



THE NUUSLETTER



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF CHATTANOOGA

3224 NAVAJO DRIVE CHATTANOOGA, TN 37411 423-624-2985 FAX 423-624-0519

DECEMBER, 2013

A LIBERAL RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY

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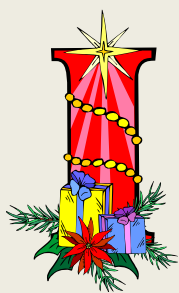
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Inside this Edition:

- Services ~ 2
- Social Justice ~ 3
- Interdependent Web ~ 4
- Religious Education ~ 5
- Green Sanctuary ~ 6
- Landscaping ~ 7
- Small Group Ministry ~ 8
- Adult RE ~ 8-9
- UUC Leader Interviews ~ 11
- Share the Plate & CHIONS ~ 12
- Treasury, Endowment ~ 13
- Service Schedule ~ 14
- Events, Feb. ~ 15



**May the spirit of
Christmas bring you
peace,
The gladness of
Christmas give you
hope,
The warmth of
Christmas grant you
love!**

DWELL IN POSSIBILITY: LIGHTING ONE CANDLE

by Rev Pam Rumancik



In the musical *Rent* Mimi knocks on Roger's door and sings "Would you light my candle?" While very sweet and fun there are different layers to the question. The electricity is out and she needs illumination. She's looking for the flame to enable her heroin addiction, but ultimately she's looking for human connection – for someone to recognize her value as a person and bring the light of companionship into her world.

It's something we all need in our lives. We find ourselves in darkness from time to time and we reach out for help from those around us. Whether a physical darkness, an emotional darkness, or a period of uncomfortable ambiguity. The reality of our lives is a constant turning from light into dark and back again. From night into day, from winter into spring, from sadness into joy.

Each season is inevitable. Each brings gifts and nourishment, challenges and trials. And in those dark places, we are often very glad of company. The church finds itself in a place of not knowing, of waiting right now. December's advent season is an apt metaphor - a time of preparation and hope. A time to get ready. In Christian mythology it's readying the stable for a savior to be born but in our community it's about taking stock and preparing for the arrival of a new developmental ministry.

What needs to be done? How do we take stock and prepare? How do we get ready for the unknown?

One way is to tell the story of who we've been and where we're going. Join us on December 15th, after the service, for a potluck and timeline closing ritual. We will tell the stories that have graced the wall and construct a narrative about what UUC has meant in the world. We'll look to the people in the past who lit a candle rather than cursing the darkness and take their words and deeds as inspiration for the future direction of the church.

Bring your stories – and your hopes and dreams. Where should the church go? What is the passionate glowing coal at the center of this faith community? What are the deep and abiding values you wish to bring to life?

What bit of light can you offer to one another during the time of discernment? The comfort and joy of community is that we do not have to have all the answers. We only have to bring minds willing to be opened and hearts willing to love. Together a brighter reality is envisioned and a deeper experience made possible. "Would you light my candle?" What a blessing to have so many folks who'll say yes.

At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us.
~ Albert Schweitzer

**SERVICE TITLES & DESCRIPTIONS
DECEMBER, 2013**

Connections meets every Sunday at 10:45 in the sanctuary. *Connections* is a time of personal sharing for members, friends, and visitors. The worship service begins at 11:00 am.

December 1: Integrating Meditation and Mindfulness into Our Busy Lives: Linda Graham, counselor and mental health coordinator, introduces simple ideas for dealing with stress.

December 8: Why Being Right is So Wrong: There are many different kinds of fundamentalism, but they all claim to have the corner on being right. Using *The Demonic Turn*, by Lloyd Steffan, we'll explore how fundies and literalists live in our own UU tradition and what it actually means to be liberally religious. Rev Pam Rumancik.

December 11: Blue Christmas Service: Wednesday evening at 6:30 pm. Feeling disconnected from the blare and commerciality of the season? Missing someone who made Christmas complete? Just tired of the hectic pace? Join us as we honor the quiet, contemplative and sometimes blue side of the season. Meditation at 5:30, potluck at 6 pm, and service at 6:30. Lay Pastoral Care Team Members & Rev Pam Rumancik.

December 15: No Rehearse Pageant: Our Second Annual romp through Luke's nativity story. Come one, come all and be part of our historic reenactment. Lots of carols will be sung! Rev Pam Rumancik & Kay McCurdy.

December 22: Dark Night of the Soul: It's the darkest time of the year in this hemisphere. Prospects for the survival of our species on the planet are also looking bleak. How do we find – and share – a light in the dark? Rev Pam Rumancik

December 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: Join us at 6:30 pm for a family friendly service full of song and story, fun and fellowship. Cookie reception to follow.

December 29: Behaving with a Human Touch: David Pope brings his annual perspective to the New Year along with music and fun. David is a concert pianist, educator, entrepreneur, and aviator. The material he began wrestling with in his book *Interrupting Behavioral Evolution* is a deep vein, not yet mined out in his previous three visits with us. Read David's Bio on page 14.

FORUM

The forum meets each Sunday at 9:30 downstairs in the last room on the left.

