



CULTIVATING A STRONG LEADERSHIP COMMUNITY
by Maddie Kertay, President, Board of Trustees

One of the perks of being president of the church is the wide variety of mail that is directed my way. It's a veritable smorgasbord with everything from offers for "What Would Jesus Do" winter ministry leg warmers "for the fashionable minister or congregational president on the go!" to genuine (say JEN-U-INE) vinyl hymnal covers, gold lettering extra! There really seems to be no end to the items that are hawked in my direction so it's a good day when something as inspiring and interesting as *InterConnections* ends up in my church mail box. *InterConnections* is a quarterly publication of the Unitarian Universalist Association that is devoted to the issues of church leadership.

Leadership is a word that makes a lot of people uncomfortable, but leadership is really about direction and change. Then again change is also a hard word since often we are quite happy to stay in our familiar, safe situations even when we know at heart that growth (through leadership) would take us to places we never thought we could go. Sometimes this is plain scary.

In this past month's issue of *InterConnections* there was an article dealing with a group of Unitarian Universalist churches, their previous lack of leadership and vision, and what they did to change the status quo by cultivating a community of leadership. This was not an easy process, but when accomplished they moved their once content, if a bit stale, churches into dynamic "Breakthrough" congregations. The article celebrated their growth with some details about the process each church endured to "breakthrough." And while each church came to the process for a different reason, each continued to cite the fact that visionary leadership was central to the process and that each person in each of the churches was part of the vision. *Each person in the church* was part of the process of leadership to their new status as a "Breakthrough Congregation."

Where do you see this church going in 5 years? How about 10? Will it still be here in 15 years? Will it continue to stand as place of loving acceptance of those who find the search as meaningful as the answer? If so, what is your place in making that happen? What talents can you bring to make sure that the place you embrace is here years from now so others can find the same comfort and acceptance? What can we do now as people of courage, conviction, and strength to lead the way to our tomorrows?

I look forward to hearing your answers.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH OF CHATTANOOGA
*a liberal religious
community*

3224 NAVAJO DRIVE
CHATTANOOGA, TN 37411

423-624-2985
FAX 423-624-0519
www.uuc.org

*Board President
Maddie Kertay*

*Minister
Rev. Jeff Briere*

*Religious Education
Director
Jamie Sullivan*

*Music Director
Kate Briere*

*Church Administrator
Chris Tregaskis*

*the nUUsletter Editor
Wendy Sapp*

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SUNDAY SERVICES ♦ 11:00 AM

November 2nd ♦ *ASSEMBLY REQUIRED*

Unitarian Universalism is not a gadget from Hammacher-Schlemmer. You have to put it together yourself. No one can do it for you. The Rev. Jeff Briere leads this service.

November 9th ♦ *SEVEN INTO THREE*

The Rev. Jeff Briere leads this service and he will offer his ideas about the recent movement to refine or restate our seven Unitarian Universalist principles.

November 16th ♦ *A KNOCKOUT!*

This is **New Member Sunday**, we will welcome new members to our church community. Our service is a pre-thanksgiving "Thank You" to all those people who make our church the best it can be. **NOTE!** A potluck luncheon follows the service.

November 23rd ♦ *JUSTICE IS FLOWING*

The President and CEO of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, Charlie Clements, visits our church today. Charlie will reflect on the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which he believes has had more impact in the 20th century than any other written document. He will discuss how each of us can help fulfill the ideals that Eleanor Roosevelt mid-wifed into existence on Dec 10th, 1948. Today we kick off the "Guest at Your Table" program and we'll share the plate with the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

November 30th ♦ *COMING HOME*

In a society that seems especially preoccupied with the configuration of people who make up a family, the place we know as home—and what we choose to call family—may actually be about something much more intuitive. The Rev. Gary Hyndman preaches.

See page 7 for more information about this month's two guest speakers!

SUNDAY FORUMS

The Forum meets on the lower floor, down the hall, last room on the left. Everyone interested in the topic for the morning is more than welcome to attend and join in the discussion. Elaine Watkins and Claire Hale planned the programs for November. The last three topics may be switched around. If so, the changes will be reported in Friday's *UUpdate*.

