



THE NUUSLETTER

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF CHATTANOOGA
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DECEMBER, 2014

A LIBERAL RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY

WWW.UUCC.ORG

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MINISTER'S MUSINGS

Brrr! I didn't realize that ya'll had "real" winter down here! When I saw snow flurries, I was certain it wasn't snow. Must be ash from a fire, I thought. I watched one fall to the pavement to see if it would melt. It did! Will wonders never cease? I called my husband to share the news and he didn't answer so I just hung up without leaving a message. He was at work I remembered, and I went into a three-hour meeting and my snow excitement was soon forgotten. When Jim saw I had tried to call and didn't leave a message, he was concerned (frantic) and tried to call me, but I had the ringer turned off and forgot to turn it back on until I was leaving church several hours later. Eight calls from Jim, and a message that said, "Is everything OK?" Oops! I texted him, "OK, just wanted to tell you about the snow flurries in Chattanooga." He called me when he got home from work and he was angry. "Don't ever call me and not leave a message when I am at work!" He spent hours wondering if I was unconscious at the hospital or something. I felt terrible.

How often do we cause unnecessary pain because we aren't thinking? 'Tis the season of gift giving and good cheer, yet it is also a time of year that can be lonely and depressing. What I love most about the Christmas season stems from the pagan traditions, Advent. Advent is about waiting for the rebirth of light, waiting for hope, waiting for the birth of love. The dark, cold days of December can be tough for many of us, but a simple beam of light can illuminate the heart. A note, a smile, a phone call (with a message if no one is home) or a hug can lift the weight of gloom and let light shine through, warming the chill of sorrow or loneliness. I'm going to make a conscious effort to be a beam this holiday season! Be a beam! How simple, how lovely!

Our Pastoral Care Team meeting closed with these words from Rumi. "Be a lamp, a ladder or a lifeboat." Someone said, "This could be a mission statement for the church!" It could and it is! UUCC is a lamp, a ladder, and a lifeboat! Has it been any of these things for you? Will you be willing to share a story about how this church has illuminated your life? How it has been a ladder or a lifeboat for you? If you are willing, share your story with me and with others! There are so many stories that span from just last week to decades ago or more.

Last year, the leadership of UUCC, with the help of the congregation, came up with five goals for the next five years and then they applied to the UUA to find a minister to work with UUCC to accomplish those goals. Developmental Ministry was an experiment that began with the Boulder UU congregation over seven years ago. It has been a phenomenal success! Last week, I attended a Developmental Ministry conference in Denver that was led by the minister and members of the Boulder congregation. There is an article in the UU World that can be accessed online at uuworld.org. Just search for Developmental Ministry and you can read more about what you will be working on over the next five years. Check out the five goals on page 3 and see if there is one that especially speaks to you and sparks your creativity. I'd love to hear your thoughts and ideas!

See you in church!
Cathy

SERVICE TITLES & DESCRIPTIONS ~ DECEMBER, 2014

The worship service begins at 11:00 am.

December 7 ~ *The Gift* ~ Rev. Cathy Harrington

All of the world's great wisdom traditions praise the act of giving. Christianity states that *it is more blessed to give than receive*, but I challenge the notion that it is more blessed to give. This is so ingrained in our society that we often find it more difficult to receive than to give. This is a sermon about learning that to receive a gift graciously is actually a form of giving.

December 14 ~ *No Rehearse Christmas Pageant*

Our annual romp through Luke's nativity story. Come join our community as we don costumes, sing carols, and bring this ancient tale to life. A very fun celebratory multigenerational service!

December 21~ *Christmas Grace Notes* ~ Rev. Cathy Harrington

A sermon/story about the special gifts that arise out of the rhythms of life, love, and family that often go unnoticed.

December 24 ~ *A Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7 PM*

Bring some cookies or snacks to share at the reception following the service.

December 28 ~ *Moving Toward a World of Spirit-Driven People* ~ David J. Pope

Humans justify killing one another situationally. Is it possible that all such justifications can someday be seen as inconceivable, as primitive constructs of our animal cousins? It may seem unthinkable but it is exactly the place we must go. Insights from neuroscience, behavioral science, and the teachings of the historical Jesus all suggest humans have this kind of potential if radical nurturing begins at birth and continues all life-long.

