

TJMC Bulletin

TJMC's Giving Tree Wraps Up December 21



Join us in making the holidays a little brighter for people living with HIV or AIDS by adopting an individual from TJMC's Giving Tree! Many of the gifts requested by the AIDS Services Group clients are things most of us would not think of as holiday gifts: personal care items such as household and cleaning items, shampoo and toothpaste. A generous supply of these items allows clients to focus their attention on something other than essentials for a while. Clients have requested clothes, linens, reading materials, and DVDs. Gift cards from Barnes & Noble, Dick's Sporting Goods, Food Lion, Kroger, Kmart, Target, Wal-Mart, Bed Bath & Beyond, or any area movie theater are also welcome. Please note that during this holiday gift drive, we are accepting *new* items only.

The TJMC Giving Tree is located in the Jefferson Foyer. To participate, simply pick an "ornament card" and buy gifts as suggested on the card for the individual. There are two ornament cards for each individual so that two families will be purchasing for each person. (Do not worry about duplication—we will make sure everything gets to just the right person.) *Please wrap your gifts, but use a gift tag to label what is inside in case we need to adjust or substitute who is getting which package.* If you label the contents, we will not have to unwrap the package to figure out what is inside. We will remove the "what's inside" labels before giving the gifts to the recipients. Bring your gifts with you to church on December 21 at 9:15 AM for our annual Giving Tree Service.

NOTE: If you do not have time to shop, consider purchasing a Food Lion or Kroger gift card from the Scrip table in the Social Hall to be added to the individual gifts. Many hands are needed to help sort gifts after the service on December 21 and then deliver them to the ASG offices. If you can help with sorting and delivery or have any other questions, please contact Leia Durland-Jones at redirector@uucharlottesville.org or 293-8179 or Sage Grubbs at 978-4157 or cmb7y@virginia.edu. Thank you for your support!

Christmas Eve Services



4:30 PM Christmas Eve Service

This joy-filled service led by Leia Durland-Jones will be our interactive re-telling of the Christmas story. Come ready to jump right in and play the part of one of the characters in this timeless tale of wonder, mystery, and love. Donations of new mittens, gloves, socks, and hats will be received for those in need. At the end of the service, we'll proceed to the front portico and search the skies for Santa and his sleigh!

7:30 PM Carols, Stories, and Candle Lighting

Come lift your voices in carols and hear again the ancient tales with their message of comfort and joy in troubled times. See our Sanctuary transformed by the beauty of our candle lighting service, and send our hopes for peace and goodwill into the night sky and the quiet streets. Rev. Morris W. Hudgins will lead this festive services.

9:00 PM Carols, Stories, and Candle Lighting

Join Rev. Morris W. Hudgins and the UU Christian Fellowship for a quiet, meditative entry to this tradition filled holiday. At the end of the candle lighting when we go outside; those who are interested in having a Communion Service with the UU Christian Fellowship will return to the Sanctuary. There will be no childcare at this service.

Sunday Services

9:15 + 11:15 AM Services

December 7

Pieces of the Dream

Join Pastor Lehman Bates from the Ebenezer Baptist Church as our guest speaker. As a puzzle is a picture comprised of many pieces, so is unity a formation of many human components. This topic discusses how our contrasting belief systems serve to divinely reveal 1) the purpose of each 'piece,' 2) the 'place' of each piece, and 3) the possibility of each 'piece,' and how this contributes to the greater understanding of the universe's 'master plan.'

December 14

The Beatitudes:

Part I—Blessed are the Poor in Spirit

Rev. Morris Hudgins will look at what Jesus might have meant when he spoke these famous "Blessed are" passages. The holiday music will feature our Adult Choirs, youth soloists, instrumentalists, and Terra Voce. Offerings will include rousing chants, energetic spirituals, and two exquisite settings of the Latin text *Ave Maria*.

December 21

9:15 AM *The Giving Tree*.

An intergenerational service. Our children's choirs will offer seasonal music.

11:15 AM *The Beatitudes:*

Part II—Blessed Are the Meek

Rev. Morris W. Hudgins will continue his sermon about the sayings of Jesus. This service will feature Hanukkah readings and music. The Adult Choir will sing *Blow, Blow, thou Wintry Wind*.

December 28 10 AM Service Only

This Worldly Paradise

Theologian, Rebecca Parker, Dean of Starr King School for the Ministry, has written a new book on the subject of paradise. She discusses a period in the history of the church when the church promoted a view of heaven on earth. Come hear Rev. Morris W. Hudgins discuss more about a Universalist view of heaven on earth.

