



LIBERATED FROM FEAR

by Maddie Kertay, President, Board of Trustees

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.

-MARIANNE WILLIAMSON

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This quote arrived by email moments after I sat down to work on what I wanted to say in this month's column. I was sure of the thoughts that flew around in my head but was unsure how to commit them to paper. There by grace the words arrived, the words that help me crystallize what I wanted to say.

I see greatness in this church, I see it simmering just under the surface ready to burst forth and yet fearfully held back. I see greatness constrained by history, by geography, and by feeling like a small fish in a very big pond for far too long. But I tell you I think it's time to be liberated from those historical chains and embrace our inherent right to be wonderful. And (Dare I say it?) a powerful entity in the religious community of Chattanooga: To let our light shine through support, action, and outreach; to take risks, to ask ourselves the question, "What if?" and not be afraid of the answers.

What if we vowed to use positive, affirming language when we spoke about our church with others?

What if even in the midst of these unsure and turbulent times we acknowledge that there are still those out there that desperately need us but don't know we exist?

What if we created outreach programs to use print, radio, and people to reach out to those who need us?

What if we enthusiastically embraced the membership growth of our church and moved ahead with long desired plans to expand our physical church, knowing that we are worthy of having a beautiful, appropriately-sized and peaceful facility in which to greet guests, worship together and bring comfort and support to those in need?

What if we let our light shine so brightly through our actions that the name of our church was as well known as some of the bigger churches in the area?

This is not just a pipe dream, large and small Unitarian Universalist churches all over the country have done this. We can follow their lead and can be just as dynamic, caring, outreaching, and wonderful. It takes volunteer hours, supportive dollars, faithful vision, and the knowledge that it all lies within us if only we can get past the fear of letting it out.

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SUNDAY SERVICES ♦ 11:00 AM

FEBRUARY 1 ♦ *MORE THAN JUST A SONG*

The Rabbi Bill Tepper will be joining us to deliver a sermon on how we might apply the text of *Exodus 15* and *The Song of the Sea* to modern day living. Read more about Rabbi Tepper on page 3.

FEBRUARY 8 ♦ *(NOT SO) STRANGE INTERLUDE*

On Wednesday evenings at the church, a second worship service happens called Interlude. This not-so-strange interlude occurs at 6 pm. If you haven't been able to attend this second worship service in the week, this worship service will introduce you to the concept of Interlude. The Rev. Jeff Briere, preaching.

FEBRUARY 15 ♦ *THE SEVEN LAST WORDS ABOUT EVOLUTION AND THE BIBLE*

This is Evolution Weekend, a national event in which ministers around the country will present services that show that evolution poses no threat to religion. The Rev. Jeff Briere, preaching.

FEBRUARY 22 ♦ *FROM FUNDAMENTALISM TO FREEDOM*

We welcome Marc Adams to our pulpit this morning. His presentation addresses his self-acceptance of being gay, his coming out with his family, and his journey to become a Unitarian Universalist. Read more about Marc Adams on page 3.

SUNDAY FORUMS

On Sundays at 9:30 am, the Forum meets downstairs in the last room on the left. Everyone is invited. Discussion and diverse opinions are welcome!

February 1, 8, 15, 22 ~ The 5-week discussion of the booklet by George Kimmich Beach, *Catechism with an Open Mind*, will continue. The series constitutes a thoughtful exploration similar to *Building Your Own Theology*. Attending the remaining four sessions will make for a more fulfilling experience but is not required. Booklets are available from Helen Solomon for \$5.00. Blake Moore is coordinating the series.

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 is welcome. We begin at 6 pm on Wednesdays, except for the first Wednesday in February.

February 11: *Awake and Rest*
February 18: *Attention*
February 25: *Back to Basics*

PAGAN PERSPECTIVE

Dates of Interest in February

1 - 9:30 am – Pagan Study Group -
Discussion topic - *Imbolc*
1-2 - *Imbolc*
9 - Full Moon
25 - New Moon



Imbolc/Oimelec/Brigid's Day, on February 2nd and the preceding evening, are associated with fertility and celebrated as a fire festival. This is the midpoint between the winter solstice and spring equinox. *Imbolc* is traditionally a time of weather prognostication, and the old tradition of watching to see if serpents or badgers came from their winter dens is perhaps a precursor to the North American Groundhog Day.

THE INTERDEPENDENT WEB

by Steve Hollingsworth

What's your take on this happiness thing?

