



THE NUUSLETTER

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF CHATTANOOGA
AUGUST, 2008

SHARING OUR FAITH

by Maddie Kertay, President, Board of Trustees

Last month I spoke about the path that led to my presidential year here at the UUCC. I believe my basic plan is sound and feasible, but where it takes flight and gets to soar is when others catch the energy that I hope to bring to this role. Of course, this means I have to find my own inspiration, and one way to find that inspiration is to listen to those who speak with positive energy about our faith.

Recently that meant listening to Lisa Earl McLeod as she spoke to our members and guests about what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist, and about what we can do to promote our church to others. As she noted the issue of growth is hotly debated. I encourage you to check out the CD we burned of the event to hear more, but in a nut-shell: We need to reach out to those who need us and don't know we are here. There are a lot of people out there who are hurting, struggling, and being pulled under by the currents of every day life because they don't think that there is a place for them in organized religion. We need to let them know we are here!

Part of letting people know we are here is getting the word out, and at the heart of that is learning how to speak about our own church in ways that are positive, succinct and inviting. She challenged each of us to not use words like "little," "weird," "odd," or any other words that could be construed as negative. This was such a light-bulb moment for me and made me realize that while my heart was in the right place when I spoke about the church, my words were not. I realized the importance of being able to express my faith in articulate, friendly tones that help people realize that we are more than flaky liberals who have thrown traditional religion to the wind in favor of believing any higgly-piggly thing we want, or worse yet believe in nothing at all! We are way more than a group of people who get together to drink coffee on Sunday morning. Sharing our light with others can be one of the most loving and spiritual things we can do. What is more spiritual than giving hope to another person? So with that I challenge you to find or compose you own UU-sound byte. Remember, keep it simple, keep it true to your heart and remember it's a loving gift to share it with others since you might never know who might really need to hear it. As a starting point I found this one, taken from an article in *UU World* called *Don't be Stingy with your Faith*.

"It's a free-thinking liberal religion that is guided by shared values rather than a particular dogma or creed. This lets individuals claim their personal beliefs based on conscience and experience. At its core, Unitarian Universalism places an emphasis on the worth and value of every person and the interconnectedness of all things. UUs are encouraged to give life to their values, demonstrating compassion, respect, and justice, working together to make the world a better place to pass along to our children."

When you come up with your own, drop me a note and share it with me, I would love to hear it.

INSIDE THE NUUSLETTER...

Services	2
Forum Topics.....	2
Interdependent Web.....	3
Green Sanctuary.....	4
Angel nUUs.....	6
Volunteer Assignments.....	back cover

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*a liberal religious
community*

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SUNDAY SERVICES ♦ 11:00 AM

August 3rd ♦ *MUSIC AS A WEAPON OF CHOICE*

Elaine Watkins explores how what we sing reflects our values and affects our mood. Woody Guthrie's guitar had a sign saying "This machine kills Fascists." Music can be downright subversive.

August 10th ♦ *MERRILY, MERRILY, MERRILY, MERRILY*

Steve Hollingsworth explores repetition as a necessary part of survival. Love of repetition is a child's survival trait. The trait survives in adults as in worship where litanies reach us and teach us.

August 17th ♦ *GOT GAME?*

Dr. John Standridge reflects on a life of God, Art, Music, and Enlightenment. NB!→ Potluck after today's service.

August 24th ♦ *JESUS TOOK 1000 YEARS TO DIE*

Today, images of the death of Jesus are ubiquitous. It seems like every church has a crucifix, and every bumper sticker, too. And then there is the monster cross at the corner of 153 & Lee Highway. But the earliest image of Jesus dying dates from 10th century Germany. Why were there no crosses for 1000 years? The Rev. Jeff Briere leads this service.

August, 31st ♦ *IS PARADISE IN HERE OR OUT THERE?*

Some of the earliest Christian images depict Paradise as existing on earth. How did we get the idea that it is out there somewhere? The Rev. Jeff Briere leads this service.

SUNDAY FORUMS

The Sunday morning Forum meets at 9:30 downstairs at the end of the hall in the far left corner.

