



NEW YEAR, NEW LESSONS/SESSIONS  
SMALL GROUP MINISTRY  
by Dez Papendorp

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[RETURN TO UUCC  
HOMEPAGE](#)

Have you ever seen those **DIVERSITY** bumper stickers? All the letters are sporting a different script and look like they are getting ready to dance right off the car. Some say Celebrate Diversity, others just Diversity. For some reason, this bumper sticker haunts me. Mostly because it's false advertisement. Diversity isn't always easy and festive. Sure you can celebrate it, but you better put lots of work into preparing for that party. A typical wedding planner has loads of prep time and tricks for keeping a variety of family and friends cohesive for a 4-5 hour wedding celebration. Apparently, beverages and loud music seem to prevent any troublesome conversation from ruining such a good party. But what happens when you are supposed to *constantly celebrate diversity*? With no beverages or loud distractions? Work is what happens and depending on the circumstance, fatigue. Who are we kiddin' that diversity is always easy and effortless?

As an eternal optimist (with a bent toward realism), I do believe diversity can be a gift if we welcome opportunities to step outside our personal comfort zone. Everywhere in life some annoying, nameless person will trigger our inner "fight or flight" voice to start hollering. For me, Diversity Artists (e.g., Buddha, Jesus, Chief Seattle, etc.) can hear this voice, comfort it till all fear is gone, hence allowing room for wisdom. Naturally, these artists didn't become skilled teachers without lots of inner work, guidance, forgiveness, and practice.

Lately, my Diversity Training is best served within the format of Small Group Ministry (SGM). This format allows everyone to be genuine in equal measure. Every session practices our principles, beliefs and commitment without infringing on our diversity. You may find someone in your group unintentionally triggering your inner annoyance alarm. Can you celebrate this opportunity to honestly examine why *your* fight or flight voice is being launched? Within SGM group-time, there is space to sit with it, and thoughtfully decide, "How do I choose to respond to my inner voice?" This alone is a remarkable gift. The benefits of participating in SGM are limitless, since you define your own limits.

Please visit the Small Group Ministry page on our church webpage <http://uuc.org/about-the-uuc/small-group-ministry> for further updates.

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**SUNDAY SERVICES ♦ 11:00 AM**

**JANUARY 3 ♦ "I RESOLVE TO..."**

This service, led by the Rev. Jeff Briere, will feature both New Year's resolutions and New Year's irresolutions. The service is participatory. Come prepared to cast off the old and don the new.

**JANUARY 10 ♦ CHURCH WORDS**

The Rev. Jeff Briere continues his series of sermons on words we hear in church. This service addresses "worship," "liturgy" & "communion."

**JANUARY 17 ♦ BENDING TOWARD JUSTICE**

Today we honor the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The Rev. Jeff Briere leads this service.

**JANUARY 24 ♦ MOTHER QUESTIONS**

Robert Fulghum's latest book on the human condition is *What On Earth Have I Done?* In the first chapter he poses four questions--Mother Questions--that we should ponder and answer as we can. Mike North will be preaching.

**JANUARY 31 ♦ IMPOSSIBLE CHOICES**

"Most" is the Czech word for "bridge." This service will feature the short movie, *Most*, about a bridge tender who is faced with the most excruciating choice imaginable. Other elements of the service will be truncated to permit showing this 30 minute short feature. A time for responses will follow the movie.

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**SUNDAY FORUMS**

The Forum starts the new year with a series of programs on Unitarian Universalism. The Forum meets downstairs in the last room on the left at 9:30 am.

**January 3** ~ The History of Our Local Church. This topic will be illustrated by a video made by Buck O'Rear and Helen Solomon. Helen and husband Ray birthed our local church in January 1952; Buck became a Unitarian Universalist (UU) through his mother and aunt who were Universalists. Both have been staunch supporters of UU Church of Chattanooga through the decades. The two denominations merged nationally in 1961.

**January 10** ~ A Brief Look at Some Famous UUs. Presented by Frank Caperton, Claire Hale, Matt Hoyt, and Susan Kennedy.

**January 17** ~ Bruce Hollingsworth Remembered: Protection, not Punishment. A presentation and discussion of views and solutions to overcrowded prisons in the US and elsewhere based on the philosophies developed by Bruce Hollingsworth, church member, social worker, minister, and peace activist who died last year. Led by Pat Fogarty and Shela Van Ness from conversations and from notes left behind on how Bruce would transform the prison system. Special guest William Paulson.

