



QUERIES by Rev. Dick Tucker (Rescheduled from last Sunday!)

Sunday, January 31st 9:30 & 11:00am *Coffee time between services.*

A “query” can be a question we ask ourselves that can help us discover some of the patterns and values by which we live. A query can, if we’re willing to explore it, help motivate us to find ways to make changes, to come to grips with patterns that don’t really work well for us. We will look at some queries that some people have found helpful.

WAY OVER QUORUM TRADITION CONTINUES!

A giant thank you to 8 Absentee Members and to 60 Members who attended our special meeting to elect our Settled Minister Search Task Force.

Susan Slocum, Secretary of the Board

OUR CALENDARS — Below are events that are **not** Team or Committee meetings. Access the **complete** calendar of events [HERE](#).

NEXT WEEK at UUTC

- Mindfulness** – Mon 2/1 @ 7:00pm
- Morning Meditation** — Tues 2/2 @ 7:00am
- Men’s Group** – Tue 2/2 @ 9:00am
- Dream Group** – Tue 2/2 @ 2:30pm
- SMART Recovery** – Tue 2/2 @ 6:00pm
- Eclectics Jam** — Wed 2/3 @ 9:30am
- Being Group** — Wed 2/3 @ 1:00pm
- Morning Meditation**—Thurs 2/4 @ 7:00am
- Women’s Potluck** — Thurs 2/4 @ 6:15pm
- Drum Circle** — Thurs 2/4 @ 7:00pm
- Knitting Circle** — Fri 2/5 @ 10:30am

**COURAGE IS
THE POWER TO
LET GO OF THE
FAMILIAR.**
- RAYMOND LINDQUIST

UPCOMING EVENTS

In the event of bad weather or other reason to cancel services, the highest ranking Board member available will make the decision and utilize the following notification resources:

WLOS TV • WSQL 1240AM Radio • Email blast and selected automated phone tree

Members of scheduled small groups are advised to check with their leaders in the event of bad weather. Persons intending to visit the Minister or Administrator during office hours should first contact the church office at 828-877-6121 to determine whether the office is or will remain open.

SOUPER SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 7TH, AFTER THE SINGLE 10:30 SERVICE AND Q&A

SOUPER SUNDAY is a chance to connect with members, friends and visitors. We'll provide some yummy soup for a cold winter's day. Bring bread, fruit, veggies, crackers, chips, dip or other **finger foods** to share. BYOB. Be green and bring your own cup, bowl, napkin, and utensils. We appreciate donations to help



offset the cost of the soup! This is an intergenerational event so there is no childcare. **PLEASE CALL CAROL MOORE— 862-6447** so that we know to expect you on Sunday!

GAME NIGHT! • FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH, 5:30PM

UUTC's next game night is Friday the 19th! Sandwiches, tea or water, and childcare will be provided. Feel free to bring something to share or the beverage of your choice! Just a time to have some fun and get to know each other better. Have a favorite game? Bring that, too! Please sign up at the front counter to help us know how many sandwiches to have on hand.



If you (or your child) has food allergies, please bring something you know is safe to eat. When you register, if you are bringing a child, please be sure to include them in your reservations.

Mexican Train? Farkle? Rummikub? Scrabble? Apples to Apples? Lots of options to enjoy! Come join us!

SOCIAL ACTION TEAM NEWS

SOCIAL OUTREACH FOR JANUARY—THE HAVEN

The Haven is a short-term emergency shelter for homeless families and individuals. The first goal of The Haven is to provide a safe, secure and warm place to rest. The second goal is to work with other local agencies to assist its residents in developing the skills and resources to move into independent living in affordable housing.



The Haven now has two units, an 18-bed building for adult men and women, and a five-bedroom, four-bath house which opened in 2014 to serve families with children. *The family house has been filled to capacity since its opening.*

Your gift this month will enable The Haven to continue to serve the poorest of the poor in Transylvania County - individuals and families with children who have no home or bed in which to sleep. If you would like to help in a more personal way, please consider being a volunteer or assisting with food and supply needs. More information is available at the display table for The Haven in our foyer.