December 1 - Martha Summa: *Use of Biomedical Techniques with Challenged Children.*

December 8 - Mark Bradley-Shoup, Lecturer at UTC in Foundations, Drawing and Painting.

December 15 - tom kunesh: *How Bertrand Russell got "Why I Am Not a Christian" Wrong.*

December 22 - Charles Redwine: *Hope in the Cold and Dark; Evolution and Religion.*

December 29 - No Forum.





TIS THE SEASON
– TIS BETTER TO GIVE THAN RECEIVE – THE CYCLE
by Melissa and Frances, Social Justice Committee Co-Chairs

Tis the season, and we are all caught up in the festive things happening around us: trying to find that perfect gift for our loved ones; sharing time together over meals; decorations, bright lights, hot cocoa, and going home to warmth and comfort and shelter. Many in our area are experiencing another 'season' – the cold, wet, damp and often dark season of winter on the street; trying to find food and shelter – a dry and warm place to sleep each night.

For several months now, donations of many items have been coming in for our Christmas Project. When I contacted the Community Kitchen about bringing our gifts down there the weekend before Christmas, I was told that they could not guarantee they would be open on any certain date as a night shelter for our area homeless. They aren't receiving full funding from the City to be open each night. They will only open on nights that the temperatures will fall below freezing or if there has been rain and the temperature is low with the rain. So with all the other difficulties people on the streets face, now one place they had counted on before won't be available each night.

I was directed to the Chattanooga Rescue Mission for distributing our gifts and told that we would still be serving some of the same people that come to the Community Kitchen. The Rescue Mission has beds for 44 men and 16 women. They open and assign beds around 5:30 pm each evening. They are thankful we will be bringing gifts down for those staying on the evening of December 21.

We are thankful for all the items that have been brought in and will be having a 'wrapping party' following the Sunday service on December 15. Stop by a table and wrap a present as you leave the sanctuary. And then join us on Saturday evening, December 21 at 5:30 pm as we deliver our presents down to the Chattanooga Rescue Mission 1512 S Holtzclaw Ave, Chattanooga TN.

I've learned something about myself as I've helped Food Not Bombs distribute a meal at Miller Plaza each Sunday at noon. I've learned that I get back much more than I'm giving. Seeing the faces of those in need, those that say 'thank you and bless you,' give you have a personal connection with those who struggle just to have the basics of life. Then you receive, and then I think about how to make a bigger difference in more lives. Join us and make that connection.

We heard a story recently about gifts being taken to a shelter one year at Christmas and a man in his forties taking his present and placing it on his bed unopened. As Christmas day was drawing to a close, someone asked him why he had not opened his present yet to see what was inside. He said that it was the first wrapped present he had ever received and didn't want to mess it up.

We are making a difference and we thank you for everything you do to make a difference too.

Wrapping Party – Sunday, December 15 – to prepare our gifts to the homeless.

We will also be signing Christmas Cards to include with each present.



Saturday, December 21 @ 5:30 pm – Meet at Chattanooga Rescue Mission
 Distribution of Christmas Gifts (Labyrinth at Church @ 7:30 pm)



INTERDEPENDENT WEB by Juniper Russo

When I was in kindergarten at N.E. Miles Jewish Day School in Birmingham, my teacher proposed an activity. She asked every child in the class to say what he or she thought God looked like. I said God looked like a tornado—this was, to me, clearly the correct answer, and I thought it was common knowledge. I grew more and more distressed as my classmates described their own versions of God – a big rock, a rainbow, a man with a long beard – and found that none of them knew about God the Tornado.



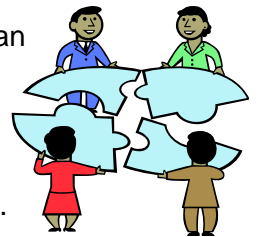
Seeing that the teacher would neither confirm nor refute my claim that God was a giant funnel cloud in outer space, I raised my hand in distress and asked, “What’s the right answer?”

She said that there was no right or wrong answer. How could that be possible? Why would a teacher ask a question that didn’t have a right or wrong answer? Why did no one else know that God was a tornado? We moved on to a worksheet that taught the difference between the letters shen and sen, but I was still fixated. There had to be an answer. There was no way we could all be right.

That night, I had a nightmare so distressing to my little five-year-old brain that I remember it to this day. In my dream, there was a right answer. Every kid in my class had been given a puzzle piece, and if we put them all together the right way, it would show a picture of God. The problem was that the adults around us wouldn’t reveal the answer, and that—unlike in real life—they did nothing to stop it while the classroom full of kindergarteners argued and fought or when the dream-version of one of my classmates threw his piece in the trash. I was left holding a tiny pale-blue puzzle piece, but no one would work with me so we could fix the puzzle and find out the truth.

Looking back on it, the symbolism of that odd little nightmare is all too obvious, and shows that I was a Unitarian Universalist at heart when I was still just a 35-pound package of questions. Many people would sum up UUism by saying something like what my teacher said—that we believe there is no right or wrong answer to the most profound spiritual questions. I don’t think that’s really true, though. I think that our faith is built on a belief in a world more like my unpleasant dream—that there are right answers, but that each of us is holding only one puzzle piece and can’t find the answers without seeing, sharing, comparing our puzzle pieces.

