force chair Michael Birkes. Michael is excited about revitalizing the leadership and membership, and helping us focus on our 2021 Vision Goals. If you are interested in supporting the Green Team, come to our first meeting, February 3, 2011, at 7:00 pm, and help us in the greening of All Souls! †

THE GREENING OF ALL SOULS

-by Michael Birkes, Chair of All Souls Green Team



Forty years ago I was an architecture student at Oklahoma State and in April of that year, the first Earth Day was celebrated. In architecture school, we were learning about how to orient buildings to take advantage of the prevailing winds. We learned about how to orient buildings to

shade us in the summer and let the warmth of the sun in during the winter. Also during this time, Ian McHarg, a very popular landscape architect, published his book *Design with Nature* that taught us where and how to develop sensitively upon the land. Two years earlier, the first *Whole Earth* catalog was published and so with my copy of *Design with Nature*, the *Whole Earth* catalog, and my architectural training, I was ready to design houses and buildings with environmentally beneficial products and processes.

So this past April, I reflected on that anniversary of Earth Day and the passion I had back then to do the right thing environmentally, and I asked myself why we are even more environmentally challenged some 40 years later.

I think it is best summed up by quoting Rachel Carson:

We stand now where two roads diverge. But unlike the roads in Robert Frost's familiar poem, they are not equally fair. The road we have long been traveling is deceptively easy, a smooth super-highway on which we progress with great speed, but at its end lies disaster. The other fork of the road – the one less traveled by – offers our last, our only chance to reach a destination that assures the preservation of the earth.

So let us begin down that road less traveled. Some of us are farther down this road than others and we will learn from their experiences. Some of us will teach our children how to live in an environmentally beneficial way. Our children may, in turn, teach us how to live in an environmentally beneficial way.

We will learn where to buy our food and products from sources closer to our home. We will learn about renewable energy sources; some of us will use them; others will not. We will learn how to be more efficient with the energy we use. We will learn how to recycle in ways that do not transfer the problem, or the toxic effects, to other countries.

We will learn to upcycle. Upcycling is the process of converting waste materials or useless products into new materials or products of better quality or a higher en-

vironmental value. We will learn how to be more cost effective with the way we operate our homes, our workplace, and our church. We will learn how to conserve water, both the water that comes from our tap, and the water that comes from the sky.

Join me as we renew the Greening of All Souls, **February 3, 2011** at 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. †

Michael Birkes is a lifelong Tulsan, and has been practicing architecture for 37 years. He received his architectural degree from Oklahoma State University and a master's degree in Urban Studies from the University of Tulsa. He is a past president and board member of the Eastern Oklahoma Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. He is on the Board of Directors of Oklahoma Center for Community and Justice, The Rotary Club of Tulsa, and Co-Chair of the City of Tulsa Arts Commission. He is also a member of the Master Planning Team for the church and looks forward to chairing the All Souls Green Team.

A Small Assignment to Stretch your Soul

I would like to encourage everyone to discover two things in the month of January.

- 1) Discover the path our water travels before it arrives in our homes. What watersheds, rivers and tributaries does it come from? What processing does it go through?
- 2) Discover what happens to the trash you throw away. Where does it go after it is picked up from your curb?

These bits of knowledge and awareness are important foundations for a life of deep connection and values.



Ten Green Tips for Home

1. Turn off, and unplug when possible, your computer, lights, TV, and other appliances.
2. Use compact fluorescent light bulbs or LED instead of incandescent light bulbs and dispose of properly.*
3. Use natural light during the day.
4. Use cold water to wash clothes.
5. Install low-flow shower heads, faucets, and toilets.
6. When replacing appliances purchase Energy Star-rated appliances.
7. Choose products that are made from rapidly renewable resources, are biodegradable, or recyclable.
8. Purchase textiles and fabrics that are made from natural fibers.
9. Buy locally-grown or locally-made products.
10. Use your plastic trash cans without plastic bag liners or use biodegradable liners.

*The proper disposal of florescent lights (including Clefs) and tubes is important because of the mercury content in the lights and its hazardous effect when the lights are broken.

