



OUR GREATEST NEED

by the Rev. Jeff Briere

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
 CHURCH OF CHATTANOOGA
*a liberal religious
 community*

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In the middle of November, I received an e-mail message from <presenttruth.com>, the largest user-generated biblical site in the universe. They are sponsoring a contest. They want the youth of this church to make a video answering this question: "What Is Christianity's Greatest Need?" The prize is an Apple I-phone. The contest ends January 31st, if you want to send in an entry.

Hooo, boy! Whoop-de-doo! Could I give them an earful or what? Yes, I could. I could tell them that Christianity needs to shed itself of a lot of garbage that it has acquired in the last 1800 years. I could tell them that Christianity needs to be inclusive and not exclusive. I could tell them that Christianity needs to be more the religion *of* Jesus and less the religion *about* Jesus.

But what good would it do me? Or anyone else? The cynical, uber-realist Jeff Briere appeared to remind me that I know nothing of <presenttruth.com>. With this contest, they may be gathering data for nefarious purposes. Uh-oh.

So I deleted the e-mail message and forgot about the contest. I like the question, though.

What is our greatest need? As a religious society, as a congregation, as a church in the Bible Belt, what is our greatest need?

What do our seniors need? What do our children need? What do our teenagers need? What does our staff need?

What do you need?

I am interested in your response to this question. Send it to the office or directly to me at <minister@uuc.org>.

I hope to see you at our open house on Saturday, December 15th. Kate and I promise hot hors d'oeuvres, wonderful wassail, convivial conversation, free parking and the best Christmas music in Brainerd.

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SUNDAY SERVICES ♦ 11:00 AM

December 2nd ♦ *SPIRIT OF LIFE*

During October and November, a group of fifteen people met on Tuesday nights to discuss the sources of their spirituality. We used Hymn 123, "Spirit of Life," as the basis of our curriculum. Using what we learned, we'll explore the many areas of Unitarian Universalist spirituality.

December 9th ♦ *O CHRISTMAS TREE!*

We will decorate our tree as part of this service. Please bring an ornament of your own (or make one) to hang on the tree. Before you hang it, you'll have a chance to tell us what the ornament means to you, where it came from and why you brought it to church. For more information on this service, see below.

December 16th ♦ *GENEROSITY OF THE HEART*

This is the season for thinking about giving to others, to those you love and to those who have no one who loves them. There is a spirit in each of us that lights up when we have the chance to give to others. That is the spirit of this season. We don't need to purchase gifts to be giving and maybe the best gifts are those that come from the heart. Today we will look into our hearts to examine "what" we are giving, "to whom" we are giving and "what we get back" in return. How can you double the experience with a gift that can't be bought?

To the pulpit today, we welcome Anna Olsen, the Unitarian Universalist Association Board member from the Thomas Jefferson District. She is delighted to be returning to Chattanooga this year and pleased to be serving this congregation as your representative. See more from Anna on pg. 8.

December 23rd ♦ *WINTER'S FIRST SUNDAY*

On this first day of winter, we will sing seasonal music throughout the service. Believe it or not—more songs, fewer words. Special music from the children, too.

December 24th ♦ *A NIGHT OF SILENCE*

This Christmas Eve service begins at 5:30 pm. It will feature special readings, a Christmas song by the children, an illustrated story and a candle light "Silent Night."

December 30th ♦ *¿QUE PASA?*

Current events in Chattanooga and elsewhere demand the return of this service in which we examine the news from a Unitarian Universalist perspective.

O CHRISTMAS TREE!

Christmas, the time of new traditions. What say we begin a new tradition at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga? This year, instead of decorating the tree after a Sunday service, let's make decorating the tree the spiritual center of the service on December 9th. On December 9th, please bring an ornament from home and place it on the tree. Bring an ornament that has some meaning for you, one with a story to tell. Before you put your ornament on the tree, you'll have a chance to tell us the story behind the ornament.

Alternately, you can choose one of the ornaments at the church that appeals to you, make one from natural ingredients, or from popsicle sticks, or buy one especially for this tree. The children will have made ornaments and they will place theirs on the tree, too. Whatever you do, the point is to make the tree more personal for all of us and give us a tradition for next year.

