



A WALK IN THE WOODS

by Jesse Blue

In life, there must exist balance. It's easy to focus on the inevitable negatives that occur, because they most directly demand that our lofty designs be modified, curtailed, or scaled down to reality.

For the first time last year, I really felt "in touch" with the natural world in a way that I'd taken for granted for 30 odd years in that I saw for the first time the beauty of the leaves changing in the fall. Around the same time, I discovered some wonderful walking trails that stretch for a few miles through the woods around our neighborhood. I began to call it the "dog walk," as taking the dog with me was a good way to keep the neighbors from calling the authorities if they saw me prowling around the woods behind their houses. (In their defense, I'd probably react the same way if I saw me in the woods behind my house.)

Most of the trails I'd been walking are in the process of being developed by a local construction company. I'd had a rather good relationship with the crew working the site and they'd even asked me to run off any undesirables I might have seen dumping trash, etc. in the woods. Again, being attached to the dog deconstructed any preconception that I might be one of the undesirables.

Then, one day I found a couple of pine trees blocking the trail coming from our neighborhood, which isn't exactly a "Keep Out" sign, so *El Doggo* and I easily hopped the trees and went on our usual walk. I'd known from the beginning that this walk was never mine. Since it was being developed, it was—as is everything in life—a fleeting thing, and something to be cherished for the time it was available. However, I couldn't resist a sense of injustice and loss when the foreman of the site informed me that the trees were felled to keep EVERYONE off the trails, even the area they aren't developing, and that as far as I know, they don't own. He even went so far as to call me "boy" trying to invoke a confrontation. So for the last few months I've been walking the dog all the way to the last cul-de-sac. I've been keeping to the streets out of respect for the developer's wishes—despite my new found spiritual awakening and connection with nature through these beautiful woods so close to our reckoning of civilization.

At the end of the cul-de-sac lives a woman I've waved to in passing a few times in the past. Last week, I saw she was struggling to move some furniture out, and since I have more than a passing familiarity with the concept of manual labor, I decided I would give her a hand. In talking, she confided that she'd enjoyed a walk down these paths as well and didn't think it was fair for the crew to keep everybody out even though as far as she could tell they didn't own about half the walk that they'd blocked off. She offered that I was welcome to cut through her yard, and enjoy the woods whenever I wanted.

My point is that it's all too easy to focus on the negative, becoming bitter. Our gift of "free will" also offers us the responsibility of patience and the development of our abilities to bring light into the world despite what circumstances give us. Occasionally, it seems that we end up rewarded after all if we continue with the correct attitude, and persist in being positive despite the obstacles we're presented.

INSIDE THE NUUSLETTER:

Services and Forums.....	2
Presidential Farewell.....	6
Angel nUUs.....	7
Poetry Corner.....	8

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

JUNE 7 ♦ *SINGING A NUU SONG*

Dalton Roberts will be our guest speaker. Dalton wears many hats and wears them well. Musician. Singer. Songwriter. Author. Poet. Columnist. Toastmaster. Humorist. Philosopher. First and foremost, an entertainer. Mary Hunter will lead this service.

JUNE 14 ♦ *THE QUESTION BOX*

The Rev. Jeff Briere answers all your questions. See notice on page 4.

JUNE 21 ♦ *SOLSTUUCE*

UUCG Pagans present an experiential celebration of the Summer Solstice. Learn more about the Summer Solstice on page 3.

JUNE 28 ♦ *DIFFICULT COMPASSION*

What exactly is compassion? Why is it easy to feel compassion for someone we don't know who is experiencing misfortune and so challenging when a difficult family member is pushing our buttons? How is it that some people seem to deserve our compassion while others do not? Our guest speaker, Linda Graham, says she has struggled with these issues spiritually, personally, and professionally for many years. She will share some of what she has learned so far on her journey as a Buddhist and as a psychotherapist. Learn more about Linda Graham at the bottom of this page.

