



A FINAL NOTE OF THANKS

by David Reed, Vice-President Ways and Means

In the last newsletter article on the Stewardship Campaign, I noted that we did not believe we would meet our pledge goal. At the Annual Meeting, I presented a revised budget that was approved by the Board of Trustees. The revisions include some cuts to Board expenses and programs, but the majority of the cuts came from freezing salaries. Even with those cuts, the Stewardship Committee estimated at the Annual Meeting that we would be \$5,000 short of our needed pledges.

There were, however, two sources of revenue from the current fiscal year that are expected to result in a year-end surplus. First and foremost, only six months of revenue for the Church of God rental was budgeted. They extended the rental for the balance of the fiscal year, giving us an unbudgeted revenue gain. Secondly, Religious Education did not spend all of their budgeted funds. With this expected surplus in mind, the Board authorized covering up to \$9,000 of the projected income shortfall for next year. At this point, we do not believe we'll need that full amount, but the \$5,000 projected shortfall is holding. The follow-up letters have been mailed. If you get one of them, please return it with a pledge amount as quickly as possible.

It has to be noted that this surplus is a single year fix. We do not anticipate being able to do this again. I believe that our congregation, like many other Unitarian Universalist congregations, had many members hit by the recession that impacted our pledges. We are very grateful for the generous pledges we received. This will be my last newsletter article for the fiscal year on Stewardship. But I have a personal final note of thanks I need to make.

I have been a member of this congregation for over 25 years. In the latter part of the 1980s and early 1990s I took an extended vacation from attendance. When I came back in the late 1990s I started getting involved with the financial side of congregational life the year prior to my first stint as Ways & Means Vice-President. In that year, there was one person involved in the stewardship effort who was a long time veteran of these campaigns. I've been involved in some way with every campaign since then. The cast of characters on the committee has changed from year to year, except for that one long time veteran: Bill Berry. You could always count on Bill.

But then, I believe the folks involved with Membership would say the same thing. And for many years, Mr. Bill, as I recall he was known, was a mainstay in Religious Education. In several ways, this church has been able to rely on Bill Berry during the 25 years I had the distinct privilege to know him.

But perhaps his greatest contribution to this church was the way in which he made visitors and newcomers feel welcome on Sunday mornings. As our membership has changed, it's gotten harder to know everyone. But I'm willing to bet there isn't anyone who didn't know Bill Berry. On many levels, he was the face of this congregation. You could always count on Bill.

I already miss him terribly. I offer him my final note of thanks.

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SUNDAY SERVICES ♦ 11:00 AM

JULY 5 ♦ ANNUAL PICNIC

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

JULY 12 ♦ LIBERAL RELIGION TODAY

We welcome Dr. Don Klinefelter to our pulpit to talk about liberal religion today. Don is a retired professor of philosophy and religion at the University of Tennessee Chattanooga. He formerly served as Philosopher-in-Residence at the Tennessee Governor's School for the Humanities, and has been honored for his academic achievements by both faculty and students. Jerry Smith is worship leader.

JULY 19 ♦ MERCY, COMPASSION, AND THE LESSON OF COUNTRY MUSIC

The words "mercy" and "compassion" have different meanings to us as Unitarian Universalists. How might we reconcile them but also see our 21st century religious faith as an inclusive theology rather than one tied to the faith of our ancestors? And what truth might a contemporary country-western song have to teach us? The Rev. Alex Holt preaching. Learn more about Rev. Holt below.

JULY 26 ♦ THEM THAT BELIEVE: THE POWER AND MEANING OF CHRISTIAN SERPENT HANDLING

Dr. Ralph Hood of UTC's Psychology Department will speak about his research on Christian churches that use serpent-handling rituals. The research is discussed in his latest book titled *Them that Believe: The Power and Meaning of Christian Serpent Handling*, co-authored with W. Paul Williamson. Learn more about Dr. Hood below.

