

TJMC Bulletin

Sunday Services

Theme for December: Incarnation

“The incarnation is true, not of Christ exclusively, but of [Humanity] universally, and God everlastingly.” ~ James Martineau



9:15 AM + 11:15 AM Services

December 4

You Only Have One Gift to Give

Being incarnated can be scary. But worth it. Luckily, there are tools for the path of being the most embodied you can be. The ancient yoga philosophy is just one example. A STARS Story Sunday, so all ages begin in the Sanctuary together.

December 11

The Speech of Angels

Thomas Carlyle once wrote, “Music is well said to be the speech of angels.” As we move through this season of angels, our choir, as well the duo Terra Voce, will embody that speech with special music.

December 18

9:15 AM One With The Trees and Stars

What does the idea of “incarnation” have to do with the science of cosmology? And what do either have to do with you? Come and find out.

11:15 AM Giving Tree – Intergenerational

Rev. Erik Walker Wikstrom and Leia Durland-Jones, DRE. Come and share in this festive service as we celebrate being together in multigenerational community through story, song and a surprise or two.

10 AM Service

December 25

The Stories of Christmas

If your children were up and done with their presents by 5:30 AM, or you have not had enough of holiday cheer, come to this multigenerational service of stories and song, including Rev. Erik’s “legendary” interpretation of the well-known tale, *The Clown of God*. Child care will not be available.

TJMC’s Giving Tree - Helping Those in Need

Join others in your church family to make the holidays a little brighter by participating in TJMC’s Giving Tree! Our Giving Tree supports many children, individuals and families in need throughout the greater Charlottesville community including people in our own church family whose financial resources are limited. This year, we are partnering with several local organizations that work with people in need in our area. There are a variety of gift requests to meet the differing needs of both the giver and the recipient. You can also invite another church member to go in on a gift with you and share the cost together.

Some Giving Tree recipients have requested clothes, linens, reading materials, and DVDs. Gift cards for local stores or area movie theaters are also welcome. Purchasing Gift Cards through the TJMC Scrip card program at scrip@uucharlotteville.org or at the scrip table in the Social Hall after services is a great way to double your gift: our church benefits from the scrip card purchase and the Giving Tree recipient receives a nice gift. Please note that during this holiday gift drive, we are accepting new items only. The scrip table is stocked with gift cards to make your giving even easier.

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 people make purchases 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 gets which package. If you label the contents, we will not have to unwrap the package to figure out what is inside. We will remove these “what is inside” labels before giving the gifts to the recipients. Bring your gifts with you to church on Sunday, December 18, for our annual Giving Tree Service.

We also need help on Sunday, December 18, delivering gift to their recipients. If you or your family would like to help with deliveries or if you have any other questions, please contact Leia Durland-Jones, DRE, at 293-8179 extension 3# or leiadj@embarqmail.com. Thank you for your support.

December 24 Christmas Eve Services

4 PM Christmas Eve Service - Leia Durland-Jones, DRE & Rev. Erik Walker Wikstrom. This joy-filled service 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 will proceed to the front portico and search the skies for Santa and his sleigh! Potluck cookie reception after.

8 PM The Candles of Christmas - Rev. Erik Walker Wikstrom. A Christmas service to which all ages are invited. Holiday music and stories, candle lighting, and exiting on Silent Night. The offering will go to the Minister’s Discretionary Fund. Potluck cookie reception after.



I have come to the conclusion that there are really two holidays in December that share the same name, utilize some of the same symbols, but which are really two distinct things. They are, if you will, homophonic holy days.

The first is called "Christmas," and it is a Christian holy day which celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, the incarnation of God in human form, the "in-breaking" of the divine into our world. Its sacred texts are the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Among its hymns are, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," and "Joy to the World."

The second is called "Christmas," and it is a secular holy day which celebrates family, and community, and the joy of giving. Its sacred 'texts' are Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer, A Charlie Brown's Christmas, and the Miracle on Thirty-fourth Street. And, on my list, the original "The Bishop's Wife" with Cary Grant, Loretta Young, and David Niven – which ends with a sermon I have always envied. It shares many of the hymns of the Christian Christmas, but also adds "White Christmas," and "Winter Wonderland," and "Sleigh Bells."