Morris's Musings

The Holidays have arrived. I confess this is my favorite time of year. The reasons are many, but mostly the special events that have and do occur during the Holidays:

- *I proposed to Marti on Christmas day, in 1994.*
- *My son, Darren, was born on December 23, in 1975.*
- *My granddaughter, Renee, was born on November 29.*
- *My wife's family gathers from around the country at our home the first week of December to celebrate the Holidays.*
- *I also love the Holiday parties with those who are involved in our lives. Marti and I love to host friends and staff for dinner.*
- *I have special memories of my childhood when all of us children would get up early Christmas morning to see what Santa brought overnight.*

When Marti and I were courting we listed our likes and dislikes and then compared our lists. Toward the top of our lists was Christmas. I didn't realize at the time how much Marti loved to decorate for the Holidays. She collects decorations and receives many gifts from her family to add to the collection. Her mother also loves to collect and give decorations as gifts. Finally, Marti and

her sister, Barbara, had to tell their mom the tree couldn't hold any more decorations. She started giving them to the grandchildren. The tradition continues.

After Marti and I were married, the boxes of decorations would go into the attic. There wasn't enough storage space elsewhere. When we built our home, we designated a special place for the Holidays decorations. You will find on one of the blueprints "Christmas decorations."

The tradition was to start decorating on Thanksgiving Day. One year I asked, "Do we need to use all the decorations?" Of course, you know the answer. We now begin unpacking in early November. I actually love the tradition.

An important part of the Holidays is the sharing of gifts. Marti's mother's language of love is gift-giving. In recent years I noticed a change in her mother who is approaching ninety-four. She began giving heirloom gifts. Marti begins looking for gifts immediately after the Holidays. She looks for those special gifts for each person and watches for the sales.

I realize that many of you don't have the same excitement we do about the Holidays. For some the Holidays are not a favorite time of year. You may not have the family gatherings or if you do they may not be very joyful. The Holi-

days is a good time to create your own special occasions, invite friends who don't have family close by and have some fun. This may include the Winter Solstice. This year I encourage all of us to think of those who have special needs, financial or otherwise.

In the coming weeks I will be looking for that special message to share on Christmas Eve. I will look for those messages of hope, pray for the end of the wars around the world, hope for a change in the economy.

At TJMC we will have three services on Christmas Eve (4:30, 7:30, and 9:00 PM.) I have asked for help from the Religious Education Department, the UU Christian Fellowship, and the Nature Spirit group to help me plan these services. There will be music and singing. I hope you will join us.

Morris Hudgins,
Interim Minister
293-8179 extension 1#
minister@uucharlottesville.org

Rev. Morris Hudgins' office hours will be Tuesday through Friday, 9 AM until 1 PM. Other times can be arranged by appointment.

Minister of Pastoral Care

First, let me thank you all for the warm welcome with which you greeted my appointment as your Minister of Pastoral Care. During the past seven years of Karen's and my involvement in this Church, I have been greatly impressed by the Pastoral Visitors program, a gathering of especially competent lay persons which provides the membership with sensitive and thoughtful spiritual care. I am looking forward to sharing in that ministry.

To help you get better acquainted with me personally, (and since this is the December Newsletter) I'd like to share a poem which I wrote years ago to help my congregation appreciate the deeper, symbolic significance of the Christmas holiday, a season which I greatly enjoy:

*Drab is the life and sighfully long
which never has heard an angel's
song.*

*Dark is the night whose sky-full of
space*

*is starless of fancy with its promise
of grace.*

*So, let the merry bells be rung,
let the carol's claims be sung;*

*Let the candles kindle dreams,
let love's season work its
schemes;*

*Let love's hope be born again,
let the joy of Christmas reign.*

May this be a season of hope and joy for all of you.

Rev. Tony Perrino
Minister of Pastoral Care
293-8179 extension 5#



Faith Notes

NatureSpirit December 7, 5 PM Summit Rm 1

Solstice Wreath Making led by Cindi. Please bring an open mind, a dish to share, and of course, your curiosity. For more information email naturespirit@uucharlottesville.org.

NatureSpirit Winter Solstice Ritual December 13, 4:30 PM Summit Rm 1

NatureSpirit will host a ritual to celebrate the winter solstice with the local Reclaiming group, Otters of the Fae. This year, our ritual intention will be "this season of darkness, we reflect upon the light in our lives and bring it forth." As part of the service, we will be creating an altar to Light. Please bring something that represents this for you. You might also bring a drum, pillow or blanket to sit on, a journal, writing implements, a beverage, light, healthy snack to share for potluck afterwards, and friends. Children are welcome if supervised by a responsible adult.

A Life in Faith



CareNet Year-Round Program

CareNet is our church's organized effort to help out with meals, rides, and other assistance for church members. Contact Debbie Eggleston at 823-1857 or dse3c@intelos.net, or Shelly Canterbury at 296-3263 or scanterb@gmu.edu.

Clear Spring Buddhist Fellowship Meditation

Wednesdays, 7 PM, Blue Room
All welcome! For more information, contact Marian Morgan at mdm5f@yahoo.com.