SUNDAY FORUMS

The Forum meets downstairs in the far room to the left. We welcome participants new and old. Discussions are always interesting.

July 5 - *No Forum*

July 12 - *Avoiding War* - Discussion will be led by Dr. Carter Pate, professor emeritus, UTC Dept. of Sociology & Anthropology and life-long peace activist who is involved in the Peace Conference coming to Chattanooga in September. [Reading](#) -- *The Missing Peace: the Search for Non-Violent Alternatives in US History*, by James C. Juhnke & Carol M. Hunter, 2004; [Examples](#) -- Native American practices before 1492, Quaker peace on the western frontiers of NY & Pennsylvania, Franklin's efforts to negotiate peace between British & Colonial armies, a war avoided with France by John Adams in 1799, the Civil Rights movement, etc.

July 19 - *Report on General Assembly* - General Assembly was held June 24-28 in Salt Lake City, Utah and included the election of the new president of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA)

July 26 - *To be Announced* - check the Friday e-mail update

WHO'S PREACHING?

On July 19th, the **Rev. Alex Holt** will be preaching. The Rev. Holt is currently half time consulting minister at the UU church in Yakima, Washington. He is a long time Zen student at Great Vow Zen Monastery in Oregon where he lives with his partner, Deborah. He is facilitator of the newly formed UUA Addictions Ministry Team and on the advisory council of the Buddhist Recovery Network: an international organization devoted to using Buddhist teachings to promote recovery from addictions. He has

served in churches in Illinois, the Pacific Northwest, Massachusetts, and Virginia.

On July 26th, **Dr. Ralph Hood** of the UTC Psychology Department will preach. Dr. Hood is the author or co-author of ten books and co-editor of another; and author or co-author of a multitude of journal articles and book chapters. He has received a number of professional and teaching awards. You can count on this being an engrossing presentation.

THE INTERDEPENDENT WEB
by Steve Hollingsworth

In particular, our field team wishes to thank all the Unitarian Universalists who came out in large numbers.

~ HRC, on passage of New Hampshire same-sex marriage bill

Recently my steadfast witness in support of affirmation for bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgender (BGLT) persons has come home to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga (UUCC). My Facebook page frequently features Interweave Continental, the UU BGLT organization I have supported and participated in for many years; it attracted a new UUCC member's interest: "What's our church doing to reach out to BGLT?" To which I had to answer—after the Welcoming Congregation program completed years before I joined here—not much.

Since then, a question about the possibility of a transgender support group meeting here at UUCC has also arisen and has been referred to me. Finally, the story broke that Chaz (Chastity) Bono planned a female-to-male transition and Rev. Jeff got a call from his favorite Times Free Press reporter about it. In that call, she asked Jeff if there were local BGLT persons willing to speak from a UU perspective. Giving no names, Jeff said he'd check around. Of course, I was on his list, and I told him, yes, give her my name.

When it seems like I'm called to do something, I'm inclined to answer the call to the extent I'm able. I've discussed some

possibilities with some UUCC folks. The possibilities I'm aware of so far seem to fall along two general lines:

- 1) An affinity group, primarily for BGLT persons, that could provide support, social opportunity, and spiritual enrichment.
- 2) A Small Group Ministry—in the model that Dez Papendorp is promoting where each group seeks spiritual enrichment but also commits to serve the church and the community (see pg. 7)—with BGLT outreach as the service commitment for one group.

As this is a work in progress, I expect that a more refined version of the above or even another type of effort might come out of this work.

We have a growing number of states that allow same-sex marriage and UUs have been part of all those successes. The numbers of young people who take sexual orientation as no big deal makes me very hopeful for the future. But in our area where many are being force-fed a toxic version of Christianity, I'm sad to know that I'll keep meeting people whose story begins, "I was sure I was the only one."