~ Rev. Jeff Briere

[T]he point is, to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps then, someday far in the future, you will gradually, without even noticing it, live your way into the answer.~ Rainer Maria Rilke, *Letters to a Young Poet*

What you see here, I offered Jeff last month and you heard Jeff preach about on January 25th. Through the miracle of press deadlines and editing and printing delays, you get to see my thoughts about happiness formulated before I hear Jeff's sermon! And with a generous 400 words to express my thoughts in, I'll quickly get this happiness thing out of the way and tell you the purpose of life while I'm at it.

Here's the answer: Seek anything you care deeply about and that connects you with others. By living your connections, you will find happiness.

As for the purpose of life, in short, it's to pursue what you care deeply about and connects you with others. What could be simpler?

Well, my own journey offers plenty of lessons as to possible

bumps on the road. In my own case I have deeply desired to do difficult things surpassingly well. Playing the piano, programming the next killer app, playing tournament bridge, I could join their communities of seekers. Only great challenges seemed worth bothering about. Yet equally often I've been forced to recognize that I lacked temperament or ability or stamina to succeed at the highest level. I can attest that trying and falling short leads to a form of grieving and not happiness.

Nevertheless, as we are in the month of love, I celebrate my 32-year marriage to Daidee, the most important connection I will ever have. Marriage infuses our entire culture with useful wisdom. We aren't that special even in our finest moments but are precious and connected still as we argue ferociously. Sometimes that bumper sticker about "finding that special someone you can annoy for the rest of your life" says it pretty well.

When have I felt completely happy in the moment? It doesn't matter. In marriage I can look back and be sure that I have been happy. In an ironic twist I'm going without Daidee to Interweave Convo in California over Valentine's Day. There I hope I make and renew connections that will ease the hurt to those denied marriage by the passage of Prop 8. I do care deeply that someday everyone will stand on the side of love.

WHO'S PREACHING?

Rabbi Bill Tepper (February 1st) is a native of Toronto. He received a BA in theatre from York University in Toronto in 1980, an MA in drama from the University of Alberta in 1984, and an additional degree in education from the University of Toronto in 1988. A wonderful teacher, Bill spent twelve years as a dramatic arts and English teacher in Ontario prior to attending Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, where he was ordained in 2008.

During his years at Hebrew Union College, Rabbi Tepper held student pulpits at Congregation B'nai Israel in Williamson, West Virginia, Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville, Texas, and Congregation Sha'arei Shalom in Columbus, Indiana.

Last November, he was installed as the 17th rabbi of Mizpah Congregation. Rabbi Tepper and his wife, Deborah, have one son, Max, who recently graduated from high school and attends college in Canada. He preaches on

Marc Adams (February 22nd) is the author of eight books including his award-winning autobiography, *The Preacher's Son*, five collections of poetry, and *The Do's & Don'ts of Dealing with*

the Religious Right. Reared in a cultish, fundamentalist Baptist home, aware that he was gay by the age of seven, and weaving his way through religious schools and reparative therapy techniques, Adams began his journey to self-acceptance at age 23. Marc Adams is the founder and executive director of Heart-Strong, Inc. It is the only educational nonprofit in the world with the sole mission to provide outreach and support to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender students terrorized at religious educational institutions world-wide.

Excerpt from a letter to the editor which Marc titles, *Luke Otterstad's Words about Me*.

I feel bad for people who have made choices to follow religions that cripple their humanity. But I also know there is hope; hope that somewhere inside a spark can be ignited into a flame that will help them find their way out. There is real life, love, peace and happiness in life regardless of your sexual orientation or religious choice.

GREEN SANCTUARY
by Sandy Kurtz

10 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOU CAN RECYCLE

Many of you wonder what you can recycle and where. We all know about paper and plastic, but thanks to Interfaith Power & Light's Chattanooga member Bill Reynolds (Society of Friends) and Co-Op America, here is list of recyclable items with annotations for Chattanooga.

★*How it helps:* Things reused and recycled don't require new energy to make. For more information on area recycling, go to <www.recycleright.org>.

1. Appliances: Many stores will recycle your old appliance when you purchase a new one. Goodwill accepts working appliances. Go to <www.goodwill.org>, or you can contact the Steel Recycling Institute to recycle them at <www.recycle-steel.org>.

2. Athletic shoes: One World Running sends still-wearable shoes to needy athletes in Africa, Latin America, and Haiti: <www.oneworldrunning.com>. Alternatively, Nike Reuse-a-shoe program <www.nikereuseashoe.com> uses old shoes for playground or athletic floor.

