



A ROLLING STONE GATHERS NO TITHES

by David Reed, Stewardship Committee

The *Wall Street Journal* recently ran an article describing how many churches are getting push backs from congregants when it comes to tithing (giving 10 percent of income to the church). It seems that some churches tell you that if you tithe you will be protected from all types of misfortune and calamity. No joke. That just blew me away. It reminded me of an extremely wicked Rolling Stones song titled *Faraway Eyes* that promised that a \$10 donation to the Church of the Sacred Bleeding Heart of Jesus in Los Angeles, California, would make all your dreams come true. I figure my odds are better with the latter.

But, when it comes to our pledge campaign, do we have a deal for you. We're not asking you to tithe. All we're asking is: please give a nickel from every dollar. You can even decide if that's pre-tax or post-tax or adjusted gross income. Whatever works for you is fine with.

We can't promise you absolution from sin, freedom from calamity or pardon from perdition. We can't promise that you a winning ticket for the Tennessee Lottery, or a girl (boy?) with faraway eyes. But we can promise a feeling of satisfaction in helping the church fulfill its mission.

We realize that not everyone is going to be able to give five percent of his or her income. As I noted last month, there are other forms of stewardship besides money. But we hope that those of you who can afford to give more will do so. Let me also point out that many of our expenses increase each year. If you can increase your pledge over last year, it will be greatly appreciated.

Here's a question we get fairly often: Am I absolutely committed to the amount I am pledging?

The simple answer is: We hope so.

But, a pledge is nothing more than a statement of intent. There's an old saying that life is something that happens while you are busy making other plans. Well, sometimes life gets in the way of our intentions.

Experiencing some type of setback is fairly common. For example, getting a divorce wreaks absolute havoc on your finances. While we hope nobody in the congregation experiences a financial setback in the near future, if you do, you can certainly adjust your pledge accordingly. We want you to give at a level that makes you feel good. If something happens that makes it necessary to adjust a pledge downwards, adjust it to a level where it again feels good. A pledge should never be an undue burden. On the flip side, if you experience a favorable change in circumstance, we're quite happy to see pledges revised upwards, too.

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*a liberal religious  
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SUNDAY SERVICES ♦ 11:00 AM

January 8th ♦ *IF YOU DO WELL*

How do we live in relationship when others don't play by our rules or worse, cause us devastating harm? We will reflect on these questions as we wrestle with several stories in which we are confronted with the often hard choices of living in relationship, not only with one another but with God. The service is led by the Rev. Stacy Rector (see more information about Rev. Rector below). We will share the plate today with the Tennessee Coalition to Abolish State Killing.

January 13th ♦ *THE STATE OF THE CHURCH*

The Rev. Jeff Briere leads this service, an annual one, in which he assesses the state of our church.

January 20th ♦ *A VISION OF WORSHIP*

The Rev. Jeff Briere leads this service, in which he assesses the current theology of Unitarian Universalist worship, practices in other churches and considers what might be best for our growing church. **(Third Sunday Potluck to follow the service!)**

January 27th ♦ *ANOTHER VISION OF WORSHIP*

Worship involves you. Worship is the public face of the church and that public face is made up of the faces of all members. The Rev. Jeff Briere invites you to voice your thoughts during this service. Please come prepared to briefly relate what you find compelling in worship and what is important to you.

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GUEST PREACHER

The Rev. Stacy Rector is a Tennessee native, born and raised in Dyersburg. She attended Rhodes College and Columbia Theological Seminary, and was ordained into the Presbyterian ministry in 1998. She served for 9 years as the Associate Pastor of Second Presbyterian Church in Nashville and currently serves as the Executive Director of the Tennessee Coalition to Abolish State Killing (TCASK) whose mission is to honor life by abolishing the death penalty.

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WORSHIP WORKING GROUP

The Worship Working Group will convene on January 23rd, at 7 pm at the church. This is a group of people interested in the culture of worship in our church and who may take an active role in producing worship services or participating as a reader, storyteller or other role in the future. Several members have already expressed an interest in contributing to this endeavor. Any church member or friend is invited. Please sign up on the roster on the minister's office door.

*Happy New Year!*

### SUNDAY FORUMS

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

January 6 - **George Andrews**, owner of the BrightEnergy Company of Barnesville, Georgia, designs and builds homes and businesses which are environmentally-friendly, energy-efficient, and with an emphasis on using solar energy. He will show slides of some of his projects.

January 13 - **Lee Solomon**, psychiatrist, will continue his presentation on medical ethics. This time he will deal with how our faith and beliefs affect our medical decisions.