Guest speaker, David J. Pope, is a concert pianist, educator, entrepreneur, and aviator. 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 exploring in his book *Interrupting Behavioral Evolution* is about nothing less than the fate of human kind. We welcome him for the fifth time to hear more about his vision of a possible future.

FORUM

Forum meets at 9:30 each Sunday downstairs in the last room on the left.
All are welcome!

Check the weekly UUpdate for topics!

DEVELOPMENTAL GOALS FOR UUCC

- A. **Identity. Vision and Mission.** Who do we say we are, to ourselves and to the world? How do we express the unity that binds us despite our humanistic and spiritualist differences?
- B. **Covenant and Safe Community Policy.** What are the standards for the relationships we want to have with one another? How shall we respond when behavior violates these standards?
- C. **Member Engagement.** How do we build a larger core of active members? Are there programming changes that will help? How do we identify and build the next generation of church leaders? How do we build a financial stewardship tradition that will sustain the church?
- D. **Governance.** How do we extricate our Board of Trustees from the ever-flowing nitty-gritty of ministerial decision making to create time for governance and strategic thinking? How do we develop policies that will make our decision making more consistent?
- E. **Better Communication.** What procedures and habits must we build to make decision-making as transparent as possible and build trust within the community? How do we do a better job of telling our story to the larger community?

FACEBOOK AND TWITTER



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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by Leslie Brock, President, Board of Trustees

This year has gone by very fast. We have already experienced a lot of experimentation and change: second hour, a new minister, new adult religious education offerings on Sunday morning, a theatrical performance, 'Love Beyond Belief', the Thandeka workshop, the revival of the handcraft fair, and the list goes on. Then there is another long list of activities and ministries that continued: Lay pastoral care, small group ministry, Wednesday night meditation and potluck, New Year's Eve game night, Thanksgiving at the church, and again, the list goes on.

In a few short days after this newsletter goes out, we will be meeting with the stewardship consultant. It is very important for everyone who can to attend one of the sessions. The larger the participation, the more accurate the report. In last month's newsletter, Buck outlined what we are doing, throughout November more information was communicated, and a schedule has already been made available for the weekend of December 5-7.

As we move onto 2015, look for more new opportunities such as 'Beloved Conversations,' a Mark Hicks workshop, a committee fair so you can find the work that feeds your soul, and continued events and opportunities to be active, involved, and inspired. As always, if you have ideas, please pass them along to the appropriate committee, and if you're not sure, just ask a member of the board for assistance.

We are continuing to work toward fulfilling the goals we set for ourselves last year. At the board retreat in October, we began setting deadlines as we work through getting our policies in order and clarifying and documenting the roles and responsibilities throughout the leadership areas and committees of the church.

As a community we will be continuing to work to accomplish our identified goals, identity development, ensuring a safe community, increased member engagement, more effective governance, and better communication, throughout the next several years. (See page 3 for more information on the goals.) Stay tuned for information on opportunities for participation. This is a group effort, so we need input from everyone in order to accomplish what we've set out to do.

DECK THE HALLS WITH...POINSETTIAS!

Help to decorate the church for the holidays by buying poinsettias. Anne Johnson will take orders at church on Nov. 23, 30 and Dec. 7. You may also give or mail your money to Chris in the office. Please make checks to the UUUC. Each plant costs \$5.50 and you may take it home with you after the Christmas Eve service. An insert will be placed in the order of service on Christmas Eve to recognize contributors and to honor a person or an event.



POETRY CIRCLE

THE 4TH SUNDAY POETRY CIRCLE WILL **NOT** MEET IN DECEMBER.

WE WILL RECONVENE ON JANUARY 25 AT 10 AM.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO SHARE FAVORITE POEMS OR SIMPLY TO LISTEN TO OTHERS READ POETRY.

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN
*by Rich Dwyer, Small Group Ministry Facilitator
aka Santa Rich*

As Santa has been asked to give you the whole story about Small Group Ministry, let me start at the beginning....

Many years ago, when I was known as Nicholas, even before I was called "Saint Nicholas," I learned to listen deeply to my parishioners, my flock.

In my congregation there was a father of three daughters who was not a man of means. That meant that when it was time for marriage, the three daughters would have no dowry to offer the families of the grooms asking for their hands in marriage. Three times I secretly secured the funds for the daughters' dowries. However, at that last time, I was found out by the father, whom I swore to secrecy. But as many of you know, the secret got out, and so I am known far and wide as Saint Nick or Santa Claus.