I'm only one person with limited energy and many pursuits. Can you help spread the word? Join a group? Offer your ideas? UUs have always been there for BGLT. The time at UUCC is now.

PAGAN PERSPECTIVE

The Pagan group will not meet in July or August, but will resume meetings on September 6, 2009

Dates of interest in July

- 6 - Dalai Lama's Birthday
- 7 - Full Moon
 - Penumbral Lunar Eclipse (5:39 am EDT) Apparently not much to see here.
- 21 - New Moon
 - Total Solar Eclipse (10:35 pm EDT) It'll be a little dark to see it here.
- 31 - August 1 - Lughnassad



Lammas (Anglo-Saxon word meaning "loaf-mass"), or Lughnassad, occurs in late July and early August. It marks the middle of summer and the beginning of the harvest. It is the first of three harvest festivals and is usually associated with ripening grain. It heralds the coming of autumn. The Goddess manifests as Demeter, Ceres, Corn Mother, and other agricultural Goddesses. The God manifests as Lugh, John Barleycorn, and vegetation Gods. Colors are Golden Yellow, Orange, Green, and Light Brown. It is a festival of plenty and prosperity.

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).

GREEN SANCTUARY
by Sandy Kurtz

RACHEL CARSON MEMORIAL DINNER

Maybe the third time's the charm, but this was the fourth time around and many said it was the best ever. The crowd was convivial as we assembled to celebrate life on the planet. The sanctuary looked lovely graced with centerpieces filled with the kinds of plants known for their special ability to clean the air. Carolyn Moore had grown and potted each plant and each guest took one home. The vegetarian fare and catered service was excellent.



Then there was the music. Beautiful watercolor slides of nature were shown as Christina Koch and Kate Briere sang a moving and unparalleled version of our green song "Care for Me" accompanied by Jeff Briere and Jesse Blue. After dinner we also heard an improvisational musical interlude from our UU house band: Jesse Blue, Rich Dwyer and Roger Davis.

It all worked up to the presentation from Ken Voorhis, Executive Director of Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont. With slides, humorous stories and spiritual observations, he delivered the message that we are all connected to nature. He shared with

us his concern that young people are suffering from Nature Deficit Disorder. They have much less opportunity to experience nature and feel part of all life. He also emphasized the importance of being good stewards not just for utilitarian reasons, but because Creation has its own integrity. As reported in the Bible, God saw that "it was good" after each day of creating.

There are many people to thank for making this wonderfully uplifting evening. In addition to those mentioned above, thanks go to the planning committee members Nancy Anderson, Ruby Bruns, Charlotte Davis, Roger Davis, Jeannie Hacker-Cerulean, Linda Helton, Mary Hunter, and Linda Park. Chris Tregaskis, Elaine Hill, Daidee Springer, tom kunesh, and Marge Pasch also helped.

One of the goals for our dinner is to reach out to those of other faiths and demonstrate green practices others might emulate. To that end we had a goal of zero garbage. On this evening, there was nothing to throw away save a few food scraps. Each guest took home a reusable cup made from recycled materials carrying the air cleaning plant. We served vegetarian food as a gesture for justice. We used reusable cloth napkins, non-paper/non-plastic dinnerware and provided a single shared program printed on recycled paper for each table to reduce paper/tree use. Respecting the integrity of nature is a spiritual endeavor.



The House Band performing at the Rachel Carson Dinner
Photo by Alex Faulkenberry



Ken Voorhis presentation at the Rachel Carson Dinner
Photo by Alex Faulkenberry

Nature is just enough; but men and women must comprehend and accept her suggestions.
-Antoinette Brown Blackwell

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UUPDATE
by Bonny Sinclair, Vice-President Religious Education

As the incoming VP of Religious Education, I invite, implore, and expect you to educate yourself religiously in the coming year. Having come to UUCC in the summer of 1999, after being a closet UU for years, I found myself caught up in the excitement of learning. Exploring the wider realms of religion produced a personal energy in the quest of new ideas, a thrill in the experience of new belief, and a satisfaction of new spirituality and insight.

