



The Communicator

of the [Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Lake County](http://www.uu-lakeco.org)

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11 A.M WORSHIP SERVICE PROGRAMS – MARCH THEME: STEWARDSHIP & GENEROSITY

March 6 – GROWING BETTER TOGETHER “There's one virtue without which one has little or no claim to religious living, without which congregations and societies don't sustain the path toward the Beloved Community. And it's often ignored or underrated. That virtue is generosity--openheartedness, the cardinal ability to give lavishly of yourself, to others, to the world around you, to the divine communal Spirit in which we live, move, and have our beings.” from *Growing A Beloved Community* by Tom Owen-Towle.

As we kick off our stewardship campaign for the 2016-2017 fiscal year, Egor Emery, Eloise Fisher, Bernie Greenberg, and Janeane Reagan will speak about why generosity is especially important to this congregation as we grow Better Together.

March 13 – Principles 4 (Truth & Meaning) & 5 (Democratic Process), with Rev. Susan Berryman. We'll look at how stewardship and generosity are core to establishing a beloved community and how it's formed by the needs, values, welfare and spiritual growth of each and every member. In February we focused on compassion and the first three principles. Now we'll discuss how principles #4 “a free and responsible search for truth and meaning” and #5 “the use of conscious and the democratic process within our congregation” are foundational to the creation and function of our beloved community. We are a work in progress! You are needed. Without your support there is no community!

March 20 – “The Sin of Greed: How ‘Profit’ Became a Dirty Word” with Shelia Harty. Ralph Nader recently commissioned me to do a paper on “A Survey History of Religions on Commercialism and Consumerism from the Ancients to Pope Francis.” The paper begins and ends with the current Roman Catholic Pontiff Pope Francis, because he has so much to say against capitalism and materialism. Pope Francis acknowledges: “people view ethics as “irksome.” The Pope thinks we need a new commandment. “Thou shalt not.....” What word do you think best fits?

Sheila Harty has a B.A. and M.A. in Theology. Her major was in Catholicism, her minor in Islam, and her thesis in scriptural Judaism, but her definition of God more closely resembles quantum physics. Her theological mentors are Teilhard de Chardin, Ivan Illich, and Alfred North Whitehead. For 20 years, Harty employed her theology degrees in the political arena as “applied ethics,” including 10 years with Ralph Nader as a public interest policy advocate. Harty is an award-winning author; her first book, *Hucksters in the Classroom*, which was commissioned by Nader, won the 1980 George Orwell Award for Honesty and Clarity in Public Language. On sabbatical from Nader, Harty taught Business Ethics at University College Cork in Ireland. Back in Washington, D.C., she worked as an editor with the Congressional Budget Office, the United Nations University, and the World Bank. She has spoken around the world and been a consultant with international consumer groups. She moved to St. Augustine, Florida, in 1996.



March 27 – EASTER SUNDAY, with Rev Susan Berryman. It's Easter, its spring, it's time to rejoice. Easter is a good time to explore life, death and resurrection. We depend on death(s) and resurrection to enliven and enrich our lives. We can learn from each other how we have resurrected out of so many losses and deaths to live and thrive again and again. Come in your Easter bonnet and celebrate with us.

9:30 A.M. DISCUSSION GROUP PROGRAMS

Beginning March 6th, the UU discussion group will meet at 9:30 am rather than 9:45. It will end at 10:30.

This change will provide more time between the services for announcements, music, coffee break, socializing, and allow the Worship service to start earlier if necessary to accommodate the program and end at noon.

if you don't attend the discussion group, please arrive by 10:45 for announcements, music, and "meet and greet".

March 6 – "Ideas for Growth" for UU Churches, prepared by UUA.

March 13 – Developing an "Elevator Speech" for UU's to use in explaining quickly to others what we believe in.

March 20 – A presentation or discussion based on our theme for the month ("Stewardship & Generosity").

March 27 – Open Forum

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Russ Littlefield, Vice Pres.	Carl Skiles
Stu Anderson, Treasurer	Suzie Lockwood
Kit Tatum, Secretary	

Rev. Susan Berryman, Developmental Minister.
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Dear Congregation:

March is our month of plenty because it is the time when most of our "snow birds" are with us and we are at our fullest and most productive. The weather is perfect and our spirits are high. March, the month we dedicate to stewardship and generosity, is a good time to take stock of all we have and all that makes us grateful.

