



A VISION COMMITTEE FOR THE CHURCH
By Roger Davis, President, Board of Trustees

In my article for the October newsletter I posed some pointed questions:

“What can you imagine for our church, say, five years from now? 10 years? What would it look like? Could it become a completely rebuilt structure that stands 100 ft. tall, with beautiful stained glass windows accenting the walls? How about an energy-efficient, solar and wind-powered building built on 50 acres out in the country?”

How about making our church the finest example of energy efficiency and conservation in the Southeast -- a beacon for a sustainable structure?

“That would be great,” you say, “but how do we make it happen?”

We need ideas. We need brainstorming. We need meetings with people who are willing to come together to brainstorm ideas on a sustainable vision for our church. Personally, I believe that planet earth is in the midst of an environmental crisis: global warming, peak oil (supplies are running out), pollution, species' extinction...“the hour's getting late”. It's not the only crisis, but it's right up there with issues like terrorism, jobs, education, immigration reform, etc.

What should the Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga do? Besides brainstorming, it's going to take some hard-headed financial analysis, projection, budgeting, and fund-raising. So the members of this Vision Committee need to use their collective left brain as well as their right. We need to figure out a way to fund our visions.

In that same October article, I mentioned that the Board has been considering undertaking a financial assessment of our capital needs. Realistically, the Board is just too busy with a myriad of operational issues to really go it alone on this vision project. But we're not too busy to understand the need, and “outsource” such a task to a committee devoted to and focused on coming up with a Vision-Plan that could be considered by the Board.

Thus, if you're interested -- in alternative energy, construction, economics and the future of our church -- I'm appealing to you to help me form such a Vision Committee. Just imagine how much fun it could be to share your thoughts and blend your dreams with your esteemed colleagues. For sure there will be work, but it will be educational and satisfying.

If you're interested, please respond directly to me. Email works: <rogerhdavisjr at gmail dot com>, or call the office.

See you in our dreams!

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UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
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*a liberal religious
community*

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SUNDAY SERVICES ♦ 11:00 AM

February 3rd ♦ *THE LONELINESS OF THE LONG DISTANCE RUNNER*

Tim Trussel-Smith will draw on metaphors from athletics to discuss his vision of our shared tradition as individuals and as a community of believers. He will focus especially on his own spiritual race and why he has decided to pursue professional ministry in our tradition.

February 10th ♦ *SCIENCE AND RELIGION: TIME TO KISS AND MAKE UP*

Is it possible to accept both religious truths and scientific truths? Are science and religion always in competition for the hearts and minds of people? Along with more than 800 churches across the country, we'll mark this "Evolution Sunday." The Rev. Jeff Briere, preaching.

February 17th ♦ *NEW MEMBER SUNDAY*

Today we welcome new members to our congregation. The Rev. Jeff Briere preaches about the strength we derive from living in community.

February 24th ♦ *WHAT'S SO WEIRD ABOUT BIGFOOT?*

People believe weird things, there's no doubt. But why? Why do people believe in biorhythms, the Bermuda Triangle and the power of pyramids? The Rev. Jeff Briere, preaching.

SUNDAY FORUMS

The Forum meets at 9:30 on Sunday morning downstairs in the far left corner room. All are welcome.

February 3 - **James Joyner**, discussion leader, topic to be announced. James is co-leader of the youth religious education program.

February 10 - **Matt Hoyt**, discussion leader. Results of Super-Duper Tuesday (multi-state primaries of February 5, which included Tennessee); what roles did faith, ethics, and morality play?

February 17 - **Jerry Smith**, discussion leader. New Testament Soteriology (Webster -- "theology dealing with salvation, especially as affected by Jesus Christ"). Continuation in a series.

February 24 - **Dr. Lee Solomon**, discussion leader. Medical Ethics and the Genetic Revolution. Continuation in a series.

Note. Dr. Colbert Whitaker will lead the March discussions. He asks that in preparation we all read *Ishmael*, by Daniel Quinn.