3. Batteries: Chattanooga Recycle "Convenience Centers" take these or drop them off on second Saturday mornings at Brush Burning Center on Wisdom St. <www.batteryrecycling.com>.

4. Clothes: Wearable clothes can go to your local Goodwill outlet or shelter. Donate wearable women's business clothing to the nonprofit Dress for Success, which provides them to low-income women for wear as they search for jobs: <www.dressforsuccess.org>. Offer unwearable clothes to local

animal boarding and shelter facilities for use as pet bedding.

5. Compact fluorescent bulbs (CFL): IKEA stores take bulbs: <www.ikea.com>. You can also order a Sylvania RecyclePak: <www.sylvania.com/recycle/recyclepak>. Chattanooga Recycle "Convenience Centers" now take fluorescent bulbs.

6. Computers and electronics: Chattanooga Recycle "Convenience Centers" now take these. To find other responsible recyclers go to <www.ban.org/pledge/Locations.html>.

7. Foam packing peanuts: Your local pack-and-ship store will likely accept these for reuse. Or call Plastic Loose Fill Producers Council to find a drop-off site: 800-828-2214. To drop off foam blocks for recycling, contact the Alliance of Foam Pack-aging Recyclers <www.epspackaging.org/info.html> 410-451-8340.

8. Ink/toner cartridges: <www.recycleplace.com>. Chattanooga Recycle "Convenience Centers" now take these. Consider reuse and take them to a cartridge refill place.

9. Oil: Find used motor oil hotlines for each state at <www.recycleoil.org>. Chattanooga Recycle "Convenience Centers" now take used motor oil.

10. Phones: Collective Good will refurbish your phone and sell it to someone in a developing country: <www.collectivegood.com>. Call to Protect reprograms cell phones to dial 911 and gives them to domestic violence victims: <www.donateaphone.com>. Chattanooga Recycle "Convenience Centers" now accept mobile and land phones. The Community Kitchen will also accept cell phones.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

It's time to celebrate our February birthdays! Be sure to wish a "Happy Birthday" to each of these people on their special day.

Kristie McKinley Feb 6
Karl Hunt Feb 8
Will Barnhart Feb 11
David Reed Feb 11
Clark Everett Feb 12
Walt Jenison Feb 12
Nancy Beel Feb 17



Lee Solomon Feb 18
Maurine Olin Feb 19
Lily Joyner Feb 23
Tim Trussell-Smith Feb 23
Nancy Wright Feb 23
Tim Kleve Feb 26
Emerson Couch Feb 28

The articles in *the nUUsletter* are representative of the diverse and varied opinions and beliefs of the members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga (UUCC).

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UUPDATE

by Jamie Sullivan, Director of Religious Education

It seems our children and teens are very pleased to see a new president in office. Communicating at home and in church with our children about politics and voting has been a pleasant and educational experience for all of us. Our Unitarian Universalist community can rejoice in so many ways. Maybe our openness and acceptance of diversity is spreading throughout our communities? It is a joy to experience with our children the inauguration of our first black president in US history. Educating is much easier when we see the changes happening before our eyes. Each person does have a voice and we do share earth's lifeboat. As we look toward the future, we can be assured the changes toward a more fair and peaceful world are possible with patience.

This month we will work on community outreach through creating Valentine cards to send to our local elderly community.

Updates

- It is my hope that each visiting family feels welcome and warm as soon as they walk into our church. I am going to be upstairs to greet the new or visiting families each Sunday I am at church. I need to ask parents and members to also keep a lookout for families on the Sundays I am off. Please guide them to the age appropriate rooms and let them know how happy we are they

have chosen to attend. Also be sure to show them our bulletin board and point out my name and phone number on the registration forms. Thank You!

- The Medievals have a new paper quilt from their lock-in art project. Please come down and check it out!
- We still need all parents to fill out our Winter/Spring trimester registration cards.
- We are looking for a dedicated individual to help teach in our Medieval room one Sunday each month. Training & help will be provided.
- Our teens are being offered a wonderful opportunity to go to a youth CON. Bonny needs forms filled out by Feb 20th. See more info below.
- Our teens have begun their new curriculum.
- This May we will dedicate the month to Heifer International, learning their program model and all about "passing on the gifts." Please keep a lookout for information on volunteer opportunities around this project.

