



PASSOVER SEDER
by Daidee Springer

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH OF
CHATTANOOGA
*a liberal religious
community*
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The Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga’s Passover Seder, one of the most popular events on our spiritual and culinary calendar is scheduled for Friday, April 2nd at 6:30 pm.

The Passover Seder is an opportunity to honor one of our Unitarian Universalist (UU) sources in typical UU fashion. We celebrate the story of the Exodus, the liberation of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. We read from a Haggadah (literally, telling), modernized to reflect UU values. We eat delicious traditional foods, matzo ball soup, gefilte fish, charoset (a wonderful mix of apples, wine, nuts and honey), beef brisket, chicken, and scrumptious unleavened desserts. And kids have a lot of fun searching for the afikomen at the end of the meal.. All this, plus traditional red wine and grape juice is provided by “the committee.”

Board President
Eric Papendorf

Should you bring something? Yes. If you have children, please bring them. They have an important role to play in this celebration. We need them to participate and we guarantee they’ll have fun. They don’t need to sit quietly. We want them to be kids. Exuberant children are important to the ambience of a UU Passover Seder.

Minister
Rev. Jeff Briere

Whether or not you’re bringing children, we’d appreciate your bringing a vegetable or salad to feed about eight people. We try to stay kosher in spirit so please don’t use or bring any dairy or flour products. Please don’t use flour, milk, cream, cheese, butter, or any other dairy products in the preparation of your salads and veggies. If you have food questions, contact Lee Adler or Daidee Springer.

*Religious Education
Director*
Kay McCurdy

To accommodate everyone comfortably, we need to be sure not to exceed our capacity. Sign up on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall or call the Church Office to register. Once you register, you’re committed to paying the cost of \$8 per adult and \$4 per child age 4–12. Children under four are free. Once we reach our maximum capacity of eighty participants, we’ll start a wait list. If you register and find you can’t attend, please call the office and we’ll release your seat to someone else if we’ve reached our maximum. If your seat is resold then you won’t owe us, but if it isn’t you will.

Music Director
Kate Briere

Church Administrator
Chris Tregaskis

So sign up NOW to be sure of your place at the table. You really don’t want to miss this event!

the nUUsletter Editor
Wendy Sapp

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[RETURN TO UUC](#)
[HOMEPAGE](#)

SUNDAY SERVICES ♦ 11:00 AM**MARCH 7 ♦ SIX IMPOSSIBLE THINGS BEFORE BREAKFAST**

Early humanity evolved a bizarre outgrowth of brain architecture – religious belief, which often clashes with our current world-views. It can be useless, unhealthy, oppressive, or even dangerous. **Jonathan Sloan** explores the language of belief, its relevancy to the universe, and how it can be an instrument for positive change. Hans York will be our guest musician this morning.

MARCH 14 ♦ THE LIVING WATER

The Rev. Don Kaller will draw inspiration from John 4:1-24 to discuss installing water purification systems in needy places.

MARCH 21 ♦ UNITING SCIENCE AND RELIGION

The Rev. Jake Bohstedt Morrill of the Oak Ridge UU Church will not only bring us the service but the ORUUC Choir as well. Here's what Rev. Morrill has to say about the service theme: "Science and religion are often foolishly pitted against each other. But in this age of environmental disaster, we need a worldview that unites the world as it is with the world as it ought to be--that links facts and values. On this Sunday, we'll explore a theology built from the stuff of creation, that does not reject life, but revels in it."

MARCH 28 ♦ IN SEARCH OF A HOME

The speed of change, the breakdown of communities, and the loss of personal identity leaves us all feeling a bit unbalanced and uprooted. Sadly, while many in our land are physically homeless even more experience a kind of spiritual and psychological homelessness. **The Rev. Jim Philpot** proposes that perhaps we long for something lost and for something to be found. Perhaps we are all looking for home. We are looking for a place of security and meaning. We are looking for identity and belonging. Looking for what anchors us in this rough "ocean" of modern life. Home is more than just our point of origination. It is also a kind of destination.

Learn more about our guest preachers and guest musicians on pages 6 and 7 of *the nUUsletter*.

SUNDAY FORUMS

The Forum meets downstairs in the last room on the left at 9:30 am. All are welcome.

March 7 ~ Tom Prevost is a retired Baptist minister (mission administrator) who has worked on poverty issues, most recently focusing on the 20 poorest counties in the U.S. He will review the present situation and some of the organizations and promising approaches to alleviate poverty in the U.S.

March 14 ~ Richard Ralston and Blake Moore will review the James Lovelock book, *The Vanishing Face of Gaia*, plus other material that forecasts extreme changes in the weather.

March 21 ~ Marcia Massengill is the CEO of the Alzheimer's Association, MidSouth Chapter. She will discuss the work of the association and briefly cover the warning signs of Alzheimer's.