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.

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

THE INTERDEPENDENT WEB

by Steve Hollingsworth

We forfeit three-fourths of ourselves in order to be like other people.

~ Arthur Schopenhauer

Reality is so much funnier—I'm the living proof. And when I came out of my mother's womb, they say, I came out laughing.

~ Grégoire Bouillier, *NY Times Magazine*, Oct. 15, 2006

Be too brave to lie.

~ 6th Cardinal Virtue of George Washington Carver

Seeing St. Valentine's Day approaching I realize, with some trepidation, I feel the need to say still more about standing on the side of love. My point of departure is the remarkable essay by Grégoire Bouillier I quote from above. He was born into a love triangle in Algeria in the early 1960s. He reminisces how learning of his unconventional conception made heady notions like "Make Love Not War" in the tumult of 1968 seem "slightly stale" to him at age 7.

The power for me in his story is the privilege he claimed, knowing he had benefited from extraordinary honesty at a young age. Perhaps he even felt a little special for being different.

Hardly unique, however. From *The Globe and Mail* (12/14/2002), "It's now widely accepted among those who work in genetics that roughly 10 percent of us are not fathered by the man we believe to be dad." Any mother's secret unsettles us, children all, who want to be fully confident that the man we see aging gives us clues about our own future.

In a larger society where violating social norms may bring not only embarrassment but economic and custodial consequences (in divorce proceedings, for example), I'm not optimistic that we will soon do better. Yet I believe with all my being that we as Unitarian Universalists can, when it comes to matters of the heart, resolve to greet surprising truth without judgment, to commend the bravery of the truth-teller, and to make it our own to deal with any discomfort we feel.

In my vision of the beloved community the truth makes us free.

BOARD OF TRUSTEE HIGHLIGHTS

by Roger Davis, President, Board of Trustees

The following are highlights of the Board meeting held on January 9, 2008:

- The 12-Step group has cancelled its rental and the Board would like to let church members know of the availability of rooms in the church to rent
- Several donations have been made to the church recently including a large monetary gift which the Board voted to use for purchase of a projector, laptop and screen for the church
- A motion was approved to set aside money to help defray expenses for six congregants going to General Assembly to participate in the Education of God workshop.
- Insurance will replace our outside air conditioner unit which was stolen. The Board agreed to evaluate alternative energy solutions as well.
- The April 18-20 Church Retreat will be promoted through posters and sign-up sheets.

- There will be a Mardi Gras party at the church, with DJ, on Feb. 2nd. Refreshments will be sold.
- Wednesday Night In: the Board wants to remind folks to contribute the requested \$5 to that night's cooks.
- A weekend trip to the Mountain in '09 is being discussed for the teen group.
- Playground is finished and the drainage reconfiguration is complete.
- Everything is a "go" for the additional lighting installations.
- Stewardship Campaign: Reception on March 15th and "Celebration Sunday" on March 16th. On the 16th, the children will have a party downstairs, "Celebrate Our Blessings."
- The Board urges everyone to suggest fund-raising ideas for the church. We're behind on fund raising events.
- The Board is considering a variety of ways to implement solar lighting on church grounds.

JUST SIT

by Jamie Sullivan, Director of Religious Education

Last week, I checked out a couple of books from the library: *What Animals Do In the Winter* and *Chains, Webs, And Pyramids---The flow of energy in nature*. I am preparing for this trimester's theme *Webs in Life*, a spiritual look at growth and change in nature.

So what *do* animals do in the winter? Most either hibernate or migrate. Although it seems we as humans don't quite fit into this category, we do. We just seem to make it much more confusing in the process—unlike most animals we sometimes neglect the need to slow down. Our responsibility is to become aware of our real needs as a human community and find our place in the web of nature, rather than destroying that web.