For many years now there have been voices decrying what they have

called "the attack on Christmas." They say we all need to "put the Christ back into Christmas," and that the "reason for the season" has been lost. I think that these folks are simply confused about these two different holidays, conflating them as if they were one. But they are not. Though sharing many things in common, they are distinct, and each is worthy of celebration.

So whether you mark Christmas or Christmas (or Hanukkah, or Solstice, or Kwanzaa, or some combination of all of the above), I wish you the very best the season has to offer.

In Gassho, Rev. Erik

Ministry Associate

Creating Rituals

As the rituals of December set in, you may want to create some of your own.

Creating your own rituals is a way to make your home life more true to your values. Creating rituals can also be a way to modify a meaningful family or religious heritage that you want to continue. You can create rituals on your own or with others. To help you, I am suggesting four ingredients for the recipe of your ritual:

- 1) A start and a close which names the value of the ritual and the Sacred force at play. For example, "We pause now to celebrate the Winter Solstice, calling on the Four Directions."
- 2) The five senses. For example, a candle, a bell, a song, water, food. The possibilities are endless. If you are with others, invite each person to contribute something.

3) Name what is going on in this very moment. For example, "As we begin this Hanukkah, we acknowledge the political and economic pain in Israel and Palestine and the bombing that occurred yesterday." Naming recent news events or family changes is important.

4) Name what connects this to past and future. For example, "These Advent candle holders were used by Grandma Jane and will be handed down to Samuel."

It is really that simple.

Blessings to you during this dark, cold time of year. I look forward to seeing you at church and hearing what rituals are unfolding in your life.

Chaplain Alexandra McGee, MDiv.
Ministry Associate

Alex works quarter time on our ministry staff and can be reached at 984-4459 or ma@uucharlottesville.org.

Music Notes

As the holidays approach, I encourage *all* TJMC members to consider contributing to our Christmas music. On Sunday, December 11, the choir is performing in a service dedicated to the special role that music plays in our holiday lives. The TJMC Choir, I remind you, is not an auditioned group. While we do insist on excellence and demand a good deal of time and energy for rehearsals and performance, we are open to singers at all levels.

We admire and appreciate those who come in with choral experience, but do not expect that from everybody. Please give us a try: come to rehearsals on Thursday evenings at 7:15 PM in the Sanctuary, or contact me at deveaux@virginia.edu.

Scott DeVeaux
Acting Music Director

A Life in Faith

Clear Spring Buddhist Fellowship Meditation

Wednesdays, 7 PM, Blue Room
meditation@uucharlottesville.org.

CareNet

Year-Round Program

CareNet is our church's organized effort to help out with meals, rides, and other assistance for church members.
carenet@uucharlottesville.org.

NatureSpirit

Second Sundays, 5:30 PM, Social Hall
Exploring spirituality. For more information: nature@charlottesville.org.

Pastoral Visitors

Year-Round Program

The Pastoral Visitors Program has been designed to complement the roles of the minister and the CareNet program, in providing a comprehensive ministry of pastoral care. It is a lay ministry of support and hope, offered by trained volunteers who offer a sustained caring presence for those who are members of the TJMC community (and their primary caregivers) who are experiencing crisis or stressful transitions.

UU Christian Fellowship

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. For more information: uucf@uucharlottesville.org.

Treasurer Report



After four months or 33% of the fiscal year, we have received total revenues of \$238,896 which represents 42% of the revenue budgeted for the year. That is about 1% more than we had received in the first four months last year.

Our current year pledge receipts after four months were \$152,810 which equals 37% of the amount budgeted for the year. However, this is about 14% less than our pledge receipts in the same time period last year. After four months, we have also received 76% of the amount budgeted for the year for unpledged donations, which is about 78% more than the amount received in the same period last year. Also, our Social Action Collections for the first four months are nearly twice as large this year as last year.

After four months our total expenses were \$198,727 which represents 35% of our annual budgeted

expenses. This is about 30% more than we had spent in the same time period last year. For the four months combined, our revenues exceeded expenses by \$40,169. This is slightly less than one half the net income we had at the same four month period last year. For just the month of October, revenue exceeded expenses by \$8,652.

At the end of October our church bank accounts, after taking account of outstanding but not yet cleared checks, was \$206,508.

