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CHURCH OF  
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HOMEPAGE](#)



**CONSIDER GREEN HOLIDAYS**

*by Sandy Kurtz, Green Sanctuary*

Once again the holidays are upon us, and with them comes the flurry of special activities, inspirational events, gatherings of friends and family, and food and gifts. Given the shopping, the decorating, and preparations, there is likely to be little time to savor the season. By January, we often find ourselves worn out and in debt surrounded by trash and maybe broken or forgotten toys.

Here are ideas that will help you enjoy the holidays with less stress and help the Earth too:

**Give consumable gifts.** Home baked goods, your special granola or hot chocolate mix, toppings, vinegars, liqueurs, flavored popcorns, candy, or a basket of organic fruit are always appreciated. Save shopping time and money and reduce gas use.

**Reuse materials you have at home to make gifts.** This year it's stylish to create purses and tote bags from old t-shirts and jeans. Do you have old herb seeds around? Decorate old flowerpots for an herb garden gift or take cuttings from your indoor plants. Save money and gas and clean out your house. Alternately, shop at good will or consignment stores. Energy is saved when new products are not made.

**Save energy by using LED lights and use rechargeable batteries.** While these lights may cost more, they will save on electricity costs and reduce the coal burning and air pollution that results from electricity use.

**Reuse wrapping paper or make use of old bags, newspaper or fabric scraps.** An attractive box can be beautiful with just ribbon or natural raffia avoiding paper. Kids can decorate bags or craft paper with cut up old Christmas cards or stickers you got free in your junk mail. Wrap a kitchen utensils gift in a kitchen towel that is part of the gift itself. Get creative. You'll be saving money, trees and trash.

**Give gifts of your time.** Offer a certificate for your services. Such skills as baby-sitting, lawn mowing, party throwing, or catering dinner can make a wonderful gift. Maybe give tickets to a special event. Avoid the energy associated with the product you did not give.

If you buy, find locally made items. This supports the local economy and saves the energy cost and air pollution associated with transport.

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**SUNDAY SERVICES ♦ 11:00 AM**

**DECEMBER 6 ♦ *BEYOND TOLERANCE***

It is said that tolerance is patronizing, that it's a one-sided concept. So, is there anything better, anything beyond tolerance? The Rev. Jeff Briere leads this service.

**DECEMBER 13 ♦ *THE AGREEMENT FOR FELLOWSHIP***

Several years ago, this congregation fashioned a document that reflects the way we relate to each other. It's time to review it and see how we're doing. The Rev. Jeff Briere leads this service.

**DECEMBER 20 ♦ *CHRISTMAS 1835***

The Rev. Jeff Briere leads this service in which he discovers the Unitarian roots of some holiday traditions.

**DECEMBER 24 ♦ *CHRISTMAS EVE***

This special service begins at 5 pm. Children are especially encouraged to attend. The service will feature music, scripture, carols, stories and cookies.

**DECEMBER 27 ♦ *WHAT ABOUT ORIGINAL SIN?***

Original sin is no more than a translation of evolutionary baggage into proscriptive morality that has not served humanity well. We can do better if we figure out what lifelong nurturing can reveal about our destiny and learn to do it well. David Pope, preaching.

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**SUNDAY FORUMS**

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

**December 6** ~ The state of a poor Georgia family. Discussion led by Jim Welborn.

**December 13** ~ The current state of our newspapers. Discussion led by Frank Caperton.

**December 20** ~ What is the current state of immigrant families in Chattanooga? Discussion leader to be announced.

**December 27** ~ No forum

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**WHO'S PREACHING?**

David J. Pope makes his second appearance in our pulpit on December 27<sup>th</sup>. He is a concert pianist, educator, entrepreneur, aviator, and author of *Interrupting Behavioral Evolution*. He and his wife Ann (a Cleveland, TN, native) moved to Chattanooga in 1996 to enjoy a busy and productive semi-retirement.

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).