---

SUNDAY FORUMS

Sunday Forums meet at 9:30 on Sunday mornings. Jim and Sue Welborn are coordinating the June programs. This month we will be discussing the Gnostic Gospels. The following books will serve as reference: Elaine Pagel's *Beyond Belief: the Secret Gospel of Thomas* and *The Gnostic Gospels*; Marvin Meyer's *The Gospel of Thomas: the Hidden Sayings of Jesus* and *The Gospels of Mary*; and Bruce Chilton's *Mary Magdalene*.

Come join us for the discussions! Downstairs in the last room on the left.

**June 7** ~ Dr. Colbert Whitaker will discuss the Gnostic Bible and the Gospel of Judas.

**June 14** ~ Sue Welborn will lead a discussion on Mary Magdalene.

**June 21** ~ Jim Welborn will lead a discussion on the Gospel of Thomas.

**June 28** ~ Jim Welborn will lead a summary discussion on the Gnostic Gospels.

---

WHO'S PREACHING?

Linda Graham has been a practicing Buddhist since 1981 and is a founding member of The Bodhi Center of Chattanooga, a Tibetan Buddhist organization in Chattanooga. She has worked in the mental health field for about 30 years and has a private psychotherapy practice in addition to her work as a mental health counselor at Silverdale Detention Center.

Linda is a Licensed Professional Counselor in the State of Tennessee and a National Board Certified Clinical Hypnotherapist.

Over the years, she has worked in many different settings, including programs for homeless and seriously mentally ill adults, crisis services, veterans programs, HIV/AIDS services, and with various organizations providing critical incident stress management. Her professional interests are trauma, anxiety, panic, and post traumatic stress disorders.

On a personal note, she lives with two cats, Oz and Izi, and studies Tai Chi and Karate in her spare time.

## THE INTERDEPENDENT WEB

by Steve Hollingsworth

*[Handshaking] seems so 20<sup>th</sup> century.*

- Greta Browne

Many of you are aware that Daidee and I spent time in Mexico City recently. The last several days we spent in what felt like house arrest because of the outbreak of H1N1 aka swine flu. Museums, restaurants, theaters, all closed. Even the Red Devils Mexican League baseball team we'd planned to see was diverted to play their home series in their opponent's park, a 13-hour bus ride away. Talk about privation!

I believe that events have proven that the overall reaction around the world addressing this particular threat have been drastically overreaching and absurdly costly. Yet I also realize that catastrophic pandemics are possible and only by acting swiftly can loss of life be minimized. If you suspect that I'm bewildered, you are right.

The crux of the dilemma for me is that life itself is risky. Moreover, evolution of species has almost certainly been partly a story of parasites becoming symbiotic partners becoming integral to organisms in their fight against new parasites in a cyclical process that will go on as long as life itself.

Part of the mischief in the reaction to H1N1 is an expectation that government must keep us safe. However, the way I look at it, if our government steals a day of life from 300 million people, that's

ten thousand lifetimes lost.

More mischief occurs when we make selfish choices: to use antibiotics too liberally and sometimes to fail to finish their course of use. Multiply-drug-resistant bacteria are the bane of all hospitals today and make hospitalization a scarier prospect than it was forty years ago. It's also somewhat unclear whether keeping children in as antiseptic an environment as possible is really in their long-term best interest.

Nevertheless, I suspect that as a civilization we will adjust our behaviors in small but significant ways. When we opened the door and Greta Browne greeted us with the hands-together Namaste gesture instead of a traditional handshake, I wondered if that really was a glimpse of the future.

The stories of the first GRID/AIDS patients I can never forget. Denied human touch, healing touch, touch that made their lives possible in the beginning, the end came sooner and more dismally than it had to. A few brave souls, like Troy Perry, while the degree of infectiousness was still quite unknown, were willing to go to those suffering and hold hands to provide the ministry that no one should be denied.

The only thing I am sure of is that being fearful or brave, doing right or making terrible mistakes, is all part of being truly human.

