



THE NUUSLETTER

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF CHATTANOOGA
JANUARY, 2009

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

by Maddie Kertay, President, Board of Trustees

During these days where there is little good news to be found on television or in our local paper, I think it's wise to remember that despite what we read "good" is still going on. I just think we need to look a little harder for it and make sure to pass it on when we see it. Each Sunday I see "good" going on in our church. I see families helping those in need with both emotional support and monetary acts of grace. I see more and more children who are happy to be at church; from smiling toddlers to helpful teens, they all come thorough the door happy to be part of our Unitarian Universalist faith. I see choir members getting up extra early and making the dedicated choice to come to practice all in an effort to provide us with an even more enriching service from which to take strength. I see lots of people taking the time after service to enjoy a cup of coffee and the strong feeling of community that we are growing. I see dedicated volunteers giving up personal time to make sure that our building and programs are the best that they can be. I see "good" all around me, what do you see?

I look forward to the New Year and some interesting forms of church outreach. This month we are very excited to unveil a new Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga program, **Third Thursday Cinema**. Please mark your calendars now and make plans to join us on January the 15th at 7 pm as we kick off our once a month cinematic outreach series. Each month on the 3rd Thursday we will be showing an engaging and sometimes controversial movie free of charge to both church members and the public at large. This month's movie is *Mad Hot Ballroom* and is an inspiring and family-friendly movie that I think everyone will connect with.

ON WITH THE SHOW!

As mentioned above, the Board of Trustees decided the church should host the *Third Thursday Cinema Series*, the idea being to show movies that may not play in commercial theaters and to publicize the series for the larger community. Initial plans call for one movie a month; a series for children is also possible. To that end, we are researching movies and applying for a license to show them. But we need some help.

Would you like to be a part of this endeavor? Production of the series involves researching movies for suitability, operation of the projector, publicity, acting as host and maybe popping corn. We also need more people to distribute our flyers for these events. Do you have a community billboard where you work or eat where you would be willing to post a flyer? To get involved, please contact any member of the board or Jeff Briere. See you at the movies!

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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*

SUNDAY SERVICES ♦ 11:00 AM

JANUARY 4 ♦ *IT COMES WITH THE TICKET*

As we start a New Year, the state of our economies, global and personal, makes many of us anxious. Will we have enough of what we need for ourselves and our families? It's a good time to reflect together on scarcity and abundance. The Rev. Karen Matteson is preaching. She writes, "I remember the warm reception I received when I filled your pulpit a few years ago. I look forward to being with you again." Learn more about Karen on p. 6.

January 11 ♦ *HAPPINESS—AN ILLUSION?*

The first of three services about happiness; what it is, how to recognize it, how to get it, how to hold it and, most important, how to give it away. The Rev. Jeff Briere leads these three services.

January 18 ♦ *HAPPINESS OR JUST SATISFIED?*

Following the service, join us for a chili cook-off and potluck!

January 25 ♦ *HAPPINESS IN TOUGH TIMES*

SUNDAY FORUMS

Everyone is invited to attend the Forum, which meets downstairs in the last room on the left on Sundays at 9:30 am.

January 4 ~ *FOR EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE*. This DVD was given to us by Charlie Clements, President and CEO of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC), when he was here last November. It deals with the work being done in the US and around the world by the UUSC. Discussion will follow.

January 11 ~ *WHAT'S IN A NAME?* To change or not to change the name of the Thomas Jefferson District of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Presentation and discussion led by our own teens.

January 18 ~ *POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGY*. Dr. Nicky Ozbek will lead a participatory workshop. Nicky is a counselor, specializing in helping victims of severe brain trauma deal with their reality. She teaches at UTC. She has made recent trips to India and China for workshops and to study psychiatric treatment methods and professional philosophies in those countries. She is an active member of our church and has served on the Board of Trustees and various committees.

January 25 ~ *CATECHISM WITH AN OPEN MIND*. This book by George Kimmich Beach will serve as the basis for a 6-week discussion coordinated by Blake Moore on Unitarian Universalist thinking and our own personal theologies. The series will be a thoughtful exploration similar to Building Your Own Theology. In order to get the most out of the series, participants are urged to purchase the book, available from Helen Solomon for about \$10 (the book is out of print; Helen is having copies made at Kinko's).