In Tulsa, Home Depot will take these lights and properly dispose of them:

http://www6.homedepot.com/ecoptions/index.html?cm_mmc=Thd_marketing-_-Eco_Options_Site_07-_-Vanity-_-Home

See also:

http://www.ehow.com/how_4897182_dispose-fluorescent-tubes-safely.html

THEY CALL ME: *RECYCLE MICHAEL*

-by Michael Patton

Executive Director of the Metropolitan Environmental Trust



I believe going to church is the most popular voluntary activity in Tulsa, and recycling is second. Our estimates are that more than 100,000 Tulsans recycle everyday where they work, study, play, or live. But that number is still less than half of the national average for a city our size and that low number

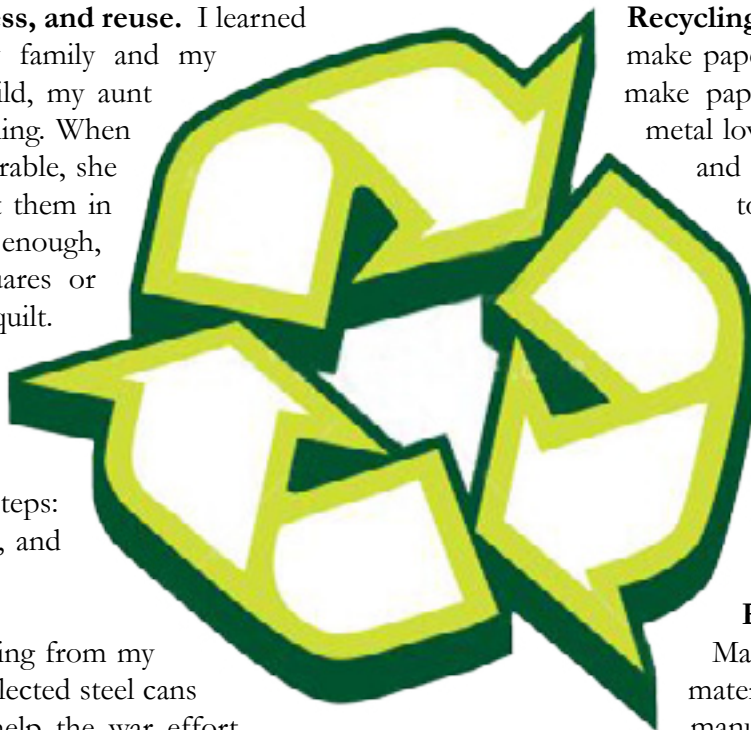
means that it is hard to attract recycling businesses or even get the attention of area-elected officials. Luckily, this is changing.

Separate, collect, reprocess, and reuse. I learned about recycling from my family and my church. When I was a child, my aunt made quilts out of our clothing. When our clothes became unwearable, she would separate and collect them in a basket. When she had enough, would cut them into squares or strips and begin making a quilt. It still wasn't completely recycled until the quilt was used for warmth. Recycling is a big word, and it means all of those steps: separate, collect, reprocess, and reuse.

I also learned about recycling from my mother, who, as a child collected steel cans during World War II to help the war effort. Her reasons for recycling were not to save landfill space, but to build the battleship to bring her father (my grandfather) home from the war. I recycled glass bottles here at All Souls during the 1970s. This church served as a collection point for empty wine and beer bottles, not only from its members, but for the entire neighborhood.

Take advantage. Now Tulsans can recycle many more

items, but still not as many as most of us want to. Tulsa has curbside collection for a small fee and there are plans to make it more available and include in the price of garbage collection. Curbside collection picks up most of the normal recyclable items of paper and containers. In addition there are now 13 drop-off centers in the region that collect these same materials – and a few extra items – for recycling and more than 200 locations that collect paper from schools and churches. And importantly, there are now businesses investing in recycling infrastructure that will give recyclers new options in 2011.



Recycling saves resources. Why make paper from trees when you can make paper from paper? Recycling metal lowers the harm from mining, and recycling plastics saves oil to do more important tasks like powering our cars and heating our homes. Recycling other items, like used motor oil and batteries, helps protect our environment by preventing the potential contamination of our rivers and landfill leaks.

Recycling saves energy. Making products from recycled materials lowers energy use in manufacturing. Recycling a single soda can saves enough energy to run your television for three hours. There are also immediate energy savings in recycling paper, plastics, even organics. If energy use contributes to global warming, recycling helps lower the temperature.

Recycling creates jobs. I am proud of the 120 workers with disabilities who now work for my employer, the

Metropolitan Environmental Trust, and hundreds more who work in area manufacturing jobs. The largest private employer in Muskogee recycles paper; the largest employer in Sapulpa recycles glass bottles, and the list goes on. When you recycle in Tulsa, you help make jobs for Oklahoma.