## PAGAN PERSPECTIVE

**Dates of interest in June**

7 - Discussion Group - Topic Summer Solstice

7 - Full Moon

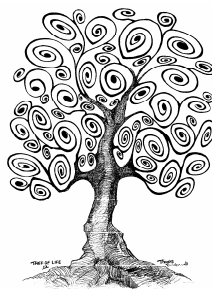
21 - Summer Solstice

22 - New Moon

**Summer Solstice**

As a major celestial event, the Summer Solstice results in the longest day and the shortest night of the year. The Northern Hemisphere celebrates in June, but the people on the Southern half of the earth have their longest summer day in December.

Awed by the great power of the sun, civilizations in the northern areas have for



centuries celebrated the first day of summer otherwise known as the Summer Solstice or Midsummer. The Celts & Slavs celebrated the first day of summer with dancing and bonfires to help increase the sun's energy. Perhaps the most enduring modern ties with Summer Solstice were the Druids' celebration of the day as the "wedding of Heaven and Earth", resulting in the present day belief of a "lucky" wedding in June.

Today, the day is still celebrated around the world - most notably in England at Stonehenge and Avebury, where thousands gather to welcome the sunrise on the Summer Solstice. Pagan spirit gatherings or festivals are also common in June, when groups assemble to light a sacred fire and stay up all night to welcome the dawn.

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

GREEN SANCTUARY  
by Sandy Kurtz

**Last chance.** It may not be too late to make your reservation for the Rachel Carson Memorial Dinner on June 6<sup>th</sup>. The cost is only \$20/person for an elegant evening that brings inspiration, a delicious vegetarian dinner, live music and fascinating conversations with others from the greater Chattanooga community. Call the church office to save your place.

In May, Sandy Kurtz attended the National Interfaith Power & Light (IPL) conference in Washington, D.C. Visits to legislators were aimed at gaining votes for Representative Henry Waxman's bill for climate change legislation and letting our elected representatives know that people of faith want action. They feel that there is a moral imperative to care for Earth and to love our global neighbors and children now and in the future. There are 29 states with IPL chapters. Tennessee is one of them and our Chattanooga chapter is the most active in our state. Global Warming Task Force, the Chattanooga chapter meets the second Thursday of each month at 7 pm at the Chattanooga Zoo. For more information visit <[www.theregenerationProject.org](http://www.theregenerationProject.org)>.

**Making a green commitment.** The Chattanooga Green Committee made its recommendations for reducing our local carbon

footprint and held a Green Commitment evening. About 250 citizens selected from 17 task forces are willing to join. They fall under four categories: Healthy Communities, Natural Resources, Education & Policy, and Energy Efficiency. First meetings are being scheduled.

Visit this website for more information: <[www.chattanooga.gov](http://www.chattanooga.gov)>

**Summer Reading.** With the first day of summer coming soon and the prospect of some down time or vacation, you might set a goal to read a book. It could be a romance or mystery novel, but how about a 'green' book? Here are some suggestions:

- *Forecast: The Consequences of Climate change, from the Amazon to the Arctic, from Darfur to Napa Valley* by Stephan Faris
- *Love God, Heal Earth* by Reverend Canon Sally G. Bingham, (21 Leading Religious Voices Speak Out on Our Sacred Duty to Protect the Environment)
- *A New Climate for Theology: God, the World and Global Warming* by Sallie McFague

**Got Questions?**

The Rev. Jeff Briere has answers!

In the fellowship area, you will find a handsomely-decorated box and matching note cards.

Write your question on a card and deposit in the box.

Your question will be answered during the service on Sunday, June 14.

Rev. Briere answers any question! All questions!

Now's your chance to ask impertinent questions!

Watch the minister squirm as he tries to craft an appropriate answer!

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

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

Bob Kimbro June 3  
tashi kunesh June 3  
Catherine Long June 8  
Ann Heacker June 9  
Nancy Anderson June 11  
Martha Lee June 12  
Joshua Goldman June 15  
Lauren Solomon June 15  
Sandy Kurtz June 16



Ory Weaver June 16  
Steve Sherman June 17  
Cynthia Williams June 17  
Dimis Dowse June 19  
Diana Solomon June 20  
Ray Solomon June 20  
Dez Papendorp June 26  
Pat O'Brien June 28  
Helen Solomon June 29

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UUPDATE  
 by Jamie Sullivan, Director of Religious Education

Greetings from all of us in Religious Education (RE)! We have been continuing our education of Heifer International with the children and teens and are looking forward to presenting our experience during service on June 14th. We hope you can be there.