November 2 ~ *Experience My Ashram*. Mary Frey, who is visiting her mother in Alexian Village, has lived the last 16 years in India. Mary spends part of the year in an ashram run by a "living guru," a compassionate, hugging woman (she is known as the Hugging Mother) who has sponsored good works throughout the world, including building a number of universities. Mary will show a short film, tell us about her guru and life in the ashram, and answer questions. She asks only that we listen with respect to a different belief.

November 9 ~ *Collected Thoughts About General Assembly*. Mary Hunter, who has attended many General Assemblies, will review her experience at GA this year.

November 16 ~ *Impressions of General Assembly by a First-Timer*. Elaine Watkins will give her impressions of General Assembly from the viewpoint of a first-time participant.

November 23 ~ *UUSC*. Charlie Clements, president of Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, will speak to the Forum. He is an enthusiastic speaker who travels constantly touting the world programs of the UUSC.

November 30 ~ *More General Assembly Impressions*. We will hear more about General Assembly, this time from old-timers to be announced.

THE INTERDEPENDENT WEB

by Steve Hollingsworth

Reader's Digest used the formula for years: Get good writers to describe extraordinary people in their lives. Their series, "My Most Memorable Character," is gone now, but the idea is still a good one. A formula I've used before, I'd call, "My, my! Unitarian Universalism sure is a small world!"

the nUUsletter's newest columnist is Tim Trussell-Smith, a member here at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga gone off to seminary at Andover Newton in New England. He's already doing a part-time gig in religious education at First Parish Church in Dorchester, MA where his supervisor is the Rev. Art Lavoie. Art Lavoie's spouse (at least in Massachusetts) is Dr. Mark David Watanabe, perhaps the most remarkable character that I can call a close friend.

Mark is the son of a Japanese immigrant. He is both brilliant and modest; no one gets a full picture of all of the ways he has achieved except by observing him over a long time or hearing others tell his story.

He has two doctorates. He is an acknowledged authority in the field of psychopharmacology. For years he maintained a running regimen that let him enter and run marathons when one was nearby—no extra training necessary!

I met Mark at Second Unitarian Church (2U) in Chicago. At 2U he was the "back row guy," but his intellect and drive to excel led him to serve 2U on the search committee in '95-'96—perhaps the toughest and most responsible assignment any church volunteer ever tackles. Acquiring a taste for leadership and willing to take on tough challenges, he left Chicago and stepped right in as membership chair at First UU Society of San Francisco at a time when it needed to be reassembled. When his union with Art led him to Boston, he was soon co-president of the Arlington Street Church there. Whatever his assignment, he keeps helping out in the same quiet way, having a profound impact wherever he goes. 2U remembers. Today the annual "Mark D. Watanabe Back Row Guy Award" goes to the volunteer whose significant contributions were least recognized.

Yet Mark is my precious friend not for achievements but for lots of intangibles. Phrases like inextinguishable integrity, unquenchable loyalty, and unflinching caring only point a direction. What he is, he is for all lucky enough to know him.

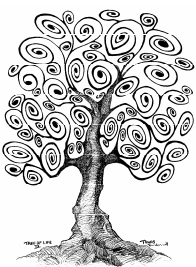
By the time you read this, I hope to have met Tim and Mark in Boston using my trip to the Interweave Continental board retreat as an excuse to "reune" with old friend and new. It really is a small UU world.

DON'T FORGET TO FALL BACK!

Set your clocks back 1 hour on Saturday, Nov 1 so you are on time for services on Sunday!



PAGAN PERSPECTIVE



- Dates of Interest:
 November 2 - Study Group –
 Topic: Sacred Objects
- November 1 - Samhain (Celtic)
 November 1-2 Day of the Dead (Mexican)
 November 13 - Full Moon
 November 27 - New Moon

INTERLUDE

Interlude is the midweek service that meets on Wednesday nights at 6:00 pm. The services are designed to quiet an over-active mind, to focus on one concept and permit some regeneration in the middle of the week. All are invited.

- November 19: *Acceptance*
 November 26: *Affirmations*

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 (UCC).