FAMOUS MYSTERY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

How would you like to be a Famous Mystery Unitarian Universalist for a couple of months? You'll have all the info you need and a handout too. You need only answer "yes" or "no" questions from teens. We have 86 UUs to choose from. This is

an easy way to involve yourself with educating our youth and get your "15 minutes of fame." Contact Bonny Sinclair or James Joyner for more information.

YOUTH CONFERENCE!

An upcoming Youth Conference will be held at The Mountain on March 6th-8th. 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.

WE ARE NOW RECYCLING!

We are now recycling! When you are at the church, please put your recyclable materials in the marked bins rather than the trash. See the posted guidelines if you have any questions in regards to what can be recycled. Please note: this program is

only for recyclable material used in conjunction with church events. Please do not bring your recyclables from home as the church is charged based on volume.

OF BEN STEIN, FDR, KAREN MATTESON, AND YA NEVER KNOW

by David Reed, Vice-President, Ways and Means

We're still finalizing the operating budget for next year, and at this moment we're thinking about an increase in the 3 to 4 percent range. Someone suggested that given the economic troubles, we propose a flat budget. We are trying to be restrained, but we chose not to go with a flat budget. I want to discuss some of the reasons why.

For one thing, a flat budget would mean freezing or slightly reducing staff salaries. We simply do not want to do that. But more importantly, a flat budget would make a statement about how we view ourselves—a statement we don't want to make.

I need to preface the rest of this article by saying that I understand that several people in this congregation are experiencing really hard times. I do not want to imply anything that would make light of the problems they face. I was quite heartened by the level of generosity the congregation displayed during the Christmas season. That is a true testament of who we are.

We call a guy I work with Yellow Dog because he is an ardent Democrat. (The term comes from Texas, where they used to say they'd vote for a yellow dog before they'd vote for a Republican.) The Yellow Dog said the other day that nothing galled him more than agreeing with Ben Stein. What he meant was that people who are not affected by the recession and who pull back financially are making things worse.

Everyone has been touched by this recession at some level. Personally, I haven't seen my cash flow impacted (yet), but I never dreamed it would be possible to lose that much money from a 401k and Roth IRA in a single year. But a larger factor is fear. I work in an industry that has seen large layoffs. So far, my

management chain is saying my employer has no such plans. But they always qualify statements like that by saying, "But ya never know." How we deal with fear and uncertainty is the key.

At his first inauguration, Franklin Delano Roosevelt said it best: "We have nothing to fear but fear itself." The tricky part is putting that into practice.

That's why I really enjoyed the Rev. Karen Matteson's sermon on January 4th. (If you didn't hear it, get the CD.) A gross simplification of her message is that if you expect scarcity, you'll get scarcity. But if you expect abundance (By that we mean what you need, not necessarily what you want), you'll get abundance. How we deal with fear and uncertainty is a choice.

The opposite of fear is faith. Churches are supposed to be about faith.

Peggy Noonan recently wrote: "The thing about America is that it is always ahead of the clichés, always one step ahead of an assumed limit."

So, as a church, we are choosing to face the future from a position of faith, not fear. And our next operating budget will reflect that—within reason. To do otherwise would disappoint Ben Stein. And FDR. And you.

Besides, there is a sign that things are beginning to look better. I read the other day that SUVs are starting to sell again. (I thought that second marriages were the triumph of hope over experience.)

DOUBLE THE PLATE IN 2009!

On February 8th we have our first chance in 2009 to *Double the Plate*. The combined total of our *Double the Plate* collections in the fall more than matched the challenge of \$800, a magnificent performance. Thanks to everyone! This time we are being challenged by another generous donor to match \$300. Come prepared to make the collection plates groan once again!

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

Opportunity is rare, and a wise man (or woman) will never let it pass by.

~ Bayard Taylor

WORKIN' ON WORSHIP*by the Rev. Jeff Briere*

Plain truth, plainly said: This church needs a few more worship leaders. Please consider this opportunity to be a part of the worship service.

Our Unitarian Universalist congregations have a strong tradition of lay leadership, and this extends to participation in the worship service. Put another way, most of us believe that the minister is not the sole possessor of religious truth. This works well for smaller fellowships, which might not have the resources to call a minister, and it works well for larger congregations which have a minister.

When lay members produce the worship service, the congregation hears another perspective on a topic of religious importance. Hearing only one perspective is unfair to the congregation, especially Unitarian Universalist congregations, which support a variety of opinions. Also, the minister gets a break from pulpit duties. If a minister were to preach every Sunday of the year, he or she would quickly tire, and the worship quality and congregation would suffer for it.