Our summer plans are underway. We will be gathering lessons from a wonderful book called *City Kids and City Critters! Activities for Urban Explorers*, by Janet Wier Roberts and Carol Huelbig. Each Sunday we will engage in hands-on activities which will help our children develop a deeper connection to the natural world. They will learn to become "nature detectives" through scientific experiments. If they collect and record information from the experiments from church as well as at home, they will earn a "Nature Detective Badge." Parents will need to encourage their children to get outdoors and discover the eco-magic in their own backyards. We will look at macro-worlds and micro-worlds and discover how many living organisms exist beyond our human vision. We will grow in our understanding of our city and yard habitats, developing a greater appreciation for all life forms. So, please be involved this summer...our families grow closer when we get outside and observe together!

Some examples of our activities include:

- *Nosing Around*: Awareness of the sense of smell and its importance in the survival of many animals

- *Habitat Hunt*: Exploring what animals need in order to survive (especially those in the city)
- *Wildlife at Work*: Discovering that all living things have "jobs" essential for the balance of all life.

Special Thank You:

I have learned so much from all of you this year...children, teachers, volunteers, and RE Board Representative, April Waggener. April, you have done such a great job! The time and energy we all put into RE has been well spent as can be seen in the growth and change that is happening. I see a bright and productive future for this program. Our teen service touched many of you and I am so happy and proud of the teens for their superb accomplishment! Thanks to Kate Briere, Dez Papendorp, and Jay McCurdy, our children have been given the opportunity to learn the hand bells and perform for our service. Kay McCurdy has been such a help in organizing and developing plans for our Teacher Appreciation Sunday, as well as Child Appreciation Sunday. Leslie Brock has stepped in to volunteer in so many areas, especially helping to plan and organize our Heifer International month. Thank You to Mary Ahern, Katye Couch, Anna Marie Dillard, James Joyner, Maddie Kertay, Dez Pappendorp, Wendy Sapp, Bonny Sinclair, and Carmen Vanderhoof for their consistency in teaching our classes. Please forgive me if I have forgotten anyone! Thanks to all of you who have helped on random Sundays...we need you too!



Our Children's Bell Choir receives a round of applause on Sunday, May 17, Children's Appreciation Day!

TEEN SERVICE

I just want to shout out really loud: **I LOVED THE TEEN MAY SERVICE IMMENSELY!!!!** All the teens blew the church away. We are so fortunate to have such incredible individuals showing up regularly downstairs on Sunday. Teens, thank you so much

for the gift of yourself that you gave our church on May 3rd. Our teens rocked and if you missed it—you missed a one of a kind, top of the list service. My only regret is that it wasn't videotaped. Maybe next time...  
 ~ Dez Papendorp

## PRESIDENTIAL FAREWELL

*by Maddie Kertay, President*

Twenty years ago when I was handed the first of my six children I was in awe and dumb struck about what I had just done, and a similar feeling washed over me when, almost 2 years ago, I made the commitment to serve as president of this church. Presidential life is not something to be rushed into, but once committed it must be done with all of your heart, smarts, and more than a dash of bravery, much like parenting teens and toddlers!

Presiding over this congregation has been a great privilege and weaving in my contribution of time and talent over this year is not anything I will ever regret. It has been filled with moments, not unlike those of parenting, where at times I had to tell people "no" and listen to them stomp off and slam the door on their virtual bedrooms. But more often it was filled with heart bursting pride like watching the teens produce their fabulous service just a few Sundays ago. At church, like at home I have done my best to be a steady guiding force that could be counted on for a hug when needed, advice when asked for (or not) and unconditional love even when some members were feeling particularly fussy.