January 20 - **Jerry Smith** will continue his discussion on the Bible with a look at the "Wisdom Literature in Biblical Teachings."

January 27 - **tom kunesh** will present the *27 Flavors of Atheism*. From simple ignorance to the cultured xenotheophobia of monotheism, atheism comes in many flavors, including its use -- within -- theism. He will hand us a piece of black licorice and a handy semantic diagram.

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### 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.

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### LOTUS SANGHA

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

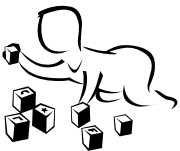
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### ANOTHER ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY

"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 2 1/2 hours, so the time will be discussed after individuals signs up. Childcare will be provided. More information and a sign-up sheet will be posted in the Fellowship area in January. If you have questions, contact Leslie Walters.

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### SUNDAY MORNING CHILD CARE



On Sunday mornings, child care is provided in the nursery beginning at 9:30 am. All children must be supervised 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 (UUC). They do not necessarily represent the views of the UUC.

THE INTERDEPENDENT WEB

by Steve Hollingsworth

*The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;*

*The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;*

- Principles 5 & 6 from UU *Principles and Purposes*

I rarely travel internationally without having the feeling, at least fleetingly, that I was born to be an expatriate. On our recent trip to China the thought was particularly brief.

Although the language barrier was daunting, I could imagine overcoming it. The people I met were industrious, polite, and unrelentingly curious about the world around them. We ate well, made our way around town, and toured the sights at bargain prices.

The single thing that was so offputting that I could not imagine settling there was the government censorship of Internet access. Mind you, China has more people online than any other country in the world. And a lot of the access is on people's personal time: It was during the evening and on

weekends that access to international sites slowed down to a crawl. Apparently, with their access to real international travel tightly restricted, everyone was surfing to places out of the country. But if you wanted to go to ABCNews.com, the site was never found. Search Google.com for Beijing weather, get results. Search for Falun Gong, "404 error: Page not found."

The Internet, from the time Al Gore invented it, has been and remains an egalitarian institution. Anyone gets the opportunity to produce content that everyone can access anywhere. If the thought of less than unfettered access bothers you like it does me, certainly the 5th and 6th of our own Unitarian Universalist principles support us: Democracy feeds on availability of information and transparency of procedure. If we would be one world community, how better to start than to share the same information?

Today a more open and informed society exists in China than a generation ago. In my opinion the world's choice of "constructive engagement" with China has done more good than sanctions will ever do with Iran and North Korea or did with Iraq. However, we must never accept doing business as usual in a moral vacuum. We must always speak truth to power when we can. In the end people everywhere are more important than nations anywhere.

A HOMING INSTINCT

by Elaine Watkins

During a class that was offered to those who wish to learn more about Unitarian Universalism, the attendees were asked to share what brought us to this church, or to the denomination in general. At the time, I had trouble putting it into words. "Oh, I just wandered in and stayed." sounded wrong. "Gee, I don't know!" sounded lame. There had to be a better answer.

My first visit was the previous summer, and the impression was a good one. I intended to return, but then the summer church renovations and the details of everyday life intervened. My second visit was not until December. After a stressful Thanksgiving weekend, and with little deliberate thought, I got up, got dressed, and headed over to Navajo Drive for a Sunday service. It felt as automatic, and as *right*, as going to work Monday through Friday. Since then, I've attended all but maybe four services.

Soon afterward, I received a call from Jeff, welcoming me and inviting me to visit any time. I remember babbling something like

*...the educational journey...has been a supremely satisfying adventure.*

"Well, I pretty much understand the UU theology..." In retrospect, I knew *nothing*, and the educational journey, though by no means complete, has been a supremely satisfying adventure.

I'll confess that I have a very dim concept of my own spirituality. Unitarian Universalism does not offer an easy definition. Rather, it gives you the means to find your own, and the freedom to talk openly about the process. People unfamiliar with this denomination often make the mistake of thinking it's an "anything goes" religion; that you can believe anything you want, and nobody cares. Wrong. People care deeply. The difference is that they care about a variety of different things—issues that didn't come up at other places I've been. Rather than worrying about being "in the world, but not of it," I am happy to be in it, of it, with it, and for it.

Yes, it was an instinct that brought me here. Sometimes it's not something you sit and think about. Sometimes...you just know.

