

TJMC Bulletin

Sunday Services

January's Theme: Death

W. Somerset Maugham once observed, "Death is a very dull, dreary affair, and my advice to you is to have nothing whatsoever to do with it." Instead, we will spend the month of January – sometimes called "the dead of winter" – exploring the inevitability of death, our response(s) to grief and loss, death as a metaphor, and even the potential gifts of our mortality.

10 AM Service Only

January 1

Transitioning with Grace

At this service on New Year's Day, we will reflect on what it means to leave behind the past and allow for new possibilities. Ministry Associate Chaplain Alexandra McGee will be preaching.

9:15 AM + 11:15 AM Services

January 8

Death Is Difficult To Face

It has been said, rather cynically, that "the moment we are born we begin to die." Yet few of us spend much, if any, of our attention thinking about our mortality. What if we did? Might there be a gift in it for us? Rev. Erik Walker Wikstrom will be preaching, and this will be a STARS Story Sunday.

January 15

Longevity Has Its Place

On the evening before his assassination, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King said in a speech, "Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now." Why do so many have a fear of death, and what might liberation from that fear have to offer us? Rev. Erik Walker Wikstrom will be preaching.

January 22

Dying to the Self

A version of the Prayer of St. Francis closes with "It is in dying to the self, that we are born to eternal life." What does it mean to die to 'the self'? Please join us in exploring the struggles of being and becoming. Our Ministerial Intern Jamie McReynolds will be preaching.

10 AM Service Only

January 29

Because There Is Death, We Celebrate Life!

Elie Wiesel has said, "Because of indifference, one dies before one actually dies." Many religious communities "die before [they] actually die" because the vast majority of members do not take an active role in nurturing the life of the community. This Sunday we will experiment with not *replacing* our worship service with our Congregational Meeting but, rather, *transforming* our Congregational Meeting into a true worship service.

Looking for More Joy in Your Life?

Did you see Rev. Erik Walker Wikstrom's praise of the "amazing work" of the Pastoral Visitors Program on the TJMC-UU Facebook page? Erik is right! Nancy Lewis and Shirley Paul (and previously Shirley Gordon) have been earning accolades for the compassionate, caring visitation program for many years. What is really cool is that the benefit to Pastoral Visitors is huge, too; that great feeling of knowing that your presence helped someone in need is immensely rewarding.

Our beloved TJMC-UU community has other similarly amazing programs, where both a person in need and a provider of a simple service each walk away with shared joy and gratitude. For example, there is CareNet, which provides meals, transportation, errands and other assistance. TJMC-UU community members are thrilled to be called upon to help. And there are the various Membership Committee activities, including the new and incredibly successful bUUddy program. Already, twenty-seven church newcomers have matched up with their church bUUddy, who have promised to embrace those newcomers with hospitality and information.

Do you want to participate in one of these opportunities for joy? Are you ready to share your gratitude for our beloved community with small actions of simple generosity?

We have got opportunity in all of these areas:

- *Pastoral Visitors needs a new co-chair to help organize the visits.
- *CareNet needs some new coordinators who can ensure timely responses to requests for services.
- *Membership could use some new bUUddies.
- *The Community Life Council, which coordinates these activities, is looking for a new co-chair.

Whatever your abilities or your time availability, we have got a way for you to feel especially joyous in our community. Please contact Betty Warner at 244-4099 or bettywarn@aol.com, or drop a note in the Community Life mailbox. We will match you up to an opportunity that's just right for you!

Congregational Meeting January 29, 2012 10 AM

Please mark your new 2012 calendar and save the date for the first Congregational Meeting of 2012. We are doing things a little differently this year and the meeting will actually be part of a single service held that day, beginning at 10 AM. During the service you will be asked to vote on some changes to our bylaws, approve the report and application by our Green Sanctuary Task Force, and hear updates from various task forces. You will also be asked to officially approve Amy Wissekerke as our new Board Secretary. We encourage you to check our website for more information on many of the above topics or contact any of our Board members should you have any specific questions prior to the meeting.



We're approaching the six-month anniversary of our coming together as OCP (ordained clergy person) and Congregation (filled with ministers!). The rhythms are coming a little easier, the steps are beginning to make sense. And as those of you who've been to my office can attest, I'm pretty much settled in!

Sam Jackson, who until recently was part of our cleaning crew, once looked around the space and dubbed it "The Batcave." (And if you haven't yet, come visit and you'll soon see why.) I like it. I'm thinking of renaming this column, "Notes from the Batcave."