INTERLUDE

Interlude is a midweek service of about 30 minutes that is contemplative and meditative in nature. Guaranteed to lift your spirits and lower your blood pressure. Everyone welcome. We begin at 6 pm on Wednesdays, except for the first Wednesday.

January 14: *The Art of Hugging*

January 21: *Assuming Benevolence*

January 28: *Attention and the Brain*

THE INTERDEPENDENT WEB

by Steve Hollingsworth

The changed political landscape and the small part I had in it and the suspension of my usual December column devoted to giving meet to roil my thoughts at a time I normally look to the year ahead. Perhaps there is a word to describe the cognitive equivalent of synesthesia. Sharing stories across the generations now equates to utmost generosity. Money isn't a resource; it is time and opportunity.

Giving to the Obama campaign at levels I'd never considered before initially felt like grasping at a life preserver. As I worked elbow-to-elbow with volunteers from seventeen to seventy, black, white, brown and yellow, I knew that millions of donations that included mine were just a part of prayer in action, seeking some fundamental transformations.

In October when I attended the board retreat for Interweave Continental, I had a similar juxtaposition of mental states. We've watched as the general trend of attendance at Convo, our annual meeting in February, has been downward. Were issues for individuals in local Unitarian Universalist (UU) congregations who identified as bisexual, gay, lesbian, and/or transgender (BGLT) no longer important enough to need an umbrella organization in UU focused on their needs? Why was the attendance of BGLT youth and young adults so low?

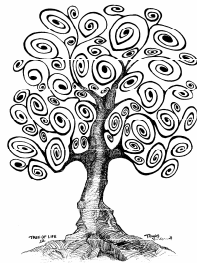
While our conclusion is yet to be proven, we began to have confidence we had only to look at new generations telling us where they were ready to lead us. For us who remember Stonewall as a desperate stand by heroic individuals who had nothing left to lose, our stories of coming out are mostly as individuals. So many young people now see a natural solidarity in their own communities—particularly if they are UU. They know their communities give them a floor of support that we did not grow up with. Yet they see immigrants, people of color, people who are differently-abled—especially when they are also BGLT—may lack that support. In short, they see linked oppressions and that is where they are ready to work.

We saw in the Obama campaign, we see in Interweave, that money is a magic bullet to bring together knowledge and experience with time and energy. As someone for whom giving is fundamental, I also recognize that those of us who may have more money than time or energy have an extra responsibility to bring others along with us. Here at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga we, too, see a generational shift. If our children tell us how they can make a difference, will we be there with them?

PAGAN PERSPECTIVE

Dates of Interest in January

- 4 9:30 AM - Pagan Study Group –
Topic: *Living in and out of the 'Broom Closet'*
- 8 - New Moon
- 22 - Full Moon
- 31 - Feb 1 Imbolc



Imbolc

Originally the Celtic festival on February 1st was known as Imbolc or Oimelc, two names which refer to the

lactation of the ewes, the flow of milk that heralds the return of the life-giving forces of spring. Later, the Catholic Church replaced this festival with Candlemas Day on February 2, which is dedicated to the Virgin Mary and features candlelight processions. The powerful figure of Brigid the Light-Bringer overlights both pagan and Christian celebrations. The primary purpose of Imbolc is to celebrate spring's impending replacement of winter. In this sense, Imbolc may be seen as a spiritual alternative to the secular celebration of New Year's Eve.

CONGRATULATIONS, ELAINE!

Elaine Hill, long time member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga, along with Jim Hill, recently received the Whitney M. Young, Jr. Award from the Urban League of Greater Chattanooga. This distinguished service award is the most prestigious award granted by the Urban League. Elaine and Jim

received this award for their long-term efforts in forging alliances in diversity, health, education, and the arts.

Congratulations to Elaine and Jim!

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).

GREEN SANCTUARY
by Sandy Kurtz

Winter Light

As the new year begins, a walk in the woods is highly recommended. Lacking the green tint of our forests in spring and summer or the golden hue in the fall, the light is different in a winter woods. The combination of that light, the cold against the cheek, and a certain bleakness of color tend to strip away complexities. It's a good place to put life's issues in perspective as one enters 2009. Happy New Year!