My gratitude runs deep. Every day in every way I think of you. I think of our hopes and dreams; of our vision of a place of peace, reason and compassion; of our community of kindred spirits to share our values and be helpful; of our commitment to justice, equality and dignity, of our love and respect; and of our need for each other in a world that sometimes seems wacky and unstable.

What could be more valuable in this unsteady time than to have a community to belong to that is accepting, caring, interested and compassionate.

Our community is only as strong, resilient and capable as we make it. It is up to each of us to add whatever time, talent and treasure we are able to energize and to realize our potential.

Please take advantage of what we have to offer including: participating in book discussion, meditation, mindfulness, aging and spiritual groups; volunteering at Open Door; eating and talking together at Circle Dinners, joining a committee to help with the administration and attending Sunday and bringing a friend.

With your help and generosity you can be assured that you will have this "beloved community" as part of your future.

With peace and love,

Namaste,

Rev. Susan

President's Message...

It's hard to believe that the church year is more than half over and that it's time to turn our thoughts to the next church year. It's true; please note that the

Annual Meeting will be held on April 3, 2016 and will include the Nomination of Officers.

The Board of Trustees will conduct the Annual Meeting immediately after the service, on Sunday, April 3. At the Annual meeting, officers will be elected and a budget for FY 2017 (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017) will be presented for discussion.

The protocol for election of officers is for the Nominating Committee to prepare a slate to fill any expiring and vacant offices. The slate must be announced at a Sunday Service at least four (4) weeks prior to the Annual Meeting. The vacancies for FY 2017 are for Trustee and Secretary. The nominees will be announced by Sunday, March 6, 2016.

In addition, to the Nominating Committee slate, nominations from the floor will be solicited, beginning when the Nominating Committee slate is announced. Therefore, if you have an interest in either the Trustee or Secretary position or know someone who may be good in the position, please consider nominating them or coming forward.

Developing the FY 2017 UUCLC Operating Budget

The Operating Budget represents the resources and expenditures associated with running UUCLC services and programs both on Sunday and on weekdays throughout the year. It includes funds for speakers, salaries of the minister and the pianist, rent and insurance for the Woman's Club and Office, publicity, UUA dues, etc.

The Operating budget does NOT cover the New Building Project, which is funded mostly from Ruth Gray's Bequest, augmented by "building beautification" donations from the congregants and friends.

March is Stewardship/Generosity Month

The income for the Operating Budget derives from pledges and donations of congregation members and friends.

During Stewardship Month, we will have the opportunity to consider what this congregation means to us and to brainstorm about goals and dreams for FY 2017 and beyond. From a budgetary standpoint, then we will project the costs of our needs and wants, and then we will identify how to support our budget goals.

During Stewardship Month, each UUCLC member and friend will receive a copy of the draft budget for FY 2017. S/he will also be asked to pledge his/her financial support, as part of the UUCLC family.

We are a Congregational Church

That's true of Unitarian Universalism at its roots, and that's what Russ Littlefield wrote in his President's Message in the Communicator in April, 2015. What that means is that we, congregation members, must participate in the governance and the activities of the church.

Every Sunday, the names and telephone numbers of our Board of Trustees is printed in the Order of Service. Per the By Laws adopted by the Congregation, the Board of Trustees is the governing body of the UUCLC.

Also per the By Laws, the Board may appoint standing and temporary committees as it deems necessary. A listing of the standing committees with their chairs and co-chairs is provided below for the reference of congregation members. If you have been curious about a committee, have a question, have some time...contact the committee chair and get involved.

	Name	Chair	Co-chair
Standing Committees:	Finance	Stuart Anderson	
	Membership	Janeane Reagan	
	Publicity	Gina Rossi	Kit Tatum
	Social Justice	Ozell Ward	Sue Jantz
	Social Events	Julie Champion	
	Sunday Service	(see WRAP)	
	Education		
	We Care		
Special Committees:	Building Project	Carl Skiles	Betty Emery
	Ministerial Relations	Ted Fessler	Gina Rossi
	WRAP	Russ Littlefield	Christie Cleveland

Committee Chairs and Co-chairs meet periodically with the Board and Developmental Minister as the Leadership Council. On February 29, the Leadership Council met to discuss Committee goals and needs and to share resource materials. Together we reviewed the draft FY 2017 Budget and developed a better understanding of the interrelationships of committees and the governance cycle.