Labyrinth Certain Fridays & Saturdays, Social Hall

The labyrinth can be a simple tool to help you rest, relieve stress, shift gears, or retreat. TJMC-UU is blessed with two labyrinths. A permanent outdoor seven-circuit Santa Rosa style labyrinth is available during daylight hours, and the indoor eleven-circuit Chartres labyrinth is available one weekend per month, usually the fourth. All are welcome. No experience necessary. See *Happenings* for the dates. Currently, we have open-

This ritual is clean and sober; no drugs or alcohol, please. No previous experience with Pagan ritual necessary. We'll gather at 4:30 PM and start the ritual promptly at 5 PM. Potluck and fellowship to follow. We are collecting a suggested donation of \$5-\$10 for Heifer International, in lieu of a contribution towards expenses. We would love your participation in the ritual or your help in setting up or cleaning. For more information, or to volunteer, email nature@uucharlottesville.org.

UU Christian Fellowship Sunday Worship Service December 14, 9:15 AM Summit Rm 1

Do you Believe in Miracles?

Eleanor May will lead the service, with Dee Plunkett playing the music and serving as Worship Associate. Eleanor will talk about being a non-believer, but having experiences with miracles and healing which she will describe.

ings on two labyrinth teams—the commitment is just a few hours, four times a year. For more information visit uucharlottesville.org/labyrinth.

NatureSpirit First Sunday, 5 PM, Summit Room 1

NatureSpirit is a co-creative group for people who feel Nature is a vital part of their spirituality. Each month is devoted to exploring and honoring a different form of Nature. We invite you to bring an object, story, poem, song, chant, gesture, dance, musical instrument, passage from a book, etc., that represents the Element of the month. For more information, contact naturespirit@uucharlottesville.org.

College students, contact Veronica at naturespirit-info@virginia.edu.

Pastoral Visitors Year-Round Program

Pastoral Visitors is a church program that serves members of TJMC in these ways: visiting the sick at home or in a hospital; supporting those going through a crisis or stressful transition; maintaining contact with those unable to attend church due to illness or disability; sup-

Social Action Collection Interfaith Alliance for Homeless Children (IAHC) & Public Housing Association of Residents (PHAR) December 14

IAHC supports the child care center of the Salvation Army, which provides preschool and after school care for homeless and low income children. During the past year the IAHC has provided scholarships for several children, allowing their parents to work or attend school. The child care center is in the planning stages of a much-needed renovation to make the area more child-friendly.

PHAR is the city-wide voice for public housing and Section 8 residents. PHAR's mission is "to empower low-income residents to protect and improve our own communities through collective action." PHAR is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, and has been lucky to have on-going volunteer support from some members of TJMC's church family.

porting friends and family involved in care giving; and comforting the bereaved. If you are a TJMC member in need of what Pastoral Visitors has to offer, please call Nancy Lewis at 979-2358 or Shirley Paul at 297-3934.

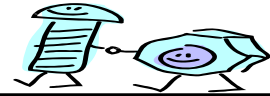
UU Christian Fellowship

TJMC UUCF is open to all, especially those wishing to meet with others who are interested in exploring their faith within a liberal Christian context, and to learn from each other. Services include reading and discussing the seasonal lectionary readings from the Bible, hymn singing, joys and concerns, and other selections at leader's discretion.

For more information about exploring Christianity in a distinctively UU context, e-mail UUCF@uucharlottesville.org or visit uuchristian.org.

Vespers

Vespers is held on Wednesdays with quiet gathering at 5:15 PM, the service at 5:30 PM and ending at 6 PM. Reserve child care by Mondays each week at reassitant@uucharlottesville.org.



Treasurer's October Update

We have now gone through 1/3 of our Fiscal Year. For that period our total revenues were \$184,622 or 33% of our budget, and our expenses were \$155,140, or 28% of our budget. For the first four months we have a net income of \$29,482. That is the good news.

But there are a number of facts to consider that may be a continuing cause for concern. Compared to the first 4 months of last year, for this year our current pledges are about 14% lower than last year, plate cash is about 25% lower, building user fees are 64% lower, U-House rent is 13% lower, and Fund Raising income is 42% lower. Overall, total revenues are about 15% lower than they were at the same time last year. On the other hand, our total expenses are 3% higher than they were for the same period last year. Thus, we will need to monitor both our revenue sources and our expenses to see if any adjustments in the budget may be necessary.

The TJMC Endowment Committee also provided a report for the third quarter of 2008. The value of our endowment declined by 6.8% for the period from June 30, 2008 to September 30, 2008. And of course, given the condition of the economy, it must have declined more during the month of October. However, our endowment declined by a smaller percent than many of the broad market indexes such as the S&P 500 Index.

Each month the Finance Committee and the Board of Trustees receive income statements and a balance sheet. Copies of those reports and the Endowment Committee Report are available for review in the Church Office.

Doug Webbink, Treasurer, Treasurer@uucharlottesville.org

Covenant Groups May Be Looking For You

Want to make some new friends? Wishing to have a deeper connection with an interesting and diverse group of UUs? Join a Covenant Group. It is not too late to become part of a covenant group this year! Covenant groups meet twice a month in members' homes to share their thoughts about a topic chosen by the group. Some of our ongoing Covenant Groups will be adding new members in late January and new groups will be forming. You can register on line on at uucharlottesville.org. Go to the Information and News page, click on the link to the Covenant Groups Registration form. You can also register at the Covenant Group table in the Social Hall after each worship service by filling out our paper registration form. During the week Covenant Group registration forms can be found in the Covenant Group mailbox #12 in the mailroom. Leave completed forms there. For more information contact covenantgroups@uucharlottesville.org or Sally Taylor at 295-8083.