For August there will be no formal programs. Those wishing will simply meet together to talk and discuss whatever issues of the day interest them. Spearheading and moderating the discussions will be Matt Hoyt, Blake Moore, and Colbert Whitaker. All are welcome.

FAIR SHARE

As you may know, each Unitarian Universalist Church is asked to make a minimum contribution to the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) to cover the costs of our membership (e.g., your subscription to *UU World*, administrative costs, etc.). The amount per church is based on the number of members in the church and is known as "fair share." The Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga has been recognized by the UUA as meeting its "fair share" obligation. Your contributions to the life of this church and our larger association are appreciated!

The articles in *the nUUsletter* are representative of the diverse and varied opinions and beliefs of the members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga (UJCC). They do not necessarily represent the views of the UJCC.

THE INTERDEPENDENT WEB
by Steve Hollingsworth

Some of y'all pretend you don't know what I'm talking about when I talk about eco-apartheid. You've been to Whole Foods. We call that Whole Paycheck. ... The people that need the good, nourishing food have to buy their food from liquor stores.

~Van Jones, 2008 Ware Lecture

What guidelines, if any, govern the purchase and use of food and beverages in your congregation? Do you pause for a blessing when you serve food?

~from *Ethical Eating*, 2008 General Assembly CSAI

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga had a bumper crop of members attend the General Assembly (GA) in June in Ft. Lauderdale. If you have been inclined to discount the cheerleading Daidee and I have done over the years about GA, this year you can ask Rich Dwyer, Elaine Watkins, and Karl Hunt who all attended their first GA. Or ask Mary Hunter, Kate and Jeff Briere, who can compare Ft. Lauderdale's GA with other GAs. The GA experience is amazing.

Often the great dreams I get filled with at GA fall prey to day-to-day issues. But this year at GA what I heard and saw seemed to have more staying power, to challenge the participants to engage their congregations in discussion and action.

In particular, the Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI)

selected by the delegates is of universal interest: *Ethical Eating*. We see the lion's share of the corn crop fed to livestock or distilled to fuel our SUVs; and while we are annoyed at paying more, the poorest in the world can no longer afford enough food to stay alive.

As UUs we look into the consequences of our actions and can respond to something beyond supply and demand. We can eat less meat and take pride that it is something we do because it is the right thing to do.

I'm inspired by green-activist Van Jones who reminded his GA audience that organically-grown fruits and veggies, free-range chicken, etc.—undeniably good foods—are another gated community of the wealthy. I believe we must ensure access of everyone to better food and that we must scrutinize the resources needed to produce it, package it, and transport it.

Let the debate begin. In my opinion, I believe we can have better food without its necessarily being organic. In my opinion, to feed everyone well at an affordable price, genetically modified organisms may be part of the answer.

Isn't it a perfect study question for UUs? So many aspects to it. And we all eat.

PAGAN NUUS
by Leslie Walters

Dates of Interest:

- Aug 1 Lughnasadh
- Aug 1 New Moon
- Aug 1 Total solar eclipse
- Aug 16 Full Moon

Lughnasadh is the Celtic harvest festival and takes its name from the Irish god *Lugh*, one of the chief gods of the *Tuatha De*

Danann, giving us *Lughnasadh* in Ireland, *Lunasdál* in Scotland, and *Laa Luanyis* on the Isle of Man.

Pagan study group meetings will resume on Sunday, September 7 at 9:30 am. If you have any topic suggestions for the upcoming year, please contact Leslie Walters.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- Carl Hansen and Bill Lusk
- Eric Papendorp and Bill Wynot
- Mary Beth Clark and Renee Lindley
- Sarah Faulkenberry and Steven Kimbell
- tom kunesh and Isabella Vanderhoof

Welcome SINGERS!!

Beginners/Intermediate/Advanced

Sundays 9:15 - 10:30

Come join the fun!!!

GREEN SANCTUARY

by Sandy Kurtz

ECOTEAM GRADUATES MODEL GREEN ACTION

"EcoTeam has taught me about the importance of collective involvement."

