

THE SCENE AT SUMMIT

Newsletter of Summit Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
8778 Cottonwood Ave., Santee, CA 92071

Vol. 22 No. 12

December 2012

Monthly

Summit's services and programs are held at the address above, phone number, 619-562-0833. Our website is www.suuf.org, where the Newsletter & Sermons can also be read. Mail should be sent to the office at the above address.

Office hours: Mon. 9:00 am - noon, Tue. - Fri. 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Sunday Services - 10:00 am

December 2: "Happy Holidays Are Here Again!"

Rev. Frank Placone-Willey

We will be hosting our Summit Arts and Crafts Festival...and in our service we will acknowledge that December is the month when grief and sadness invade the lives of so many. For them, holiday wonder and cheer have become a casualty of adulthood. In facing such realities, Rev. Frank will invite us to do some things differently this year, suggesting ways we can inoculate ourselves against, and perhaps even find healing from, the darkness that can spoil this Season of Light.

December 9: Annual Children's Holiday Program: *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*

This classic holiday story is about a traditional church pageant that is taken over by the "bad kids" of the town. Like a slow-motion train wreck everyone comes to watch to see what will happen! Our children and youth are working hard with our director, Nancy Howe, to share this story with you.

December 16: "What Are We Waiting For?"

Rev. Frank Placone-Willey

The coming of the *Messiah* (from Hebrew, meaning "anointed one") is a complex idea based upon texts in the Jewish Scriptures. Rev. Frank will challenge us to think about questions like: Who or what is this Messiah? How have religious teachings about the Messiah evolved historically? How might the concept of the Messiah inform how we live today? Happy Hanukkah!

December 23: "Atop the Molten Breath of Gods"

Rev. Frank Placone-Willey

Come join our celebration of the Winter Solstice and the pagan traditions that inform the movement from darkness into light. Our reflection this Sunday will invite us to consider how the extraordinary is revealed in the ordinary cycles and processes of nature. Come in festive garb!

December 24: Christmas Eve: *A Festival of Lessons and Carols* Rev. Frank Placone-Willey

All are welcome to attend our crowning ritual for the season of light. O come all ye faithful, to hear readings of prophecy and gospel about the birth of Jesus, join in singing the carols of our childhood, and find insight and inspiration in Rev. Frank's meditation on "The Sacred Myths of Christmas."

December 30: "Whew! We Made it"

Rev. Frank Placone-Willey

If you show up this Sunday you will find us celebrating the fact that the world has not ended earlier in December as foretold by so many modern apocalypticists and self-anointed prophets of popular culture...and we'll still be holding our collective breath until the New Year! Come be with us for community retrospective of the past year, have a reading of the Summit necrology, remember those on our planet who indeed may be feeling as if their world is coming to an end, and set our individual and communal intentions for a loving, just and fulfilling 2013!

—ATTENTION—*The Scene at Summit's* **January 2013** edition

deadline will be **Friday, December 21st**.

FROM THE MINISTER'S ROLLTOP:

This year has been a busy one in our Fellowship, with much to celebrate! Here are just a few of the many noteworthy developments in 2012:

- ◇ Our members now number over 160.
- ◇ With the help and support of more than 30 of our adult members and friends, our children's RE program has consolidated nicely under the able leadership of Mary Carter- Vail.
- ◇ Our participation in the Interfaith Shelter Network became permanent.
- ◇ Our Social Action Committee led us in supporting many good causes, including Crisis House, students at Esperanza School in Tijuana, Amnesty International, and assistance for the homeless.
- ◇ Seven of our youth attended camp at de Benneville Pines, thanks to scholarships our Social Action Committee and members helped provide.
- ◇ We were recognized by the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee as being a congregation with an exceptional number of UUSC members.
- ◇ Our Walden 2012 project was inaugurated and promises to garner world attention in 2013.
- ◇ We enjoyed many offerings in Adult Religious Education around topics and current events, including topics concerned with aging, the economy, Vietnam, "Immigration as a Moral Concern," "Religions of the Axial Age," and "The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion."
- ◇ Our new Committee On Ministry completed and announced its mission and objectives to the Fellowship. In addition, we established much-needed Committees to help us coordinate Communications and Public Outreach, Planned Giving, Strategic Planning, and Denominational (UUA) Affairs.
- ◇ New policies and procedures were developed to guide us in maintaining our commitment to functioning as a democratic association and to help us more effectively coordinate and focus our future fundraising activities.
- ◇ We had one of our most successful fundraising years ever, thanks to the generosity of many members, friends and two foundations.