...Chris Higgins

News from the Membership Committee

The membership committee is excited to announce that 5 new members have completed the orientation meeting on February 13th. They will be welcomed into membership along with two new members from the previous orientation on March 13th. Our newest members are: Laini Panuska, Peter and Susan Pitzele, Judith Havens, Logan Heinzelman, Joanne Reilly, and John Landers.

Rev. Susan Berryman started the orientation meeting with a brief meditation. This was followed by each of the participants introducing themselves and their background as well as their reasons for seeking membership at UUCLC.

Rev. Berryman gave a brief history of the UU church and Phyllis Gillette, who was a charter member presented a captivating history of UUCLC. Members of the committee added information about the various activities and functions within the congregation and their own experience since becoming members. The orientation wrapped up with a lunch that was brought in for everyone.

...Janeane Reagan

Finance Committee and Treasurer's Report to the Congregation for February 2016

Hinda Ramsay recently rejoined the Finance Committee, the other members of which are Chris Higgins, Russ Littlefield, June Sweeten, and Stu Anderson, Chairperson and Treasurer. We hold monthly meetings to guide and oversee the work of the Treasurer.

The Financial Report on our Operating Account shows that our income from your pledges and donations is about on a par with our budget – that's not bad. Our expenses are less than budgeted – that's good. ▶

► I note two items of recent interest. Our thanks to three members of the Social Justice Committee who provided the funds to pay the first annual fee for our Congregational Membership in UU Justice Florida. We also thank the City of Eustis for having repaired the headphone/speaker audio system in the Woman's (sic) Club.

One item on which we are currently working is to prepare a Budget for Fiscal Year 2017 (July 1, 2016, to June 30, 2017). That Budget will be presented to the Congregation next month, Stewardship month, when we will be asking you, members and friends of UUCLC, to pledge your financial support to UUCLC for the new Fiscal Year.

....**Stu Anderson**

Building Report

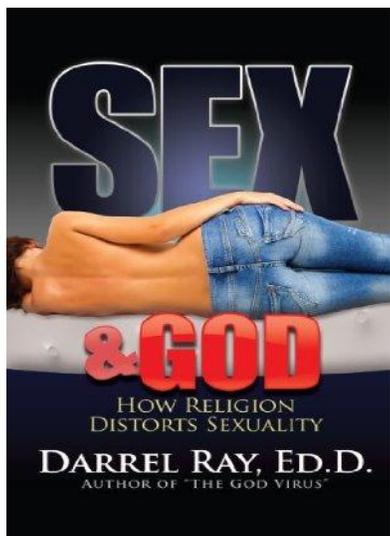
We received bids from five contractors, evaluated the bids, and selected Scherer Construction, Inc., of Orlando for the project. Scherer has been very helpful in performing "value engineering" (deletions, adjustments, etc. to the plans) to reduce the cost of the work to more closely meet our budget.

After making the changes to the plans, including the deletion of the covered patio, materials substitutions, changing the sewer system, and other items, the cost appears to be within our ability to pay for the project. The plans are being revised to show the changes, and will be resubmitted to the contractor and subcontractors for final pricing. We expect that when the final quotes are received, the cost will still be about \$125,000 over the amount in the Ruth Gray bequest.

Several methods of obtaining the additional funds have been discussed, including a fund raiser, obtaining a loan, selling some of the property, and others. When the final quote is received, a presentation of the possible funding alternatives will be made to the congregation, and a decision will be made about how to proceed. The additional funds will be needed within one year from now.

If we receive the revised plans and quote within the promised 30 days, a contract can be signed and the work begun. The contractor projects it will take nine months to complete the project.

...**Carl Skiles**



Book Club

Why are all the major religions consumed with sex? What makes sex so important whether Buddhism or Islam, Christianity or Mormonism? What is the impact of religion on human sexuality? This book explores this and more. It ventures into territory that has never been examined. You will be surprised at how much religion has influenced your sexuality, who you marry, the pleasure you get or don't get from sex and what you can do about it. (Book description from Amazon)

Join the UU Book Group on March 22nd at 3 for a discussion of Sex and God: How Religion Distorts Sexuality by Darrel Ray. It is available as both an ebook (\$8.49 for Kindle; same price for Nook) and as a paperback from either Amazon or Barnes and Noble for about \$13.90. I have one paperback copy to loan.