From the Unitarian Universalist Ministry for the Earth website
<uuministryforearth.org/cgi/news.cgi>

EARTH & SPIRIT - Reconnecting with the Natural World: Encounters with Hope and Wonder (December 3, 2008)

In her reflection "Looking In and Looking Out", Leisa Huyck writes, "This is the way of things here, within the divine body: life means death. And each time something dies, something new begins. This is the great and sacred mystery. If we can place our small selves, our short time frame, within this larger mystery, we can find rest. We are free to wonder at the diversity and intricacy of life on earth: it seems all the more marvelous for its impermanence, for its contingency."

A PAUSE FOR BEAUTY
by the Rev. Jeff Briere

About a month ago, I was fishing in the internet sea for an image to use on the front cover of the Sunday bulletin. Searching through the images, I came to this site: <www.herondance.org>. The site displays and sells many watercolor paintings by Rod McIver. And if you submit your e-mail address, he will send you a newsletter with one beautiful watercolor painting each week. He calls this "A Pause for Beauty."

But you really don't need a computer and e-mail to appreciate beauty. What you need is patience and practice.

Although it's all around you, beauty may not be apparent; it may come unbidden; it may be hidden. And you will need to be patient, for quite often, beauty is shy. The e-mail is right about one thing; you must pause.

Don't be discouraged if it seems difficult to find beauty. Practice every day looking for it. You need not go afield from your own routine.

Everywhere—I mean everywhere—you can find beauty.

Finding beauty might demand that you develop a fresh perspective on the world you see every day. Looking at something differently often reveals the innate beauty that we miss in our busy-ness.

I am reminded of the slogan for Coca-Cola from 1929: "The Pause that Refreshes." A pause for beauty refreshes. It refreshes your spirit and your outlook.

And when you find beauty, show it to someone else.

FOR SALE

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga (UUC) Endowment Committee seeks to sell four cemetery plots and a bronze marker located in the Christos Garden section of Chattanooga memorial Park ("the Duck Pond") in Red Bank. The retail value of this offer is over \$10,000 but the Endowment Committee will 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 any member of the UUC Endowment Committee: David Reed, Buck O'Rear, or George Helton.

YOUTH CONFERENCE!

An upcoming Youth Conference will be held at The Mountain on March 6-8. This is a Senior High Con for teens in 9th-12th grades. Youth Cons are weekend gatherings of youth from congregations all over the southeast for a program filled with a variety of theme-based workshops aimed at energizing people to work for positive change. The Mountain is a Unitarian Universalist retreat center located on the Eastern Continental Divide at 4200 feet in the Blue Ridge Mountains, near Highlands, North Carolina. Contact Bonny Sinclair for more information on this and other Cons..

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UUPDATE

by Jamie Sullivan, Director of Religious Education

We are starting 2009 in the Religious Education (RE) department with much enthusiasm! We have been renovating our RE Committee for the past few months. So far, communication has significantly improved. We are learning the importance of listening to one another and working together patiently as we each bring to the program our unique perspectives and knowledge. We are blessed with amazing individuals who care deeply about our children's religious education.

It's time to focus on maintaining the momentum in our growing program. This includes the importance of finding our specific "roles" as parents, grandparents, and church members who are drawn to this exciting adventure of learning and teaching one another, beyond age boundaries. Let's keep observing our children's satisfaction and smiles on Sundays this year. I believe this reflects the happiness of our church as a whole.

Highlights

- Our new year starts out with a Lock-in for our Medieval group on January 3rd.
- In February, we will make Valentine cards to send to an assisted living home.
- Our classrooms are still working with the year-long curricula we began in September.
- Teens interested in the upcoming CON need to contact Bonny Sinclair. See page 4 for more info.
- Parents, please sign up for church e-blast to receive weekly information on RE Events.
- VOLUNTEER! Our sign-up sheet is upstairs; you can't miss it.

The following excerpt is from *Busy But Balanced*, available from St. Martin's Press:

January: A Fresh Start

Six ways to create family harmony this year:

The fresh new year is just the time to dive in and begin balancing your life. Start by reevaluating family priorities and developing a plan to honor those choices. Consciously making decisions about how you connect with those you love is the first and vital step to creating more harmony in your life. Your relationships at home can sustain and ground you and your children. What follows are a few ideas for approaching family life from a new perspective:

1. Hang up a new calendar and pick one day a month as Family Day. Mark each of them on your calendar and begin planning now for all twelve magical days.
2. Begin the new year with less clutter. Go through your closets and give away clothing you haven't used in a year or more. Ask you kids to do the same—toys, books, and tapes can all be passed along to a shelter for homeless families.
3. Remain on the lookout for resources to support your children's dreams. Keep a folder handy for each child that you fill with information about his or her interests: articles, upcoming classes, book titles.
4. Designate the refrigerator as the "heart of the home" and post your prayer requests, words for the day, pictures of your friends and family, and other meaningful reminders of all you and your family hold dear.
5. Call up that feeling of awe you had when your child was born. This will help you begin the habit of coming from the heart when you speak to your son or daughter.
6. Create a visual image of what you would like your family life to be like in the upcoming year. Find pictures of dream vacations, an organized, beautiful home, festive dinners, symbols of harmony, and glue them on a poster board with a photo of your family in the center. Place it in a prominent spot and enjoy visualizing together.

UU Kidz Room

Come one, come all, but most of all come to church early and enjoy a bit more time with your Unitarian Universalist friends ages 5-12 in the **UU Kidz Room!**

This room is open and supervised each Sunday from 9:30 till 10:50 at which time the children will be brought up to service. It's a place to hang out, play a game, sing a song, and just enjoy some casual unstructured time together before joining with the rest of the congregation for worship. All children aged 5-12 years

are welcome in the room. On their first visit, children and parents will be asked to sign a code of conduct. Children who have trouble and breach the conduct code will be brought back to their parents for direct supervision. Parent (or other) volunteers are still needed for some slots so please come take your turn (check the sign up sheet on the first door to the left at the bottom of the stairs)—you will be rewarded with getting to know some fantastic UU kids!

CELEBRATION TIME, ONE MORE TIME
by David Reed, Vice-President, Ways and Means

Last year, we tried something different with our Stewardship Campaign. Prior to that we relied heavily on the face-to-face pledge visits, but last year, to provide a bit of variety in our fundraising methods, we had a *Celebration Sunday*. On Celebration Sunday, the Rev. Jeff Briere will deliver a message on the importance of stewardship that will raise the roof. Then, after a catered lunch, we will ask everyone to complete a pledge card.

Not only was that method well-received, it led to a successful Stewardship Campaign. So, we're going to repeat it this year. Mark your calendars for Sunday March 15, 2009 and join us for Celebration Sunday. Once again, we'll ask everyone to complete a pledge card after lunch. We'll have stewards available to answer any questions you may have. There will also be special activities for the kids.

There will still be some folks who will receive a pledge visit. If you want to have a face-to-face meeting with a steward, we will be happy to arrange that. In fact, we would like to encourage stewardship visits for newer members. Please let me know if you would like a steward to visit you.

Between now and then, we'll be communicating more about our goals for next year in *Assuring the Future*. We also plan to have a reception on Friday, March 13 from 6:30 until 8:30 pm. We can virtually guarantee that a good time will be had by all (and one of the benefits of being a Unitarian Universalist is that you don't have to be superstitious about Friday the 13th).

Next month, we'll talk a bit about our plans for the money, and what we mean by *Assuring the Future*. We'll also talk about a way for retirees to make contributions from their IRAs, which could have some benefits for them.

WHO'S PREACHING?

The Rev. Karen Matteson is serving as interim minister of Piedmont Unitarian Universalist Church in Charlotte, NC. A graduate of Meadville Lombard Theological School, she was ordained in 1992 and called to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Birmingham, AL. After a twelve year ministry there, Rev. Matteson was interim minister in Glen Allen, VA in 2004-05. An urge to return to her hometown led her to a three year settled

ministry with the Beverly Unitarian Church in Chicago, but another urge, to be closer to grandchildren, brought her back to the south. Malcolm, who is seven, lives in Cary, NC; four year-old Hazel has homes in Knoxville and Sweetwater, TN. "Spending time with them and their parents is one of life's great joys," she says.

RETURNING YOUR "GUEST" TO THE UUSC
by Nancy Anderson

The brightly colored *Guest at Your Table* box has shared the holiday with you. It was distributed to each family on Nov 23rd when Charlie Clements, president of the national Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) preached on *Justice is Flowing*. He explained how the UUSC organization brings us closer to our UU principles and "celebrates our power to change the world." Charlie also led the forum discussion that morning and answered our questions at the luncheon that followed the service. We were privileged to have him.

are significant and appreciated by the UUSC, which will effectively use them for social justice.