The realization came early to me that education does not happen from the sidelines, though. Moreover, like education, "Church Isn't Free" (thank you, Dez). I had to get involved; either pony up, and/or step up. I joined a committee or two, did a project or two, and found myself in the RE classes for my two sons. Their

education, after all, is my responsibility. Either impart the knowledge myself or be a part of the support system for those chosen to teach. Having left the classroom for a couple of years, I found I missed the willingness to learn, the simple open questioning of new ideas, and the happiness in a youth at the completion of a task.

I want to share with the congregation the energy I found in an educational situation, be it youth or adult. I want to see you finding yourself in a new situation where you are learning about yourself even as you enlighten others. I want to help you stretch your spiritual wings to fly to new places, with new faces, and set new paces, for yourself, your family, and your church. Come fly with me.



Cranes folded by the children and teens in RE graced the sanctuary for the May 30th Service of Peace and Remembrance
 Photos by Leslie O'Rear

TEEN SUUMER

Teen SUUmmer is here and fun times are coming. The teens begin the summer with the art of graffiti. The church picnic starts July off with a bang and explodes into color with tie-dying shirts. August promises stories, natural ink writing, and visits with nature and maybe some scavenging.

Traditionally, the teens plan a once-a-month get together outside of church. We are looking ahead to Lake Winnie and lock-in for July and a day in the park and movie night in Dalton for August. Did a Pixie mention Ultimate Frisbee? There is a new 9-hole disc golf course in Jack Mattox Park with a field in the center calling to you.

THREE BIG CHANGES by the Rev. Jeff Briere

When I was fourteen, Neil Sedaka sang "Breakin' Up Is Hard to Do." Today, I could probably re-write the lyrics and re-name the song, "Growin' Up Is Hard to Do." Growth, for a church, if not understood, can tear it apart. If understood properly and accepted, growth can strengthen a congregation. It is my hope that we accept our growth and understand how we might relieve growin' pains.

Change in the demographics of our members is an obvious indicator of growth. Another is when we must change our procedures to accommodate more people or new realities. Here are three changes for our church in the next year:

the nUUsletter. You will see some changes in *the nUUsletter* this year. Recognizing the changing realities of communication and as a cost-cutting measure, the Board of Trustees decided to distribute *the nUUsletter* electronically to most of the recipients. Some content that would normally be only in *the nUUsletter* will appear in the weekly e-blast and in the printed announcement sheet with the Sunday order of service.

It is apparent that most of our communication today is electronic. If it's not television or radio or telephone, then it's e-mail or via the web. If the goal is to get the news out to the people who need it, then moving the nUUsletter to one of these delivery methods only makes sense. Further, it will save us some money in a year when our income is down significantly. Each year, we spend a few thousand dollars printing and mailing *the nUUsletter*, dollars that could be applied to other items such as electricity which cannot be had more cheaply.

We fully realize that some members and friends do not have access to a computer or to the internet. And we realize that visitors are not on our electronic distribution list. For these groups, we will print a modest number of newsletters. They will be available in the office and you can pick up a copy when you come to church.

If you have one, we ask that you make use of your internet connection to download *the nUUsletter* from our web site or from a link that will be sent to your e-mail address. It will be in a format that is accessible to everyone. Our target month for this transition is August. We hope to make the change as smooth as possible.

Events. The second change is addressed in this issue by Eric Papendorp on page 7. It is a fundamental change in the way events are conceived, planned and scheduled at the church. Please read his article closely and consider how these new procedures might impact your plans for the church next year. It is important to realize that any activity will be initiated and completed by you, not the Board of Trustees.

If you want to have a Privet Patrol, or if you want the church to be part of some UUA or civic activity, if you want a potluck brunch or a Halloween party, then you must petition the board to schedule it. Further, you must marshal the support needed to make it happen and clean up afterwards.