Central to the church doctrine of the Quakers—a group with roots intertwined with Unitarian Universalism—is the belief that every member of a congregation is, ultimately, a priest, and that the answers aren’t held by one single person. They sum this up with the commonly cited statement, “There is that of God in everyone.” I imagine that enlightenment comes much more readily to those who can see the puzzle pieces in their peers’ hands and are willing to share their own puzzle pieces so each person can find answers.



“There is no right or wrong answer” is an oversimplification, but it’s something we tell ourselves frequently to relieve the anxiety of knowing that there are some things that, try as we might, we just don’t know. I firmly believe that there is one ultimate truth that we can discover—but we need to be willing to share our puzzle pieces in order to find it. I think of the Unitarian Universalist church as one of the few places where, instead of fighting over the fact that one puzzle piece is red with white lines and another is purple with polka dots, we truly come together to try to fit the pieces together.



Everyone wins – thanks to Anne Johnson and the poinsettia project. Our church is beautifully decorated for the holidays; we can enjoy the poinsettias throughout the season as we commemorate someone or an occasion, and then enjoy our beautiful plant at home. Thank you Anne and those who help make our church a beautiful place to be. *Photo is from 2012.*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS
by Kay McCurdy, RE Director

It takes courage to grow up and become who you really are.
~e.e. cummings

Indeed!

As the parent of a tween and a teen, I struggle daily. I struggle hourly. Never in my wildest dreams did I imagine how difficult the journey through adolescence would be. Naive? Maybe so. We homeschooled our girls through the elementary grades, and would have continued doing so, had they not both made the decision to audition for the local arts magnet school and (luckily) both been accepted. Has it been all roses thus far? Nope. We have definitely grabbed our fair share of thorns, but this isn't an article about traditional vs. non-traditional approaches to education. It's about growth and identity and (hopefully) our responsibility, as a religious community, to the kids who show up at 3224 Navajo Drive each and every Sunday morning.

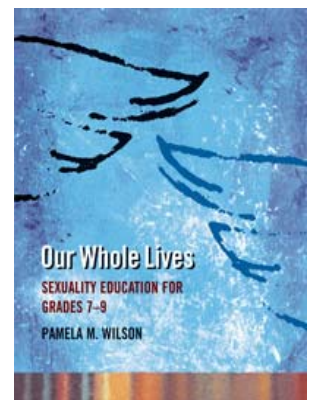


And what, exactly, is our responsibility? As a congregation, we provide funding for their religious education programming, send them to Youth Conferences at The Mountain each year, host seasonal parties and events, and provide them with opportunities for service to church and community. But how well are we preparing them for doing real battle out in the world? How much support do we actually provide for the path they're walking....a path littered with face book and sexting and bullies and eating disorders? The challenges these kids are facing bear little resemblance to the ones I faced back in the late 1900s when I was a teenager. I didn't have to worry that my every mistake, my every misstep, would be fed through the amplifier of social media, then broadcast for the whole world to witness.

Before we go any further, let me be (more) clear. This is not a “boy, I miss the good old days” rant where I pine nostalgically for a world that no longer exists. We can't go back, and even if we could, would we really want to? (That's a definitive no from me.)

Most of the other churches in the Chattanooga area offer something we don't: dogma. They provide clear and specific guidelines for living a godly life, and instructions for staying on the path no matter the obstacles or distractions. And we offer....Wait, what is it we offer? Acceptance, encouragement, and open dialogue. We offer something unique in this area: the freedom to craft a way of being in the world, and an identity, that is dogma free. Is that enough? What do we offer our teens to help them make it through these years intact and without the trauma and/or self-harm that so many of them resort to? These aren't rhetorical questions, in case you're wondering. I am truly asking: Are we doing enough to help them?

And here is one idea, a place where we might begin: OWL. OWL stands for Our Whole Lives and is the UUA's sexuality curriculum. OWL seeks to educate and empower kids, and is based on four core values: Self Worth; Sexual Health; Responsibility; Justice and Inclusivity. Later this week, a group of interested UUCC parents is meeting to discuss sending folks to OWL training in the next few months, or possibly even holding an OWL training here in Chattanooga. Don't misunderstand, OWL is not the answer to all those questions I posed earlier, but it is an answer, and, in my humble opinion, a very good place to start.



GREEN SANCTUARY INITIATIVE
by Sandy Kurtz

Happy Green Holidays for Peace and Justice



We are witnessing devastation caused by Superstorm Sandy and the more recent one in the Philippines plus enormous forest fire, tsunami, flooding, tornado, and hurricane destruction. It's hot where it shouldn't be and cold in odd places. Scientists, meteorologists, and weather people are not willing to say it's all caused by climate change, but they now say these disasters are exacerbated or influenced by changing weather patterns. Increasingly we see pictures of people who have lost all through no fault of their own. Those scenes of utter life devastation with babies dying and no access to food or water are heart wrenching.

