

# UUTC UPDATE

JULY 28th, 2017



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS OF PENNSYLVANIA COUNTY

A WELCOMING CONGREGATION

## THE JOURNEY TO COMMUNION: A ROAD WELL TRAVELED

by Rev. Phillip Thomason

Sunday, July 30th at **9:15am** and **11:00am**

My hope is to help us understand more clearly the road to communion with one another that we each must travel and how we might find peace and hope along a road that at times might be overwhelming and even frightening.

*Join us for coffee between services at 10:30am!*

Pastoral Care for the remainder of July will be provided by Rev. Earle Rabb. Please use the phone number on the last page of this newsletter to contact him.

One hearty laugh together  
will bring enemies into  
a closer communion of heart  
than hours spent on both sides  
in inward wrestling  
with the mental demon of  
uncharitable feeling.

—William James

## COMING UP at UUTC

**Heartfulness Meditation — Sun @ 4:30pm**

**Hogwarts Camp — July 31-Aug 4**

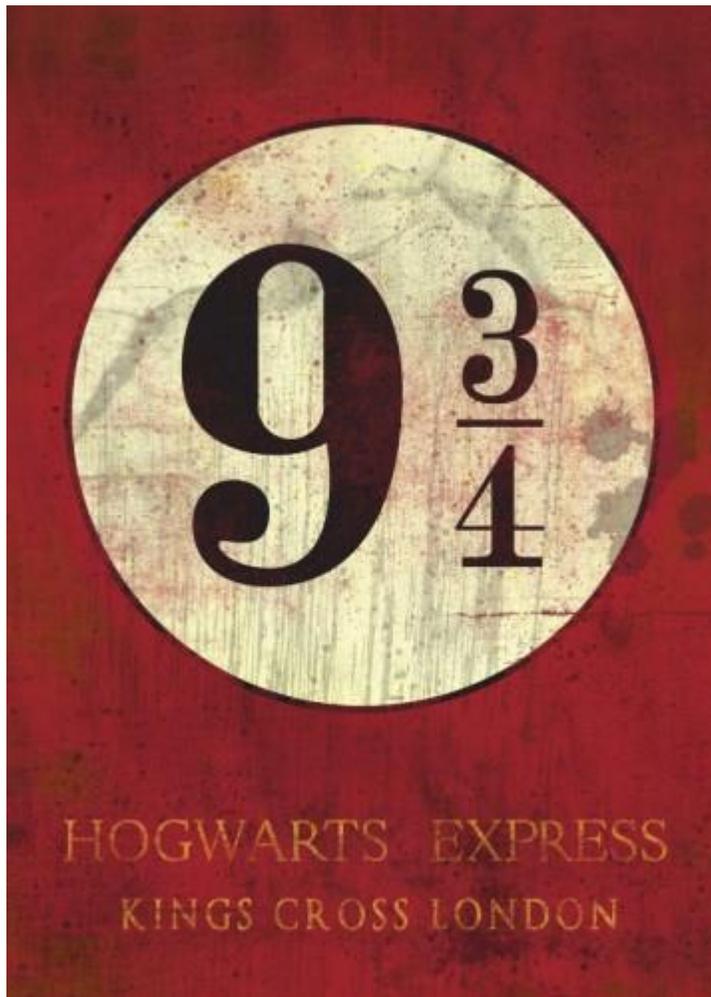
**ALL REGULAR MORNING ACTIVITIES  
ARE "ON VACATION" THIS WEEK  
DUE TO HOGWARTS CAMP.**

**Choir Rehearsal — Wed 8/2 @ 3:30pm**

**Team Mtg. Night — Wed 8/2 @ 5:00pm**

**SUULE — August 6-11**

**Pre-School Chalice Camp — Aug 8-10**



## UUTC, TRANSFORMED

Those of you familiar with the Harry Potter tales know that all wizarding students catch the train to Hogwarts at platform 9 3/4... which looks like just a blank wall to the rest of us Muggles.

This week, while Hogwarts Camp is going on, none of the regular morning activities will take place, as every room of the castle will be in use. Afternoon and evening activities are still on the calendar. Hogwarts Camp runs Monday through Friday.