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UUPDATE

This month, we have messages from three critical members of our religious education team:

From April Waggener: I would like to introduce myself. I am your board representative for Religious Education and Growth. I invite you to let me know of any concerns and praise of our program. You may send a message to <cedargoddess@yahoo.com> or call (423-867-3677). If you would like to talk to me in person and are not sure who I am, there is a picture of me outside the minister's office or you can ask Jamie.

I would also like to remind you that our RE program is a cooperative program. Jamie still has openings for teachers and assistants on various Sundays through the end of the year, please sign-up on the RE bulletin board outside the office door. Thank you!

From Dez Papendorp: During November, the RE teachers will discuss the *Guest at Your Table* service project that will begin within our congregation. This program will teach our children the importance of their individual contributions as they explore the beliefs stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In our classrooms, we will discuss how donations made to the *Guest at Your Table* boxes will positively impact upholding our own Unitarian Universalist principles and Universal Human Rights Worldwide. Hopefully this will fuel interesting learning within the church and

within your home. RE is happy to support this service project of the UU Service Committee.

From Jamie Sullivan, Director of Religious Education (DRE):

A DRE Thanksgiving

I am thankful for:

Our UU children's bright smiles and questions each Sunday,
our RE Committee for showing up and working together to help sustain our program,
for our parents and volunteers stepping up to teach in our classrooms,
for our dedicated teen teachers, Bonnie and James,
for Dez and Eric Papendorp who are helping with our *Kiva Project* and *Guest at your Table*,
for Maddie and Les Kertay for buying books for the Medieval class book club to be later donated to an at risk Hamilton County Elementary School, Calvin Donaldson Elementary School,
for the many lessons I am learning as DRE,
for our church staff,
and for the friendships we build in our UU church.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP RETREAT

Bonny Sinclair and James Joyner were pleased to represent the Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga at a recent Youth Leadership Training for the Thomas Jefferson District (TJD), held at the Holston Presbyterian Camp in Banner Elk, NC. Hosts and facilitators for the weekend were Taryn Strauss, Director of Religious Education (DRE), UU-Asheville, and Tandy Scheffler, DRE UU-Oak Ridge.

Friday evening Jim Key, TJD President, spoke with the group about the future of the district, encouraging input and participation from the teens, who were part of the weekend along with the religious education teachers. The evening's closing allowed all to join together and draw a sand mandala of designs meant to represent each person's goal for the weekend. Saturday began with several

thought provoking exercises to think about leadership and communication styles through art, role play, and small group discussion. While it was all thought provoking and exciting, the "Theater of the Oppressed" was the most anticipated by the youth and the most interesting to watch. The highlights of the afternoon were a slide down a 50 foot tube slide, a hike through the woods, youth games with a rousing bonfire (courtesy of the pyromania of Bonny and James) leading up to ending the day with songs, s'mores, and fellowship.

The fellowship was spirit lifting; the reflections enlightening; the conversations motivating; and the teens inspired us all.

ART ON THE WALLS

During November and December, children of all ages will delight in miniature creations by Marjorie Pasch, an involved Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga member. Among Marge's many interests and hobbies is the creation of miniature rooms, vegetables stands, and city fronts of yesterday.

The creation that is "Mouse House" is a child's magical fantasy. The holiday season is the perfect time to enjoy "Marge's World."

Thank you, Marge for sharing your gift with us!

INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK

by Charlotte Davis, IHN Coordinator

Our participation in the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) is an examination of our community and our connections to the community. Our interactions with our guests tell a wonderful story about change. Our recent hosting was wrought with many stories. We began with a request to house four families (more than we usually host), continued as we found out the Chattanooga Friends Meeting (Quakers) wanted to be a support congregation and help us, and finished with a cautious agreement to house the four families, and ending with a successful hosting.

Lynn Schmissrauter, a recent guest speaker, discussed change in our church community and left us with a lingering thought that change brings chaos. This hosting of four families created change and, yes, chaos. There was chaos but there was peace. Each time we host the families of IHN, I take the opportunity to focus on the following story about peace and keep a perspective of change.