I strongly believe that the choice to recycle – to separate, collect, reprocess, and reuse – helps make a better world. I wish more Tulsans recycled. It would lead to more jobs, which would allow me to buy more things for my family made from recycled stuff. And the circle would be complete. †

More About



The MET operates 12 recycling centers in the Tulsa area, loans recycling bins to events and non-profit organizations, helps affiliated communities promote their own centers, and provides a recycling directory for residents.

Review the *Green Gift Guide*

Learn about Composting

Find out about Commercial & Residential Curbside Recycling Service

Review *Recycling Directory*

Handle Hazardous Waste

Get Access to Helpful Resources

Sign Up for the *Green Scene*

All this and more at

www.metrecycle.com

TULSA RECYCLING FAQs

Why can I only recycle #1 and #2 plastic bottles?

Currently no processors in Oklahoma handle plastics 3-7. However, we anticipate that we will be able to accept them in the future, as several companies are opening MRFs (material recovery facilities) in the area. An expanded curbside program will create the quantities needed to sustain the processing of all plastics.

I recycle my water bottles. What else is recyclable?

Our plastics have to have either a neck or a handle. They don't have to have both. Sometimes the neck or handle are disguised. Plastic coffee containers have an indentation for a handle, and a small neck for the lid. Other containers like laundry detergent bottles and milk jugs are recyclable, too. If you can unscrew a lid or hold a handle, you can recycle it (as long as it's a #1 or #2).

Why do plastics have to have a neck or handle? Aren't plastic cups recyclable?

Tulsa-area processors turn plastic bottles into more bottles, and they have to have bottle-grade plastic to make them. Strawberry containers and plastic cups are different grades of plastic, even if they are #1 or #2, and can't be used in the process because they melt at different temperatures and it would weaken the other plastics.

Do I need to wash the bottles?

We ask that you rinse out the bottles if they have soda, milk, or other sticky liquids in them. You don't have to spend a lot of time though; just a quick rinse will do.

Where can I recycle plastic bags?

Many stores, including Reasor's, Wal-Mart, and Target take back plastic bags. The Cherry Street Farmers' Market and Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma also accept them. *We recommend that you take your own reusable bag for shopping.*

Where can I recycle paper bags?

Many paper bags have a wax coating that can't be removed when recycling, and by the time the paper has been made into that bag, it has been recycled several times and is near the end of its lifecycle (paper can only be recycled so many times before the fibers become too small). They cannot be recycled, but they can be reused. The Cherry Street Farmers' Market, Community Food Bank, Goodwill, and other charities usually need paper bags to hand out food or clothing.

Why can't I recycle steel cans in Tulsa?

Residential trash in the City of Tulsa goes to the waste-to-energy plant for incineration. The plant is equipped with a magnetic arm that sucks all the steel out after the trash has been burned. The steel is then recycled. Don't worry about steel cans – they're automatically being recycled for you. Some of the MET Centers in outlying communities accept steel cans because their trash goes to the landfill instead of the waste-to-energy plant.

CONVERSATIONS WITH JOHN

-by Phil Haney

In honor and celebration of John Wolf's 50th year here at All Souls, Phil Haney will have monthly conversations with John, then relate to us some stories that beg to be passed on – straight from the pastor's mouth.



Creation is a bedrock theme in Unitarian Universalist theology. Who, perhaps what, has “made this day” is the question. While Unitarians debate vigorously the issue of creation, with equal passion they agree that *they* did not make the day, and they are thankful for that. Deist, theist, agnostic, atheist, and traditionalist Unitarians will continue to consider the maker, and just how things came to be.

John Wolf says what is key here is that the issue of these very possibilities – the unknown, the desire to know it, and the appreciation of it – bring us together, in recognition that some higher power, a force, something beyond *us*, is at work. This collective awe, according to Wolf, humbles us and enables us to worship together, to get more from worship, and to share the day. Wolf knows from experience that a simple reminder is all it takes. Just the right mention of the power of the maker, *the unknown*, facilitates worship. A commitment to sharing the day we have been given – in fact loving it and its natural beauty – more than worshipping the power that gave it to us, says Wolf, is what distinguishes Unitarians. Others can worship the maker; Unitarians worship the day they have been given. At All Souls our Call to Worship celebrates creation: *Now with Creation's morning song, Let us, as children of the day, With waken'd hearts and purpose strong, Have eyes to measure life's array...*

The Invocation gives thanks for a day which God has made. From this, one might conclude that Unitarians see God as their maker, as the creator of heaven, earth, and all of life. And some do. “But there is subtlety at work here,” says Wolf, “more legerdemain than Scripture.”