Our fourth EcoTeam has graduated! Congratulations Bonny Sinclair, Leslie Walters, James Joyner, Kyle and April Waggener, and Nick and Lesa Carnes. All reduced their garbage and increased recycling by weight. All reduced their carbon footprints with action around water use, energy use, transportation, and consumption. What's next? Look for a compost pile (see below), a Swap Party, and how-to programs during Wednesday Nights In. Tell any member of this EcoTeam if you want to be on the next one.

DIRTY NEWS

There's a dirty little rumor circulating about that wire contraption at the west end of the upper parking lot behind the blue dumpster. The truth is that Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga is now in the business of dirt--humus actually--with our new compost bin, courtesy of Angel Bonny Sinclair. The UUC EcoTeam invites anyone to bring in compost-able materials and drop them in the bin or start a bin at home. Nitrogen based (green and fresh: grass clippings, fruit and veggie peelings/rinds or moldy leftovers) or carbon based (brown: coffee grounds/filters, teabags, dead plant matter, crushed egg shells are accepted. NO MEATS, ANIMAL PRODUCTS, DAIRY, OR HIGH-FAT FOODS. We'll take care of the rest. You can recycle about 5 pounds of garbage

a week with composting. Learn about compost at www.compostguide.com. In six months, we'll have nutritious compost. Help us spread a little dirt.

COFFEE & TEA SALE ENDS

We first sold Fair Exchange Coffee to make justice and environmental statements as part of the Green Sanctuary Initiative. Shade-grown organic coffee benefits wildlife, the rainforests, and people in cooperatives. We have made our point. We will continue to serve it during coffee hour and at special events, but we will discontinue our Sunday morning sale as current supplies disappear. Since it is available in such places as Greenlife Grocery, we hope you will buy it locally.

COOL CONGREGATIONS WORKSHOP ANNOUNCED

Chattanooga Global Warming Task Force, a chapter of Tennessee Interfaith Power & Light, plans a second "Cool Congregations" workshop on September 27, hosted by the Church of Good Shepherd on Lookout Mountain. The workshop encourages faith-based actions plus exchange of ideas for 'greener' Creation care. Are you interested in representing the UUC? Contact Sandy Kurtz.

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN INTERIM REPORT IS NOW ONLINE

The Chattanooga Green Committee has presented recommendations for green actions to Mayor Littlefield. View at www.chattanooga.gov/chattanoogagreen.

____ THE PLATE

by David Reed, VP, Ways and Means

In last month's edition of *the nUUsletter*, Karl Hunt described bringing back the *Double the Plate* program. Based on some comments received, we believe we need to take a moment to describe how *Double the Plate* and *Share the Plate* are related.

The answer is: They are not related at all. Except, as Karl pointed out, that we won't do both on the same day.

Double the Plate is a fundraising program in which the proceeds go directly to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga. A donor agrees to match a given Sunday's collection, usually up to a specified amount.

Share the Plate is a community service program in which the proceeds go to a local entity that is, as the Wizard would say, a philanth..., er, a humanitar..., er, a good-deed do-er. Except for

amounts specifically designated as going towards an individual's annual pledge, none of the collection goes to the UUC.

Actually, both programs are important. And on the days that we hold either one of them, we hope you will be able to contribute generously. If you wish to be a donor to *Double the Plate*, let Karl Hunt, Jeff Briere, Chris Tregaskis, or me know.

If you have a suggestion on a worthy recipient for a *Share the Plate* collection, talk to Jeff Briere or Maddie Kertay.

Isn't life amazing? How one thing leads to another and how first intentions sometimes have nothing to do with the final results?

Religious Education UUpdate

by Jamie Sullivan, Director of Religious Education

Education is a social process. Education is growth. Education is not a preparation for life; education is life itself.

~John Dewey

Below are some of our upcoming planned activities and planned curricula for fall:

UU Sprouts: Our 5-8 year olds will jump into a curriculum called *Around the Church, Around the Year* by Jan Evans-Tiller. This is a year-long program designed for Kindergarten through 2nd grade. The program focuses on building a Unitarian Universalist community and understanding the UU faith and practices. This class will be taught by me and I am looking for another teacher to accompany me as a co-leader.

