



Teen Graffiti Art Project
by Carol Hobbs

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The Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga is privileged to have a vibrant and engaging "Art on the Walls" program that finds local artists with amazing talent who share their art with us. A new artist or program is featured every two weeks. The following is a look back at the Teen Graffiti Art Project that energized our walls this summer. See information on page 10 about the photographs of Leslie O'Rear that will grace our walls for the next two months.

There is a story behind the colorful energetic July and August Art-on-the-Walls exhibit. For the second summer, the teens have contributed to the exhibit, hopefully creating a tradition. This summer, rather than subjecting the teens to my choice of art, I ventured out and gave them choices...Graffiti was the winner.

On our first project day, the teens sat dutifully while I presented the archaic history of Roman graffiti and the modern bane of urban graffiti. They endured photos of graffiti on boxcars and buildings. They even feigned interest when I showed my own example of graffiti, which resembled decor from a "my pretty pony" bedroom.

Despite my fears that I hadn't provided adequate instruction, Pat O'Brien and I showed them material and equipment, stepped back, and urged them to create. My fears were unfounded. It was as if they hatched fully detailed plans the moment I said "graffiti!"

Kate Hoyt immediately began her marvelous tree-text creation. Jonathan Posey's exuberant splatter technique made Pat and I grateful for drop cloths. Chris Ballew drew a balloon-head cartoon making a precocious political statement. Chandler Hunt employed an advanced spray paint technique for space art I and II. At one point, Chandler was seen spaying his tennis shoes orange, which seemed totally appropriate. Haley Solomon utilized the spray-sponge-splatter-stencil technique for a great effect. Claire Ballew's soothing pastel bubbles harbor a serious message. Other participants were: Billy Oliver (master of wild style), Will Tipton (more paint on Will than on the canvas), and Kristen Hooper (carrot art).

After three sessions of splatter and spray, the teens have again honored our UU congregation with their talent. Thanks teens!

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SUNDAY SERVICES ♦ 11:00 AM

SEPTEMBER 6 ♦ *THE PROUDEST OF THE PROUD, THE SORRIEST OF THE SORRY*

What was or is your best moment? That time when you were the proudest of the proud. What is or was your worst moment? That time you were the sorriest of the sorry. We all live at Upson Downs, that beautiful place in the country of human nature. The Rev. Jeff Briere preaching.

SEPTEMBER 13 ♦ *INGATHERING, 2009: WE'RE ALL IN THE SAME BOAT*

This is an annual service, the unofficial and official start of the church year, marked by a ritual blending of waters. See the article on p. 5 for more information. The Rev. Jeff Briere leads this service.

SEPTEMBER 20 ♦ *SAVING THE WORLD—NINE PEOPLE AT A TIME*

We have begun a small group ministry program in this church. What's that all about? Come to this service and find out. The Rev. Jeff Briere, with help from Dez Papendorp, leads the service.

SEPTEMBER 27 ♦ *CENTERING PRAYER: IT'S NOT JUST FOR SAINTS AND MYSTICS*

Centering prayer is a popular method of contemplative prayer or meditation, placing a strong emphasis on interior silence. Barbara Ray presents her ideas and thoughts about this movement among religious peoples. George Helton leads this service. Learn more about Barbara on page 5.

SUNDAY FORUMS

The Forum meets downstairs in the last room on the left at 9:30. Please feel free to join us and add your voice to the thoughtful discussions.

The month of September at the Forum will be given examining the book *Before the Dawn*, by Nicholas Wade, science editor for *The New York Times*. This book reviews recent findings, using DNA, that throw light on the beginnings and the future of the human race.

September 6 ~ Peggy Kovak, professor of biology at UTC, will bring us up-to-date on the science that discovered DNA and what we are learning about ourselves thanks to that great break-through.

September 13 ~ Gail Solomon, who has a Linguistics degree from UC, Berkeley, will lead us in a discussion of the role of linguistics in the development of the new views of the progress of human evolution as described in *Before the Dawn*.

September 20 ~ Charles Redwine and Blake Moore will guide us on the great dispersion of homo sapiens out of Africa, as traced by DNA evidence. Charles is our in-house professional archeologist.

September 27 ~ Dr. Lee Solomon will review the suggestions at the end of Nicholas' book about what might be the eventual end of humanity as we know it. He will also remind us of other possible futures as imagined by various science fiction writers.

THE INTERDEPENDENT WEB
by Steve Hollingsworth

I am grateful to Unitarian Universalists and I felt your concern for all people during the conference here in Salt Lake City. I personally don't agree with the lesbian and gay lifestyle, but I feel that any hate directed toward them or any other group is wrong and not Christian or Godlike.