For me, all of this is secondary in importance to the personal growth and well-being of those of us who consider this beloved fellowship our spiritual home. As we all strive to be the kinds of people and communities we want to see living and working together on our planet, may we find relief from suffering, strength for the tasks that remain, new capacities for flexibility and balance, and forever live from the realization that life gives each of us a multitude of opportunities to influence our world for good.

Beyond all of this, this holiday season and year-end reminds me that my constant prayer remains:
"PEACE ON EARTH, GOOD WILL TOWARD ALL!"

Namaste, ~ Rev. Frank

FROM OUR SUMMIT LEADERSHIP

Planned Giving

Summit UU has recently formed a Planned Giving Committee. Planned gifts are usually funded from assets accumulated over a person's lifetime, rather than from disposable annual income as for an annual campaign. They include:

- ◇ naming Summit UU as a beneficiary in a will or a living trust
- ◇ naming Summit UU as a beneficiary on a life insurance policy or retirement plan
- ◇ donating principal to the UUA for the benefit of Summit UU and receiving in return income over a period of time such as the remainder of a lifetime
- ◇ donating real estate to Summit UU
- ◇ establishing a charitable remainder trust with Summit UU among the beneficiaries

A planned giving effort in a congregation is long-term and open-ended, with the intent of providing long-term or perpetual support to the congregation. If you would like to learn more, or have an interest in this type of gift, please speak with Don Jania-Smith, Joe Felix or Carol Davis.

Board of Directors Meetings

Third Thursday of each month from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Library at Summit. Observers are welcome. Minutes from recent meetings are posted on our website: www.suuf.org

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION FOR ALL

Children's Religious Exploration News

Good news! The Summit Nursery is once again open and ready for infants and children on Sunday mornings. Please welcome Cathy Young to back to the Summit family. She was involved for many years at our old site and has now returned as our new Nursery childcare provider. Cathy is an experienced childcare worker who is currently working on her early childhood education degree at Grossmont College. She also works as a sub in the local schools and does in-home health care. Welcome Cathy!

The Nursery revision: Last July our Nursery was closed due to lack of enrollment and budget issues. The Summit Board asked the Children's Religious Exploration (CRE) Committee to come up with a new Nursery plan that would allow us to offer childcare when young children were present. The first plan was to build a "crying room" where parents could be with young children and be able to see and hear the service. It quickly became apparent that we did not have a facility that could accommodate this space while meeting the needs of our growing community. The CRE Committee then worked to come up with a plan to re-open the Nursery. We now have one paid Nursery Worker here each Sunday who works with a volunteer to provide childcare for infants and toddlers.

Our Nursery is in a "rebuilding" phase as we have no regularly attending families with young children. Each Sunday, we have childcare available in the Nursery from 9:30 am until 12 noon. If by 10:30 am no children are present, the Nursery will be closed for the rest of the day. This allows the volunteer to return to the service for the sermon while Cathy comes over to RE to help in the classroom if needed or can clock out to attend the service or go home.

We need more young children at Summit! I put a call out to you to be on the lookout for families who would be interested in what Summit has to offer. When my children were young, I was a full-time stay-at-home mom. An opportunity for my kids to be part of a “play group” was really appreciated. Also, at that time, I personally needed a UU community for adult conversation and growth. Summit has something very special to offer to families with children of all ages. I am personally going to invite friends that I know who have young children to come check out what we have to offer. I encourage you to do so as well.

