



UU UPDATE

JANUARY 15TH, 2016

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS OF TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY

A WELCOMING CONGREGATION

I HAVE A DREAM—REVISITED by Rev. Dr. Paula Gable

Sunday, January 17th 9:30 & 11:00am *Coffee time between services.*

"Without a vision, the people perish." Proverbs 29:18a. What was UUTC's dream when the congregation was founded? Has it been realized? What is the vision for the future? As both the MLK national holiday (1/18/16) and the UUTC Visioning Retreat (January 30) approach, we will explore the role of vision in the life of an individual, a family, an institution, nation, or international movement -- and its power to shape the future. What's your vision for yourself and UUTC?

*"Aim with your heart...
Adjust your mind...
Be honest in your endeavors."*

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

WHY UUTC IS HOME

As I approached retirement from ministry in a UU church, I hoped I would find a true community, a beloved community, where Lackey and I would feel at home, cared about, and where there would be encouragement to continued spiritual growth and learning. And for me, it was important that I be a *member* of the community, accepted as *just me*. UUTC has been just that kind of beloved community. I feel valued and cared for. And both of us feel challenged and encouraged to learn, grow, change, stretch, and give and serve-- in other words, to be young at heart. —Jean Rowe

NEXT WEEK at UUTC

Congregational Mtg — Sun 1/17 @ noon

Mindfulness – Mon 1/18 @ 7:00pm

Morning Meditation — Tues 1/19 @ 7:00am

Men's Group – Tue 1/19 @ 9:00am

Dream Group – Tue 1/19 @ 2:30pm

SMART Recovery – Tue 1/19 @ 6:00pm

Eclectics Jam — Wed 1/20 @ 9:30am

Being Group — Wed 1/20 @ 1:00pm

Morning Meditation—Thurs 1/21 @ 7:00am

Women's Potluck — Thurs 1/21 @ 6:15pm

Knitting Circle — Fri 1/22 @ 10:30am

UPCOMING EVENTS

GAME NIGHT! • TONIGHT, JANUARY 15TH, 5:30PM

UUTC's game night for January is next week! 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!



PHOTO SHOOT FOR THE DIRECTORY—

TOMORROW, JANUARY 16TH

If you signed up for a new picture, Tomorrow is the Day! See you at your scheduled time!

WNC REFUGEE CHALLENGE • WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27TH, 7:00PM, UUTC

There will be a meeting on Wednesday, January 27 at 7 pm to discuss possible responses to the loud calls to close America's doors to refugees fleeing terrorism in their own countries. This meeting will be hosted by Joanna Bliss, Jim Null and Annette Campbell. If you share our conviction that we Americans have a moral obligation to stand with the citizens in Europe, the Middle East, and other parts of the world in responding to the needs of the tens of millions of people now displaced, we want to bring you, and others you may wish to invite, to participate in an evening of conversations to examine the challenges and elicit your ideas about how to meet them.

The meeting will begin with a short (20 minute) overview of the information we have gathered so far. We will then ask for your input on what you perceive as the most pressing steps we must take. We will break up into smaller groups to discuss how to meet these challenges in more detail, and you may join the group of most interest to you. At the end of the evening, we will share the action points developed by the small groups. To help us plan, please RSVP at our website <http://wncrefugeechallenge.org/contact-rsvp> or (828) 384-1544 to let us know you will be coming and if you will be bringing guests.

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.

UUTC Members and Friends were very active in the establishment of The Haven, and based on the State of the Young Child [report](#) from Transylvania County, the need is greater than ever. Please view the Summary Report at the link if you have not already done so.

CHALICE LIGHTERS • FUNDING A FULL-TIME MINISTER

Chalice Lighter Call #164 will benefit the UU Congregation of Hillsborough, NC.

UUCH is at a crossroad in its journey of growth. Having benefitted over the past five years from steady part-time ministry, UUCH has been successful in attracting new members through their local community outreach efforts and social justice works. The congregation has transitioned from a family-sized congregation to a pastoral-sized one with growth in members and religious education enrollment. Your generous Chalice Lighter donation will help UUCH realize its dream of full-time ministry.

