



TJMC Bulletin

Unitarian Universalist May 2014

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WHAT DOES "FAITH" MEAN TO YOU?

Worship Services

Sunday 9:15 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.



May 4th: 9:15 and 11:15 a.m.

May 11th: 9:15 and 11:15 a.m.

May 18th: 9:15 and 11:15 a.m.

May 25th: 10:00 a.m. (one service)

Words of Wikstrom

Faith.

Oh, another loaded word. It's such a ... religious word, isn't it? Many of us have been badgered by "people of faith" who told us that we didn't have enough faith, or that our faith was the wrong kind, or that their "faith" taught them that we, ourselves, weren't enough or were the "wrong kind." Others know the word only as it is used as an antonym to reason. "Faith" is believing things when there is no proof. Believing things, perhaps, against all rational sense. For these folks, "Faith" and "Reason" are opposites, and we Unitarian Universalists are engaged in a free and responsible (read, "reasonable") search for truth and meaning. Right?

When I was studying the Hebrew Bible in Divinity School my teacher made a distinction between "faith" and "belief" that I found quite enlightening. I have since seen the same point made by other scholars, so I now not only find it a helpful idea but think it could well be correct, too. Despite these two words being used interchangeably by so many, they really are quite different.

[Read more](#)

From The Board

The Revenue Story
by Amy Wissekerke

Watch the TJMC Weekly Update for worship descriptions.

A Life in Faith

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. Contact: pastoral@uucharlottesville.org

NatureSpirit - Second Sundays

Exploring Nature in spirituality. We are an open group, drop-ins are welcome. Check the Weekly Email and the This Sunday insert for updates. For more information: naturespirit@uucharlottesville.org.

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.

Contact: carenet@uucharlottesville.org

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

Midweek Worship Service

Wednesdays at 11:45 AM to 12:30 PM led by Leia Durland-Jones. This is a simple, contemplative time incorporating our monthly ministry theme. Please join us and let your soul be nourished. We meet on the outdoor labyrinth (weather permitting) or in the sanctuary. All are welcome. For more information, contact Leia (redirector@uucharlottesville.org or 293-8179 Ext. 3#).

May Art Show

"Marriage, Love & Weddings"
by Wendy Repass

Your Board met on April 22 in a budget work session. At that meeting, a proposal for staff restructuring was brought to the table by our Senior Staff (the Lead Minister, Director of Lifespan Faith Development, and Director of Administration and Finance), and ideas were presented by the small sub-committee of the Board that has been working on the budget. In addition, ideas were offered by members of the Full Board. Once again, we find ourselves in the position of making difficult choices.

First, let me say that our pledge drive was a huge success. As I mentioned in last month's bulletin article, the level of community-building and excitement, and new and increased pledges, make all of us very happy and grateful. Sheri Edgecomb and Kate Fraleigh gave skilled leadership and great heart, and so did the many volunteers. At the time of our Board meeting, the pledge total was \$428,000 - coming within \$1000 of the highest pledge total in our history, in 2011. I don't wish to oversimplify pledging trends, but this is good news!

So why are we still unable to do all of the things that we want to do, such as support our staff and thriving programs, reduce our \$125,000 debt (Summit House bonds, currently owned by the Endowment), maintain our facilities adequately, invest in operational infrastructure and technology, and pay fair share dues to the UUA and Southeast District (just to name a few things)?

The other piece of the picture is our revenue. Many of us were amazed when we added up the changes to our revenue over the last 6 years. Our decision to sell U-House and renovate the Lower Hall for our own congregational needs has reduced our revenue by \$30,000 a year. It was hoped that new pledges would fill in this need, but that has not happened yet. In addition, 6 years ago we earned \$65,000 in fundraising and scrip use, compared to \$36,000 in recent years.

[Read more](#)

Walking the Spiral Path



by Leia Durland-Jones
Director of Religious Education

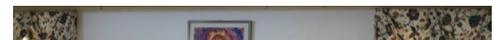
Got faith? As UUs, it can be challenging for us to put into words and say out loud what we mean by the idea of "faith." Wilfred Cantwell Smith offers one of my favorite definitions when he writes, "Faith at its best has taken the form of a quiet confidence and joy which enables one to feel at home in the universe." I simply feel my heart relax and expand when I read this definition and bring to my mind's eye the notion of "feeling at home in the universe." At its Latin roots (fides or fidere) the word means to trust, and to be faithful, particularly to one's sincere intentions. For me, this includes a connection to intuition and an honoring of "that still small voice inside." It is about believing in and trusting myself as well as trusting in something larger and beyond what I can even imagine. The living tradition of Unitarian Universalism allows for a belief in something for which there is not necessarily proof. For me, faith is belief in things unseen.

[Read more](#)

Honoring Our Elders on May 20th

by Elizabeth Breeden and Carol Saliba

"We turn not older with years, but





Two friends of mine will be getting married at Thomas Jefferson Memorial Church, Unitarian Universalist. My partner and I also were married in this church. I've created a series of oil paintings on marriage - the wedding ceremony, the love shared by two people.

Note: The Opening and reception is after the second service on May 4th.

What Folks Say About TJMC Publications

"This new format looks fantastic!"
~ **Amy Wissekerke**

"The new format is very nice, spare, fresh, easy to read."
~ **Bob Gross**

"I really enjoyed this month's bulletin, April 2014. I thought it was a great balance of contemplative and informational. Thank you so much for your work on these communication projects!"
~ **Marlene Jones**

Linens to Help Families in Crisis

By **Elizabeth Breeden**



The Families in Crisis program thanks you dearly for the support you showed us during collections for Social Action. Those funds will go directly to our families in need and will be much appreciated. In talking with members after the services, it was discovered that our church might have the ability to help with another need of our families - the need for linens. It would focus mainly on bed linens, towels and blankets.

