



A DIFFERENT KIND OF BIRTHDAY PRESENT

Recently, Gregory Kertay celebrated his ninth birthday with the usual birthday party of children running around eating cake and ice cream. "So what?" you ask. "Lots of kids have birthday parties." Well, Gregory decided to do something different for his birthday. He realized that, as much fun as it was to rip the paper of lots of new presents, he rarely played with the toys he received. As his birthday approached, Gregory chose to give up his presents in exchange for donations for the Heifer Project. Yes, ALL of his presents.



Gregory learned about the Heifer Project through the Religious Education program at church, which has donated to the Heifer Project for many years. Gregory put a request on his party invitations asking people to bring donations the Heifer Project rather than presents. A few people had never heard of the Heifer Project so he explained it like this: "When people donate money, they [Heifer International] get a goat and give it to India or somewhere. If they get a billy and a nanny, the goats can spread over all of India over a couple of years."

Gregory had a goal to raise \$50 for the Heifer project. After his party, he was excited to see that he more than tripled his goal—and then his grandfather gave him an additional \$50 of birthday money that he added to the donations. This brought the total amount he raised to \$221.39, all of which Greg is giving to the Heifer project to fight world hunger. Gregory said getting donations for the Heifer project was a lot of fun, because he "wasn't just getting stuff for [himself] but was helping the world."

Gregory suggests that other children think about requesting donations to Heifer Project in lieu of the usual birthday presents. He said, "If every child had one birthday given to Heifer, we could stop world hunger, hopefully."



For more information about Heifer International, go to <www.heifer.org> or talk with the children or adults in the Religious Education department. Or just ask Gregory.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
 CHURCH OF CHATTANOOGA
*a liberal religious
 community*

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INSIDE THE NUUSLETTER...

Services	2
Interdependent Web.....	3
UU History.....	3
RE News.....	4
Board Highlights.....	4
Green Sanctuary Initiative.....	5
Minister's Message.....	6
President's Perspectives.....	6
Annual Meeting Report.....	7
Upcoming Events.....	8
Volunteer Assignments.....	back cover

SUNDAY SERVICES ♦ 11:00 AM

June 3rd ♦ *THE QUESTION BAG*

This service is an annual one for our minister and the congregation. If you are puzzled by something religious or spiritual or even metaphysical, submit your question to the Question Bag, which is on the round table. Beside the Question Bag are index cards to use. Rev. Briere will answer, or attempt to answer, your question during this service.

June 10th ♦ *THE EDUCATION OF GOD: NOAH*

This is the second in a series of services with original drama depicting how God learned about human beings. With Adam and Eve, God was disappointed to learn that giving humans free will meant that they might use it. With Noah, God learns that he cannot save his disappointment with humans by wiping them out and starting over. He learns that with creation, there is no undo button.

June 17th ♦ *FATHER'S DAY*

James Joyner will lead a participatory celebration of the guiding men in our lives. Please come prepared to share a picture or a story and see and hear the legacy.

June 24th ♦ *LESSONS FROM THE MAYANS' LOST CIVILIZATION*

This service, led by Charles Redwine, will discover what we can learn from the Mayans. Charles, who grew up in the Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga, says that anthropology is both his vocation and his avocation.

SUNDAY FORUMS

There will be no Sunday Forums in June or July. Enjoy this opportunity to spend an extra hour with your family (or catching up on your sleep). As the summer days pass, think about what you are learning and experiencing that you might want to share in a Sunday forum this fall. Forums will resume in August.

ANNA THE WINNAH IS...

**ANNA OLSEN WINS CONTESTED SEAT FOR THOMAS JEFFERSON DISTRICT
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION TRUSTEE.**

Forty-two congregations cast ballots. Since there are seventy congregations in the Thomas Jefferson District (TJD) this means that 62% of the District's congregations voted in this unprecedented election. Our church can be very proud that we invited all the candidates to speak from our pulpit (Anna Olsen and Fred Anderson were able to accept) and that we were one of the forty-two congregations voting and casting a ballot.

The final tally shows Anna Olsen receiving 105 votes, Bob Gross 69, and Fred Anderson 11.

After the votes were in, but before they were counted Anna Olsen wrote, "Personally, I am so grateful for having had this fantastic year of meeting my UU brothers and sisters across the district. I am a better UU because I have met and learned from so many of you what we are working on. Peace, justice, equality are not words but actions which I have seen you practicing. Thank you so very much for your involvement and devotion to our faith community. Regardless of the outcome [of the election], I have personally won because I have been with you and will continue to visit many congregations. A thousand blessings to you."