You may remove your ornament at any time and hang it on your own tree or you may leave it until our tree is taken down in early January.

SUNDAY FORUMS

Forums meet at 9:30 on Sunday mornings. All are welcome.

Dec. 2nd - Lee continues his medical ethics discussions with a topic chosen by our group; "End of Life Issues." Led by Dr. Lee Solomon, Psychiatrist

Dec. 9th - Articles in the Winter Issue of our Unitarian Universalist *World* magazine are the topics for discussion this week—as well as opinions about our denomination's new advertising campaign. Led by Helen Solomon

Dec. 16th - How did the personal religions of our first five Presidents influence the developing character of our government? This discussion is based on a UU *World* feature article. Led by Nancy Anderson

Dec. 23rd - Our Bible studies series continues with what the Bible says about the nativity. Led by Jerry Smith

Dec. 30th - Mapping the succession of Native Americans in Tennessee is an exercise that might surprise you. Led by tom kunesh, now a Commissioner in the Tennessee Department of Indian Affairs.

PAGAN STUDY GROUP

The Pagan study group continues their book study on *Spiral Dance*. Meetings are on the first Sunday of the month at 9:30 am in the Teen Room. Please contact Leslie Walters if you have any questions.

ANOTHER ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFERING

In January, we will offer "Cakes for the Queen of Heaven" an adult curriculum on Feminine Spirituality, but this class is not limited to women. If you are interested, please contact Leslie Walters. More information will be posted in the coming weeks.

PARENTING GROUP

The Parenting Group is taking a break for December and will resume in January.

LOTUS SANGHA

The Buddhist study group meets on Sunday mornings at 9:15.

SUNDAY MORNING CHILD CARE

On Sunday mornings, child care is provided in the nursery from 9:30 on. All children need to be under supervision for their own safety and to prevent disruption of the groups that are meeting. NO children should be left unattended or to wander around downstairs by themselves.

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 (UUCC). They do not necessarily represent the views of the UUCC.

THE INTERDEPENDENT WEB

by Steve Hollingsworth

Balanced money types are the ones we might wish to emulate. They pay bills on time, save adequately, and are reasonably generous. Money is not a central focus of their lives.

~ Robin Bullard Carter, Money Type and Giving

Residents of the South gave 2.1 percent of their after-tax income to charity.

~ Chattanooga Times Free Press, Nov. 2, 2007

If a free society cannot help the many who are poor, it cannot save the few who are rich.

~ JFK, Inaugural Address

Being married to a church leader, sometimes I get the leadership lessons home delivered. Daidee came back from Transformational Stewardship in Knoxville wondering about our money types. Money types? I've consistently devoted my December columns to matters of giving and, just in time, here was a new angle.

The gist of the stewardship angle I guess is that if one has another money type, like "worrier," who perceives deprivation around every corner, our religious calling, in community, is to work on such an attitude, to move it toward balance, to be part of the assurance that helping the church and giving to those less fortunate will feel good, be good for the soul, and will not

lead to impoverishment.

Other money types, "money mindless," "entitled," or "obsessed," imply different sensitivities and issues, but our collective goal remains the same. We must learn together how we each feel about money and how we can find the more balanced view that we seek.

Now, let me share my distress. My Christian roots were saturated with the rightness of tithing, one tenth. Even though the paper actually featured our area's 2.1 percent (and after taxes, yet) giving as more generous than other areas of the country, that is still a number that seems pathetic to me.

In charitable giving alone we have direct discretionary power to address the woeful misallocation of resources we can see everywhere. To give 2.1 percent to me is a vote saying things are pretty much OK. Is that what we believe?

If we want to give more, many emotions may kick in. Yet to move toward balance, run the numbers: My income before and after taxes is _____. I gave _____ which is __ percent. Does the idea of 5 or 10 percent seem too scary? How about a three or five year plan to get there, a bit more each year?

Extraordinary need demands exceptional generosity.

ON STEWARDSHIP

by David Reed, Stewardship Committee Member

Last month, I gave (depending upon your point of view) advance notice, an early warning, a shot across the bow, etc., that this year's Pledge Campaign is beginning to take shape.