As I look back over this year I do so with the eye of a mother. I

look with pride at our growing music department and happy children in RE. I think fondly of the small group of people who always heed the call when a volunteer is needed. I think of new faces and old friends who continue to support the church through active participation and giving. And like most moms, I notice that there are chores to be done around the church and not enough people doing them. Like in any family, moms get cranky when too much of the work falls to them and the rest of the family is not pulling their fair share of the load. I thank those who have freely given of their time and their talents and made room in their lives to serve on the current board. And to those who serve next year I pledge my support as past president in order to make your year as fulfilling and productive as possible.

This church is the best and sometimes only option for many who do not fit in the traditional mold of southern church-going; I hope that over the next year each of you do your part, your fair share, to make it the most welcoming and well-run option for those who need us. I thank you for letting me serve this year and look forward to watching another exciting year of growth under Eric's term as church president.

## SMALL GROUP MINISTRY NEWS

*by Dez Papendorp*

I'm happy to announce the members of the Small Group Ministry Steering Team: Nicole Barnhart, Elaine Hill, James Joyner, Nancy Beel, Kay McCurdy, Linda Helton, Leslie Brock, Elaine Watkins, Dianne Davison, and April Waggener. These dedicated Unitarian Universalists have met twice so far. Their commitment is huge, their schedules are full, and yet their sincere resolve to bring Small Group Ministry to our Church within this year is steadfast.

Within the Small Group Ministry Model, there is a dance between listening, sharing, contemplation, and silence. Silence. I'm sure we've all experienced spontaneous moments of silence that slice into our lives. Have you ever felt shifted for a bit by silence...maybe a bit tranquil or possibly a bit unnerved?

Mellen Kennedy writes in an article titled, *Inviting the Silence*,

*We live in a time and a culture where silence is often viewed as a void to be filled, particularly in groups. 'Silence is something like an endangered species' remarks*

*therapist, Gunilla Norris. In our quest for efficiency, silence seems like a waste of the precious resource of time. We quickly become uncomfortable and jump 'to fix the problem' with words.*

*Other times and other cultures have viewed silence differently. The mystical traditions of the world teach us that silence is to be cultivated. They teach us that our spiritual flowering is nurtured by spontaneous and intentional moments of silence, even in groups. Rather than an absence, silence is seen as full and rich. Silence can invite us to slow down, relax, and go deeper. Perhaps that's actually why it can make us so uncomfortable.*

This article was published in the Small Group Ministry Quarterly and is available in full online at <[www.smallgroupministry.net](http://www.smallgroupministry.net)>

How can you make room for silence in your life? Have you had the opportunity to experience silence within a group setting often? How might this be? If you'd like, share your answers with someone on the Small Group Ministry Steering Team. We will be exploring these concepts this summer.

DOUBLE THE PLATE - ALMOST FINIS (FOR THIS YEAR)

by Karl Hunt

Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, will be our last Double the Plate collection for the fiscal year. To this point you have given about \$1,800 to match a comparable amount put up by our donors. On the last Double the Plate Sunday, we were short \$70 of the donor's challenge of \$300. However, attendance was somewhat low, and the \$230 collected was still a generous sum.

Let's finish the year with a big blowout and see if we can't handily beat the donor's offer of \$300 on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Come prepared with lots of green!

Double the Plate will return in August or September. If you were not a donor before and would like to be this coming year, please contact Karl Hunt.

Dear UUCC,

I wish to thank all of you for your warm and generous support during this difficult time of grieving. Many of you have shared with me how special Joe was and how much you liked him. Your care and concern reminds me, once again, what a wonderful church community we have.

~Monique Lewis

*Joe Lewis  
August 25, 1942 - April 17, 2009*

*A past president,  
a generous friend of the church  
and a gentle friend to all.*

*On Sunday, June 14 at 4:00 pm, we will have a  
Memorial service at the church to celebrate  
Joe's life and honor his memory.*

Angel nUUs

Angels, angels, everywhere...



Thanks to the **mystery angel** who put flowers and plants in the ground next to the bell tower.

Thanks to **Anna and Noel Dillard** for the couch and loveseat in the nursery. We now have plenty of cozy, comfortable seating for our little ones, their parents, and their caregivers.