Religious Education & Parents. The third change is hinted at by Bonny Sinclair in this issue. For next year, to register a child for religious education classes, parents must schedule themselves to volunteer a modest number of hours during the semester or school year. Details about this change will be explained in the next issue of *the nUUsletter* and opportunities for volunteering will be available at the time of registration.

If these changes in our procedure seem impersonal or heavy-handed, please understand they were implemented for three reasons: to save money and deliver news more expeditiously, to better coordinate the use of our building among the many groups which use it, and to more fairly spread the volunteer time among parents and others in the religious education program. We can point to growth as the underlying factor in all these changes, and that is a good thing.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

Jerry Smith July 3
Skip Stevens July 5
Rhannon Waggener July 7
Jay McCurdy July 8
Paul Adler July 11
Kate Hoyt July 15
Amelia Dillard July 18



Carmen Linn July 21
James Joyner July 22
Richard Ralston July 22
John Nguyen de Rocher July 24
Anna Dillard July 26
Forney McClellan July 27
Leah James July 29

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT
by Eric Papendorp, President, Board of Trustees

I'd like to begin by thanking everyone for the opportunity to serve as President of our congregation's Board of Trustees (BOT). Over the past four years, I have had the pleasure to serve on the Board with an amazing group of talented and caring individuals. I will endeavor to live up to the high expectations established by their past efforts. It is truly an honor to serve the church in this capacity.

One of the main goals for my term as President is, as Jeff so aptly put it, "to push power to the edges." The church's Board, in conjunction with a variety of committees, is charged with the duty of conducting the business of the church. Paying the bills, making sure the grass is mown and the roof is repaired, overseeing church employees, and assuring that we are in compliance with state and federal labor laws are just a few of the basic responsibilities of the Board. To successfully pursue and achieve these goals, very little participation is required from the rest of the congregation.

There is, however, another segment of church life that requires congregational participation for its success: Programs. Unfortunately, many of the programs and events that were offered by the church last year were poorly attended, and finding volunteers to staff them was an arduous task. Upon reviewing these events, we found that many of them were "top-down"

events (i.e., events that the BOT decided to pursue and then invited the congregation to join). Events this year will not be run in this manner. In order to garner participation and insure proper volunteer staffing, events at the church will need to be "bottom-up" or "grassroots" events.

There are many church functions and events that, at this point in time, have no "sponsors" at the congregational level. Currently, there are opportunities to take the lead on a variety of un-sponsored events. Potlucks, Coffeehouse, Harvest Festival, the Chili Cook-off, and the children's Egg Hunt are just a few examples of events that will not happen this year unless there are volunteers to lead them.

The BOT, through the Vice-President of Programs, Kristie McKinley, has a responsibility and a desire to assist in making these events happen. If you are interested in leading the charge on an event this year, please contact Kristie or someone on the BOT. We will help you plan, organize, and recruit the volunteers needed to make your event a success. Hopefully, this new paradigm for church programs will cull those events that lack backing and work to distill our church calendar into a series of events that are meaningful and fulfilling to the congregation.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY NEWS
WHY BOTHER?
by Dez Papendorp

Weary from life, contemplating not showing up for the meeting, but going anyway, he began to relax within the circle of familiar people and routine. His initial words were stumbling but a true reflection of his inner state of being. Another person in the group met his eyes, and "...they both understood that they were not alone. Although they had said no direct words to each other all evening, they had received strength and wisdom from each other."

This concept of unexpected inter-relating is the crux of why most people continue to show up at their Small Group Ministry meetings. Faith in action, a.k.a. ministry, can mean many different things. Showing up, listening, giving time and talent to something outside yourself, acknowledging your opinions never supersede another's, respecting the commonality of our interdependent lives, etc.