The week of August 7th, Pre-school Chalice Camp will be on campus Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. This means that Men's Group and the Eclectics will be extending their summer vacation for an additional week. Enjoy your time off!

## CATCH A GAME!

We are rescheduling for Sunday July 30th. Game starts at 2:05. We will meet at church to carpool. All are welcome! [Contact Heather](#) to reserve a ticket. \$7 for adults, \$5 youth. Our seats are reserved for the shady part of the stadium!



## UUTC SANDWICH SUNDAY – NEXT WEEK!

**This is Rev Ilene's first Sandwich Sunday with us!** Let's show her how we picnic in the mountains. **All ages** are invited to gather around the UUTC picnic table after second service. (No childcare will be provided.)

**Please Bring:** A sandwich for yourself and your family members, a **finger food to share (chips, sliced veggies or fruit, bars, cookies, etc.)** and camp chairs or blanket. The Membership Team provides: Lemonade and water, napkins, plastic cups, plates, spare breads, and sandwich fillings.

Come prepared to picnic rain or shine! We will set up in the Social Hall if necessary. Questions: contact LaDonna Huffaker at [huffaklr@gmail.com](mailto:huffaklr@gmail.com) or call 828-577-1329.

## CHARITABLE GIVING FOR JULY: MINISTERIAL DISCRETIONARY FUND

### A Change in Execution

Starting this month, all Charitable Giving contributions will go into a separate fund prior to dispersal. **Therefore, checks should be written TO UUTC**, with the agency designation on the memo line.

This will allow your checks to clear almost immediately, making balancing your checkbook less of an issue. It also guarantees that you can deduct your contribution to the designated cause. UUTC will then write one check to the agency, or in this case, fund, and we will not have dozens of checks sitting around waiting for an agency to collect.

### Ministerial Discretionary Fund

In the past year, our minister has given funds to help purchase medications, pay for



overnight housing, assist with utility bills and a few other needs. Sometimes these gifts support those at UUTC, and sometimes they support others in the community. Your gifts this month will refill this reservoir for Rev. Ilene to use in ministering to the needs of our personal and connected community.

*This is an opportunity to give, not an obligation.*

## FIFTH SUNDAY COLLECTION

UUTC will be collecting food for Sharing House at the end of the month. Baskets will be available in the lobby for your donations on July 23 and 30. Please take with you a list of most needed items from the basket on the counter.

The non-food items most needed by Sharing House are diapers, (sizes 5 and 6), laundry detergent, tampons (super), toilet paper, and paper towels. These items cannot be purchased with food stamps.

## SING WITH THE CHOIR!

Have you ever thought about singing in the choir? Did you sing in a choir in an earlier life—either with your high school chorus or in another church? Are you looking for a way to more fully immerse yourself in Sunday mornings at UUTC?

Then come join our choir! We practice on Wednesday afternoons (usually 4-5:15pm) and sing usually two Sundays a month for our services. [Group singing has been scientifically proven to lower stress, relieve anxiety and elevate endorphins.](#)

We can always use a few more singers, especially — but not only— of the male variety. We also need more sopranos. The ability to read music is a plus but not a prerequisite.

[Contact John Austin](#) if you have any questions—he would love to hear from you!

## MEET BOBBY KING!



New UUTC member, Bobby King, grew up in Valdosta, GA. Prior to moving to Brevard in 2016, he resided in Atlanta for 42 years. Bobby and his wife of 30 years, Jackie Jenkins, decided to settle in Brevard because they liked the small-town feel, the mountains, and the wonderful people they had met on previous visits.

Prior to his retirement in 2008, Bobby spent most of his working years in the fields of education and refugee services. The last 25 years of his career, Bobby worked in refugee education and resettlement in the Atlanta area. He has done volunteer work for the Presbyterian Church in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and most recently, free-lance relief work in refugee camps in northern France and Serbia. He is presently involved in the western North Carolina sanctuary movement for immigrants.