At this point we continue to appear to be in good financial shape. However, we will want to watch carefully our pledge receipts and our overall expenditures in the next few months to determine our continuing financial position.

I also want to remind everyone that if you plan to donate stock to the church before the end of the calendar year,

remember that it takes several weeks to complete that transaction. The proceeds from stock transfers often come to the church without any donor identification on them. Therefore, if you intend to donate stock to the church, please complete a stock transfer form, available at the church office, in advance of the donation, so we may properly credit your account.

Finally, I want to mention how pleased I am that Jamie McReynolds has accepted the position of Temporary Controller and that Larry Briggs has taken over the position of Pledge Tracker.

Doug Webbink, Treasurer

Treasurer@uucharlottesville.org



From the President



For what we are truly thankful!

As I sit at my desk gazing at the beautiful crepe myrtle outside my window, the leaves are falling, the clocks are about to be rolled back, the holidays are ahead -- including my favorite, Thanksgiving -- and my thoughts turn to reflections of the past year.

Personally, I have much to be thankful for, not the least being the safe and healthy arrival of my first grandchild, Georgia, born to my daughter Emma on Tuesday, November 15, and weighing in at 7 lbs 13 oz. She is beautiful.

I am also thankful for the opportunity to have served on the Board during the start of what I see as an incredible renewal of energy and excitement at TJMC-UU.

Our focus on spiritual growth, social justice, and the building of a strong community is, for me, a return to the true purpose and value of TJMC-UU. For this we can thank not just our wonderful new minister, Rev. Erik

Wikstrom, but ourselves. Together we are bringing a renewed positive attitude to church on Sundays and throughout the week. It has been truly palpable to experience.

Furthermore, on reviewing our Board goals for the year I see significant progress being made in many areas. Some of these areas include people and groups actively involved in worship, music, staffing and organization, governance, facilities planning, Green Sanctuary, IMPACT, and numerous other initiatives aimed at helping to build connections and improve communication between us. Although space restricts acknowledgement of all those involved, it bodes well for our future.

I am equally heartened by the growing number of new younger members, especially those with small children. I strongly encourage you to find opportunities to serve your new-found community. I can assure you the rewards are immense.

Finally, it is incredible to reflect on the major social and political changes that have occurred nationally and internationally in the past year. Some good, some not so good, some still developing, as we have seen recently on the streets of cities and towns across America and around the world.

As someone who has always believed in the power of the people, and in the goal of social justice, I am cautiously optimistic by what I see happening. I trust that through peaceful activism and hard work we can help put America back on the road to a more just and fair society. That would be work well worth doing and if successful, something for which we could truly all be thankful.

Happy holidays to you and your family.

In Faith,

Ian Sole

President, Board of Trustees

Happening this Month



December 1+8+15+22+29

Active Minds

1 PM, Parlor

Join us for community and conversation.

December 2

Food Pantry

9 AM, Social Hall

Volunteers are always welcome to help unload, sort, and distribute food.

December 4

December Season of Light All-Church

Art Show Reception

1 PM, Social Hall

Come and see the works of our talented congregation.

December 6

UUpitty Women

7 PM, Social Hall

Time to decorate for the holidays. We will bring hot cider and ask you to bring some cookies or snacks to share as we assemble the wreaths for the church doors and set out other decorations.

December 6–January 31 (Tuesdays)

AFD: Why Evil Exists

1–3 PM, Parlor

Leader: Rev. Tony Perrino. Fee: \$20 for series or \$2/class. Register online or at leiadj@embarqmail.com.

December 7–Ongoing Wednesdays

Weekly Lunchtime Labyrinth Walk

11:45 AM, Outdoor Labyrinth

Leader: Leia Durland-Jones. Fee: free of charge. Drop-ins welcome.

December 7–Ongoing Wednesdays

AFD: Wednesday Wonderings

12:15–1:15 PM, Summit Room 1

Leader: Erik Walker Wikstrom. Fee: free of charge. Register online at leiadj@embarqmail.com.

December 7

Green Sanctuary

7 PM, Parlor

December 7

Partner Church

7 PM, Green Room

December 8

UU Christian Fellowship

7 PM, Offsite

An Advent Evening, at the home of Dee Plunkett. Contact Jean Newland at kipandjean@gmail.com.