We are doing something unusual for us this year, we're calling it what it is: a pledge campaign. In the past, we have delved into the obsessive-compulsive Unitarian Universalist predilection for torturing semantics to an extent that would make administration officials salivate when it comes to describing a pledge campaign. For many years, we used the word *canvass*, an archaic term describing the method by which we go about getting pledges. Last year we used the term *stewardship* campaign, which is probably an improvement, but one that errs on the other side. Stewardship is about more than money. While the Pledge Campaign is part of stewardship, it is not the only part. We need to keep that in mind. So let's explore *stewardship* for a moment.

According to my dictionary, the term *steward* derives from an old English word for *keeper of the hall*. In other words, stewardship is taking care of the property or affairs of another entity. In the

context of the church, stewardship means taking care of the church. It's a responsibility we all share.

It is quite true that, without money, the church cannot function. It is equally true that, by money alone, the church cannot function. When you join the church, we ask for three things: your time, talents, and treasure. None of us can give identical measures of these three things. The Pledge Campaign focuses on the treasure part. But, first, we need to take a moment and acknowledge the absolute critical importance of the other two pieces.

So let me offer a heartfelt *Thank You* to all you who teach our children, serve on committees or the Board, pull privet, make coffee, greet newcomers, join in celebration, provide comfort in grief – you know, all that things that make the UUCU a living, breathing place. You know – all the things that money can't do. We can't say *Thank You* enough.

By the way, we'll be in need of some help with the Pledge Campaign – the kind money can't provide.

CARING = GIVING

by Jamie Sullivan, Director of Religious Education

Kindness in words creates confidence. Kindness in thinking creates profoundness. Kindness in giving creates love."

~ Lao-Tzu

Some say the most effective way to teach the concept of giving to children is to simply give. Through action, we translate the loving spirit of giving. With this in mind, I want to thank everyone who helped in the Religious Education rooms and office a couple of weeks ago. We had twelve volunteers! The change in environment encourages a more organized holiday season and is extremely helpful to all who work downstairs.

Sign-up sheets for volunteering and cleaning after the **PIZZA PARTY AND SOCKRAISER** will be downstairs. Anyone interested in giving a workshop, please contact me.

The goal this month is to explore the various holiday celebrations around the world. We will make ornaments for our tree and learn about Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, and Winter Solstice. Also, I will be researching a website I found recently, <www.learningtogive.com>. (This site is an excellent resource for religious educators, parents, and teachers...check it out!) I hope to incorporate ideas from this site into lessons each Sunday of the

year. With wishes we may all learn the balance of giving and receiving! Happy Holidays and Happy New Year from RE!

The only thing better than singing is more singing.

~ Ella Fitzgerald

Kate Briere has invited the children to sing Holiday Music with the Chattanooga UGans on Dec. 23 and Dec. 24. Parents need to bring their children to practice at 10:15 each Sunday beginning Dec. 2.

PIZZA PARTY AND SOCKRAISER!

December 16 after the Service

DONATIONS OF WHITE COTTON ATHLETIC SOCKS OF ALL SIZES

Gladly Accepted for Bro. Ron's ministry

Bring a casserole dish to share

Sock Puppet Workshop for All

Music by David and Matthew Vanderhoof

NOT JUST ANOTHER SUNDAY SERVICE AT THE UUCC

by Roger Davis, President, Board of Trustees

After experiencing Marcia Swearingen's conservative Christian sermon a few weeks ago at our own Unitarian Universalist (UU) Church of Chattanooga, I felt compelled, as president of the Board, to approach her – first, to thank her, but also to let her know that some of her proclamations may not have been appropriate – especially for the children. Marcia took advantage of her little captive audience during story telling. She told them directly that Jesus was the Only Son of God. I literally gulped when I heard that. I sensed that some sacred law of the UU universe had been violated. After the sermon, I began silently rehearsing what to say to right this transgression. But the nearer I got to the stage, the more I realized that I really didn't know what people in the church believed!

Of course we affirm the principles of the UUA faith, but specifically, what is our stance on signature issues, like, "Do we even believe in salvation? Life after death? Resurrection?"

I didn't know. I realized that I had no business pretending to represent the congregation's thinking. I reminded myself that ours is a diverse community. We may espouse a liberal theology, but we also represent a large spectrum of ideologies.

