



TJMC Bulletin

Unitarian Universalist

May 2015

In This Issue:

Words of Wikstrom

From The Board

New Leadership Team Member

Board Thank You for a Successful Auction

Exciting Facilities News!

Two Congregational Meetings in May

Treasurer's Update

May Social Action

May Theme:
~ Faith ~



Let's Leap Together!

Religious Education & Worship
Sundays ~ 9:15 & 11:15 am

Worship Services

9:15 and 11:15 AM

Note: Summer schedule begins May 24 with one service only at 10AM. Two services resume September 20 at 9:15AM.

Words of Wikstrom

"Oh ye of little faith."

"With enough faith you can move mountains."

"Your faith has made you whole."

What the heck is faith? Is it the same thing as a person's beliefs? Is it a particular kind of belief - in



RevWik



- May 3 **Can UUs Believe Anything We Want?**
- May 10 **Faith in Music**
- May 17 **Losing My Religion**
- May 24 **Swords Into Plowshares**
- May 31 **The Faith of a Unitarian Universalist**

Click [HERE](#) 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

things unseen? Is it the religious person's answer when they can find no rational way to do so? Confusion is understandable, because the word is used in all these ways. (It's also often used as if it's synonymous with denomination - oh, what faith are you?)

As it was explained to me back in Divinity School, in a class on Hebrew Scriptures, belief is what you think, and faith is what you do. More specifically, faith is acting as if you really do believe what you say you believe.

[Read more](#)

From The Board

by Sally Taylor

Triune Leadership Model

On January 28, 2015 the TJMC Board of Trustees voted to approve the Triune Leadership Model proposed by Erik, Leia and Trish. This is a new and exciting form of staff leadership for mid-size churches. In it the Lead Minister (Erik) is not the "C.E.O." of the congregation but shares leadership with the Director of Faith Development (Leia) and the Director of Administration and Finance (Christina). Together they share their distinctive areas of expertise and make decisions about how the church should operate. In this way the strengths and vision from all three triune members are shared across all aspects of church operations.

[Read more](#)

New Leadership Team Member



Christina Rivera

The Board of Trustees of TJMC is pleased to introduce Christina ("Chris") Rivera to the Congregation, as our new Director of Administration And Finance (DAF). Ms. Rivera begins her new position on April 20th. She will work closely and collaboratively with Rev. Erik Wikstrom and Leia Durland-Jones, the Director of Faith Development (DFD). The DAF position is designed as a part-time (30 hours per week) job that encompasses many managerial, supervisory, administrative and financial duties that help keep TJMC running smoothly. Chris is well-positioned to

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@uucharlottesville.org

UUCF is a welcoming place to explore your spirituality within a liberal Christian context. Gatherings may include, music, sermons, discussion, readings from the Bible, meditation, movement, sharing of joys and sorrows, food and drink, and they always include compassionate fellowship. All are welcome!

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



Small Trees

Sara Gondwe

Sara Gondwe wants her art to be inspiring and a delight to the eye of the viewers. Mixed media using melted crayons and fabric paint is a new genre to the art world.

Shaved crayons on a 2' x 3' canvas and ironed to melt, combine and shape the colors

be a fully participating member of the senior staff Triune, comprised of the Lead Minister, DFD and DAF.

Ms. Rivera comes to us from the UU Fellowship of Waynesboro (UUFW), in Waynesboro, Virginia. She has served as the part-time Director of Religious Education there since 2012, managing all aspects of the growing Waynesboro RE program. She has held a wide range of volunteer positions at UUFW, including Vice President of the Congregation, and as Chair of the RE Task Force, RE Committee, and Social Action Committee.

[Read more](#)

Thank You From the Board for a Successful aUuction!

By Ann Salamini



The Board expresses its wholehearted appreciation and gratitude for the masterful coordination and execution of this year's Spring Auction. Our service auctions have been a mainstay of TJMC's fundraising landscape for so many years.