March 28 ~ We will review the latest issue of *UU World*.

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

Man is a transitional being. He is not final. The step from man to superman is the next approaching achievement in the earth evolution.

~ Sri Aurobindo

Auroville wants to be the bridge between the past and the future. Taking advantage of all discoveries from without and from within, Auroville will boldly spring towards future realization.

~ Article 3, Auroville charter

When I am no longer regularly surprised, check my pulse—I'm probably dead. Hearing the story of Auroville and seeing it on our recent trip to India has been an unfolding series of surprises.

- Auroville is a *modern-day* Utopian community.
- It is, uniquely, protected and defined by an act of the Indian government.
- It is intentionally *devoid* of religion but rife with *spirituality*.
- Its defining attraction, the Matrimandir dome, is off-limits to tourists. It is reserved not for worship or meditation but for *concentration*.
- Its idyllic location and low-cost luxury may yet kill the vision that created it.

Utopian experiments were a hallmark of 19th century America and often had religious intent. Most vanished quickly. I'm intrigued to find a modern-day, international experiment on a relatively large scale.

Auroville takes its name dually from Aurora, Roman goddess of dawn, and Aurobindo Ghose, the founder of the movement that created it.

Sri Aurobindo moved from nationalist Hindu roots informed by a superior British education to a view of evolution toward Life Divine. His principal disciple Mirra Alfassa (who became known simply as The Mother) was most responsible for the creation of Auroville in 1968 as a place free from nationalism and religion. The central village was centered on a banyan tree (see photo below)—deliberately symbolic as banyans live for many hundreds of years. From its beginning Auroville had residents from dozens of countries.

Before The Mother died in 1973 construction of the Matrimandir (see photo below) began but took 37 years. Its spectacular beauty interwoven with intricate symbolism has translated into participants and financial contributions from all over the world.

Anyone, anywhere is eligible to apply to live in Auroville. You must pledge yourself as a “willing servitor of the Divine Consciousness.” Forty-plus years on, it is very much a work in progress. Although some residents will say off the record that much hypocrisy surrounds adherence to the original vision, I'm moved by The Mother's words and the example of her life. I believe, if the world is big enough, Auroville will endure.



GREEN SANCTUARY INITIATIVE
by Sandy Kurtz, Green Sanctuary

Time of Wonder

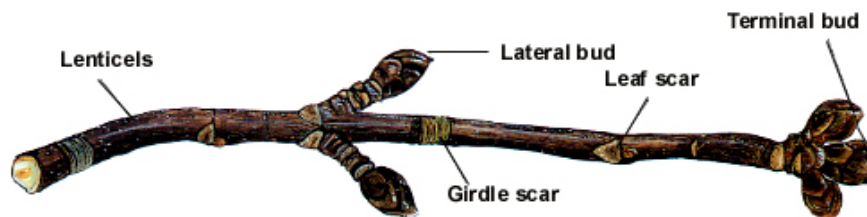
Finally, March is here bringing the promise of spring to rejuvenate our spirits after too many weary winter days. Buds will soon reveal secrets they have been protecting, now determining the right time to emerge for the greatest possibility of success at life. The side benefit for us is the joy they bring all those who would see the wonder of Earth's cycles and our connections to them. Go see for yourself.



*Unseen buds, infinite, hidden well,
Under the snow and ice, under the darkness, in every square or cubic inch.
Germinal, exquisite, in delicate lace, microscopic, unborn,
Like babies in wombs, latent, folded, compact, sleeping;
Billions of billions, and trillions of trillions of them waiting,
(On earth and in the sea—the universe—the stars there in the heavens,)
Urging slowly, surely forward, forming endless,
And waiting ever more, forever more behind.*

-Walt Whitman

www.vinsweb.org/education/elf/units/twg.html



Fun With Science: Trees and Leaves,
Rosie Harlow and Gareth Morgan, Warwick Press, 1991

Besides Buds....If you want to get out to see birds and other wildlife you can access the new Watchable Wildlife Website from Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. In the 'Where to Watch Wildlife' section, you will find plenty of local sites. Go to <http://www.tnwatchablewildlife.org>

Ethical Eating: Food and Environmental Justice

For the 40th anniversary of Earth Day (April 22) this year, UU ministry for the Earth invites congregations to join in lifting up the role our faith can play in making the production and consumption of food more just. We make daily decisions about what to eat. Every bite is an opportunity to vote for justice. Assistance is available on-line for planning and participation in this call to action. There is a downloadable study guide: http://www.uumfe.org/earth_day_resources

Mark your calendar:

1. EarthCare Annual Spring Forum, Saturday, March 2: Pot Point Cabin of the Tennessee River Gorge Trust. Enjoy relaxation, good food, and learning about God's creation, especially BIRDS. Free. RSVP: Athena Hicks at aahicks@bellsouth.net.
2. Outdoor Expo & Gear Swap, April 10: Coolidge and Renaissance Parks, 10-4, the Chattanooga Green Action Teams join with Outdoor Chattanooga for this event filled with recreational equipment vendors and displays from non-profit groups. Barter or swap fun. Free.
3. EcoExpo, April 13: Chattanooga Convention & Trade Center, 10:30 to 7:30. Showcasing practical solutions to learn and live green. Make your home and lifestyle ecologically friendly. Discover ways to save money by going green!