**IT'S A NEW YEAR DOWNSTAIRS!***by Tim Trussell-Smith & Jamie Sullivan*

The Religious Education (RE) program will begin a new trimester with a new curriculum in January. This curriculum is all about connections. It will incorporate a pre-existing Unitarian Universalist (UU) curriculum called "Web of Life," which focuses on our place in the environment, along with gardening around the church grounds and lessons about the relationships within our church and human families. Jamie, our Director of Religious Education, hopes the children will begin to sense the intrinsic connection between the values we hold as a religious community and the actions we take in the world.

Jamie is also planning an RE "dream session" where parents, RE volunteers and other members of the church community can come together to discuss what we want to see the RE program become over the next year. Think of it as New Year RE-solutions!

Here's the RE-solution that I know Jamie and all the volunteers and committee members share: more hands downstairs! We could do even more (with a lot less stress) if she had more hands helping out. She recently told me, "I could have millions of tools, but I only have two hands."

Faith (contrary to popular opinion) isn't primarily about the personal beliefs we hold but about how we act in community. I

believe it is good to give of ourselves for the good of others: therefore, I help. RE can use **your** help. So, join the RE committee and help us plan, or sign up to help downstairs once a month or every six weeks so that we can all be involved as much as we want, but not be forced to decide between the good of the RE program and our own spiritual nourishment. We would love to see you downstairs.

And from Jamie:

Our theme for the next trimester is "The Web of Life". Discussions, stories, and crafts will revolve around this central idea. We will continue singing and choose a song to share with the congregation this spring.

I want to thank everyone who helped out for the sockraisin' party. (See Angel nUUs.)

And a special Thank You to Carmen Vanderhoof for helping in the completion of the UU banner. Please add your picture if you cannot find your photo on this church family banner. We will provide the clothespins!

**WHAT'S IN A NAME?***by Kyle Waggener*

When people first meet our family there is usually an awkward moment as we try to get our new acquaintances to pronounce our daughters name. Her name is Rhiannon. There are a couple of ways to pronounce it: "*Ree-ANN-on*" and "*Ree-AWW-on*." We pronounce it "*Ree-ANN-on*" based on the 1976 Fleetwood Mac song that we named her after.

When I first heard the Fleetwood Mac song "Rhiannon," I was in my teens and instantly fell in love with the name. I thought that it would be a beautiful name for my daughter, if I ever had one but I was worried about what people would think of me, naming a child after a rock song. Years later, while working for Nature's Classroom in Ohio (the place where I met my future wife), I had a student in one of my classes named Rhiannon. I was excited that someone had the guts to do what I had always wanted to. I asked her if her parents were Fleetwood Mac fans and she replied that people always ask her that but that she was named after a fairy queen goddess.

When my wife and I were picking out names for our unborn child, I looked up the Fairy Queen "Rhiannon" story on the internet hoping to find a good enough story to convince my

wife. I found information on many different websites. Here's a summary of what I found:

Rhiannon (Great Queen) was the lunar Welsh goddess of fertility and rebirth, transformation, wisdom, and magic. Goddess of ethereal beauty, she was born with the first moonrise. Muse of poets, source of artistic inspiration, she was worshipped outside amidst the trees at woodland alters and underneath the moonlight. She is the epitome of pure love and this beautiful aspect of the Great Goddess responds only to love. She brings sleep and dreams and comforts in times of crisis, loss, and illness. She gives us gifts of tears, forgetfulness (to promote healing), and humor to ease our sufferings in this life and guides us to the next. She is also accompanied by golden birds whose singing can call the dead or grant peaceful sleep to the living. Rhiannon hears our wishes and guides us on the path of inspiration - but only if we learn how to ask! Her dignified strength and perseverance remind us of what all women are, and will continue to be, solid, unwavering beauty and strength, like Mother Earth below our feet.

### WHERE ARE THE 19-YEAR OLDS IN OUR CHURCH?

*by Roger Davis, President*

For that matter, where are any 18 – 21 years olds? My 19 year old son just returned from his first quarter at college. He's really very interesting to be around. He's curious about politics, business, spirituality, creation vs. evolution, abortion, the presidential election—and we've gotten into numerous thought-provoking discussions. Thinking about the dearth of kids his age at the church, I asked him what it would take for our Unitarian Universalist church experience to be interesting to him. Without missing a beat, he replied: "Two words: Hot Babes." So there it was...all his interest in the great questions of life really was driven by carnal desire. He went on to expound that church was really just a bunch of older people who had very little in common with his interests.

As our family discussed this further, my wife pointed out that church really couldn't compete with college. College is a

community of 18-21 year olds with no parents around. The dorm scene is a virtual non-stop party. Campus affords sporting events and concerts, theater, political debates, sidewalk preachers—a veritable circus. The stimulation is endless, intoxicating, and addicting. In fact, Hunter remarked that now that he's home, he's really bored. And, of course, church is boring.