"There once was a king who offered a prize to the artist who would paint the best picture of peace. Many artists tried. The king looked at all the pictures. There were only two he really liked, and he had to choose between them.

"One picture was of a calm lake; the lake was a perfect mirror for peaceful towering mountains all around it. Over head was a blue sky with fluffy white clouds. All who saw this picture thought that it was a perfect picture of peace. The other picture had mountains, too, but these were rugged and bare. Above was an angry sky from which rain fell and lightning played. Down the side of the mountain tumbled a foaming waterfall. This did not look peaceful at all. But when the king looked closely, he saw behind the

"waterfall a tiny bush growing in a crack in the rock. In the bush a mother bird had built her nest. There, in the midst of the rush of angry water, sat the mother bird on her nest in perfect peace.

"The people of the kingdom and all the artists wanted to know which picture won the prize. Before he announced the prize winning painting the king explained "Peace does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble, or hard work. Peace means to be in the midst of all those things and still be calm in your heart. That is the real meaning of peace." The king chose the second painting."

After all our guests arrived on Sunday, I felt like our congregation and our support congregations-Pilgrim Congregational Church and Friends-were much like that mother bird providing a safe haven for our guests. As the week progressed, I noticed something unusual occurred, that our guests became the mother bird finding peace where they were. Our dedicated participation to support these families became the nest. At the end of the week I realized these four families had become very connected to each other amid the angry skies and waterfalls in their lives. We provided a place for peace for the IHN families for one week, fostering the change which occurred as they all became further connected to each other, to us, and to the community.

I know if I begin to list everyone who helped with IHN, I will miss someone. Thank you ALL. So many of you help with encouraging words, as well as completing the many tasks it takes to provide housing for our families. Thank you all so much for supporting these families while their needs are so great in this ever changing world in which we reside.

IHN IS TURNING 10!

Chattanooga's Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) is 10 years old. Please help us give thanks and celebrate by saving the following dates. For more information on either event, contact Charlotte Davis.

Sunday, November 9th at 4 pm Interfaith Service of Thanksgiving - Burks United Methodist Church, 6433 Hixson Pike.

This will be a wonderful service to recognize and give thanks for IHN's ten years of service to Chattanooga's homeless families with children. Burks was the first church to open its door to our families, so it is very fitting that the service be held at Burks. Bonnie Cummins the founder of IHN in Chattanooga will speak on

how IHN began in Chattanooga. A special offering for IHN will be collected during the service. A reception will follow.

Tuesday, November 11th 6:00 - 8:30 pm Ten year celebration dinner at First Centenary UMC, at the new Oak Street Center.

The featured speaker is Karen Olson, founder of the National Interfaith Hospitality Network and current Executive Director of Family Promise. Dinner reservations will be necessary. Tables will be available for purchase.

A PLEDGE BY ANY OTHER NAME
by David Reed, Vice-President, Ways and Means

The Stewardship Committee is beginning the preparations for this year's Stewardship Campaign. Our theme this year is *Assuring the Future*. This article is the first in a series of articles you'll see each month until the campaign ends.

Aside from communication, which we need more of, you'll see that there is another motive behind the series of articles. We want to increase comfort levels when we talk about money.

This month, I'm going to elaborate a bit on a subject that is usually mentioned during the Stewardship Campaign. 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 plans. Well, sometimes life gets in the way of our intentions.

The reason I mention this is that a member of the congregation recently related that she did not attend church for a period of time last year because she *"couldn't afford to make my pledge payment and was too embarrassed and ashamed even to set foot in the door."*

I can relate to that feeling. The year that I got divorced, I had to reduce my pledge in mid-year by more than half. When I expressed what I had to do and why I had to do it, I was met with nothing but concern for my well-being. But it felt bad nonetheless.

As an organization, we may not necessarily be able to make someone feel better in such a situation. But it is my fervent hope that we absolutely do nothing to make the person feel worse.

Simply stated, stuff happens. We recognize and understand that, and in fact make allowance for it in our budget planning process. The person quoted above was having trouble making pledge payments because several things went wrong at the same time. That is when we most need you to come to the church. *Again, when things are going wrong, we need you to be with us.* In such times, the money is honestly just a detail that we can quietly work out.