~ Larry Love



Marriage equality—the right to marry without regard to sex or gender expression—has been a key part of our Unitarian Universalist (UU) witness. The past president of our UU Association (UUA) Bill Sinkford declared “We stand on the side of love,” serving notice that our member congregations support civil marriage as a civil right. At the Salt Lake City General Assembly of the UUA, we learned how the UUA has taken Bill’s words and created an expanded campaign called *Standing on the Side of Love*. It has a PR firm behind it; what Bill Sinkford started, the new UUA president Peter Morales has committed to continue. It even has a catchy name: SSL is pronounced “sizzle.”

Most important, it is an effort, far beyond just marriage equality, to reach out to all people whose love is not valued. The interfaith witness event at General Assembly focused on the effect of US immigration policy on families. The event proved to me how timely it is in a society where we spend too little time finding common ground.

Even within our UU movement, a few folks from the bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgender (BGLT) community have resisted sharing the slogan. Yet, read Larry Love’s words. Larry, a devout Mormon and married to a Guatemalan illegal, is speaking out in support of our UUA as it works to keep him and his family together. In doing so, he is shoulder to shoulder with people of other faiths and with BGLT people.

In so many circumstances, familiarity leads to tolerance, then to acceptance. In time can come affirmation. Would Prop 8 have passed in California if more Mormons had worked beside gay people? Imagine life if we all stood on the side of love.

PAGAN PERSPECTIVE

Dates of interest in September

September

- 4 - Full Moon
- 6 - 9:30 am - Study Group - Topic - Autumnal Equinox
- 6 - Sept. 29 - Mercury in Retrograde
- 18 - New Moon
- 22 - Autumnal Equinox



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
IT'S A MATTER OF JUSTICE
by Sandy Kurtz

The National Council of Churches sponsored a rally in Washington, DC. www.ilovemountains.org/news/579. People of faith are speaking out against mountaintop removal. That is the coal mining method being used extensively in Appalachia exploding mountains to get at underground coal seams. All the rubble is then dumped into the valley burying to date 2000 streams while leaving devastated communities and poisoned ecosystems. EPA estimates that by 2010 a total of 1.4 million acres of Appalachia's mountains will have been destroyed.

In 2006, the Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly voted to adopt an Action of Immediate Witness to End Mountaintop Removal Coal Mining www.ilovemountains.org/resolutions#uuu. Five other major denominations have done the same.

The **Appalachia Restoration Act (S. 696)** is a bill in the U.S. Senate that will sharply reduce mountaintop removal coal mining and protect clean drinking water for many of our nation's cities. It will protect the quality of life for Appalachian coalfield residents who face frequent catastrophic flooding and pollution or loss of drinking water as a result of mountaintop removal coal mining. Senator Alexander is one of the co-sponsors of this bill. Of course, the coal industry is opposed and in the Tennessee Valley 60-65% of our electricity is generated by burning coal.

Want to know where your coal comes from? Go to www.appvoices.org. On the far right side of the screen you will see a box asking "are you connected?" Enter your zip code and click.



Mountaintop Removal in southern West Virginia
 More photos at http://www.ohvec.org/galleries/mountaintop_removal/007/



PRIVET PATROL AND PIZZA PARTY
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, AFTER COFFEE HOUR

Deceptively innocent looking, attractive privet will take over your woods if you let it, robbing our Tennessee native plants of space and nutrients. We must attack! In previous battles we have held the enemy at bay, but it doesn't give up easily. Armed with pizza and privet wrenches (kids learn what a lever can do), we will prevail. We will also spruce up the grounds and perhaps plant some bulbs. Wear work clothes and bring gloves and garden tools if you wish. For more information, contact Sandy Kurtz.

WATER COMMUNION

On September 13th, during the Sunday worship service, we will begin our time of fellowship for church another year as we enact our Water Communion. The Rev. Jeff Briere will explain the history of the service in a short sermon on that day, so if you want to know more about how this ritual came to us, attend the service and bring with you a small amount of water that comes from a place special to you. That can be your kitchen faucet, a mud puddle, a bird bath or anyplace in the world.

Where the water comes from is irrelevant. What you did to collect it doesn't matter. What the water means to you and to us is important. So that's your assignment. Collect some water, bring it to the service and in a couple sentences, tell us why it's important to you and to us and why you brought it to the church.

On a symbolic level, the water you bring represents the little bit of you that you bring to the life of the church. Adding together our waters (pouring into a vase), represents the larger life we live together as a liberal religious community. If water doesn't float your boat, bring a stone, a leaf, a flower or another natural object to the service, and we'll add it to the decor on the altar.

WHO'S PREACHING?

On Sunday, September 27th, Dr. Barbara Ray will introduce us to Centering Prayer, a Christian meditative practice, which has as its intent to bring us into a deepening relationship with God/Holy Spirit/Higher Power. Centering is a silent form of prayer where one listens to God with the intention to consent to God's presence and action in one's life. Dr. Ray will guide us through the steps of this Centering process and give us a small taste of the practice. Through Centering Prayer we can become more present in our lives as well as rest in the presence of Spirit.