Bobby and Jackie have two grown children – a daughter Ashlee, who lives in Atlanta, and a son Daniel, who resides in Salisbury, N.C. Jackie serves as the Childrens' Ministry Coordinator at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd here in Brevard.

Bobby has a real love of the outdoors and animals. He hikes, bikes, and runs road races. In addition, Bobby raises ring-necked doves, Bob White quail and is developing a wildlife habitat on his property outside of Brevard. He also has an interest in reptiles and provides a home for seven Eastern Box Turtles that could not be released into the wild because of injuries or other circumstances.

The warmth and openness of its members attracted Bobby to UUTC. He was particularly drawn to the congregation because of its involvement in the local community and in issues related to peace and justice.

*This biography is brought to you through the efforts of your Membership Team.*

## WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT TEAMS?

Team Meeting Night (TMN) is coming up next Wednesday on August 2nd. Teams do the “work of the church,” using their Operating Guidelines to set procedures that follow the Policies adopted by the Board with the guidance of the Board’s Committees. Each year, Teams are to review their Operating Guidelines alongside the latest version of our Policy Manual. For more information about our Teams, whether to review their Operating Guidelines or just to see who does what, go to our [Teams](#) page on the website. To see the current Policy Manual, go to the [Board's](#) page.

## TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 7/1/2016-6/30/2017

There have been many financial challenges this fiscal year. We saw Rev. Paula leave; we were shocked and dismayed by the sudden death of our chosen interim pastor, the Rev. Cynthia Louise Prescott; and we found our recent interim, the Rev. Ian White Maher. We have chosen a new settled minister who will be joining us in August, the Rev. Ilene Tompkins-Gillispie. Many thanks to the past two Boards of Trustees and the members of the Transitional Search Team for their hard work in managing those transitions and to the Settled Minister Search Task Force for finding Rev. Ilene for us.

We saw many improvements and some repairs to our main building, much of it financed through your donations to Sponsored Projects. And did I mention main building? We purchased not one, but three adjoining properties – something that had long been desired – rehabilitated two of them for occupancy and cleaned all the grounds. This was truly an amazing feat accomplished by volunteers from our congregation and generous donations from many people. Our first rental check came in last week!



Our accounting was becoming a bit complicated with all this activity, so we established separate funds for several fiscal areas to better manage and report on our financials. Anything to do with the new Varsity properties – construction, rental payments, utilities, etc. is now accounted for inside the

Varsity Fund. Sponsored Projects became such a hit that we instituted a fund to handle the donations and project payments, the Sponsored Projects Fund. We always had a separate fund for the Ministerial Discretionary Fund, and that remains untouched. Other funds were setup to handle donations for the Endowment account, Scholarships, and Charitable Giving (Social Action collections and payments to our monthly charities). The General Operating Fund is the big account whose budget members vote on every May, and on which the Treasurer reports monthly to the congregation. We owe many thanks to our bookkeeper, Sue Gervais, for unraveling the twisted skein of transactions and to members Joanna Bliss and Alison Marlett for lending their accounting expertise to the solution.

Despite all the activity and the big changes that happened this fiscal year, we managed to end the year quite well. Let me show you the numbers for the Operating Fund:

### **I. General Operating Fund: Revenue v. Expense**

Our total revenues designated for the General Operating Fund were \$228,486.26 for the fiscal year (not including monies received in advance for next year's pledges) versus expenses of \$244,987.28, giving a deficit of \$16,561.02. Expenditures exceeded the budgeted amount of \$234,900.00 by \$10,087.28 or 4.3%.