Obviously, when we begin our Stewardship Campaign, we will be relying on your continued generosity. Unlike Blanche DuBois, we cannot rely on the kindness of strangers. But a pledge should not become a burden.

DOUBLE THE PLATE, ACT II

Back on September 14th we had our first Double the Plate Sunday for this year. The congregation more than matched our donor's challenge of \$300 by putting \$365 in the plate, a resounding success. A big thanks to all who contributed so generously.

Now is our chance to shine even more brightly. On November 9th, the donor will offer an incredible \$500, obviously believing that we surely won't match that sum. Let's prove that assumption wrong and come prepared with a little extra cash.

Consider this: If fifty people each put \$10 in the plate, we would reach our goal. Ten dollars is the cost of four or five cups of coffee. More Double the Plate Sundays are scheduled before next summer, and the donors for all have set generous matching amounts. But this will be our last chance to go for as much as \$500. Let's do it!

Double the Plate is a program with an anonymous member who offers to match the Sunday collection up to a given amount. If we don't collect that amount, the donor only matches what we collect. Despite the similarity in names, it is separate from Share the Plate in which we give the collection to a charity.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Once again, we have lots of birthdays to celebrate at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga this month.

Wish our fellow UUC members "Happy Birthday!" when you see them!

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Lee Adler (11/4) | Ira Long (Nov 9) | Harold Linn (11/16) | Rose Ann Copeland (11/23) | Bart Johnson (11/26) |
| Dottie Antman (11/4) | Roger Davis (11/10) | Gary Sottong (11/20) | Matt Long (11/23) | Chris Boshers (11/28) |
| Charles Corn (11/4) | Keegan Ford (11/12) | Sharon Locke (11/21) | Crystal Parker (11/23) | |
| Inga Johannesen (11/ 6) | Leslie O'Rear (11/15) | John Stanridge (11/21) | | |

ANGEL NUUS

This past month, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga was blessed with more angels than can be mentioned in one article. Many are mentioned below. For news about more angels, be sure to read the Religious Education UUpdate on page 4 and Interfaith Hospitality Network on page 5. Many more angels completed their works in anonymity and we want to thank them as well.

Eric Slaton, the Green Thumb Angel, donated many decorative cabbage & kale plants. **Jeff & Kate Briere**, **Kay McCurdy**, **Isabelle McCurdy** and **Sophie McCurdy** receive their own green tinted wings for planting them.

Photography Angel **Noel Dillard** recently took photos of the new Board of Trustees and will work with Jerry Smith to create new church photos for the website.

Nature Fairy Wings are awarded to **Isabel & Sophie McCurdy** for

their diligent hunting of acorn caps which were desperately needed for the Fall Festival children's craft.

A long list of people earned halos (or is it sombreros) for their work to make the Mexican potluck a success: **Chris Ballew**, **Donna Crompton**, **Lori Emerson**, **John Nelson**, **Julia Nelson**, **Maurine Olin**, **Maddie Kertay**, **Catherine Long**, **Linda Helton**, and **Lee Adler**.

Lasts but certainly not least, we have two of our most diligent angels, **PAUL ADLER** and **RON PASCH**. The Memorial Garden committee wants to give a big, big thank you to Ron Pasch and Paul Adler for installing the plaques in the Memorial Garden and the sanctuary. Another UCC member wrote, "On behalf of everyone here at the UCC, a heartfelt THANK YOU goes out to Paul Adler and Ron Pasch, who have given so much time and energy updating our electrical system....not to mention a million other jobs, large and small, they accomplish each week. Paul and Ron, you're our heroes!"

GUEST AT YOUR TABLE

On November 23, we'll open our *Guest at Your Table* program with a special guest speaker, Charlie Clements, the President and CEO of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

By bringing home a beautiful *Guest at Your Table* box, families and individuals learn about how the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee puts our shared principles into action in the United States and around the world. Through a potent combination of advocacy, education, and partnerships with grassroots organizations, UUSC promotes **economic rights**, advances **environmental justice**, defends **civil liberties**, and preserves the rights of people in times of **humanitarian crisis**.