Dr. Barbara Ray is a professor of Special Education at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Her doctorate is in Learning and Behavioral Disabilities from the University of Kentucky; her Master's degree from the University of Wisconsin is in Emotional and Behavioral Disabilities. In addition to training teachers to work with students with disabilities, she works with our own Dr. George Helton to research ethical decision making among teachers and school psychologists. She is a seven year practitioner of Centering Prayer and was recently approved to teach the practice to others.

WHO'S PLAYING?

Ask Christie Burns how she started playing the hammered dulcimer, and she'll tell you it was love at first sight. The instrument drew her into the world of folk music and led her to pursue her BA in Ethnomusicology at UCLA. During her senior year abroad in Ireland, Christie founded and directed the Cork Dulcimer Festival, and there began to network with musicians from all over the world. Christie has taken her music to Sweden, England, Scotland, Belgium, Hungary, Switzerland, and Germany, as well as festivals all over the United States, and she has collected music in every place she's been. Christie has her M.A. in Folk Studies from Western Kentucky University, and moved to Chattanooga's Southside in 2007 as part of the ArtsMove artist residential incentive program.

These days, Christie is dedicating much of her time to teaching private music lessons at the independently owned Mountain Music store in Red Bank. Along with fellow teacher Matt Evans, she is involved with organizing the Mountain Music Folk School, which is providing Chattanooga's aspiring musicians with music classes in many genres and instruments. You can find out about the Mountain Music Folk School's upcoming fall semester of classes at www.mmfolk.com. Christie joins us in worship on September 20th.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NUUS
LATE FRAGMENT**

by Kay McCurdy, Director of Religious Education

*And did you get what
You wanted from this life, even so?
I did.*

*And what did you want?
To call myself beloved, to feel myself
Beloved on the earth.*

~Raymond Carver

A question: If you can't offer kids a dogma, what do you give them instead? A pocket to hold all the riddles of life they'll be unraveling? A notebook to capture the words of great teachers they'll find inspiring like Dr King or Jesus or Thoreau? A recycling bin to discard what no longer works for them but might be valid for others?

Here's an answer: In the absence of dogma, you give kids a magnifying glass and a hand to hold. You give them a walk in the park and a trip to the library. You give them the gift of being seen and heard and valued. You celebrate as many holidays as will fit in the squares of your family calendar. You dance and sing and ring 'round the May Pole. You check your watch, because time is fleeting and soon you'll look up and they'll be grown and gone.



This year marks some changes downstairs. The first is that we are no longer the Religious Education (RE) Program. We are now the Religious Education Cooperative. Parents registering their child will be required to commit to serving once per month, either in the classroom or helping with snacks or assisting as needed to keep our RE boat afloat.

In case you're wondering, we're not just Takers. We're Givers, as well. We promise to give your child our undivided and respectful attention. We promise to work hard to inspire them, and be inspired by them in return. And, finally, we promise to create a safe place for them to land on Sunday mornings; a place where they will feel, always, beloved.

BIRTHDAYS!

September brings cooler weather and more birthdays to celebrate! Don't forget to recognize the following people on their birthdays and help them celebrate their special day!

Bart Solomon September 10
Ken Nickerson September 11
Ron Pasch September 13
Mike Bascom September 19
Mary Hunter September 22
Jeff Styles September 22



Adam Couch September 23
Les Kertay September 23
Julia Nelson September 24
Rich Dwyer September 25
Kay McCurdy September 25
Charlotte Davis September 25

COME FLY WITH ME

by Bonny Sinclair, Vice-President, Religious Education

In the August edition of *the nUUsletter*, I invited you to "come fly with me," stretch your wings, and become involved in one of the more rewarding aspects of church, our religious education (RE). For the first time in many years, we offer four separate classes for our children: preschool (3-5 yrs), Sprouts (6-8 yrs), Medievals (9-12 yrs), and Uberkuuls (13-18 yrs). We are also looking at ahead to expanding religious education activities across the life span, specifically including options for young adults.

Because of this growth, our Religious Education department is now a cooperative. This means that parents who register their children in the program are required to volunteer time and resources to educate and provide positive role models for our children. Moreover, because "it takes a village," we need members without children in RE to lend their time and talents to ensure program success. For instance, we are fortunate enough to have teens interested enough to come on their own. We are looking for members willing to step in and provide the adult volunteer time requirement for these special teens.