Holiday Religious Exploration Service – Dec 9: We are very busy in RE working on our Annual Holiday Service. This year the service will tell the story of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. This classic holiday story is about a traditional church pageant that is taken over by the “bad kids” of the town. Like a slow-motion train wreck everyone comes to watch to see what will happen. Although nothing is as expected, it turns out to be the best pageant ever. Our children and youth are working hard with our director, Nancy Howe, to share this story with you on Dec 9. We hope that you will join us for this memorable service.

It is a busy month! Save the dates to join us for these upcoming CRE events:

CRE Committee Meetings: The first Sunday of the month at 12 noon.

CRE Holiday Play – Dec 9

CRE Holiday Ornament Making & Caroling Party – Dec 14

Winter Sr. High Youth Camp – Dec 27 to Jan 1

Early Next Year:

PROM – Jan 26, 2013

Home Hosts Wanted for Religious Education Professionals on Feb 1 & 2, 2013

Youth Service – Feb 10

Bright Blessings,
Mary Carter-Vail / Summitdre@gmail.com
Dir. of Children’s Religious Exploration for SUUF

Adult Religious Exploration

Writers Workshop/ Lois Santalo: This group meets every Tuesday morning, 9:30 to noon, in the Salon.

Memoir Writing Group / Lois Santalo: Friday, December 14th, 10:00 a.m. to noon, in the Summit Library. This is an ongoing workshop. Everyone is welcome.

Poetry Workshop: Saturday, December 15th, 10:00 a.m. to noon in one of the CRE classrooms. Come play with words and discover the poet within. All levels of writing experience welcome. If you have any questions please call Margo Mariana. No registration necessary.

Meditation - Wed., 8:30 a.m. -Salon; Sunday, 8:00 a.m. -Sanctuary

Why meditate? "It's like coming home." We meditate to find, to recover, to come back to something of ourselves we only dimly and unknowingly had and have lost without knowing what it was or where or when we lost it.

Meditation is a practice, and needs to be practiced, like anything worth doing. We sit in chairs, in meditation and/or silent prayer for the concerns of our hearts or of others who have asked to be remembered. You needn't be experienced. We are lifted by the shared intention and spiritual energy of one another.

Spirituality Focus Groups are Happening at Summit:

Rev. Frank has been hosting Spirituality Focus Groups here at Summit to help him and our community learn more about the religious, spiritual, and philosophical backgrounds, interests and practices of Summit Members and Friends. If you have not yet participated in one of these focus sessions, hang on, because you will be invited to do so sometime this fall.

Rev. Frank invites you to consider participating in one or more of the following adult Religious Exploration offerings in the New Year:

~ **ANIMUS: A Personal Support and Growth Group for Men** will have an organizing meeting at Summit on Thursday evening, December 6th, at 6:00 p.m. All men who may be interested in participating in such a group are encouraged to attend and discuss its purposes and help schedule any future meetings.

~ Delving Deeper Into Our Living Tradition: Am I a Humanist?

This class will meet three times. At each gathering there will be a presentation by Rev. Frank and a discussion of Mason Olds' book, *American Religious Humanism* (Revised Edition), University Press of America, 1977. Meetings will be on Thursdays, January 31st, February 28th, and March 28th, 2013. Each class will meet on those dates at 10:00-11:30 a.m. and be repeated in the evening, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Rev. Frank has some used copies of Olds' book for sale for \$5.00. Copies can be purchased on Amazon.com.

~ Spiritual Praxis Group: Starting with the Four Agreements

Beginning January 15th, and thereafter on the Second Tuesday of each month, from 6:30-8:00 p.m., Rev. Frank will be facilitating an experiential group for people who are interested in UU-friendly spiritual practices. The group will begin with an in-depth study and application of some of the practices behind Miguel Ruiz's best selling book, *The Four Agreements*. Warning! This group will be intense and personal and only of interest to people who are wanting to go deep and find a greater degree of personal freedom in their lives.

SUMMIT MINISTRIES

Caring Committee

We would like to remind everyone that Juana Page, 619-660-9690, and JoAnn Swanson, 619-465-7279, are the "ride coordinators" for our committee. If you need assistance with transportation to Summit or appointments, call them, preferably a few days ahead of time.