December 11

Peace Action - United Nations

12:45 PM, Summit Room 2

December 11

NatureSpirit

5:30 PM, Social Hall

Come join us for a presentation on the traditions of Yule. We will have a potluck starting at 5:30 PM and will assemble individual Yule logs! If you have questions, email us at nature@uucharlottesville.org.

December 12

AFD: Let's Have a Conversation...

Death

7–9 PM, Sanctuary

Leaders: Rev. Erik Wikstrom & Leia Durland-Jones, DRE. Fee: free of charge. Register online or at leiadj@embarqmail.com.

Bulletin Submissions deadline for January is December 10.

December 14

Finance Committee

7 PM, Social Hall

December 14

Leadership Development

7 PM, Parlor

December 17

All Church Holiday Party

2 PM, All Church

December 18

Social Action Collection

Play Partners

Play Partners, a program of Children, Youth & Family Services, Inc. (CYFS), promotes the development of early literacy skills in preschool children from low-income families. Each week trained

Holiday Scrip GiftCards!

Scrip GiftCards make great Holiday gifts, but ShopWithScrip special orders must be placed by December 12 in order to get here in time. Place your order via the shopwithscrip.com website using our TJMC enrollment code 5BCFD27A2L439, at the scrip table on Sundays or via e-mail to scrip@uucharlottesville.org.

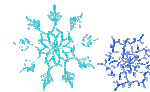
We continue to stock an assortment of grocery cards plus a small selection of popular shopwithscrip.com cards at the Scrip table each week. Support TJMC by using Scrip!

volunteers bring a special book and enrichment activities to children in day care settings, including family day care homes, with emphasis on school readiness and the importance of reading. Your donations will help purchase books and materials for the children in this nationally recognized program.

December 19

Board of Trustees

7 PM, Social Hall



December 20

UUpitty Women

7 PM, Parlor

Chat! Bring some snacks to share while we have an extended check-in, general chat with no agenda.

December 21

Membership Committee

7 PM, Summit Room 1

December 23

Church Office Closed for Holiday

December 24

Christmas Eve Services

4 PM+8 PM, Sanctuary

December 24

UU Christian Fellowship Communion

7 PM, Sanctuary

Rev. Erik Walker Wikstrom will lead a Christmas Communion service in the liberal Christian tradition.



December 25
Sunday Service
10 AM (Only)
Sanctuary

December 26

Church Office Closed for Holiday

December 29

UUGuys

7 PM, Summit Room 1

December 31

Twelfth Annual Labyrinth Walk

5–7 PM, Social Hall

Make your plans now to walk our beautiful Chartres-design canvas labyrinth. Live music by Suzanne Morris on hammered dulcimer. Refreshments in the Parlor. Plenty of time for your New Year's Eve festivities afterward. Help with set-up and take-down would be greatly appreciated. Info: labyrinth@uucharlottesville.org.



Happening this Month

Save the Date

January 1

Sunday Service

10 AM (Only), Sanctuary

Child care will not be available.

January 2

Church Office Closed for the Holiday

January 28

Newcomer Orientation

9 AM - 12 PM, Summit Rooms 1+2

This is an opportunity to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and about our church. The seminar will be led by our Membership Committee, our minister, Rev. Erik Walker Wikstrom and other church leaders. Come join us for fellowship and coffee. A light breakfast and snacks will be provided. The bright pink sign-up sheet is on the Community Life Bulletin Board next to our Church Office or you may contact Jean Newland at 962-9676 or kipandjean@gmail.com. Please let us know if you will need childcare and to

provide a phone number for emergency contact in the event of inclement weather.

January 29

Sunday Service

Congregational Meeting

10 AM (Only), Sanctuary

March 24

UUppity Women & Pastoral Visitors

Planning for the Final Phase of Life:

Helping Loved Ones Prepare

9AM-3PM, All Church

It is human nature to put off thinking about what we would like our loved ones to do for us when we are approaching the end of our lives. Most of us have heard tragic stories of extraordinary measures being taken to prolong lives against known wishes of a family member because there was no advanced directive in place. The time to have this difficult conversation is long before it is needed. To help you make sure your wishes and those of your loved ones are carried out, the UUppity Women and the Pastoral Visitors are

offering a free seminar, Saturday, March 24, 2012 from 9 AM - 3 PM as a service to TJMC and the local community. This will be an opportunity to learn about advanced directives, hospice care, care giving, funeral planning, cremation, and other related topics. Please mark your calendar and watch for more details nearer the time of the event. For more information email eolseminar12@yahoo.com.