The time requirement, equivalent to one Sunday a month, is satisfied in any number of ways. Being in the classroom as a teacher or an assistant are the most important, as well as being a back up or emergency substitute for these positions, either in your child's class or not. There are many duties in the administration of the department, such as record keeping, copying, getting lesson materials ready, and phone calling. Do you have a special talent, knowledge, or experience? Consider offering your time to enrich the planned lesson. Would you prefer to be behind the scenes? We need angels to oversee the organization of supply closets, make things, donate materials or food, plan, organize, or staff special events.

So, what am I saying here, really? The Religious Education department can no longer function with just the DRE and seven people who give endlessly of their time—every Sunday and throughout the year. There is just too much to do. Our Director of Religious Education is the administrator of the program. Her job is deciding what to do and making sure there is somebody to do it. What happens if no one steps up? No class. It's that simple. That's where you come in. One Sunday a month, or, say, an hour a week is what is required either in the classroom or out. Trust me; you give the time, we'll fill a need. Our program has the potential to be the most rewarding experience and have the most far reaching impact for the largest number of our members. Come on. Spread your wings. Come fly with us.

ARE YOU A MUU?

by Bonny Sinclair, Vice President, Religious Education

Are you a MUU? 35 adults, 8 teens and 5 children are. Wanna be? Then contact Bonny Sinclair to learn more. Get involved with the teens of our church.

What is a MUU? A MUU is a Mystery Unitarian Universalist. It's a person who agrees to be a famous Unitarian Universalist for the Teen RE program. You get a half-page bio and 5 slips of secret tasks and a blue dot on your nametag. A teen will ask you "yes or no" questions in trying to figure out who you are. If they guess, give them a secret task slip. When 5 teens have guessed who you are, you're done. You agree to be contacted at church, by phone, or email. This program will continue until a teen guesses everyone or we finish this particular RE program trimester in December. Teens win modest prizes for whoever guesses the first MUU, the most in a month, and the most overall MUUs.

Contact Bonny Sinclair to find out what MUUs are available. Don't reveal your MUU to anyone, lest a Teen finds out without asking questions.

**LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT
THE DOOMSDAY CLOCK**

by Eric Papendorp, President, Board of Trustees

When I was a freshman in high school, I was scared of a clock. It distracted me from my schoolwork, interfered with my social life, even made numerous appearances in my nightmares. This was no regular clock, it was the Doomsday Clock. The Doomsday Clock is a symbolic clock face maintained since 1947 by the Board of Directors of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists at the University of Chicago. It uses the analogy of the human race being at a time that is a 'few minutes to midnight' where midnight represents destruction by nuclear war, and it has appeared on the cover of each issue of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists since its introduction. The clock was started at seven minutes to midnight during the Cold War in 1947, and has subsequently been moved forwards or backwards at intervals, depending on the state of the world and the prospects for nuclear war.

In 1984, due to the escalation of the arms race, the clock was moved to three minutes to midnight. Looking back, I am sure that my freshman American history teacher was not intending to give me nightmares when she mounted a classroom version of the clock above the blackboard, but the image of that clock, set at a mere three minutes until the end of the world, is one that haunts me yet.

So profound was the visual of that Doomsday Clock that I still see it when my I am involved with impending deadlines or crises that involve strict time limits. I see the clock now, in relation to our church, as we continue to proceed through the year without a President-Elect. I know, it sounds awfully melodramatic to compare the annihilation of our planet to an empty position on our Board of Trustees, but I am a worrier, and the vacancy in this position worries me. Had I not had the experience of serving as President-Elect, not only would my job be much more difficult; I fear the church would have suffered from my lack of experience and knowledge. Filling this position is one of my top priorities.

The reasons I have heard from church members for not being able to fill this position are numerous and well founded. Long-term members have told me it is time for newer members to step up and serve. New members feel they don't have the experience. People are too busy, too tired, too stressed, are facing employment or health issues. I understand, I sympathize, I empathize, but surely, there is one among us that can answer this call. If you feel even the glimmer of interest, please feel free to contact me or another Board member to discuss the position. Tick. Tock.

JOINING THE CHURCH

On November 1st, we will welcome new members at a special worship service. If you have thought about joining the church, please contact our minister, the Rev. Jeff Briere, for a brief meeting and a discussion of your spiritual journey.

THE NEW UU

A three-session course for new members, and others interested in Unitarian Universalism, is scheduled for November 10th, 17th, and 24th at 7 pm each night. Participants will share their spiritual journeys. They will learn about the history of Unitarianism and Universalism, the history of this church and the Unitarian Universalist Association, church governance, and our Agreement for Fellowship. They will also find out what they can do to support the life of the church. Sign up on the roster posted on the minister's door. Questions? Contact the minister, Jeff Briere.