The list of individuals deserving thanks is long. Janine Jakim, Jennifer McCutcheon and Lynn Heath provided the organizational backbone, communications skills and computer acumen. Carole Black created many basket collections. Jean and Kip Newland provided many photos of items for the catalog. Trudy Rohm pitched in when needed. Elizabeth Breeden, Don Landis, Wendy Repass and RevWik helped make the memorable evening event run smoothly.

And then there are the ranks of unidentified helpers: makers of finger food, contributors of dinners and events, bidders. It takes a village....

[Read more](#)

Exciting Facilities News!

By The Facilities Team

After busy paddling beneath the surface over a long time period and countless working gatherings, your facilities team has much to show beyond our gray hairs for the years invested in determining and planning for future

into a design. No brush strokes are used. The side of the iron becomes the brush. Bright colors, along with a 3-D effect, culminate in a work of art.

For Gondwe, art is an experiment in color and design in a joyful process of discovery. Imagination and a willingness to experiment freely with brilliant coloring, sometimes outlining with metallic paint, result in colorful, cheery paintings. Gondwe's love of trees and nature are evident in her work.

May Social Action Collection

By Sharon Utz

Blue Ridge Abortion Assistance Fund (BRAAF)

During the 1990's, several women from TJMC-UU saw that low-income women in the Charlottesville area did not have the option of choosing abortion even though this essential health service was available to women with adequate income. Because of their strong belief in social justice and UUA Principles such as "the right of conscience" and "justice, equity and compassion in human relations", the women from TJMC established an Abortion Assistance Fund. A few years later, responsibility for the fund was assumed by the local chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW).

In recent years, the fund was named the Blue Ridge Abortion Assistance Fund (BRAAF), now a non-profit service, and administered entirely by local volunteers.

needs, assessing possibilities to pay for the top priorities, implementing the process and proceedings for the sale of U-House, prioritizing and budgeting for allocation of proceeds of the sale to our greatest needs, and oh so many steps in the process of putting all of those findings into action.

Once we had the realities before us... both what we needed from our facilities (and to some degree, wanted as a congregation) and what funds we had as proceeds from the sale, our path was clearly delineated.

[Read more](#)

Two Congregational Meetings in May

By Sally Taylor

We will be holding two Congregational Meetings during May, 2015. The first one will take place in the Sanctuary on May 10, 2015 after the second service. The main order of business will be the request by Alexandra McGee, our Ministry Associate, for the TJMCUU congregation to ordain her on June 14, 2015. She has met the requirements of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee and been granted Preliminary Fellowship, but in our denomination it is the congregations which exclusively hold the power to ordain ministers.

Because we have been Alex's home congregation for many years, it is fitting that we be the ones who celebrate with her as she becomes the Reverend Alexandra McGee. Of course the vote on ordaining Alex is not the only item on the agenda. We will also approve the minutes from our last congregational meeting in November and have a report from the treasurer on the status of this year's finances. We will hopefully vote to confirm the board appointments to congregation elected positions in both the Personnel and Leadership Development Committees that have been made since our last congregational meeting. It should be a short and joyous meeting.

The second Congregational Meeting will be held in the sanctuary on May 31, 2015 after the single service.

[Read more](#)

Treasurer's Update

[Read more](#)

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"Faith is not an
abstraction but a way
of living."

~Palfrey Perkins

By Jamie McReynolds

Summary

Three quarters of the way through our church year, we have revenues of \$390,728 and expenses of \$374,818 for a surplus of \$15,910. Our revenues are on target at 74% or almost three-quarters of the full-year budget. Expenses are 71% of our full-year budget.

FY16 Budget

The Finance Committee and the Board of Trustees have been hard at work on next year's budget. Our current draft budget totals \$527,450, slightly lower than last year's budget of \$532,764. This budget will be presented to the congregation for approval at the May 31st congregational meeting.

We had a successful pledge drive, raising \$419,000. Last year's pledge drive raised \$430,000, including \$27,000 of matching fund pledges. Excluding those one-time matching fund pledges, our current pledge drive total is \$16,000 ahead of last year, but still \$11,000 behind last year. We will be concentrating our efforts on a matching fund pledge drive, additional fundraising and building rentals to make up the difference.

[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.