So in Unitarian Universalist circles, it is typical that the minister does not preach every Sunday. My letter of agreement with the congregation allows me to be out of the pulpit one Sunday a month and gives me a month of vacation. It also provides for a month of study leave, during which I carry out my normal duties, but don't preach. When I am away, the worship working group, commonly called the Wowzers, produces the worship service. The name comes from WOW, an acronym for Workin' on Worship.

When members produce the Sunday worship service, they have several responsibilities:

- They act as hosts and contact persons for speakers and ministers who present sermons.

- Much of the service is standardized, but they often customize it to suit the theme.
- They coordinate the printing of the bulletin with the office administrator.
- With assistance from the minister, they gather readings, stories, and prayers to supplement the service.
- With assistance from the music director, they choose hymns for congregational singing and coordinate with musicians.
- They decorate the altar, place the chalice on it, and take it down again after the service.

So you can see, this is work. It's not exhausting work, like chopping wood. But it's exciting and it pays off. Here is something that a recent visitor sent me after he preached at our church:

I've preached in a lot of churches and I have never been in a service in which there was such thoughtfulness about each aspect of the service and what kind of glue could be provided to weave them into a seamless whole: the choice of music, the information about the composer, the choice of reading and more. I don't even now recall all the things I marveled at, but I assure you I did and I regret not writing this note when my memory was fresher.

At present, the group has eight members and that is not enough. In a typical year at this church, the minister will produce 33–34 services. That leaves 18–19 for the worship group to produce. One of those (around the 4th of July) is a picnic and another Sunday in the spring is the all-church retreat.

This is an opportunity to contribute to the worship service in a very real way. Please see Jeff Briere if you are interested.

ANGEL NUUS

There is no shortage of angels here at our church. Here are just a few who deserve to be recognized.

Paul Adler and Ron Pasch...for their hard work in engineering a special door for the nursery. Paul and Ron spent of good deal of their holiday week retrofitting our nursery door to create something safe and useful for our youngest members.

Dez Papendorp...for her infectious enthusiasm and tireless dedication working with the children's Bells Choir. Dez helped the kids create truly beautiful music at the Christmas Eve service.

Maddie Kertay...for working to make our church the very best that it can be. Maddie gives of her time, energy and heart 24/7. Our church is better for having her in it.

Wendy Sapp...for quietly and tirelessly offering help whenever and wherever it is needed.

Rich Dwyer...for cleaning the carpets, a much needed chore.

Dez Papendorp and Jay McCurdy... for their care and kindness in hosting the Medieval Lock-In. In a safe and fun environment, the kids had a great experience from start to finish.

2008 WINTER SOLSTICE LABYRINTH WAS A BIG SUCCESS

by Dez Papendorp

Thanks to the time and effort of the Medieval youth group, James Joyner and Leslie Walters, our church provided a brief respite from the busy holiday season. We hosted a 2nd Annual indoor walking labyrinth December 21st. Members and non-members alike experienced a quiet, candle-lit design adorned with written messages from our youth which encouraged us to "breathe," "pray for peace," "feel loved," know "you are safe," and other words and pictures of inspiration.

- One person described his experience to me in these words: "I couldn't even tell I was still in the church. As I was walking, I just focused on the path and the designs made from the candle light, and I felt like I was somewhere far away."

- Another long-time member exited the labyrinth with happy tears streaking her cheeks and arms outstretched for a hug saying, "It was just so beautiful. Thank you so much for this."

- A non-church member participant said: "I've never seen my daughter so taken with anything before. She [the 10year old daughter] told me she'd never felt so at peace. Please let us know when you have another labyrinth. We will definitely come back."

I am so grateful to everyone who showed up to experience the magical occasion. I am touched and humbled by your attendance and appreciative responses.

In 2009, we will possibly open the labyrinth for two nights in order to meet the demands of its increasing popularity.



The 2008 Winter Solstice Labyrinth (Photo by Dez Papendorp)

SINGERS AND RINGERS



The church was packed—standing room only. Everyone was bubbling with excitement over Christmas, talking and laughing, and after a loud organ introduction, the voices of the Children's Choir were heard entering from the back of the church. What a "joyful noise" as they sang loud and clear, *Joy to the World!* That was followed by a version of *Carol of the Bells* sung by the choir and joined by our new Children's Bell Choir directed by Dez Papendorp and Kate Briere.

