



Letter from the Board

Judith Hoehler

Welcome to the second issue of the Magi Network newsletter!

The first issue of *Communion* was sent to all churches and District Executives within the UUA because we wanted to proclaim the good news of the existence of the Magi Network to provide advice, expertise, materials and financial and prayer support to individuals and groups wanting to found a UU Christian church.

This, the second issue of *Communion*, is sent only to you, the members and to District Executives and headquarters staff of the UUA. We on the

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Board trust that you will freely circulate knowledge of the Magi Network and encourage the formation of a new UU Christian church in your region. The newsletter is also available on the Magi Network Web site, so feel free to pass our URL along to anyone who might like to read it.

The Board continues to work on publicizing the services of the Magi Network.

Through cooperation with the Unitarian Universalist Christian Fellowship and the Council of Christian Churches within the UUA, we are in the process of clarifying for the UU general public the unique functions of each organization: the UUCF serves individuals; the Council serves churches; and the Magi Network fosters the founding of new congregations.

The Board has also responded to over ___ inquiries by mail and email requesting information. We welcome your advice, your help and your prayers in carrying out the Magi Network mission "to ensure that everyone whose life would benefit from the practice of Unitarian Universalist Christianity has access to and room in a nearby congregation."

The Board of Directors

Nurya Love Parish, President
Scott Wells, Vice-President
Dean Drake, Treasurer
Anna Russomano Broskie
Judith Hoehler

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Letter From the Board 1

Gathering Together
In His Name 2

Julia Outlaw Grants 4
Honor Pioneer

Gathering In His Name...To Celebrate Advent

Anna Russomano Broskie

“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” These words of Jesus cited by Matthew continue and extend the rabbinic tradition: “If two or three sit together and the words of the law [are spoken] between them, the Divine Presence [Shekinah] rests between them.”

Building churches is a long, slow process involving a lot of planning, strategizing and other logistics, all of which are important. But it is vital to keep our focus on the *purpose* of UU Christian churches, our goal of creating spaces where we can worship, work, learn and love in a UU Christian context.

Even if you are only at the very beginning stages of wondering if you might like to participate in building a UU Christian church, worshipping together with other UU Christians is integral to your discernment process. Even if there are only a few others – even if there is only *one* other – it is worthwhile to gather together in the name of Jesus, trusting that he is among us even in so small a group.

Advent, the time of preparation for the coming of the Christ child, begins Sunday, December 3 this year. I would like to suggest using the four Sundays in Advent as an opportunity not only to experience UU Christian worship with others (if you are in a congregation where that is not possible during the regular worship time), but also as a time of discernment if the holy spirit may be leading you to be part of incarnating the Christ child in the form of a Christian community in your neighborhood.

There are many possibilities for simple, house-church style worship services, and I will only suggest one

below. For the one I’ve compiled, you’ll need copies of *Singing the Living Tradition* (hereafter “SLT”), which can be borrowed from your congregation if returned faithfully, or bought from the UUA bookstore (1-800-xxx-xxxx). In addition, if you intend to lead worship on a regular basis, I recommend getting a copy of Andrea Anastos’s *Lectionary Prayers* (from Logos Pro-

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– Matt. 18:20

ductions, P.O. Box 240, South St. Paul, MN 55075-0240), which contains collects and pastoral prayers for each Sunday in the three-year cycle of the Revised Common Lectionary, many of which have become favorites of mine. Feel free also to look for resources in the wider Christian tradition, such as the *Book of Common Prayer*, or the hymnals of the United Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ, etc. Many of these resources are available online. See the Links page on the Magi Network Web site.

Order of Worship

Gather in silence or with appropriate music playing.

Greeting

God knows us and our hungers.
God loves us like a father and nur-

tures us like a mother. God draws us to each other and claims us as the people of God. Knowing this, let us worship God. [*New Century Hymnal*]

Hymn #225 – [Note: the following Advent hymns are in SLT: 224 – “Let Christmas Come,” 225 – “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,” and 226 – “People, Look East.” For simplicity and ease of learning, I recommend opening each meeting with #225 as a meditative invocation and closing with #226 as an enthusiastic “sending out.” Both these tunes are familiar, and small groups should be able to get by without accompaniment.]

Invocation

Leader: Christ is with us
People: Christ is in our midst
Leader: Let us pray. Gracious God, gentle in your power and strong in your tenderness, you have brought us forth from the womb of your being and breathed into us the breath of life. We know that we do not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from you. Feed our deep hungers with the living bread that you give us in Jesus Christ. May Jesus’ promise, “Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them,” be fulfilled in us. Make us a joyful company of your people so that with the faithful in every place and time we may praise and honor you, God Most High. Amen. [*New Century Hymnal*]

Scripture

Advent 1 –

Luke 21:25-36

Advent 2 –

Luke 3:1-6

Advent 3 –

Luke 3:7-18

Advent 4 –

Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)



Conversation about the Scripture

Affirmation of Faith

Try one of the historic Universalist or Unitarian statements (#471 or #472 in SLT) or perhaps this from the New Zealand *Book of Common Prayer*:



You, O God, are supreme and holy.
 You create our world
 and give us life.
 Your purpose overarches
 everything we do.
 You have always been with us.
 You are God.
 You, O God, are infinitely generous,
 good beyond all measure.
 You came to us
 before we came to you.
 You have revealed and proved
 your love for us in Jesus Christ,
 who lived and died and rose again.
 You are with us now.
 You are God.
 You, O God, are Holy Spirit.
 You empower us
 to be your gospel in the world.
 You reconcile and heal;
 you overcome death.
 You are our God.
 We worship you.
Prayers of the People #501 in
 SLT, inviting people to add names
 where indicated.