Now during the Christmas season, Santa spends his time listening to the young (and not so young!) coming to me with their requests for gifts. It would not do for Santa to TELL the children what they should want, but to listen carefully to their requests with deep consideration for their needs. Just coming to tell Santa of the deepest wishes of their hearts helps them to see more clearly the meaning of the season of giving.

So remember boys and girls, be a Santa yourself, and listen deeply, refrain from offering advice or direction, but let your heart swell with the high honor of someone revealing themselves to you as you reveal to them. May your hearts be filled with the magic of Christmas this year, and all the years to come! Ho! Ho! Ho! Happy Christmas to all, and to all a Good night!



**COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND STAFF,
PLEASE SUBMIT BUDGET REQUESTS FOR NEXT YEAR BY DEC 31**

The Finance Committee wants to know how much money your committee or staff position will need next fiscal year (beginning July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016). We need this information to begin putting together a proposed budget which will need to be approved by the church's Board and, finally, by the whole congregation at our annual meeting in the spring.

Send your budget requests for next year to George Helton, Chair of the Finance Committee. Email them to him at glhelton@epbfj.com. If emailing is not convenient for you, please give him your requests in person at church or give them to Chris in the church office. Your request should contain: the total amount you think your committee will need; what you think you'll spend it on and how that spending will help the committee achieve its goals; the committee chair's name and contact information; and any other information you'd like to include. The church sometimes doesn't have the money to fund all requests fully. So, please provide enough detail in your request to help the Finance Committee and the Board understand the merits of your request.

Thank you for your help. Please let George know if you have questions or concerns.

THE UNEXPECTED GIFT
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS
by Kay McCurdy, Director of Religious Education

*The ache for home lives in all of us.
 The safe place where we can go, as we are, and not be questioned.
 ~ Maya Angelou*

By the time you read this, our UU Kids will have participated in the *Transgender Day of Remembrance* candlelight service, walked in the *Grateful Gobbler* event to raise funds for Chattanooga's new Shelter for Homeless Families, and begun preparations for our *Winter Solstice Indoor Walking Labyrinth*, to be held in our sanctuary on December 21st and 22nd, from 5:30-8:30 p.m. They've welcomed our wonderful new minister, Reverend Cathy Harrington, and spent the past four months engaged in learning with the awesome teachers and assistants who make our Religious Education program such a happenin' place to be on Sunday morning.

We spend a great deal of time in our classrooms focusing on how to live a life of purpose and compassion, how to exist in community with others. On Sunday mornings, around 30 children and youth show up for the RE experience. Social justice, human rights, and environmental stewardship all figure prominently in our activities and discussions. It isn't unusual to see a child as young as five understand that an outstretched hand equals *I'm here for you*.

As adults, we know there's a huge difference between intellectually mulling over the concept of acceptance and actually putting it into practice. Children, fortunately, do not intellectualize their own behavior: they act (and react) with the same energy and focus with which they eat ice cream or build a pillow fort. So when visitors to their classroom don't speak English, are differently abled, or just feel shy in a room full of strangers, the children instinctively clear a path, and welcome them into the fold. The same child who, moments before, accepted an offer of help and friendship, turns around to offer it in kind.

We're a different kind of church, to be sure. When folks pull into the winding drive and make their way up the hill, they may feel uncertain (or even anxious) about who, exactly, we are. Families with children, searching for an alternative to traditional church school, have the added stress of making sure their little ones find a place to be heard, seen, and valued. I believe they're in for an unexpected gift: this safe and nurturing place where all are truly welcomed.

UCC INDOOR WALKING LABYRINTH
Sunday, Dec 21st, 5:30-8:30 pm
Monday, Dec 22nd, 5:30-8:30 pm

RE youth and volunteers are sponsoring our church's 5th annual Winter Solstice Labyrinth. Please consider this our gift to you and yours during a normally hectic time of year.

Enter the mouth, follow the path, arrive in the center, and when you're ready, journey back out. What a beautifully simple plan.

Bring yourself, your children, a neighbor, a co-worker, and/or a friend. Come see why humans have been captivated by labyrinths for over 4,000 years.