(Photo by Eric Papendorp)

FOR SALE

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

WHAT WE CAN DO*by Skip Stevens*

I am privileged to know Herb Hooper. Using the resources of the First Baptist Church, he has developed many programs for the especially needy in Chattanooga. This holiday season, they hosted a brunch for the homeless and the extra needy. Now this isn't just a soup line. This is a sit-down, white-cloth, seasonally-decorated, served-to-the-guests affair.

Over 300 guests were served breakfasts of eggs, bacon, sausage, pancakes, biscuits, and gravy, milk, juice, and coffee. Invitations had been given out in community kitchens, missions, and "the projects," and transportation was provided. When the guests arrived, they were escorted to tables of 10. Each table was hosted and each table had an observer to take orders and clean up. Santa had lap time and an age appropriate gift for each child. The biggest hit was a photographer who took a posed picture of each guest, not just the children. The photo was developed on the spot, put into a frame, and given to them to take home.

Serving as hostess at one of the table has become one of my most cherished memories. Being treated with dignity, these people had such dignity. Their gratitude was palpable. They showed such care to each other. Here we had souls without a roof over their head reaching out to the others they recognized from various shelters. The air was full of gratitude and at the

same time anxiety about tomorrow. I have never felt such profound sadness and compassion.

I recently was reminded of the parable of the five loaves and two fishes feeding a multitude of people. That story possibly represents a miracle or possibly was a story of Jesus showing how to share and the crowd responding by sharing the provisions they had brought. It wasn't much, but it was adequate. This resonates with me that we each can do what we can. We sometimes get stymied by thinking, "I can't do enough that would solve all the homelessness or feed all the hungry people"—so I do nothing. No, the lesson can be, "I can make a difference by doing what I can." On the day of the holiday breakfast, I could not solve the tragedy of the guests' lives, but what I could do was spend some time as a hostess—relaxing with them, talking as peers, sharing food, smiling, and laughing. I watched them collect their framed photographs with huge smiles on their faces, share their pictures with each other, and tell who they were going to send them to. It was a beautiful validation that they existed.

Our church hosts the homeless for a week several times a year. Those of us who can share these times will be forever touched. I know we can't solve all their problems, but we can "do what we can."

WE ARE SAVING A SEAT FOR YOU!

January's kick off to the 3rd Thursday Cinema series was a wonderful success with all who came really enjoying the freshly popped popcorn as well as the documentary on how inner city children's lives were changed and bettered by their experience of being exposed to the art of ballroom dancing. Be on the watch

for the announcement of this month's selected movie. We are saving a seat for you so mark your calendars for February 19th and we will see you there. Remember, this is an outreach for the church so bring a friend.

BOARD DELIGHTS*by Maddie Kertay, President, Board of Trustees*

The board continues to meet monthly to address church issues. Here are a few highlights from the January board meeting. The board:

- √ Finalized next year's budget.
- √ Regretfully accepted the June-effective resignation of Kay McCurdy as nursery supervisor.
- √ Developed a plan to stop trash dumping in the lower parking lot.

- √ After intense and thoughtful consideration, decided not to host Interfaith Homeless Network for this quarter until a full slate of evening and nighttime program hosts can be assured.
- √ Accepted two wonderful donations for the church nursery.
- √ Approved funds for teen RE program members to go to a Con at the Mountain.

UUCC ON FACEBOOK!

From Wikipedia: **Facebook** is a popular, free-access social networking website. Users can join networks organized by city, workplace, school, and region to connect and interact with other people. People can also add friends and send them messages, and update their personal profile to notify friends about themselves.

Mark Zuckerberg founded Facebook while he was a student at Harvard University. Website membership, initially limited to Harvard students, later expanded to include any university student, then high school students, and, finally, to anyone aged 13 and over. The website currently has more than 150 million active users worldwide.

Facebook has met with some controversy over the past few years. It has been blocked intermittently in several countries including Syria and Iran.

Thanks to the initiative of Miranda Cagle, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga (UUCC) now has a group on Facebook. So many of our congregants were "friending" each other online, a group was the next logical step.

If you are already a Facebook user, the link for the group is <www.new.facebook.com/home.php#/group.php?gid=52630291476>.

You can find numerous familiar faces here and "friend" any or all of them if you want to.

If you are not a Facebook user and would like to become one, simply go to <www.facebook.com>, where you will find the sign-up screen. As a user, you will be offered several options for the amount of information you wish to share online.