Yet, here we UUs are in Tennessee counting our lucky stars that we live in excellent conditions compared to many others. We want to help; but what can we truly do to make a difference? Send money? Pray? Send messages of encouragement or food packages. Those actions help individual people get over the immediate crisis, but will it stop repeat problems?

As the holiday season approaches with its message of peace and love, there is an action that will benefit all Life globally. Together we can all reduce our carbon footprints and thereby slow or ameliorate the rate of climate change releasing disastrous impacts on the planet. To take this action requires thinking about embedded energy in all we do. That is, how many natural resources and energy were needed to create the products and food we buy and how much fossil fuel was required to bring it to your door? Before purchase, think about whether it's consumable, reusable, recyclable, or a keeper forever. Will a lot of energy be needed to use the purchase and if so, is there another alternative? Answering these questions will guide you to a greener holiday.

You will end up buying local items from local businesses or charities and looking for thrift shops. Maybe you will bake or make more of your gifts or choose gifts of your service. You will host holiday parties using less throwaway serving utensils. Decorations could be made from more natural materials gathered outdoors. For special atmosphere, turn off electric lights and use candles. In greening up, the holidays will carry an extra dose of joy knowing that you have included action for justice.

Christmas 2013 ~ UUC

Wednesday, December 11th ~ Blue Christmas Service – at 6:30 pm

Sunday, December 8th ~ Share the Plate – Christmas Project for the Homeless

**Sunday, December 15th ~ Timeline Closing Ritual ~ Pot Luck
And after the service ~ Wrapping Party – Christmas Gifts for Rescue Mission**

Saturday, December 21 – 5:30 pm ~ Meet at Chattanooga Rescue Mission to distribute gifts (RSVP)

Saturday, December 21 – 7:00 pm ~ Walking Labyrinth

Tuesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve at UUC will once again glow in candles and glitter, studded with many delicious cookies provided by a host of elves. There will be a sign up list for cookies (look for the big Santa on the windows in the Fellowship area). Remember the way to Santa's heart and put this fun task on your December to-do list! See you at church.....



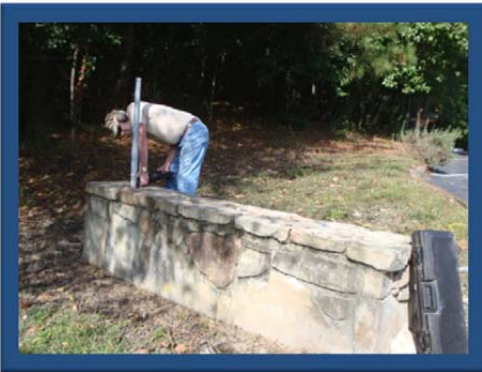
FROM THE GROUND UP: NEWS FROM THE LANDSCAPING COMMITTEE



tom kunesh stands in front of the tangle of vines and brush on the south side of the grounds that he plans to cut out this winter.



This fall Marge Pasch planted *liriopemuscari* and pachysandra on the slope leading to the playground. The plants will take two to three years to fill in completely.



The Landscaping Committee asked Building & Grounds' Ron Pasch to cut the pipes from the stone base of the previous church sign. We're mulling future plans for the stone base and the area around it.

In November the Social Justice and Landscaping Committees joined to help the RE Kids plant daffodils on the south slope next to the driveway as part of RE's "We Care" program.



Nancy Anderson and tom kunesh continue cutting poison ivy and brush from the south slope next to the driveway, making for a much more inviting approach to the church.

This fall's **Privet Patrol** on November 3 had great success with a few hours of cheerful work. Participants cut and pulled privet, hauled downed branches and trees, planted pansies, weeded the south portico bed, and blew the stairs and part of the driveway clean of leaves and pine needles. Thanks to Nancy Anderson and her visiting son, Stu Anderson; Greg and Justice Cruz; Kay, Sophie and Isabelle McCurdy; Bonnie Sinclair; Sam Kertay; wenona, tashi and tom kunesh.

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

by Paige Maskarinec



UUCC's small group ministry is going strong, now in its second month for the 2013-2014 year. Our groups are settling in and getting to know one another. An important feature of a successful small group is the covenant each member agrees to abide by. This month our participants explored that covenant, and what it means to be in a covenantal relationship with one another. But this discussion need not be limited to our small groups.

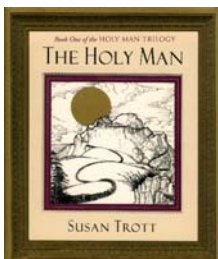
According to the UUA: "Covenant" is Latin for "come together" and means a "solemn agreement" or "promise from the heart" regarding a course of action between parties. *Covenants are a deep, abiding promise between equals to partner with each other and that which is bigger than ourselves to work for a just and loving world.* This month your friends in SGM would like to challenge you to reflect on the covenants in your life. As we enter this busy holiday season it is easy to get swept away and forget how we agree to uphold, respect, and love one another. Both in our congregation and in our relationship with the greater community, let us remember to be an example of this covenant so that in us others might find a place of refuge and comfort, and a space where they might truly be heard.