UUSC Guest at Your Table Boxes

Boxes are available for pick up in the Social Hall on Sundays or in the RE office during the week. At every meal, you are invited to add money to your box as if you are paying for the food of a guest joining you at your meal. Contributions fund the work of the UU Service Committee around the globe. Return your box and financial contribution to church on Sunday, December 19.

Cultivating Connections Continues

What are your gifts and talents? What issues or activities stir your interests or passions? How might you choose to use your talents, interests, or passions in service to the TJMC community?

Continuing our TJMC annual theme of Cultivating Connections, and our November focus on Gratitude, the Leadership Development Committee is asking you to consider your own gifts and to review the many and varied opportunities to serve.

We want to make it easier for you to make a connection with others who share your interests, or with important work that fits your talents or provides opportunity to develop new skills. We also want to launch a new, more transparent way to select our elected congregational leaders: the Board members, Personnel Committee members, and Leadership Development Committee members who are elected each May by the congregation.

To accomplish these goals, we addressed the congregation on

November 20 during the Sunday services, distributing a written form listing the positions that will be up for election in May 2012 as well as key volunteer areas. We asked people interested in having more information about any of these areas or positions to contact us by returning the form in the offering plate or in the marked box in the mailroom, by contacting us through leadership@uucharlottesville.org, by stopping by the Leadership Development table in the Social Hall on Sunday mornings in December, or by checking out the Leadership Development Bulletin Board in the hall. The Councils are also planning to list opportunities on their Bulletin Boards and on the church website.

We have much to be grateful for. Our church is literally filled with gifted, talented people. Let us continue Cultivating Connections among people and with the work of the congregation, remembering the words of the old Shaker hymn "...'tis a gift to come down where you ought to be..."

Thomas Jefferson Memorial Church

Unitarian Universalist

717 Rugby Road

Charlottesville, VA 22903

Office Phone: 434-293-8179

Office Hours: M-F, 9 AM-12:30 PM
& 1:30 PM-5 PM

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tjmcuu@embarqmail.com

Web site: uucharlottesville.org

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Treasurer, Doug Webbink
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Nuts and Bolts

AFD Thanks

The Adult Faith Development (AFD) Committee wants to share its gratitude for the positive responses we have been receiving toward current AFD offerings. We are busy planning the next round of AFD offerings, and are interested in co-leaders for the following possible groups: books, bridge, Five R's, writer's, travelogue, altar decor, storytellers and more. Possibly interested? Please contact Holly Dilatush at 960.7177 or Holly@Dilatush.com.



Alliance for Interfaith Ministries(AIM)

During these challenging economic times, it should come as no surprise to learn that there continues to be a steady flow of people coming into the AIM office seeking help with their rent, utility bills, or other financial crisis. From January through October of 2011, assistance has been given to 627 households in the local area. These folks could not be helped without the support that your congregation has given to this outreach program. We especially thank you for your support at our recent benefit concert that celebrated 30 years of providing emergency assistance to local families.

Your congregation is one of 46 congregations representing a wide variety of faiths that supports this effort. The work that AIM does is also a big help to all those congregations who regularly get calls from strangers asking for help. Instead of spending large amounts of time researching the request and deciding whether or not to give them congregational funds, pastors and their staffs can refer these people to AIM where a thorough review of their request is made.

AIM has once again been approved to participate in the Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign (CVC). This is a workplace giving program that allows state employees to give to charities of their choice through a pre-tax payroll deduction. This applies to UVa employees, public school teachers and staff, and many others who work for the state. The campaign runs through the

end of 2011. Giving to AIM through the CVC is a very easy way for you to give back to the community in a personal way! When signing up for it, be sure to indicate AIM's code: CVC#3966. For more information, visit the AIM website www.avenue.org/aim or call Drene DeGood at 972-1704.