**January 24** ~ A History of Unitarianism and Universalism and How They Came Together, presented by our minister, the Rev. Jeff Briere.

**January 31** ~ New Directions, New Ideas. The future of our local church as envisioned by Eric and Dez Papendorp, along with other "newish" (as the Rev. Jeff Briere calls them) members of our church. The past was reviewed on January 3<sup>rd</sup> by two members of the established generation; the future is viewed today by members of the younger generation.

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

*To say that force may sometimes be necessary is not a call to cynicism -- it is a recognition of history; the imperfections of man and the limits of reason.*  
~ President Barack Obama

*There's nothing more unholy in human history than holy war.*  
~ I.F. Stone

In 1968 at age 18, I followed the law and registered for the draft. Although I was conflicted even then I also registered as a conscientious objector because that was so strongly a part of my family's ethos. A letter from Sen. George McGovern, a family friend, is in my draft file. What the law requires is being against all war and I could only say that in my lifetime I had not seen a war I would support. Nevertheless, in the back of my mind, I was far from sure, once Hitler was on the march, that war was worse than the alternatives.

Loving history—at least when freed from text books—I have come to a more nuanced view: War does become an inevitable and necessary consequence of bad decisions. Can we make better decisions? That's where I'm both hopeful and doubtful. There are so many voices crying for blood to defend God's Law, to enforce American Exceptionalism, to let some ideology or other trump common people and their livelihoods. Equally sadly, we have stood by as civilized nations and *not* intervened with force when people's survival urgently mattered and defense of an ideology was *not* at stake. It is easy to be pessimistic.

And presently we are in the middle of a conundrum where we have seen war-time President Barack Obama awarded the Nobel Peace Prize against the backdrop of his escalating the war in Afghanistan. To the extent that he can wage a war of pacification and retreat, making clear that our intentions are limited and on a timetable, if—and only if—he can succeed in these objectives, I'm hopeful.

Unitarian Universalists (UUs) are quite divided. No pronouncements from our leaders have staked out a clear position. Letters and blogs written by our UU ministers have thoughtfully called for withdrawing all our troops and for staying the course. It feels strange to me to be ambivalent, but I seem to have some company.

The tone Obama has struck also gives me hope. If we Americans are seen as coalition-builders, compromisers, and accommodating to other points of view, I want to believe we will find enough common ground.

**PAGAN NUUS**

**January**

- 2 – 7:00 pm Earth at Perihelion
- 3 - 9:30 am Study Group  
Topic: What do you want to learn in the coming year?
- 15 - New Moon
- 17 – World Religion Day – Baha'i
- 29 – 10:27 pm Full Moon



At the January meeting we will discuss what you'd like to learn in the group to expand your spirituality in the coming year.

## GREEN SANCTUARY NUUS

by Sandy Kurtz

*Global climate change is the single greatest environmental challenge of our generation. It is, though, far more than that. It is a humanitarian challenge. It is an economic challenge. It is a national security challenge. And it is a moral challenge, the great moral challenge of our time. We must rise to meet it, we must turn it around, or we will fail our forbears and our children.*

-Frances Beinecke from the introduction to *Clean Energy Common Sense*

At this writing, they are deliberating in Copenhagen about climate change actions. Whatever happens, it will not lower the carbon dioxide in the air to 350 ppm (parts per million) as recommended by prominent scientist Dr. Jim Hansen, NASA Goodard Institute of Space Studies, and others.

We are trying not to notice the death of the 'canary in the coal mine' indicated by glacial melting, ice shelves breaking off, deserts widening, and increasing catastrophic weather events and wildfires. In every case, people and other life suffer. The demonstrators in Copenhagen say 'There is no Planet B.'

Reasons for quick action:

- ❖ In Lima, Peru, proposals are to limit water for city residents to 2 liters a day due to reduction in glacial waters from which most of their water comes.
- ❖ The land in the Maldives Islands lies 6 feet above sea level at the highest spot. A first-ever on Earth cabinet meeting was held recently under water to underscore their fate if waters rise.
- ❖ Rising waters of the Ganges and Bramaputra Rivers flowing into poverty beset Bangladesh has already displaced 1 million people (many rice farmers) and inundated a mosque.
- ❖ British-based extensive nature observational records over decades show natural processes are being disrupted from patterns in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- ❖ Records show more people leaving Florida due to catastrophic weather and rising salt water is encroaching on fresh water sources. Insurance companies refuse coverage for flooding in the state. Floridians are moving to Tennessee.