ACCORDING TO OUR FIRST POLL OF UUTCers, THE BEST BURGERS IN BREVARD ARE TO BE FOUND AT FALLS LANDING AND THE PHOENIX.

Check out our latest Member Poll on the [website!](#)

SOCIAL ACTION OPPORTUNITIES

Sharing House is seeking assistance from the community in helping to pay for heating for needy residents of the county. [Donations may be sent to Sharing House, PO Box 958, Brevard, NC 28712 with the phrase "Power UP!" in the memo line.](#)

Also, January is a month with FIVE Sundays, so **we will be collecting food for Sharing House at the end of the month.** [There is a great need, also, for non-food items such as Kleenex, diapers \(sizes 5 & 6\), laundry detergent, tampons \(super\), toilet paper, and paper towels. These items cannot be purchased with food stamps.](#) Baskets will be available in the lobby for your donations on January 24 and 31. Please take with you a list of most needed items from the basket on the counter.

SELF-ASSESSMENT: TOOLS FROM THE UUA

One of the instruments completed by your Board annually for the UUA is a Congregational Count Questionnaire. It is designed to help us measure our involvement beyond our walls, to determine whether we are missing out on resources that might encourage our spiritual growth and whether this growth is purposeful. Answers selected by the Board from the available choices are in blue.

1. Does your congregation have a clearly defined mission or purpose statement? (Yes/No)
2. Does your congregation have a Safe Congregation policy? (Yes/No*) ***in progress**
3. Have you collaborated with another congregation in your area or cluster on any of the following?
Informal conversation or support / shared project or program / community event / shared staffing
4. Have you participated in interfaith or non-UU coalitions or partnerships in the past year? (Yes/No)
5. Has your congregation participated in UU international programs this year, or did you collaborate with any of these offices? ***financial support only**
UUA International / UU United Nations / UU Holdeen India / UU College of Social Justice / **UUSC***
UU Partner Church Council / International Council of UUs / Intern. Assoc. of Religious Freedom
6. Has your congregation engaged in a multicultural learning program? (Yes/No)
7. Which of the following have you used for faith development or religious education?
Tapestry of Faith curricula / Our Whole Lives programs / Blogs / Theme-Based ministry resources / Small group ministry guides
8. Which of the following approaches have you used for your worship services?
More than one regular weekly service / Utilizing materials from WorshipWeb / Monthly Themes / Experimenting with different styles of music / Multimedia slides, images, videos, etc. / All Ages Services (periodically)
9. Has your congregation publicly acted in support of a community justice issue in the past year (since July of 2014)? (Yes/No) *gay marriage
10. If so, have you used Standing on the Side of Love resources to do so? (Yes/No/ NA) banner
11. What services, resources or programs from UUA has your congregation used in the past year?
UUA Bookstore / Online webinars / Regional or District training or workshops / Conversation or consultation with a UUA staff member / Leadership development or church mgmt. resources /

Self-Assessment, Continued

Stewardship or fundraising resources / [Communications, website or social media resources](#) / [UUA blogs & social media](#) / [UUA email lists](#)

12. Which of the following outreach or growth strategies have you used?

[Website upgrades](#) / [Social media engagement](#) / [Community outreach events](#) / [Advertising or direct mail](#) / [Improving visitor experience](#) / [Other](#) (write in)

13. What is the most interesting, creative or innovative project your congregation is currently working on? [Interim Ministry](#)

Of note: many of the questions ask “does your congregation”—meaning that the focus here is on organized, church-wide initiatives, not individual member involvement.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH: “FIT TO BE TIED,” by Ann Marie Alderman, will be a SINGLE SERVICE, BEGINNING AT 10:30AM. A Q & A session comes after, followed by Souper Sunday.

SOCIAL ACTION REQUESTS YOUR FEEDBACK

Dear UUTC People:

The Social Action Team presents to you a different social justice agency each month (in addition to the Minister's Discretionary Fund and UUSC: Unitarian Universalist Service Committee) and asks you to consider supporting it. These organizations are chosen by you in the spring from a larger list of agencies. As always, your support is an opportunity, not an obligation.