With the children, I am hoping to explore our potential to create *HEALTHY* environments. By observing our actions in planting seeds and watching them grow, we will see our part in nature's process of growing and changing. We will look at how we have grown from babies up to now, and human stages of life. What does it take for us to maintain survival? What do our bodies need in relation to plants bodies? We will also look at our favorite subject, *PETS*, the one subject which is becoming a weekly oral tradition each time we sit down for circle. We will ask ourselves, "How do we create healthy environments for our pets?" "Where do our pets fit into the web?"

In finding religion and spirituality in this subject, we will start the trimester with a book about celebrating the dawn called *The Way to Start a Day*, by Byrd Baylor. This book gives examples of cave-men and cavewomen, of Peruvian Indians, of Egyptians giving

blessings for each day. Through the months, we will explore Christian, Hindu, Buddhist, and other religious viewpoints in relation to nature and the earth. We will weave, sing, observe nature in our own church building backyard, and much more.

One of the main points I hope to get across throughout these lessons is how slowing down (think of this as "momentary human hibernation") can be one of the most beneficial ways humans can create a healthier environment. Simply put, *just sit* and *breathe*, kind of like a silent prayer. Familiarizing the children's minds with this simple tool is, at the least, calming in the storm of our modern world.

Each time we get together this year, we will start our lesson with this offering from the Gandhi foundation, a greeting which was shared from a Director of Religious Education from within the Thomas Jefferson district.

A Universal Greeting

*I offer you peace
I offer you friendship
I offer you love
I hear your needs
I see your beauty
I feel your feelings
My wisdom flows from a higher source
I salute that source in you
Let us work and play together*

Late Night Poetry
by Sammy Kertay (age 6)

Snow falls
The birds fly away
The flowers are beneath the snow
No birds are to be heard
Spring is under a blanket of snow

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

New Member Sunday is February 17th. At that time, we will welcome new members into the church. If you have contemplated membership, or know someone who wants to join, please contact the minister right away.

CAKES FOR THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN

"Cakes for the Queen of Heaven," a five-session religious education curriculum in feminist theology for adults and older youth will be offered during the month of April on each Tuesday evening. The sessions are 2½ hours; the time will be

determined after people sign up. Childcare will be provided. More information and a sign-up sheet will be posted in the Fellowship area. If you have questions, contact Leslie Walters.

INTERFAITH HOMELESS NETWORK

MARCH 23-29, 2008

by Charlotte Davis, Interfaith Homeless Network Committee

Our first Interfaith Homeless Network hosting for 2008 will be the week of March 23-29. This is an important social justice ministry of our church. We will coordinate with Pilgrim Congregational Church as we did in our last hosting. We have great news for our hosting week: During the week our transportation needs will

be met by STS. If you are interested in helping our families with this difficult time in their lives please contact Charlotte Davis at <charms9417 at gmail dot com> or call the office for the many opportunities available during the week to help others in need.

WHAT I'D LIKE TO HEAR IN CHURCH

by the Rev. Jeff Briere

The list below is a customized version of a list entitled, "Ten Things You Never Hear in Church," which was sent to me by a congregant. Customized, because I edited it to fit some situations at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga and renamed it as "What I'd Like to Hear in Church." While I found the original list amusing on first reading, after some thought, I became aware that each item on the list pinched a little nerve in me. And it hurt.

I thought, "Am I laughing at people? Or am I laughing at my church?"

"Because if I am laughing at my church, then all that I hold dear about the church universal— regardless of style, denomination or whatever—am I laughing at that, too? That is, because I laugh at this list, am I as cynical as the author or am I laughing at the foibles of the institution called church? Am I engaged in a fruitless enterprise?"

Well, those were my thoughts. I'd enjoy hearing yours. Here's the list of what I'd like to hear in church:

1. Hey! It's my turn to sit in the front row!
2. I was so enthralled, I never noticed the worship service went 25 minutes over time.
3. Personally, I find the Sunday service much more

compelling than the Sunday paper.