The bold title and cover image of this book will supply you with endless entertainment from the odd glances you will receive; I made several people uncomfortable at Hobby Airport last month. Religions of all kinds use our powerful sex drives to infect us with ideas that benefit the religion and hurt and inhibit our ability to be truly human. Religion's goal is to propagate religion. Sex is one powerful method for achieving this.

(From "Patheos," the Atheist channel, by Emily Dietle), WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE -- Available as an e book. Also try your library and bookstores.

The Book Group will meet March 22, at 3 PM in the Grove Street office.

...**Russ**

Social Events Committee Report, February 2016

UU folks have been enjoying Dine-Outs at local restaurants after services. In March, sign-up sheets will be available on Sundays. Please come anyway, even if you have forgotten to sign a sheet. Some informal groups frequently gather and go to a different dining spot on a Sunday. This is a great idea, because it keeps the dining parties smaller and we won't just slam one place. If you want your favorite restaurant chosen, please let me know.

Circle Dinners are going on now and on into March and April. Extra thanks to those who are hosting this year's dinners: Ginny Morgan and Frank Bishop, Chris and John Higgins, Stu Anderson, Robyn Kelly, Janeane Reagan and Bernie Greenberg, Eloise Fisher, and Rev. Susan Berryman.

The Third Tuesday Luncheon for March 15th will be where it all started, Thai Jasmine & Sushi House, 1010 East Alfred Street, Eustis. Marilyn Steingart, Carol Ann Patton, I, and three others attended the first luncheon several years ago. Some time after that, the luncheon was called "Separate Tables", adding men to what was, but not intended to be, a "hen party". When Henry Gray was the only gentleman to attend one Tuesday, the Separate Tables thing went by the board. Here, again, make suggestions for restaurants. Perhaps a sign-up sheet would be a good plan, too. The luncheon begins at 12:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come, signed up or not!

Some time ago, Gina Rossi and others suggested that a Happy Hour event would be fun. Several were scheduled. Do folks wish to continue this event? If so, please make suggestions for good times and places to socialize. Call Julie.

If you wish to be on this Social Events Committee this year, please call me and you're in! (You won't have to go to a bunch of meetings.)

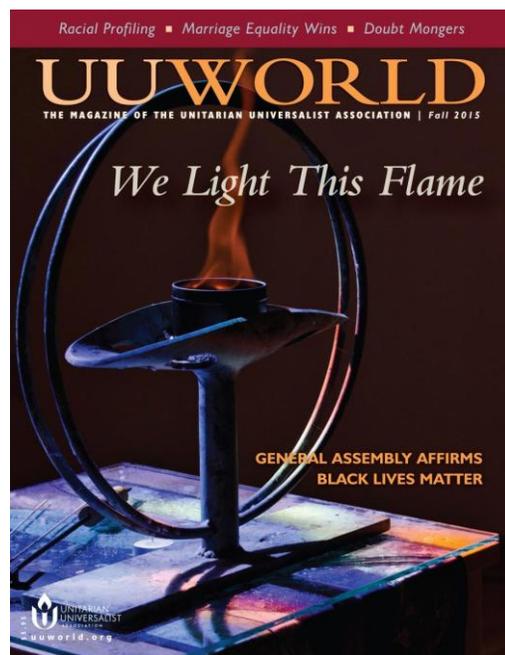
...Julie Champion, Chairman. (352) 729-5722.

Black lives matter and so does how we respond to the movement

Last Sunday, Carl Hommel called our attention to the strong support the Black Lives Matter movement has been given by Florida UU Churches. Carl came to the Board early last fall calling our attention to the fact that the 2015 UU General Assembly had singled out support of the Black Lives Matter movement as an Action of Immediate Witness (AIW). An AIW recognizes a social issue that our principles and our conscience should compel us to support. Carl proposed adding a Black Lives Matter banner to the sign on our property. Fearing significant vandalism to our sign, the board decided not to take that action at this time.

But the Black Lives Matter movement has not gone away nor has the AIW that the delegates to the General Assembly passed last June. Nor has Carl Hommel. He has strongly stirred our conscience again about this matter and it is, I believe, time to do some deep thinking and compassionate acting both as individuals and as a congregation.