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| Revenue                      |                     | Expenses                |                     |
|------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| ID Contributions             | \$26,455.76         | Total Salary & Wages    | \$ 150,019.38       |
| Anonymous Cash               | \$10,077.68         | Total Administration    | \$ 21,829.00        |
| Trust Contributions          | \$8,400.00          | Total Utilities         | \$ 8,978.53         |
| Previous Year Pledge         | \$0.00              | Total Maintenance       | \$ 12,040.54        |
| Current Year Pledge          | \$168,976.58        |                         |                     |
| Next Year Pledge             | \$ (19,780.00)      | Total Mortgage          | \$ 10,293.96        |
| Stock contribution           | \$3,370.07          | Total Insurance         | \$ 3,495.00         |
| <b>Total Regular Revenue</b> | <b>\$217,280.09</b> | City of Brevard Loan    | \$ 5,325.00         |
|                              |                     |                         |                     |
| Music Donations              | \$300.00            | Total Programming       | \$ 5,705.21         |
| Amazon Smile                 | \$93.04             | Total UU Connections    | \$ 15,300.04        |
| UUTC Logo Merchandise        | \$346.78            | Total Member Services   | \$ 3,246.02         |
| iDonate                      | \$798.75            | Total Events            | \$ 5,214.60         |
| Arcadia Rebate               | \$30.00             | Total Professional Exp. | \$ 3,540.00         |
| Space Usage Donation         | \$1,152.10          |                         |                     |
| Chalice Camp Reg Fees        | \$630.00            |                         |                     |
| CRE Class Fees               | \$110.00            |                         |                     |
| Event Registration Income    | \$614.09            |                         |                     |
| Events - Game Night          | \$20.00             |                         |                     |
| Events - Wonderful Wedn.     | \$3,108.00          |                         |                     |
| Event Donations Revenue      | \$2,242.06          |                         |                     |
| Misc Revenue/Donations       | \$1,701.35          |                         |                     |
| <b>Total Other Revenue</b>   | <b>\$11,146.17</b>  |                         |                     |
|                              |                     |                         |                     |
| <b>Total Revenue</b>         | <b>\$228,426.26</b> | <b>Total Expenses</b>   | <b>\$244,987.28</b> |

The bylaws allow the Board of Trustees to exceed the approved budget by up to 10% without congregational approval.

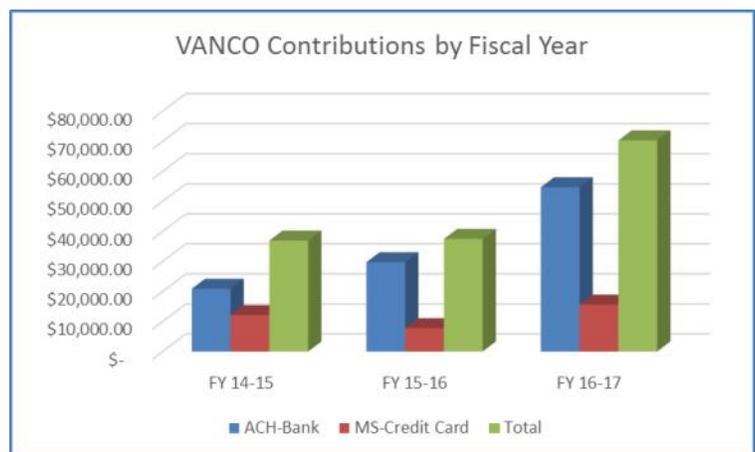
## VANCO Results

More and more of the congregation are using VANCO to manage their pledges and contributions to UUTC. Today, sixty-five congregants have active VANCO accounts.

And it pays off for UUTC in providing a regular monthly

income stream.

| VANCO          | FY 14-15            | FY 15-16            | FY 16-17            |
|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| ACH-Bank       | \$ 20,895.00        | \$ 29,709.00        | \$ 54,710.00        |
| MS-Credit Card | \$ 12,101.52        | \$ 7,758.39         | \$ 15,592.08        |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>\$ 36,929.35</b> | <b>\$ 37,467.39</b> | <b>\$ 70,302.08</b> |



## Pledge Income Performance

This past fiscal year we had received pledges of financial support from the congregation totaling \$193,033.30. We received pledge income of \$168,426.58, a

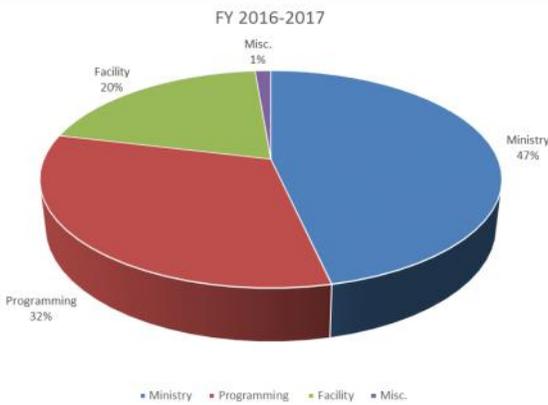
**shortfall of \$24,606.72.** This works out to pledges being only 87.25% completed. An additional \$24,000 would have gone a long way this past year in meeting our back-logged and emergency building maintenance!