Whether climate change is our fault or not, it's only humans who can take steps to get ready for the future and prevent the injustices brought on by the warming of the planet.

### THE NEW YEAR BEGINS

It's a good a time to make a wish list. What would make our Green Sanctuary even greener this year? I'm thinking solar panels on the roof could be our action of justice to mitigate climate change. Yes, it costs money, but where there's a will, there's a way. Let's hear your ideas about how.

### RACHEL CARSON PLANNING TIME

We have traditionally held a January meeting to discuss the Rachel Carson Dinner in June. This year we may want to do something different for Green Sanctuary outreach. Please attend a meeting **Sunday, January 10**, immediately after the church service to brainstorm.

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 GOOD STUFF

by Kay McCurdy, Director of Religious Education

Jay (my husband) and I are survivors. Amazingly, we have survived 13 years of marriage (to each other, no less) as of this past August. We were married in the back yard of an old adobe house in rural New Mexico. Between us, we owned a 1968 Mercury Montego, a Honda Civic with extensive body damage, a stereo system, a few sets of clothes and two carloads of books and CDs. Evenings were spent dealing roulette (me) and craps (Jay) at an Indian casino outside Santa Fe. We spent our days hiking or reading or staring into each other's eyes. Seriously.

Then, wonderfully, our whole world changed.

Isabel came home with us from the hospital on a snowy January night. Jay dragged our mattress into the main room, right next to the only heat source in the house: an old wood stove. We stayed up until dawn, CD cases spilling out all over the bed and floor, and played our new baby girl all our favorite music. I'll never forget the look in her eyes. It seemed to say "You? You're what I got stuck with?"

Fast forward: Another baby. Three moves. A law degree for Jay. Mamahood for me. Shouting matches and beach vacations and identity crises and the tooth fairy. The decision to homeschool. The loss of jobs. Money woes and family movie nights and health scares and dear friends. The loss of my father, and a year later, the loss of the man who refused to be a father to Jay. Dissapointments and deep belly laughs. Bad backs and good food and two funny, bright daughters, smarter than us in every way (thank goodness).

Family life is not for the faint of heart. Loving with your whole self is hard work if done correctly. I often look at Jay and the girls and wonder how in the world they manage to care about me, with my annoying habits and faulty emotional wiring. But we continue to show up for each other, day after day after day. We prop each other up when needed, or give a good hard shove if necessary.

There's a bit in the movie *Good Will Hunting* where the psychiatrist treating Will explains one of the traits he found endearing about his late wife. "She used to fart in her sleep. One night it was so loud it woke the dog up.....Ah, but those are the things I miss the most. The little idiosyncrasies that only I knew about. That's what made her my wife. People call these things imperfections, but they're not. That's the good stuff." Indeed.

Here's to another year of imperfection, with all of those we hold most dear.

Upcoming Elementary Youth CON

All registration packets for the Elementary Youth CON at the Mountain are due by January 10<sup>th</sup> to Kay McCurdy. No late registrations can be added, so please DO IT NOW (or as soon to NOW as possible)!

### AND SPEAKING OF THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT...

Here are a couple of quotes from members who recently volunteered in classes new to them.

From George Helton

*I was the assistant (to Jerry Smith) in the teen RE class today (Nov 15). It was fun.*

From Nicole Barnhart who volunteered in our new Chalice Children class for 3-5 year olds: *I forgot the words to the songs, but they still seemed to love the time together anyway! It's a blast helping with the kids, and watching their excitement for learning about Unitarian Universalism. I wish more adults had that excitement!*

**GUEST AT YOUR TABLE**

*by Nancy Anderson*

Has your family enjoyed your visits with Guadalupe, Nunez, Jacinta, Daw San, and the other guests who appear on your *Guest at Your Table* box and in the *Stories of Hope*? Your generous contributions during the season of giving enable them to experience Unitarian Universalist (UU) faith in action. Now, the visits with these guests have come to an end.

Before returning the box, or envelope if you prefer, please record the amount on the back of the box. A sufficient total entitles you to membership in the UU Service Committee. A check, rather than cash, is not required but does facilitate the final totaling and can be made out to UUCC with a memo to UUSC. *Guest at Your Table* is a major outreach fundraiser and your contributions, needed and appreciated, will be responsibly and helpfully used.