4. I've decided to give the church the \$100 a month I used to spend on the Lottery.
5. I volunteer to help Jamie in the religious education program in whatever position she thinks I can make the best contribution.
 - 5a. I will do this for an entire semester in the curriculum.
 - 5b. I will find another person to take my place before I finish.
6. How can I help out in the kitchen? I'll clean up if that's what you need. Can I bring some refreshments next Sunday?
7. I love it when we sing hymns I've never heard before! Can I join the choir?
8. Hey! What's goin' on, here? Everyone arrived before 11 am. Let's start the service early!
9. Where do I sign up to be an overnight host for IHN?
10. I am inspired and strengthened by our annual stewardship campaign.
11. Which committee needs my help?

FOR SALE

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga (UUC) 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 UUC Endowment Committee: David Reed, Buck O'Rear, or George Helton.

SHARED BIRTHDAYS

You might be sharing your birthday with someone else at UUC! The list is a short one for February

Sky Love and Jean Larson
Lily Joyner and Nancy Wright

(UN)WELCOMING CHURCHES: HOW DO VISITORS SEE US?

The following is excerpted from *Interconnections*, a publication of the Unitarian Universalist Association. It was written by a congregational president.

Recently, I was traveling to a large city and took the opportunity to attend services at the closest UU congregation. As a board member and congregational president, I look forward to visiting other congregations when traveling.

I arrived thirty minutes prior to the service to have some coffee and chat with the local people. A membership committee member met me at the church entrance and gave me a different color nametag, which I was told would identify me as a visitor. Upon getting a cup of coffee, I began my mission to chat with like-minded souls and see how they did church.

To that point, no one had looked at me. But, armed with a friendly smile on my face, a special visitor nametag, and a full cup of coffee, I wandered around a room filled with folks chatting and laughing with one another. I worked a string of tables with easels, literature, and sign-up sheets. I spoke with one of women about what her easel was advocating. She quickly filled me in, and then without additional chatter, she turned back to the only other person behind the tables to continue their conversation.

At the beginning of the service, the board member making the announcements invited visitors and guests to meet with members of the church leadership after the service. With anticipation of a new beginning, I went to the designated place after the service

and found the leaders engaged in conversation—among themselves. It became obvious that it was up to me, the visitor, to try to break up their chat clusters and introduce myself. I did just that, but found they were more interested in conducting church business with one another than in making an effort to welcome a visitor or potential new member.

The whole experience reminded me of the membership seminars. There, they tried to teach us that every member of a congregation needs to be proactive in making visitors feel welcome. They also told us that church business should not be conducted during the Sunday morning experience.

Would I return to that church? Definitely not! But as I reflected later upon my own home congregation and that Sunday morning experience, I thought: We are a lot like them.

I've been just as guilty as their leaders—many times! After that experience, I returned to my home congregation with great enthusiasm for improving our greeting of guests and visitors.

Being welcoming isn't hard. Look a visitor in the eye and tell them you're glad they've come. Help them find a seat and chat with them at coffee hour. Years later many UUs can still remember who greeted them on their first Sunday. It's a memory worth making, and if visitors take away one good memory they might overlook a cobweb in the bathroom or a glitch in the sound system.

CELEBRATION TIME, COME ON!

by David Reed, Stewardship Committee Member

We plan to do our Stewardship Campaign a bit differently this year. We are not going to rely as heavily on the face-to-face pledge visits that we've used over the past few years. There will still be some folks who will receive a pledge visit, but we plan to hold a Celebration Sunday on Sunday, March 16, 2008. During the service, the Rev. Jeff Briere will have a rousing message on the importance of stewardship. Then, after a catered lunch, we will ask everyone to complete a pledge card. We'll have stewards available to answer any questions you may have. There will also be special activities for the kids.

We'll be communicating more over the course of the month on what our goals for next year are as we *Celebrate Our Blessings*. We will have begun those communications by the time you see this article in *the nUUsletter*. We also plan to have a reception on March 15, 2008, the evening before Celebration Sunday. It starts at 6:00 pm and will last until 8:00 pm. We can virtually guarantee that a good time will be had by all.