When I came face-to-face with Marcia on the stage, I managed to sputter something about how grateful we were for her sermon, and that addressing Unitarians was akin to herding cats. "At least we can agree on love," I stammered. As we both sensed the awkwardness I had created, darned if one of our fellow congregants didn't saunter up, immediately blurting out: "Hello, Marcia, I'm also a Conservative Republican, not like these liberals around here." The man pointed directly at me. My cover was blown!

So there it was: I really didn't have a clue about what we believed after all. As I slinked off the stage, I heard probably the most eloquent statement from a congregant that could have been said to Marcia: "Thank you for sharing your faith with us." It was such a gentle show of gratitude.

In the end, I realized that our non-UU speakers can say almost anything they like to us adult congregants. But when they address the children, they need to at least preface their remarks with "Children, this is what I believe...", not "Children, here is the truth..."

GREEN SANCTUARY INITIATIVE—GREENING THE HOLIDAYS

by Sandy Kurtz, Chair, Green Sanctuary Initiative



In November, Bill McKibben came to town to speak. This noted author is also founder of a national movement "Step It Up" urging Congress to pass legislation curbing climate change. He recommends Hundred Dollar Holidays to help the environment and recapture true joy inherent in the season. He writes:

Several years ago, a few of us in the northern New York and Vermont conference of the United Methodist Church started a campaign for what we called "Hundred Dollar Holidays." The church leadership voted to urge parishioners not to spend more than \$100 per family on presents, to rely instead on simple homemade gifts and on presents of services -- a back rub, stacking a cord of firewood. That first year I made walking sticks for everyone. Last year I made spicy chicken sausage. My mother has embraced the idea by making calendars illustrated with snapshots she's taken.

In the same vein, our own **Maureen Nichols** shares some suggestions she received from fellow storytellers that you might adapt or adopt for green holidays:

One year right after Christmas I bought 60 decorative Christmas bags for \$.10 each and I sent 20 to each sister in law and we reuse those each year. The same bags have been passed through the family now for 15 years!

...rather than giving the current mall item of the day I buy tickets to performances at a lovely, refurbished 1920's theater. The shows they have there are amazing. I support the arts, don't contribute to the waste portion of that cycle and everyone loves receiving an evening out.

As far as wrapping paper goes for gifts in general - I try to use as little as needed - sometimes I find a way not to use any at all.

We've been giving family members donations to the Heifer Project, or to support a bison on the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve; exchanging special used books and recordings; reusing cloth gift-bags tied with fabric ribbon, or many-times-reused pieces of prized giftwrap papers which get smaller each year with tags made from the fronts of last year's lovely holiday cards, too pretty to be appreciated just once.

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

by Roger Davis, President, Board of Trustees

The following are some highlights from the November '07 Board of Trustees meeting:

- √ Homeschooling group led by Maddie Kertay wants to link off our website – could become one of several groups to do so in the future. This would be good outreach for church. Motion passed to allow a link from our homepage.
- √ Game Night will occur on New Year's Eve.
- √ Seder Dinner was moved to April 25.
- √ Revised rental contract agreement and policy on requirement for more than one sexton.
- √ Will request that JR Nolan submit a cost estimate to make improvements to drainage problems on the playground. Approved allowing JR Nolan to bring in more high impact chips if within RE's budget.

MUUSIC NUUS



Planning is in full swing for the spring music line-up. If you or anyone you know would like to be considered to play special music, please contact Kate Briere at <music at uuc dot org> or call 423-624-8152 by December 15.

Our Christmas program for Sunday, December 23, and Christmas Eve, December 24, will be enriched with the addition of the children to our choir. Rehearsals to include the children will start December 2 at 10:15 and continue every Sunday through December until performance. All are welcome.

INTERFAITH HOMELESS NETWORK

by Charlotte Davis

In October, Interfaith Homeless Network of Greater Chattanooga (IHN) came one large step closer to making a permanent new facility and day center a reality. An unprecedented \$150,000 was raised due to the generosity of many donors. As a hosting congregation of IHN, we have played a significant role in seeing IHN reach this milestone. This is the 10th year of IHN's operation in Chattanooga and the organization has helped over 450 homeless families. There are a few final steps before the new facility and day center can break ground. First, the Chattanooga City Council must vote on a long term land lease IHN.

know how important it is for these families to have a safe place to live. We can create a "Welcome Home" basket for a family that receives housing thru IHN. We can purchase CARTA bus tickets for appointments. We can help replenish the families' personal hygiene products. We can embrace our supporting congregation, Pilgrim Congregation, by sharing some of our duties with their congregants. But most of all, we can continue hosting families in our church. This winter season can be exceptionally difficult for any family and especially those without a home.