WEDNESDAY EVENING FELLOWSHIP AT UUC

Our church is getting a lot of use these days with up to five groups meeting on Wednesday evenings. The Adult Education committee is sponsoring a time of fellowship each week to begin the fun.

Gather at 5:30 pm for a quiet time of readings and silence in the Forum Room, then head upstairs for a delicious potluck dinner. Finally join your gathering for the evening. Whether Choir practice, a Small Group Meeting, Knitting Circle, Finance or Book Club brings you to the church, grab a bit of something good to eat/share and start your evening off with some meditative time and good food and fellowship. Why should the Baptists have all the fun?

Don't have a meeting? You're still welcome to join us for meditation and potluck. Get to know some of the interesting folks who share our community.



"**The Holy Man Trilogy**" is a 6-part weekly discussion led by tom kunesh on Wednesday evenings (7-8.30pm) that started November 6th (November 6, 13, 20, 27; December 4, 11). 'The Holy Man Trilogy' is 3 small fiction books written by Susan Trott: *The Holy Man*, *The Holy Man's Journey*, & *The Holy Woman*, available online for \$12 (used) and electronically. Discussion is based on the books' stories which entails easy reading of a 1/2 book each week. The books are very easy reads, and use very little 'religious language', making them especially attractive to atheists and religious 'Nones,' Buddhists & Taoists, who are still interested in the search for meaning in community.



OWNING YOUR RELIGIOUS PAST – ADULT FAITH DEVELOPMENT OFFERING

January 8, 15, 22 & 29th at 6:30 pm

Rev Pam Rumancik will be presenting this workshop on four consecutive Wednesday evenings in January. It will provide simple tools through which people may reexamine and retrieve positive aspects of past religious connections. The workshop is designed to provide both group sharing and private exploration, using journal writing exercises. This workshop is not just for “converts.” Longtime and life-long Unitarian Universalists also experience change, sometimes profoundly, in their religious identity. This workshop is enriched by the participation of people of varying tenure as Unitarian Universalists.

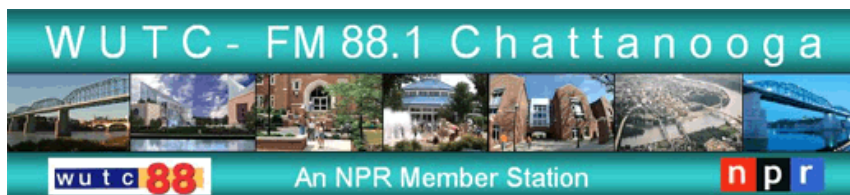
The majority of Unitarian Universalists come into the denomination from other religions; often there have been several stops along the path into our congregations. Some bring with them angry and unresolved feelings about experiences in other religious institutions, others have warm memories. Some move easily into an identity as a Unitarian Universalist; others experience a traumatic estrangement from family and from the center of their culture.

Our churches and fellowships have frequently neglected to understand and acknowledge the widely varying needs of members regarding this process. We can be most fully and completely present in our religious identity when we see our path as a continuum rather than a series of unrelated episodes. People who feel whole in this identity are more likely to make solid, healthy commitments to religious communities. Because we are usually more certain of what we left in another religion than what we bring forward from it, some tools are needed by which people may establish connections, bridges, and resonances between past and present. Such activity also provides clues about the possible future direction of those paths.

The program’s exercises invite participants to revisit religious spaces and people from childhood in a way that promotes greater self-understanding and personal peace.

Goals - Participants have an opportunity to explore who they are religiously, what their past religious perspectives and experiences have been, and who they hope to become in their Unitarian Universalist faith.

Sign up on the sheet in the fellowship hall or call the office. Please request childcare in advance. There is no fee for this offering. Minimum of 5 participants must register.



All of you are busy with holidays or about to be, so let's make this quick. Some of us do a lot of our annual charitable giving in December. If that's you, don't forget that UUCC wants its members who support WUTC public radio to do it through UUCC and help get our church favorable exposure in our community. If you itemize, it's still fully tax-deductible. Write your check made out to UUCC and put “public radio” in the memo line or talk to Chris in the office about arranging regular deductions from your checking account.



PAGAN GROUP

The Pagan Discussion Group for December will cover the changing identity of Paganism. This discussion will be led by Matthew Allen.

The month of December brings us to the following events and celebrations:

December 02	New Moon
December 17	Full Moon
December 21	Yule/Winter Solstice

One of the themes most strongly associated with the Winter Solstice across the world is the re-emergence of light out of darkness, bringing renewal of life and the promise of a successful future.

In ancient Persia, the longest night of the year represented the point at which the forces of darkness were at their peak, but the following day was known as Khoram Rooz, the “Day of the Sun”. People kept fires burning through the night on the Winter Solstice and performed acts of charity. They also offered prayers to guarantee the sun’s total victory, particularly to the god Mithra, who protected the light of the early morning.

The festival of Yule, among the Norse people of northern Europe, focused on the endurance of fir, holly, pine and other evergreens. Many trees can grow from a single pinecone, giving the pine associations with potency, life and rebirth. The Christmas tree itself could represent Yggdrasil, the Norse World Tree which linked heaven and Earth.