Newcomers to Facebook may find themselves bewildered by "applications," in which other users send them virtual plants, snowballs, Christmas tree ornaments, hugs, and mandalas, to name but a few. It is perfectly okay to "ignore" these until you are more comfortable using Facebook. The applications can be fun and are intended to generate income for various charitable organizations and causes, but no one will be offended—or even know—if you have ignored an application request.

Many of us have found Facebook a useful way to connect with the church and one another between Sundays. It is also a way to learn about organizations, causes, and interesting people that strike a chord with UUs. We hope our group will help us keep up with the many programs and activities here at the church.

For more information about Facebook and our group, please contact Miranda Cagle or Elaine Watkins.

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR MONEY

A friendly message from Santa: Okay, you guys, this is a test: All of you who go out to eat, say, maybe five times a year...you know with your significant other, spouse, friend, coworker, whatever...raise your hand. That's right, I am talking to you! These Adventure Books we have available at the church are a real deal with all their two-for-one coupons for restaurants and other activities. And don't keep it to yourself.

Fer cryin' out loud, don't you have any friends? Won't you tell them about this deal?

The books cost \$30 and the church gets 6 bucks per book sold. You don't have to buy all of them! Just let your friends know about it. It isn't hard, like rocket science or anything. Chris has a bunch in the office just waiting to be taken home to some nice family. Hey, I got one and have to find my other free meal friend (this is not an invitation, but that is negotiable). Don't make me come over there to make you buy one of these!

Oh, yeah. You can put your hands down now.

They may see the good you do as self serving. Continue to do good.
They may see your generosity as grandstanding. Continue to be generous.
They may see your warm and caring nature as a weakness. Continue to be warm and caring.
For you see, in the end, it is between you and God. It never was between you and them anyway.

~ Anonymous



Never mind the usual box of chocolate or the bouquet of roses this Valentine's Day. If you're looking for something different to do, you will want to attend this special concert.

LOVE AND SATIRE
An Evening with Tom Neilson
February 14, 7:30 pm

Called the Jon Stewart of folk music, Neilson will have you laughing hard about the foibles of love and non-love amidst our everyday struggles in life. He channels Mark Russell, Phil Ochs and Woody Guthrie. Payment confirms your reservations. Make your reservations by Feb. 10th by calling the church office. The cost is \$10/person or \$50 for a table of 4 which includes special seating plus complimentary chocolates and beverages.

UU BIOGRAPHIES

Our Teens are not the only ones who could learn more about famous Unitarian Universalists (See Famous Mystery UUs on page 5 for more about the Teen project). From time to time, we will be publishing biographies of famous, and not so famous, Unitarian Universalists (UUs). The more we know about our religious tradition and those who came before us, the more we

can appreciate what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist. If you have a favorite "famous UU" you would like to see highlighted in the newsletter, please let Wendy Sapp know. More information about these and other UUs can be found at www.25.uua.org/uuhs/duub/.

DOROTHEA DIX

Dorothea Lynde Dix (April 4, 1802-July 18, 1887) played a unique and international role as an advocate for improvements in the treatment of patients suffering from mental and emotional disorders. This was in addition to her early career as a teacher and serving as Superintendent of United States Army Nurses during the Civil War.

Dix's work was driven by deeply felt moral sensitivities, but for a time she struggled to find an appropriate religious context. Doubting the many "necessities of belief," she could not doubt the importance of salutary action to promote positive social and personal growth. By the early 1820s, Dix had found her religious home among Unitarians. She appreciated the Unitarian emphasis on the goodness of God, purity of heart, openness to new knowledge, and responsibility for the good of all society.

In March, 1841, a ministerial student, frustrated with his efforts to teach a Sunday class for incarcerated women, approached Dix for advice. She decided to teach the class herself. What she encountered shocked her and changed her life. The jail was unheated. Hardened criminals, feeble-minded children, and the mentally ill all occupied the same quarters. Dix secured a court order to provide heat and to make other improvements.

Dix embarked upon a mission of reform to call for decent accommodations for those suffering from mental and emotional

disease. To investigate accommodations for the mentally ill, she would personally visit many jails and almshouses, at a time when women seldom traveled alone or attempted to influence legislation, funding, or the regulation of public institutions. Based on her observations, she crafted a powerful memorial which was presented in 1843 to the Massachusetts legislature. The legislature allocated funds for a large expansion of the State Mental Hospital at Worcester.