Support of the *Guest at Your Table* program is not through the Unitarian Universalist Association or the church but by individual contributions. The boxes will be collected on January 4th or 11th. The treasurer's task is facilitated if you turn cash into a check made out to the UUSC. If you wish for your contribution to be applied to an annual UUSC membership, complete the form on the back of the box or on the envelope provided. All contributions



Charlie Clements and Nancy Anderson at the luncheon.

BALANCED ON THE BRINK OF WISDOM

by Tim Trussell-Smith

So far, I haven't written very much in this "student column" about my life as a student. That's odd since class takes up most of my time and energy. Of course, much of what I learn in class is far from interesting. But at some point "the rubber has to meet the road" and the book-learning needs to be put into practice. On a recent Sunday, I experienced that for the first time. I thought I'd share some of that experience with you.

One of the classes I am taking at Andover Newton is a preaching course. One of my requirements for that course is preaching outside of the classroom. Another class I am taking deals with the writings of Howard Thurman, the 20th Century Black theologian, preacher, and mystic whose teachings had a profound impact philosophically and personally on the civil rights movement. Martin Luther King is said to have carried one of Thurman's books everywhere he went.

These two classes intersected when First Parish in Dorchester, where I work as Director of Religious Education, allowed me to preach one Sunday to fulfill my class requirement. My topic was Howard Thurman's spiritual vision, especially his emphasis on stillness.

In *Meditations for the Heart*, Thurman wrote, "The first step in the discovery of sources of strength and renewal is to develop the art of being still..." In one of my favorite phrases, Thurman says that we need "a lull in the rhythm of doing." Thurman encouraged everyone to find time to silently meditate. He wrote that "the body and the entire nervous system cry out for the healing waters of silence."

But the best thing about Thurman is that his philosophy was not just focused on the "inner space." He really believed that inside ourselves we find "our best and highest ideals" and that "Somewhere along the way, one's idea of the best and the highest takes on a transcendent character and one begins to commune, to communicate with one's idea of the best and the highest." Thurman called this God, because that was his tradition. But I think "best and highest" or "great purpose" works just fine. Whatever language, it becomes something which guides our feet along life's path and, most importantly, causes us to seek healing and justice in the world.

Thurman was remarkable. Maybe I can preach about him in Chattanooga when I'm in town!

BOARD DELIGHTS

by Maddie Kertay, President, Board of Trustees

As always, your board is working hard to meet the church needs. Here are a few highlights from the December board meeting:

- √ The board set up a new cinematic outreach program, *Third Thursday Cinema*.
- √ Plans were put in place to engage a paid recycling service through a generous gift of one of our member families.

- √ The UU-Kidz Room and its procedure and rules were discussed and favorably voted on.
- √ Ideas were solicited for ways to deal with the dumping and trash problem that seems to be growing on the far bounds of the property.
- √ A first draft budget for the 2009-10 years was reviewed and small changes were noted.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

In the first month of the new year, many members celebrate the beginning of a new "birth year" as well as a new calendar

year. Check out the birthdays below and help everyone celebrate!

Anne Johnson (Jan 4)
 Maurice Scheni (Jan 8)
 Pat Mann (Jan 14)
 Alex Faulkenberry (Jan 15)
 Marge Pasch (Jan 16)
 Claire Ballew (Jan 17)
 Velma Whittle (Jan 17)



Jody Thrash (Jan 22)
 Elaine Hill (Jan 23)
 Maddie Kertay (Jan 23)
 Sky Papendorp (Jan 23)
 Sarah Nelson (Jan 24)
 Martha Berry (Jan 26)
 Isabel McCurdy (Jan 27)

ANGEL NUUS

A number of kitchen angels are mentioned in the article below from our beloved "Kitchen Witch" and here are some more angels who deserve our thanks!

Dez Papendorp and her sons **Tamblin** and **Sky** made the UUCC banner that was used in the Grateful Gobbler Walk on Thanksgiving Day. Check out the photo!

At the Thanksgiving Dinner, **Joshua Goldman** was instrumental in setting up and carving the turkey, **Carolyn Moore** decorated, and **Catherine Long** and our visitors from Reston, Virginia provided outstanding help in and around the kitchen. Special thanks to **Jody Thrash** who saved some peach cobbler for the cooks!

Wood-working angel, **Ron Pasch**, built an amazing music cabinet from beautiful dark wood. The cabinet holds all the music and choir supplies while also providing a surface for working. Ron, along with **Paul Adler**, installed the cabinet which now graces the front of our sanctuary.