We are asking you two questions:

- Do you have any comments on this current system? Are there any changes you would like to see?
- Do you know of any agency for which you would like to see support which we haven't put on our questionnaire?

If you have comments or suggestions, please contact Sue Null at 877-2550 or suenu@rice.edu **no later than Feb. 9** or come to the next Social Action meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 9, 1:00, at UUTC.



ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

GMAC—THE BRIDGE BETWEEN GOVERNANCE AND MINISTRY

The Government and Ministry Advisory Council (GMAC) has met a couple of times, now. This is the group in the center of our new Organizational Structure, with members chosen jointly by the Board and Ministry. The role of this group is to pay attention to the congregation and guide the Board and the Minister in the our life together. If you have concerns, conflicts, or questions about anything pertaining to our Beloved Community, **let this Council know**. They will either resolve things or will know how to funnel issues in the right direction. Contact them by emailing gmac@uutc.org.

Brigid Fox • Leslie Keir • Jim Null • Jean Rowe • Christine Schmidt

A PLAN FOR SHARED LEADERSHIP • SHARING FIRE

Right now, members of our Teams and Committees are completing follow-up documents given them by the Administration Committee that describe the current state of membership and leadership of these groups. When the Board adopted our new organizational structure in 2014, it was adopting a model of shared leadership—knowing full well that as the founding and earliest members of UUTC left their leadership roles on teams/committees, there was the potential for a vacuum of leadership. A part of the plan adopted by the Board was a rotation schedule to be followed for every Team, Committee and elected leadership position.



It is very common in organizations for a person with a well-matched skill set to get “stuck” with a leadership role in a working team for many years. The disadvantage to this practice is that leadership is an acquired skill—you learn it through practice.

Our current structure, at the Board level, allows up to 3 years of service by the Treasurer, 2 years by the Secretary, and one year of service by the President. The new model requires a “president-elect” to have a year of practice before taking the reins as president. In addition, your Board has three “At Large” members, who can serve up to three years. Our current President, Peg Hall, began her board service as an “At Large” member, then was voted President-Elect, and is now serving as President.

Adoption of this structure forces new blood into the system. When the same people are in leadership

Sharing Fire, continued...

roles for years, *it means that others never develop the “investment” that these leaders do.* Hence the organizational requirement to share that leadership—and build a stronger UUTC.

“Leadership is like sharing fire. ...People follow, indeed, because leaders have sparked something in them — because the leaders have shared their own fire, passion, and unique outlook. ... That’s why leadership is like sharing fire, and why sharing fire can completely change an organization. Someone lights a fire in themselves and suddenly someone else catches a spark of that fire and lights their own with it. Next thing you know, your organization is ablaze with good ideas.”

Maybe you currently don’t serve on a Team or Committee. If you don’t, please consider serving in this way. Every individual here has valuable insight and ideas that could be enriching the UUTC experience for the benefit of us all. Most Teams and Committees meet only once a month.

If you need advice on where you might “fit,” speak to the Membership Team—this dynamic group works to help everyone find their “best place” inside our Beloved Community. Come to Souper Sunday fellowship after the service on February 7th and talk about your passions with these wonderful people.



TEAMS IN NEED OF MEMBERS OR LEADERSHIP BASED ON SCHEDULE :

BUILDING TEAM • FELLOWSHIP (FORMERLY SOCIAL)

MUSIC • SOCIAL ACTION • WORSHIP

COMMITTEES IN NEED OF MEMBERS OR LEADERSHIP BASED ON SCHEDULE:

ADMINISTRATION • FINANCE • PROPERTY

**MARK THE TIME— SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH
SINGLE SERVICE AT 10:30AM — “FIT TO BE TIED”
FOLLOWED BY Q & A and SOUPER SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP**

MORE GOOD STUFF

UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY • JUNE 22-26, COLUMBUS, OHIO



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The theme for GA 2016 will be [Heart Land: Where Faiths Connect](#). The faith world is increasingly multifaith. People are crossing borders of religion and spiritual practice to create wholeness in their lives individually and collectively. The labels—Christian, Jew, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, theist and non-theist—no longer define who or what we love, or how spirit moves in our lives. General Assembly 2016 in Columbus Ohio will assemble leaders and communities of many faiths to worship together, learn from one another, and create a new vision of faith that no longer divides us, but connects us to an interdependent future that works for all. Keep up with GA events [here](#). This year, congregational delegates at GA will be voting on a new UUA President. Learn more about two early candidates [here](#).