THE INTERDEPENDENT WEB*by Steve Hollingsworth*

Sing out praises for the journey, pilgrims, we, who carry on,
searchers in the soul's deep yearnings, like our forebears in
their time.

~ *Rev. Mark DeWolfe*

Are we there yet?

~ *Every Child*

Ready or not, here comes travel season. Forced to think about where my body will be and what I'll be called on to do when I'm there. I'm in a stew of thought that leave me breathless at how deep all the connections go. Themes that dominate my life include music, justice for those facing oppression based on gender expression, sexual orientation, etc. (aka queer activism), supporting Unitarian Universalist (UU) values, and computer software. Software? Really?? If you know the greying geek part of me, you shouldn't be that surprised. Yes, whatever I do, wherever I go—like Prego, "It's in there."

I will be at General Assembly (GA) at the end of this month, where Interweave Continental will be front and center for me. What have I been doing with Interweave lately? Working on its new website using MediaWiki, the open source project behind Wikipedia.

As I began this column, with travel on my mind, the words quoted above came to me unbidden. I didn't even know they were Mark DeWolfe's until I looked it up. Mark DeWolfe was the first out gay minister in the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) to serve a congregation. At General Assembly, Interweave presents an annual lifetime service award—the Mark DeWolfe Award.

Next month in Chicago, I'll work on the open source systems that let our tiny tech company run. I'll also play four hand piano music, some downloaded from a public domain music source running MediaWiki. The print copy was formatted on my open-source Ubuntu PC, the same one running the OpenOffice.org software I'm using to write this.

Even the word Ubuntu carries a message that gives me pleasure. It is African and means "humanity to others" or "I am what I am because of who we all are." Does our sixth UU principle, "the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice of all" say it any better?

Planning travel seems to pull all the threads together. Are we there yet? On my journey, I say yes. I'm where I want to be.

UU HISTORY*by Helen Solomon*

Remembering some of our ministers and members who have died but still live in our minds...

Rev. Charles Moore—the first minister called by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga (UJCC) (1959-1962). Charles Moore went to work in Atlanta after his term with the Peace Corps in Ceylon. He never again was the minister of a church but worked in several social service positions.

Rev. Ernest Howard—Minister of the UUJCC (1963-1967). Ernest represented our church during critical racial integration years. Our church did not follow his lead fully when he became a Vietnam Dove, being about evenly split between Doves and Hawks. Ernest left our church for a larger one in California.

Rev Charles White McGhee—Minister of the UJCC (1977-1981). Charles' many years as a liberal minister prior to coming to Chattanooga gave him the healing wisdom our church needed during his tenure. After he retired, he and his wife, Jean, moved to Mentone, Alabama.

George Hull—Gardening Editor of the Chattanooga Times. When our church property (which had been a plant nursery)

was new, George planned and carried out our landscaping. His wife, Florence, and daughter, Leslie, working with Ann Heacker, designed and produced the colorful drapes in the font of our sanctuary.

Jean Livingston and Dr. Phil Livingston—President of the Board of Trustees (1972-1973). The Livingstons joined this church before we called our first minister. When Jean died of cancer at an early age, Dr. Livingston made a sizeable contribution toward the building of the second floor of this church; the sanctuary is named after Jean.

Aileen Henson—President of the Board of Trustees (1988-1989). Aileen was an effective leader of the church, and she affected church members greatly by her heroism in the face of a long debilitating illness including holding a going away party before her death so she could say good-bye to her friends and two adopted daughters.

Ann Redwine—Political Activist. Ann studied national and world political and environmental problems and relentlessly brought them to our attention—jabbing our conscious. Her son, Charles, is now a member of our church.

RE—DUCE, RE—USE, RE—CYCLE

by Amy Ziegler

"Three is the magical number. Yes, it is..."

Your kids may know this verse from the *Curious George* soundtrack. If they don't, they soon will. We are using this popular verse from singer songwriter Jack Johnson as a springboard for our sUUmmer curriculum. "RE—duce, RE--use, RE—cycle." It's the phrase they'll know by heart before I'm through with them.

RE—duce. June starts us off with discussions of things we waste. We will center our lessons on what we can do to use less. Some highlights will include conserving gasoline by using alternative transportation like bikes, roller blades, and public transportation. We will play a bingo game, actually it's called "rengo," blocking off squares labeled from the kids' suggestions for reducing what we use.

RE—use. July is the month we will look in our closets and cupboards and ask what do I have that is not being used? We will host a kid's style swap. Books, clothes, toys: all the things we

love that too often end up in the ol' trash can. What about the food situation? The students will be creating a delicious meal using leftovers. That's right; you can even reuse your food! Menu TBA.