I'm not sure that there is any way for our church, or any church, to compete with the stimulation of college. I just wish that his age group would give us a chance. Have them attend the Forum and get into a few deep discussions. Really listen to a sermon and then decide if it was really boring. Charlotte and I are really enjoying being around him (when he manages to get out of bed), and I do wish that the college-age would share that energy with the church.

### BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

*by Roger Davis, President*

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

- √ Approved budget to renovate and improve the drainage for the playground
- √ Approved a plan to install paddle fans on the sanctuary ceiling to equalize the temperature throughout the room
- √ Acknowledged a generous gift from an anonymous donor, and discussed how to use the money

- √ Confirmed that the church will participate in the Interfaith Hospitality Network during the second quarter of 2008
- √ Continued to discuss Jeff's experimentation with the flow of the worship service. A committee is being formed to consider the format of the service.
- √ Welcomed Building and Grounds' proposal to have lighting installed throughout the grounds and parking lots

### GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS

The bad news is that someone, or several someones, stole our air conditioner for the lower level. The price of copper is so high these days that thieves are no longer content to steal copper tubing from unguarded construction sites. Apparently, they are now stealing entire air conditioning units.

The good news is that it's not the middle of a long, hot summer. Right now, we don't need it. Nonetheless, we are looking into replacing it soon, because if we wait until spring, it will be the busy season for the technicians who install such units. Leslie

Walters, VP, Ways and Means and Paul Adler are coordinating the effort.

For security of the new unit, we are considering better lighting from a new pole in the Spehar Lot, a motion-activated light mounted right above the unit, a fence around it, and a hook-up to our existing alarm system.

The really good news is that we have insurance to cover this loss, less a \$500 deductible. Thanks to Leslie and Uncle Paul for expeditiously arranging a replacement.



**Third Sunday Potluck—January 20<sup>th</sup>!**

## GREEN SANCTUARY INITIATIVE

By Sandy Kurtz, Green Sanctuary Initiative

As 2008 begins all of us are given to thinking about the future whether we make New Year resolutions or not. But first, what will you do with your Christmas tree?

- If you have a plastic tree, of course, you will simply put it away until next year with lights still on it. You might consider changing over to LED lights for next year saving a lot of energy\*
- If you put up a cut tree, it still has value after the holidays are over. If you live in the city of Chattanooga you can put it out for the monthly brush pickup. It will be chipped up and then used by citizens as mulch nutrient for future plants. Alternatively, you can set your tree up in your yard, hang bird food on it (peanut butter mixed with seeds and spread on pine cones or popcorn and raisin strands come to mind), or just allow it to serve as animal habitat or a roosting place out of the cold winds of winter. Eventually it will decompose nourishing the land under it.
- Of course, you may have purchased a live tree. Hopefully you chose a species that can sustain hot summers in our area. Cedar or pine is better than spruce. Any tree you plant will play its part in holding on to carbon as it grows thus helping ameliorate our global warming problems. In fact, planting a tree may be better than the other option of having no tree at all.

Many have tried to convince me over the years that it is more environmentally friendly to have a plastic tree, but I have resisted

because I love the smell of a fresh tree and the creativity involved in arranging the ornaments each year. Now Swedish researchers have found that a real tree uses about 1/5 of the energy of a full-size plastic tree even if it lasted for 10 years. Further real trees, before cutting, will have absorbed a lot of carbon while artificial trees are made from petroleum-based PVC with some toxics involved in manufacturing and energy hogs if shipped from China.

**WISHING YOU A GREEN AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

*And the world cannot be discovered by  
a journey of miles,  
No matter how long,  
But only by a spiritual journey,  
A journey of one inch,  
Very arduous and humbling and  
joyful,  
By which we arrive at the ground  
at our feet,  
And learn to be at home.*

-Wendell Berry

## ART ON THE WALLS

by Nancy Anderson

Black History Month is being recognized by prints done by Margaret Burroughs. Her works in diverse media have been exhibited internationally, and these woodcuts are on loan to us from the Bessie Smith African American Museum.

Born in Louisiana in 1917, Mrs. Burroughs was educated in Chicago and earned a Masters of Fine Arts from the Art Institute there. She taught art in elementary schools, and wrote children's books. A poet, several volumes of her poetry have been published, and she co-edited an anthology, *For Malcolm: Poems on the Life and Death of Malcom X*. In 1961, she and her

husband Charles founded the Du Sable Museum of African American History. Their collected artifacts expressed the Burroughs' commitment to exploring and sharing the cultural history of African Americans.