**FLOWER COMMUNION COMING SOON!**

*by Bonnie Sinclair, Vice President, Religious Education*

*Revised Article*

Love is the feeling you feel when you feel a feeling you have never felt before. Please make plans to attend the second annual teen service, "Share the Love," on February 14<sup>th</sup>. This year, the teens chose a heart communion for their service. We invite you to come and offer your contribution.

This service resembles the water communion where you have an opportunity to bring a heart to attach to a tapestry. At the end of the service, you will take with you a different heart to signify the love that someone brought to share with you. Please join us on February 14<sup>th</sup> and Share the Love.

**LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT**

*by Eric Papendorp, President, Board of Trustees*

Sometimes I wish we were a Christian church. It's not that I miss the often graphic images of the crucifixion, the unyielding dogma, or their strict rules for worship and behavior. Nor do I begrudge them the alcohol consumption during service, or the way in which their sins are magically erased and forgiven. It is not even their self-proclaimed monopoly on the baby Jesus (even though he is extremely cute.) No, I envy the Christians because of their business plan. What a great way to raise money: 10% tithe- "or else!" The "or else" may not be stated, but the unspoken requirement is omnipresent, putting on the pressure year after year.

If only it were that easy for us to raise funds. Instead we need to formulate a budget based on historical data, current economic conditions, and estimated costs for current and new programs. The budget then needs to be approved in committee, passed by the Board of Trustees, sent on to the Stewardship Committee, and then approved by the Congregation. Whew! This is no small task, and the volunteers that take on this mission every year should be commended. Thank you to everyone involved in this arduous undertaking.

Your role in this process is somewhat easier. Make the time to talk to a steward this year when they contact you. Ask some questions. Give what you can. Even if money is tight this year, a small donation helps to pay more bills than no donation. There are also a number of volunteer opportunities this year that will have a direct effect on the church's bottom line; services for which we are currently paying that could easily be taken over by a group of volunteers. Please give what you can this year.

## BUILDING OUR CHURCH FAMILY

by David Reed, Vice President, Ways and Means

Last month, I mentioned in *the nUUsletter* that we are going to do a face to face stewardship campaign in early 2010, since we haven't done one of those in a couple of years. The theme for this year is *Building Our Church Family*. We hope to make the campaign a way of connecting many of our newer and older members. As I commented last month, if done correctly a Stewardship campaign contains elements of a fellowship activity.

Hopefully, we can build the kind of family that is comfortable talking about things. That can often be difficult in nuclear families, as well as institutional families. One subject that is often difficult to discuss in either of these family types is money.

Do you feel uncomfortable talking about money? If so, that may be an emotional reaction. While we like to consider ourselves rational people, the truth is that when money is involved, we're likely to be influenced by many emotions that can swirl around money. Perhaps unconsciously, we will *feel* about money rather than *think* about money. The level of your reaction to discussing money may be a function of where you fall emotionally into one of five money types.

So, see if one of these five money types may fit you:

**Mindless.** The money mindless avoids thinking about money. They don't know where their money goes, are overly generous, and may not save or pay bills on time - all because money is fear-based or painful for them to think about. They may have grown up with financially irresponsible parents or in homes that experienced trauma due to illness, addiction, or a death in the family.

**Entitled.** The entitled (or deserving) grew up believing that they deserve to be taken care of. As a result, they can be overly generous, spend too much, save too little, and may be careless about money management. Growing up, they often received "things" rather than love and attention, and as adults they consume, hoping the fill the emptiness in their lives. They also feel shame for overspending.

**Balanced.** It seems that money is a non-issue for very few people. But balanced money types are the ones we might wish to emulate. They pay bills on time, save adequately, and are reasonably generous. Money is not a central focus of their lives. They grew up with positive role models who did not use money to manipulate them, and lived in comfortable homes where bills were paid on time, with parents and caregivers who both lived within their means and were able to save.

**Worriers.** For worriers every decision begins with money. They wonder if they have enough money, if they can afford anything - and what will happen "if". They are cautiously generous, can be stingy, and save, save, save. Spending is not fun. Like the mindless, these people grew up with money trauma but it adapted differently. Worriers usually have experienced real or perceived deprivation, which explains why many people who lived through the Depression era fall into this group.