Loving Hands Ministry meets Tues., December 4th, at 1:00 p.m.

If you like to knit, crochet, or quilt, please join us in the Salon. The Loving Hands Ministry works on blankets for Linus Project, dishcloths for Crisis House, comfort shawls for Summitarians in need of comfort, and is always open to new ideas for outreach projects. Contact Laurel Bernstein for more info.

Social Action Corner - *Service Is Our Prayer*

Helping Others in East County and Beyond

Summitarians acting locally:

December SAC collection: Once again SAC will be sponsoring the “adoption” of several families for the holidays. Look for the Christmas tree with paper ornaments that specify items on each family member’s gift list. Together with Crisis House we can make this holiday season special for our neighbors in need.

A reminder- food collection basket: Crisis House is in need of food bank donations, which have decreased in recent years even as the need has increased. Please remember that a basket is always present in Summit’s greeting room to receive your canned and boxed food items- why not pick up one or two extra items this week while doing your grocery or holiday shopping, and drop them in the basket on Sunday?

Collection to aid veterans in San Diego: The SAC collection on November 18 came to \$567 and will benefit both the Wounded Warrior Project and Veterans’ Village of San Diego. Many thanks for your generosity toward this worthy cause. SAC is exploring other opportunities to provide help and support to the many veterans who live in our area.

Summitarians acting globally:

Kiva: Over the past 5 years we have used your donations from two past collections to make microloans to women around the world through Kiva, the world's first online lending platform connecting online lenders to entrepreneurs. As money is repaid to us, it is used to make new loans in \$25 increments. The success rate of these loans has been tremendous, with only one loan default over that time.

How Can You Help Summit’s Social Action Efforts?

Environmental: Bring your used household batteries to Summit and we’ll dispose of them safely for you. Look for the collection basket in the greeting room.

Financial: Fair Trade Coffee– December 16. Get your coffee and support a great cause – purchase fair trade coffee! And....chocolate is back!! You can also place a special order to make sure you never have to go without. Summit’s teens are now running this program. If you have any questions, please contact Gary Baldwin.

Social Action Sunday: The third Sunday of the month (December 16) is Social Action Sunday. Please join us on that day for the next Social Action Committee meeting in the library at 8:30 a.m. Questions? Contact Rosemary Morrison.

WITHIN THE CONGREGATION

Member & Friend News

♥ Please remember Gloria Gelineau and her family in your thoughts and prayers. Fred passed away on Nov. 19th after suffering a heart attack. He will be missed greatly.

♥ *I want to thank all of you for your prayers over the week of Thanksgiving after my daughter-in-law's accident in Ocotillo Wells. She suffered a severe concussion but is recovering. We were able to bring her home from the hospital in time for the holiday.*

I also want to thank everyone for the celebration of my 10th Anniversary with Summit. I really can't imagine what my life would be without having stumbled in your door looking for a job. As always, thank you for your support! Yours in faith, Linda Peck

Rev. Frank's Installation Memory Book:

We are accepting "note cards" for Rev. Frank's Memory Book up to December 10th. We want to give anyone who wants to send him a personal message the opportunity to do so. There are note cards and a basket in the Greeting Room for this purpose. At a future date there will be an official presentation of the book to Rev. Frank.

Hiking Group

We would like to invite you to join our hiking group and take pleasure in the great outdoors. Our next hike is Sunday, December 16th at 1:00 p.m. If you would like to join us please contact Kerstin Crowe. We will send out a group e-mail with more detailed instructions before the hike. Hope to see you, Kerstin Crowe and family

Who will next be caught Standing on the Side of Love?

Who would you like to nominate? If you would like to recognize someone for their loving and faithful service in our Fellowship, please send an e-mail (or fill out a form, available in the office or the Greeting Room) to member Donna Daum describing who you would like to have publicly acknowledged and why. The acknowledgement takes place during Community News time in the Service on the 2nd Sunday each month.

Did you know Summit has its own Facebook page?

Check it out! (And feel free to add your voice to the mix!) Don't worry -- we'll "Friend" you!! <http://www.facebook.com/SummitUUF> Questions? Contact Trish Ladd, Summit's Facebook guru.