NOVEMBER REPORT FROM THE SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE
by Judith Pedersen-Benn, Co-Chair Social Justice Committee

Greetings All....I'll start off with a review of what the Social Justice Committee is doing.

- We are working with the WOWsers and Forum committees to schedule Sunday speakers on social justice issues.
- We continue to promote Diversity and Multiculturalism—most recently by co-sponsoring the Transgender Day of Remembrance held in November.
- In the area of Economic Justice we have organized donations for “Sharing the Plate,” we are collaborating with Chattanooga Room at the Inn, and we continue to educate about the negative effects of Inequality.
- Monthly movies continue on the first Friday of the month focusing on a broad range of issues related to Corporate Power’s negative effect on Democracy and to the well-being of the planet and its inhabitants. In December we will be showing Scrooge and discussing how greed or ‘profit as the bottom line’ effects all of us....I hope you will join us for a **Movie and Pizza on Dec. 5th at 7:00 pm.**
- We continue to network with other organizations such as Chattanooga Organize for Action, Grace Episcopal Non-violence project, and the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice.

We welcome anyone who would like to join us in our efforts to bring peace and justice to the community. We meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm at the Church.

U.S. income inequality, on rise for decades, is now highest since 1928.

There are many ways to measure economic inequality but one basic approach is to look at how much income flows to groups at different steps on the economic ladder. Emmanuel Saez, an economics professor at UC-Berkeley, has been doing just that for years. And according to his research, U.S. income inequality has been increasing steadily since the 1970s, and now has reached levels not seen since 1928. Using tax-return data from the IRS, Saez has built extensive income-distribution datasets going back 100 years. He defines “income” as pre-tax cash market income — wages and salaries; dividends, interest, rent and other returns on invested capital; business profits; and realized capital gains.

In 1928, the top 1% of families received 23.9% of all pretax income, while the bottom 90% received 50.7%. But the Depression and World War II dramatically reshaped the nation’s income distribution: By 1944 the top 1%’s share was down to 11.3%, while the bottom 90% were receiving 67.5%, levels that would remain more or less constant for the next three decades. But starting in the mid- to late 1970s, the uppermost tier’s income share began rising dramatically, while that of the bottom 90% started to fall. The top 1% took heavy hits from the dot-com crash and the Great Recession but recovered fairly quickly: Saez’s preliminary estimates for 2012 (which will be updated next month) have that group receiving nearly 22.5% of all pretax income, while the bottom 90%’s share is below 50% for the first time ever (49.6%, to be precise).

Americans aren’t unaware of these trends. More than half (61%) of Americans said the U.S. economic system favors the wealthy, while just 35% said it’s fair to most people, according to a Pew Research Center survey conducted in March. A similar share (66%) of Americans said the gap between rich and poor had increased in the past five years. As one might expect, low- and middle-income people were most likely to say the U.S. economic system favors the wealthy, but even 52% of high-income people agreed that it does.

CHATTANOOGA ROOM IN THE INN

Earlier this year our church adopted a family from the homeless shelter, Chattanooga's Room in the Inn (CRITI). Our adopted family is a hardworking Sudanese mother and her five boys, ages 3 to 10 years. When we met Julia she had already learned English, passed her citizenship exam and found a job. Definitely a go-getter!

With her new found job, assistance from CRITI and members of this church, she and her family moved into a larger rented space near her employer, Memorial Hospital.

As you can imagine, having a low level job and at the same time raising five young boys is a major challenge especially when it comes to the holidays. We would like to help make their Christmas memorable.

Please consider making a financial donation for her children's presents as well as some basic necessities. To target our purchases, we requested, and received a specific Christmas list of their needs.

Chris will collect your money (make checks to the UU church and in memo "for adopted family" or you can get an envelope from the tree and shop for a gift on the list.

Just imagine what it is like, as a child to have your own family Christmas tree with presents underneath. Those are the memories that last a lifetime for all involved. Isn't that what Christmas is all about?

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

IN THE GIVING SEASON, REMEMBER WUTC

Those of us UUCU members who are also regular listeners to WUTC get a special tingle when we hear "Support comes from the Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga" on our public radio station.

There is no UUCU budget item to run these announcements. We who support WUTC pool our donations into a special fund at UUCU to make the underwriting announcements possible.

