

The Sabbatical Handbook



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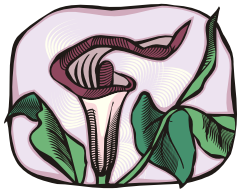
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The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of South County

November 2010



A Message from the Minister

Good Friends,

As this Handbook shows, congregational leaders have done a wonderful job tending to the myriad of details raised by my sabbatical. You will be well cared for, skillfully led in worship, and offered opportunities to grow as a congregation. I will have the great blessing of this “set apart” time. I’d like to share some of my plans with you.

One function of sabbatical is to deepen one’s sense of calling and commitment to this vocation. I will be able to do so through the gift of time to read, write, reflect and rest. I will spend time with my spiritual director, and will restrengthen my meditation practice.

In January 2011, I will participate in two retreats. One is a writing retreat focused on poetry; the other a meditation retreat. Plans for the four-month 2012 sabbatical are not yet made.

That’s the outline of my plan. The pace of my life will change. UUCSC is a strong congregation. I expect that your strength and sense of community will develop in new and unanticipated ways.

Again and again, I thank you for this sabbatical. I am deeply grateful. As ever, you will be held in my heart at this time.

Peace and Love,

Betty



A Message from the Committee on Ministry

After seven years of energetic and devoted service to our congregation, our minister, the Rev. Betty Kornitzer, will take a two-part sabbatical: January 1 through January 31, 2011 and for four months in 2012. As many of you may know, in our initial agreement with Betty, our congregation committed to give her a five-month sabbatical after five years of service.

Sabbatical leave is most familiar in the academic world. Among religious communities, the Unitarian Universalist Association leads the way in recognizing the immense benefit to congregations and ministers who take part in this practice. The minister certainly benefits by having time for study and refreshment of spirit during which new and enriching energy is brought to her calling. The congregation benefits by experiencing a period of revitalized and strengthened lay leadership. When Betty returns, she will share with us the riches of her sabbatical leave, strengthening our congregational life in new and exciting ways.

In Betty's absence we trust that our ministry to one another, already strong, will flourish, while our horizons continue to be broadened by a rich array of visiting speakers. During this sabbatical time we will continue to exercise full responsibility for our governance and shared ministry. Our plan for this time, laid out within this booklet, allows for a smooth transition through Betty's leave and on into the future for her and our faith community.

All questions and thoughts may be directed to the Sabbatical Committee, to members of the Board of Trustees, or to the Committee on Ministry.

The Committee on Ministry,

Jean Burke, Lindsey Crowninshield and Linda Whyte Burrell

Pastoral Care & Assistance

Pastoral Associates Team Coordinator

Cindy Berry

783-8278 jberrycberry@verizon.net

Emergency On-Call Minister

Rev. Ben Hall

If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Cindy Berry, who will contact Rev. Hall on your behalf.

Pastoral Associates Team

*Cindy Berry, Val Follett, Lynda Wells,
Penny Hall & Pat O'Reilly*

Wellness Team

(The Peggy Huddleston Prepare for Surgery Technique)

Lynda Wells, coordinator

789-5185 lyndawells@hotmail.com

Caring Connection

Judi Marcy

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How We Will Do What Needs to Be Done

Worship Services and Religious Education

We have scheduled a superb series of services during the sabbatical period. They are listed in this Handbook. Religious Education is under the direction of Debby Hedison and the RE Committee.

Scheduling Events

Mary Pinch keeps the calendar and schedules space at Lily Pads. Send information to her at mlp77@cox.net. Nancy Rose handles outside rentals of the hall.

Coordinating Activities

If you have an idea for a new church program or activity, contact Charlie Donnelly, Congregation president, for his thoughts and support.

How You Can Help

- Come to worship every Sunday
- Participate in Congregation programs and activities.
- Welcome newcomers and visitors.
- Volunteer to help when someone is sick or in crisis.
- Volunteer to help with committee work.
- Look for things that need to be done.
- Remember that staff and lay leaders are carrying an extra load, and thank them.
- Please report any building or property issues to Alice Buckley.
- Please report any worship service concerns to Kathy Swink.



Frequently Asked Questions

What is a sabbatical and why is Betty taking one?

In our faith tradition, a ministerial sabbatical is a time for study, growth, reflection, enrichment and renewal. Our Letter of Agreement with our minister provides for one month of sabbatical leave for each year of service, with no more than six months taken.

How long will Betty be on sabbatical?

Betty will be on sabbatical for one month, January of 2011. In 2012 she will be on sabbatical for four months.

May I call Betty while she is on sabbatical?

For Betty's sabbatical to be truly successful, we should not contact her, though we know she may be nearby. If you have a pastoral emergency, please call one of our caregivers listed in this handbook.

What if I really need to contact Betty?

In case of emergency (such as the death of a congregant), Charlie Donnelly, Congregation president, is authorized to contact Betty.

Who will answer Betty's e-mails?

E-mailers will receive an automatic reply saying that Rev. Kornitzer is on sabbatical, and offering alternative e-mail and telephone contact information.

If someone is new to the church and wants information or to sign the membership book, who should they contact?

Newcomers to the church who desire more information should contact one of the Membership Committee co-chairs, Val Follett or Barbara Pagh.

How come I don't get a sabbatical?

You should. Every year, more employers realize that employees, especially in jobs involving stress and caring, need sabbatical to avoid "burn out." Studies show sabbatical increases employee productivity, satisfaction and retention.

Who will lead worship services in Betty's absence?

Guest speakers and ministers, as well as members of our Congregation, will lead Sunday services. Refer to the schedule in this Handbook.

January Services

January 2

Re-discovering T.S. Eliot – Rev. Jan Knost

He's a very famous poet, playwright and philosopher. He started out as a Unitarian. Suddenly, he changed, choosing the Anglican faith instead.

Why? Is there any way we can forgive him?

Rev. Knost, a retired Universalist minister, lives in Charlestown.

January 9

Sing Your Heart Out – Jeannie Gagné

Singing is one of the best things we can do for healing, for catharsis, for releasing endorphins, and just the fun of it.

In this musical service we will "raise a joyful noise."

Singer-songwriter Jeannie Gagné teaches at Berklee College of Music in Boston and is a UU Musician-at-Large.

January 16

Dreaming Out Loud – Peter Bowden, UUA Consultant

"I have a dream" is a powerful phrase! As Unitarian Universalists, we gather around shared values, but gathering does not guarantee our dreams will come true. On this Sunday Peter Bowden will offer a fun, no-nonsense guide to creating the lives, community and world we long for.

January 23

The Idea of Hell – Rev. Jan Knost

Many Unitarian Universalists either come out of an orthodox tradition that emphasizes punishment in some afterlife, or they have people close to them who worry about them because they've rejected orthodox teachings.

This study emphasizes the fact that the concept of endless punishment after death simply is not mentioned in either the Old or New Testaments.

And it goes on from there. Tempting?

January 30

Unitarian Universalist Mysticism – Kathy Swink

Mysticism is the direct experience of the Divine or other Spiritual Forces; and yes, even UUs may have such experiences! Kathy will share some examples from her research as well as her own life.