YOUTH CON OR BUST!

by Kay McCurdy, Director of Religious Education

A month or so ago, if you found yourselves downstairs after service, you might have witnessed Dez Papendorp and myself hugging and squealing and jumping around like madwomen—not that there's anything wrong with that. The reason for our exuberance? We had just tallied up the registration forms, and realized that we would be taking TWELVE kids to the upcoming Youth Conference at The Mountain Retreat Center in North Carolina. Initially, we had hoped that four, maybe even six children might attend, if we truly focused our efforts to interest families in the program. But TWELVE?

This Friday, TWELVE elementary aged kids and four adult chaperones (Dez Papendorp, Jay McCurdy, Les Kertay and myself) will leave the parking lot of the Unitarian Universalist (UU) Church and head eastward for a weekend of learning and celebration, in community with other UU kids from all over the southeast. It is, for all of us, a Very Big Deal.

Being a religious minority in the bible belt...isn't it grand? That minority status is the reality UU families face when they choose to raise their children in our faith community. We are the only Unitarian Universalist church in this area, and, as such, we have a responsibility to our children that goes beyond just bringing them to service on Sunday morning. We have to work harder to create a sense of connectedness, to embrace their UU identity, to provide a safe place for them to land on Sunday mornings.

Maybe this explains the level of excitement Dez and I felt. We both love kids in general...love teaching them, being in their company, listening to their insights and ideas. But our happiness was about something bigger. It was about knowing that our UCC kids are growing up with possibilities. Our kids are growing up with community, and the love and support of the UCC church family.

And the love just spread. The kids did an amazing amount of work to raise funds to attend Youth Con. Families like the Barnharts and Kertays donated time and materials. Bill Kurtz, whose heart of gold (and generosity) helped make this trip a reality. The folks who bought kid-painted ornaments or chalice cards. Parents who took the time to get involved, show up for meetings and allow their children to be a part of something really big and beautiful. And, last but not least, the entire membership of this church and its Board of Directors, who always find a way to support the religious education of our youth.

I hope you all know how grateful we are to be in community with each and every one of you. Please share in our giddy jump for joy...TWELVE!

MARCH BIRTHDAYS!

Bob Barnhart ~ March 1
Sylvia Aldrich ~ March 2
Winifred Duffie ~ March 4
Kyle Waggener ~ March 4
Bernard Cheatham ~ March 6
Marcia Jenison ~ March 6
Avery Johnson ~ March 8
Tamblin Papendorp ~ March 9
ceallaigh kurtz-kunesh ~ March 10



Miranda Cagle ~ March 15
Betsey Hoyt ~ March 19
Chris Tregaskis ~ March 20
Clinton Smullen ~ March 21
Chris Ballew ~ March 22
Eric Slaton ~ March 22
Haley Solomon ~ March 30
April Trussell-Smith ~ March 31

WHO'S PREACHING?

While our own Jeff Briere is on his well-earned Sabbatical, we are enjoying the talents of many wonderful guest speakers. Here is some information about our guests this month.

Jonathan Sloan is a member of Pilgrim Congregational Church and is preparing for ministry in the United Church of Christ. He studied religion at Emory University and McAfee School of Theology. Jonathan has spent the past six years as a social worker. He lives in Chattanooga with his wife (Nikki), their son (Corbin), and their dog (Darwin).

Rev. Jake Morrill has been the minister at the Oak Ridge UU Church since 2003. He's a long time UU, having grown up in the Tennessee Valley UU Church where he was later ordained. On his way there, however, he had a fascinating journey. He was a rock singer for two years before he finished his undergraduate years in college; he then earned a Master of Fine Arts degree, intending to write fiction; he went next to the University of Cape Town on a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship, to work with the novelist J. M. Coetzee. However, he spent the year working with children in the townships outside Cape Town and was honored for his work by local Rotarians. Finding his life direction changed again, he attended Harvard Divinity School where he earned his Master of Divinity degree in 2003. Since his arrival in Oak Ridge, he has been very active in interfaith and community affairs.