For those who want to complete their pledge, please send in those funds with a notation they are to be applied to last year's records.

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## Expenditures As Program



| Where Our \$\$ Go  | Fiscal Year '15-'16 |       | Fiscal Year '16-'17 |       |
|--------------------|---------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|
| <b>Ministry</b>    | \$ 128,085.98       | 54%   | \$ 113,870.01       | 46%   |
| <b>Programming</b> | \$ 73,419.22        | 31%   | \$ 79,037.83        | 32%   |
| <b>Facility</b>    | \$ 33,548.26        | 14%   | \$ 48,853.03        | 20%   |
| <b>Misc.</b>       | \$ 2,862.28         | 1%    | \$ 3,226.41         | 1%    |
| <b>Grand Total</b> | \$ 237,915.74       | -100% | \$ 244,987.28       | -100% |

We saved some money this past year on Ministry expenses because Rev. Ian was only with us for eleven rather than twelve months. Facility spending was up because of the new mortgage for the Varsity properties and some big repair bills for our HVAC system and parking lot lights. The Board approved an HVAC maintenance contract to help prevent these problems in the future.

## Assets v. Liabilities

Total Assets are \$1,052,988.35 against Total Liabilities of \$424,772.67 for Net Assets of \$628,215.68

### Liabilities, itemized:

|                               |              |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Mortgage Balance:             | \$411,375.00 |
| City of Brevard Loan Balance: | \$ 10,650.00 |
| Line of Credit Balance:       | \$ 0.00      |
| Payroll Withholding & Misc.   | \$ 2,747.67  |

Unencumbered Cash on Hand, the money ready to pay bills sitting in the operating fund checking account, and Reserve Cash, money sitting in a saving account for "rainy day" expenditures, are strong indicators of a congregation's financial health.

At the end of the fiscal year we had \$41,885.36 cash on hand and a balance in reserve savings of \$40,136.37, for a total of **\$82,021.73 in cash**. This has been our second-strongest year since 2008.

## II. Other Funds

I earlier mentioned the establishment of additional funds separate from the General Operating Fund to manage donations to, income from, and expenses related to other areas of our UUTC operations not included in the Congregational Operating Budget voted on each May. These funds differ from the Operating Fund in that they do not close at the end of the fiscal year and start anew; they record continuously because they do not have a set budget, much like using your personal checkbook. Below are descriptions of those funds and their year-end balances.

### A. UUA Endowment Fund

The UUA Endowment Fund is supported exclusively by designated gifts to the Endowment Fund. These gifts are deposited in an investment fund operated by the UUA for the sole use of UUTC.

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Once the fund reaches a principal value of \$100,000.00, we may start using some of the interest for social justice and social action support. These monies cannot be used for operating support of UUTC, except under extreme conditions and specific circumstances authorized by the members of the congregation. **The current balance of the UUA Endowment Fund is \$44,955.94.**

### **B. Ministerial Discretionary Fund**

The Ministerial Discretionary Fund is supported exclusively by designated donations made during the month set aside for this purpose. The fund has its own checking account and a debit card associated with it. The monies in this account are used by the minister at the minister's discretion to support and aid people in our fellowship and our community. The minister makes an annual report of the general disposition of the funds without revealing the names of the recipients. Our bookkeeper, Sue Gervais, manages the accounting for this fund by transaction number rather than payee information to maintain the confidentiality between the minister and the person in need. Unusual amounts or patterns are monitored by the Treasurer and, if necessary, brought to the attention of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees. **At the end of the fiscal year this fund had a balance of \$1,413.77.**

### **C. Varsity Fund**

The Varsity Fund was established to separate from the General Operating Fund those transactions specifically related to the renovation, management and rental of the three properties we purchased earlier this year. The mortgage is handled in toto from the operating fund because of the way the bank structured the loan, but all other donations, rental income and expenses are managed within the Varsity Fund. The Varsity Fund has its own checking and savings account as well as a credit card account specifically used for purchases for those properties.