All of these exhibited works are woodcuts except for one, a colored print. They portray specific individuals (Harriet Tubman, Mahalia Jackson, Malcolm X), a Picasso-style work, normal people on a bus, all giving insight into black culture and experience. These were all done in 2002. Mrs. Burroughs, at 90, remains active continuing to educate and create.

## SHARED BIRTHDAYS

You might be sharing your birthday with someone else at UUC! Not the year, necessarily, but the same month and day. Check the list for January. Do you know your "twin" or "triplet"?

Velma Whittle and Claire Ballew

Sky Papendorp, Elaine Hill, and Maddie Kertay

## CANDLES

*by the Rev. Jeff Briere*

Candles of Community has the potential to be a holy moment. It also has the potential to disrupt the service.

The way we did Candles of Community up until a few weeks ago is not the best we can do. And what we are doing right now is also not the best we can do. We are experimenting and exploring and we may try a few things before we land on something that works for all. This moment in our worship has to work for everyone, not just those who most often have something to say.

Much of what I witnessed during Candles of Community did not rise to the level of worship. I am not saying that it was trivial. It just belonged in another venue.

That suggests we need another venue for personal expressions, personal announcements, news and other experiences which are not appropriate for a Sunday morning service, but still need to be expressed in a safe environment. That is what small group ministries or "covenant groups" are made for. And they are perfect for a church such as this one, which has definitely moved out of family model and into the pastoral model.

I am aware that some people are grumbling. Some, conversely, are pleased. That's good; it shows they care about what happens at church.

Who we hear from right now are those who speak more loudly and more often in public. Many people are not like that and it may be difficult to hear their voices right now. Nonetheless, we must listen to all.

Worship is a corporate act. In my view, the best worship services are ones in which the congregation feels knit together in some way and focuses on something larger than itself. So when a person picks up the mike to speak at Candles of Community, I contend he or she inherits a responsibility to be gracious, inclusive, germane, intelligible and concise. In my view, too many people abrogated that responsibility. Whatever is said ought to bring the congregation together in some way. It ought to be connective. It ought to promote community.

It's not entirely the speaker's fault. I take some blame for not doing a better job of explaining what makes a good moment and what is appropriate. For the past year or so, I have gently tried to explain in my introduction of candles what the moment is all about. I think what I said did not land as well as it could have.

I will preach on the nature of worship and what is appropriate in worship in the new year. If you have ideas, you are welcome to send them to me or join the worship working group. See the article on page 3 for more information.

## ANGEL NUUS

The end of 2007 saw a record number of angels flying around the church. We could not function without their generous contributions of time, energy, and spirit.

**Helen and Ray Solomon** provided poinsettias to beautify the sanctuary during December.

**Leslie Walters** took responsibility for managing the Tree of Lights and provided much needed help in the religious education department.

**Eric Slaton** revived the plants and inter-planted them with newer varieties.

**Mary Hunter** and **Margaret Hudson** provide tireless and enthusiastic help in folding the newsletter each month.

**Paul Adler** put up temporary lights for the World AIDS Day service and is moving forward on board authorization to add additional outside lighting via EPB. **Paul** also saw that a heating problem in the church was quickly repaired. **Paul** along with **Ron Pasch** re-erected one of the signs in the parking lot,

put a cover over our large entrance sign to protect it from the weather, and were spotted hanging plaques and photos.

**Walt Jenison** built the Religious Education (RE) department's Charlie Brown Christmas tree despite an accident that left him temporarily with the use of only one hand.

During the RE Christmas party, these angels were spotted flying around: **Carmen Vanderhoof**, **Kay McCurdy**, **Maddie Kertay**, **Tim Trussel-Smith**, **Diane Davison**, **David Vanderhoof**, **Rich Dwyer**, **Leslie Walters**, and **Eric Pappendorp**

These angels were observed decorating the tree (especially up high, near the top): **Tim Trussel-Smith** and **Richard Ralston**

Thanks to angels **Leslie Walters**, **Dez Papendorp**, **Inga Johannesen**, **James Joyner**, **Mary Hunter** and **Elaine Watkins** for setting up the solstice labyrinth on Friday December 21st. Another new tradition!

## THANK YOU!

The members of our staff wanted to say "thank you" for the generous holiday gift from our congregation. Here are their words:

'Tis that time of year when expressions of love are demonstrated with gifts. However, during the years in which I have been a staff person at this church, I have seen this expression of love and generosity demonstrated throughout the year! Yet, at the holiday season you add the staff to your long, long list of recipients! Thank you for your kindness and generosity. Your love is overwhelming. Best to each of you for a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Chris Tregaskis

I want to Thank You ALL for the thoughtful Holiday gift. Your generosity is inspiring to all of us in RE.