Planning to Eat Well this Holiday Season?

The holiday season is here! Remember to use Grocery Scrip GiftCards to purchase all your holiday food items so that TJMC gets a gift of 4-10% of your grocery purchases from participating stores. You do **not** pay a premium to buy and use Scrip, and it can be used to purchase all your grocery, pharmacy and gasoline needs. GiftCards are available for Giant, Kroger, Food Lion, Whole Foods, Integral Yoga and Rebecca's, and are on sale every Sunday in the social hall after services and via mail order, with order forms available in the Church office and on the TJMC Website. For more information, please stop by the Scrip table or e-mail scrip@uucharlottesville.org.

UU Worlds Needed

The Membership Committee would like to put out a request for old copies of UU World. We like to share these copies with our visitors. The collection box is located underneath the Visitor's Table in the Jefferson Foyer alcove. For any questions, please contact Jean Newland at 971-4996 or kipandjean@embarqmail.com.

Emotional Wellness Support Group News

The Emotional Wellness Support Group will now concentrate upon organizational goals. This committee will offer information and access to the support groups and wellness opportunities offered in our community. We will also inform our church community about the issues which face people with emotional problems and mental illness, and encourage our church members to become leaders combating the stigma associated with mental illness. Please submit your ideas and suggestions.

Molly Michie Preschool News

Molly Michie Preschool, a parent-run cooperative preschool with a play-based curriculum and professional teachers that has been operating since 1967, is offering tours to families seeking a preschool for the next school year. Interested parents may visit the school's website at avenue.org/mmp or request a tour by calling the school at 977-7406 or e-mailing the registrar at mmp.registrar@gmail.com.

Church Contacts

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TJMC Bulletin is a monthly publication of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Church. Send bulletin articles by e-mail to the bulletin editor by the 15th of the month.

The Leadership Development and Nominating Committee (LED_DEV), since assisting the Board with the Annual Leadership Workshop in August, has been busily preparing itself to present to the congregation a slate of candidates for service on the Ministerial Search Committee (SC). In doing so, the committee has familiarized itself with the UUAs *Settlement Handbook*, interviewed members of the last SC, and drafted the SC Job Description which was communicated to church members along with an invitation for nominations in our November 2 mailing. We have significantly accelerated the frequency of our meetings to accomplish these tasks.

As the Job Description details, we are seeking nine highly qualified, deeply committed individuals who also reflect

the diversity found within our ranks. To date, we have received thirty-eight (38) responses to our mailing which have added names to our list or underscored names already being considered. If you have not already done so, please consider responding to the LED_DEV mailing to help us in this vital undertaking. Joining me on the committee are Shelly Canterbury, Greta Dersheimer, Laura Horn, Jean Sorrells Jones, Bob Kiefer and Sally Taylor. The committee will be making a report to the Board this month before presenting the final slate of nominees at the January 25 Congregational Meeting.

Respectfully Yours,
Bill King

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Sounds of Music

Music is accompanying the approaching winter holidays. It is my sincere desire that during this season you will be moved by music at some time, in some way. During these days of various emotions, it is more important than ever to feel connected to life. Music, at its best, makes possible multi-level connections simultaneously: connections between the listener and the musician(s); connections between the choir and the director, connections between the composer and lyricist and the singer or player, etc.; and most importantly connections with the heart and soul.

When we sing together some of the music that you first heard in childhood, I encourage you to open your heart and explore any connections that may be there: connections with the past and connections with the present...of being present to your current experience of singing side-by-side with each other and of the larger community singing together. For me, that is one of the best "presents/presence" I can give and receive!

Our Holiday Music Service on December 14 is filled with joy, reverence, awe and celebration. Beginning with an uplifting African noel (with percussion) the Adult Choir will invoke the joy of the season. Two

exquisite versions of the traditional Ave Maria texts provide moments of reflection and quiet beauty and wonder.

Our final choral offering is an energizing combination of the African Noel with the traditional spiritual Go Tell it on the Mountain. Several of our youth will be featured as soloists! Terra Voce, our talented flute and cello duet, will offer special music during these services as well. Come join us for special music which is sure to lighten dark days.

The Children's Choirs (younger and older) will each share their holiday music during the Giving Tree Service at 9:15 AM on Sunday, December 21.