With this in mind, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that "my" office is really "your" office. I may be its current resident – and may be

so for a long, long time – but the space really belongs to all of you and I make use of it in service to our community. (I'm usually in the office Mondays through Thursdays 9 AM – 2 PM, some later afternoons, and many evenings, too.)

So please remember: this space is available to you for pastoral counseling and spiritual direction. It's available for consultation on the work of your committee or task force. It's available to collaborate on rites of passage such as weddings, memorial services, house blessings, job transitions, and anything else that might use a jolt of good old fashioned religious energy. It's available for times of shared prayer and meditation.

And it's available as a lending library. This office has one of the largest sets of bookshelves that I've ever seen in a clergy person's office, and they're pretty much all filled. There are books on Taoism, Buddhism, Buddhist/Christian dialogue, progressive Christianity (including about Jesus, God, and the Bible), spiritual practices (especially prayer), Unitarian Universalist history, a large number of different scriptures from various religions, and even some books on physics!

It is my hope that we will use the resources of this space to further and deepen all of our ministries.

In Gassho, Rev. Erik

Who's Who on Staff



It seems that there's some confusion about the roles and responsibilities (and even, sometimes, the title!) of some of the folks who serve this congregation so ably. Our staff has grown to *seven* (!) people now – Lead Minister, Director of Religious Education, Acting Director of Music, Congregational Administrator, Religious Education Assistant, Ministry Associate, and now, part-time Controller. It can get a little confusing. Here's an introduction to two of them:



Jamie McReynolds has been hired as our part-time Controller. Yet even before he had this position, Jamie had a role at TJMC. He is a graduate of the Starr King School for the Ministry, and is in the final stages of the process toward receiving Fellowship from the Ministerial Fellowship Committee of the UUA and eventual ordination. As one of the last steps, Jamie needs to do a part-time, and very focused, internship experience in a parish setting. The Board

and Rev. Erik Walker Wikstrom were very happy to offer him the opportunity to do that here at TJMC. So Jamie is not only our Controller, but also our Ministerial Intern. (And you'll get to hear Jamie preaching later this month!)



Chaplain Alexandra McGee, MDiv., was hired last year, during the interim ministry of Rev. Janet Newman, to serve as TJMC's Interim Ministry Associate. Rev. Erik was eager to extend that one-year contract (he knows a gifted colleague when he meets one!) and the Board obliged. While not yet ordained, Alex is also a graduate of Starr King and is also in the process toward Fellowship and Ordination. She sees her quarter-time work at the church as a real calling.

Keep your eyes open for more information about these dedicated folks.



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 five months or about 42% of the fiscal year, we have received total revenues of \$270,934 which represents 48% of the amount budgeted for the year. This is about 1% more than the total amount of revenue received in the same period last year.

Our current year pledge payments received were \$176,369 which represents 43% of the amount budgeted, but it is also about 9% lower than what was received in the same period last year. The fact that our pledge receipts this year are running somewhat behind those receipts last year is surprising.

Unpledged donations now represent 82% of the amount budgeted, plate cash represents 59% of the amount budgeted and fund raising income equals 76% of the amount budgeted. On the other hand, Grocery Scrip Profit is about 37% of the amount budgeted and Great Lakes Scrip income is about 35% of the amount budgeted. Grocery Scrip Profit is

slightly above the amount received in this time period last year, but Great Lakes Scrip income is nearly 40% lower than last year.

After five months, our total expenses were \$238,774 which is about 42% of the amount budgeted, but is also about 26% higher than our expenses at the same time last year.

In November, our expenses exceeded our revenues by \$8,639 and as a result, for the first five months our net income was reduced to \$32,160. This may be compared to last year in which, after five months, our net income was \$78,737.

Based on a continuing comparison of this fiscal year with last fiscal year, our overall revenues are very similar, but our expenses are significantly higher this year, which explains why at this point our net income is significantly lower than last year.

We still appear to be in good financial shape. However, we will want to continue to monitor our pledge receipts and our overall expenditures in the next few months to determine our continuing financial position. I am hopeful that the pledge statements that were distributed recently will lead to an increased amount of pledge receipts in the remaining weeks of December.

Doug Webbink, Treasurer

Treasurer@uucharlottesville.org



From the President



Looking Back On Our Future!