*“In the depth of winter I finally learned that there was in me an invincible summer”
-Albert Camus*

<p>UUCC Board of Trustees, 2013-2014</p> <p>President, Frank Caperton President-Elect, Leslie Brock</p>	
<p>VP, Resources Ministry, Buck O’Rear VP, Congregational Life Ministry, Nicky Ozbek VP, Outreach Ministry, Elaine Watkins</p>	<p>VP, Religious Growth Ministry, Open Secretary, Jim Welborn Treasurer, Daidee Springer</p>



Calling all Elves and Magic Makers –

Bake up an extra batch of cookies to share with those at the Chattanooga Rescue Mission. You can bring them to church on Sunday, December 21.

Second in our series of occasional articles on church leaders, Marge Pasch interviews:

FRANK CAPERTON, PRESIDENT, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

After retiring from working for newspapers in various cities around the country, Frank Caperton and his wife Liz moved to Chattanooga to be nearer their two children and two grandchildren. Frank and Liz were both members of the Ashland Terrace Christian Church, but while Frank loved the congregation, he finally felt it was not meeting his theological needs. He joined the UUCC after finding it had a larger concentration of folks who thought the way he did.



When asked if the skills he developed in his career had helped him run meetings of the UUCC Board of Trustees, Frank said, "I learned while conducting thousands of meetings as an editor that it was important that everyone be heard. No one person can have all the good ideas, and the person running a meeting has a responsibility to make sure that everyone participates. I also learned the importance of keeping discussions centered on the agenda, out of respect for everyone's time. Ideally, meetings also should be fun. It is okay to laugh."

The UUCC bylaws require Frank, as president, to call meetings of the board and also congregational meetings. "The bylaws provide that I will abstain from voting when presiding over meetings of the congregation other than in case of a tie or in the case of the vote that creates a tie," he explains. The president also issues calls to board members for agenda items and publishes the agendas. He meets once a week with the UUCC's interim minister, Rev. Pam Rumancik. "And I try to listen a lot," he says. He will also serve a year as immediate past president when his term as president is up.

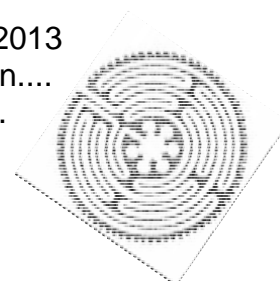
Frank does not count the hours he spends on BOT business each week. "The talent and commitment we have on the current board makes the effort and time worthwhile and enjoyable. We have had bumps in the road such as the decision to switch from a search committee to an application for a developmental ministry. But this year we are navigating the bumps relatively smoothly because of excellent teamwork between the board and our interim minister. It can be difficult at times because our members, including the board members, bring so much passion, commitment, and strong opinion to our community. And that is a good thing. When we are all fired up about some issue, we sometimes forget just how we are supposed to relate to each other and resolve our differences. I suspect this is an area in which we could all improve."

"I like the diversity of theological viewpoints and the tolerance for those viewpoints at the UUCC. I like the fact we welcome folks no matter their sexual preferences. I like the fact our liberal theological views influence the way most of us think about public policy issues. And I like the people of UUCC. I like the Forum on Sunday mornings. What makes me feel good about the time and energy I'm spending as a member of the UUCC board is the chance to work with UUs who are grateful, but not satisfied, with what our movement has achieved in the past and has created for our enjoyment in the present and who yet want to work together to build an even better future. Chattanooga needs the church we can become. It is up to us."

Indoor Walking Labyrinth
 Celebrating the Winter Solstice of 2013
 A contemplative walking meditation....
 December 21 - 7:30-10:30 p.m.



Open to the community
 All Ages welcome!



SHARE THE PLATE ~ SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 – CHRISTMAS PROJECT

We will take a special offering for our Christmas Project to help complete our donations. We are still in need of warm women’s socks, men’s winter gloves and scarves. Bring your donations in by Sunday, December 8 so we have time to prepare for our Wrapping Party after the service on Sunday, December 15. Thank you.

Month	Share the Plate with	Amount Donated
December 8	Christmas Project for Rescue Mission	
November	Food Not Bombs	
October	Breast Cancer Support Services	\$258.71
September	NAIA-TN	\$318.35
August	Family Promise – Children’s Uniforms	\$745.83
July	Fan Fund 2013	\$323.00
June	North Side Neighborhood House	\$308.00
May	AIM Center	\$341.95
April	Chattanooga Arboretum & Nature Center	\$258.00
March	Chattanooga Cares/Strides of March	\$354.98
February	Minister’s Benevolence Fund	\$648.00
January	Guest at your Table, UUSC	\$642.93



CHATTANOOGA INSTITUTE OF NOETIC SCIENCE

**December 14, 2013 Meeting
10:30 am-noon**

***An Introduction to Ken Wilber’s Integral Model
Presented by Dr. Barbara Ray***



Who am I? Why do we humans act, think, believe and feel as we do? How do we change over time? Ken Wilber has spent most of his life researching and organizing much of the thought and theories about who we are—from psychological, sociological, cultural and anthropological, philosophical, and spiritual perspectives. The result is an integral model. We will see short DVD segments of Wilber himself presenting the model and then examine practices that might help us dramatically on our human journey.