RE—cycle. August takes us in a more technical direction. Where does all that trash go anyway, and why does it matter? This connection is important for every citizen to know. We will talk trash. What is recycling and how does it happen? It's the perfect time to learn what we can buy that this made from recycled products.

Three months of sUUmmer, three opportunities to learn what we can do to give our earth a break.

Thank you to parents and members who supported our program by assisting with our lessons. It's so easy. Just sign up on the list downstairs and show-up. No preparation, no list of supplies to bring, just your positive attitude and a smile.

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

by Daidee Springer

At their May 9th meeting, the Board

- √ Expressed their appreciation to David Reed, Buck O'Rear and the entire stewardship team for a job well done.
- √ Appointed Kate Briere, Steve Hollingsworth and Daidee Springer delegates to the 2007 Unitarian Universalist Association's General Assembly (GA) in Portland, OR.
- √ Finalized plans for the May 20th annual congregational meeting.
- √ Received an upbeat financial report from Treasurer Roger Davis.

YOU'RE INVITED!

The following invitation is from Annette Marquis, Thomas Jefferson District Executive:

I would like to invite everyone who plans to attend General Assembly in Portland, OR to meet others from the TJ District at the TJ District In-Gathering on Wednesday, June 20, 2007 from 4:45 to 6:30 (check your GA program for location). This is a great opportunity to hook up with people from the district, make new friends, and hear what's going on in the TJD.

And speaking of General Assembly, I am thrilled to announce that the UUA Board of Trustees has chosen Charlotte as the site of the 2011 General Assembly. Not only is this exciting news for the district whenever it happens, but this will be the 50th anniversary of the UUA. What an incredible opportunity we will have to showcase the incredible strengths of the TJD!

Choir practice will end for the summer after June 10th. See everybody in the fall.

GREEN SANCTUARY INITIATIVE

by Sandy Kurtz

When summer arrives, many of us dream of some downtime--a less structured life spending more time with family or perhaps resting on a beach or participating in a life-enhancing adventure. Often one can step back, reassess life, and get creative about our place in it or not. Many want to just read a good book.

If reading is in your future and you have wanted to think more deeply about the meaning of our Seventh Principle in conjunction with Green Sanctuary work, Bill McKibben writings serve well. His best seller, *End of Nature*, has been around a while, but try the newer *Hope, Human & Wild*, or *Enough*, or *Staying Human in an Engineered Age*. McKibben also writes for publications such as *National Geographic*, *New York Times*, and *Mother Jones* magazine. OK, this is no escapist romance novel reading, but it will intrigue. McKibben encourages a paradigm shift in thinking as he interweaves economics, environmentalism, globalism, climate change and community into a new life tapestry. Here are a few quotes:

☐ *Environmentalism has often been a somewhat grim business. (There is, after all, plenty to be grim about.) But a convivial environmentalism, one that asks us to figure out what we really want out of life, offers profound possibilities. Perhaps the most*

important of those possibilities is a new link with communities of faith in this country. Though they don't always live up to their ideals, churches and synagogues and mosques are among the few institutions that can posit some idea for human existence other than accumulation.

☐ *Adam Smith's insight was that the interests of each of our individual selves could add up, almost in spite of themselves, to social good—to longer lives, fuller tables, warmer houses. Suddenly the community was no longer necessary to provide these things; they would happen as if by magic. And they did happen. And in many ways it was good.*

But this process of liberation seems to have come close to running its course. Study after study shows Americans spending less time with friends and family, either working longer hours, or hunched over their computers at night.

So how happy are we? You may want to move to Puerto Rico. Check out the happiness survey. Put this link into your browser: www.nytimes.com/imagepages/2005/10/03/science/20051004_HAPP_GRAPHIC.html

LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER

The Second Annual

Rachel Carson Memorial Dinner

Saturday • June 2, 2007 • 6:30 p.m.

In the Spirit of Rachel Carson

Speaker: Reverend Patricia Cahill

Thankful Memorial Episcopal Church

An uplifting evening to celebrate our place on the planet

With live entertainment and a delicious vegetarian dinner

\$15/person
\$7.00/child 10 & under
Child care available

For your reservation, make checks payable to UUCS and send or drop off at the church.

SUMMERTIME & SERVICETIME

by the Rev. Jeff Briere

Unitarian Universalists have a tradition of doing church differently in the summer months. Some churches close completely during July and August; others do "church light" for a few weeks. In the last few years, some churches have moved away from this tradition and have a full schedule of worship and activities year-round.