**Paul Adler** also deserves a thank you from anyone who doesn't want rain dripping into their fair trade coffee after service on Sunday. He supervised the replacement of part of the roof over the fellowship area that was in dire need of maintenance.

Thanks to the **Spehar Angels** who have once again improved life around the UUCC by re-building the steps to the lower parking lot. The Spehars originally built the steps when the lower parking lot was established 14 or 15 years ago. When asked why they decided to oversee rebuilding the steps, they replied simply, "It obviously needed to be done so we did what we could."

POETRY CORNER

Nearly every summer of my childhood, my family spent a week at Mammoth Lakes, in California. And every year we were there, my father and I would take the same hike, my favorite hike in this world, to Shadow Lake. I dedicate this poem to my father, Lee Beel.

*Shadow Lake*

A warm and cloudless day  
in summer. Father and daughter  
are hiking. Steady sound of footsteps  
on the dirt trail.

It is the Sierra Nevada. The trail  
passes through a meadow.  
Dragonflies buzz in the tall grasses.  
She is ten and he lets her lead.

They come to a swollen river.  
The water rushes and there is  
no bridge. They step precariously on  
damp stones. She is afraid they will fall.

The trail turns steep and dusty.  
His camera equipment is heavy.  
The air is thin and quiet. She stops  
to drink from the canteen.

They reach the mountain summit.  
The lake spreads out before  
them. They rest on a large boulder.  
He pulls the sandwiches from the pack.

The rock is warm against her legs.  
The mountain air is cool, the water  
clear and lovely. A warm and cloudless  
day in summer. At Shadow Lake.

~ Nancy Beel

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL PICNIC!

Our annual church picnic is on Sunday, July 5th, in the church yard if weather permits. We will move inside the church building if not! You are encouraged to come and bring a covered dish or something to grill, a portable grill if you have one, lawn chairs for comfortable outdoor seating, and above all, yourself and your family! Plan to have a great day of fellowship, starting at 11:00.

THANK YOU

Thank you so much for your generous donation to Blue Monarch. It meant so much to us. I'm sure you know that your donation will help many women and children change their lives. Our prayer is that these children will break the cycle of drugs and abuse that often goes on for generations.

~ Donna Lodge, board president.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT IN

Wednesday Night In will be taking a summer hiatus and return in September. If you are interested in hosting, please contact Leslie Brock.

PLEDGE YEAR ENDS JUNE 30<sup>TH</sup>

Reminder to all of you who pay your pledge quarterly, semi-annually, or annually, our pledge year ends on June 30. Check with Chris in the office if you need to know what your pledge amount is. Thanks in advance for your contributions.

INTERLUDE

Interlude, our mid-week contemplative service will return in August. Until then, enjoy your Wednesday evenings with family, friends, or engaging in your favorite solitary pursuits.

THE NUUSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

*the nUUsletter* welcomes articles from members and friends of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga. Please send your submissions to Wendy Sapp at <nUUsletter@uuc.org> by June 15<sup>th</sup>.



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization  
 US Postage  
**PAID**  
 Chattanooga TN  
 Permit No. 89

DATE	6/7	6/14	6/21	6/28
TOPIC	Singing a nUU Song	The Question Box	Summer StolstUUce	Difficult Compassion
LEADER	Dalton Roberts	the Rev. Jeff Briere	Leslie Brock James Joyner	Linda Graham
BOT MEMBER	Elaine Watkins	Eric Papendorp	Kay McCurdy	Kay McCurdy
GREETER	TBD	Jesse Blue	Nicky Ozbek	Sharon Locke
VISITOR TABLE	Elaine Watkins	Martha Lee	N/A	N/A
USHER	Jesse Blue	Linda Park	Kristie McKinley	Margaret Hudson
MUSIC	Steve Hollingsworth	Kate Briere	The House Band	Marcia Jenison
SOUND REINFORCEMENT	Buck O'Rear	Karl Hunt	Roger Davis	David Reed

*To read without reflecting is like eating without digesting.*

~ Edmund Burke