Music in December:

- Dec 7 Charlottesville Women's Choir
- Dec 14 Special Music Sunday with instrumentalists
- Dec 21 9:15 AM Giving Tree Service - Children's Choirs
11:15 AM Solstice Service - Adult Choir
- Dec 24 7:30 PM Sheridan Malone
9:00 PM TBA
- Dec 28 Scott DeVeaux



I recently received an email which stated that our music "program is not adequate to move forward such an agenda" of our denomination to "share our faith with more people, which necessarily includes appealing to a wider group of individuals." My first reaction was to feel defensive and want to reply with examples of the many types of music I have overseen at TJMC, including creating an interfaith chamber chorus, choirs singing with a drummer from Ghana, and basically the diversity of music I constantly am trying to bring to partner with our worship together. It was interesting to watch my emotions and thoughts as I moved from a place of shock and anger to one of trying to understand the message and the person writing it, and to truly examine if I need to make changes in the way I direct our music program. Please let me know if you have suggestions for improvement. I am happy to receive valuable input either anonymously or directly. For anonymous feedback please contact Karen Michie at kemmichie@aol.com or Elena Speidel at Erspeidel@aol.com.

Wishing you peace, joy and strength during the coming month!

KaeRenae Mitchell
Director of Music
434.293.8179, 4#
music@uucharlotteville.org

Happening this Month



December 1—December 6

Men's PACEM

Our homeless guests will be here from November 29 to December 6. Sign-up sheets for Saturdays' set up, clean up, food donations, hosting the dinners, and cleaning up after the dinners will be in the Social Hall after each service until then. We will also accept donations of backpacks, over-the-counter headache and cold remedy drugs, ear plugs, new underwear, socks, winter coats, sweatshirts, and pillows.

December 1-14

Challenge Poinsettia Sales

Support our ninth grade youth as their raise funds for their Heritage Trip to Boston in June by purchasing a poinsettia for your home, office, as a gift or to decorate the church's altar. Poinsettia orders may be placed on Sundays in the social hall at the Challenge Marketplace table or by contacting Beth Ann Bartley at bethann@movingjourneys.com. Plants will be available for pick up on Sunday.

December 1—December 21

Church Crafters Sale

If you are a church member who sells art or crafts please contact Elizabeth Breeden at brs@cstone.net. From the Sunday after Thanksgiving until December 21, we have allowed our members to sell their wares after services on Sundays in the Social Hall.



December 1-21

Holiday Food Drive

The church is accepting 'special' or seasonal non-perishable foods for local families in need to help them have a holiday meal. While all kinds of food are appreciated, you are especially encouraged to bring in boxes of corn bread mix, stuffing mix, canned fruits, dried fruits, holiday candies and cookies, nuts, canned pumpkin, pre-made pie crusts, evaporated milk, quick bread mixes, cooking oil, canned ham, coffee, tea, juices, etc. Thank you for your generosity!

December 1-21

Guest at Your Table Boxes

Add a Guest at Your table box to your dining table and invite a 'guest' to join you every meal this month by making a

financial contribution every time you sit down to dine. Boxes will be collected on Sunday, December 21 and monies sent to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee to help in their good works around the world.

December 1

BGLT Covenant Group Registration Deadline

The BGLT Covenant Group will be taking a break, starting up again in January when we will be open to new members. Our first meeting will be Monday, January 5 or January 19 at 6:30 PM in a place to be determined. Please register by December 1 so we can work on a location and other organizational details. If you self identify as BGLT and would like to join our covenant group please e-mail CovenantGroups@uucharlottesville.org or go online and register using the link at the bottom of the Covenant group page: uucharlottesville.org/re/covenantgroups.asp.

December 2 + 16, 7 PM, Parlor December 9, 7 PM, Social Hall Uuppity Women

This will be a busy month with three meetings! December 2: an "open" date for discussion. On December 9: we will gather to make wreaths to decorate the church for the holidays. Please bring greens! Bring a wreath form and make one to take home for yourself. (Note: this special meeting will be in the Social Hall.) On December 16: we will get an early start on the holiday with a cookie exchange. Watch the Uuppities mailing list for details. To join the list, email uuppities@uucharlottesville.org.

December 5

Food Pantry 9:30 AM, Social Hall

Come join us and help collect and distribute food, and then clean up after our TJMC Food Pantry. Contact Edith Good at 293-4044 for more information.

December 6

All Church Holiday Party 2 PM, All Church

Join your church friends for our annual Holiday Party. Enjoy an afternoon of crafts and caroling. We'll make holiday crafts in the Social Hall, enjoy a potluck snack, and walk to Martha Jefferson



House to sing Christmas Carols. Please bring a snack to share. The RE Committee will provide the hot cider. Volunteers needed to help with set up, clean up, to help with a craft, serve snacks or lead the carolers. Please contact Cindy Shepard at 975-4977 or cindyshepard@embarqmail.com to sign up!

December 7

No First Sunday Potluck

December 7

Art Show Submissions Due

The December Art Show each year is an all church invitational (young and old) to submit artwork that shows us this "Season of Light." Work, suitably mounted for hanging, should be brought to church on Sunday, December 7 to the Social Hall.

December 7

NatureSpirit

5 PM, Summit Rm 1

See Page 3, Faith Notes



December 10 + 17

Community Dinner 6 PM, Social Hall

We will be trying new recipes to entice you. Please join us for our warm hearty meals to delight the palate. Sign up early on the bulletin board outside the Church Office to reserve your spot.