In Faith, Jamie Sullivan

It is a joy to work with the music ministry for our church. Thank you so much for your generous gift, recognition and support of my work with the choir.

Kate Briere

Thank you so much for your thoughtful gift during this holiday season. Of course, you have already given me a much larger gift in calling me to the ministry. It is a privilege and a joy to live and work among you. All the best in the year ahead.

Jeff Briere

## HOW DO YOU FEEL (NOT WHAT DO YOU THINK)

*by David Reed*

A lot of times it is easier to look at things from an intellectual level, not an emotional one. Money is a subject that really lends itself to this circumstance. But it would be a mistake to believe that money does not affect us emotionally.

Do you feel uncomfortable talking about money? Several members of the Board recently attended a presentation on the emotional aspects of money at a District conference. They were so impressed by it that they want to discuss it at our **third Sunday potluck on January 20, 2008**.

The gist of it is that people tend to fall emotionally into one of five money types. How people behave in regard to money is rather predictable based on the type into which they fall. The kicker is that we may not even realize which type drives our behavior because it is often easier to intellectually rationalize how we feel about money rather than analyze how we feel.

We'll give you an advance look at what will be presented at the potluck. Here are the five money types:

**Mindless.** The money mindless avoid thinking about money. They don't know where their money goes, are overly generous, and may not save or pay bills on time—all because money is fear-based or painful for them to think about. They may have grown up with financially irresponsible parents or in homes that experienced trauma due to illness, addiction, or a death in the family.

**Entitled.** The entitled (or deserving) grew up believing that they deserve to be taken care of. As a result, they can be overly generous, spend too much, save too little, and may be careless about money management. Growing up, they often received

"things" rather than love and attention, and as adults they consume, hoping to fill the emptiness in their lives. They also feel shame for overspending.

**Balanced.** It seems that money is a non-issue for very few people. But 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. They grew up with positive role models who did not use money to manipulate them, and lived in comfortable homes where bills were paid on time, with parents and caregivers who both lived within their means and were able to save.

**Worried.** For worriers every decision begins with money. They wonder if they have enough money, if they can afford anything—and what will happen "if." They are cautiously generous, can be stingy, and save, save, save. Spending is not fun. Like the mindless, these people grew up with money trauma but it adapted differently. Worriers usually have experienced real or perceived deprivation, which explains why many people who lived through the Depression era fall into this group.

**Obsessed.** The obsessed are the ones who die with a million dollars under their mattress. Their worries are extreme, and because they are always prepared for the worst they seldom have fun. They pay in cash, live meagerly, and are not generous because they believe they have too little to share. Holding on to money rules their lives.

Please join us on January 20. By the way, there will be a test. And for those of you who read this far into this article, here's the answer: the goal is to try to take a balanced emotional view.

## WORLD AIDS DAY SERVICE

On December 1, the World AIDS Day Service was a successful interfaith worship experience. The collection total was \$743.

Thank you to all those who helped out in coordinating the service:

*The CHATTANUGANS!* Also Charlotte Davis, Bonny Sinclair, Pat Mann, Leslie Walters, Joshua Goldman, Ron and Marge Pasch, Paul Adler, James Joyner, Diana Solomon, Daidee Springer, Steve Hollingsworth, Nancy Anderson, Martha Berry, and Mary Hunter.

After the service, the church received the following note from Chattanooga CARES:

"Dear Friends, thank you so much for holding the World AIDS Day interfaith worship service. We are so grateful to have supporter in the community like you. The service was lovely and the offering raised some badly needed funding. I can't tell you how appreciative we are. Again, thank you so much for all you do for CARES.

—Sarah Spencer, Community Relations Manager."

## WORLD AIDS DAY STATEMENT

*by the Rev. William Sinkford, President of the UUA*

As a religious leader, I have a spiritual commitment to understanding and addressing the truth of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The truth, not the rhetoric of the administration. The truth, not rationalizations based on shame, guilt or fear. The truth is that HIV/AIDS is most often spread through sexual contact. And because sex is involved, we have been unwilling to share life-saving information, truthful information, about effective prevention.

During the last 25 years our government has spent \$1.5 billion on domestic abstinence-only programs. Sadly, we know that abstinence-only education simply does not work. This July, the British Medical Journal released a study concluding that STD and pregnancy rates were unaffected by abstinence-only programs. Similar results have been found in American studies.