**THE INTERDEPENDENT WEB**  
*by Steve Hollingsworth*

*Most human beings have an almost infinite capacity for taking things for granted.*  
~ Aldous Huxley

It's December and that means in our established rhythm Daidee and I will be making our year-end charitable donations soon. It has also become my custom to offer some thoughts on generosity here. But beware! I've been feeling much more mortal than usual. Indulge my venturing into the longer view of giving: Sorting out life after my father's death and dealing with several weeks of sometimes severe back pain has taken a toll. I'm thinking more often about disabilities and death.

Some years ago, my consciousness was raised by friend Helen Bishop, then executive of Central Midwest District of our Unitarian Universalist (UU) Association. Always using crutches or a scooter, she loved to refer to the majority as TABs—Temporarily Able-Bodied. Lately when standing up was a long laborious process for me, I connected with her wisdom in a new way.

That unasked-for connection translates into extra gratitude for Nicky Ozbek. She helped create a fund in my father's name for getting assistive listening technology to use in our sanctuary and possibly elsewhere. We know about some of our members who have hearing difficulty. We can't know, however, how many did not show up because we were not prepared to meet their needs. The Bruce Hollingsworth Assistive Listening Fund has a check from us already and will doubtless get another this month.

Having received a pointed lesson in accessibility, I hope its counsel will not fade: My current intention is to look more than ever at giving that can help people overcome their limitations.

Finally, it is never too soon to concern oneself with estate planning. What the Republicans impertinently call the death tax is really a tax on a personal failure to plan ahead. In particular, donations that are tax-deductible in life are never taxed when they pass to charitable causes after death. But that cannot happen unless our wishes are on paper and others know where to find them when we die.

Our UU movement is well-served in diverse options for giving while you live and after you die. Even if your interests end with our own congregation, the Office of Legacy Gifts is ready to help. Find them at (888) 792-5885, [giftplans@uua.org](mailto:giftplans@uua.org), or [www.uua.org/giftplanning](http://www.uua.org/giftplanning). There is more information about planned giving on page 6.

**LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT**

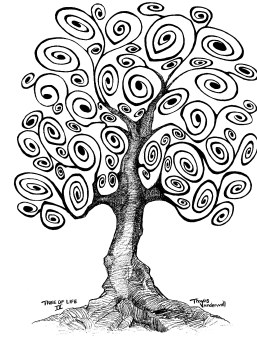
*by Eric Papendorp, President, Board of Trustees*

I have nothing clever to write this month. We continue throughout the year with the position of President Elect remaining unfilled. If someone does not step up and fill this position, the entire congregation will suffer next year as a result. The job of President is not difficult, but there is a learning curve. The 7 months left on the current Board of Trustees term is long enough to learn the position and provide a smooth transition between presidents next year. Please, someone, volunteer for this position.

## PAGAN NUUS

### December

- 2 – Full Moon
- 6 – Study Group – Yule
- 16 – New Moon
- 20 – Labyrinth Walk – UUCC 5:00 pm
- 20 – Solstice Celebration following Labyrinth Walk  
All welcome, bring finger food to share
- 21 – Winter Solstice
- 23 – Yule
- 25 – Christmas, Birth of Mithras



### Yule

Christmas is also referred to as Yule, which may have derived from the Norse word *jól*, referring to the pre-Christian winter solstice festival. Yule is also known as Alban Arthan and was one of the “Lesser Sabbats” of the Wiccan year in a time when ancient believers celebrated the rebirth of the Sun God, Mithras, and days with more light. This took place annually around the time of the December solstice and lasted for 12 days.

### Winter Solstice

In the Northern hemisphere, the winter solstice has been celebrated for millennia. The Norse peoples viewed it as a time for much feasting, merrymaking, and, if the Icelandic sagas are to be believed, a time of sacrifice as well. Traditional customs such as the Yule log, the decorated tree, and wassailing can all be traced back to Norse origins.

### INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK

*by Alice Turner, IHN Day Center Volunteer Coordinator*

A dream has come true! Chattanooga has a day center for homeless families. Interfaith Hospitality Network has a new home and it is beautiful. This is a home where families in crisis can find safety and refuge during the days of working and waiting for a new start. It is a place of hope, learning, and opportunity.

The facility is ready: construction is completed, the rooms are furnished, and now we have an opportunity to provide a kind, loving, and nurturing presence each day between the hours of 9 am and 4:40 pm.