Another Way to Be Enlightened:

This newsletter is our monthly *Scene at Summit*. If you would like to receive Summit's weekly eNews, or to contribute, contact Pam Kerr at Suuf_volunteer@sbcglobal.net with your article by Wednesday evening.

* Please include the day, date, time, location, and contact information.

* If you have a picture to include, send it in!

Editor: Pam Kerr, Suuf_volunteer@sbcglobal.net

FYI-

Used batteries: There is a collection basket in the greeting room, a safe and easy way to dispose of those used batteries.

A Food Collection Basket: is always present in our Greeting room to receive canned and boxed food items - why not pick up an extra item or two while grocery shopping?

Classifieds in the eNews!

There are changes in the format and content of our weekly eNews. First change: We're adding a new "Classifieds" section, at the end. (Scroll down if you want to read it. Don't scroll down if you're not interested.) Here, you'll find services offered, items for sale, interesting events in the community, non-Summit-related announcements, etc. Email your submission to suuf_volunteer@sbcglobal.net, and I'll print it in next week's eNews. (Note: It will appear only once. If you want it to appear each week, you'll need to re-submit each week.) **Deadline:** Submit your item Wednesday evening of each week.

SUMMIT'S POTPOURRI OF PROGRAMS

Book Club ...

will meet Tuesday, December 4th at 7:00 p.m. to discuss *The Innocents Abroad* by Mark Twain. The book for January's meeting will be *An Object of Beauty* by Steve Martin.

Choir Notes...

Choir practice will now start at 6:30 and go to 8:00 pm. If you are interested in joining, please email or text Jill Reis, Choir Director at jillerinr@gmail.com or 619-244-6965.

Earth Centered Spirituality Group ...

In lieu of a meeting in December, the group will be purchasing tickets to 1st Church's annual Winter Solstice celebration on Saturday, December 15, 2012 starting promptly at 6:30 pm. Tickets can be purchased at 1st Church or by sending in your check with the registration form found on their website, www.firstuusandiego.org. First UU Church of SD, 4190 Front St., SD CA, 92103

ECSG is sponsoring a monthly "Talking Circle" lead by Lynn Manyfires. In Native American cultures, there is a ceremony for those things in our lives which are "left un-said" called a 'Talking Circle.'

Contact: Lynn Manyfires. All are welcome! (no politics please) If you're interested in attending, here are the coming dates:

Dec 15th 10:00 am -12:00 pm (Salon)

Jan 19th TBA (Salon)

Economics and Current Affairs Program ...

Thursday, December 20th 2:00 to 3:30 pm: The Fiscal Cliff: what is it and is it really a problem? What would happen if nothing is done? We welcome input from Summit members. There's an abundance of good articles out there right now.

Freethinkers

We will not meet during the month of December, but will resume our regular schedule in January.

I'm Not Done Yet!

We will not meet during the month of December, but will resume our regular schedule in January.

Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays

We meet in Summit's library at 7:00 pm on the second Monday (Dec. 10th) of each month. PFLAG is an international organization (www.pflag.org) created by families and friends to gain understanding of and support for our gay loved ones.

Our mission is to promote the health and well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons, their families, and friends through support. Our role is to be good listeners, to share some of our experiences when appropriate, and to acquaint them with other resources. For more info contact Bob and Mary Dryden.

Piano Club

If you like to play piano, and for others to listen as you do, please join us on December 20th, at 3:00 at a Club member's home. Contact Ed Davis or Roy McDonald for information and this month's location.

UU Bible Study and Table Fellowship

Rev. Don Stouder and lay-theologian Chris Smith are co-leading a monthly program called UU Bible Study and Table Fellowship. It's a combination of historical-critical study of the Bible, personal reflection, and call to action on the part of the participants. Each session will end with a brief re-creation of Jesus' model of Table Fellowship, with the breaking of bread. All members of Summit and their friends/guests are welcome to attend.

UU Bible Study and Table Fellowship is held on the third Sunday of each month beginning at 5pm and lasting approximately one hour, and will be held in the Library. The date for the end of 2012 is December 16th.