Through the holidays, we're running extra spots, but that means we're depleting our fund much faster than new moneys are coming in. Because public radio is a gift that keeps on giving and because we've been at this for a year or so, we're starting to look at how we get our folks to re-up so that we can keep our good name on the air regularly throughout the year. It's not cheap. Were we to keep our current pace going we'd need about \$6000 each year, several times what has come in this year. Even a minimum presence year 'round would take about \$3000 per year.

We think there are lots more folks ready to donate, but we're not sure the message is getting through. We're pretty sure that more givers will mean more awareness overall. We've been happy to accept donations ranging from a Widow's Mite to many hundreds of \$\$\$. It all adds up.

To get on board, follow these simple steps: If you normally support WUTC public radio (or realize that you listen often and really ought to), write your check to UUCU with WUTC in the memo line. WUTC gets the money; UUCU gets underwriting announcements. It's a good deal for all of us. There are also options to make monthly donations. Contact Chris in the UUCU office or call Steve Hollingsworth at (423) 240-3619.



GREEN SANCTUARY
by Sandy Kurtz

Happy Holidays

SINGING FOR THE EARTH

Jim Scott, UU travelling musician and songwriter, has given concerts at UUCC a number of times and written a songbook as part of the original Green Sanctuary program. Recently he participated in the Climate Change March in New York City. Over 400,000 people assembled that day and there were many people of faith represented including UUs. For the occasion, Jim wrote a song "We Are the Earth" now at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ybA0_QoFloY&feature=youtu.be If you watch, you will also see Climate March scenes. Here are the words to Jim's song.



We are the Earth
We speak for Creation
We cannot stand by and watch its devastation

Chorus:
And we will not be bought
We will not be deceived
We are one.
We are strong.
We are the Earth.

We are the Earth
Of threatened sky and waters
What legacy shall we leave to our sons and daughters?

We are the Earth.
We will speak as one.
We will not surrender the great glaciers to the sun.

We are the Earth
Of forests, soil and oceans.
We will stand in our defense and devotion.

We are the Earth
Wounded, but unbroken.
We will rise when to power truth is spoken.

We are the Earth
Both holy and profane.
Despite denial this fragile planet we must sustain.

We are the Earth diverse and yet united.
We will keep on
Until the wrongs are righted
We are more than just dwellers on this Earth.
We are the Earth.

MEETING THE CLIMATE CHALLENGE

Gordon H. Hart, member of First Parish Church Unitarian Universalist of Northborough, MA, has proposed that UU congregations ought to be making a Climate Change Commitment. The idea has caught fire among other UU congregations. Since the UUA has been working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, most notably through fossil fuel stock divestment, perhaps UU churches should take action too. He outlines a pledge that congregations might sign. At UUCC we have completed portions of the pledge he drafted as part of our Green Sanctuary Initiative, but we might strive for the next step on his list: Within two years of signing this document, develop a congregational action plan for reducing their greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by the year 2020 and by 80% by the year 2030, using the year 2005 as the reference year. Discussion?

INTERDEPENDENT WEB
THIS IS A TALE OF TWO TABBIES.
by Juniper Russo

Many people in the church community are aware that I run a tiny cat rescue. I have cats pulled from high-kill shelters and I provide them a safe haven until they can be transferred to loving, permanent homes. My first official resident was a sweet mama-cat who arrived thin and worn-out, with three nursing babies. The transporters, charmed by my daughter Vivian's fixation on cats, decided to name the rescued kitty after her. The kittens were adopted quickly, but Vivian--being an adult of unremarkable appearance-- was overlooked, and she remains in my care to this day.

I got a call about another unremarkable-looking adult tabby last week. He was at a shelter that had a 95% kill rate for adult cats and he had mere hours left to live unless a foster home spoke up. I didn't want to take in another cat that would become a long-term resident, but I just couldn't make myself say no. His ID number at the shelter was 24601, so—as any *Les Miserables* fan would understand—I took him in and renamed him Jean Valjean.

Normally, introducing two adult cats to one another is a disaster. Cats are antisocial, territorial animals, and it usually takes them years to bond unless they know each other as kittens. Imagine my surprise when I let Jean Valjean out of his crate, prepared to break up their inevitable fight... and saw him and Vivian run toward one another, affectionately nuzzling and purring. It was clear that they were not strangers.

