

# UUTC UPDATE

AUGUST 25th, 2017

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS OF PENNSYLVANIA COUNTY

A WELCOMING CONGREGATION

## BLESSINGS & BAGGAGE

by Rev. Ilene Kaur Tompkins-Gillispie

Sunday, August 27th at 9:15am and 11:00am

What are you carrying around? In this service, we will reflect together on the baggage we carry-- particularly relevant as we begin this new ministry together, and as we encounter the beginning of the school year and the changing of the seasons. People of all ages are invited to bring their bags-- school backpacks, hiking packs, purses, briefcases, tool bags, and farmer's market totes-- to be blessed in this special worship service. Rev. Ilene will preach a sermon in two parts-- half before, and half after the Blessing of the Bags. All are welcome, and remember to bring your bags!

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



PHOTOS BY  
KEVIN B. SMITH

these mountains  
that you are  
carrying, you were  
only supposed to  
climb.

Najwa Zebian

## COMING UP at UUTC

Heartfulness Meditation — Sun @ 4:30pm

Men's Group — Tues 8/29 @ 9:00am

Eclectics — Wed 8/30 @ 9:30am

Choir Rehearsal — Wed 8/30 @ 4:00pm



## HELP WANTED: MUST LOVE KIDS!

Katie JUST HAD a baby (Congratulations, Katie!) and two other nursery helpers are gone— we need a few new people to work with Luci and Trisha (and others) in providing nursery services! Besides Sundays, there are a couple of Wednesday evenings a month. If you show up to provide childcare and no children show you are compensated for an hour for your trouble.

Candidates will need to go through our background check process and (likely) take the First Aid and Safe Congregation trainings this fall. All commitments of time will be compensated. UUTC pays a living wage rate for all positions. Contact RK or Trisha—employment packets are available upon request. Applicants need not be UUTC affiliated. [Email the office](#) for more info!

## BRING YOUR BAGGAGE!

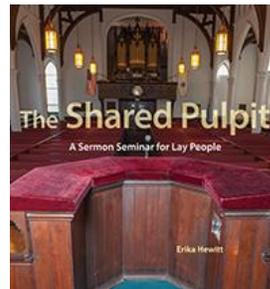
**THIS Sunday, the 27th**, we will have a Blessing of our Baggage! All students and campers are invited to bring their backpacks, all office workers their briefcases or other containers of burdens, all retirees their Farmer's Market, Ingles, or other daily tote.

Sometimes during the week we can get wrapped up in the daily trials, tribulations or politics, and its good to remember the love of your church family at such times. Blessings will be a visible reminder to carry with us that we have friends who wish us well and who love us.

It's a journey—but we're not alone.



## THE SHARED PULPIT



You might not consider yourself a preacher, but everyone has stories to share. In a new Adult Religious Exploration course being facilitated by

Carol Flake, you can explore Homiletics — the art of preaching or writing sermons.

If you would like to learn to craft thoughtful sermons anchored in your own experience, sign up for the one-hour informational meeting to be held on **Sunday, October 8th at 9:15am**. The course will be based on the book *The Shared Pulpit*, by Rev. Erika Hewitt.

Participants will NOT be required to give a sermon upon completion of the course, but growing this ability to express ourselves is one way to support our own spiritual journeys.



## CHARITABLE GIVING FOR JULY: AUGUSTINE LITERACY PROJECT: TUTOR TRAINING

Augustine Tutors receive 70 hours of training before they are assigned a student. The two-week training class includes a practicum during which the trainee evaluates a student, then teaches five consecutive Orton-Gillingham lessons (using Wilson materials) under the supervision of a master tutor. The course is taught by a team of experienced trainers who present such topics as the definition and characteristics of dyslexia (including current brain research), the five essential components of research-based reading instruction, the history and principles of Orton-Gillingham, phonological awareness, the scope and sequence of Orton-Gillingham/Wilson teaching (including sounds, syllable types, spelling rules and semantics), screening instruments and procedures, the impact of poverty on literacy skills, sight words, cursive handwriting, phonics games and activities, the history of the English language, written expression and advocacy. **Teachers who successfully complete the training receive 6 CEU's.** You can learn more at the BALP [website](#), or by emailing [Wendi Adair](#), Director.



Remember, all Charitable Giving contributions will go into a separate fund prior to dispersal. (See [last week's newsletter](#) for more detail about this process.) **Therefore, checks should be written TO UUTC**, with the agency designation on the memo line. *This is an opportunity to give, not an obligation.*  
*\*statistics provided by BALP.*



### CRE STUDENTS PREPARE FOR ECLIPSE

Katherine Galvagni lead a special eclipse lesson for the CRE class last Sunday. We had 14 youth in attendance!