[Read more](#)

newer every day."
~**Emily Dickinson**

Many years ago...ok, maybe about eight or nine, we realized that we were not doing enough to thank those folks who'd been with us for years and to whom we turn for experienced insight and wisdom. Some of them may not have been with US for years,



but they still had the experienced insight. It was hard to decide how many years that takes, so we randomly chose 70. Each year, in May, we invite all members and friends who are at least 70 years old to be honored with a dinner. This year, the dinner will be held on May 20th.

We found that providing wine was a great way to assure we got good stories. At first the hosts were the Uuppity Women and we would have a "presentation" by someone knowledgeable or we would sing songs from the 40's. One year the individual members of the Board were the table hosts. Last year our background music and the dinner servers were our youth. One year our minister juggled.

[Read more](#)

Spring Comes to TJMCUU Grounds

By **Sallie Kate Park**

Thanks to the efforts of twenty-five hard working people on Saturday, April 12, the TJMC grounds got a good Spring Clean-up. Ten members of the Vietnamese Student Association - Kelsi Gardner, Kathy Nguyen, Alex Lu, Victoria Nguyen, Ann Duong, Jenny Pham, My-Anh Nguyen, Alec Chen and Michael Phan - Many of us supported their fund raising Noodle Dinner here at TJMC the evening of Friday, April 18th.

Members of a UU covenant group helping out were Sara Gondwe, Eve SanNicolas, Robin LeRosen, Kelly Dryden, John Anderson, Stevo Johnson, Camille Thompson and her husband David. Other UU's were Edith Good, Mike Ludwick, Doug Horowitz, Patsy Swindler, Bev Ryan and Jim Souder. The youngest and by far the cutest helper was Lillian Mellor-Thompson, who brought her father, David Mellor, to help as well. My apologies to anyone who I may have missed mentioning. The covenant group also brought some food as did Cathey Polly who prepared a hearty lunch.

We were all grateful for the co-operation of Mother Nature who provided us with a sunny, warm and windless morning. May we will be as fortunate this fall for the next clean-up!

Committee on Ministry Update

By **The Committee on Ministry**
(**Donna Baker, Pam Philips, Al Reynolds, Deborah Rose, and Ann Salamini**)

The Committee on Ministry is grateful for the time and thought given by members of our congregation in the evaluation process of our senior minister. We have received lots of valuable feedback which we collated and summarized before sending them on to the board president. A subcommittee of the board of trustees will review the evaluation materials and then meet with RevWik to discuss their and his assessment of his ministry this past year. Their joint evaluation will be used to make goals for the coming year.

This process has been valuable for the Committee on Ministry--helping us to better understand the needs and desires of the congregation and helping us

TJMCCU Treasurer Update

*By Jamie McReynolds
TJMCCU Treasurer*

Current Year Financial Update:

For the nine months ended March 31, 2014, we continue to have a net operating surplus, reduced by this month's deficit of \$7,059 to \$34,282, with operating revenues of \$400,444 and operating expenses of \$366,162. Given our very successful auction last month, I am now anticipating a full-year deficit of approximately \$10,000, due to historically lower pledge payments during the last three months of the church year.

Budget for next year:

The Finance Committee and Board are working on the budget for the next church year, which begins July 1, 2014. The budget will be finalized by the Board at the May meeting and presented for approval at the congregational meeting on June 1st. We will have congregational conversations about the proposed budget after both worship services on Sunday, May 18th and after the single service on Sunday, May 25th.

to determine how best we can serve our mission of monitoring, interpreting, and supporting the ministry of TJMCCU. We also believe that the process will be valuable for the board of trustees and RevWik as they work together to identify areas for focus in the year ahead. We will also be making recommendations to the board for future evaluations of the ministries of the church based on what we've learned this year, including a focus on how well the congregation is fulfilling its responsibilities.

[Read more](#)

UU WOMEN'S NETWORK

By Carol Saliba and Lynn Heath

TJMC's newly formed group, the UU WOMEN'S NETWORK, is an expansion of the UUpity Women group that has been a place for women to bond and volunteer for church activities. UUpity Women has pulled the women of this congregation together and served our congregation for many years. UUpities helped connect women to church events and activities and took the lead role in organizing memorial services and the Elder dinner. UUpity Women grew out of The Women's Alliance.

From the beginning, the women of TJMC have played an important role, providing support to each other and to the church. The Women's Alliance held its first meeting in 1943, just months after the church was established. At that time, all of the women of the church were members. They provided important services to the church and they raised funds through dinners after church services and an annual Christmas Bazaar. Through individual gifts and through their fundraising, the Women's Alliance furnished the Parlor, outfitted the downstairs kitchen, provided or paid for janitorial services, supplemented salaries, and donated to local causes in Charlottesville, including UVA Hospital, Barrett Day Care Center, and the Salvation Army. The committees of the Women's Alliance were a precursor to many of the committees of the current church, including ushers, greeters, coffee service, membership, finances, and pastoral visitors. Their ministry to each other was as important as their ministry to the church.

[Read more](#)

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Please send submissions for the monthly bulletin to office@uucharlottesville.org by the 3rd Friday of the prior month.

