

Guest Preacher, Sunday, February 21: Preview Number Four

King's Chapel will have the honor of welcoming William F. "Bill" Schulz, D.D as our guest preacher on Sunday, February 21. Bill is currently the President of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

About the Preacher

William F. "Bill" Schulz (born 1949) was the president of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) from 1985 to 1993 and the Executive Director of Amnesty International USA from March 1994 to 2006.



He is currently the president and CEO of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. He is an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister and served as president of the Unitarian Universalist Association from 1985 to 1993. He is married to the Rev. Beth Graham, who is also a Unitarian Universalist minister.

Schulz is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Oberlin College (1971), holds a master's degree in philosophy from the University of Chicago (1974), and both a master's degree in theology and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Meadville Lombard Theological School in 1973 and 1975. In addition to being awarded an

honorary D.D. (Doctor of Divinity) from Meadville Lombard in 1987, he was also awarded an honorary L.H.D.s (Doctor of Humane Letters) from Nova Southeastern University in 1995, Grinnell College in 2004, Oberlin College, the University of Cincinnati and Willamette University in 2005, Lewis & Clark College in 2006 and Sage College of Albany in 2010.

About the UUSC

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) is a human rights organization powered by grassroots collaboration. In more than a dozen countries throughout the world, UUSC fosters social justice and works toward a world free from oppression. UUSC's innovative approaches and measurable impact are grounded in the moral belief that all people have inherent power, dignity, and rights.

The mission of UUSC is to advance human rights and social justice around the world, partnering with those who confront unjust power structures and mobilizing to challenge oppressive policies. UUSC envisions a world free from oppression and injustice, where all can realize their full human rights.

About This Week's Featured Program: *UUSC's Rights in Humanitarian Crises*

UUSC's Program to Protect Rights in Humanitarian Crises is based upon the rights of refugees under international law to cross borders and fairly present their cases for asylum on an individual basis and to receive aid and assistance with dignity. In Europe, UUSC is working with partners to help thousands of refugees who have endured bombs, recruitment of their children into rebel armies, repeated torture and persecution, and are stranded in eastern border zones under abysmal conditions with no hope of advancing their journey. Some refugees are resorting to desperate measures to convey to the world the urgency of their plight (e.g. Iranians sewing their own



Refugees in Europe

lips shut in protest). UUSC has partnered with the Asylum Protection Center in Serbia to provide comprehensive mobile aid across the migration trail and with the organization, Prakis, in Greece to provide food and medical care to refugees in such places as the small village of Idomeni where 3,000 people have been living in appalling conditions at facilities equipped to house only a fraction of that number.

In the USA, the Service Committee's advocacy work focuses on admitting refugees and decriminalizing the asylum process. This year, the UUSC has worked to oppose legislation that would ban Syrian and other Muslim refugees in the U.S. and to counter the toxic anti-refugee rhetoric that feeds draconian border restrictions. UUSC has also focused a spotlight on the traumas of asylum seekers from Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador being held in jail-like facilities in south Texas and Pennsylvania, some held for more than a year while awaiting court hearings. The UUSC commissioned a mental health study that documents the psychological and health toll (complex disorders more devastating than post-traumatic stress disorders) among mothers and children held in protracted detention having experienced multiple traumatic events – cascading traumas in their violent homelands followed by further traumas during dangerous flights to asylum (suffering as many as 15-20 events) and subsequent humiliations in holding facilities. The study concludes that conditions in the detention centers are inhumane and counter to U.S. moral values.

UUSC is a vocal advocate for the human and legal rights of asylum seekers, especially the thousands of refugees in Europe with little hope of advancing on their journey and Central American mothers and children crossing the U.S. border over the past year.

About Sunday, February 21: Morning Prayer and Luncheon

On Community Action Sunday, Dr. Schulz will deliver a sermon at Morning Prayer on "The Blessedness of Bodies" with readings from the Hebrew Scriptures (Job 7:1-9) and the Christian Scriptures (John 13:4-17). The collection will be donated to the UUSC and its work in response to the refugee crisis and the human rights of asylum seekers. Afterwards, a luncheon at the parish house will be served by the Community Action Committee at which time Dr. Schulz will answer questions about the work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee throughout the world. Please RSVP to Parish Administrator Gretchen Horton: Gretchen@kings-chapel.org.