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY IS FINALLY HERE!
HALLELUJAH!
by Dez Papendorp

September brings open enrollment for anyone interested in participating in a Small Group at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga. Registration will be held at the church from September 6th until September 20th. After which, the Small Group Ministry (SGM) Steering Team will fill groups and notify participants. We have willing church members trained for facilitation, guiding us all through this initial year of Small Group Ministry. Each group's sign-up capacity is eight, so look for which group works best for your interest/schedule and **commit**. Most groups will start meeting monthly this October and stop meeting in June. Speak to any SGM Steering Team member: Leslie Brock, Nicole Barnhart, Elaine Watkins, Elaine Hill, Nancy Beel, James Joyner, Linda Helton, Kay McCurdy, Jeff Briere or Dez Papendorp regarding how to become involved with this active church ministry.

Are you interested but holding back? Why? Talk to us if you need more information. Attend the Sunday service on the 20th to confirm why this is a valuable pursuit. Plus, read this brief excerpt from another reluctant participant.

The Rev. Bill Breeden, Bloomington, IN, wrote "What's Not to Like about SGM?" for the *UU Small Group Ministry Network Quarterly, Winter, 2008*.

As I have stated before, I was a reluctant participant in the SGM workshop at Ferry Beach a few years ago. Now, after two years of our small group ministry (Chalice Circles), it is hard to believe the depths of my ignorance. In hindsight it really was a no-brainer. As a co-minister of a growing congregation on the threshold of being a large church, I can say unequivocally that our decision to begin an SGM program was the smartest thing we have done in some time. Why? I can answer it with one word, "Ministry."

Small groups provide another layer of ministry that exponentially increases the ability to touch those persons in our congregation seeking community and meaningful relationships in their lives.

I hope to see you in a Small Group soon. It's worthy of your time and life.

KITCHEN CHAIRPERSON(S) WANTED:

If you (or you and a team) are looking for an easy way to volunteer at church, consider becoming the Kitchen Chairperson(s). Duties include recruiting volunteers to make coffee before and after the service, washing up the dishes, and shopping for necessary kitchen supplies. Contact Eric Papendorp at fcgm@comcast.net or 706-820-4006 or Marge Pasch mpasch1@comcast.net or 423-875-4109 or in the kitchen on Sundays.



Working in the kitchen isn't hard.
Even some of our youngest members help out!

COME ON—A—MY HOUSE*by Daidee Springer*

With Jeff's sabbatical coming up next March, the WOWzers (Working on Worship committee members) realize there may be times home hospitality will be requested.

Steve and I are lucky. We live close to the church and we have a spare bedroom. As a result, we've had the privilege of hosting and really getting to know a whole bevy of wonderful visitors who've participated in one way or another in goings-on at the Unitarian Universalist (UU) Church of Chattanooga. Most have been UUs. Some have just been fellow travelers. All who stayed with us enriched our lives.

We love hosting folks and certainly plan to continue. But it's time for us to stop being selfish and let others in on this wonderful opportunity. Moreover, there are sure to be times we'll be out of town, have other overnight guests, or just be otherwise engaged. That's already happened a few times. Charlotte and Roger Davis and Jeff and Kate Briere stepped up to the plate on those occasions. From all accounts, Charlotte and Roger had a blast with their guests and Jeff and Kate's cat, Miss Kitty, rolled out the red carpet for a recent guest speaker while we and Jeff and Kate were away.

Now it's time to spread the wealth.

Hosting is easy. All you really need is a spare bed. From there on, it depends on your temperament and that of the guests. Some guests want privacy. Some stay up talking beyond the wee small hours of the morning. Most fall somewhere in between. Depending on when they arrive, most are happy to have dinner with you and whomever else you'd like to invite. If you don't cook, going out is certainly an option. Breakfast? That's up to you. Since breakfast is not part of my vocabulary, I simply ask what they'd like in the morning, point them in the right direction, set the coffee and/or teapot and let them at it. But if you're a morning person and your guests are also, then go wild. What I'm trying to say here is that guests are easy. They accommodate the hosts more than the hosts need to accommodate them.

So, the WOWzers are asking any and all of you who are interested in hosting guest speakers to let us know. We have no specific dates in mind at the moment. All we want to know is that you're willing to be added to a list to host overnight guests at mutual convenience. Please call or email the church office to say "Yes, we can....."

And Now Showing...

Our own Leslie O'Rear will present a one-woman photography show during September and October. A long time member of this church, Leslie has held three other exhibits of her work in our gallery, as well as showing in the Cress Gallery at UTC, the Association for Visual Arts (AVA) Gallery, Blackwell Gallery and Jet stream Grill. She is an active member of the Photographic Society of Chattanooga, where she has received several awards for her work.

A retired graphic designer, she inherited her love for photography from her father, George Hull, who was a professional photographer. She was so conditioned to having life's moments captured on film that when he died she felt compelled to follow his example.