**The Varsity Fund had a combined balance of \$726.27 at the end of the fiscal year** [We received the first rental check for the Oxford House on July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017].

### **D. Sponsored Projects Fund**

The Sponsored Projects Fund grew out of the need of make certain improvements to the main property in the spring of 2016, which could not be supported by the operating fund. The plea for donations to support a list of authorized projects was enthusiastically received, much-needed upgrades and improvements were made, and so was born the Sponsored Projects Fund. The fund is supported totally through designated donations and provides better accounting of these donations and projects without comingling those donations and expenses in the operating fund. **As of June 30th, the Sponsored Projects fund had a balance of \$7,987.47,** a portion of which has been authorized for improvements to the building entry vestibule.

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### **E. Scholarship Fund**

The Scholarship Fund came into being because of a desire by certain members of the congregation to help fund the education of member youth and the children of employees in need of educational financial aid. The details of how this fund will be administered are still being worked out by the Board and its committees and will be published when completed.

The Scholarship Fund has an initial balance of \$500.00 and is totally supported through designated donations.

### **F. Charitable Giving Fund**

In fiscal year '15-'16 the UUTC congregation raised \$21,909.00 for local charities and social action needs through the monthly contributions program. In fiscal year '16-'17 that amount was \$22,670.00. Many thanks to those who gave so generously supporting our beliefs and our community.

There was a problem brewing with the way these donations were managed. To date, everyone made out their checks to the chosen monthly cause, and our bookkeeper would store them for the month until the charity picked up the checks and cash. We had thousands of dollars in donations sitting around for weeks, and you often had to wait up to six weeks for your checks to clear. Many congregants were disturbed by additional pleas for support throughout the year, as the charities had names and addresses to solicit from those checks.

The Board of Trustees approved a change in the way donations will be accepted from now on. Checks will be made payable to UUTC and the designated charity listed in the memo portion of your check. Deposits can then be promptly made you don't wait outrageous times for the check to clear; and UUTC doesn't have someone else's money sitting around to potentially be lost. The chosen charity will receive one check from UUTC encompassing everyone's donations. You don't get bothered by additional solicitations and UUTC is recognized for our combined charitable giving and our support of the local community.

This new procedure also benefits your tax accounting, as we will provide on your annual UUTC tax record an itemized listing of each social cause you supported. The Charitable Giving Fund ended the fiscal year with a balance of \$90.00.

***I hope that this information helps*** make clear our current financial picture and presents a good overview of the past fiscal year. We remain on sound financial ground and expect, with your continued support, to proceed confidently into the future.

Should anyone have a question, please contact me and I'll try to resolve the issue.

**Sincerely, Dave Roberts, UUTC Treasurer** [treasurer@uutc.org](mailto:treasurer@uutc.org)



## Inclusive. Intentional. INVOLVED.

*Our Mission, as a welcoming, inclusive community acting from love, compassion and respect is:*

*To support individual spiritual journeys and To promote social, economic and environmental justice.*

## KEEP UP WITH US ON FACEBOOK!

Like us on Facebook and keep up with events during the week—get early notification on sermons! Great posts from our Children's Religious Exploration program and more. Click the logo to be taken to the page!



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



## SOUTHERN REGION

## KEEP UP WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING!!!

VIEW our "insider" [church calendar](#). For previous issues of the UUTC Update, click [HERE](#).

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

## CONTACT US

Need Pastoral Care? While we await our settled minister, call (877) 510-5603 to reach the minister on call.

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](http://www.uutc.org). Our church is located at the corner of Varsity Street and South Broad Street in Brevard. Our email address is [admin@uutc.org](mailto:admin@uutc.org).