Rev. Don Kaller was born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri. He graduated from Washington University in St. Louis, Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia, and the University of Memphis. After graduating from seminary, he served as assistant pastor in Hampton, Virginia. He and his wife went to Brazil to serve with the Presbyterian Church (US) for 19 years. He served a field of 20 churches and 30 preaching points our first term in Brazil. In later terms He served as President of the Eduardo Lane Bible Institute, Director of a Seminary Extension Course, and of the Bible Extension Course. He and his wife have five children and ten grandchildren. They have lived in Chattanooga for three years. They are retired and enjoy gardening, landscaping, reading, and attending cultural events, especially musical ones.

Rev. Jim Philpott, Th.D., a minister in the United Methodist Church, has conducted a community-based pastoral counseling practice in Chattanooga for the past 28 years. He is licensed as a Marital and Family Therapist and a Clinical Pastoral Therapist and is a Fellow in the American Association of Pastoral Counselors.



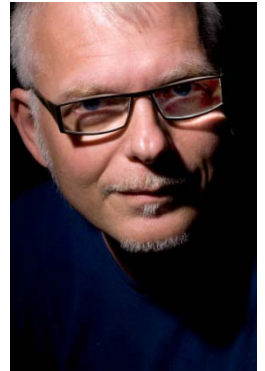
Jim served on the Board of Education of the Chattanooga Public Schools from 1989-1993 and as Director of Pastoral Care at Valley Behavioral Health Hospital in the 1990s. He currently serves as Pastoral Counselor for Christ UMC and the Chattanooga District of the United Methodist Church. On work days he provides counseling services to individuals and couples in his Georgia Avenue office and on off days he can be found in his shop turning wood art on a lathe or in a trout stream testing the waters. He is husband to Jeane, father to Ben and Sarah, and "granddaddy" to two granddaughters.

Home is where we start from, but home is also where we are bound for, the place we always seek.

~ David Steindl-Rast

WHO'S PLAYING

On March 7th, **Hans York** will be returning to our congregation to once again impress us with his musical talents. Kerrville New Folk Winner Hans York creates music with brilliant emotional momentum. He's a consummate musician, traveling between folk, jazz, and pop effortlessly, while his voice soars above it all. Seeing him live, you understand that you are experiencing a world-class talent. His joy is infectious and his chops are superior. His voice feels smooth, silky, and unique, with a breathtaking three octave range that pulls you right in. Richly textured as well as utterly intimate, a true Renaissance musician that is skilled in many genres, knowing exactly how to blend them, and with the ability to sweep you off your feet. German-born, National touring, Award winning Singer Songwriter Hans York has quickly made himself a name as an extraordinary open tuning (DADGAD) player. Hans is a strong, engaging performer with distinctive style, and an irrepressibly delightful and approachable manner. His playful voice draws comparisons to Sting, Stephen Bishop, Paul Simon, Kenny Rankin or Michael Franks, capturing the audience with its honesty and clearness. For more about Hans York go to www.HansYork.com.



On March 21st, our guest preacher, the Rev. Jake Morrill is bringing his **music director and choir** with him from the **Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church (ORUUC)**. Nancy Starr became the first Director of Music at ORUUC in 2000 after directing the adult choir for 4 years. She is a serious pianist, having studied since early childhood and briefly at the college level. She serves as alternate pianist for Sunday services and memorial services. Before finding her way to UUism, she was a church organist for 13 years. She built up experience directing music by serving as music director and pianist for many stage musicals at the Oak Ridge Playhouse. We are delighted to welcome Nancy and her dedicated choir to our church.

PAGAN NUUS

March

- 7 - Study Group - Topic - Ostara
- 15 - New Moon 2:25 AM
- 20 - Ostara
- 30 - Full Moon 9:01 PM



At Ostara, the light is equal to the darkness. This is the time of the spring equinox, and is a great time to celebrate the rebirth of the soil and the land.

RISE UP AND CALL HER NAME

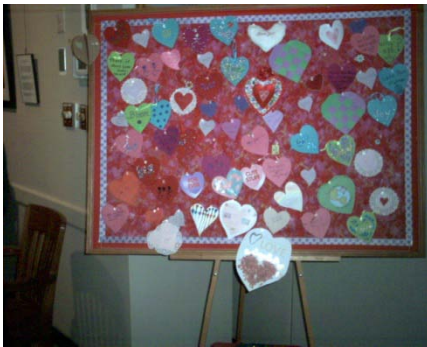
An Adult Religious Education Class - Earth Centered Spirituality

Rise Up and Call Her Name is a multimedia program which provides a unique format for learning about goddesses from a variety of traditions, hearing and telling personal stories, creating sacred art, participating in rituals, talking about important questions in feminist spirituality, and engaging in personal discovery.

Last spring we offered an adult earth centered class called *Cakes for the Queen of Heaven*. We are looking into offering the second in that series *Rise Up and Call Her Name*. If you are interested in more information about the class, please contact Leslie Brock.