Needs are as follows:

Reception desk:

Monday – Friday 9 am to 12 noon and 1 pm - 4:30 pm  
Saturday/Sunday 7 am -12 noon and 12 noon - 4:30 pm

Day Center Monitoring – Be a kind and nurturing presence to parents and children.

Monday – Friday 9 am – 12 noon and 12 noon – 3 pm

If you are interested in responding to the needs of this ministry, please contact the IHN director at (423)756-3891 or Alice Turner at (423) 877-8702 or (423)413-0815. After a core of committed volunteers is established, it will be important to have an orientation/fellowship meeting to form guidelines that would positively benefit and guide our clients as well as our volunteers.

Our city is blessed with this new facility and the opportunity to provide a “place called home” to families at this critical time in their lives.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NUUS

by Kay McCurdy, Director of Religious Education

I am terrified of heights. Not mildly afraid, or even just unusually fearful. I'm using the word *terrified* to describe how I feel when my feet are further off the ground than the porch. So why in the world did I find myself riding a giant Ferris wheel with my daughters a few weeks ago? And not a professionally maintained Ferris wheel at Disney World, but a squeaky, county fair Ferris wheel. It was operated by two carneys, one of whom was tipsy and the other (I am sure) was an extra from a David Lynch film. So here it is: I rode the Ferris wheel because I was afraid; because every day I ask my daughters, who are 11 and 8, to try new things and explore new ways of thinking and being in the world. What kind of message am I sending if I refuse to do the same?

Not to toot our horn, but some days our family life is pretty darn rockin'. We are in sync, and there's a great feeling of "flow" in our house. It's as if there is a dance and we all know the steps without any rehearsal. Seamless! But the rest of the time, we are human. And we make the sorts of mistakes humans make: we worry, we pout, we blame, we hide. There are days when I have high expectations, and the kids are too distracted to meet me halfway. Other days, they have high expectations, and I am too tired to meet them halfway. I call those days "train wrecks" because once we get off track, it's best to just call the National Guard and hope for survivors.

So what was the point again? For me, the point is that, as much as I am able, I allow my kids to bear witness to my humanity. I let them see that parents, just like children, are often afraid, sometimes laughably so. (Like when I refused to open my eyes on the aforementioned Ferris wheel and asked them to hold my hand.) I let them know that there are days when we fail, and fail big. A couple of years ago, I attempted to be fashionable for a big McCurdy family get-together. Unfortunately, my sense of style at the time might best be described as Snoop Dogg meets Erma Bombeck (earning myself the timeless moniker Pudgy Hip-Hop). There is so much joy in being human, in those hits and misses, isn't there? And the really big lessons, the ones that land you on your bottom, those are the truly teachable moments.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE) EVENTS

#### December 8

RE Bagel Breakfast and Tree Trimming  
9 am  
Fellowship Area  
All children are welcome to attend!



#### December 13

RE Committee Meeting  
9:30 am  
Medievals Room/Downstairs  
Anyone interested in working with the young Unitarian Universalists of our church, please join us!

#### December 13

*The Mountain* Youth Con Mandatory Parent Mtg.  
(If your child is interested in attending the upcoming February 19-21 Youth Con at The Mountain, you must attend this meeting!)  
Immediately Following Service  
Medievals Room/Downstairs

#### December 20

RE Family Potluck and Holiday Party  
Immediately Following Service  
Sprouts Room/Downstairs  
RE will provide drinks and dessert.  
Please bring a dish to share!

#### December 20 and 21

UCC Labyrinth  
5-7:30 pm  
Sanctuary  
All ages are welcome to participate in this indoor walking labyrinth.  
A wonderful experience!

**A GIFT FOR YOU**  
*by the Rev. Jeff Briere*

I have finished my holiday shopping and I have a gift for you: I give you the gift of peace.

Not peace, the absence of war and argumentation, but peace, the sense that you are in the right place, at the right time, doing the right thing.

Not peace, the absence of adversity and challenge, but peace, the knowledge that you are secure in what you need to do what you must.

Not peace, the absence of detractors and rivals, but peace, the ability to easily find the courage within you to stand unafraid and pursue your dreams.