The headline may read a little strange but, in part at least, that is exactly what I have been doing. The Facilities Planning Task Force, of which I am a member, has been hard at work completing its findings in preparation for sharing them with the entire congregation during January and February. This is the next step in the process where we will be seeking feedback from each of you on what you think is needed to improve our physical community and how best to fund those improvements. Our report will not contain any final recommendations. That is for the congregation to decide, but neither will it be presented in a vacuum, divorced from the mission or purpose of the church.

As you will hear from our presentation, we firmly believe that our facilities are but one part of the whole that must fit together to support the mission of the church, its ministry, its programming needs and the needs of our staff and governing body. It is therefore, part of a comprehensive long range plan

and this is where the headline for this article comes into play. In addition to reviewing prior facilities plans, I came across a comprehensive long range plan started back in 2000 and presented in 2003 covering all aspects of the church. Reading the report, I was amazed at the accuracy of its projections for how we would look in 2011-12 in terms of membership size, staffing, programming and funding needs and of course, the facilities needed to support these findings. It was, in fact, a look back into our future. While some things have changed, it was comforting to read how much has remained the same. While this time around we have broken it up into smaller pieces, we are still effectively in the process of updating our Long Range Plan (LRP). If you look at our Goals for 2011-12 you will see that we have been working on many of the components that together make for a new LRP.

In addition to the facilities team, another group has been tasked with reviewing our organization and staffing needs. Others have been reviewing our governance structure and still more have

been working on aspects of our programming and ministry needs. This work will be shared with you during the course of the New Year, beginning with a brief update at the next Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 29.

A relatively new, but equally important feature of this LRP process has been the work of our Green Sanctuary Task Force. On Sunday, January 29, they will move to have their report and application for Green Sanctuary designation approved by the congregation. All these various initiatives are about our future, some of which I believe I have seen (or at least read about) and it is exciting. I ask that you join in the making of that future.

In Faith,
Ian Sole
President, Board of Trustees



Happening this Month



Do You Know...

Gifts of cash or securities can be made to the TJMC-UU Endowment Fund in three ways:

- ♦ *Current Gift - An outright gift.*
- ♦ *Memorial or Honor Gift - A donation in honor of or in memory of a church member or friend.*
- ♦ *Bequest - Gifts made by including TJMCUU in your will.*

These gifts can be directed to the unrestricted fund or to any of the three restricted funds, which are the Abrahamse Fund for music, the Bristol Fund for building maintenance, and the Cheatham Fund for RE teacher training.



January 1
Sunday Service
10 AM (Only), Sanctuary

Child care will not be available.

January 1
Artist Reception
11 AM, Social Hall



January 2
Church Office Closed
for the Holiday

January 3
UUpity Women
7 PM, Parlor

See our website or the Friday Email closer to this date for details. Email us at uuppities@uucharlottesville.org if you have questions.

January 4
Environmental Action
7 PM, Parlor

January 4
Partner Church
7 PM, Green Room

January 5+12+19+26
Active Minds
1 PM, Parlor

January 6
Food Pantry
9 AM, Social Hall



January 6+7
Join a Dialogue on Race
Facilitator Training

Members of Zion Union Baptist Church, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 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, these sessions are 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. Contact Bob Gross, Co-Chair of the City Dialogue on Race, at 977-9828 or bnj2music@embarqmail.com for an update of our recent work. Training for facilitators will be offered January 6-7.

January 8
Peace Action United Nations
12:45 PM, Summit Room 2

January 8
Covenant Facilitators
1 PM, Summit Room 1

January 8
NatureSpirit
5:30 PM, Social Hall

See our website or the Friday Email closer to this date for details. Email us at nature@uucharlottesville.org if you have questions.

January 10
Council Chairs
7 PM, Social Hall

January 11
AFD: Beans & Rice
6 PM, Social Hall

January 11
AFD: Beans & Rice
7 PM, Summit Room 1



January 11
Finance
7 PM, Social Hall

January 11
Leadership Development
7 PM, Parlor

January 14
Pastoral Visitors
8 AM, Social Hall

Bulletin Submissions
deadline for
February is January 15.

January 15
Social Action Collection
PACEM

You may wonder, if each church in PACEM's coalition shelters and feeds our homeless guests, how could there need to be any other costs? PACEM provides the bones to this structure. This is not just the cots, pillows and blankets, but the more complex needs that assure that we offer a safe shelter for our guests and volunteers. PACEM has learned that the Intake process and its follow-up assures that our guests are using the resources they already have, that they can use available community resources that are not a last resort, and that there is always a PACEM staff member at the church shelter sites who is proactive about addressing the guests' needs. Through our experience hosting, we become advocates for solutions for both the need for affordable housing and emergency shelter to give a person a little help when they need it and for solutions for the chronically homeless.