TEEN SECOND ANNUAL SERVICE BRINGS OUT THE LOVE
by Bonnie Sinclair, Vice President of Religious Education

The Valentine's Day service went right to the heart of our congregation. Kudos go to our inspiring teen group who presented, with much aplomb, their annual teen service. We celebrated love, diversity, and community by having a Heart Communion that involved the entire church family. We were treated to an a cappella rendition of *Love Makes The World Go Round* by Kate, H.P. and Will. Chris had us all singing along performing two Beatles songs with Christina and Jesse. H.P. reminded us with his original children's story, *Sharing Love*, that it really is the little things that can mean the most. We were grateful to have Steve back safe and playing our hymns. And, even though Haley could not be with us in person, we held her artwork in our hands on the Order of Service. Claire adroitly provided perspective on the service while maneuvering her clowder of Unitarian Universalist cats through the Heart Communion itself. And, did you know that Chandler read those Orison cards cold? Way to go C-man! You saw the result of hours of preparation and coordination by Bonny, James, and Jerry. Thanks go to Mary, Kay, the Medievals, and Sprouts for their support in dressing the altar. Ory enhanced the sights and sounds of the experience, and let's extend an honorable mention to Jesse for so affably stepping in to deliver Jeff's offertory. Well done, everyone.



Modeled after Dr. Norbert Capek's Flower Communion, love was in residence and flowing as members brought forth their hearts, expressing heartfelt sentiments, creating The Magic of Heart's tapestry. Visitors expressed their joy at being included in the service and having the chance to blow bubbles during the *Bubbles of Joy*. People chose a different heart from the tapestry at the conclusion of the service and took a little love home in their hand as well as their heart. Now, many more of us can see why the annual teen service is looked forward to every year.

It truly is a pleasure to be involved with this amazing, creative, and resourceful group of young people who are equally adept at accepting guidance as they are holding the reins. I thank them all for their willingness and enthusiasm and their inspiration and cooperation.

DOUBLE THE PLATE, SHARE THE PLATE, PASS THE PLATE...
by Karl Hunt

March 14th will be our next Double the Plate Sunday. Our worthy donor has pledged to match up to \$400, so we'll have to put a little additional effort (translation: dollars) into the collection to get the full matching amount. Be prepared!

In the past there has been a little confusion about Double the Plate and Share the Plate. You'll probably remember that Share the Plate, in which we donate the Sunday collection to a charity is a separate program from Double the Plate in which an anonymous donor matches the congregation's donations up to a specific amount. I've been asked by our minister, aka the Rev. Jeff Briere, to handle Share the Plate while he is on sabbatical in the coming months. We will be Sharing the Plate on the fourth Sunday of the month.

I would like your help in nominating worthwhile charities. Preferred are local charities, those that seem related to our Unitarian Universalist sympathies (whatever they are), and, of course, those that are timely. A good example is the recent collection we took up for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's Haitian relief fund. Not local, but definitely related and timely. Additionally, we received an acknowledgement of our donation of \$275.29 to Blue Monarch, which provides a 12 month residential program to women and their children as they overcome physical and emotional abuse. When you come up with a nominee, let me know along with some information about it. If you don't see me at church, you can email me or snail-mail me at 2425 Royal Fern Trail, Chattanooga, 37421.

A LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

by Eric Papendorp, President, Board of Trustees

I am on my way back to Chattanooga from a conference regarding the private club industry, and as I spend an extra 10 hours in the airport (thanks Delta!), my overtired and over stimulated brain has attached itself to a tenuous connection between my industry and churches. That connection is that both organizations depend on money from its users in order to pay the bills. Obviously, we call these funds by different names, dues at the club, pledges at the church, but the basic principle is the same. Those people that are interested in participating in the organization pay a fee to help support its operational expenses.

The interesting contrast is how differently the two types of organizations endeavor to increase their net income. At my job, we hate raising dues. It drives away members and makes them grumpy. At churches, although no one can arbitrarily raise pledge commitments, churches do ask congregants to give a little more each year. In the club business, we prefer to recruit new members. Not only does a new member add to our dues base, but it provides another person that could potentially fill one of the volunteer positions. Other churches actively recruit new members; I wonder why we don't do the same.

My guess is that, for many of us, it may seem too "evangelical," and that people's experiences with evangelical churches of other denominations have soured them to the simple act of inviting a friend to church. This is a trend at which we all need to take a long, hard look. Now I can't speak from personal experience, but I assume the rest of you have friends. And my guess is that you are friends with these folks because you have similar interests and ideas. Do you ever talk to them about UUCC? Have you ever asked them to join you at a church event like a coffee house, movie night, or the walking labyrinth? Have you ever invited them to attend (gasp) a service on Sunday? If not- why? Our church is great! It is filled with fun and different people. We have an adequate president and a terrific Board of Trustees. We have an excellent professional staff and programs that help people both within our congregation and in the community at large. Our children's Religious Education program rocks, and our music has to be the best in town. I think other like minded individuals in the community deserve to hear about the good stuff that we have going on. So tell a friend about UUCC; don't be shy. It may help them even more than it helps us.