UU Medievals: Our 9-12 year olds will learn about UU beliefs in the year-long curriculum *We Believe*. We will be focusing on the seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism, as well as important people and events that have shaped our religious history, and how we can continue to influence our world by our actions and thoughts. This class is taught by Nicole Barnhart, Bob Barnhart, and Leslie Walters.

UUBERKUULS: Our teen teachers and I will be researching a teen curriculum that works with our teens and will announce the decision in August. Our teen group will have another Lock-In on Saturday, Aug 30.

It's hard to believe our fall session is coming up so soon. We are all busy bees down in RE, preparing for our fall trimester curricula. April Waggener, our new Vice President for Religious Education, has added such a wonderful presence to our RE Committee and we are grateful for her enthusiasm and organizational abilities! Our program is growing. We are all learning and facing the challenges that accompany such changes. Our teachers are working hard and are greatly appreciated for their time, patience, and effort. Thank you once again to Nicole & Bob Barnhart, Leslie Walters, Bonnie Sinclair, and James Joyner.

Notes:

- Look for fall registration forms in August. UUBERKUULS, UUMedievals, and UUSprouts all need parents to fill out forms and pay registration fees.
- **Parent Volunteering is expected in our RE Program.** Look for our list of sign up dates in the registration forms for our fall trimester, and please choose your dates so we can schedule accordingly. Each RE family needs to volunteer at least once every month in one of our rooms.
- RE Committee meets every 3rd Sunday beginning in August. Upcoming dates are: Aug 17, Sept 21, Oct 19, Nov 16, Dec 21.

ALL THE WHO'S IN WHOVILLE—OR HOW MANY WHOS ARE AT CHURCH?

Blue and Yellow and Purple, oh my! Things are brightening up on the Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga landscape. Some time in the next month or so you will notice colorful, new name tag inserts ready and waiting to be picked up and slipped into your name tag slip. Or if you are lucky some kind soul will have done it for you!

No need to worry and all conspiracy theorists can rest easy. The new color-coding is not an evil plot of the Grinch, it is designed to help in completing congregational evaluations and counts having to

do with growth projections and yearly reports that we send to the Thomas Jefferson District and the UU Association. The color coding system will allow us to more easily and accurately count all the Who's, the small and the tall.

So, once the system is in place if you are looking for a board member look for a green tag, staff, purple, members and supporting friends, blue, visitors, yellow. See? How simple is that?

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE

It's time to update the church directory and the Membership Committee needs your help. If you have an addition to your family or an adult child who is no longer in your household, please let us

know. If you changed your name, address, phone(s), or e-mail address we would like to print it in the directory update. Send the information to Elaine Hill.

MUSIC NUUS

by Kate Briere, Director of Music



This past year we have tried many new techniques in our music program. Some have been successful, some have not, but all have taught us something.

We have integrated music into more elements of worship, adding some choral and congregational responses. We have included the children in the adult choir. We have tried to adjust the choir rehearsal schedule to no avail. No matter when we set an evening rehearsal, it interferes with other events. However, it seems that on Sunday mornings nearly everyone can be there!

This has prompted another schedule change. We will meet on Sunday mornings starting in September. We will rehearse from 9:15-10:30. At 10:15 we invite the children to join us every Sunday. In order for this to be productive, we must begin on time.

Our hope is that everyone who enjoys singing will come when they can. We know there are many wonderful voices in our congregation because we have heard them this past year. Please feel free to join us whenever you can. You don't have to come every week. Singing with the choir is not a year-long commitment. We will rehearse for events as needed. If any extra rehearsals are necessary we will schedule them based on the singers' availability.

We also hope to continue the Coffeehouse. This is an evening of music, poetry, storytelling, demonstrations, magic, jokes, and general joviality. Then too, there are the desserts, goodies, and COFFEE!!!

Finally, we are the recipient of an exciting gift. A donor has given the music department 4 sets of children's handbells. They have a lovely sound and seem to be quite easy to use. We will be experimenting with them this year and hopefully you will hear them during the year-end holidays.

It appears that we have an exciting year ahead. If you have a suggestion for music, musicians or guest artists please contact Kate Briere.