With each box comes a copy of *Stories of Hope*, written to teach children, youth, and adults how the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee helps to change our world for the better. The stories introduce you to human-rights champions, like Serafina, the South African grandmother who partnered with UUSC and others to restore the constitutionally protected water rights of marginalized people.

When we share our blessings with our guests, we ensure that UUSC and people like Serafina can continue their important work.

WHO'S PREACHING?

On November 23rd, we welcome **Charlie Clements** to our pulpit. Charlie Clements is a public health physician and human rights activist currently serving as president and CEO of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. He says the trajectory of his life has been largely shaped by three moral decisions: 1) His refusal as an Air Force pilot in Vietnam to fly further missions in support of the invasion of Cambodia; 2) His choice to bear witness as a physician in a free-fire zone in rural El Salvador during its civil war; 3) His participation in an emergency human rights mission to Iraq a few weeks before the current war began. His wife, Gigi, and his children, Eric (12) and Jesse (10), are his most important undertaking in life. Clements is author of *Witness to War*

(Bantam) and subject of an Academy Award-winning documentary of the same title.

On November 30th, we welcome **the Rev. Gary Hyndman** to our pulpit. Gary is a Unitarian Universalist minister who lives and works in Greenville, South Carolina as a free lance journalist. He is the former minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Spartanburg, SC and was consulting minister of the Unitarian Universalists of Transylvania County NC from 1999 to 2002. He is married to Susan Gordon and has a grown son named Jonathan.

How Much Is Too Much?

by the Rev. Jeff Briere

Is a forty-five million dollar yearly salary excessive? How about 225 million a year?

Is a million dollars too much for a year-end bonus? How about 65 million?

I began thinking about questions like these a few years ago when I became aware of the incredible amounts of money being made by some of the financial jockeys who ride our horses on Wall Street. I say our horses, because they aren't riding their own. They are using our money to make more money. Recently, several horses stumbled and fell.

I don't begrudge anyone a reasonable commission. Giving your agent a percentage of the profit seems to be sensible compensation for a job well done. It is a good incentive for the agent to make the most with the resources at hand. Salespeople all over the world are paid this way.

I had a job once in which I used other people's money to make

some for myself. I sold money to people who wanted to buy a car. I'd buy the money from a bank at four percent and sell it for six, seven, or eight percent. I could pocket the difference. No one told me how much I should mark up the loan. There was a built-in mechanism for me to be greedy, and I didn't like that. Oh, I liked making money, all right. But I didn't like the fact that I was squeezing it out of people who could barely afford it. The comforting thought that I was helping people find reliable transportation was not comforting when I knew that they'd wear out their new car going to work to repay the loan.

I suspect that usury laws, both religious and secular, originated with people who became uncomfortable when they realized that money made with money has the potential to turn decent people into greedy people. That potential is stronger than ever. In a free market, the only regulators are the free marketeers.

So how much is too much? I don't know. But I know that when money is involved, rare is the person who can resist the urge to make too much money. Greed can make a monster of anyone.

BOARD DELIGHTS

by Maddie Kertay, President, Board of Trustees

At their October meeting, the following "delights" were part of the board's activities:

- √ Considered proposal bid for new copier since church copier is on its last legs. Topic was moved to a study group that will report back with competitive bids by next meeting.
- √ Approved the motion to update church office business software.

- √ Tabled plans for playground fencing until new fiscal year.
- √ Discussed visionary and long term goals for the board.
- √ Discussed proposal to request an RSVP from church members for church wide events to help in better planning.

THANKSGIVING DINNER

On Thursday, November 27 at 3 pm Jeff and Kate Briere will be hosting a Thanksgiving Dinner at the church.

Jeff and Kate will provide the turkey, dressing, and gravy. We ask you to bring your favorite family dish to share: potatoes, cranberries, squash, pumpkin pie, corn casserole and so forth.

Please come and join us for a time of great food and fellowship. A sign up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall.

Please sign up by Sunday, November 23 so we know how many turkeys to roast.

Hope to see you and family there!

MUSIC NUUS

Sunday, November 9th, **Tiffany Envid** will be playing the harp for Sunday service. She has asked her husband, **Jeremy**, to perform with her.