Sentient humans (who are grateful for the capacity to see, feel, hear, and understand) gathering for worship, owe it to ourselves to accept that fact that we don't have the answers – that we must look at life “brand new,” over and over. It is a ritual worth repeating, and worthy of our concentration. Looking at life *brand new* deserves to be a custom. Getting it right, says Wolf, enables us to find out what matters, and accomplish the relevant.



John Wolf mentioned that Forrest Church, Unitarian minister and theologian, says “God is not God's name. God is *my* name for the mystery that looms within and arches beyond the limits of my being.” This statement seems especially applicable to the Unitarian culture. Wolf says that when we accept the fact that *this is indeed a day that God has made*,

*Now with Creation's morning song,
Let us, as children of the day
With waken'd hearts and purpose strong,
have eyes to measure life's array;
With guileless mind, and heart sincere,
the works of darkness cast away.*

it means that the day before us is above and beyond us, incomprehensible but filled with beauty and pleasure for which we are thankful. And as we give thanks for what we may not fully understand (and the natural order of it) we prepare ourselves for the task at hand, for the day's work. We set aside the trivial pursuits, focus on the day we have been given, including relationships, sharing, caring, and loving. We accept that we did not make the day, and that *Love is the spirit of this church*.

Wolf believes that heaven and earth were created “in the midst” of the beginning, not in the beginning. If Wolf credits the name of God with creation, it is work on a scale so vast that we are but a tiny part of the things and beings that enjoy the day and fit into the cosmos. Nevertheless, we covenant to serve others, and give thanks for what we have. Gratitude for daily awe of nature, love of life, service to others – this is creation at the Unitarian church. †

Ten Green Tips for CHURCH

1. Turn off all lights unless the room is being used.
2. Turn off, or put in low-energy sleep mode, all computers, monitors, and audio-visual equipment that are not being used.
3. During spring and fall try going as long as possible without turning on heat or cooling systems. 68 in the fall and 80 in the spring is tolerable for most.
4. Use washable dishes, glasses and utensils rather than paper or plastic whenever possible.
5. During the coldest part of winter, and hottest part of summer, use existing double doors to prevent heat and cooling loss.
6. Recycle all glass, plastic bottles, and aluminum, using the recycling bins outside the kitchen. (Note: After events, many cans, plastic bottles, and glass are found in the regular trash.)
7. Properly dispose of all non-functioning florescent lights and spent batteries.
8. Recycle your cardboard at nearest facility.
9. Double check your group's recycling at the church: check the major trash bins for possible recycled material and add to blue/green bins.
10. Include in your church group's annual report how you are making things greener in your program. Establish goals and track results, being environmentally conscious within your area.

What Else Can I Do?

Sponsor an Item from our

GREEN WISH LIST:

Properly insulated and sealed external doors and thresholds save energy and reduce the church's heating and cooling costs.

Cost: \$50 per door

This issue of Simple Gifts is printed on 30% post-consumer materials. You can sponsor a more eco-friendly printing of Simple Gifts Journal

**Cost: \$350 for one issue
\$1,050 for a quarter (3 issues)
\$3,150 for a year (9 issues)**

Sponsor weekly pick-up of recyclable materials (cardboard, paper, glass, plastic, aluminum, etc.)

Cost: \$500 per year

High efficiency water-heaters or tankless systems use less energy to maintain water temperature. Over time they pay for themselves.

**Cost: \$2,500 per Rheem Eco 50-gallon
\$500 per source point water heater**

Old windows can be replaced with high-efficiency double insulated windows that will open when needed.

Cost: \$1,500 to \$10,000

Daily Thoughts...