ANGEL NUUS

As always, the works of angels seen and unseen have been supporting the Unitarian Church of Chattanooga. Several angels are mentioned in other articles (see the "thank you" items in Green Sanctuary Initiative and Religious Education UUpdate), and here are a couple more.

Angel Ron Pasch gave up his Saturday to repair a sluggish toilet in time for Sunday services. Angel Ron also recently built a bookcase for our large weekly renters, the Church of God, to meet their needs for storing hymnals.

Angel Bonny Sinclair single-handedly cut down a large portion of the bamboo that was overtaking our sidewalk area and then chopped and disposed of it.



WATER COMMUNION

Each year, in late summer, we bring water to a communal vessel in a symbolic service that recognizes that each and every member of the church brings something special to the life of the church. When we pour these waters together, we see that our church rises or falls on our own contributions.



This year, our annual Water Communion will occur on September 7th.

Please bring to the service a small vial of water, perhaps collected on your vacation, perhaps collected from your kitchen faucet or a rain puddle on the way to church. As you add your water to that brought by others, we would love to hear what you learned this summer, or how you contribute to the life of the church, or what the (co-mingled) waters mean to you.

SECOND WORSHIP SERVICE

Beginning in September, the Rev. Jeff Briere will lead a worship service on Wednesday evening. The time of the service has not been determined, but it will likely be 6 or 6:30 pm. The character of the service will be more contemplative and meditative than the worship on Sunday morning. The service will be aimed at calming the mind so as to increase awareness. Included in the 30 minute

service will be some recorded music, visuals and a guided meditation.

This second worship service will probably be suspended on the first Wednesday night of the month for Wednesday Night In.

BOARD OF TRUSTEE HIGHLIGHTS

by Maddie Kertay, President, Board of Trustees

The following are a few of the highlights of the July Board meeting:

- √ Discussed new options for payroll software for the church.
- √ Finalized Board retreat plans.
- √ Discussed grounds keeping issues.
- √ Reinstated the Guest at Your Table Program.

- √ Celebrated the success of the Lisa Earl McLeod event with hopes that more members will choose to attend if we can have her back next year.
- √ Discussed plans for a Fall Contra Dance.
- √ Investigated the possibility of a church photo directory in the next year.

PRICE REDUCED!!!

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga Endowment Committee seeks to sell four cemetery plots and a bronze marker and has recently reduced the price. The plots are in the Christos Garden section of Chattanooga Memorial Park (the "Duck Pond") in Red Bank. The retail value of this offer is over \$10,000 but the Endowment Committee will sell the plots and marker according to the following prices:

- *All four plots plus the bronze marker for \$4,500.
- *Two of the plots for \$2,200 ((\$1,100 each) plus \$100 for the marker (total of \$2,300).
- *The other two plots for \$2,200 (\$1,100 each).

If interested, please contact any member of the UUC Endowment Committee: David Reed, Buck O'Rear, or George Helton.

POTLUCK BRUNCHES EACH MONTH!

Due to popular demand, the BOT determined that potluck brunches would return to a monthly schedule, beginning in August. The Sunday of choice, the 3rd, remains the same. Through the end of this year, each potluck will have a theme: August 21, Super Salad

Sunday; September 21, End of Summer Cook-out; (Watch for more info!) October 19th, SOUPER Sunday; November 16, Mexican Fiesta! No potluck in December. The Chili Cook-Off returns in January.

VETERANS PHOTOS SNAFU

It seems that a few people misunderstood. We announced that the photos of veterans that you brought to the memorial were available to be picked up in the office. That's the *original* photo. Maddie Kertay made a copy of each original and hung the copies in the memorial. Four people (that we know of) apparently thought they should retrieve the copy from the memorial. Maddie has replaced two of them, but we don't know about the other two. If you removed a photo from the memorial, please contact Maddie Kertay.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEDNESDAY NIGHT OUT

In August, there will only be First Wednesday dinner at the church. We will resume the "Out" part of Wednesday Night Out in September.