The truth is this: our government is withholding medically-sound information that will teach people about safer sex. Our government is withholding simple facts that could save lives. To me and many other people of conscience, this is worse than dishonest—it is immoral.

Profound moral consequences result from our refusal to face the truth. We don't have to go far to see those consequences. For example, Washington, DC, suffers from the highest overall AIDS rate in the nation, with one in 20 residents infected with the HIV virus. As of 2006, over 12,000 DC residents are living with HIV/AIDS. Of that number, 337 children under 13 have been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS. And in 2005, the District accounted for 9 percent of all pediatric AIDS cases in the nation. These figures represent real people, real suffering. And this suffering demands an honest accounting, from a religious as well as a governmental perspective. My friends, we must do more to stop to spread of this virus. We must speak the truth about HIV/AIDS in every school, in every classroom, and with every student.

Abstinence-only education fails our youth, and it fails also to address the lives of many adults. What do abstinence-until-marriage programs tell our gay and lesbian citizens who are denied the basic right to marry in all but one state? Are we telling them to remain celibate until death? This unrealistic expectation not only adds to their feelings of marginalization, it cruelly denies the very fact of their existence and, as a result, endangers them further. We must speak their truth as well before we can conquer HIV.

Internationally, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, also known as PEPFAR, mandates that one-third of all prevention funding must go to abstinence-until-marriage programs. If we factor in programs that prevent mother-to-child transmission, ensure a safe blood supply, and provide clean needles in medical settings, then only 25 percent of our global HIV prevention funding is currently used to support programs that so much as mention condoms.

In 2008, when PEPFAR is due for reauthorization, we can erase the abstinence-only earmark and allow our international partners to provide evidence-based, scientifically-sound, comprehensive HIV prevention programs. We can save lives—but only if Congress starts taking effective HIV prevention seriously.

My prayer on World AIDS Day is that we will summon the moral courage to honestly confront the spread of HIV/AIDS. My prayer is that we will open our minds and our hearts. Because only the truth—not ideology, not wishful thinking—only the truth will help us end the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

[Excerpted from Rev. Sinkford's statement on World AIDS Day. Visit <[www.uua.org/news/newssubmissions/58602.shtml](http://www.uua.org/news/newssubmissions/58602.shtml)> to read the entire statement.]

## ALLIES FOR RACIAL EQUITY CONFERENCE

Allies for Racial Equity (ARE) 2008 Conference registration is now available. Join us in Memphis, TN, February 1-3, 2008 for a dynamic conference on white privilege, anti-racism, and activism.

To register visit, <[www.uuallies.org](http://www.uuallies.org)>.

Registration Fee is \$95. Limited scholarships available—to apply, contact Nancy Lawrence at <[nanalaw@gmail.com](mailto:nanalaw@gmail.com)>.

Join other Unitarian Universalists (UUs) in a weekend of focused engagement to further our understanding of how to dismantle racism in ourselves, in our congregations, and in our Association. This conference is for UUs who identify as white and share a goal of learning to work to end racism and in doing so, become allies to people of Color. Our multigenerational community includes youth, young adult, and adult Unitarian Universalists committed to anti-racism, anti-oppression and multiculturalism in a covenanted relationship.

The schedule includes three workshop tracks, covenant groups, worship services, two key note addresses, and more!

Attendees can choose from three workshop tracks: those for the newcomer (i.e. Anti-Racism 101), workshops for those further along in their journey (i.e., Making Whiteness Visible, In Whose Honor) and nuts and bolts offerings (i.e. Grassroots Organizing, Starting an Antiracism Task Force, responding to the GA resolutions).

We recognize the value of relationship in community building. Participants will engage in small Covenant Groups to process experiences, share and help hold one another accountable as we continue our work beyond the conference.

Worship will be led by Reverend Michael Tino. We'll ground ourselves and our work in shared worship several times, remembering the faith that unites us all and calls us forward to build the Beloved Community.

The keynote speakers are Abbey Tennis and **the Rev. Clark Olsen (husband of Anna Olsen**, our Thomas Jefferson District representative). Abbey Tennis is a young adult currently serving on the Ministerial Fellowship Committee. She joins us in sharing her own journey into understandings of personal white privilege in the context of battling racism. The Rev. Clark Olsen, a retired UU minister who, in response to the call from Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., traveled to Selma, Alabama. Rev. Olsen, along with Rev. James Reeb and Rev. Orloff Miller were attacked by white men as they left a small restaurant. Reeb died two days later from injuries sustained in that attack. Rev. Olsen will share reflections on his continued journey as an anti-racist ally.