Helen and Ray Solomon generously donated the *Evolution Trilogy* books written by Jennifer Mogan and illustrated by Dana Lynne Anderson to the Religious Education Department.

Margaret Hudson helped Chris send out pledge statements, beating out two other angels (**Diane Davison** and **Maddie Kertay**) who had volunteered to help as well!



The UUCC Banner used in the Grateful Gobbler Walk held by UUCC Kids.

THE KITCHEN WITCH SEZ...

by Marge Pasch (aka The Kitchen Witch)

This fall, I was at the head of the pack of Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga members all clamoring for the job of Kitchen Chairperson so I got the job. For the next year, I'll be trying to keep order in the kitchen. One of my jobs is to ask you, our members, to sign up for at least one Sunday in the kitchen. *Are you a new member?* You'll find that working in the kitchen is a good way to meet others. *What do you have to do?* Come to the church by about 10:15 to make coffee for the Forum attendees and early arrivals before the service. After the service, you make more coffee and then do the dishes and clean up the kitchen. It is not hard.

The signup sheet is on the wooden door on the closet in the kitchen. *You do NOT have to bring food.* A step-by-step checklist is posted on the refrigerator so you won't be in any doubt as to what you are to do.

One of the reasons I took the job of Kitchen Chair was that I wanted to re-do our horrible, chaotic pantry. Thanks to my husband, **Ron Pasch**, who helped with carpentry, and **Elaine Watkins**, who graciously made many labels for the kitchen and the pantry, the pantry is now much more usable. I used the basic order in drawers and cabinets that **Pat O'Brien**, **Elaine Watkins**, and **Nancy Anderson** had made earlier this fall.

Half-way through the process of painting and re-organizing, I got a helper. My alter-ego, "The Kitchen Witch", flew in on her spoon,

and with her help, the job was quickly finished. The Witch is now permanently in place over the kitchen sink, where she will watch us as we work and make sure we do as we should!

Are you the head of a church **Special Event**? In the pantry you will find a special shelf just for the foods you are going to use. Please use one of the labels provided to write on each item the name of your event, the date it will be held, and your name. After the event, please *give or throw away all leftover food*. This will prevent the accumulation of "Mystery Foods" that fill the refrigerator, freezer, and pantry. If you want us to use the leftovers for Coffee Hour, please write that on the label, and we will be glad to put them out on Sunday. Now that we share our kitchen with the Church of God on Saturdays, it is more important than ever to label food.

Thanks to those who have worked in the kitchen this fall: **Nicki Ozbeck**, **Elaine Watkins**, **Donna Crompton**, **Milton White**, **Roger and Charlotte Davis**, **Mary Hunter**, **Carol Hobbs**, **Diana and Bart Solomon**, **Linda Helton**, and **Ruby Bruns**.

Keeping our Coffee Hour alive and well is the goal of all. Please do take a turn at helping in the kitchen on Sunday and/or sign up for the team of workers it takes to make a successful pot-luck.

GREETER AND USHER TEAM FORMING

Statistical data show that a visitor can determine within three minutes if they are in the right church. The Membership Committee is forming a Greeter/Usher Team to let our visitors know they are welcome and that we appreciate being their church of choice.

With the continuing increase in visitors on Sunday mornings, the team approach in providing greeters and usher services seems to

be the best way to meet the needs of the growing congregation. Volunteer now and be a team member. We need you!

For information, contact any member of the Membership Committee – Bill Berry, Margaret Hudson, Pat O'Brian, and Susan Kennedy or Elaine Hill at 423-886-4171 or <eshill@hotmail.com>.

NORTHSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE (NNH) NEEDS YOUR CLOTHES!

NNH, a local non-profit that assists in the needs of others in the community, is in need of clothes (and other things you wish to donate) in good condition for their thrift store. The store is located on 209 Minor Street, off Cherokee Blvd. Contribution hours are

8:30-4 Monday thru Friday and 10-1 on Saturday. For more information on tax-deductible donations, please contact Kristie McKinley or visit <www.nnhouse.org>.

SPECIAL MUUSIC

On Sunday, January 18th, we are delighted to welcome the return of Indian Fusion, consisting of Scott Sullivan and Joe Ridolfo. Scott and Joe graced a service last January with their musical

talent, and we are delighted to have them return. Don't miss this opportunity to hear the talented duo!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

As you look forward to 2009 and perhaps make some New Year's Resolutions, take a moment to consider the following saying, variations of which are credited to numerous authors including the always popular "anonymous."