It is important that our congregation continue reaching out to these families. Our recent guest speaker, the Rev. David Carnish, reminded us the average age of a homeless person in Chattanooga is 9 years old. Each time we host the families in our church, we continue to create a social justice change. We can also create change by continuing to let each city council member

Remember IHN has a new website <www.ihnchattanooga.org>. And do some online holiday season shopping thru <www.goodsearch.com> and designate IHN as your charity. They will receive the donation!

WORSHIP WORKING GROUP

In order to make our experience of worship the best that it can be for everyone, a group of members have come together to assess the culture of worship in our church. Some of the topics they will investigate are music, prayer, movement, rituals, readings, sermons, stories and guest preachers. As a result of their work, you may experience different procedures, songs and new elements in the worship service. Your impressions and reactions

to these are important, so please tell the minister or the worship leader.

If you would like to be part of the Worship Working Group, please contact the minister at <minister@uucdot.org>.

MINISTER'S OPEN HOUSE

You are invited to an open house at the minister's residence on Saturday, December 15th from 2 pm to 4 pm. Why? Kate says that the reason is the season. This is a casual affair. The address is available from the office and it's only a half-mile from the church. Ask Jeff or Kate or Chris in the office for directions.

Please come and enjoy some seasonal cheer, some camaraderie and the best Christmas music in Brainerd. To quell your afternoon munchies and slake your shopped-out thirst, you may enjoy a *Menu Français of les canapés, les crudités, les snacks, les fromages, les saucissons* and that Italian pretender, Bruschetta.

Joyeux Noël!

SHARED BIRTHDAYS

Do you have a December birthday? Check the list to see if you share the day of your birth with someone else at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga.

- Marie Coulter, Michael Walters, and Steve Hollingsworth
- Susan Corn, Connie Anderson, and Kate Briere
- Katie Couch and Aaron Long
- Taylor Jordan and Tom Clark

REFLECTIONS OF A NEW UUA TRUSTEE

by Anna Olsen

It is a very humbling experience to become a member of the Board of Trustees. You have members who have been there 13 years (Gini Courter) or 8 or 6 or 5 or 1, and they have been working for a long time on many issues. I have to use Joan Lund's (Trustee from Florida) analogy that joining the board is like trying to a drink of water from a fire hose. There is so much going on that you simply cannot take it all in.

Prior to attending the board meeting on October 20-21, I had read three board packets. They can be found on the UUA website about three weeks prior to the meeting. The board packets are long and very interesting and [reading them] give[s] one the illusion of being prepared. At this point, I have reached the conclusion that to be a fully contributing member of the board must take at least a year to get grounded in all the issues. I tried to listen well and keep the ever-incoming information organized. I was very pleased to be sitting next to two experienced trustees, Jackie Shanti, Vice Moderator, from the Clara Barton District and Roger Comstock, trustee from the Northeast District. You may also remember Roger was the District Executive of the Thomas Jefferson District. They were extremely helpful on breaks and after sessions to answer my questions and discuss issues. Joan Lund, who organized the new trustee orientation, was helpful throughout.

You need to be reassured that the UUA Board of Trustees is made up of very bright, capable, and dedicated people with a rich variety of backgrounds to contribute to our faith movement. I am so very honored to have been elected to serve with them for you, our member congregations.

I would like to highlight six areas [from the board meeting] that I was personally struck by.

1. From a financial standpoint the association is in very good shape. The general investment funds are doing well, Beacon Press showed strong profits and our audit gave a "clear opinion." A ten-year plan for repair and maintenance of all facilities is being developed. In addition, the Annual Program Fund (APF) came in above estimates. Our health care plan is doing well and will be expanded to include employees who work 750 hours per year (compared to the present requirement of 1000 hours).
2. John Blevins is doing an impressive job in chairing the Governance working group. He and his committee are very skilled in helping present the board governance model so that

it will be appropriate for a religious organization, have effective methods for governance relationship with the staff and be on a timetable that is reasonable. They are considering inviting large congregations and districts that use policy governance to consult with the board at future meetings.