STRIDES OF MARCH

Small Group Ministry Group, VenUUe Q, is forming a team to raise money for The Strides of March, Sunday, March 28, 2010. If you wish to make a donation or would like to be on the team, please contact either Steve Hollingsworth, Kristie McKinley, Tacie Overbeck, Stacie Tippens, Cecile de Rocher, Eric Slaton or Jeremy Long before the event.

CHIONS

The Chattanooga Institute of Noetic Science will meet March 13th, 10:30 am-noon. James Brown will present *From Objective Neurosis to Subjective Insight*.

To James Brown (Buddhist name Jinpa TerDzo, which means "generosity treasure") the title of this presentation describes his spiritual journey, and perhaps everyone's in some way. He will talk about how, through Buddhism, he has learned to shed the effects of conceptual mind and to begin to rest in the freedom of uncertainty.

James Brown has studied Buddhism and Buddhist meditation for over ten years. He is presently a member of the Shambhala Lineage of Buddhism as well as the Kagyu (pronounced Kah ju) and Nyingma Lineage. He is studying with the Shambhala School of Buddhist Studies and going through Shambhala Training, a secular program created by Chogyam Trungpa, the Founder of Shambhala. As a result of the Study and the training he hopes to learn to assist in creating an enlightened world in the workplace.

NAVIGATING DIFFICULT TIMES*by David Reed, Vice President, Ways and Means*

The Finance Committee spent several hours recently revising a Campaign budget, which the Board of Trustees blessed at their January meeting. I want to go over some key points in this article. First, let me back up to last year. We did not make our campaign goal. In fact, we did not get close enough to avoid some Draconian cuts without taking some extraordinary steps. We anticipated being almost \$9,000 short. The worst recession since the Great Depression took, and continues to take, a toll on many of our members. While things are beginning to improve, that improvement is not yet evident in the labor markets, which most directly affects us. The congregation voted at the annual meeting to use up to \$9,000 from the prior year's surplus to cover the shortfall, but it was clearly stated this would be a one-time event.

This year's budget contains Draconian cuts. A challenging year was compounded by the loss of the Church of God rental, which alone gave us almost \$12,000 in lost revenue. We do not believe we can compensate for that through increased pledges. Given the financial climate, the budget that we will present on Stewardship Sunday is austere. Our proposal is \$166,797, which is a decrease of 8% versus this year (almost \$14,000). But remember that the current budget of \$180,695 was \$9,000 short.

We have added several new members, and we hope that will help on the pledge income side. Our Stewardship Campaign goal is \$137,527, an increase of around 5%. It comes to a rise of about \$6,600. We also expect some of our other income to go up (we will need to do more fundraising), but not by as much as last year's shortfall. That's why we expect a lower budget. But there are some one-time items in next year's budget we don't expect to see repeated.

Our denominational dues were cut by \$3,000 (24%). Our congregation struggled for years to pay off our mortgage and becoming a Fair Share Congregation. Making this reduction and ceasing to be a Fair Share Congregation is a symbolic step backwards.

Religious Education expenses were left at this year's level. But other Programs were reduced. There are some items that we aren't going to try to fund at all: Denominational Affairs, the Interfaith Hospitality Network, and Adult Religious Education. The reason these categories were eliminated is that we, sadly, aren't doing anything in these areas now. Overall, we're reducing the Programs budget by 28%.

Next to personnel, our next largest expense category is Operations. This area is also being reduced by almost \$9,000, or 25%. A big part of that relates to what we have spent on maintaining the grounds – almost \$5,000 a year. This is a luxury we can no longer afford. This means we will need volunteers to take this up.

Last year, we froze the staff salaries. This year, we budgeted a 1% increase. We'd like to be able to do more, but we feel the need to be conservative.

But in looking at our congregation, I do not feel a tremendous sense of doom and gloom, despite our budgetary problems. We are a vibrant, growing group. There is a great deal of positive energy.

We simply believe that, in addition to some very real damage that some of our members experienced in the recession, there is still a great deal of psychological damage felt by a greater number of our membership. Yes, the stock markets have rebounded substantially, but not to where they were. Some of our members whose jobs disappeared have found other employment, but not necessarily at the same pay scale. But the fear of further job losses lingers. We probably underestimated that effect last year; we're trying not to do so this year.

That being said, we really need your generosity in the coming year. Please pledge as much as you can when your steward contacts you. While the climate is difficult, I remain confident that together we will see our way through it.

Have faith.

WHERE'S KATE?

by Kate Briere, Music Director

By now I am sure most of you realize that Jeff is on sabbatical. He will be returning to the pulpit August 22. Needless to say, as your Music Director, I do not have a sabbatical, but as the wife of your minister, I do need to take this time to be with him to travel, rest and rejuvenate. The board of directors kindly allowed me to take a leave of absence which I gratefully accepted.