Conference Location:

First Unitarian Church of the River  
292 Virginia Avenue West  
Memphis, TN 38101

Conference Lodging:

Hampton Inn Memphis-Poplar, 5320 Poplar Ave, Memphis, 901-683-8500 Ask for Group Rate: Unitarian Universalist Association ARE Conference. \$94/night (includes breakfast). To receive the group rate, reservations must be booked no later than Jan. 11, 2008. Youth will be housed at the First Unitarian Church of the River.

Roundtrip transportation is available from the hotel to the church at no additional charge.

## TRAGEDY IN CLEARWATER

On December 14, four members of the Unitarian Universalist congregation in Clearwater, Florida were shot and killed by one victim's ex-spouse. The gunman, also a member of the church, later killed himself.

This newsletter is not the place to re-print all the details about this tragedy. You may learn more at <[www.news.google.com](http://www.news.google.com)>. Enter the search phrase, [UU Clearwater]. Several stories from bay-

area newspapers are there. If you have no access to the Internet, you may ask Chris of Jeff to print the articles for you.

Expressions of condolence may be sent to:

Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater  
2470 Nursery Road  
Clearwater, Florida 33764

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS OUT

Start off the New Year with the fun and fellowship of Wednesday Nights Out. This is a great opportunity to get to know your fellow church members in a casual and relaxing environment. Call the church office if you need more information.

1/2	Dinner at the Church: Sign up soon at the church! Very popular!	\$5	Definitely FAMILY FRIENDLY!
1/9	Nagoya (FF)	\$\$	4921 Brainerd Rd.
1/16	La Altena (FF)	\$\$	Corner of Main and Broad
1/23	Royal Thai (Kids are welcome, but a more adult atmosphere)	\$\$	8174 East Brainerd
1/30	Sitar (FF)	\$\$	Lee Hwy near 153, next to Sportsman's Warehouse

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

CHIONS

On January 12 from 10:30-12:00, the Chattanooga Institute of Noetic Science presents *Living Within Your Margins at Your Full Potential: How Soft-Tissue Therapy Can Help* by Tim Russell.

The body has an ideal space in which to occupy and have its being. This talk and demonstration will explore simple ways to give the body opportunities to reset itself from the effects of pain, stress and trauma.

Tim is a manual therapist specializing in various forms of soft tissue therapies. He has a B.S. in Psychology and certifications in Massage Therapy, Neuromuscular Therapy and Biovalent Systems Manual Therapy. He continues to enhance his understanding of the body with studies in Craniosacral Therapy, Biovalent Systems, Myofascial Release, and Tai Chi Ch'uan. Tim's unique approach to bodywork involves listening to the tension patterns within the tissues and then assisting the body in its movement towards greater balance and ease. Tim has been on staff at the Center for Integrative Medicine since 2001.

**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 at*  
*<niayla1@yahoo.com>*  
*or 423-485-1249*

CREATIVE CARDS

The next workshop for Creative Cards will be held Monday, January 14 at 7:00. There is a \$10.00 fee, which covers all materials. Everyone is welcomed, but space is limited. The last day to register is January 6th. Call Diane Davison at 423-838-5240 to register.

CEMETERY PLOTS

The UCC 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 UCC Endowment Committee (David Reed, Buck O'Rear, George Helton).

**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 February issue of *the nUUsletter* is **January 15<sup>th</sup>**.



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 423-624-2985 ✕ FAX 423-624-0519  
 www.uuc.org ✕ office at uuc dot org

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DATE	1/6	1/13	1/20	1/27
TOPIC	If You Do Well	The State of the Church	A Vision of Worship	Another Vision of Worship
LEADER	the Rev. Stacy Rector	the Rev. Jeff Briere	the Rev. Jeff Briere	the Rev. Jeff Briere
BOT MEMBER	Nicole Barnhart	Roger Davis	Adam Couch	Daidee Springer
GREETER	Harold Linn	Mary Hunter	Carolyn Moore	Harold Linn
USHER	Marge Pasch	Charles Redwine	Ruby Bruns	Steve Sherman
CHANCEL DÉCOR	Mary Hunter	Mary Hunter	Mary Hunter	Mary Hunter
SOUND REINFORCEMENT	David Reed	Mike Walters	Rich Dwyer	Joshua Goldman
MUSIC	Steve Hollingsworth	Marcia Jenison	Kate Briere	Scott Sullivan & Joe Ridolfo

*When you see some one of worth, think of how you may emulate.  
 When you see someone unworthy, examine your own character.  
 ~ Confucius*