3. The Living Our Faith working group, chaired by Tamara Payne-Alex is dealing with Independent Affiliate status. There are currently four IA groups: DRUUM, Universalist Convocations, Council of UU Camps & Conferences (CU2C2) and UU Urban Ministry. The board voted to grant IA status to UU Partner Church Council and to postpone a vote on Ministry for the Earth. If you would like more information on this issue, please go to www.uua.org and read past letters and documents on this subject.
4. Rev. Bill Sinkford is excited and optimistic about the new ad campaign and the great participation (575 congregations) in our first Association Sunday. Concerning the ad campaign, his favorite comment is, "We have gone and done it now." Please do all that you can within your congregation to welcome visitors and, more importantly, help them to find a spiritual home.
5. The board began a discussion that will continue in January as to whether board meetings should be held outside Boston. The idea was to plan that the January meeting of '09 be moved and find ways to be involved with UU congregations and members in the area. It is an exciting prospect, but will require much careful thought.
6. Gini Courter, Moderator or Chief Governance Officer of the UUA, reported on the results of open space meetings at GA '07. There were mixed reviews but an overwhelming gratitude to those who participated and all the feedback that has been collected. The GA in Florida will use a different design to collect input and there will be no conflicting programming.

Please read the full notes from the meeting and know that you are welcome to email me aolsen@uua.org or call (828-484-9239) with any questions, concerns, input or just to chat. I am honored to be of service to you in this most extraordinary faith and at this time of exciting challenges.

INTERFAITH WORSHIP SERVICE

On World AIDS Day, December 1st, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga will join with Unity of Chattanooga, the Rock Metropolitan Community Church (MCC), Pilgrim Congregational Church (UCC) and the Baha'i Center to present an interfaith worship service. The service will feature a combined choir, leaders from the various congregations and rituals in remembrance of those who suffer from AIDS. The collection will benefit Chattanooga CARES, whose focus is AIDS: education, prevention and support for all people affected by HIV. The service begins at 7 pm. All are welcome.

ANGEL NUUS

Eric Papendorp and **Maddie** and **Les Kertay** with the help of a few other volunteers did a fantastic job with the soup and bread potluck and left the kitchen spic and span!

Tim Trussel Smith has been sighted helping in the kitchen and in the RE department without even being asked!

The Religious Education Committee would like to thank the following Angels for their help in cleaning the RE rooms on November 4th: **Monique Lewis, Daidee Springer, Jamie Sullivan, James Joyner, Elaine Watkins, Kay McCurdy,**

Bonnie Sinclair, Deseri Papendorp, Bob Barnhart, Nicole Barnhart, and 2 guests: **Christian Corey** and **Crystal Parker.**

A special warrior's badge is awarded to **Karl Hunt**, wounded in privet battle by the weed wrench. A few stitches and he is good as new. Thanks to several other adults and kids who helped with planting and beautifying our grounds and removing the cursed privet. Among them were **Roger Davis, Adam Couch, Jamie Sullivan, Bill Kurtz, Elaine Watkins, Pat O'Brien, Nancy Anderson, Mack Maclellan, Inga Johannesen** and **George** and **Linda Helton** (thanks for the pizza delivery).

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY!

YES, we're having a New Year's Eve Party at the church again this year!

It starts at 8 pm, Monday, December 31st, and goes on until whenever everyone is worn out.
(At least through midnight, probably longer.)

Bring yourselves, your kids, your games, a snack and/or something to drink and join in the fun.
It's laid back, very casual, spontaneous and guaranteed to be a great time.

Questions? Check with Daidee Springer.

REMEMBERING OUR STAFF THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Many years ago people in this congregation began asking what we could do for our staff around the holidays. While fruitcakes and turkeys are nice, it was agreed that money is nicer. Thus began a tradition of members and friends of the congregation pooling cash gifts for the staff at Christmas time.