I have prepared a music schedule for Sunday services and hired several people as guest musicians. I arranged the bell choir's schedule and music. Wendy Sapp and Pam Johnson will be the new directors with help from Dez Papendorp. The choir will continue to meet on Sunday mornings to work on hymns and songs of their choosing. Jay McCurdy, Rich Dwyer and Jesse Blue will lead and organize their rehearsals. The children will also continue to sing under the direction of Jay McCurdy. I am leaving the music program in very capable hands. Catherine Long will coordinate the music program in my absence. If you have any questions, changes, ideas, comments about the music, please contact Catherine.

What will I do? I am planning several new adventures.

I am studying a practice called, "Singing Meditations". Its goal is to create a time and space for folks to explore their vast potential for spiritual joy. This is achieved by combining music and meditation. I hope to offer this practice on a monthly basis to interested congregants when I return.

I have always wanted to play the harp. I am looking at various harps made by local craftsmen. Tiffany Envid and Jo Pennington who brought the Harp Ensemble of Chattanooga to our church for a concert in December have suggested various harps and teachers. When I return, I hope to have my own harp! I also hope to attend the Harp Camp this summer at Jo Pennington's.

At some point in May or June, Jeff and I will be "on the road" again. Our new van will be our home on wheels while we visit my family, Linda Pehlman, Heather, our daughter who lives in Philadelphia. We will then travel to Canada, New Brunswick, the Gaspé Peninsula and yes, even Brier Island. We will be staying with members of SERVAS, an international organization of hosts and travelers and experiencing the Celtic, French, and Acadian culture, food and music.

At the end of that trip will be attending a Children's International Summer Village (CISV) institute in Detroit, MI. We have been chosen as adult leaders for this 3 week program.

I save the best for last! I will be visiting my granddaughter on her first birthday in April. Shayla Noelle Rodriguez will be one year old on April 14, 2010!

I thank you all for the wonderful opportunity and ask that you be kind and patient with all who have volunteered to help with the music program and other tasks that I perform at church, from Jerry Smith, who will lead the WOWZERS to Linda Helton who will take charge of the bulletin boards. Thank you all!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT IN

In February, we had to cancel Wednesday Night In because we didn't have a host. We need volunteers to host this event each month to keep it going. Please contact Leslie Brock if you would be interested in volunteering. It is easy to be a Wednesday Night In host, and doesn't take a lot of time. Please contact Leslie Brock if you are interested in hosting Wednesday Night In.

**JEFF SAYZ AND CELEBRATING SERVICE
SMALL GROUP MINISTRY NEWS**

by Dez Papendorp, Small Group Ministry Coordinator

As a carry-over from last month when the facilitators described their groups in 5 sentences or less, Jeff Briere was asked to answer this question: How has attending monthly facilitator meetings guided your thoughts towards Small Group Ministry (SGM) at our church? He answered:

At the outset of the small group ministry program, I was leery of committing myself to another meeting each month. But I knew it was critical to the success of the program. Dez said so! Actually, I knew it before she told me.

In many places, the minister is the leader of the program, because it is so often critical to the growth of the church. But I don't have the training or the knowledge to administer this program. I just know that the success of the program is important to us. Further, a lay person had to lead this effort as the last time around, small group ministries failed mostly because the program did not bubble up from the congregation.

So I am glad to attend the meetings. Little by little, I learn more about small group dynamics and I have a peek into the lives of congregants that I would not otherwise have. When the facilitators meet, we do not mention names, but I get a general feel for how the members are doing. Truly, I cannot escape the meetings, as Dez knows how to get me there by asking me to read a passage, or lead a session on some topic. She knows I can't resist.

I am pleased with the work of the facilitators. They have committed to this program and their dedication is heartening. Together everyone is learning about the ministry we all give to each other and to the church."

We are beginning to celebrate service achievements within SGM!!!

The Kikimas provided a homemade meal to guests of our local Ronald McDonald House. Here's how some of the Kikimas described this experience: "...we worked together well and the meal was piping hot at 6:00. It was a great experience and I believe we all enjoyed the effort." Another Kikima said, "Today was fun and I felt like we were doing something quite useful. I enjoyed being with everyone, and I especially enjoyed getting to know more about the Ronald McDonald House." And another shared, "I enjoyed the time spent with everyone cooking the meal. I am especially grateful to Marge for coming up with the recipes, typing them up in the amounts needed to serve 50, and doing the shopping. The food looked and smelled great... It was good to have the chance to talk to folks in a relaxed atmosphere."



Kikimas Cook for the Ronald McDonald House Residents



SGM group 6 sponsored a great fundraiser for the church by hosting the UUCG Annual Chili Cook-Off. Check-out some of the members in the photo below selling tickets. Next month we'll share some thoughts from this group regarding their involvement in this ministry.