January 1

"We learn from our gardens to deal with the most urgent question of the time: How much is enough?"
~Wendell Berry

January 2

"The world always works in circles and everything tries to be round"
~Black Elk

January 3

"Those who dwell among the beauties and mysteries of the earth are never alone or weary of life."
~Rachel Carson

January 4

"It suddenly struck me that that tiny pea, pretty and blue, was the Earth. I put up my thumb and shut one eye, and my thumb blotted out the planet Earth. I didn't feel like a giant. I felt very, very small."
~Neil Armstrong

January 5

"All the principles of heaven and earth are living inside you. Life itself is truth, and this will never change. Everything in heaven and earth breathes. Breath is the thread that ties creation together."
~Morihei Ueshiba

January 6

"The earth is what we all have in common."
~Wendell Berry

January 7

"Here, both in space and time, we seem to be brought somewhat nearer to the great fact – the mystery of mysteries – the first appearance of new beings on earth,"
~Charles Darwin

January 8

"For so long we worked with the model that Earth is disposable. But God is an artist. Creation is his art. We ought to take care of it."
~Chris Farrell

January 9

"You forget that the fruits belong to all and the land belongs to no one."
~Jean Jacques Rousseau

January 10

"The best investment on earth is earth."
~Louis J. Glickman

January 11

"The true artist has the planet for his pedestal; the adventurer, after years of strife, has nothing broader than his shoes"
~Ralph Waldo Emerson

January 12

"To see the earth as it truly is, small and blue in that eternal silence where it floats, is to see riders on the earth together, brothers on that bright loveliness in the eternal cold - brothers who know now they are truly brothers."
~Archibald MacLeish

January 13

"The care of the Earth is our most ancient and most worthy, and after all our most pleasing responsibility. To cherish what remains of it and to foster its renewal is our only hope."
~Wendell Berry

January 14

"And among His Signs Is the creation of the heavens And the earth, and the variations In your languages And your colors; verily In that are Signs For those who know"
~The Quran

January 15

"The first law of ecology is that everything is related to everything else."
~Barry Commoner

January 16

"I just want the world to give nature the opportunity to survive."
~Freddy Mella

- January 17
 "Each species is a masterpiece, a creation assembled with extreme care and genius." ~Edward O. Wilson
- January 18
 "We all feel the riddle of the earth without anyone to point it out. The mystery of life is the plainest part of it." ~G.K. Chesterton
- January 19
 "Societies and economies can be destroyed by bombs. Societies can also be destroyed by locking every aspect of life like provision of food and water through an economic war." ~Vandana Shiva
- January 20
 "Whether we and our politicians know it or not, Nature is party to all our deals and decisions, and she has more votes, a longer memory, and a sterner sense of justice than we do" ~Wendell Berry
- January 21
 "Talk of mysteries! Think of our life in Nature – daily to be shown matter, to come in contact with it – rocks, trees, wind on our cheeks. The solid earth!" ~Henry David Thoreau
- January 22
 "Earth is a little-known planet. We have little appreciation for what we're doing. ... We are flying blind." ~Edward O. Wilson
- January 23
 "It is not enough for us to prostrate ourselves under the tree which is Creation, and to contemplate its tremendous branches filled with stars. We have a duty to work upon the human soul, to defend the mystery against the miracle, to worship the incomprehensible." ~Victor Hugo
- January 24
 "The true mystery of the world is the visible, not the invisible." ~Oscar Wilde
- January 25
 "Such prosperity as we have known up to the present is the consequence of rapidly spending the planet's irreplaceable capital" ~Aldous Huxley
- January 26
 "The Sun, with all the planets revolving around it, and depending on it, can still ripen a bunch of grapes as though it had nothing else in the Universe to do." ~Galileo Galilei
- January 27
 "We need to think of the future and the planet we are going to leave to our children and their children." ~Kofi Anan
- January 28
 "Our loyalties are to the species and the planet. We speak for Earth. Our obligation to survive is owed not just to ourselves but also to that Cosmos, ancient and vast, from which we spring." ~Dr. Carl Sagan
- January 29
 "The fluttering of a butterfly's wings can effect climate changes on the other side of the planet." ~Paul Erlich
- January 30
 "I believe that we are here to contribute love to the planet – each of us in our own way." ~Bernie Siegel
- January 31
 "We will look upon the earth and her sister planets as being with us, not for us." ~Mary Daly

...on **CREATION**

KNOW YOUR STUFF

-by Shannon Boston, CRE Administrator, & Jennifer Johnson, Co-Chair of CRE Board



In August, the Children's Religious Education Department created the first ever All Souls Summer Camp. The church welcomed more than 60 campers (1st-5th graders), junior counselors, counselors-in-training (6th-12th graders), and adults who

helped oversee all the fun. Walking through the halls each morning, one could hear the chant, "We Can, We Can, Clean Up!" to go along with the camp theme, "Know Your Stuff."