December 10,

Environmental Action Committee 7 PM, Parlor

Join us as we begin our work on applying to become a Green Sanctuary candidate as we continue our program development. Contact Sharon Baiocco 293-7797 for more information.

December 11

Back Page Writers 7 PM, Green Room

Each Back Page Writers meeting is led by a different member. They start their meetings by asking who has something to read/share that is brief - a two page story or an excerpt - which may or may not have been emailed out to the group for comment. The other people in the group share their views on the piece with the author in an honest, positive manner. If they have a hard copy from an earlier email, they may also give a copy of the piece marked with observations to the reader/author.



Happening this Month

Once the voluntary readings are finished, they do one to three writing exercises depending on how long the first part of the meeting takes. After each exercise each member voluntarily shares with the group what they have written in the exercise. For further information contact Joyce Moore in the afternoons and evening at 327-3696. They welcome all writers!

December 12 Social Justice Movie Night 7 PM, Parlor

Join Peace Conversations as they sponsor the showing of the movie *Where in the World is Osama Bin Laden*. Movie description: traveling by himself with a camera crew, Oscar-nominated filmmaker Morgan Spurlock (*Supersize Me*) searches for Osama Bin Laden in Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Iraq, Iran, Palestine, Israel, Syria, and Afghanistan. He interviews ordinary people about current issues in this funny, humanizing movie.

December 13 Environmental Action Committee 10 AM, Offsite

See firsthand the ins and outs of sustainable grass fed beef farming at Wolf Creek Farm near Stanardsville, VA. John Whiteside, a grass farmer with an MBA, will give us a tour of the farm. Bring a lunch if desired. Rain or shine. Meet at Northside Library. To reserve your place call Deborah Judson-Ebbets at 296-9637 by December 11. Sponsored by the Piedmont Chapter of the Sierra Club. For more information about the farm, see wolfcreek-farm.com.

December 14 UU Christian Fellowship 9:15 AM, Summit Rm 1 See Page 3, *Faith Notes*.



December 14 Peace Conversations 12:45 PM, Summit RM 2

We will continue to plan events and actions and continue our discussion of the UUA's proposed new principle of "seeking just peace through non-violent means." For more information visit uua.org/socialjustice/issuesprocess/currentissues/44160/resourceguide/44160.shtml.

December 14 Artist Reception 1 PM, Social Hall

December 21 Giving Tree Ends See Page 1.

December 24 Kitchen Elves Needed!

On Christmas Eve, a cookie and cider reception is held in the Social Hall following the services. Helpers are needed for each service to heat cider, refill cookie plates and tidy the kitchen. If you can assist, please contact Leia Durland-Jones at 293-8179 or redirector@uucharlottesville.org. Thanks in advance!

December 24 Christmas Eve Services 4:30, 7:30, + 9 PM See Page 1.



December 25 + 26 Church Office Closed

December 31, Wednesday 5 PM Labyrinth Resolution Walk & New Year's Eve Celebration 5 PM, Social Hall

Join us as we walk the labyrinth in hopes of a peaceful and joyful 2009! We'll walk to the beautiful, live dulcimer music of Suzanne Morris. We'll share refreshments and a time of fellowship in the parlor. And each walker will receive a slip of paper reading, "As the new year begins, I will open a space for..." There is no charge and all are welcome. No experience necessary. Come and go as you please. Interested in learning more or becoming part of a labyrinth team? More information at Patty Wallens at 979-3049 or uucharlottesville.org/labyrinth. Our permanent outdoor labyrinth is located behind the Social Hall and available during daylight hours.

Save the Date

January 1 + 2 Church Office Closed

January 16 Earth Friendly Friday 7 PM, Social Hall

Environmental Action Committee presents *How Perfumes, Paints, and Pesticides Can Make You Sick and What You Can Do* which tells how everyday

products are sickening us in our home and work environment. We will see the short video *Contaminated without Consent* and discussion will follow. Free and open to the public. Presenters will be Barbara Cruickshank, Environmental Nurse, and Deborah Judson-Ebbets, Ecological Horticulturalist and Holistic Health Practitioner.



January 4 + 11 + 18 + 25 UUStars Need Help

Interested in learning about Confucianism/Taoism? Our UU Stars Studios will be exploring this world religion January 4, 11, 18, & 25 and we need one more leader at the 11:15 AM service. Come learn with our church's children and deepen your own religious life! An introductory session for Studio Leaders is Wednesday, December 10. For more information or to volunteer, contact Leia Durland-Jones 293-8179 or redirector@uucharlottesville.org.

January 25 Congregational Meeting 1 PM, Sanctuary

At this meeting we will elect our Ministerial Search Committee. Challenge will serve lunch to benefit their trip to Boston. Childcare will be provided.

January 31 Newcomer Orientation 9:30 AM, Summit Rm 1

We welcome visitors and new members to join our minister and our Membership Committee in this session to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and our church. A light breakfast and snacks will be provided. The sign-up sheet is located on the Membership bulletin board across from the Church Office. You may also sign-up or get more information by contacting Jean Newland at 971-4996 or kipandjean@gmail.com. Please let us know if you will need childcare.