Being the Change: Opening Up Communications

TJMC has a new settled minister, but there is nothing very "settled" about our church these days. We are experimenting with new forms of worship, music, and communication. We are turning out in larger numbers, sharing our joys and concerns at church and on Facebook, and talking about monthly worship themes and weekly sermons. The Communications Committee is making some changes, too, and we hope they will support and reflect the church we are co-creating.

One of Rev. Erik Walker Wikstrom's first sermons described the "Open Source Church," where everyone has a role in creating worship. Some of those roles are apparent to all, as when our Worship Weavers share personal experiences and reflections from the pulpit. Other influences are more subtle and harder to describe, our being together in community makes our worship come alive in a way the written or recorded word cannot adequately capture.

Our monthly themes provide a focus for spiritual growth, through our services, sermons, and religious education. Communications Committee hopes to extend this to take-home activities and opportunities for reflection. How did the week's sermon affect you? What is your understanding or experience of the theme? How is your life changing? Think of it as a church-wide journal or scrapbook.

If you would like to be a part of making this a reality then email communications@uucharlottesville.org or drop a note in the Communications mailbox at church. Keep an eye on the



TJMC website or Facebook page for announcements and opportunities. And, of course, come to church, where great things are happening!



Beyond Belief Reflections from the UUA President

It is with genuine excitement that I introduce to you my new blog, Beyond Belief (<http://president.blogs.uua.org/>). I look forward to using this forum to reach out to readers in a format that is less formal than a sermon or UU World column, yet deeper and more flexible than I would post on Facebook or Twitter. My hope is that this blog also will provide an opportunity to connect with those of you who would like to know more about Unitarian Universalism, especially the public witness work that is a vital aspect of our faith.

To start, perhaps I should explain the title. It stems from my conviction that religion is not primarily about what we believe. In America, the first question we tend to ask about a religious group is "What do they believe?" and we differentiate among religions based on our broad understanding of their beliefs. Yet belief, in the sense of agreeing on what is "true," is a modern preoccupation. For me, religion is much more about what we love, about what we hold sacred, about what moves us at the core of our being. Indeed, I have argued (in a sermon, no less) that belief is the enemy of religion. When we focus on beliefs alone, we tend to lapse into arguments that are at least tiresome and often dangerous.

So my blog is about religion that is beyond belief. It is about how we treat one another, about how we live our lives, about the connections we make and the difference we make. And if religion is ultimately about what we love, then "faith" is not so much about what we think is true (or hope is true, despite lack of evidence), but about being faithful to what we love. "Beyond Belief," then, will be my reflections about the world around us and what we are to do if we are to be faithful.



I encourage you to visit regularly and to pass this along to other friends who share our values. I'll be posting regularly about the work I do as president, as well as the larger social justice efforts of the UUA.

Check back weekly to read new posts, and please feel free to share these posts with your friends via email, on Facebook, and on Twitter.

In faith,
Rev. Peter Morales

Charitable IRA Rollover Information

The tax-free charitable IRA rollover program extends through December 31, 2011. Individuals over the age of 70½ can make tax-free deductions in 2011 of up to \$100,000 from their IRAs directly to TJMC – to the Endowment Fund or to pay your pledge. This is a limited time opportunity. Donations made directly from your IRA count toward your minimum required distribution. Gifts can now be accomplished simply and without tax complications. Send a letter to your IRA custodian requesting a rollover directly from your IRA directly to TJMC. Then notify us of your intentions. For more information contact your financial advisor.



Fall Cleanup a Wonderful Success

On a bright crisp Saturday, November 12, about thirty members and friends of TJMC-UU turned out for a very productive outdoor workday. Much raking, grounds cleanup and bulb planting was accomplished. Our hearty crew was greatly appreciated and deserves all our thanks. They were: Carol Saliba*; Sheri Edgecomb and Nick, Ezra & Jacob Laiacona; Arthur Rashap; Pam Philips; Elizabeth Breeden; Tom Banton; Dick Somer*; Edith Good*; Sally Taylor; John Nolen*; Dan Grogan; Joan Hunt*; Mike Ludwick; Bill and Alex Gardner (who earlier had built the two-bin compost structure); Trudy Rohm; Cypress Walker; Larry Briggs*; Cathey Polly*; Jill Mulligan and fellow On Our Own members Cyndi Richardson and Ed Pase; Bob Rustic (from NY); and Jenny Gaden who

prepared a fabulous lunch. We also thank Holly Hintz who organized the cleanup and Sallie Kate Park, Head of Grounds for coordinating this hard working crew and needed cleanup. The (*) after names indicates members who are part of the Adopt A Plot volunteers who signed up to maintain their small plot for continued Grounds maintenance.