Jennifer Johnson, the camp's volunteer director, explained, "We wanted the campers to walk away with a sense of how their actions impact the earth." To accomplish this, the campers were divided into mixed-age groups: air, water, land, and energy, and each weekday the groups explored a different element.

During lunch each day, the campers were responsible for separating their trash and un-eaten food into three bins: recycling, compost, or landfill. At the end of the week, Michael Patton, executive director of Tulsa's Metropolitan Environmental Trust (the MET), met with the campers and identified the discarded items that could be recycled, repurposed, or reused. He also taught them to pre-cycle, meaning to look at items at the store before buying them to determine whether the items might be recycled, reused, or composted.





Every day was filled with group games, science experiments, yoga, art, drama, singing, laughter, and joy. All the kids gained a deeper understanding of the footprint that they leave, and just as important, they gained and deepened friendships with peers, mentors, and adults in the church community. ✦



*Mark your calendars for the upcoming year's All Souls Summer Camp, August 1-5, 2011. The theme will be **EVOLUTION!** with special guests Connie Barlow and Michael Dowd. We will have a program for 4 and 5-year-olds, camp for children entering first through sixth grades, and counselor positions for children entering seventh through twelfth grades.*



SPIRITUAL PRACTICES: TAKE JOY IN CREATION

-by Rev. Debra Garfinkel, Pastoral Care Minister



Every Sunday morning worship at All Souls we sing,

Now with Creation's morning song, let us as children of the day with wakened hearts and purpose strong have eyes to measure life's array. With guileless minds and hearts sincere, the works of darkness cast away."

As we sing, we welcome joy and possibilities; we open ourselves to a new way of being part of all creation; and we actively engage in co-creating our world.

This month's spiritual practice is an invitation to purposefully engage in creativity. Make something new each day:

• **Rise up singing.** As you are going about otherwise mundane, automatic tasks, sing what you are doing.

Whether you love it or it is something you'd rather not do, sing it out. For example, "Ironing! How I love ya, how I love ya, beautiful, Dear Old Ironing!"

• **Walk in someone else's shoes – really.** Walking meditation – paying attention to each step – is a powerful tool to quiet the mind and simply Be. How much more powerful to take it a step further (so to speak) by donning someone else's shoes for a bit. This could be a practice done with a co-worker, a partner, a friend, or as a family.

• **Paint. Color. Work with clay.** Create a new world on paper or in some other medium. Use what you have on hand. Or, have part of your practice be the process of discovering with which materials you are most drawn to spend time. Practice alone, with friends, or as a family.

• **Remember (or find) the creation stories from your heritage or from a culture in which you are interested.**

Listen to them (there are storytellers at the library, on CDs and on the internet) or read the stories. Then, make up your own creation story. Share it!

• **Have fun! Be playful! Lighten up!** Even the God of Genesis recognized the need for light in the dark times. Hmmm... sounds like the makings of a story.

You are a Child of the Universe. May your spark of creativity dance and shine and grow. †



BUYING LOCAL, SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESS

-by Scott Smith, Owner of the Blue Jackalope

If you were to visit the website for the Blue Jackalope Grocery & Coffee, you'd find right there at the top of the page a definition for sustenance. (I'll spare you the effort, because I've lost the password to edit the site, and we're about 10 months on the wrong side of relevant.) So here you go: *Sustenance: that which nourishes life and spirit.*

a point of pride. When the Crosbie Heights Community Farm throws a Hoe-Down, hundreds of folks from across the Tulsa Metroplex converge to share a meal and hear entertainment by the best of our city's emerging musicians.



Now, if I were asked to draw up a concept map of a community store, of course I'd place the Blue Jackalope smack dab in the center. But beyond that, here at the store, we make an effort to buy local, much like those who patronize Farmer's Markets. Last summer, most of our in-season produce came from community gardens across Tulsa. Our meats are supplied by local farms. Our coffee, while not grown here, is locally roasted. As a small retailer (920 square feet), we do everything we can to achieve sustainable stewardship.

Well, I take that to mean being integral to Community. At the Blue Jackalope, we supply the necessities of food, coffee, and human interaction. The store has become a place to gather and catch up with your neighbors – whether next door or across town. It's a place to buy those missing last minute ingredients. It serves all walks of life, from the houseless to civic policy makers.