*** A NOTE ABOUT OUR ALARM SYSTEM ***

Our alarm system has developed a ground fault, causing it to beep a system alert at inopportune times. If the system alert goes off while you are in the building, go to the red panel in the maintenance room, press **ACK** (Acknowledge) and then **ALARM SILENCE**. Thank you!

FORMERLY KNOWN AS CHRISTIANS IN EXILE

The group of 20 or so formerly known as Christians in Exile is resuming after a January break. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays, 3:30 to 5 p.m. We welcome everyone to attend our discussions. Our purpose is to explore religious ideas to the end that we grow our hearts and minds and souls. We have been co-led by Earle Rabb and Jean Rowe and Dave Hunter.

A new name for our group is under consideration. We have explored progressive Christianity, its relation to Unitarian Universalism, and recently studied how to be more compassionate people, using books by ex-Catholic nun Karen Armstrong and Thupten Jinpa, a Buddhist.

For February 8 and 22, Earle Rabb will lead us in two sessions: "How a Jewish peasant became the Son of God." Or, "The convoluted story of the process by which Jesus came to be regarded as the Son of God". And then we'll consider our next study and what our new name will be.

To be on our mailing list (or removed from it), contact Jean Rowe at uurevjeanr@aol.com

AAUW YELLOW BOX SIGHTING!

It's time to check your home libraries and see what you can clean out and donate to the AAUW Book Sale! We ask this every year at this time, and always have gotten generous giving of good books from UU members and guests. All proceeds fund college scholarships for women to local colleges. If you have too many books to bring to church, please call Penny and Terry Davies, 966-9393, or bring them to 136 West French Broad.

Thanks in advance for sharing your book treasures. The Yellow Box awaits!

THE PAIN OF CHANGE

“All institutions resist change— communities of faith resist it for a special reason: almost anything they do regularly quickly becomes part of somebody’s religion. The oddest things turn sacred—furniture and flower arrangements, calendars of fundraising events, organization charts. People cling to such symbolic objects, not because they love them, but because they love the congregation and the good they have experienced from its influence, and worry that if surface symbols change too much, they might lose the reality beneath.” [Read the full column here.](#)

—Dan Hotchkiss, Alban Institute

Hotchkiss’s text *Governance and Ministry* was used as the primary resource by the Administration Committee in crafting the new structure of governance for UUTC that was later adopted by the Board.

*Peace cannot be kept by force;
it can only be achieved by understanding.*

Albert Einstein





"We are the certain and the seeking, the lifers and the newcomers, the beloved and the brokenhearted, the insiders and the rejected, all of whom have found a home in the extraordinary, yet intimate, communities of Unitarian Universalism."

Melissa Harris-Perry, MSNBC Host

Our mission is to create a community that encourages free spiritual discovery and growth, celebrates personal and religious diversity, and promotes active, responsible involvement in the larger community.

Inclusive. Intentional. INVOLVED.



Read the latest UUA Southern Region Newsletter [HERE!](#)



SOUTHERN REGION

KEEP UP WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING!!!

VIEW our [church calendar](#). This is the calendar which has ALL events.

For previous issues of the UU Update, contact the office at admin@uutc.org.

SEND news for this newsletter by 10:00am on Wednesdays.

CONTACT US

Our Minister is the Rev. Dr. Paula R. Gable. To reach her out of the office, call **828-553-9410**.

Church office hours are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. until noon and by appointment. The church telephone number is **828-877-6121**. Our mailing address is UUTC, PO Box 918, Brevard, NC 28712. Our website is www.uutc.org. Our church is located at 24 Varsity Street, at the corner of South Broad Street in Brevard. Our email address is admin@uutc.org.