January 15
United Nations
3 PM, Social Hall



January 16
Church Office
Closed for Holiday

January 16
Board of Trustees
7 PM, Social Hall

January 17
UUpity Women
7 PM, Parlor

Jamie McReynolds, our Ministerial Intern, will be joining us to introduce himself and answer your questions.

January 18
AFD: Harvest the Power
7 PM, Social Hall

January 19
UU Christian Fellowship
7 PM, Summit Room 2

January 24
Community Life
7 PM, Social Hall



January 25
Social Action
5:30 PM, Parlor



Happening this Month

January 27-28

Dream Quest for Women

The TJMC-UU Labyrinth Ministry, in partnership with the church's Adult Faith Development Program, invites women of all ages to our overnight Dream Quest at TJMC Friday, January 27, at 7 PM through Saturday, January 28, at 11 AM. Therapist, healer, musician, teacher and Dream Quest Facilitator Judith Tripp will travel from San Francisco to lead us in our third annual Women's Dream Quest. Come experience Judith's gentle, yet profoundly powerful, leadership. We will enter into sacred space and use the gifts of the labyrinth, music, silence, ritual and expressive arts to guide us individually and collectively into deep soul work with time for reflection, meditation, prayer and dreaming. Previous experience working with dreams is not needed. The Dream Quest is its own unique kind of dream. Participants sleep in the church on their own linens or sleeping bags and pads or air mattresses. Breakfast and snacks are provided. Registration is \$75 with financial assistance or work scholarship available. To register or for more information, contact: Leia Durland-Jones, DRE, 293-8179 or leiadj@embarqmail.com.

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 contact Jean 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**



January 30

**Administrative Council
7 PM, Social Hall**

Save the Date

**February 4-11
Women's PACEM
Summit House**

Sign-up sheets for food, hosting, set up and clean up will be in the Social Hall after each service from January 8 to January 29. We partner with the Muslim Student Association, so we serve more food, but receive more volunteers to help serve. Email Elizabeth Breeden at brs@estone.net for information.

**February 25
2012 Auction
6-9 PM, All Church**

Donation Site Now Open For February 25 Auction. Going, going, not yet gone! The 2012 Auction will be here before you know it, and we hope you are ready to get out those cookbooks, shine up the keys to your vacation home, and think about what services you will offer to make this the best auction ever. The annual auction is the biggest single fundraiser for our church – and, more important, it is tons of fun. Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 25, 6-9 PM, for the chance to snap up some fabulous items, fill up your social calendars, and be wined, dined, and entertained along the way. We have collected some fabulous treasures, and now we are looking for donations of meals, events, vacations and unique services. In the past, people have offered lessons, workshops, concerts, outdoor adventures – if you love it, someone else is likely to love it, too. We have seen vacation homestays from the mountains to the beach. And those dinners! Every kind of ethnic food or theme, amazing culinary talent, and good company to keep the socializing going all year. We cannot do it without your help. Please consider what you can give. Please use our handy online form at <http://www.uucharlottesville.org/get-involved/fundraising/auction> to list your donation. Contact Betty Warner at auction@uucharlottesville.org for more information.



March 24

**Planning for the Final Phase of Life:
Helping Loved Ones Prepare
9AM-3PM, All Church**

Would your family be prepared if you were terminally ill or critically injured and unable to speak for yourself? Do you have an advance health care directive appointing someone to act on your behalf? If your answer is "no" to either of these questions, the free seminar being offered by Pastoral Visitors and Uuppy Women on Saturday, March 24, 2012, is an opportunity you will not want to miss. Having the difficult conversations and planning far in advance of need will put your mind at ease and will give your family and friends the tools they need to make sure your wishes are followed. Other topics to be covered are hospice care (what it is and is not), caregiving, planning a funeral or memorial service, cremation, writing obituaries, and the etiquette of expressing sympathy. Watch for more details nearer the time of the event. Email eolseminar12@yahoo.com to register or for more information.

August 18

**2011 Yard Sale Update
2012 Yard Sale News**

The last of the yard sale items have been sold, and the final total for the 2011 sale comes to \$19,000! Many thanks to Norman Dill of Harlowe-Powell Auction for his assistance in handling a number of valuable items from the sale, and to Betty Warner and Trudy Rohm for obtaining the best value for the gold, silver and jewelry items. Our 2012 sale is scheduled for the weekend of August 18. We are still in need of an in-town storage location with drive-up access to temporarily store larger items between sales. A dry garage or basement would be ideal. Contact yardsale@uucharlottesville.org if you have space.