Not peace, in that you have nothing left to accomplish, but peace, the understanding that you are here to grow and flourish mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

Thanks so much for all you do. All the best in the year ahead.

**IS STEWARDSHIP JUST ABOUT MONEY?**  
*by David Reed, VP Ways and Means*

The Stewardship Committee is beginning preparations for this year's Stewardship Campaign. At this moment, we're still in the planning stages and haven't even settled on a theme yet. But we do want to begin the communication process. So, this article is the first in a series you'll see each month until the campaign ends.

We have decided how we will conduct the campaign. For the past couple of years, we've used the Celebration Sunday approach, in which we try to get as many of the pledges as possible on a single day, usually at a luncheon or dinner. Pledge cards are passed out and collected with no one-on-one contact with a steward.

We're not going to do that again this year. Our plan is to have face to face meetings between stewards and the rest of the congregation. There are a couple of reasons for taking that approach.

First, we have found we get our best results when we follow proven stewardship techniques as outlined in a manual we get from the Unitarian Universalist Association. One thing they strongly recommend is not going more than a couple of years without a face-to-face campaign.

Second, we have a whole lot of new folks, and not everyone knows each other very well. In a face-to-face campaign, essentially we need about half the congregation to serve as stewards. The idea is to get one half of the congregation talking to the other half. In this regard, a stewardship campaign is a fellowship event as well. It is a very good way to get to know people better, even the ones you think you know. I've been involved in these efforts for years, and I usually try to meet with someone I don't know well. I have come to truly enjoy it. So, if you're asked to be a steward, please say yes.

Lastly, this economy has caused a level of pain to several members of our church community. A face-to-face campaign serves as an outreach effort as well.

The thing about a stewardship visit is that, if it's done right, 90 percent of the conversation is about the church: how it's meeting the member's needs, what the member believes we should be doing that we're not, and what kind of things the member would like to be involved in or see more of. Yes, the purpose of the call is about money at the end of the day, but the discussion should range far beyond just the finances.

**SMALL GROUP MINISTRY HAPPENINGS!**

*by Dez Papendorp*

We are progressing into our 3<sup>rd</sup> month of merriment. The Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga has 6 solid Small Group Ministry (SGM) groups gathering to create authentic relationships and cultivate wider service within the church and community.

By December, each group will have formed a covenant. What comes to your mind when you read this word: "covenant"? Maybe a college, Bible Belt denominations, no fun, too many rules, or cryptic church marquees?? There are many possible images. Within SGM, it simply refers to a bond or pledge that each group strives to achieve. A SGM group covenant is made specifically by and for its group participants. It empowers each group to mutually decide what actions strengthen the members within their group.

January marks our open chair welcoming for each group. Why is the chair open? The emptiness calls another person to join and reminds every group that in the future it will be filled. If you are interested in Small Group Ministry, but have some unanswered questions, check out our church web page, see the poster display in the fellowship area, or ask another person in a group what it's all about. To attend a SGM session, contact Dez Papendorp at to figure out which group might work best for you. There will be at least six open chairs seeking human warmth.

*We are the ones who keep Christmas.*

*Christmas is what we want it to be.*

*Christmas is loveliness, happiness, singing, laughter, giving, and sharing,  
if we will make it so.*

*May this season be a time of rebirth and renewal, a time of happiness and joy.*

*Let there be light and warmth, and let us be their bearers.*

*~ Jeanne H. M. Bell*

**PLANNED GIVING**

*by Frank Caperton*

We stand on the shoulders of those past members who worked to create and sustain an inclusive liberal religious community in Chattanooga. Our pledges of support for the annual operating budget nurture that tradition in our individual and community lives today. But what about tomorrow?

Even as we pray that our own shoulders prove sturdy enough to support future generations of Unitarian Universalist church families, we know that tomorrow is not assured for people or institutions. Rainy days inevitably come. The foundation for long-term continuation of our religious faith in this place can be significantly strengthened by those of us who are financially able to help build a rainy-day fund through a variety of planned gifts. Some ways of giving this support are outlined in the church's Membership Handbook.