Tiffany is a full-time professional harpist, who plays for weddings, receptions, dinners, luncheons, and churches in the Chattanooga area. She is a harp instructor and also plays for local colleges and universities when they need a harpist for an opera or musical. Additionally, she also plays with L'Abri Symphonic Orchestra.

Jeremy is a Middle School Music Director for Eastbrook Middle School, where he is in charge of the band and chorus. He's been teaching music for the past 5 years. He is a member of the Chattanooga Big Band and plays regularly for L'Abri Symphonic Orchestra. They have been married for over 5 years and have two children, Jazlyn who is 3 and Jayden who is 1.

Sunday, November 16, **Jesse Blue** will play his electric upright bass for our Sunday service. Here is Jesse's autobiography...in

his own words.

"I was born on a commune in Canada in 1974 as dad was avoiding Vietnam. The 'Hippie Ideals' of free thought, questioning authority and a Universal love stuck, as did a deep love for art, and specifically music. I caught the 'bug' at an early age, and was immediately drawn to the upright, or string bass. I studied classical music throughout high school and had the privilege to play in the orchestra (Remember when schools had orchestras?), however, I always had to pay two rental fees every year in order to have a bass at home to practice on—cuz you simply ain't getting one of those things in a 1982 Subaru sedan or on a school bus! I also wanted to explore different sonic textures (and volumes) available to electric musicians. So I spent 8 years at 'Hard Knocks University' learning wood working, and luthiery (stringed instrument building). I now am owner/operator of <www.ergoinstruments.com>, a venture specializing in the Electric Upright Bass. My beautiful wife and children continue to be an inspiration!

BALANCED ON THE BRINK OF WISDOM...

"THE TIES THAT BIND"

by *Tim Trussell-Smith*

This afternoon, my mother and aunt returned to Arizona after a 5-day visit with April and me in Boston. It was fun and exciting but also stressful—simply because it interrupted our weekly routine. In short, it was "family time." At its best, family prompts us to enjoy life more fully. At the same time, family can be stressful. For many people, family is downright destructive. It's often said that "no one can hurt you like family."

And with my family in town, I've been thinking a lot about how a church is like a family. They both pass on stories and memories which help form our sense of who we are—for better or worse. And they can both be the source of intense conflict and pain. Some of us build our entire identity around our families while others flee their family identity. And, obviously, this also happens in our religious lives.

In the past, of course, the family and the church identities were often inextricably linked. But the interesting and, I think, liberating thing about our contemporary culture is that church is not a given and also that it is more and more often *not* bound up with our family identity. Because of this, a huge segment of America's

population has a different religious identity than the one they were born into. This seems especially true of Unitarian Universalists. Many people decry this as the "cafeteria" model of religion but I see the free choice (or dismissal) of one's faith identity as a boon to the spiritual life in some ways. Most clearly, it means that those of us who have adopted a faith really are invested in that particular identity. It means something to us aside from just being another trait which our family passes on to us. We are a society of converts.

This model emphasizes our individuality in powerful ways—and that may present some problems. Despite our connection to our chosen faith, can we really form a bond with the members of our new religious family? How do we create true community without the benefit of shared narrative and memories? Perhaps in our case the model of friendship or marriage might work better than that of biological kinship. However we choose to describe our church "family," it seems clear that we have to commit even more fully to the hard work which comes with building healthy relationships.

We have become not a melting pot but a beautiful mosaic.
Different people, different beliefs, different yearnings, different hopes, different dreams.
~ Jimmy Carter

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

UU-CRAFT COOPERATIVE

The UU Craft Cooperative will meet Mon., Nov 10 at 6:30. Bring your favorite craft and come join other crafters as they knit, paint, weave, and solder their way to happiness. Child care available by RSVP only and is \$2 per child. Contact Maddie Kertay <maddie6@bellsouth.net> or Diane Davison <ddavison8@comcast.net> for more details or to RSVP.

SPECIAL WEDNESDAY NIGHT IN

POST-ELECTION RE-CONNECTION,
DE-COMPRESSION AND TRUE CONFESSION!