SGM #6 Hosting the Chili Cook-Off

Be sure to sign up for the

PASSOVER SEDER
FRIDAY, APRIL 2nd. 6:30 p.m.

Sign-Up Sheet is in Fellowship Area

or

You can call the Church Office

\$8 per adult; \$4 children 4-12;
children under 4 free

Details on page 1 of *the nUUsletter*

For more information contact Lee Adler or
Daidee Springer

REIKI FREE CLINIC

On Thursday, March 25th 2-7 pm (or later if needed), Tim Kleve and Kristie McKinley will provide free Reiki sessions at the Church. Reiki is energy healing that works on you physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. It is appropriate for any age. For more information, you can visit Kristie's website www.relaxedself.com or The International Center for Reiki Training's website www.reiki.org. If you have any questions, or if you would like to schedule a time to receive Reiki at the Church, please contact either Tim (423-875-4424) or Kristie (423-316-9994). Both 5:30 slots have been filled so please sign up soon.



Mark Your Calendars!

PRIVET PATROL & PIZZA PARTY!

March 21; After Church
All Ages Invited

ART ON THE WALLS

by Carol Hobbs

Look upward for inspiration! That's what seven area artists have done and the result is "Skyscapes." This March 14 through April 25 show is a collection of large (40" x 30") paintings which depict the ever-changing, visual feast above our heads. Artists are BJ Wright, Sherry Hullender, Janice Kennedy, Betty Hamilton, Carol Hobbs, Sandra Babb, and Karen Edens. Consult our art/biography wall to learn more about these artists.

Also featured are lovely wooden bowls created by Janice Kennedy. Janice has studied wood turning at John C. Campbell Folk School and is a member of the Tri-State Woodturners Association.

POETRY CORNER

HOME SICK

When I was a little girl
I lived in a house made of ivy.
Dark tunnels connected
rooms with speckled, shifting light.
Squatting in my house
I breathed the damp dirt smell,
strained ivy tea in a dented tin teapot,
waiting for my first faithful guest.

When I was a little girl
earwigs roamed the earth,
nesting in the ears of unsuspecting
merchants, uncles and nuns and sometimes
my sister. They raised babies, stored
food for the winter, built cathedrals.
Slick black bodies
tunneling through.

When I was a little girl
the Virgin Mary arrived one morning,
her lovely face framed in blue.
She scooped me up into her arms
and rocked me atop a milky cloud
amidst a seven layer sky.
She whispered secrets, she said
Don't forget.
Opening my eyes
to the loud yellow walls of my bedroom,
Mother banging pans in the kitchen,
announcing her intentions:
scrambled eggs with last night's ham,
whether you like it or not,
shouldering Dad out of the way again.
I hate scrambled eggs.

~ Nancy Beel

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

March 2010

April 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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 9:00a SGM	2 1:00p SGM	3 5:30p Piano Lessons 6:30p SGM	4 6:30p SGM (3 groups)	5	6
7 9:00a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Forum 9:30a Pagan Group 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a RE 3:00p "Party"	8	9 6:30p SMG	10 5:30p Piano Lessons 6:30p SGM	11	12	13 10:30a CHIONS 6:00p Bridge Group
14 9:00a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Forum 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a RE 12:30p Davison-Reed Celebration	15	16 1:00p SGM	17 5:30p Piano Lessons 7:00p Board Meeting 6:30p SGM	18	19	20
21 9:00a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Forum 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a RE 12:00p Privet Patrol	22	23	24 5:30p Piano Lessons 6:30p SGM	25 2:00p Event	26	27
28 9:00a Choir Rehearsal 9:30a Forum 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a RE 12:30p Strides of March	29	30	31 5:30p Piano Lessons 6:30p SGM			

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DATE	3/7	3/14	3/21	3/28
TOPIC	Six Impossible Things Before Breakfast	The Living Water	Uniting Science and Religion	In Search of a Home
LEADER	Jonathan Sloan	Rev. Don Kaller	Rev. Jake Bohstedt Morrill	Rev. Jim Philpott
BOT MEMBER	Maddie Kertay	Eric Papendorp	Bonnie Sinclair	Kristie McKinley
GREETERS & USHER	Yvonne Derrickson Betsey Hoyt Matt Hoyt	Ken Nickerson Kristy McKinley Jesse Blue	Linda Helton Carol Hobbs Monique Lewis	Tim Kleve Nancy Beel Eric Slaton
MUSIC	Hans York	Catherine Long	Oakridge Choir	Steve Hollingsworth
SOUND REINFORCEMENT	Ory Weaver	Rich Dwyer	Ory Weaver	Joshua Goldman

A goal without a plan is just a wish

~ Antoine de Saint Exupéry