Planned gifts can take the form of cash, stock or life insurance. Bequests to the church may be included in wills in a number of simple ways. Please check with your accountant or other tax advisor to determine what means would be best in your particular circumstances. And you may also consult the church's Endowment Committee.

The goal is a liberal religious home and voice in Chattanooga for ages to come.

*You can give without loving,  
but never love without giving.*

## SPIRITUAL HEALTH

by the Rev. Scott Gerard Prinster

*The Rev. Scott Gerard Prinster is a Unitarian Universalist (UU) minister who recently left parish ministry to pursue a degree in social work. He is still in contact with his UU colleagues, and he recently answered a colleague's question with what appears below and gave permission to reprint his answer. The question was, "What are the characteristics of spiritual maturity?"—Jeff Briere*

Some time ago, when I was living in Transylvania, I put together a list of twelve characteristics of spiritual health. I chose the word "health" instead of "maturity," because I was not suggesting that this is "what it takes to be a finished product."

**LOVE** is the commitment to connect our divine spirit with others, rather than being concerned with ourselves. How well does the Divine in me recognize the Divine in others? How well do I care for the Divine in myself?

**INTIMACY** is the choice to abandon isolation and alienation in favor of real honesty, heartfelt sharing, mutual support, and interdependence. Are there people in my life whom I allow to see inside my mask? How willing am I to let others know me deeply? How much work am I willing to do to know others at a deep level?

**TRUST** is the willingness to be authentic and vulnerable instead of cautious, suspicious, and cynical. Are there people and places in my life that I trust radically? What comfort will I trade to be vulnerable with someone?

**MEANING** is a clear sense of congruence in our life and faith, not simply drifting along without purpose, or letting the forces in life push us in unhealthy directions. Do I check my life occasionally for a feeling of direction, for a sense of intentionality? How do I work to bring my values and behavior into harmony with one another?

**COMMITMENT** is the decision to invest ourselves in life rather than straddle the fence. Are there goals or causes in my life that I am willing to commit myself to? Are there communities or individuals that I am willing to commit to? What is so meaningful to me that I am willing to give myself and my gifts to it?

**FAITH** is a trusting leap, moving past our fear to affirm something important, even before it is fully certain. Do I pursue only that which is safe, or do I dare to grow into areas that are mysterious and challenging? What ideals am I willing to make a "leap of faith" for?

**HOPE** is the vision of a desirable future, a present pregnant with promise, and eager to be born. Do I hope? Are there people or things in my life that help me to feel hope? In the face of so many discouraging messages, how do I keep hope alive?

**PATIENCE** is the ability to wait for what is important, allowing the future its own chance to emerge. Can I take a deep breath and wait until the moment feels right? Will I stop "pushing against the river" to make life happen?

**JOY** is the rush of delight that fills an empty shell. Are there people and experiences that help me know joy? Do I seek people that help me cultivate joy? Do I actively search for joy in the world, for myself, and others?

**IMAGINATION** is the new view, the creative spark that challenges habit and boredom. Do I let myself dream; do I listen to these dreams? Do I allow my rules to be broken when something wonderful is trying to be born?

**COURAGE** is the willingness to acknowledge our own limitations and the choice to risk danger when a greater cause is threatened. Do I encounter life face-to-face, and accept the dangers of a life lived well? What is so precious to me that it inspires my courage?

**GRATITUDE** is letting go of the myth of self-sufficiency, and replacing it with gratefulness for the gifts in life. How significant is the gratitude in my life? Do I acknowledge the gifts that I receive from the world and from others, and give thanks as a regular act of faith?

### CELEBRATE THE GUEST AT YOUR TABLE!

Our Guest at Your Table program is going strong. Many families and friends have brought human rights home and welcomed Guests to their lives!

Thanks to our support, our Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) is working throughout the United States and around the world to advance human rights. Your beautiful Guest at Your Table box and *Stories of Hope* introduce you to people whose lives have been changed by this work.

Each week, families and friends can focus on a different Story of Hope as we sit down to meals together and consider our many blessings.