**Obsessed.** The obsessed are the ones who die with a million dollars under their mattress. Their worries are extreme, and because they are always preparing for the worst they seldom have fun. They pay in cash, live meagerly, and are not generous because they believe they have too little to share. Holding on to money rules their lives.

If you believe you fit neatly into one of these categories, you're probably rationalizing. If Balanced is the single category you picked, I'd like to discuss real estate with you.

**ANOTHER CHANCE**  
*by the Rev. Jeff Briere*

I haven't told too many people this story. It is a little embarrassing, but I tell it whenever it's appropriate. That's because I draw some strength from it. As a matter of fact, I have become proud of this story.

When I first appeared before the committee of the Unitarian Universalist Association that grants fellowship to ministers, I was not approved for fellowship. That is, after three years of seminary, a year as an intern, an assessment seminar, a summer as a chaplain in a hospital and numerous appearances in various pulpits, not to mention an enormous educational debt, I was turned down. In effect, they said I was not a minister. Yet. The committee asked to see me again in a year. They thought I had some work to do around some "issues" I had.

So, for a year I met with a pastoral counselor and did some serious personal work on me. I worked out my "issues." At the time, I thought it was yucky work. Now I can hardly recall what was so yucky about it.

And I went back to the committee and was admitted to fellowship and that meant I could look for a church that needed a minister.

What's important to me about this story is that I got a second chance.  
Not everyone gets a second chance.

Except now. Every year, everyone gets a second chance. Or a third or fourth or forty-seventh. Everyone gets another chance on New Year's Day.

So I encourage you to take your second chance, or your forty-seventh, and make the best of whatever it is that you didn't achieve last year.

You don't have to pay for this, it's free. And if it's yucky work you must do, think about this: In a few years, you won't recall the yuck.

All the best in the year ahead...

**IS "DOUBLE THE PLATE" A DOUBLE ENTENDRE?**  
*by Karl Hunt*

It might be – it certainly means both a big plate and a big donation if we match our donor's offer of \$300 on Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>.

Okay, I know I'm beginning to scrape the bottom of the barrel with that one, but ignore the joke and just come prepared on the 10th to siphon some more cash out of our donor's pockets. I know this comes close after the holidays; however, think of it as another gift, and a small one at that. If we all gave the amount many of us spend on coffee in a week, we'd easily exceed the donor's challenge and continue the great winning streak we've got going of making our donors pay up (which they like to do!).

In October I asked for more folks to be donors. You came through and we have a full slate for this fiscal year. However, I want to encourage everyone to consider being a donor or co-donor next year. Remember, you can go in with someone else to be a donor if you want. As I noted before, three folks putting in \$75 apiece can provide a matching amount of \$225. Five putting in \$50 apiece could provide \$250. Let me hear from you at (423)296-2809; or 2425 Royal Fern Trail, Chattanooga, 37421.

### RECENT HAPPENINGS!

I hope you didn't miss the exciting church events last month. If you did, here is a small taste of what you missed. If you were lucky enough to participate, here is a reminder of the fun and peace of the season!

The children's bell choir and the adult choir gave a glorious performance on the Sunday before Christmas and again on Christmas Eve. Special thanks to **Nicole Barnhart** for devoting many hours to hand-making the beautiful, new bell choir and adult choir stoles, and to **Maddie Kertay** for underwriting the choir stole project.

And to **Sam Kertay, Greg Kertay, Sky Papendorp, Will Barnhart, Isabel Dillard, Isabella Vanderhoof, Tamblin Papendorp, Sophie McCurdy, Lucy Enge, Isabel McCurdy & Caroline Vanderhoof**. Thank you for practicing and giving us the gift of beautiful bell tones this holiday season.



*Above: Adult Choir  
Left: Children Bell Choir  
Below: Winter Solstice Labyrinth  
Photos by Noel Dillard*

On December 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, our winter solstice labyrinth was open to the church and community offering an opportunity for peaceful reflection and introspection on the shortest days of the year. Over 180 candles greeted the darkness and lighted the circular flowing path that was visited by more than 45 walkers. Special thanks to **Dez Papendorp** and the **RE Department and children** for organizing and running the labyrinth.



### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS!