Join a Dialogue on Race with Zion Union Baptist

Members of Zion Union, Westminster Presbyterian and TJMC-UU will gather in January and February for a series of facilitated discussions to explore race and racism in our region. Begun two years ago, the Dialogue on Race is now being offered through our three churches. Diverse groups of about ten people will meet weekly for six weeks, follow a thoughtful curriculum, and then be invited to join an Action Team that is already having a positive effect on profound local civic problems. An update of our recent work is available by e-mailing Bob Gross at bnj2music@embarqmail.com. Space is limited so please sign up ASAP. Training for facilitators will be offered in early January. For details please call Bob Gross 977-9828, Co-Chair of the City Dialogue on Race.

IMPACT's 2012 Focus

During the area-wide 'listening process' many people expressed concern about: young adults having insufficient skills and education to obtain employment; decreased opportunities for those who do not go on to college; the need for skill development and job re-training for unemployed persons; and the high cost of vocational training. Therefore the focus of IMPACT's work this year is improving access to vocational education. Over 450 people from 31 congregations attended the Sixth Annual Assembly and decided to help increase the readiness of our young adults for jobs. Thirty-six participants from TJMC-UU unanimously voted to support this choice. We are counting on you... and you... and you... to join us on Monday, March 26, to call for major improvement

in the provision of high quality and appropriate vocational education for all our young adults. For information, please contact Sarah Peaslee 293-4854 or Bob Gross 977-9828.

Results of the UUSC-TJMC Holiday Card Collection

Thank you, thank you, all 106 of you, who donated, joined, or rejoined UU Service Committee (UUSC) during this calendar year. We accumulated \$1,404.75 which will be mailed to UUSC in Cambridge MA. The holiday card, with your names in it, will be put on our website uucharlottesville.org and included in this bulletin. Hard copies will be available from Edith Good on Sundays in the Social Hall or you can contact her at 293-4044. Thanks to Lorie Carddock who designed the cover of our holiday card.

Stock Donations

We would like to remind everyone that if you plan to donate stock to the church before the end of the calendar year as payment towards your pledge or for some other type of contribution, it takes several weeks to complete that transaction. Also, the proceeds from stock transfers often come to the church without any donor identification on them. Therefore, if you intend to donate stock to the church, please complete a stock transfer form, available at the Church Office, in advance of the donation, so we may properly credit your account. The stock transfer form in the Church Office contains information about the church account to which the stock may be donated.

Volunteers Needed

Do you want to participate in the work of the church? Do you have the skills to help maintain the operations of the church? If so, then consider volunteering for the TJMC-UU Administrative Council. You will be able to ensure the continued welfare of the church through your hard work. If you want to volunteer to help with the Admin Council contact Sean McCutcheon at smccut@gmail.com.



Religious Education Update

Walking the Spiral Path

In my bulletin column last month, I wrote that I was on my way to the Liberal Religious Educators annual Fall Conference. Fall Conference was a wonderful experience and I am still delighting in the many gifts of my time with colleagues. The theme of this year's meeting was sustainability, with a very broad interpretation of what is meant by this word. I had the privilege of hearing several outstanding keynote speakers who presented on this topic from different understanding and angles. One speaker's presentation particularly spoke to me. Kim Stafford, a poet, teacher and parent talked with us about naming what sustains us. He shared a poem, written by his late father, that I offer to you below as we enter into this season of cozy darkness and introspection. Enjoy! I wish for you the merriest of holidays this season!

Leia Durland-Jones,
Director of Religious Education

The Way It Is by William Stafford

There's a thread you follow. It goes among things that change. But it doesn't change.

People wonder about what things are you are pursuing.

You have to explain about the thread.

But it is hard for others to see.

While you hold it you can't get lost.