This week, meet Daw San and Moe Moe, courageous women in Myanmar who partnered with UUSC to rebuild their lives and livelihoods after last year's deadly cyclone. Daw San is now raising pigs and Moe Moe has opened a food stand, selling delicious bowls of Mohinga, a hearty breakfast food. Consider what security and returning home has meant to Daw San, Moe Moe, and others this holiday season. Consider what even a small gift to your Guest at Your Table will mean to women surviving a humanitarian crisis in Myanmar and elsewhere in our world.

Learn more about UUSC's work to defend rights in times of crisis online at [www.uusc.org/humanitariancrises](http://www.uusc.org/humanitariancrises).

In your *Stories of Hope*, you will also meet Guadalupe Nuñez, a resident and water activist in Tonyville, CA, Abdul Khan, a young man in Afghanistan who is a committed supporter of women's rights and children's rights, and Jacinta, a tailor in Machakos, Kenya, who is a woman leader in the struggle to secure rights for informal traders and vendors in her country. You will learn their stories and how UUSC supports their efforts.

If you have not yet picked up your Guest at Your Table box and *Stories of Hope*, you can do so in the church office. As of November 27, there were 8 boxes left on the cabinet below the nametags. Your generosity with the Guest at Your Table is tax deductible! Be sure to complete the form on your box.

### IN-DOOR WALKING LABYRINTH DECEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup> & 21<sup>ST</sup>, 5:30-7PM EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Helen Curry's words—"The beauty of the labyrinth walk is that it is open to anyone at any stage, on any spiritual path, and from any religious tradition. It is a symbol open to your intentions.... For all their differences, labyrinths share common elements... they are unicursal, meaning a single course or path. Once in the labyrinth, you need only follow the path. There are no dead ends in a labyrinth." Enter the mouth, follow the path, arrive in the center, and when you're ready, journey back out. What a beautiful, simple plan.

Religious Education volunteers of all ages are transforming our sanctuary into a candle-lit labyrinth on December 20<sup>th</sup>. Please drop-in on the evenings of December 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> (the Winter Solstice). Bring yourself, your children, a neighbor, a co-worker, and/or a friend. Will you be mesmerized by this ancient tradition? Come see why humans have been captivated by labyrinths for over 4,000 years.





**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**

**5 pm, December 24**

**Seasonal and sacred music from the  
Choir, the Bell Choir,  
the Quintet and soloists**

**Readings from Luke and Matthew**

**Christmas Stories**

**Congregational Caroling**

**Silent Night by candlelight**

**4 FOR 5—COOKING WITH WOLFGANG POE**

The kitchen witch, Wolfgang Poe, is holding a cooking class on December 10<sup>th</sup>. This class is the first of a series of classes. The theme will be "Four for Five." Ways to prepare a delicious and nutritious meal for 4 for \$5.00 or less. Is it possible? You betcha! Due to limited space, there is a limit of 20 for this class. You will get to have a good time, pick Wolfgang's brain on recipes and ideas, see both vegetarian and non vegetarian versions of the dishes, discuss allergy options, have a great chef prepared meal, and go home with all the recipes. All this and more for only \$10, which after expenses will be donated to the church. The signup sheet will be posted next to the kitchen and all money will go to Chris in the office. Questions? Ask Wolfgang. Complaints, well, give those to Wolfgang too. Sign up quickly—13 spots have already been taken!



**FAMILY GAME NIGHT!**

*Bring in 2010 in Family Game Night Style!  
December 31st from 7:30 until you drop.  
Bring your favorite games  
and a snack and drink to share!  
Ring in the New Year at the church!*



### WHO'S PLAYING?

**Lisa Dempsey**, the Associate Concertmaster of the Chattanooga Symphony Orchestra (CSO), moved here from Boston in 1998. Although she was born into a family of violinists, she did not begin playing until she was 15 years old. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree (summa cum laude) from the Hartt School of Music in Hartford, CT and a Master of Music (with honors) from Boston University, where she has also completed her Doctoral coursework. She has recorded for the Chandos, Concord, and Albany labels. In addition to playing, Lisa maintains a private lesson studio of about 20 students and is also thrilled to be a co-Librarian for the CSO. Lisa feels honored to play on her grandfather's violin, an 1875 Pasquale Ventapane, which he passed on to her when she was 17 years old.