I checked Vivian's paperwork and realized she came from the same little-known, high-kill facility as Jean Valjean. I called the shelter and found out that they were both captured as strays in the same neighborhood in rural Middle Georgia, months apart from one another. They must have been either siblings, friends, mates, or possibly even father and daughter—and by an amazing coincidence, they ended up back together hundreds of miles from home.

It's stories like this, about amazing synchronicities and unlikely coincidences, that lead many people to believe in God. When I shared what I'd found out about the pair, several people were quick to say that God was watching out for the two tabbies. How else could two bonded cats narrowly escape death and end up reunited far away? The odds of it happening were extraordinarily slim, but it happened. It was a miracle.

A skeptic would point out that for every "miracle" that happens, there are literally millions of times times that they don't happen. A skeptic would point out that for every one person who "miraculously" recovers from cancer, millions die fighting it with all their strength. A skeptic would point out that for every one person who wins the lottery at just the right time, millions lose precious dollars playing. A skeptic would notice that for every infertile couple that manages to conceive, millions do not. And, of course, a skeptic would point out that while Jean Valjean and his pal Vivian were reunited, roughly four million animals were killed in shelters this year without anyone to mourn or notice their passing. In other words, if I were to think rationally instead of emotionally, I would realize that this little coincidence proves nothing about the existence of cat-loving God.

Still, I don't mind occasionally giving in to the childish, imaginative part of my brain that chooses not to think skeptically and will accept a beautiful story at face value. Maybe it doesn't matter whether God was looking out for two cats, or whether there was some other invisible force at play. Maybe the only thing that happened to those two cats is that they were among the few who were rescued, and the fewer who were reunited with friends. And maybe, just maybe, that's enough of a miracle in and of itself.

TIME TO DISCUSS OUR CHURCH

Bill Clontz, our UUA Stewardship Consultant will be with us the weekend of December 5-7. We hope your review of the weekend's agenda (below) has given insight to the many programs and operations areas of the church we will be discussing. The reason we are undertaking this task is to learn the best way to build a stronger church community, and make UUCC more meaningful in our members and friends lives. The work sessions are open to all, as well as open times scheduled. If your interest has been sparked, join in, you are welcome.

UUCC Next Steps Weekend**Friday, December 5**

4 to 5:30 PM Meeting with Rev. Harrington, church staff
6 to 8:30 PM Potluck Dinner (Limited, 12 attendees)

Saturday, December 6

8:30 to 9:15 AM Religious Education Team(s) (All ages)
9:30 to 10 AM Social Justice/Green Sanctuary Teams
10:15 to 11 AM Communications Team (web, newsletter)
11:15 to 12 AM Building/Facility and Landscaping Teams
12:15 to 1:30 PM Working Lunch with Board, Chairs Ministry Team and Nominating Committee
(Brown Bag Meal (Coffee, Tea, Water will be provided))
1:45 PM to 2:30 P Membership and SGM
2:45 to 3:45 Stewardship Team and Stewardship Campaign Team
4:00 to 5:15 Finance and Endowment
5:30 to 6:15 Open

Note: Saturday Functions will be held in the Forum Room, Please use Lower Level Entrance to avoid disturbance of Church of God service.

Sunday, December 7

9:30 to 10:30 AM Bill Clontz meets with Forum
10:45 to 12:00 Bill Clontz attends service, makes brief comments at appropriate time.
12:00 to 12:45+ Bill attends coffee hour, available to talk with anyone interested.

CHATTANOOGA INSTITUTE OF NOETIC SCIENCE

Saturday, December 13
10:30 A.M-noon

Lessons Learned from Schizophrenia, presented by **Trey Forbes and Nicky Ozbek, Ph.D.**

Trey Forbes lives with schizophrenia. Nicky Ozbek is a professor of Psychology at UTC. For years, Trey has shared his music and his story with UTC students in Nicky's classes. Both will share what they have learned through the years and what schizophrenia has meant to them.

Dr. Nicky Ozbek, who received her doctoral degree from the University of Georgia, has been a professor of Psychology at UTC for many years. Her teaching interests include abnormal and physiological psychology and brain effects on human functioning. Dr. Ozbek regularly consults with Siskin Hospital for Physical Rehabilitation and is also interested in rehabilitation psychology.