The summer tradition began in New England, where the early Unitarian churches were closely allied with the academy. Without air conditioning, the schools went on vacation in July and August and everyone left Boston for Cape Cod to escape the heat of the city. They just shuttered the churches and re-opened in September, when schools re-opened.

Another reason for a change in the summer months is that Unitarian Universalists have a tradition of lay-led services. This springs from the conviction that no one—not even ministers—have a corner on the truth. As a result, many Unitarian Universalist congregations enjoy services prepared and offered by members of the church.

In some quarters, it is said that the real reason Unitarian Universalists have a light weight summertime schedule is that they are the only ones God trusts to return to church in the fall.

During this July and August, as I did last year, I will paint. Last

year, it was the living and dining rooms. This year it's the kitchen. New floor and new paint.

Also during July and August, I will consider how I will serve the church. I won't ask you to paint my kitchen; Kate and I will be happy to do that. But I will ask you to consider this summer how you will serve your church. Too often, I think, we wonder how our church will serve us; rarely do we ask how we will serve our church. And we need to turn that around.

Service to our church is not optional, but it is voluntary. It's expected that members will, in some fashion, serve the needs of our church. Your service could be in several areas, but more than anything, our church needs leaders. Organizers. Planners. Managers. In plain metaphorical English, we have many worker bees; we have few queens and kings.

I don't take lightly the words of President Kennedy. For many boomers my age, he was—and still is—a beacon of light in a gray and muddled world. With his inaugural speech, he set the bar so high that in my opinion, no president since has been able to leap over it. It is with all due respect that I paraphrase him.

And so, my fellow members, ask not how your church will serve you. Ask how you will serve your church.

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

by Daidee Springer

My how time flies when you're having fun! It doesn't seem possible that two years have passed since I was first elected president of this congregation. But they have. I'm about to become past president (president emerita?).

When Unitarian Universalist friends outside our congregation first learned I had become church prez, several of them had the same question, "What's your agenda?" I blinked and gulped; was I supposed to have an agenda? If so, I was doomed to fail before I even began.

The term "having an agenda" has acquired a sense of a hidden, maybe even sinister, plan. That's what I immediately thought of when I was challenged with this question. I certainly didn't have a secret agenda in the back of my mind. But then again, I had no agenda at all in any part of my mind. No long-term goal of what I intended to accomplish during my tenure. Just a vague sense of wanting to do the right thing.

I kept busy enough tending to the everyday activities of the church, and I never took the time to draft an agenda. I called and presided over meetings, kept on top of the church finances, worked closely with the minister, encouraged fun times, and tried to make sure the wheels were well oiled and turning smoothly.

Did I have an agenda after all, hidden even to me? I saw immediate needs. I wanted as much harmony as a healthy and vibrant UU church can endure. I wanted us to be proud of our church and to share it with more Chattanoogaans. If we wanted more, younger members I knew our Children's Religious Education program must expand. I knew that to move forward we'd all have to be generous with our time and our money. I followed what was in front of my nose. Was that an agenda? You be the judge.

2007 ANNUAL MEETING

Fifty-two members of the congregation participated in the 2007 annual congregational meeting held May 20th.

The congregation conducted its business expeditiously. Members voted unanimously for the budget and for the slates presented by the nominating committee.

The 2007-2008 budget is \$170,651 with \$148,000 of the income coming from pledges.

Our 2007-2008 trustees are:

- Roger Davis, President
- Maddie Kertay, President-elect
- Linda Helton, Secretary
- Eric Papendorp, Treasurer
- Adam Couch, VP Programs
- Nicole Barnhart, VP Religious Education

Elaine Watkins was approved as Assistant Treasurer. Immediate past-president Daidee Springer will continue on the Board as a non-voting member and Rich Dwyer will continue as VP Ways and Means until someone steps forward to replace him. He hopes that will be very soon!

Joining the nominating committee are new members Mike Bascom, Skip Stevens, and Carmen Vanderhoof. Continuing on this committee for the second year of their two-year terms are Martha Berry, James Joyner, and Deseri Papendorp.

Annual reports from the trustees and the minister were warmly received. Applause followed praise from Bill Keiss and Michael Walters for Rev. Jeff Briere's involvement and visibility beyond the church walls. Official minutes of the meeting are available in the church office.

PHONATHON

Friends of the UUA (Unitarian Universalist Association) will be conducting its fundraising Phonathon beginning June 4th and continuing throughout the month of June. Members (within the United States) who have previously donated to Friends will be called, with the exception of those who have requested that they not be contacted. The telemarketing agency is Outreach Associates of Pittsburgh, PA. Friends of UUA has worked with Outreach Associates for a number of years and have found them to be respectful and considerate in their dealings with congregation members.