C. Robinson and A. Hawkins in *Heart to Heart*, who presented the example above, discuss other UUs who have participated

in Small Groups for years saying, "We realized that most people are unpracticed at deep sharing and supportive listening. We also realized that support groups and discussion groups often don't fulfill their potential of being safe places for deep sharing. Some people dominate; others feel they can't get a word in." Hence the comforting structure of small group ministry designed with meaningful session content allows for contemplation and listening. Most small group members expressed "...the experience of feeling truly listened to was so close to feeling loved that they could hardly tell the difference. They {UU Small Group Participants} told us that when they took what they had learned about listening into other parts of their lives, their lives were better."

The Small Group Ministry Steering Team has deemed the purpose of Small Group Ministry at our church **is to offer an opportunity for members and friends to gather and form lasting relationships and cultivate wider service within our community.** Does this speak to something you desire from this church? If so, make way in your life for participating in a small group starting this fall.

JESUS TAKES A HIP HOP DANCE CLASS

Jesus strides into the packed studio,
 robes flying
(he's late and class has started)
 the music is loud,
 he stops, looks right
 then left,
 begins to bob his head
 to the beat, says
 I'm down with this
(he doesn't even care that
nobody says that anymore)
bopping his head some more.
And nobody told Jesus about
the hip hop *dress code* -
 I was unaware of the
dress code myself, this being my
 first class and all -
it seems there are even special hip hop *shoes* and
I feel embarrassed by my Nike cross trainers and purple shorts,
white fleshy legs stretching down to eternity.
 But Jesus -
 he's dancing by now,
 he doesn't care that he's making
 a scene, robes flying every which way,
 doesn't care that he just backed into that girl
 because he forgot the move,
 doesn't care that now she glares
 and shouts at him.
 Jesus says
 I have overcome the world.
 Jesus is having fun.

~ Nancy Beel

ANGEL NUUS

Thanks to the following children and adults who participated in the Heifer Project fundraising drive at the Chattanooga Market on Sunday, May 24th. Their efforts made for a successful fundraising! Isabel McCurdy, Sophie McCurdy, Sky Papendorp, Tamblin Papendorp, Isabella Vanderhoof, Caroline Vanderhoof, Logan Vanderhoof, Lydia Barnett, Will Tipton, Billy Oliver, Kate Hoyt, Houston McArthur, Sam Kertay, Josie Johnson, Alex Johnson, Jamie Sullivan, April Waggener, Leslie Brock, James Joyner, Desiree Papendorp, Kay McCurdy, and Carmen Vanderhoof.

Many thanks to Nicole Barnhart, Elaine Hill, James Joyner, Nancy Beel, Kay McCurdy, Linda Helton, Leslie Brock, Elaine Watkins, Diane Davison and April Waggener for coming together and forming our church's Small Group Ministry Steering Team. Your effort and care honor us all.

See the Green Sanctuary Initiative Article on page 4 for more Angels who made the Rachel Carson Memorial dinner successful.

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DATE	7/5	7/12	7/19	7/26
TOPIC	Annual Picnic	Liberal Religion Today	Mercy, Compassion, and the Lessons of Country Music	Them That Believe: The Power and Meaning of Christian Serpent Handling
LEADER	Annual Picnic	Don Klinefelter	Rev. Alex Hoyt	Ralph Hood
BOT MEMBER	Annual Picnic	Bonny Sinclair	Kristie McKinley	Diane Davison
GREETER	Annual Picnic	Kay Spehar	Pat Mann	Charles Redwine
USHER	Annual Picnic	Eric Slaton	Linda Park	Ken Nickerson
MUSIC	Annual Picnic	Marcia Jenison	Nancy Beel	Jesse Blue and the House Band
SOUND REINFORCEMENT	Rich Dwyer	Ory Weaver	Joshua Goldman	Buck O'Rear

When you discover your mission, you will feel its demand. It will fill you with enthusiasm and a burning desire to get to work on it.

~ W. Clement Stone