On November 5th at 6:30, join us for a special edition of Wednesday Night In. This is the day after the election, so we will open the microphones and you can spew, celebrate or calmly remark that you're glad it's all over. Jeff Briere will prepare a yummy batch of his world-famous Hamilton County posole. Sign up in the Fellowship area. A donation of \$5 (adult) and \$3 (child) to defray costs will be asked from those not bringing food. Everyone invited.

CHIONS

On November 8 from 10:30-noon, Mike Jaynes will present *For the Animals' Sake: From Factory Farming to Deep Vegetarianism*.

This presentation supports Animal Rights and opposes American mass confinement factory farming on an ethical basis. Imprisoning, commodifying, and slaughtering sentient non-human animals for unnecessary human consumption actually diminishes humanity. The inherent possibility of joy in being human is depleted by the large scale torture and terror delivered to the ten billion helpless animals killed for food each year in ways of which we can't be aware. The presentation offers an overview of American intensive factory farming, introduces attendees to the basics of Animal Rights Philosophy, and urges a broad cultural paradigm shift toward sustainability, peace, and non-violence.

Mike Jaynes is an internationally published animal advocate who teaches English and Western Humanities at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Building a national reputation in the Animal Rights and Advocacy world, his primary research interests include Animal Advocacy Ethics, Eco--Feminism, and Biocentrism. His academic and creative writing has appeared in dozens of peer reviewed journals, nationally circulated magazines, newspapers, e--journals, and books including *NPR*

(*National Public Radio*), *ABCNews.com*, *The Washington Post*, *About.com*, *All Creatures*, and many others. He speaks nationally on behalf of captive and performing elephants, animal advocacy, and vegetarian eco--feminism. Circuses hate him.

Welcome SINGERS!!
Beginners/Intermediate/Advanced
Sundays 9:15 - 10:30
Come join the fun!!!

NATIONAL APPLE DESSERT DAY
Sunday, November 30

On Sunday, November 30 we are asking everyone to bring their favorite Apple Dessert to share at Coffee Hour. Crisps, pies, cakes, breads, strudels, kuchen, cookies, danish, anything apple.



Come and enjoy the treats and the best coffee and conversation in eastern Tennessee!

FOR SALE

The Endowment Committee seeks to sell four cemetery plots and a bronze marker located in the Christos Garden section of Chattanooga memorial Park in Red Bank. The retail value of this offer is over \$10,000 but the Endowment Committee will see the plots and markers for the following prices:

- * All four plots plus the bronze marker for \$4,500.
- * Two of the plots and the marker for \$2,300.
- * Two of the plots (without the marker) for \$2,200

If you are interested, please contact David Reed, Buck O'Rear, or George Helton.

THE NUUSLETTER SUBMISSIONS
the nUUsletter welcomes articles from members and friends of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga. Please contact Wendy Sapp at <nUUsletter@uuc.org> or 706-694-0940 by December 15th.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
 3224 NAVAJO DRIVE
 CHATTANOOGA, TN 37411-5036
 423-624-2985 ✱ FAX 423-624-0519
 www.uuc.org ✱ office@uuc.org

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DATE	11/2	11/9	11/16	11/23	11/30
TOPIC	Assembly Required	7 Into 3	A Knockout!	Justice is Flowing	Coming Home
LEADER	The Rev. Jeff Briere	the Rev. Jeff Briere	the Rev. Jeff Briere	Charlie Clements	the Rev. Gary Hyndman
BOT MEMBER	David Reed	Elaine Watkins	Diane Davison	April Waggener	Eric Papendorp
GREETER	Linda Park	Harold Linn	Charles Redwine	Ken Nickerson	Eric Slaton
USHER	Yvonne Derrickson	Christina Koch	Ken Headrick	Pat Brethen	Donna Crompton
MUSIC	Kate Briere	Tiffany Envid	Jesse Blue	Steve Hollingsworth	Steve Hollingsworth
SOUND REINFORCEMENT	Joshua Goldman	Buck O'Rear	Karl Hunt	Roger Davis	David Reed

*Grace isn't a little prayer you chant before a meal---
 it's a way to live.*

~ Jackie Windspear