Religious Education Update

Walking the Spiral Path

As the weather turns colder and the winter holidays approach, I want to make sure you know about some of the opportunities at church for helping others. TJMC families are particularly invited to participate in our annual Giving Tree program (see Page 1). We'll collect our Giving Tree gifts at the intergenerational worship service on December 21 at 9:15 AM. Please note, there are no RE classes on this day, and the intergenerational service is at 9:15 AM only.

At this service we'll also collect our UU Service Committee Guest at Your Table Boxes. Guest at Your Table Boxes are available for pick up in the Social Hall on Sundays or in the Church Office during the week. At every meal, you're invited to add money to your box as if you're paying for the food of a guest joining you at your meal. Contributions fund the work of the UU Service Committee around the globe.

On Christmas Eve at the 4:30 PM service (an interactive re-telling of the Christmas story) we'll collect socks, hats, mittens, gloves and scarves for children and adults.

Another opportunity for sharing the bounty of our lives is a food drive culminating December 21. We are particularly requesting "special" or seasonal non-perishable foods so that local families in need can have a holiday meal. Ideas for foods to donate include corn bread mix, stuffing mix, canned fruits, dried fruits, holiday candies and cookies, quick bread mixes, cooking oil, canned ham, coffee, tea, juices, etc.

May your holiday season be full—of wonder, warmth, compassion, love and friendship.

Season's Greetings--
Leia Durland-Jones
Director of Religious Education



Challenge Marketplace— Helping Our Youth Get to Boston!

Stop by the Social Hall after services on Sunday and get in on these great deals while supporting our ninth grade coming-of-age class as they raise funds for their June "Heritage Trip" to Boston:

- flower bulbs including narcissus (a great holiday gift)
- poinsettias
- TJMC t-shirts in a variety of colors
- Attractions Coupon Books—more than just restaurants
- UU coffee mugs

Our youth (and their parents) thank you for your support!



Update on Leia's Sabbatical

Leia Durland-Jones, RE Director, is looking forward to some reflective time including reading and writing during her upcoming sabbatical (March, April and May 2009.) Some of her time will be spent exploring "Compassionate Communication" including the work of Marshall Rosenberg and his non-violent communication techniques.

She will be traveling to England for two weeks in May to visit sacred sites. Other sabbatical plans continue to take shape. If you have ideas for Leia of books to read, places to visit, or topics to ponder while she's on sabbatical, you're invited to write them in the notebook in the Church Office. Leia appreciates your suggestions!

Are you interested in learning about world religions?

This year, our 1st-6th grades are learning about our third UU source "Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life." We're exploring Islam, Native American Spirituality, Christianity, Confucianism/Taoism, Hinduism, Judaism and Buddhism. Studios will teach our children about the beliefs, traditions and customs of these faiths and we'll compare them to our own Unitarian Universalist beliefs.

Adults are needed to make four week commitments as Studio Leaders at both the 9:15 and 11:15 AM sessions. Lessons and materials are provided and leaders attend a Wednesday evening class prior to the start of their Studio in order to be fully prepared. For more information or to sign up as a Studio Leader, contact Leia Durland-Jones at 293-8179 or redirector@uucharlottesville.org

We currently are in need of people to help with our exploration of Hinduism February 1, 8, 22 and March 1.

Save the dates:

- Dec. 3 Youth Programs Committee 7-9 PM
- Dec. 6 All Church Holiday Party 2-5 PM
- Dec. 7 Challenge Mentor Meeting 12:30 PM
Adult Faith Development Com. 12:30 PM
- Dec. 10 UU Stars Studio Leaders' Class 7-9 PM
- Dec. 14 UU Stars Curriculum Meeting 12:30 PM
- Dec. 17 Children's RE Com. Meeting 7-9 PM
- Dec. 21 Giving Tree Service 9:15 AM - Intergenerational NO RE
- Dec. 24 Interactive Nativity Christmas Eve Service 4:30 PM
- Dec. 28 NO RE

Save the dates:

- March 6-8 District Worship Workshop (Spirit Play, Contemplative Youth Ministry, Worship Renaissance Module)
- May 8-10 District Annual Meeting "A Celebration of Family Values"



Contacting our Religious Education Staff

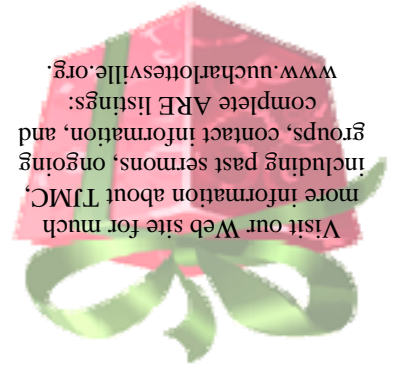
Leia Durland-Jones, Director of Religious Education is available by appointment at the church on Monday, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Fridays and Saturdays are her days off. 293-8179 x 3# or redirector@uucharlottesville.org.

Verna Gastesi, RE Assistant, 293-8179 x 6# or reassistant@uucharlottesville.org.