As a full-time professional harpist, **Tiffany Envid** plays the harp regularly for weddings, dinner parties, church functions, and other special events. Some of her achievements have been playing Mozart's Flute and Harp concerto (2nd movement) and *The Poem* with Lee's Chamber Orchestra; accompanying various choirs such as Lee's Chorale, Choral Union and Children's Chorale, the Chattanooga Girls Choir, and the Baylor School Upper Choir; as well as participating in many local church and university musicals and music services. Tiffany has also performed *The Fantasticks*, the world's longest running musical with an orchestration of harp and piano, as well as *Two From Galilee*, a Ripple Productions Christian musical. Tiffany has taught the Salzedo method of harp for the past six years with student ages ranging from five to seventy-five. She is a founding member and director of the Chattanooga Harp Ensemble, the harp instructor at Westmore Music Academy, and a member of the American Harp Society.

### ANGEL NUUS

Angels bring music, light, and fun to our church!

One angel appreciate music: **Bernard Cheatham** has donated to the Music Fund so we may enjoy more wonderful musicians.

Lighting angels, **Paul Adler** and **Ron Pasch** have seen that our outside lights are working even when feeling under the weather themselves.

And many angels (or Halloween spirits) made the Halloween party a great success: **Nicole Barnhart, Bob Barnhart, Will Barnhart, Donna Crompton, Kay McCurdy, Isabel McCurdy, Sophie McCurdy, Dez Papendorp, and Carmen Vanderhoof.**

### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

- Nicole Barnhart ~ December 2
- Steve Hollingsworth ~ December 4
- Logan Vanderhoof ~ December 5
- Kate Briere ~ December 10
- Fred Wright ~ December 12
- Katye Couch ~ December 13
- Aaron Long ~ December 13



- Bonny Sinclair ~ December 17
- Kay Spehar ~ December 18
- Keefer Dorris ~ December 21
- Daniel Auda ~ December 24
- Don Dorris ~ December 25
- Donna Crompton ~ December 29
- Charles Redwine ~ December 30

**THE 2009 CHARITABLE IRA ROLLOVER**

Individuals over the age of 70½ can make annual tax-free deductions in 2009 of up to \$100,000 from their IRAs directly to their congregation. This is a **limited time opportunity**. Previously, individuals would have had to report any amount taken from an IRA as taxable income before taking a charitable deduction for the gift. The charitable gift deduction is limited to 50 percent of one's adjusted gross income, which caused some donors to pay more in income taxes than if they didn't make a gift at all. Fortunately, IRA gifts now can be accomplished simply and without tax complications. Plus, you can make the gift now - while you are living and able to witness the benefits of your generosity. The pertinent regulation is *Sec. 408(d)(8)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code*.

**You may contribute from your IRA if:**

- You are age 70½ or older
- The gift is \$100,000 or less
- You make the gift on or before Dec. 31, 2009
- You transfer funds directly from an IRA or Rollover IRA
- You transfer the gift outright to your congregation.

**To make a donation:**

1. Send a letter to your IRA custodian requesting a rollover from your IRA directly to the church.
2. Notify the congregation of your intentions.

**For more information**, contact David Reed or Daidee Springer with questions. As with any substantial gift, we recommend that you consult your tax professionals. Please plan ahead—it can take up to 3 weeks for the transfer to take place.

**MINISTER'S HOLIDAY  
OPEN HOUSE**

**3614 Lerch Street  
Saturday December 12  
2 to 4 pm**

**Heavy hors d'oeuvres  
Groaning Table  
Mulled Wine  
Real hot chocolate**

**Everyone invited!**

→ NORTH

GERMANTOWN ROAD

LERCH STREET

3614

**POETRY CORNER**

As the days grow shorter and colder and the darkness descends, it is traditionally a time for hibernation, for turning inward. We tend to deny our dark side both as individuals and as a culture. We bury our own negative feelings and impulses, lock up our criminals and forget about them, and as a nation, delude ourselves into believing that our motives are pure, and state that “we will not apologize for our way of life”. Perhaps there is a better way.