Yet, more is needed to go beyond local food as a niche market. To aid this process the Blue Jackalope has championed the establishment of a Healthy Community Store Initiative. Under the umbrella of this project lies a distribution co-operative to access competitive wholesale pricing on non-perishables and provide an outlet for area agriculture producers to get their goods into the mainstream market of our stores, restaurants, and food aid agencies. We are excited about the prospects. Visit us soon.

The presence of the store initially created a focal point for neighborhood revitalization. Terrific media coverage transformed the store into a destination. Twenty-somethings started flocking here to listen to music and they found a neighborhood to reclaim, on the edge of a new downtown Tulsa. Then a community garden was founded by these urban pioneers, as a means of giving of themselves to enhance their home. They began to supply the store with fresh produce, and gave the neighborhood

I feel blessed by my community and to have arrived at this calling. †



A MIGHTY CLOUD OF WITNESSES: STEWART CREMER

-by Kathy Keith, Executive Director



Artistic and creative people abound at All Souls. One who stands out is Stewart Cremer. Stew was what John Wolf calls an “ad man;” someone without whom our communications and campaigns would often fall flat. He read about Tulsa in a *Fortune* magazine article in 1959 and came to seek his own fortune in the advertising industry, with great success. He and his wife, Mickey, joined All Souls January 24, 1960, and raised their family here. Stew served on the Board of

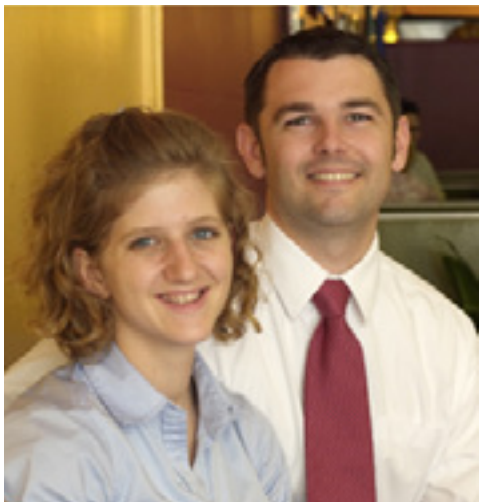


Stew Cremer, second from left, in “Roll Back the Years” 1971

Trustees, and in many other capacities. He is credited with creating at least one of the faux-stained glass windows that goes up in the Chapel at the beginning of Advent and remains lit until Epiphany, a legacy we enjoy to this day. †

A SHINING EXAMPLE OF A TULSA GREEN BUSINESS

At Eloté we strive to serve amazing food every day by using the freshest ingredients available. We know how difficult it is to eat healthy, fresh food in our busy lives. We are dedicated to making that easier for our customers, while limiting negative environmental impact through green practices including:



Eloté's owners, Libby and Jeramy Auld

Serving meats that are organically grain-fed and raised in Bixby.

We compost! Our produce remnants are composted to nourish the community gardens at Newsome Community Farms.

Fryer oil is recycled to make clean-burning bio-diesel fuel.

All of our printing is done on recycled paper.

All food is free of unnecessary fats, relying on fresh herbs and spices for outstanding flavor.

We support local farmers and vendors including Natural Farms, Three Springs Farm, Highland Dairy, Pancho Anaya Panaderia, Curtis Restaurant Supply, the Living Kitchen, Java Dave's Coffee, J-M Farms, Cheatwood's Honey, Marshall Brewing, and Newsome Community Farms.

Further Recommended Reading on Creation

The Seven Pillars of Creation: The Bible, Science, and the Ecology of Wonder

by William P. Brown.

What a pleasure to read a book this calm and commanding in place of the usual hysterics about faith and science. It ends with the only call that makes sense in this moment from either source of human wisdom: a call for self-restraint, self-mastery, before we overwhelm the world of beauty and meaning into which we were born. ~Bill McKibben, author of *Earth: Making a Life on a Tough New Planet*

Creation and Humanity: The Sources of Christian Theology

by Ian McFarland

This major sourcebook provides significant primary readings from the history of Christian theology on the topics of creation and humanity. ~Westminster John Knox Press

A New Climate for Theology: God, the World, and Global Warming

by Sallie McFague

Sallie McFague has brought the fruits of decades of thinking about God and the world, about individual and community, about humanity and nature, about reality and metaphor, about the sacramental and the prophetic, to bear on the critical issue of climate change. ~John B. Cobb Jr., Professor Emeritus, Claremont School of Theology