## MEET SUSAN ZELLE!



Susan, a Midwesterner who claims Illinois and Michigan, moved around a great deal as a city and environmental planner, and then as a diplomat stationed overseas in central America, Africa, and India. Passionate about immigration, animals and respectful dialogue, she is vegetarian. She chose Brevard for the mountains, outdoor opportunities, and welcoming atmosphere. She was last in North Carolina 30 years ago when she graduated from Duke. Susan moved to the Brevard area in late 2004 and realized this year that this is the longest she has ever lived in one spot. She is still subject to wanderlust.

Although her children are spread far and wide (Charlotte, Memphis and Minneapolis), two of Susan's three siblings are in the Asheville area. When not working short term assignments back in Africa, Susan mediates at The Mediation Center (The Center for Dialogue). She is an active member of the FOTAS (Friends of Transylvania Animals) board, but is not allowed to go to the shelter and cry over needy animals. She has also served on the boards of two mediation centers and the World Affairs Council of western North Carolina.

Susan has taught courses on Anger Management and Islam, speaks French and passable Spanish, and enjoys public speaking. No one was more surprised than she when she joined UUTC as she has been a lifelong skeptic of most organized religions. She joined, she said, as she realized the need "to be with likeminded people" in a community that cares.

*If the only prayer you say in your life is Thank You, that would suffice.*

*-Meister Eckhardt*



## FALL PICNIC JUST AROUND THE CORNER • SEPTEMBER 10TH



Mark your calendar so you don't miss this chance to hang out with your UUTC friends. Everyone loves Atagahi Park, where you can play, swim, converse and chow down on each other's cooking! This year's picnic will be full-on potluck. Sign up at the front counter or email the office so we can give the gate your name! Those who wish to carpool from the church are encouraged to do so.

## WOMEN'S GROUP KICKOFF— SAVE THE DATE!



Photo from the 2015 Women's Group Luncheon at the Kirkman's

On September 7th at 11:30, a fall lunch to welcome Rev. Ilene and all other new UUTC women will take place at Sandy Kirkman's home at 141 Lake House Trail, Brevard. You can reach Sandy for more information at 828-507-4968.

Maps will be available closer to the date, but mark your calendar now to preserve the time!

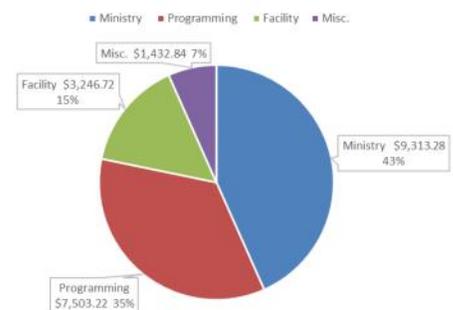
The Women's Group meets on the first Thursday of the month at 12:30pm under normal circumstances. These lunches happen in the social hall and are open to all women of UUTC. They take summers off, with September being the kick-off month to get back "into the groove." Lunches at UUTC are bring your own, with a topic provided for discussion.

## (JUST THE ESSENTIALS) — TREASURER'S REPORT FOR JULY 2017

<u>Revenue</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Fiscal YTD</u>
Beginning Balance Cash-On-Hand	\$ 32,944.14	\$ 32,944.14
Income through July 31st, 2017	\$ 21,768.13	\$ 21,768.13
Reserve Funds balance	\$ 40,141.48	\$ 40,141.48
Endowment Funds received/(transferred)	-----	\$ (-----)
Total Funds available through July 31st	\$ 94,853.75	\$ 94,853.75

<u>Expenses</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Fiscal YTD</u>
Ministry	\$ 9,313.28	\$ 9,313.28
Programming	\$ 7,503.22	\$ 7,503.22
Facility	\$ 3,246.72	\$ 3,246.72
Misc.	\$ 1,432.84	\$ 1,432.84
Total Expenditures through July 31st	\$ 21,496.05	\$ 21,496.05

This spreadsheet provides a snapshot of our fiscal standing at the end of July. Our fiscal year begins July 1st and ends on June 31st. Our expenditures for July break out as shown:



Programming (red): \$7503.22; Facility (green) \$3246.72; Miscellaneous (purple): \$1432.84, and Ministry (blue): \$9313.28. Electronic online pledges through our secure payment handler VANCO may be made or updated at [this link](#). Please contact me or any Board member for assistance. Respectfully, Dave Roberts (610) 751-6309, [treasurer@uutc.org](mailto:treasurer@uutc.org)

## THE HAUNTING CHURCH • REV. JEAN ROWE



A study group of 20-25 UUs has been meeting for 5 or 6 years using the name "Christians in Exile," a term coined by progressive Episcopal Bishop John Shelby Spong-- who said many of us are followers of Jesus but dissatisfied with the institutional Christian churches. We've read and discussed many books, some on progressive Christianity, and some on a study of compassion from a Buddhist and secular viewpoint. We've had wide-ranging topics loosely related to following Jesus' teachings.