Green Sanctuary Task Force Reports “We are nearing the Finish Line”

Great news! The Green Sanctuary Task Force is preparing for a Sunday, January 29, congregational vote to apply for full UUA Green Sanctuary accreditation. Reflecting on the value of the program, Task Force Chair Sharon Baiocco offers, “Through the Green Sanctuary program, UUs are uniquely positioned to offer leadership to the community that comes from the heart, not just the head. But science plays a big role, too.”

For example, Sharon notes that our values lead us to protect the soil, air, and water, and guide our energy conservation practices. Towards these goals, we began an aggressive, phased updating of our lights, insulation, windows and doors. She reports, “Recently, as part of evaluating our program, we learned that we have reduced our congregation’s consumption by 15% over the past three years. That’s significant!”

Evaluating the program is the last step in the process of completing a final application, so look for an individual survey soon to help give feedback. The central question the UUA asks is, “Has the Green Sanctuary Program changed the culture of the church?” It is also interested in changes to individual behaviors that promote sustainability.

To learn more about what our congregation has accomplished as a Green Sanctuary candidate, you can pick up a copy of the Fall 2011 Green News at the Green Sanctuary table in January, speak to one of the Green Sanctuary Task Force Steering Committee members (Sharon Baiocco, Jean Botts, Katie Corish, Ruth Douglas, Deborah Judson-Ebbets, or Glenn Short), or view our Green Sanctuary Video Report on YouTube. There is a link to the report and video on our website.

In her assessment, Task Force Chair Sharon Baiocco offers, “People are most likely to make vital changes to preserve the environment for all living things when the message is a spiritual one, rooted in love, not simply an intellectual argument. As our community created and implemented our 12 Action Plan projects, we have also received a great gift, we have become not just



environmental advocates, but ministers for Earth.”

The photograph shows members of the Green Sanctuary Task Force around the new Green Sanctuary Arboretum sign.

Kroger Shoppers!

When you use a TJMC-linked Kroger Gift Card to buy gas, groceries, or pharmacy items, TJMC gets 5% of every dollar you spend. There is no easier way to support TJMC. Using Scrip is a part of Stewardship, and it costs you nothing!

How do I participate?

- ♦ Buy a \$50 starter Kroger Gift Card at the Scrip table on Sunday.
- ♦ Refill the card at the Customer Service counter as needed.
- ♦ Remember, you can use your rewards credit card to refill your Gift Card.

Music Task Force: Survey

We heard from over two dozen people in mid-November who shared their hopes for the future of our music program. Based on examples from other congregations, guidance from the UU Musicians Network, and the advice we received in November, our Music Task Force (Jennifer Caswell, Heather Garrett, Bob Gross, Marlene Jones, Walt Megonigal, Carol Saliba, Bev Thierwechter, Rev. Erik Wikstrom) has prepared a survey to enable everyone at TJMC-UU to express her or his creative dreams for music in our community... what inspires you, what stirs you, and how you would like to participate. The survey will be available both online and on paper after the first of the year. We will send email notification and provide a link to the survey on the church website at the earliest opportunity and we urge everyone to complete it promptly.

PACEM Thank You

Once again we have hosted the Men of PACEM, feeding between 33 and 45 men each night, and sheltering them in Summit House. Our partner, Ebenezer Baptist Church, provided dinner and hosted two nights (and we all agree their meatloaf is divine). Our sixth grade RE class hosted on Friday adding energy and clean-up enthusiasm. Two of the men said they would like to come to Sunday service which encourages us to think that we can imagine our community is larger than we sometimes conceive it to be.

Who Might Want Lay Pastoral Care?

Challenges come our way in life. Some are pretty manageable. Others leave us feeling very alone and overwhelmed, or demand great contemplation. TJMC’s Pastoral Visitors program is available to offer personal support to church members and friends who are enduring grieving, injury, disability, marital changes, unemployment, relocation, caregiving, isolation, inability to attend church, or other difficult life situations.