December 2008

Summit House		Church Parlor		Basement Kitchen		Summit House	
S1 Room on left (1 st floor)		CP Church Parlor		CBD Basement Kitchen		S1 Room on left (1 st floor)	
S2 Room on right (1 st floor)		SH Social Hall		CBB Blue Room		S2 Room on right (1 st floor)	
S Sanctuary		S Sanctuary		CBG Green Room		S Sanctuary	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
AFD= Adult Faith Development 1030 Older Singers/CP 1030 Younger Singers/S7 1030 OWL/UU 1115 Challenge/S1 No First Sunday Potluck 1245 AFD/S2 5 NatureSpirit/S1	1 2 Enrichment Alliance/S1 6 Women's Choir/S 8 Emotions Anon/CBD	2 7 Gamblers Anon/CBD 7 Uuppy Women/CP 730 Worship Assoc/CBG	3 11 Staff Mtg 530 Vespers NO Community Dinner 630 Emotional Well-ness/CP 7 Meditation/ Blue 7 YCP/CBG	4 1030 Active Minds/CP 4-9 Adult Choir/S 7 MMP Exec/MMP 730 Finance/SH 8 AA/CBD	5 9 Food Pantry/SH	6 9-2 PACEM Clean Up/Summit+SHKitchen 12-6 All Church Holiday Party/All	
7 915+1115 Services 1030 Older Singers/CP 1030 Younger Singers/S7 1030 OWL/UU 1115 Challenge/S1 No First Sunday Potluck 1245 AFD/S2 5 NatureSpirit/S1	8 2 Enrichment Alliance/S1 530 Undoing Racism/S1 6 Women's Choir/S 7 Covenant Group/S2 730 TnT Worship/CP 8 Emotions Anon/CBD	9 VACUUM/SH+CP 6 MMP PAFDnt/MMP 7 Admin/SH 7 Gambler's Anon/CBD 7 Uuppy Women/SH	10 11 Staff Mtg 530 Labyrinth/S1 530 Vespers/CP 6 Community Dinner/SH 7 Meditation/Blue 7 Star Leaders/S1 730 Environ Conc/CP	11 915 Faith in Action/SH 1030 Active Minds/CP 4-9 Adult Choir/S 7 Board/SH 7 BackPageWrtrs/CBG 8 AA/CBD	12 630 Social Justice Movie/CP	13 9-5 Choir Rehearsal/S 2-8 NatureSpirit/S1 4 Family Cov/MMP+CBD	
14 Holiday Music Social Action Collection 915+1115 Services 915 UUCF/S1 1030 Older Singers/CP 1030 Younger Singers/S7 1030 OWL/UU 1115 Challenge/S2 1115 Faith in Action/S1 1245 Peace Conv/S2 1 Artist Opening/SH 1 Covenant Fac/S1 3 UNA/SH	15 2 Enrichment Alliance/S1 6 Women's Choir/S 630 Journey/S1 8 Emotions Anon/CBD	16 7 Gambler's Anon/CBD 7 Uuppy Women/CP 730 Leadership Dev/S1 730 Personnel/SH	17 530 Vespers 6 Community Dinner/SH 630 Emotional Well-ness/S2 7 CRE/S2 7 Meditation/ Blue 7 UUGuys/S1	18 9 Bulletin Folding/SH 1030 Active Minds/CP 2-4 Pastoral Visit/CP 4-9 Adult Choir/S 7 Exec/SH 8 AA/CBD	19 7 EnvironConc/SH	20 4 Family Cov/MMP+CBD	
21 Giving Tree Solstice 915+1115 Services No RE No Choirs 12 Pastoral Visitors/CP	22 11-1 CVWG/CP 1230-3 CVWG/SH 2 Enrichment Alliance/S1 7 Covenant Group/S2 8 Emotions Anon/CBD	23 7 Gambler's Anon/CBD	24 430, 730, 9 PM Services	25 Office Closed	26 Office Closed	27	
28 10 AM Service No RE No Choirs	29 8 Emotions Anon/CBD	30 7 Gambler's Anon/CBD 730 GSA/CP	31 5 Labyrinth/SH+S				

Bulletin deadline for January 2009 is December 12.



Visit our Web site for much more information about TJMC, including past sermons, ongoing groups, contact information, and complete ARE listings: www.nucharlottesville.org.

Return Service Requested

Thomas Jefferson Memorial Church
Unitarian Universalist
717 Rugby Road
Charlottesville, VA 22903
434-293-8179

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All Church Holiday Party

December 6, Saturday

2 • 5 PM

Join your church friends for our annual Holiday Party. Enjoy an afternoon of crafts and caroling. We'll make holiday crafts in the Social Hall, enjoy a potluck snack, and walk to Martha Jefferson House to sing Christmas Carols. Please bring a snack to share. The RE Committee will provide the hot cider. Volunteers needed to help with set up, clean up, to help with a craft, serve snacks or lead the carolers. Please contact Cindy Shepard at 975-4977 or cindy-shepard@embarqmail.com to sign up!