Dix began investigating conditions in the jails and almshouses of other states. For over a decade her findings were presented in state after state, often with gratifying results. Numerous hospitals were erected, along with additions and improvements to existing facilities. Deeply attuned to the latest in architectural design, Dix insisted on a therapeutic setting for the curable insane and a humanely comfortable setting for those regarded as incurable.

Dix traveled to Europe in 1854 to rest. Once there, she learned of the great disparity between private hospitals for the wealthy and miserable public facilities for the insane poor in Europe. Again, she set out to investigate and to agitate for reform. From 1854-56, she traveled in 14 countries and instigated many changes.

Dix finally retired at age 79. She died in 1887 and was buried in Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

UU 101

New members and those interested in learning more about the Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga are invited to attend *UU 101*, a three-session class on March 10th, 17th and 24th, each night at 7 pm.

The class will examine personal faith journeys, cover a little history, explain how our church is managed (like who does what), and answer all your questions about Unitarian Universalism.

Please register by signing up on the roster on the minister's door.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT IN
FEBRUARY 4 ~ 6:30 PM

Julie Kurtz-kunesh has volunteered to host Wednesday Night In (WNI) in February. She is planning a potato bar. Please sign up in the fellowship area if you are planning to attend, along with how many people will be attending with you. If you want to bring something, you can list that as well.

We still need future hosts for WNI. If you would like to host WNI in March or another month, please contact Leslie Brock.

HEAT: AN ENERGY EVENT

On February 12th, the PBS Frontline documentary, *Heat*, will be shown at the UTC University Center Auditorium as part of an energy evening from 6-10 p.m. Watch big energy CEOs squirm as they are asked questions about global warming. Panelists and a discussion follow. Sandy Kurtz is one of the panelists and will address nuclear energy issues. Free.

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 February 15th.

RUMMAGE SALE

Rummage Around & Bring It to Church! The rummage sale is coming up on the first weekend in May so don't throw out those unwanted items just yet. Beginning the first Sunday in April, we will have a large storage pod in the parking lot so people can start bringing their unused treasures to the church at that point.

Everyone Welcome—Even Now

"After a senseless act of violence in our church, we did not give in to anger. We sought a better way." -The Rev. Chris Buice, minister of the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church in Knoxville.

To read the Rev. Chris Buice's article in Newsweek's January 19th issue go to <www.uuc.org> and follow the link to "Other Voices."

CHIONS

The Chattanooga Institute of Noetic Science meets Feb. 14th from 10:30 am to noon. The topic is *Making Deals with Deities - A Survival Strategy Insuring Life and Death in Sri Lanka*, presented by Dr. William Harman

In Sri Lanka's civil war, Tamil Hindus face serious oppression and life-threatening violence by virtue of their ethnic origin in a land where Sinhala majority Buddhist rule would prefer to wipe them out. Some Tamils deal with this threat by taking vows to fight back as suicide bombers. Others take vows to do all they can to get out of Sri Lanka if they possibly can. In both cases, faith plays a strong role for the Tamil actors in this drama.

Dr. Harman is a professor and past Head of the Department of Philosophy and Religion at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Much of his research has focused on world religions, with an emphasis on religious practices in South Asia. Dr. Harman has recently returned from sabbatical study in Sri Lanka and will be sharing with us some of what he has learned from that experience.

Welcome SINGERS!!

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

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DATE	2/1	2/8	2/15	2/22
TOPIC	More Than Just a Song	(Not So) Strange Interlude	The 7 Last Words About Evolution and the Bible	From Fundamentalism to Freedom
PREACHING	Rabbi Bill Tepper	the Rev. Jeff Briere	the Rev. Jeff Briere	Marc Adams
BOT MEMBER	Maddie Kertay	Maddie Kertay	Eric Papendorp	April Waggener
GREETER	Yvonne Derrickson	Donna Crompton	Carol Hobbs	Elaine Watkins
VISITOR TABLE	Ruby Bruns	Betsey Hoyt	Tamara Everett	Sandy Kurtz
USHER	Bill Berry	Matt Hoyt	Clark Everett	Bill Kurtz
MUSIC	Steve Hollingsworth	Kate Briere	Matt Vanderhoof (violin)	Matt Vanderhoof (piano)
SOUND REINFORCEMENT	Buck O'Rear	Karl Hunt	Roger Davis	David Reed

*Science is organized knowledge.
 Wisdom is organized life.*

- Immanuel Kant