Our ministers train and commission the Pastoral Visitors to provide a caring, listening presence, spiritual support, and hope in times of need. This program is fundamental our church’s mission statement, which includes: “We foster an open and free community in which we share our gifts, care for one another and honor our differences.” How can you ask for a Pastoral Visitor? Call our ministers at 293-8179; the Co-Chairs of the program, Nancy Lewis at 979-2358 or Shirley Paul at 297-3934. All Pastoral Visitor relationships with congregants are held to the highest levels of confidentiality and are under the supervision of the ministers. There are no fees.



Religious Education Update

Walking the Spiral Path

Parents often share with me the desire to have their children actively engaged in the life of our church. They want their children to have a solid understanding of what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist, to have a place to identify, explore and express our UU values. They want their children to feel connected to people of all ages in our congregation. They want their children to know what it means to be part of a church community and to understand the privileges as well as the responsibilities this entails. They want their children to have practice naming, experiencing, and honoring a connection to something larger than ourselves – what some of us call God or Spirit (or a 1000 other names). I too want all these things and more for the children and youth of our church.

The good news is that what we dream of for our children is possible! It is possible when, as parents, we make commitments and follow through on them. When we commit to coming to church regularly, we teach our children and youth that church (and all that church means and is) is important. It is a priority. When we commit to coming to church regularly, we create the opportunity for our children to make connections and build friendships not only in their religious education classes but also with others they encounter on Sunday morning. When we commit to coming to church regularly, we model for our children the importance of attending worship service as a spiritual practice, a way to feed our souls. When we commit to coming to church regularly, it helps us discover other ways to become involved in the life of the congregation, perhaps with IMPACT or PACEM, all church game nights, community dinners or covenant groups. Our children see us involved and engaged and know that things of value, importance and meaning happen here.

As we enter the new year, I warmly invite you to consider making the commitment (or recommitment) to have your family attend church regularly. And, if there is anything I can do to help make your family's participation in church more fulfilling, satisfying or meaningful, please do not hesitate to be in touch with me.



For the women of our congregation, I want to extend a special invitation to you to our second annual Women's Dream Quest. The Planning Circle for this year's Quest chose January for the very reasons I mention above, the slowing of pace and restorative grace. We want you to come sing, dance, pray, breathe, cry or just "be" with us, your sisters, on our congregation's beautiful canvass labyrinth. The Dream Quest also includes opportunities to work with expressive arts as well as small group sharing. Experience with "dream work" is not necessary. Some participants do think about, work on or share from their dream life but the focus is not on dreams per se.

The whole Dream Quest experience is like being in a wakeful dream! The Quest includes an overnight in the church building with participants sleeping (or not) based on each woman's personal needs. The labyrinth is available for walking all night long and there is something exquisite about sitting in our Sanctuary in the silence of midnight and candlelight. The registration fee is \$75 with financial assistance/work scholarship available. Space in our Dream Quest is limited to forty women and many of these spaces are already taken. Please contact me immediately if you would like to register. I would very much like you to be able to attend.

As we greet the morning sun and the lengthening of the day's light, each one of us has much to look forward to in this New Year. My wishes for all of us are peace, happiness and health.

With appreciation,
Leia Durland-Jones
Director of Religious Education

Subscribe to the Weekly Lifespan Faith Development 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. If you would like to subscribe please contact leiadj@embarqmail.com.

A Conversation about Justice

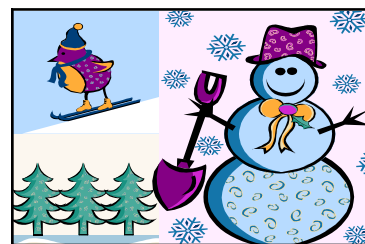
Rev. Erik Walker Wikstrom and Leia Durland-Jones, DRE, invite you to explore the idea of justice, our worship and faith development theme during the month of February. What does justice mean or look like to and for us as Unitarian Universalists? How can this theme enrich our spiritual lives? How might we bring the work of justice-making more deeply into our own lives? Come take advantage of this opportunity to deepen your knowledge and understanding on Wednesday, January 18, from 7-9 PM in the Parlor.

RE Wish List

- ♦ *Help with repairing a broken rolling dry erase board*
- ♦ *Rolls of blue "painters" tape*
- ♦ *Fun sticky note pads*

Save the dates:

- Jan. 1 NO RE
- Jan. 4 Youth Programs Committee
- Jan. 8 UU Stars Story Sunday
- Jan. 15 Lifespan Faith Development Council meeting
- Jan. 18 A Conversation about Justice
- Jan. 25 Children's RE Committee
- Jan. 29 Congregation fundraiser luncheon 11:30 AM



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