Why are we doing this, you may ask? The answer is simply to provide a little variety in our fundraising methods. We've been following the same model for so many years that we hope a little change will be appreciated, yet still productive.

This method means that you will be hearing about our fundraising goals earlier than you would if we followed the standard routine. But I do want to make sure that it is clear that anyone who would like to have a steward make a pledge visit will be accommodated. For example, newer members may find a pledge visit beneficial. If you would like a steward to visit you, just let Leslie Walters or me know.

If you don't feel compelled to receive a pledge visit, please mark your calendar now for the Celebration Sunday, and for the reception the night before. Even if you receive a pledge call, plan on coming to both of these events. In addition to being stewardship activities, we plan for them to be really fun fellowship activities as well.

A LETTER FROM BRUCE RUSSELL-JAYNE

Dear Reverend Briere and Members of the UUCC,

I hope this finds you well.

Cece and I are enjoying our new home in Cincinnati. After living in Chicago and Ogden Utah it reminds us so much of Chattanooga. We think of you often, and you are always in our prayers. Now in my 3rd month as minister at Northern Hills Fellowship, I am "getting into a groove" as they say of baseball pitchers once they get past the first inning jitters. We had our first new member ceremony Sunday, and I signed the book to become a member so as to align myself more closely with this church. Through my transient times for the last 6 years first as a seminary student, then as an Intern Minister and an Interim Minister I maintained my membership at UUCC, my beloved "home church." Now it is time for me to focus on my congregation here. It is with some sadness that I hereby resign my membership in UUCC. Even though I will be off your

membership roles, I will never lose my love for you. I will not forget all UUCC has done for me. Thank you, thank you.

Let me take this opportunity to announce we will have our Installation Service here at NHF on Sunday, March 30th 2008, at 4:00 pm. The Reverend Gary James, my Intern Supervisor, minister of North Shore Unitarian Church in Deerfield, Illinois, will preach. Y'all come! Will you contact me or Cece if you would like to attend?

Best wishes for a wonderful church year.

In liberal faith,

Bruce
The Rev. Bruce-Russell-Jayne
Minster, Northern Hills Fellowship
a Unitarian Universalist Church

RENT!

No not the musical! The space! To be more specific, church space! If your group or business is looking for a meeting/party location, check out the availability of the church for your rental needs. Space is available at reasonable rates for one time events or on-going clubs. The Forum Room is especially good

for meetings in which a DVD or video tape is played. The sanctuary can accommodate about 200 people and in the near future it will feature enhanced audio-video capabilities. See Chris in the office for more details.

MUSIC NEWS

The choir will rehearse on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm. Please make "note" of that. Another opportunity for everyone to join in

will be at the "Wednesday Night In." We are going to have a hymn sing after dinner. Come and "Sing for your Supper"!

GRANDMOTHER DRUM
by Suzanna Alexander

Save the dates of Saturday March 1, 2008 from 2-5 pm and Sunday March 2, 1-6 pm for experiencing the heartbeat of GrandMother Drum at the church. Picture and sounds of the drum can be found at <www.whirlingrainbow.com>.

checks payable to Spiral Quest and send to Spiral Quest, PO Box 62, Wildwood GA 30757.

The Saturday March 1 Prayerformance is a three hour interactive drumming, prayer, dance and celebration for the whole family. Cost is \$30.00 with children under 16 by donation. Sunday will be a limited (33 adults) registration for clearing, healing and purification of the self, the waters, and the history that has left its mark on our land. The requested donation for Sunday is \$66.00. Make

The GrandMother Drum Project celebrates the magnificent cultural diversity of the human family and the truth of our oneness through interactive performance. The seven foot drum is the centerpiece of the celebrations with the seven layers of wood representing the seven continents, the kettle shape reflecting South American drums, the Buffalo skin reflecting North America, the mounting style reflecting African and the drum's stand reflecting the Indian Tabla.



UPCOMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS OUT

If you haven't checked it out, you need to come to Wednesday Nights Out. This is a great opportunity to get to know your fellow church members over and enjoyable dinner. Call the church office if you need more information.

2/6	Dinner at the Church: Sign up soon at the church! Very popular!	\$5	Definitely FAMILY FRIENDLY!
2/13	Porker's BBQ	\$\$	1251 Market
2/20	Pizzeria Venti	\$\$	121 Frazier Ave
2/27	Taco Roc	\$\$	6960 Lee Hwy

\$\$ - Average price entrée \$10 - \$12

SADIE HAWKINS

The Chattanooga UGans will be hosting a Coffee House at the first quadrennial celebration of Sadie Hawkins Day from 7 to 9 PM on February 29 here at the church. Coffee, tea, soft drinks and desserts will be available for purchase at really reasonable prices. Come prepared to sing your favorite song, read your favorite poem, or narrate your favorite story, for the whole group and just maybe to the one you love.

CHIONS

On February 9 from 10:30-12:00, the Chattanooga Institute of Noetic Science presents *Understanding Temperament: Different Strokes for Different Folks* by Dr. Ed Smith.

Join us for some self-exploration involving use of a brief personality measure (The Kiersey Temperament Sorter). You will gain valuable insight into how your individual style of understanding, communication, and expression is different than the styles of others, based on perspectives from Carl Jung's theories of personality. You'll discover how there is no right or wrong way to be, just advantages to understanding your unique self in relation to others.

Prior to attending this session, it is essential that you take the inventory and print out your results to bring with you. Go to <www.kiersey.com> and select the "take the KTS-II" button. It is free to take the test.

Mardi Gras Dance

Saturday, February 2, 2008
5pm-9pm at the church

ALL AGES

Costumes Welcome

Live DJ

Food & Drinks for a small fee

for more information, contact

Nicole Barnhart
niayla1@yahoo.com
or 423-485-1249

CREATIVE CARDS

Creative Card Workshops **will** be held the second Monday of each month from 7:00 - 9:00pm. This is an easy and fun way to make cards and gifts, using various stamping techniques (good for scrap bookers, too!). There is a \$10.00 materials fee, which covers all supplies. Everyone is welcome, but space is limited. Please call the office to reserve your place.

RECITAL ANNOUNCEMENT

George Olin and Steve Hollingsworth will present a recital in the sanctuary of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga on Sunday, February 17, 2008 at 2:00 pm.

Joining them will be Cynthia Johnson, soprano; Karen Viser, piano; Sandy Donegan, oboe; April Itson, flute. Works by Handel, Brahms, Dello Joio, Haydn, Joplin, and Schubert will be presented.

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@charter.net. Wendy can also be reached at 706-694-0940. The deadline for the March issue of *the nUUsletter* is **February 15th**.

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DATE	2/3	2/10	2/17	2/24
TOPIC	The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner	Science and Religion: Time to Kiss and Make Up	New Member Sunday	What's So Weird About Big Foot?
LEADER	Tim Trussell-Smith	the Rev. Jeff Briere	the Rev. Jeff Briere	the Rev. Jeff Briere
BOT MEMBER	Eric Papendorp	Linda Helton	Maddie Kertay	Nicole Barnhart
GREETER	Harold Linn	Ruby Bruns	Diane Davison	Harold Linn
USHER	Bill Berry	Mike Bascom	David Reed	Shela Van Ness
CHANCEL DÉCOR	Mary Hunter	Mary Hunter	Mary Hunter	Mary Hunter
SOUND REINFORCEMENT	Buck O'Rear	Karl Hunt	Roger Davis	Mike Walters
MUSIC	George Olin	Emily Harbin	Kate Briere	Marcia Jenison

It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change
 ~ Charles Darwin