Now using a compact Nikon digital camera which she carries with her everywhere, photographing daily life has become a pleasurable habit. Every day offers more opportunities to use her camera to tell a story or share a moment in time.

MUSIC NOTES

by Kate Briere, Director of Music

Adult Choir

The *chattanUugans* will resume rehearsals this fall on Sunday September 20th. We will be singing throughout the fall and winter at Sunday services. Our choir has grown along with the entire music program at the church. If you would like to sing with us, please come to rehearsals at 9:00 on Sunday morning. All abilities and vocal ranges are welcome.

Children's Choir

We have a group of children who love to sing. Sometimes they join the adult choir and sometimes they sing alone. We will begin on Sunday September 13th and meet most Sunday mornings at 10:15 in the sanctuary. It's best if the child can read, but children of all ages are welcome. The rehearsal schedule will be posted on the RE bulletin board and in the weekly UUpdate!

Bell Choir

The Bell Choir will begin on September 20th at 10:30 downstairs. This group has been very committed and dedicated. There is always room for new members. Parents are required to attend that Sunday to sign a contract to assure that the children will attend rehearsals and performances. If you are interested please come that Sunday with your child. Information will be available and your questions will be answered.

A Final Note

This is going to be another wonderful year for the music program at UCC. We have some excellent guest musicians coming to play for Sunday services and a Harp Concert planned for December 6th at 4pm in the sanctuary. And of course we have our own wonderful, talented musicians, pianists, and vocalists who will be preparing music to enhance and support worship and special events.

If you are interested in the music program, have a favorite hymn, know someone who could play or sing for Sunday service, or have any other suggestions for special music, please contact Kate Briere at music@uuc.org or call 423-624-8152.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT IN

Wednesday Night In (WNI) will resume on Wednesday, September 2nd at 6:30 pm. Leslie Brock will be hosting. We are starting a new WNI year and need volunteers to host each month in order to continue this popular event. If you are interested in hosting, please contact Leslie Brock. Please sign up in the fellowship area if you plan to attend Wednesday Night In. We ask for a donation of \$5 per adult and \$3 per child to defray the cost of the food preparation.

CHIONS

On Sept 12th, 10:30-12, Brother Ron Fender from the Chattanooga Community Kitchen will speak to the Chattanooga Institute of Noetic Sciences. He is speaking on "Homelessness in Chattanooga."

The most simple and spiritual discipline is some degree of solitude and silence.

~ Richard Rohr, in *Radical Grace: Daily Meditations*

IT'S HAPPENING – NOW!*by Helen Solomon*

When we were searching for a new minister seven years ago (when we found our present minister, Jeff Briere), we, the Chattanooga Unitarian Universalist Congregation realized that one of our most critical needs was to attract new members who were young. We chose a minister who has succeeded in helping us to fill this need. We now have a revitalized religious education cooperative with plenty of happy children, and we have an energetic congregation with younger adults. They have been capable elected leaders and volunteers working efficiently to keep all of the many aspects of our church community running smoothly.

The survival of this unique bastion of liberal religious in Chattanooga is assured, and we realize we must not allow ourselves to grow “old” again. However, we are now experiencing the foreseen and inevitable losses we predicted. In just four months, we have suffered the death of six of our older “church pillars.” In spring and early summer, these persons have left us bereaved:

Joe Lewis (husband of Monique) was a former church president and a long time benefactor.

Phil Sottong (father of Gary) was a psychiatrist and social activist.

Bill Berry (husband of Martha) was “greeter” and pledge drive worker.

Ralph Yates (husband of Laura) was a Chattanooga Unitarian who then joined UU churches when he lived in New York State and Florida while keeping his membership here.

Bruce Hollingsworth (father of Steve) was a former Methodist minister and a valued Forum discussion contributor.

Evelyn Wood (mother of Delores, also deceased) played the piano for our church services.

And there are other elder members in our church who are in very fragile health this summer. Let us continue our concerns for:

Carmen Linn (wife of Harold)

Nancy Wright (wife of Fred)

Bob Kimbro (husband of Ann Heacker)

DOUBLE THE PLATE!*by Karl Hunt*

Double the Plate is returning after a successful 2008-2009 run! Last year we raised over \$2,000 from our anonymous donors through the program - and that doesn't include the additional amount we gathered in the collection plate on the six Double the Plate Sundays. Now we're getting cranked up for another good year.

Forgot what Double the Plate is? It's a fundraising program whereby on Double the Plate Sundays, an anonymous donor matches what is put in the collection plate and thus doubles the amount. However, the donor specifies a limit. If she or he volunteers to match \$200 and we collect \$190 in the plate, the church gets \$390. If we collect \$250, we get \$450 total - the \$200 put up by the donor and the \$250 from the plate. You can see this isn't one of those “matching” programs where the donor is going to give the money to the church anyway. Again, only the amount that shows up in the plate gets doubled. If a donor agrees to give up to \$400 and there is only \$45 in the plate, the church gets only \$45 more.