MONEY MATTERS*by Daidee Springer, Treasurer*

- \$205,243--budget for fiscal year 2014-2015
- \$ 55,248--spent in the first four months of fiscal year 2014-2015
- \$ 59,938--total income for the first four months of fiscal year 2014-1015
- \$ 48,528--pledge income for the first four months of fiscal year 2014-2015
- \$ 12,057--pledge income in October, 2014
- \$ 24,375--unrestricted net assets at end of October, 2014

This month I did not include numbers from last fiscal year. Too many numbers can be daunting. Maybe there are now too few or maybe still too many. Let me know what works for you. As predicted, the gap between income and expenses has narrowed. Moreover, our unrestricted net assets are down from \$30,731 at the end of September to \$24,375 at the end of October. As I said in last month's column, unrestricted net assets can be looked at as a barometer of our fiscal health. It's what we have in the bank at a particular point in time that we can spend for our day-to-day operating expenses. Money matters.

GIFTS TO THE CONGREGATION SEPTEMBER 25 – NOVEMBER 18

Jay Ku in support of underwriting on WUTC

Lyle Claiborne bequest without restrictions

Lyle Claiborne was a member of the church in the 70's who remembered UUCC in his will. Acting on the recommendation of the Finance Committee, the Board of Trustees designated that one half of his bequest be used to shore up the search/sabbatical fund which was overspent when calling Rev. Cathy. The other half will be divided equally between the building reserve fund and the endowment fund.

A SURPRISE FROM THE IRS*Your IRA May be Worth Less Than You Think*

More than likely, a substantial portion of your savings is in your retirement plan. And as you plan your estate, you may be considering how to use those savings for your heirs.

But did you know that retirement plan assets are subject to estate and income taxes when given to your family? Your spouse may be able to defer those taxes, but other loved ones cannot. The combined income and estate tax bill may reduce your retirement plan by as much as 65 percent.

You may like to make a gift after your lifetime to support the UUCC Endowment Fund to reduce the total taxable amount to your heirs. To see why your retirement plan might be the perfect asset to use talk with your plan sponsor, your attorney or a financial planner. More information is available through the church office.

HAPPENINGS OF INTEREST TO UUS

Beloved Conversations January 23-24, Region - East TN Cluster, Tennessee Valley UUC.

Dr. Mark A. Hicks who developed the *Beloved Conversations* curriculum will lead the workshop.

Beloved Conversations is an experiential and evocative curriculum that provides a container for exploring the spiritual and intellectual dimensions of racism in our lives. Over eight two-hour seminars, the group encounters ways in which issues of race and ethnicity shape individual and group assumptions and, also, considers the spiritual dimensions of what is learned. Each session poses questions that connect with both the sources of inspiration as well as the challenges of race/ethnicity that slow our human journey toward wholeness. As such, the curriculum differs from many approaches to anti-racism/multicultural work in that it frames the discussion not only in terms of demographic urgency or cultural critiques (both of which are useful to understand!), but how developing skills and the habits of an anti-racist mind helps everyone – those in dominant groups as well as those who are targets of oppression - heal from the wounds of racism.

Nonviolent Communication Workshop, January 30-31, West Side UUC

A Nonviolent Communication workshop will be held at West Side UUC January 30-31. Nonviolent Communication (abbreviated NVC, also called Compassionate Communication or Collaborative Communication) is a communication process developed by Marshall Rosenberg beginning in the 1960s. It focuses on three aspects of communication: self-empathy (defined as a deep and compassionate awareness of one's own inner experience), empathy (defined as listening to another with deep compassion), and honest self-expression (defined as expressing oneself authentically in a way that is likely to inspire compassion in others).

General Assembly, June 24 -28, Portland, Oregon

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS AT UUCC



5.30 **meditation** downstairs, Sofia Fahs room *w/music to meditate by*
Our meditation time is

- sitting quietly for about 20 minutes
 - clearing our minds, focusing on something different, like breathing
- Our goal is a little bit more mental peace. We share leadership with whoever attends.