Initially, the group is using John Buehrens' excellent book titled "Understanding the Bible: An Introduction for Skeptics, Seekers, and Religious Liberals." The book is readily available in new and used versions on Amazon.Com, as well as in a Kindle version.

Please feel free to email Don Stouder with any questions at donald.stouder@gmail.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Summit Concert Series presents The Trails & Rails Trio

Friday, December 7, 2012, at 7:00 p.m.

The award-winning duo of Walt Richards and Paula Strong has been joined by bass player extraordinaire, Mike Craig, who adds a wonderful third part to the vocals along with his amazing string wizardry. Besides instrumental wizardry, the group offers solo, duo and 3-part harmonies as well as the signature variety of the Trails & Rails repertoire. Cowboy, Train, Folk, Blues, 30s, Pop ... endless variety and lots of your favorite songs! <http://www.trailsandrails.net/trailsandrails/>

Holiday Sing-a-Long!!

Christmas Sing-a-long will be at Janet Dixon's house on December 8th starting at 7:00 p.m. Bring a snack if you would like. Ed Davis will be playing the piano for us and mulled wine and cider will be served.

FROM WITHIN THE SAN DIEGO UU CLUSTER

16th Annual Winter Solstice Celebration

Saturday, December 15, 2012 - First UU Church of SD, 4190 Front St, SD CA, 92103

Through stories, music, dance, drumming & ritual, we honor the ageless triumph of the human spirit on this sacred night. Come at 6:00 pm to experience the magic of twinkle lights and hot Wassail on the patio! Festive attire encouraged! Children welcome! The Ritual begins promptly at 6:30 pm.

You can purchase your tickets by going to First UU Church (at the above address) or tickets are available by using the mail in form at www.firstuusandiego.org - ***Your tickets will be held under your name at WILL CALL. Arrive early to pick them up.***

Another Way to Stay Informed

The newsletter you are reading is our monthly *Scene at Summit*.

If you wish to receive the weekly Summit Enews in your email, contact Pam Kerr at Suuf_volunteer@sbcglobal.net and I will be happy to add you to the email list.

Summit's Office Information

Minister: Dr. Frank Willey: 619-562-0833, ex. 203 / UUFrankPW@aol.com

Emergencies and appointments: 619-889-0312

Office Schedule: Tues. - 10:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Thurs. - 10:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Children's Religious Exploration: DRE, Mary Carter-Vail, 619-562-0833, ex. 205 / summitdre@gmail.com

Office Admin.: Linda Peck, 619-562-0833, ex. 202 / summitunitarian@sbcglobal.net

President: Pierre Vaughn, pv@pierrevaughn.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
25	26	27	28	29	30
2 8:00am Meditation 9:00am Winter Artisans Fair	3	4 9:30am Writers 1:00pm Loving Hands 3:00pm Membership 7:00pm Book Club	5 8:30am Meditation 6:30pm Choir	6 4:30pm Covenant Facilitators	7 7:00pm Concert- Trails & Rails
9 8:00am Meditation 10:00am CRE Holiday Program	10 7:00pm PFLAG	11 9:30am Writers 10:00am Tues. AM Cov't 2:00pm Tues. PM Cov't	12 8:30am Meditation 10:00am Wed. AM Cov't 6:30pm Choir	13 7:00pm Finance	14 10:00am Memoir Writers 6:00pm CRE Holiday Intergener- ational
16 8:00am Meditation 8:30am SAC	17 NO Freethinkers	18 9:30am Writers 10:00am Ladies' Bridge	19 8:30am Meditation 6:30pm Choir	20 2:00pm Economics 3:00pm Piano Club 05:00pm COM 7:00pm Board	21
23 8:00am Meditation	24 5:00pm X-mas Eve Service	25 CHRISTMAS!	26 8:30am Meditation 3:30pm Wed. PM Cov't No Choir Practice	27 12:00pm Caring Cmte	28
30 08:00am Meditation	31 New Year's Eve	1 New Year's Day	2	3	4