You can participate in one of two ways – first, by making a generous offering on Double the Plate Sundays, and, second, by being a donor. In the past, donors have volunteered to match from \$200 to \$500. But if that seems to be too much, you could go in with someone else, each contributing a smaller amount. Three folks could put up \$75 to \$100 each, making the total amount to be matched a significant \$225 to \$300.

If you want to be a donor, please notify me, Karl Hunt, our church administrator, Chris Tregaskis, or the Rev. Jeff Briere. You can also talk to any Board member. My email address is kphunt@comcast.net and my phone number is (423) 296-2809.

MY GLORIOUS YOUTH
by the Rev. Jeff Briere

Well, I did it. Leslie Brock will be relieved, no doubt. Maybe she will secretly smile as she reads this. I sold my motorcycle, the last remnant of my glorious youth. Well, not exactly. I still have my guitar and my mustache.

Some years ago, before I came to Chattanooga, a well-liked member of the congregation, Jeff Holloway, died on his motorcycle when he was T-boned by an inattentive driver at a crossroads. I wasn't here but a few days when I became aware that Leslie and others were truly upset that a new member of the congregation named Jeff rode a motorcycle. The minister, no less.

I assured Leslie that I rode carefully. And I did. Always. Defensive to the max. I was truly scared of the Ridge Cut and inexperienced truckers. I was always alert to a car with more than two people, anyone with a cell phone, rusty and poorly-maintained vehicles, and other assorted wackos on the road. Any intersection was suspect, as were curb cuts and driveways. And oncoming traffic turning left in front of me was the stuff of my nightmares.

I took my bike out about a month ago for a short ride, and today I still feel the effects in my left elbow from all the shifting. Constantly actuating the clutch in city traffic aggravated my tendinitis. Very painful. That was almost enough.

"Enough, already!" was the result of that experience added to the new "boat" we bought. You might call it a mini-van, but it's more like an ocean liner: comfortable but BIG. Kate is the primary driver and would not drive into the garage for fear of toppling the bike, which lives in the middle between my car and the "boat." She knocked the bike over once before while driving a mid-sized car and was mortified for months. Now, piloting the Queen Mary, she flat refused to drive it into the garage.

So I sold the motorcycle. It is a collectible bike, one of a few that Honda made with an inspiring design. We bought it for about \$4000, rode it for 20 years and sold it for \$2500. Not bad, I suppose; \$75 a year plus gas, maintenance and insurance. I console myself with the knowledge that someone who really wants that particular model bought it, but it's really small consolation to know that some other guy is now riding my bike. I gotta let it go, I know.

Kate and I had some good rides, but now we'll have other rides on other roads. Motorcycling may not be only a young person's pursuit, but it became harder to justify riding it, harder to summon up the gumption and the energy, harder to put on jeans and boots, harder to ride gracefully with each passing day, even with an easy-to-ride cruiser like mine. But when I did manage to get it all together, it was fun to ride. Fun to ride.

I have to thank Kate for the rides and the notes. She bought me the motorcycle and the guitar. I grew the mustache myself. I hope I don't have to shave it off. And the quote that Wendy pasted below doesn't make me feel any younger.

There will come a time when you believe everything is finished.

That will be the beginning.

~Louis L'Amour

“RIGHT RELATIONS”

The Agreement for Fellowship was developed several years ago by a church committee chaired by George Helton and David Reed. The committee examined similar documents from other Unitarian Universalist churches in the process of developing our own agreement. The work of the committee ended when the congregation, at an annual meeting, voted to adopt this Agreement for Fellowship.

The purpose of the agreement is to promote "right relations" among the members of the congregation by describing our responsibilities to each other and suggesting procedures to use to resolve conflicts.

The Agreement for Fellowship of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga is below and continues on the next page.

AGREEMENT FOR FELLOWSHIP

Purpose of this Agreement for Fellowship: The purpose of this agreement is to encourage and promote "right relations" among the members and friends of the UUCC, in part by providing processes for dealing with interpersonal conflicts when they arise. "Right relations" require the free expression of different points of view in a context of mutual respect.

The UUCC encourages every Member and Friend to embrace this Agreement for Fellowship as an essential part of our shared religious journey.

Our Collective Vision for Fellowship

This Agreement is influenced by the Unitarian Universalist Principles; we intend it to provide guidance in implementing these principles in our everyday lives. It is in loving relationship with those in our church community, including the youth in our Religious Education program, that we have the opportunity to grow spiritually as individuals and as a fellowship. It is here, in our church, that we come together to express our common purpose and be strengthened through compassion and forgiveness. We choose to become a part of a community with a common purpose to foster an atmosphere where the Unitarian Universalist Principles may be learned and practiced.