The group was founded and led by Revs. Earle Rabb and Jean Rowe, originally to help the many new members who had joined UUTC but were disoriented because they had always been mainline Christians. We began the group with a 5 week UUA program called *The Haunting Church*...meaning a look back at the church of your earlier years that continues to shape or haunt your ideas of church. It helped us to look back and then compare and contrast aspects of being UU and one's past affiliation (or no affiliation).

It's been so long, and so many new people have joined, we are revisiting *The Haunting Church* for five sessions. ***Even if you don't plan to continue with this study group***, the five sessions stand on their own and are ***open to everyone***.

The Christians In Exile group meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays, 3:30 to 5:00, Sept. through June, in the sanctuary. *The Haunting Church* program meets Sept. 11 and 25, Oct. 9 and 23, and Nov. 13. Please [email Jean Rowe](#) if you want to be put on our mailing list for reminders and so we'll know how many to expect!

## AUGUST BOARD MEETING SUMMARY • PRESIDENT CAROL MOORE

Your Board of Directors and Rev. Ilene met this week. As a growing church with a variety of issues to consider, we are making more and more use of the advisory Committees which are part of our organizational structure. Below is a summary of the decisions made.

To accommodate schedules and preferences of several Board meetings, the Board decided to **meet at 5:00** on the fourth Tuesday, an hour earlier in the past. This new time will begin with the Tuesday, September 26 meeting. The Board also set the **Annual Meeting for May 20, 2018**.

Dave Roberts, Treasurer, shared that he has contacted a local firm to conduct an **outside financial review** of UUTC that will likely take place in October. And, upon action by the Board, two **memorial**

*(continued on next page)*

(continued from page 6) **gifts** will be placed in the Sponsored Projects Fund. Carol will send acknowledgements and thank you notes to the donors and to the honoree's family.

The **Minister's Report** from Rev. Ilene highlighted the productive meetings she has had with various committees, teams, and individuals during the past month. She shared that worship themes and topics have been planned for the remainder of the 2017 church calendar, and other scheduling for the church year is well underway.

The Board has been reviewing our **Gift Acceptance Procedures**. The current draft will be sent to the Finance Committee, which has the responsibility of advising the Board on the disposition of gifts, for its consideration and recommendation.

The Board will sponsor a "**Name that House! Spread our Heritage!**" contest for the two renovated houses which are currently being rented. Carol presented a draft of contest guidelines and timeframes. It was approved and she will share it with the congregation through the newsletter.

The Board discussed **Committee vacancies** and ways in which the Board might assist Committees in filling open positions. Brigid will assist the Property Committee and Peter will assist the Administration Committee. The Board appointed Lelia Graham and, conditionally, Jayma McGann (based on her attaining Membership of Friend status), to the Finance Committee, which fills all of its open positions. The Board will also ask each Committee to recommend, by January, a Chair-Elect to the Board for consideration.

The Board approved four Sundays of **denominational leave for Rev. Ilene** to attend the UUA Board Meeting in Knoxville, TN, on January 21; the First Ministers' Assembly on May 8; General Assembly on Jun 17; and Ministry Days on June 24.

Brigid and Peter shared some of their **experiences at leadership training'** Brigid recommends that the Board continue to send representatives to SUULE. Peter said that it is not the right experience for everyone, and other leadership options should also be considered.

The Board will ask Property Committee to study our **parking needs**, taking into consideration the best use of the property we purchased and researching the feasibility of leasing space from businesses across Broad Street. That would also entail checking with appropriate authorities to see what would be required to have a crosswalk added across Broad Street.

The Board will also ask the Finance Committee to look into the specifics of the **UUA Chalice Lighter Grant** application. *The Board recognizes that we have lots of leaders in lots of places in our congregation, and is grateful for all of them.*



## 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? Call Rev. Ilene at (877) 510-5603.

**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).