The Chalice Lighter program encourages and supports growth of Unitarian Universalism by awarding grants to member congregations and clusters. Grants are awarded for both traditional and innovative growth projects.

*This call ends on **January 31, 2016.** [Visit the Chalice Lighter website](#) to make a donation today.*



A CONGREGATIONAL COVENANT — PATHWAY TO A MORE JUST COMMUNITY

This Covenant is on our website under “Inside UUTC” anytime you would like to refer to it.

Our Congregational Covenant gives us some specific ways to help us live our principles, a written document developed, agreed to, and owned by us, its creators. It is deeper and more significant than social politeness. It is not a set of rules but speaks instead of "holy manners"-- the manners of a faith community. It provides one pathway to spiritual growth, leads us to engage with one another openly, honestly, and respectfully, and helps to strengthen our UUTC community.

A Congregational Covenant:

- is the means by which we live our UU principles;
- enables us to disagree in a climate of mutual trust and respect;

Within this climate:

- conflict becomes a means of positive growth, not destruction;
- all are comfortable voicing their thoughts;
- all are heard with respect;
- people talk to each other, not about each other;
- Conflict centers on ideas, not personal attack.

During this time of transition, be mindful that stress may cause us to sometimes step over or around our covenantal promises. Be kind and ask questions. All may not be as it seems.

UUTC Congregational Covenant



- As a member of UUTC, I will strive to:
- Take responsibility for my statements and actions;
- Speak only for myself, not for someone else, unless so directed by that person or group;
- Respectfully speak up when I am uncomfortable with a statement or pending decision;
- Listen intently and respectfully when another is speaking;
- Respectfully consider the ideas and opinions of those who disagree with me;
- Attempt to be a non-anxious presence. I will try to listen and respond objectively.
- When I feel tension or negative emotions rising within myself, I will step back, take a deep breath, and try to regain control before I speak;
- Always try to assume the best intentions of another's words or actions;
- Always be aware of the pitfalls of triangulation. When a problem arises between another group member and me, I will endeavor to speak directly and privately with that person. If that is impossible, I will enlist the help of a neutral third person to mediate between us;
- Respect the confidentiality of group discussions on sensitive topics;
- Share pertinent, non-confidential information with the whole group as that information becomes available;
- Follow through in a timely manner on tasks and responsibilities and promptly notify those depending on me when I am unable to do so;
- Support group decisions once they become final.

TRANSITIONAL ACTIVITY

VALUES, VISION, MISSION • JANUARY 30TH, 9:00-3:00, LUNCH ON SITE

As UUTC plans to select a new settled minister, it is important to know what we want to be and do in the future, so we can search for a minister that is a “good fit” for us. Therefore, it’s important to have a sense of purpose (mission) as well as how we’d like to “look” and “feel,” say, five years from now. Depending on our dreams (vision), we’ll need a minister with specific skills to help lead us to accomplish our goals. Knowing what we want makes it easier to find the right minister.

Marguerite Mills, an expert in visioning, will lead us through a process to discern our **Mission** (purpose / raison de etre) and **Vision** (hopes and dreams / highest aspirations). Both mission and vision are shaped by our **VALUES**. Once we articulate our values, the “reason for being” (mission) and the dreams (vision) that grow out of this become clearer. Then, we can start planning for the future.

Please **RSVP** by signing up at the front desk, or [email the office](#).



JOYS & SORROWS RETURNS TO FORMER FORMAT

You spoke. We listened. Due to the overwhelming response regarding the Joys and Sorrows portion of our services, the Worship Team has retired the Journal of Joys and Sorrows. Effective immediately, the order of service will include an opportunity for members and guests to voice their joys and sorrows during the service. The Worship Team appreciates the many members and friends who offered constructive comments during this trial period. — Joanna, John, Alice & Gary

CONFLICT, CHANGE & COMMUNITY • GREENVILLE, SC • JANUARY 23RD

Unitarian Universalism is a covenantal not a creedal faith. Without the trust that is the foundation of covenant, congregations often fall into destructive rather than creative conflict. Over time, patterns develop that keep the community from achieving its dreams. How might the creation and practice of covenant help congregations go deeper into what it means to be Unitarian Universalists? How might we use covenant to call ourselves and others back into right relationship? How might this help to grow beloved community?