Donations from individuals are a crucial part of the UUA's operating budget. Last year, Friends of the UUA provided over \$1 million dollars in funding, about 13% of the UUA budget. It is vital for Friends of UUA to reach out to members in a manner that is efficient and productive, while at the same time being respectful and congenial.

N.B.→Your donation to Friends of UUA will *not* go to our church, but some of the work of the Friends of UUA could benefit our church indirectly.

HOW MANY...

UNITARIANS does it take to replace a light bulb?

One. And only one. Certainly not three.

Universalists does it take to replace a light bulb?

All of them. Every single one.



UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ART ON THE WALLS

Chris Williamson, one of our newer members, is the art teacher at Tyler Elementary School. Exhibited this month are paintings done by his fifth, sixth, and seventh grade students. We appreciate both the works themselves, and his offering to share them with us. Nancy Anderson, our Art on the Walls coordinator, finds the paintings bright and exciting and hopes you will as well.

BOOK CLUB NEWS

The Book Club will not meet in June. On July 19 we will discuss *The Memory Keepers Daughter* by Kim Edwards.

TWISTED KNITTERZ

The Twisted Knitterz will meet June 4 at 7:00 at the church. Don't let your knitting slide this summer! Call Kate Briere for more information 423-624-8152.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS OUT

Join us on Wednesday nights for food, fun, and fellowship. See the June schedule below. For more information call the church office.

6/6	Boat House (American and Seafood)	\$\$\$	1011 Riverside Dr., Amnicola
6/13	Alfredo's (Italian)*	?	3450 Cummings Hwy (Walmart Shopping Center)
6/20	Amigos (Mexican)*	\$\$	3805 Ringgold Rd.
6/27	Blue Orleans (Creole)*	\$\$	3208 Amnicola

\$ - Inexpensive entrée usually under \$10
 \$\$ - Average price entrée \$10 - \$12
 \$\$\$ - A bit pricey entrée usually over \$10
 * Family-friendly

In Memoriam

Barbara Keiss

CHIONS

The Chattanooga Institute of Noetic Science will meet on June 9, 2007 from 10:30 to noon. Dr. Tom Crory will present on *Creativity and Vision: Pathways to Creative Living*.

This presentation will combine lectures and brief digital shows to illustrate the interaction between vision and creativity. We'll discuss specific techniques to enhance our inherent creativity by both removing blocks to our visual perception and improving the interactive links between vision and our other senses. Thomas Cory, Ph.D. has two careers: He has been a clinical psychologist in private practice for 33 years, and a professional nature-travel photographer for the past 20 years. As an adjunct professor at UTC he has taught graduate courses in counseling and continuing education courses on creativity.

LAST CHANCE FOR YOGA

Yoga instructor, Cecelia Keefer, has agreed to offer a Yoga class on Wednesdays at 10:00 am at our church for a six week session. The dates are July 11-Aug 15. The cost for the course is \$60 and must be paid in advance. The course is for men and women of all abilities. Ms. Keefer will conduct each class as though the students were beginners.

Please call Kate Briere at 423-624-8152 for more information and to sign up.

THE NUUSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

the nUUsletter welcomes articles from members and friends of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga. Article topics should be of interest to our church members and could include: announcements of events, discussion of recent events in the church of community, and original essays or poems. Each article can be up to 400 words. Due to space limitations and selected topics, it is possible that not all articles will be published. Please send your submissions to *the nUUsletter* to the editor, Wendy Sapp, at *wksapp at charter dot net*. Wendy can also be reached at 706-694-0940. The deadline for the July issue of *the nUUsletter* is **June 15th**.

DATE	6/3	6/10	6/17	6/24
TOPIC	The Question Bag	The Education of God: Noah	Father's Day	Lessons from the Mayans
LEADER	The Rev. Jeff Briere	The Rev. Jeff Briere	James Joyner	Charles Redwine
BOT MEMBER	Roger Davis	Daidee Springer	Nicky Ozbek	Monique Lewis
GREETERS	Kay Spehar	Betsey and Kate Hoyt	Diane Davison	Mae Joyner
USHERS	John Spehar	Matt Hoyt	Pat Fogerty	James Joyner
CHANCEL DÉCOR	Mary Hunter	Mary Hunter	Mary Hunter	Mary Hunter
MUSIC	Steve Hollingsworth	Steve Hollingsworth	Marcia Jenison	Marcia Jenison

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<p><i>Once we believe in ourselves, we can risk curiosity, wonder, spontaneous delight or any experience that reveals the human spirit ~ e.e. cummings</i></p>
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