6.00 shared **dinner / common meal**
Bring what you want to share

SERVICE AND VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

DATE	12/7	12/14	12/21	12/24 7PM	12/28
TOPIC	The Gift	No Rehearse Christmas Service	Christmas Grace Notes	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	Moving Toward a World of Spirit-Driven People
SPEAKER	Rev. Cathy Harrington	Rev. Cathy Harrington	Rev. Cathy Harrington	Rev. Cathy Harrington	David J. Pope
BoT REP	Greg Cruz	Jim Welborn	Cecile de Rocher	n/a	Monique Lewis
GREETERS AND USHERS	Linda Park Harriet Cottier Chuck Mehan	Mary Hunter Maurine Olin Yvonne Derrickson	Elaine Hill Elaine Watkins Nancy Beel	Marge Pasch Tacie Overbeck Pat Mann	Nicky Ozbek Link Christensen Ken Nickerson

December, 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<u>30</u>	<u>Dec 1</u>	<u>2</u> 9 am - 1 pm DRE Office 9:30 - 11:30 Art on Walls Decorating 10 - 2 Minister Office 7 - 9 pm SGM	<u>3</u> 9 am - 1 pm DRE 10 - 2 Minister Office 1:30 - 5:30 Dec Sanctuary 5:30 - 6 pm Meditation 6 - 6:45 pm Wed Dinner	<u>4</u> 10 - 2 pm Minister Office (By Appointment)	<u>5</u> UUA Consultant	<u>6</u> 9 am - 9 pm UUA Consultant 12:30 pm - 5:30 pm UCG
<u>7</u> 9 - 10 am Choir 9:30 - 10:30 Forum 9:30 - 10:30 Pagan Group 10:30 - 10:45 Connections 11 am - 12 pm Worship Service 11:15 - 12:15 RE 12 - 1 pm UUA Consultant 2 pm - 5 pm McDuffie Memorial Service	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u> 9 am - 1 pm DRE Office 10 - 2 Minister Office 6:30 - 8:30 SGM	<u>10</u> 9 am - 1 pm DRE Office 10 am - 2 pm Minister Office 10 am - 12 pm SGM (Sanctuary) 5:30 - 6 pm Meditation 6 pm - 6:45 pm Wed Dinner 6:30 - 8:30 pm Christmas Sing-a-long	<u>11</u> 10 - 2 pm Minister Office (By Appointment) 6:30-8:30 SGM	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u> 10 am - 12 pm CHIONS 12:30 pm - 5:30 pm UCG
<u>14</u> 9 - 10 am Choir 9:30 - 10:30 Forum 9:30 - 10:30 am RE Committee 10:30- 10:45 Connections 11 am - 12 pm Worship Service 4 pm - 6 pm Humanist Assembly	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u> 9 am - 1 pm DRE Office 9 am - 12 pm Lay Pastoral Care 10 am - 2 pm Minister Office 7 pm - 9 pm SGM	<u>17</u> 9 am - 1 pm DRE 10 am - 2 pm Minister Office 10 am - 2 pm UU Clergy Group 5:30 pm - 6 pm Meditation 6 pm - 6:45 pm Wed Dinner 6:30 - 8:30 pm Love Beyond Belief	<u>18</u> 10 - 2 pm Minister Office (By Appointment) 6:30 - 9 pm Board Meeting	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u> 12:30 pm - 5:30 pm UCG
<u>21</u> 9 - 10 am Choir 9:30 - 10:30 Forum 10:30- 10:45 am Connections 11 am - 12 pm Worship Service 11:15 - 12:15 RE 5 - 9 pm Labyrinth	<u>22</u> 5 pm - 9 pm Labyrinth (set/up 2-5)	<u>23</u> 9 am - 1 pm DRE Office 10 am - 2 pm Minister Office 7 - 9 pm Social Justice Meeting	<u>24</u> 9 am - 1 pm DRE Office 6 pm - 8 pm Christmas Eve Service	<u>25</u> CHRISTMAS DAY	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u> 12:30 pm - 5:30 pm UCG
<u>28</u> 9 am - 10 am Choir 9:30 - 10:30 Forum 10:30- 10:45 am Connections 11 am - 12 pm Worship Service 11:15 - 12:15 RE	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u> 9 am - 1 pm DRE Office 10 am - 2 pm Minister Office	<u>31</u> 9 am - 1 pm DRE 10 am - 2 pm Minister Office 5:30 - 6 pm Meditation 6 - 6:45 pm Wed Dinner 7:00 pm New Year's Eve Game Night	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>