**Shadow Side**

There is a part of you  
that is dark, bubbling  
like a swamp in a black forest.  
It's the room where the old dog lives,  
the one you overlooked for years and years  
until the room was full  
of her piles of waste,  
because you never took her outside  
into the fresh air.  
And she is sick and angry and starving.  
The day you notice her is the day your  
heart finally breaks  
and you cannot believe you neglected her  
for so long.  
You scoop her up into your arms  
and rock her,  
crying into her dusty old coat,  
and you hope that if you just begin  
to feed her and brush her,  
to let her fall asleep in your arms,  
that you will love her back to health,  
the way the moon finds the swamp  
through the thick trees and sends down  
her tender light,  
loving the darkest part of you.

~ Nancy Beel

**DECEMBER ART ON THE WALLS**

*by Carol Hobbs*

The beautiful quilts on our seasonal-themed walls are the work of our members or their family or friends. The attached card describes the history of each quilt. The handmade warmth and charm of quilts make them a good choice for holiday decor. The older quilts represent a time when handcrafts provided both necessity and beauty.

**MUSIC AND BOOKS, ANYONE?**

Volunteer Coordinator Needed: For one of our fundraisers this year, we are planning to have a book/CD/DVD drive. The idea is to collect as many books, etc., as we can and take them to McKay's. We have received a supply of book bags that can be given to folks to put their books, CDs, and DVDs in. We need someone to volunteer to coordinate this effort. If you would be willing to take on this role, please contact Ways & Means VP David Reed.

# Chattanooga Harp Ensemble Concert



**Director: Tiffany Envid**

**Guest: Lisa Ferguson,  
Hammered Dulcimer**

**Unitarian Universalist Church**

***December 6, 3:00***

**Free admission - Presented by**



November 2009

S M T W T F S  
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7  
 8 9 10 11 12 13 14  
 15 16 17 18 19 20 21  
 22 23 24 25 26 27 28  
 29 30

# December 2009

January 2010

S M T W T F S  
 1 2  
 3 4 5 6 7 8 9  
 10 11 12 13 14 15 16  
 17 18 19 20 21 22 23  
 24 25 26 27 28 29 30  
 31

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 6:30p Wed. Night In	3 6:00p Harp Ensemble Rehearsal 6:30p SGM (3 groups)	4 10:00a Music (Rhrrsal)	5 1:00p CofG
6 9:00a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Forum 9:30a Pagan Group 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a RE 3:00p Harp Concert	7 9:00a SGM	8 6:30p SMG Facilitators	9 7:00p Finance Committee	10 7:00p Cooking Class	11 10:00a Music (Rhrrsal)	12 10:30a CHIONS 1:00p CofG 2:00p Brieres Open House 6:45p Bridge Group
13 9:00a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Forum 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a RE 5:00p India Association	14	15 1:00p SGM	16 7:00p Board Meeting	17 6:30p SGM	18 10:00a Music (Rhrrsal) 1:00p taping floor for Labyrinth	19 1:00p CofG 'til 10pm
20 9:00a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Forum 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a RE 5:00p Laybrinth Walk	21 5:00p Laybrinth Walk	22	23	24 5:00p Christmas Eve Service	25	26 1:00p CofG
27 9:00a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Forum 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a RE	28	29	30	31 6:00p New's Year's Eve at the Church		

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DATE	12/6	12/13	12/20	12/27
TOPIC	Beyond Tolerance	Agreement for Fellowship	Christmas 1835	What About Original Sin?
LEADER	Rev. Jeff Briere	Rev. Jeff Briere	Rev. Jeff Briere	David Pope
BOT MEMBER	Maddie Kertay	Bonny Sinclair	Kristie McKinley	Diane Davison
GREETERS	Diane Davison Jesse Blue	Ruby Bruns Diane Davison	Betsey Hoyt Yvonne Derrickson	Tamara Everett Clark Everett
USHER	Sue Knight	Donna Crompton	Matt Hoyt	Carol Hobbs
MUSIC	Tiffany Envid Lisa Dempsey	Steve Hollingsworth	Nancy Beel	Marcia Jenison
SOUND REINFORCEMENT	Joshua Goldman	Buck O'Rear	Karl Hunt	Roger Davis

*Blessed is the season which engages the whole world  
 in a conspiracy of love.*

~ Hamilton Wright Mabie