A Community of Common Purpose: The UUCC is a safe haven that nurtures and enhances the personal and spiritual growth of all participants. It is a place of trust where personal enrichment arises from serving the community.

Awareness of Self and Others: The UUCC is a welcoming place where those in the community respect themselves and others. We are a shelter of many beliefs where minority and opposing views are accepted and respected.

Personal Responsibility; We maintain our dignity and integrity by taking responsibility for our actions. The UUCC is a place where we invite constructive criticism when it is free of animosity. We strive to recognize when our conflicts have become selfish and non-productive. Participation in the activities and leadership of the church is encouraged for all who would choose to act for the good of community and themselves.

Listening, Speaking and Acting with Respect: The UUCC is a place where we openly listen to the ideas of others. We actively listen for the meaning and feelings within others' words so that we may understand their message better.

We affirm the inherent worth and dignity of all in our church community and bring the intentions of kindness and respect to our spoken words. We are mindful of what we say and how our words may be interpreted by

others, whether or not they are present. We are accepting of others views and, while we may disagree, we do not challenge the worth of the person behind those views.

We fulfill our commitments to the community and to each other. We give generously of ourselves within our means and are grateful that others do, as well. We come here to learn the skills of loving kindness and to practice what we have learned in our community.

Reconciliation and Forgiveness: We acknowledge and respect our personal differences. When disagreements arise, we help each other resolve them before they escalate to destructive levels of conflict. We offer the gift of forgiveness and are aware that reconciling conflict allows us to remain in fellowship.

With this Common Purpose as Our Source, We Agree to:

Welcome all who come to us with acceptance and respect for the differences among us.

Keep our discussions to topics and issues rather than personalities.

Practice patience and speak the truth directly and with compassion.

Reflect carefully about the potential results of our words and actions before we speak or act.

Acknowledge that we may not always agree with group decisions; however, we will support the consensus of the larger church community and seek to find our common goals.

Seek to resolve our disagreements to our mutual satisfaction, and to ask for assistance when they cannot be resolved.

Speak directly to those with whom we have disagreements rather than to a third party. If we have concerns about the conduct of a youth in our Religious Education program, we will speak directly to his or her teacher or parent. In no case will we act as messengers between parties in conflict.

Contribute to the community at a level that is healthy for us as individuals—intellectually, financially, and with gifts of time and energy.

Act with loving kindness as best we can at all times, seeking to promote justice, equality, and compassion.

Understand that creating and maintaining Fellowship requires learning and practice.

The primary joy of life is acceptance, approval, the sense of appreciation and companionship of our human comrades. Many men do not understand that the need for fellowship is really as deep as the need for food, and so they go through life accepting many substitutes for genuine, warm, simple.

~ Joshua Loth Liebman

CRUSH

by Nancy Beel

You
with the broad back
and narrow hips
drawing rectangles on the board,
I have memorized the chalk marks
on the sides of your pants,
have witnessed the shape
of your forearms in motion.
*Integration, you say,
is the sum of all areas
under the curve,* and I am
calculating the distance
between our ages
with the heat of a seventeen year old
who's barely been kissed.

Consider the slope
from Train A to Train B
tangent to the curve
of your hand on my shoulder.
You stack the equations,
sift through the answers,
nudging your protractor
to find the right angle.

You
have been watching me
too long at my desk,
have been leaning too close
when you answer my questions.
What do you see?
A girl with tight theorems
and multiple products,
who blushes each time
your hand brushes
her arm?
Train A has left the station
heading south
toward Train B;
Train B hasn't been warned.

Poetry is life distilled.

~Gwendolyn Brooks

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DATE	9/6	9/13	9/20	9/27
TOPIC	The Proudest of the Proud, the Sorriest of the Sorry	Ingathering 2009: We're All in the Same Boat	Saving the World Nine at a Time	Centering Prayers: It's Not Just for Saints and Mystics
LEADER	Rev. Jeff Briere	Rev. Jeff Briere	Rev. Jeff Briere	Barbara Ray
BOT MEMBER	Kristie McKinley	Maddie Kertay	David Reed	Bonny Sinclair
GREETERS	Ruby Bruns Diane Davison	Betsy Hoyt Matt Hoyt	Yvonne Derrickson Tamara Everett	Donna Crompton Richard Ralston
USHER	Donna Crompton	Carol Hobbs	Clark Everett	Harold Linn
MUSIC	Steve Hollingsworth	Nancy Beel	Christie Burns	Marcia Jenison
SOUND REINFORCEMENT	Joshua Goldman	Buck O'Rear	Rich Dwyer	Roger Davis

Wisdom consists not so much in knowing what to do in the ultimate as knowing what to do next.

~ Herbert Hoover