Dr. Barbara Ray is known to many of us as the current facilitator of the Chattanooga IONS study group. Recently retired for her faculty position at UTC, she will be back teaching some “post-retirement” classes in January. When Barbara read Wilber for the first time, she was over-whelmed by the complexity of his integration and questioned the practicality of it. Now, seven or eight years later she finds his model both useful and fascinating. She is curious about two things; whether she can present something so complicated in our allotted time, and what you will think of it if she does. We hope to see you there. Like all our meetings, this one is open to visitors and is free of charge.

GIFTS, PLEDGES, GENEROSITY
by Daidee Springer, Treasurer



'Tis the season. Yes it is. It's that season of the year where, among other things, we express thanks and think about giving and receiving presents. As church treasurer, I'm grateful to all who give so generously of their time, talent, and treasure to sustain our congregation. This church is indeed the community of ourselves. A heartfelt thank you - to all who have given so much during the past year.

In addition to making an annual pledge and volunteering for various committees and tasks, some folk give above and beyond. Our sound system is the result of a generous gift. Our music program has been enhanced by additional donations to supplement the annual budget. Our lower parking lot was funded outside the operating budget. The assistive listening system was purchased with money given in memory of Bruce Hollingsworth. I could go on and on, but you get the idea.

All gifts to the church are reviewed by the Board of Trustees to make sure they fit with the vision of the church. Most are gratefully received and the donor thanked. Beginning in January, however, we will begin recognizing those who made special gifts in the previous month by publishing a list in *the nUUsletter*. The list will include gifts given in memoriam as well as gifts for special funds or projects. We want to say "thank you" publicly. The list will include the donor's name and the nature of the gift. It will not list a monetary amount. Be assured, however, that any and all publication will be done only with the permission of the donor. Gifts can be mentioned anonymously. Donors can elect not to have the gift listed at all. We'll ask!

We appreciate special gifts, but they're the icing on the cake. Pledges to our operating budget are our bread and butter. Without generous pledges, this church would cease to be. It's somewhat akin to feeding your family. You provide them with a basic balanced diet; if there's money left over, you might buy them Godiva chocolate. I hope you see in this example the way special gifts to the church are above and beyond.





CLOSE THE GAPS IN YOUR ESTATE PLAN

Do you have a will? If you answered 'yes', then congratulations – you are ahead of the many people who do not. Now you are set for the rest of your life, right? – Not necessarily. Preparing and signed a will is only the first step toward ensuring that your wishes are carried out after you are gone. Your estate plan should include:

- A current will
- A living will and a health care power of attorney. These documents will protect you should you become unable to make medical decisions.
- A durable power of attorney. This document will allow someone you appoint to act on your behalf, when necessary, for financial purposes.

Even if you have prepared and signed all these documents, it's easy to overlook details that may result in your wishes not being fulfilled. Simple changes can be amended with a codicil – a legal instrument made to modify an earlier will, while significant alterations may require a newly created will.


 ~ **Happy Holidays** ~
 
from your UUCS Endowment Committee

David Reed (Chair), George Helton, Buck O'Rear

SERVICE AND VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

DATE	12/1	12/8	12/15	12/22	12/29
TOPIC	Integrating Meditation and Mindfulness into Our Busy Lives	Why Being Right is So Wrong	No Rehearse Pageant	Dark Night of the Soul	Behaving with a Human Touch
LEADER	Linda Graham	Rev Pam Rumancik	Rev Pam Rumancik Kay McCurdy	Rev Pam Rumancik	David Pope
GREETERS AND USHERS	Harold Linn Richard Ralston Marge Pasch	Nicky Ozbek Kelly Garren Ken Nickerson	Mary Hunter Maurine Olin Elaine Hill	Elaine Hill Elaine Watkins Eric Slaton	Yvonne Derrickson Linda Park Eileen Mulcahy
SOUND REINFORCEMENT	Karl Hunt	Roger Davis	Catherine Long	Karl Hunt	Rich Dwyer

Sunday, December 29 our service will be presented by **David J. Pope** on **Behaving With a Human Touch**. He and his wife Ann (a Cleveland, TN, native) moved to Chattanooga in 1996 to enjoy a busy and productive semi-retirement. Previously he served as Professor of Piano and Assistant Dean at Bowling Green State University. A polymath, he also sports an MBA and an FAA certificate as a flight instructor. The material he began wrestling with in his book *Interrupting Behavioral Evolution* is a deep vein, not yet mined out in his previous three visits with us.

We know, but typically refuse to accept much of what being human is really about. Scientists, such as primatologists and anthropologists, give us raw data pointing out the alarming destiny we face if we do not do better at improving our skills at conflict avoidance and resolution. Unfortunately much organized religion makes matters worse instead of better. Admission of our limitations and acceptance of lifelong nurture may be our only path to long-term survival.

FACEBOOK AND TWITTER

Find us on Facebook!