- Anne Johnson ~ January 4
- Jeane Young ~ January 7
- Maurice Scheni ~ January 8
- Patricia Mann ~ January 14
- Alex Faulkenberry ~ January 15
- Marge Pasch ~ January 16
- Claire Ballew ~ January 17



- Velma Whittle ~ January 17
- Elaine Hill ~ January 23
- Maddie Kertay ~ January 23
- Sky Papendorp ~ January 23
- Sarah Nelson ~ January 24
- Martha Berry ~ January 26

**ART ON THE WALLS**  
*by Carol Hobbs*

During January and February, photographer Bob Edens will exhibit recent photographs of Chattanooga landmarks and vistas. Bob is self-taught, confessing to studying and reading everything he could about photography for the last 21 years.

Bob started shooting primarily landscapes, and branched out into bird and raptor photography, and portraiture with a novel twist. Bob's photos have been published in several local and regional magazines. He currently has images on display at Eastgate Towncenter and Reflections Gallery.

Bob holds membership in the National Association of Photoshop Professionals, Professional Photographers of America, AVA, and the Photographic Society of Chattanooga.

**CHIONS**

The Chattanooga Institute of Noetic Science will meet on January 9 from 10:30 am to noon. The topic is *Poetry Divina: Poetry as Meditation* presented by Ed Groody.

In the Christian and other mystical traditions, repeating aloud a sacred verse is a way of opening to spirit. Poetry divina is both an ancient and a current practice where poetry is read reflectively to open oneself. Poetry divina honors and utilizes sacred poetry and scripture from all traditions. During this presentation we will cite poetry, sing and share in this practice. This is important work that, when done in a small circle, expands out into the world.

**DON'T MISS THE WINTER COFFEEHOUSE ON FRIDAY FEBRUARY 12<sup>TH</sup>**

Love will be in the air, along with music, poetry and who knows what else, when the Coffeehouse returns on Friday February 12<sup>th</sup>. Doors will open at 6:30 pm and the performances will begin at 7. In honor of Valentine's Day, we'd like the evening's performances to revolve around the theme of love. Performers of all ages are invited to share their talents in a supportive and relaxed environment. As always, appreciative audience members are very welcome.

In order to better manage the order of performances, performers will be asked to sign in that evening and indicate the length of their performances. Younger performers will be scheduled earlier in the evening. Desserts, snacks, coffee and other beverages will be provided.

To paraphrase Forrest Gump's momma, a coffeehouse is like a box of chocolates—you never know what you're gonna get. However, we can guarantee that you'll laugh, you'll cry, and you'll marvel at the talents of your fellow Unitarian Universalists. If you have a question or want to help by bringing food or a beverage to share, please contact Catherine Long at 423-886-6098.

**CALLING ALL CHILI COOKS**

*Is your chili the best? Well, put it to the test. Prepare your batch for the Chili Cook-off Fundraiser to be held after church on February 7<sup>th</sup>. We will limit contestants to 12 due to our obvious space limitations - NO EXCEPTIONS, so hurry and sign up! For more details, or to sign up, contact Wendes Jones.*

### UUS RESPOND TO TRAGEDY WITH LOVE, KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY

In response to the July 27, 2008 tragedy in Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist (UUs) Church, Knoxville, TN, the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), in collaboration with the Thomas Jefferson District, established the Knoxville Relief Fund to bring ministry, spiritual care, and practical financial assistance to those affected by this great loss.

Thanks to UUs' profound generosity, the UUA and the congregations received \$256,762 total donations to the fund. Go to [KRF report](#) to learn how your gifts assisted the Tennessee Valley UU Church and the Westside UU Church, and showed them that they were not alone during this time of shock and grief.

Of the total, 70% of the funds were distributed by the Thomas Jefferson District to provide the following services:

- Direct victim assistance: 56%
- Pastoral care support: 16%
- Security enhancements: 8%
- Trauma support: 6%
- TJD support services: 6%
- Religious education: 5%
- Supplies and miscellaneous expenses: 3%

The remaining 30% of funds will be distributed to TVUUC and the Westside UU Church based on a percentage of their 2009 certified membership in order to continue the healing process and help each congregation grow stronger.

TJD Executive **Annette Marquis** said, "I know these donations cannot begin to replace the losses each congregation experienced as a result of this tragedy. What is clear to me, however, is that the incredible generosity of Unitarian Universalists all over the world made it possible for some real healing to begin. I will always be grateful for the gifts we all received."