Tragedies happen; people get hurt or die; and you suffer and get old.

Nothing you can do can stop time's unfolding.

You don't ever let go of the thread.

Subscribe to the Weekly Religious Education Update

This free email update is full of the latest information about children and youth RE classes and events as well as announcements and information particularly of interest to parents. Contact leiadj@emabarmail.com

UU Stars Studio Leaders Share their Light

Much appreciation to the individuals who volunteered as Leaders for the November UU Stars Program. At the 9:15 AM service we thank: Nancy Briggs, Lynn Heath, Paul Fritz and Kirstin Fritz. At the 11:15 AM service we thank: Katharine Maus, Heidi Poon, Lynn Heath, and Anita Holmes. Volunteers are still needed for a four

week commitment in January (8, 15, 22 & 29.) To learn how you can help complete the circle surrounding and supporting our church's children and youth, contact Leia Durland-Jones, DRE, at 293-8179 extension 3# or leiadj@embarqmail.com.

A Conversation about Death

Rev. Erik Walker Wikstrom and Leia Durland-Jones, DRE, invite you to a conversation about death (our worship and faith development theme for the month of December). How do Unitarian Universalists understand death? How can this theme enrich our spiritual lives and our day to day living? How might we talk about death with our friends and family members, especially our children? Come take advantage of this opportunity to deepen your knowledge and understanding. Monday, December 12, from 7-9 PM in the Parlor.

Singing in Children's Worship

Every week in children's worship, we sing at least two songs together. Here are the words to From You I Receive (#402), the song we sing as we take our weekly offering. The words are: *From you I receive, to you I give, together we share and from this we live (repeat)*. Invite your child to sing this song with you or to teach it to you! This song can also be used a blessing before mealtime at home.

Church Holiday Party

December 17 2-5PM

Bring a snack to share and join in the fun of decorating the church's Christmas Tree. Enjoy a cup of cider while you create holiday crafts, make a wreath or decorate candles. There will be ornament and rock painting as well as paper crafts and beading. The "Treasure Chest" will allow children to "shop" for a holiday treasure for someone special (and they can choose something for themselves too.) We will wrap up the fun by caroling for the residents at Martha Jefferson House from 4-5 PM For more information, contact Callie Smith 973-0008 or callalily3@aol.com, Jennifer Edelson at 973-9534 or jenedel@hotmail.com, or Krysti Mayers at 540-221-1192 or krysti@krysti.net.

Religious Education Wish List

New white pillar and/or taper candles, rolls of blue "painters" tape, fun sticky note pads. We also need help repairing a broken rolling dry erase board

Please leave donations in the RE office. Thank you!

Santa Suggests...

Supporting our children's faith development and religious identity is an important part of our work as parents. The holidays are a wonderful opportunity to gift family members with a UU themed book, some chalice jewelry, a UU t-shirt, or even a chalice for your family to light at mealtimes. Maybe your family would like your own copy of the hymnal to use for readings as well as singing... and do not forget *Singing the Journey*, the songbook supplement to our hymnal. For UU theme gift items, visit uniunique.com. Did you know the Unitarian Universalist Association has a bookstore? Check it out at <http://www.uuabookstore.org/> Buying (and reading) books is a spiritual practice!

The Treasure Chest: Holiday Shopping for our Kids!

At the all-church Holiday Party on Saturday, December 18, from 2-5 PM in the Social Hall, we are going to have a Treasure Chest filled with jewelry and other treasures for holiday giving. All who attend the Holiday Party will be given a chance to pick a treasure for themselves and one for a special someone in their family!

Save the December Dates!

- 4 RE Classes, Stars Story Sunday
- 7 Youth Programs Committee meeting 7PM S1
- 11 RE Classes, Children's Worship
- 12 A conversation about death 7PM CP
- 14 Children's RE Committee Meeting 7 PM
- 17 All Church Holiday Party
- 24 Christmas Eve Services
- 25 NO RE classes; no child care.

Religious Education Contacts:

Leia Durland-Jones, DRE: 293-8179 x 3# leiadj@embarqmail.com. Usually available Sundays through Thursdays, and by appointment.
Robyn Fogler, RE Assistant: 293-8179 x 6# robynf@embarqmail.com