Claiming Earth as Common Ground: The Ecological Crisis through the Lens of Faith

by Andrea Cohen-Kiener

In this urgent call to action, Cohen-Kiener gathers insights from ecology coalitions, emerging theologians, and spiritual and environmental activists to rally and inspire us to work across denominational lines in order to fulfill our sacred imperative to care for God's creation. ~Skylight Paths Publishing

In Nature's Honor: Myths and Rituals Celebrating the Earth

by Patricia Montley

In Nature's Honor reconnects the modern spiritual seeker with the earth-centered practices of our ancestors. This work explores the seasonal rituals that celebrate the earth and our connection to it – which is not just physical but profoundly spiritual. ~Amazon

For Children

Creation Song

by Anna Scott-Brown; illustrations by Elena Gomez.

The wonder and excitement of creation is captured in this fresh, lyrical, and evocative interpretation of the biblical account of God's creation of the world. Each step in the process – from the beginning of light to the opening of the first plants and flowers – is covered in lush detail. Filled with wonder and beauty, this timeless story will capture the imagination of children and adults alike. ~Tulsa City-County Library

God Created

by Bozzuti-Jones, Mark Francisco; Ishida, Jui (Illustrator)

The simple, lyrical words and clear pictures of people across the world make this an elemental creation story to read aloud with children of many faiths. ~Booklist (ALA)

Old Turtle

This enchanting fable promotes a deeper understanding of the earth and our relationship with all the beings who inhabit it. A portion of the proceeds are donated to environmental healing and international understanding projects. Watercolor illustrations. ~Tulsa City County Library

Simple Gifts is published monthly by All Souls Unitarian Church, 2952 S. Peoria Ave. Tulsa, OK 74114 (918) 743-2363
www.AllSoulsChurch.org

Editorial Team

managing editor

Laurel Williamson

copy editors

Judy Jarvis
Kate Starr

editorial board

Phil Haney
Judy Jarvis

church staff

Rev. Marlin Lavanhar
Rev. Tamara Lebak
Rev. Debra Garfinkel
Kathy Keith
Shannon Boston

contributors

Michael Birkes
Greg Bledsoe
Phil Haney
Jennifer Johnson
Michael Patton

Have an idea for a submission?

Contact Laurel Williamson
lwilliamson@allsoulchurch.org

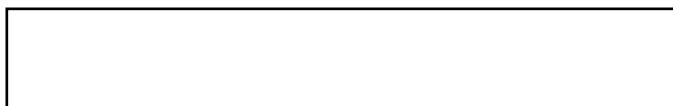
- 1) Submit your text electronically via email in plain (unformatted) text. 500 word limit.
- 2) Include your name and daytime number.
- 3) Not all submissions will be published. Submissions may be edited for length.



LOVE IS THE SPIRIT

ALL SOULS UNITARIAN CHURCH
2952 S. PEORIA AVE. TULSA, OK 74114
WWW.ALLSOULSCHURCH.ORG

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Tulsa, OK
Permit No. 21



January Highlights

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Jan. 1 | HAPPY NEW YEAR! |
| Jan. 2 | All Souls 303 - Joining the Church |
| Jan. 5 | All Souls 101 |
| Jan. 6 | Senior Game Day |
| Jan. 7 | Soulful Sundown - Out of Your Mind |
| Jan. 8 | SupperClub (offsite) |
| Jan. 9 | Community Outreach Fair |
| Jan. 10 | Open Women's Group |
| Jan. 12 | Wednesday Connections Resumes |
| | Open Branches Meeting - Creation |
| Jan. 13 | Day Alliance |
| Jan. 14 | Evening of Praise |
| Jan. 17 | Martin Luther King Day |
| Jan. 19 | ROOTS Series Begins |
| Jan. 21 | Trivia Night |
| | Parents' Night Out |
| Jan. 22-3 | Women's Retreat |
| Jan. 25 | Evening Alliance |
| Jan. 27 | Board of Trustees |
| Jan. 30 | Branches Extravaganzas |

SEE INSIDE FOR

PARISH NOTES

The All Souls Weekly Bulletin

Explore the intersection of music, arts, & spirituality



Out of YOUR MIND

Jan. 7, 7:00 pm

IMPROV
with
SuperOvum,
Tavis Minner,
& Rick Fortner

Reserve Childcare by calling 743-2805, ext 308

All Souls Unitarian Church 2952 S. Peoria, Tulsa, OK 74114 www.AllSoulsChurch.org