Lord's Prayer (#513 in SLT)

Hymn #226

Benediction

Suggestions in SLT: #684, 686, 698,
 704, 708-13

End with shared food. †

Do you know someone who would like to join The Magi Network?

Spread the word about the Magi Network to interested friends, family, coworkers, neighbors, or others:

- *If they have Web access, give them our URL:* <www.magi.uni.cc>. *They can read our pamphlet, our newsletter — and even join— online.*
- *Would you like to give them a pamphlet yourself? We'll send you some:* uu_magi@hotmail.com or P.O. Box 486, Fenton, MI 48430-0468.

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Publishing Information

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(Continued from page 4)

This indefatigable woman has organized a Sunday-school in Dover, N.C., her new home.

She commenced with twenty members, composed of children from Methodist, Baptist and Universalist parents, and says, "Although our school is small now, I think we shall be able to do some good; for when our glorious doctrine is rightly understood it will cause prejudice to give way, and then the hidden beauties of the Bible, that otherwise lie unseen, unappreciated, and uncultivated, would soon blossom as the rose; and men would learn to worship the Father in the beauty of holiness, and to love him because he first loved us. Praying God's blessing on our cause and your good work, I remain yours in Christ." †

Magi Network General Assembly Workshop Featured On UUA Web Site

The Revs. Nurya Love Parish and Scott Wells of the Magi Network Board led a workshop entitled, "A UU Christian Church in Your Neighborhood" at General Assembly this past June in Nashville, Tennessee.

A summary of this session, with photos of Nurya and Scott, can be found on the UUA Web site at <<http://www.uua.org/ga/ga00/355.html>>. †





*Contributing to the Renaissance of
Unitarian Universalist Christianity*

Julia Outlaw Grants Honor Pioneer

Julia E. Outlaw stands as one of the unrecognized heroines of our faith. With some little help, she established a Sunday school that became church (reorganized in 1905) the Outlaw's Bridge Universalist Church, Seven Springs, North Carolina. The church continues to this day. The Julia Outlaw Grant Program honors this hard-laboring foremother, and the needful intervention of "Mrs. Soule" — surely the Rev. Caroline Augusta Soule, a constant advocate for missions. The following illuminating passage is excerpted from Our Women Workers, written by E. H. Hanson, herself a "woman worker," in 1881. - Scott Wells

This faithful and persevering woman organized a Sunday-school at Outlaw's Bridge, Dulpin Co., North Carolina, the first Sunday in July, 1869, with only fourteen pupils, and with all the opposition that the old-fashioned prejudices could surround her with. She was belied and maligned, and the young people were told by their parents that they were opposed to fishing and hunting on Sundays, but would much prefer to haven them engage in that than to have them attend Mrs. Outlaw's Sunday-school. And the children of such parents did not at first take an active part in the school; would only read in the Bible and sing, and

listen to Mrs. Outlaw's explanations, and their faces would light up with real gladness whenever she cleared the mist away from any passage of Scripture. One good old Baptist said (and we have no doubt that she was honest, and prayed for what she thought was right) the only thing that she every prayed earnestly for was not granted her, was the downfall of that Sunday-school. "But," Mrs. Outlaw says,



"thanks be to God, instead of its downfall, success crowned our efforts, for our little school gradually increased until at one time it numbered about sixty, and the daily lives of those children we were proud of. They kept the Sabbath in Christ's own way." At least one hundred have been connected with that school, and it can be no small pleasure for one woman to feel that she has been the

means of sending out into the one hundred Universalists to benefit and bless it.

And it must be remembered that Mrs. Outlaw had but few friends to help her, and the most of them were poor; but they did not grow languid or listless in their work, nor did their spirits drop. Although they had dark and gloomy days, the bright and sunny days were so interspersed that courage never gave out.

"Our friends were many in the North; books and papers eager to flow in to us from all quarters. From Mrs. Soule alone we received between sixty and seventy dollars' worth. Mrs. Soule and all others who assisted us in those days will always be remembered in our prayers. The books and papers cheered the hearts of the older ones as well as the lambs of the flock, and their smiling faces and happy hearts are photographed upon my memory. Many who were quite small twelve years ago are grown men and women, and although I am not with them now, the school goes one under their superintendence."

At Outlaw's Bridge, as the fruits of the work of this woman, a little church edifice stands near the school-house where the Sunday-school used to meet, and an organization of twenty members, nine of whom were regularly attendant members of the Sunday-school. "If we could have had regular preaching, Universalism would have swept everything in its rapid march."

(Continued on page 3)