This day-long workshop will be led by Connie Goodbread. Please see the flyers on the front counter!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING • JANUARY 17TH

As has been announced, we will be holding a Congregational meeting immediately following the second service on January 17th to elect the **Search Task Force for a settled minister**. Several weeks ago, the Board invited you to submit your own name or someone else's for this important work. We narrowed that list based on gender balance, an age range, UU experience, dedication to UUTC, computer skills, and a group we think will work well together—and selected the slate below. We will be inviting nominations from the floor.

**Lauren Agrella-Sevilla • Joanna Bliss • Ben Browning • Bruce Kirkman
Earle Rabb • Betty Kendrick**

A Quorum of Membership (at least 47 members) is required on the premises in order for a vote to be taken, per our bylaws. Please plan to attend!

ABSENTEE BALLOT • FOR UUTC MEMBERS ONLY UUTC CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, JANUARY 17TH

Proposed Slate for Settled Ministerial Search Task Force:

Lauren Agrella-Sevilla

Joanna Bliss

Ben Browning

Bruce Kirkman

Earle Rabb

Betty Kendrick

_____ **Vote FOR above slate**

_____ **Vote AGAINST above slate**

Completed absentee ballots must be in the possession of the Board Secretary at the time this Congregational Meeting is called to order on January 17, 2016. This ballot may NOT be counted towards a quorum.

Member Name (print)

Member Signature

Date Signed: _____

TRANSITIONAL ACTIVITY

PERCEPTIONS AS VARIED AS THE MEMBERS OF UUTC— BUT LOADS OF CONSENSUS, TOO (MORE DETAIL TO COME!)



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 shown 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 • Dave Hunter • Leslie Keir
Jim Null • Jean Rowe • Christine Schmidt**

*“Aim with your heart...
Adjust your mind...
Be honest in your endeavors.”*



DID YOU KNOW?

In childcare facilities, the State of North Carolina requires a minimum of

25 square feet of usable space per child. Under those guidelines, we can accommodate only five children in our Nursery space. “Higher Voluntary Program Standards” would require 30 square feet per child.

UUTC TREASURER'S REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION

For the month of December, 2015

Dear Friends and Members,

The information presented below provides a snapshot of our fiscal standing as of the end of December and marks the halfway point of our fiscal year.

DECEMBER	Dec-15	Fiscal YTD 15	Dec-14	Fiscal YTD 14
Income	\$19,165.57	\$98,700.92	\$16,971.31	\$ 94,518.60
Expenses	\$20,270.25	\$109,923.56	\$15,155.45	\$ 79,509.55
NET	(\$1,104.68)	(\$11,222.64)	\$1,815.86	\$ 15,009.05
Unrestricted Cash on Hand		\$89,934.27		

We have received 49.8% of our projected income for the year, towards expenses of 55.4% of our budget. As noted above, we have a very healthy bank balance of almost

\$90,000, much more than any previous year at this time.

Our endowment program, which is managed by the UUA Endowment Fund, has reached a balance exceeding \$40,000. **We have seen this balance increase in the 2015 calendar year by an amazing 240%!** Thank you to all those making lasting gifts to our endowment fund.

We have added a new way to donate to the UUTC general operating fund this year by partnering with **iDonate**, a non-profit service provider that makes donating non-cash items – cars, boats, electronics, jewelry and other items of value – secure and easy; and Amazon Smile, a program where Amazon donates a percentage of your purchase total to us at no cost to you. More details are available on the UUTC website [here](#). [iDonate](#) provides a way to get rid of some of the stuff cluttering our lives, [Amazon Smile](#) gives us a way to get new stuff, and both options benefit UUTC!

I would take this opportunity to remind everyone that fulfilling pledge obligations through Vanco is easy and convenient to setup by debiting your bank account or charging to a credit card [and collecting points!]. You may set up or change a pledge at [this link](#).

Respectfully,

Dave Roberts

treasurer@uutc.org

Fiscal Year-to-Date Expenditures
2015-16



Where Our \$\$ Go - December 2015





"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.