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Unitarian-Universalist-Church-of-Chattanooga/301318569903599>

Or search Unitarian Universalist of Chattanooga



Follow us on Twitter.

WHY "8" – FEBRUARY 7 - UUCC

Uncover the truth about marriage for gay and lesbian Americans. "8," a new play by Academy-award winning screenwriter Dustin Lance Black (Milk, J. Edgar), demystifies the debate around marriage equality by chronicling the landmark trial of Perry v. Schwarzenegger (now Hollingsworth v. Perry). Learn about the historical context of marriage from expert testimony. See the human cost of discrimination. Uncover the arguments used to justify bans on marriage for gay and lesbian couples. Using the actual court transcripts from the landmark federal trial of California's Prop. 8 and first-hand interviews, "8" shows both sides of the debate in a moving 90-minute play.

"8" the play will be staged at the UCC on Friday, Feb 7, 2014. If you go to the website <http://www.8theplay.com/>, you will see that the map of the USA, noting where the play will be staged, includes the Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga! You can also see excerpts from an all-star cast reading the transcript. Our Director, Erik Phillips, will be holding auditions on Sunday, January 5, 2014. We hope everyone will be involved in some way – in the cast, in the audience, as a promoter, as a host/hostess. Save the dates now.



Three-Night Workshop Series: Evolution of African-American Music from Africa to Civil Rights with Dr. Ysaye Barnwell

The [Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church](#) will host singer and educator [Dr. Ysaye Barnwell](#) for three evenings of singing and learning in community. Each evening runs from 7 to 9 p.m.

Thursday, February 20th
Africa & the Diaspora

Friday, February 21st
Spirituals and Slave Songs

Saturday, February 22nd
Civil Rights and Protest Songs

Dr. Barnwell's series is a project of the Oak Ridge UU Church. Questions about these sessions should be directed to Church Administrator, Debby Crider, at (865) 483-6761 or office@oruuc.org.

Analyzing & Understanding Systemic Racism



Led by [Crossroads Anti-Racism Organizing and Training](#) ~ Over 2.5 days at the Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church, participants will:

- *build a common definition of racism;*
- *explore the historic development of institutional racism in the US;*
- *examine ongoing realities of racism including the identity-shaping power racism has on People of Color and White people;*
- *explore racism's individual, institutional and cultural manifestations;*
- *and consider the link between racism and other forms of oppression.*

A strategic methodology to dismantle racism will be introduced, focusing specifically on applying principles of organizing and social/cultural change.

"Analyzing & Understanding Systemic Racism" begins at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 20, and runs all day Friday and Saturday, allowing time for participants to attend evening sessions with Dr. Barnwell.

For more information visit <http://www.sustainablecreativitycoop.com/>

December 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<u>1</u> 9:30 - 10:30 am Forum 9:30 - 10:30 am Pagan Group 10:45-12:10 Connections & Service 11:15 - 12 RE 12:30 - 2 pm Art Auction Reception	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u> 12 - 3:30 pm DRE Office 1 - 5 pm Minister/Office	<u>4</u> 1 - 5 pm Minister/Office 6:30 - 8:30 SGM 7 - 8:30 pm The Holy Man Trilogy	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u> 12:30 - 5:30 UCG
<u>8</u> 9:30 - 10:30 am Forum 10:45-12:10 Connections & Service 11:15 - 12 RE 12:30 - 2 pm RE Committee	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u> 12 - 3:30 pm DRE Office 1 pm - 5 pm Minister/Office	<u>11</u> 12 - 2 pm SGM 1 - 5 pm Minister/Office 6:30 - 9:30 pm Stitches-In-Time 6:30 - 8:30 pm Blue Christmas 7 pm - 8:30 pm The Holy Man Trilogy	<u>12</u> 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Social Justice	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u> 10:30 am - 12:30 pm CHIONS 12:30 pm - 5:30 pm UCG 6 pm - 10 pm Bridge Group
<u>15</u> 9:30 - 10:30 am Forum 10:45-12:10 Connections & Service 12 - 1:30 pm Potluck 1 - 2 pm Gift Wrapping for Homeless	<u>16</u> 6:30 - 8:30 pm SGM Facilitator Meeting	<u>17</u> 12 - 3:30 pm DRE Office 1 pm - 5 pm Minister/Office	<u>18</u> 9 am - 11 am Lay Pastoral Care 1 pm - 5 pm Minister/Office 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm SGM	<u>19</u> 7 pm - 9 pm Board Meeting	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u> 12:30 pm - 5:30 pm UCG 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm SJ-deliver gifts to Chattanooga Rescue Mission 7:30 - 9:30 pm Labyrinth
<u>22</u> 9:30 - 10:30 Forum 10:45-12:10 Connections & Service 11:15 - 12 RE	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u> 6:30 - 8 pm Christmas Eve Service	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u> 12:30 pm - 5:30 pm UCG
<u>29</u> 9:30 - 10:30 Forum 10:45 - 12:10 Connections & Service 11:15 - 12 RE	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u> 7 pm - 10 pm New Year Eve Game Night	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>