At the very least, we should as a congregation educate ourselves about the Black Lives Matter movement. Actually, it's not as if we have been sitting on our hands in this regard. The UU Book Group became involved with this issue in September through their reading and discussion of Brian Stevenson's *Just Mercy*, the UUA's Common Read for the year. The Book Group followed that with *Devil in the Grove* by Gilbert King which recounts the horrific events in Lake County of four innocent black men, two of them WW II Army vets, whose lives were ruined by a false claim of rape. Those readings paved the way for the Worship Research and Programming Committee (wraP) to schedule a worship module during Social Justice month in January centered around a review of these books and Brian Stevenson's popular and moving TED talk. The wraP committee has continued to discuss what we can do to promote understanding of the Black Lives Matter movement. Among the things we have discussed is finding a knowledgeable speaker, promoting ties with ►



► other groups involved in the BLM movement, and planning future discussion groups on the topic. WraP welcomes suggestions from you about speakers, discussion groups, or anything else you might suggest.

If you are like me, you can be horrified by the kind of events described in Devil in the Grove and by the mistreatment of children and death row inmates chronicled in Just Mercy and yet still be hard pressed to give adequate definition to the Black Lives Matter movement. There's a good reason for that as it is a movement that started with a hashtag (#) on Facebook: [#BlackLivesMatter](#), and is still evolving. Nevertheless, there are a number of resources available that can help us understand the movement. One of the clearest statements is found in the UU resources that WorshipWeb provides.

It says Black Lives Matter (or #BlackLivesMatter) is a movement and a stance in response to this reality: the United States was built on a legacy of slavery, racism, and oppression that continues to take new, ever-changing forms. To say that "black lives matter doesn't mean that black lives are more important than other lives, or that all lives don't matter. The systemic devaluing of Black lives calls us to bear witness, even as we acknowledge that oppression takes many intersecting forms.

You can find this statement and links to UU resources, including sermons at the [black-lives-matter](#) link. Other UU articles on the movement and the consequences some churches have experienced by hanging banners can be found at the [black-lives-matter-pushback](#) and at the [blm-banners-defaced](#).

There are a number of other resources available if one wants to read more about the movement. Anyone able to use Google can find them easily. If you do not have a computer, at the very least I would suggest that you take a look at the fall 2015 issue of UU World and see what it has to say about the GA and about Black Lives Matter. Also you might try to find (in your library) a December 21, 2015 copy of TIME magazine and read about its 4th pick for Person of the Year. It is the leaders of the Black Lives Matter movement. One of the surprising things it points out is the strong connection between this movement and LGBT communities.

Finally, here is the wording of the Witness Statement passed by a majority of delegates at the 2015 General Assembly:

WHEREAS, Unitarian Universalists strive for justice, equity and compassion in human relations;

WHEREAS, Unitarian Universalists have a goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;

WHEREAS, allowing injustice to go unchallenged violates our principles;

WHEREAS, the Black Lives Matter movement has gained powerful traction in conjunction with recent tragic events involving, in particular, police brutality and institutionalized racism that target the black community;

WHEREAS, Tanisha Anderson, Rekia Boyd, Michael Brown, Miriam Carey, Michelle Cusseaux, Shelly Frey, Eric Garner, Freddie Gray, Trayvon Martin, Kayla Moore, Tamir Rice, and Tony Robinson are just a few names of people who were recently killed by the racism that exists in the United States today;

WHEREAS, people of all ages and races are killed by law enforcement, yet black people ages 20-24 are seven times more likely to be killed by law enforcement;

WHEREAS, mass incarceration fueled by for-profit prisons and racially biased police practices drive the disproportionate imprisonment of black and brown Americans;

WHEREAS, the school-to-prison pipeline is an urgent concern because 40% of students expelled from U.S. public schools are black and one out of three black men is incarcerated during his lifetime;

WHEREAS, we must continue to support the Black Lives Matter movement and Black-led racial justice organizations;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2015 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association calls member congregations to action, to become closer to a just world community, and to prevent future incidents of this nature; ►

► BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2015 General Assembly urges member congregations to engage in intentional learning spaces to organize for racial justice with recognition of the interconnected nature of racism coupled with systems of oppression that impact people based on class, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability and language;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2015 General Assembly encourages member congregations and all Unitarian Universalists to work toward police reform and prison abolition (which seeks to replace the current prison system with a system that is more just and equitable); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2015 General Assembly recognizes that the fight for civil rights and equality is as real today as it was decades ago and urges member congregations to take initiative in collaboration with local and national organizations fighting for racial justice against the harsh racist practices to which many black people are exposed.