*Thoughts become Words.
Words become Actions.
Actions become Character.
Character is Everything.*

CHILI COOK-OFF AND POTLUCK!

- Beany or meaty?
- Beef or chicken?
- Pinto beans or navy beans?
- Ground meat or chunks?
- Warm or fiery?

These are just some of the questions that we will answer at our Third Annual Chili Cook-Off and Potluck! Prepare a batch of your finest red (or white) chili and bring it to church on January 18th and see how it measures up. Leslie Brock won two years ago, but for the past year, Rich Dwyer has worn the coveted "Chili Cap" with pride. Who will wear it in 2009? Maybe you?



UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

UU-CRAFT COOPERATIVE

The UU Craft Cooperative will meet Mon., Jan 19th 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 or Diane Davison for more details or to RSVP.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT IN
JANUARY 7 ~ 6:30 PM

No one had volunteered to host Wednesday Night In by the newsletter deadline, so the menu is unknown, but never fear! There will be a WNI in January, so please sign up and make plans to join us. If you would like to volunteer to host a WNI, please contact Leslie Brock.

CHIONS

On January 10th from 10:30-noon, Dr. Lilian Laishley will present *The Illuminated Journey: An Astrologer's Guide to the Cosmos*.

This talk will explore why astrology can be a tool for consciousness and transformation. "Astrology is a very old system of knowledge that shows our connection with the cosmos and the importance of each individual's place on earth," says Dr. Laishley. Using a variety of images, as well as myth, spirituality, and psychology she will explain why astrology can be a helpful guide through the challenging terrain of our lives.

Dr. Laishley is a scholar of comparative religion, and faculty member at University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. She is founder of the Center for Astrological Study and has a healing arts studio in Chattanooga where she works with individuals using a variety of holistic techniques, including astrology. For more information about Dr. Laishley go to <www.laishley.com> or <www.astrologicalstudy.com>.

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> by January 15th.

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

ADVENTURE COUPON BOOKS NOW AVAILABLE!

The books cost just \$30 and contain a wonderful variety of 2 for 1 coupons for: fine restaurants (some of them are really and truly fine dining); casual restaurants (great places to take the kids); the Theatre Centre; the Symphony and Opera; the Zoo; Groome Transportation.... You'll get back your \$30 by using just one or two coupons. The rest is gravy.

Take a look at a sample book in the Fellowship Area. Try not to drool.

Sales of Adventures Dining & Entertainment Coupon books are a mini-benefit for the church and a mega-benefit for you. Contact Daidee Springer or the church office for more information.

COMING SOON TO A UU CHURCH NEAR YOU
FOR VALENTINE'S DAY

LOVE AND SATIRE
an evening with Tom Neilson

With 2009 here, resolve to do something special on Valentine's Day. Men, forget the romantic candlelight dinner. Women actually prefer men with a sense of humor. Enter Tom Neilson, satirist and songwriter. He has been called the Jon Stewart of folk music. He will bring humor into your life as he passionately skewers a few cherished thoughts about love and politics.

Mark that new calendar now for
Saturday, February 14 at 7:30 pm
at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga. Tickets are \$10 per person or get together a foursome for \$50 and be seated at a table close to the artist. Chocolate will be included at tables. (Women go for chocolate too).

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	1/4	1/11	1/18	1/25
TOPIC	It Comes with a Ticket	Happiness—An Illusion?	Happy or Just Satisfied?	Happiness in Tough Times
LEADER	the Rev. Karen Matteson	the Rev. Jeff Briere	the Rev. Jeff Briere	the Rev. Jeff Briere
BOT MEMBER	Eric Papendorp	April Waggener	Maddie Kertay	Eric Papendorp
GREETER	Tim Kleve	Carolyn Moore	Nathan Botic	Pat Mann
USHER	Nancy Beel	Harold Linn	Mike Bascom	Richard Ralston
MUSIC	Steve Hollingsworth	Kate Briere	Indian Fusion	Marcia Jenison
SOUND REINFORCEMENT	Roger Davis	David Reed	Rich Dwyer	Joshua Goldman

Every possibility begins with the courage to imagine.
 ~ Mary Anne Radmacher