### YOU'RE INVITED

The Thomas Jefferson District would like to extend an invitation to you, your congregation, and any other people who are interested to participate in one of these events:

Bruce Knotts, current head of the Unitary Universalist-United Nations Office, will speak Saturday night, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM at a wine and cheese reception. He will also speak Sunday morning, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM. Both events will be held at the Greenville Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at 1135 State Park Road in Greenville, SC. For further information, please call 864.271.4883.

Bruce Knotts, a retired U.S. diplomat and current head of the United Nations Office of the Unitarian Universalist Association will bring to Greenville, SC his message that small groups of committed people can change the world. Knotts has been heavily involved with the International Criminal Court. He continues to advocate for the women and children of Sudan. Knotts, an openly gay man, has successfully brought to the international stage the issue of equal rights for LGBT people. His newest initiative is shaping global climate change policies at the United Nations and examining what role faith based organizations play in forming those policies. Knotts has represented the United States at embassies in more than 20 countries and served on the UN High Commission on Refugees. Dynamic and personable, Knotts brings stories of success and a message of empowerment to both adults and youth.

## SUPPER POEM

I slice the Kabocha squash in half  
brush olive oil on cut surfaces  
and place it on a pan in the oven.  
In forty-five minutes it will emerge  
soft and steaming. Once cool I will  
scoop out the sweet meat, add  
butter and salt, and mash.

I remove the chicken thighs from  
the refrigerator where they have been  
marinating in lime juice, rosemary and  
sage for eight hours. I peel back the  
skins, place slivers of garlic on the  
pink flesh, patting the skins back down  
to cover. I place the chicken in the oven.  
It will bake for forty minutes before it  
becomes tender and juicy, the skin  
crisped to a honey brown.

I wash the kale and cut it into  
strips to be added to a pan where  
carmelized onions sit sizzling in  
golden oil. Shitake mushrooms,  
garlic and salt will be added in turn,  
along with a little chicken broth, and the  
pan will then be covered to simmer  
for thirteen minutes.

I set the table with fresh linens and  
white plates that have been stacked neatly  
in the cupboard. The silverware lies  
cool and clean in the tray and I remove  
forks, knives and spoons to set on the table.  
I reach above the counter for the  
wineglasses, remove the wine from  
the refrigerator, and fill two glasses  
half full.

Supper is almost ready.

~ Nancy Beel

December 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 31

# January 2010

February 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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 10:00a Music (Rhral)	2 1:00p CofG
3 9:00a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Forum 9:30a Pagan Group 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a RE	4 9:00a SGM	5 1:00p SGM 6:30p SGM	6 6:30p Wed. Night In	7 6:30p SGM (3 groups)	8 10:00a Music (Rhral)	9 10:30a CHIONS 1:00p CofG
10 9:00a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Forum 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a RE 12:15p Rachael Carson Comm.	11	12	13 7:00p Finance Committee	14	15 10:00a Music (Rhral)	16 1:00p CofG
17 9:00a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Forum 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a RE	18	19 1:00p SGM	20 7:00p Board Meeting	21 6:30p SGM	22 10:00a Music (Rhral)	23 1:00p CofG 'til 10pm
24 9:00a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Forum 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a RE	25	26	27	28	29 10:00a Music (Rhral)	30 1:00p CofG
31 9:00a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Forum 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a RE 5:00p India Association						

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH  
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DATE	1/3	1/10	1/17	1/24	1/31
TOPIC	"I Resolve"	Church Words	Bending Towards Justice	Mother Questions	Impossible Choices
LEADER	Rev. Jeff Briere	Rev. Jeff Briere	Rev. Jeff Briere	Mike North	Rev. Jeff Briere
BOT MEMBER	Maddie Kertay	Kristie McKinley	David Reed	Diane Davison	Eric Papendorp
GREETERS & USHER	Carol Hobb Sue Knight Jim Joyner	Jesse Blue Monique Lewis Stacie Tippins	Nicky Ozbek Kristie McKinley Eric Slaton	Susan Kennedy Tim Kleve Nancy Beel	Harold Linn Kay Spehar Linda Helton
MUSIC	Kate Briere	Kate Briere	Kate Briere	Marcia Jenison	Nancy Beel
SOUND REINFORCEMENT	David Reed	Rich Dwyer	Ory Weaver	Joshua Goldman	Buck O'Rear

*For last year's words belong to last year's language and next year's words await another voice. And to make an end is to make a beginning.*

~ T.S. Eliot