No matter who you are, black lives matter, and a system of fair, transformative, and restorative justice that is accountable to communities is something to which each of us has a right. Unitarian Universalists and our greater society have the power to make this happen. Let's do it!

...Russ

Denominational Affairs: Gossip from Around the Denomination by Russ and June

June and I are signed up for the Florida Spring Gathering in Clearwater on March 12. We plan on spending the night and attending the UU Church there on Sunday. It's not too late to sign up, but there is a firm deadline of March 7th. More information is available at the link uuasouthernregion.org/floridaspring2016.html. This replaces the old district meetings. We are now part of the "UUA Southern Region," which includes twelve southern states.



Here's something exciting going on with our Association. For the first time in our history, our Association nominated candidates for President of the Association instead of people nominating themselves. This will be the first time candidates will run for one six-year term. (The old system was a four-year term with the possibility of reelection to a second four-year term.) AND this was to be the first time two women have run. In 1985, 1993, 2001 and 2009 a man and a woman ran against each other and four times in a row the man won. A woman has never been president of our Association. The Rev. Sue Phillips and the Rev. Alison Miller were the nominees which would have meant that for the first time in our history, we were likely to have a woman President. But now, a new wrinkle. Sue Phillips has withdrawn. She is currently the lead for the Congregational Life staff of the New England Region (a role that Ken Hurto has for the Southern Region). She has said that she has found it too difficult to maintain that challenging role and still conduct a campaign. The choice of UUA President (along with the choice of Moderator) does play a large role in the directions our denomination moves. I am saddened by her withdrawal because she had some challenging things to say about UU Covenanting -- things worth paying attention to. Stay Tuned.

Our Presidential election will take place at our Association annual meeting in June 2017. This year the 2016 annual meeting will be in Columbus, Ohio, June 22-26. If you would like to go or be an official delegate from our church, please indicate your interest to the Board. It does cost a bit, but there are some work scholarships available to cover, I believe, registration. That still leaves lodging and the trip to Columbus. Registration opens March 1, and on that day the cheaper hotels on the UUA website fill up. See <http://www.uua.org/ga/registration>. ►

► Why is our larger association important? Why should you care? Some of the best ideas come from being in fellowship with other UUs and finding out what works and doesn't in their UU communities. You will meet some of the most dynamic people by visiting other churches and by attending denominational events. Believe me, June and I have.



By the way, the Ware lecture at General Assembly will be given by Krista Tippett. Wow! That alone might make the trip worthwhile. I wrote about her and Karen Armstrong (who has also been a Ware Lecturer) for our November 2013 Communicator. Here is some of what I wrote about Krista.

Krista Tippett hosts the National Public Radio program "On Being" (formerly "Speaking of Faith"). The program is a radio interview with people who interest her because, somehow, she sees a spiritual side to what they say or write or do. It really is unlike anything else I know of and for me it is a must listen (or in some cases where there is video, a must see). Tippett, who graduated from Brown and Yale Divinity, is, for my money, one of the most intelligent and compelling interviewers in her field. She has been accused of promoting fuzzy thinking by some, but I have never felt that was a valid criticism in the light of what she is doing -- having a free-ranging conversation and somehow finding spiritual insights in a multitude of people and their thinking. These thinkers can range from atheists to evangelicals to poets and musicians. As I have suggested, I have found her one of the most helpful resources as I pursue my own interest in contemporary religion. Tippett herself describes her program this way:

On Being is a spacious conversation — and an evolving media space — about the big questions at the center of human life, from the boldest new science of the human brain to the most ancient traditions of the human spirit.

March Birthdays

Julie Champion, March 11
Eleanor Fessler, March 12
Stuart Anderson, March 14
Bob Cleveland, March 22
Ted Fessler, March 22
Ozell Ward, March 25
Betty Emery, March 27
Patti Stiner, March 27
Karen Woolhouse, March 28
Joyce Gray, March 30