CHIONS

The Chattanooga Institute of Noetic Science will meet on August 9, 2008 from 10:30-12:00 noon. Sandy Kurtz will present *Sustainable Thinking for the 21st Century*. What might we expect in the future given climate change, loss of access to oil, and high gas costs? Americans have used more than their share of the world's resources. Is the party over? What's happening and what does it all mean for people in our area?

Sandy is a long time environmental educator, consultant and activist. Presently she is co-director of Urban Century Institute, a non-profit organization seeking to model sustainable solutions. She is also a member of the Tennessee Commissioner's Greenways & Trails Advisory Committee, a Tennessee Environmental Council Board Member, leader of South Chickamauga Creek Greenway Alliance, facilitator for the Chattanooga chapter of Interfaith Power & Light, and Project Coordinator for TN Forests Council.

WANTED: KEEPER OF THE FLAME

We are looking for a new Church Historian. Are you interested in history and especially the history of our church and our religion? If so, you might be just the person we need. If you think you might be interested in this position and want to know more about it and what the position entails please contact Helen Solomon or Maddie Kertay for more information.



THE NUUSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

the nUUsletter welcomes articles from members and friends of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga. Please send your submissions to *the nUUsletter* to the editor, Wendy Sapp, at nUUsletter@uuc.org. The deadline for the September issue of *the nUUsletter* is August 15th.

THANK GOD FOR EVOLUTION!

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga is pleased to welcome the Rev. Michael Dowd to our church on September 10 at 7:00 pm.

Michael, a former UCC pastor, is the author of the 2007 book, *Thank God for Evolution!*, which has attracted endorsements from five Nobel laureates and a host of leaders across the religious spectrum.

According to Reverend Michael Dowd, the war between religion and science is over. Just as scientific theories evolve and expand over time with new discoveries and new information, Dowd proposes that divine revelation is not limited to the Bible, but continues to be discovered through science. "Facts are God's native tongue," he writes.

Drawing on the full range of cosmological, geological, biological, and human-related sciences, *Thank God for Evolution!* shows the history of the universe as an epic drama in which the generations alive today have a crucial role to play. It offers a shift in public perception on a scale not experienced since the Copernican Revolution or the Protestant and Catholic Reformations. By acknowledging the global, collaborative scientific endeavor as public revelation, we can newly appreciate the timeless insights within the private revelations of the world's enduring religious traditions. Moreover, Dowd shows how the discoveries of science—notably, evolutionary brain science and evolutionary psychology—offer astonishing gifts for understanding and overcoming the challenges in our personal lives and relationships. This, he declares is "the gospel according to evolution."

In rejoining our heads with our hearts, Rev. Dowd speaks to what matters most to us: our personal struggles, breakdowns, and pain; our closest relationships; our choices about where to spend our time, energy, and money; and the well-being of our communities and our world.

For 6 years, Michael and his wife, Connie, have lived on the road, delivering talks for some 300 UU congregations, summer camps, and minister retreats as well as for other religious and secular groups. They have been called "America's evolutionary evangelists." Their work was featured as the cover story of our national membership magazine, *UU World*, in the spring of 2006, and was featured in a 2008 issue of *The New York Times Magazine*.

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DATE	8/3	8/10	8/17	8/24	8/31
TOPIC	Music as a Weapon of Choice	Merrily, Merrily, Merrily	Got Game?	Jesus Took 1000 Years to Die	Is Paradise Here or There?
LEADER	Elaine Watkins	Steve Hollingsworth	Dr. John Standridge	the Rev. Jeff Briere	the Rev. Jeff Briere
BOT MEMBER	Maddie Kertay	David Reed	Elaine Watkins	Diane Davison	Eric Papendorp
GREETER	Elaine Watkins	Harold Linn	Stacie Tippins	Harold Linn	Elaine Hill
USHER	Leslie Walter	Martha Lee	Catherine Long	Sue Knight	TBD
CHANCEL DÉCOR	Mary Hunter	Mary Hunter	Mary Hunter	Mary Hunter	Mary Hunter
MUSIC	Marcia Jenison	Steve Hollingsworth	Steve Hollingsworth	Kate Briere	Marcia Jenison

Doubt is the beginning, not the end, of wisdom.
 ~ George Iles