If you'd like to express your appreciation for the extraordinary

work these fine people do all year, please hand your gift, cash or check, to any Board Member (they're identified as such on their name tags) any Sunday in December through the 16th. If you give a check, make it out to UUCC and put "staff gifts" on the memo line. The gifts will be presented to the staff at the December 23rd service.

HEIFER DONATION

The church recently received a thank you from Heifer for the \$273.00 contribution we sent. The hard work of the children

and the proceeds of the quilt raffle were the main sources of the donated money.

UPCOMING EVENTS

THE MANY MOODS OF CHRISTMAS

Scenic City Chorale presents a concert *The Many Moods of Christmas* on Sunday, December 2 at 4:00 p.m. at Brainerd United Methodist Church. Our own Skip Stevens, Ginny Hansen and Carl Hansen are members of the Chorale.

CHIONS

The Chattanooga Institute of Noetic Science presents *Meditation on the Poetry of Rumi*, by Ed Groody, on December 8th from 10:30-12:00 at the church.

Rumi is a 13th century Persian mystic who is the number one selling poet in America today. Ed will approach Rumi's poetry using Poetry Divina, a meditation method. The goal is not intellectual knowledge but rather an actual experience of the divine or readying oneself to experience the divine through each poem.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS OUT

Wednesday Nights Out is growing in popularity. Come see what all the fuss (or fun) is about! Call the church office if you need more information.

12/5	Dinner at the Church: Sign up soon at the church! Very popular!	\$5	Definitely FAMILY FRIENDLY!
12/12	Blue Orleans (FF)	\$\$	Corner of Main & Market
12/19	Las Margaritas (FF)	\$\$	1101 Hixson Pike (across from the old Greenlife)
12/26	No WNO		Stay home and eat left over turkey!

\$\$ - Average price entrée \$10 - \$12; FF – Family Friendly

NOTICE! NOTICE! NOTICE!

COFFEE CAPERS

In an effort to make church meetings a bit more enjoyable we provide Fair Trade coffee for consumption while doing the work of the church. Please remember to clean up, wash out and replace all cups and pots used. Above all do not leave them in the sink for some unsuspecting kitchen host on Sunday morning. Coffee and use of the kitchen is not extended to rental groups unless specifically noted in the rental agreement.

SCHEDULING MEETINGS

Council and committee chairpersons scheduling meetings are asked to make sure the church office has the meeting date and time so that the calendar can be kept up to date. When a meeting time or date changes, notice must be given to the church office.

CEMETERY PLOTS

The UUCC Endowment Committee seeks to sell four cemetery plots and a bronze marker. 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. The Endowment Committee will sell the plots and marker for \$5,000 but will consider other offers. If interested, contact any member of the UUCC Endowment Committee (David Reed, Buck O'Rear, George Helton).

HOSES & SPIGOTS

The outside water spigots on the church building are "freeze-proof units." If a hose is left on over the winter, it defeats the operation of the unit. Hoses MUST be disconnected for the faucets to be freeze-proof.

WEEKLY E-MAIL

To ensure that your news items are included in the weekly email, they need to be received in the church office by Thursday morning.

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 *wksapp at charter dot net*. Wendy can also be reached at 706-694-0940. The deadline for January issue of *the nUUsletter* is **December 15th**.

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DATE	12/2	12/9	12/16	12/23	12/30
TOPIC	Spirit of Life	O Christmas Tree!	Generosity of the Heart	Winter's First Sunday	¿Que Pasa?
LEADER	the Rev. Jeff Briere	the Rev. Jeff Briere	Anna Olsen	the Rev. Jeff Briere	the Rev. Jeff Briere
BOT MEMBER	Adam Couch	Leslie Walters	Eric Papendorp	Linda Helton	Maddie Kertay
CHANCEL DÉCOR	Mary Hunter	Mary Hunter	Mary Hunter	Mary Hunter	Mary Hunter
SOUND REINFORCEMENT	Rich Dwyer	Joshua Goldman	Buck O'Rear	Karl Hunt	Roger Davis
MUSIC	Steve Hollingsworth	Ollie Grigsby	Marcia Jenison	Steve Hollingsworth	Marcia Jennison

*Setting an example is not the main means of influencing another,
 it is the only means.*
 ~ Albert Einstein