

UUTC UPDATE

MAY 13TH, 2016



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS OF TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY

A WELCOMING CONGREGATION

BORN-AGAIN PAGAN by Steve Brooks

Sunday, May 15th at 9:30 and 11:00am — *coffee time between services*

Religiously speaking, Pagans have gotten a bum rap. The worship of nature is our oldest spiritual impulse, and, these days, it might be just what we need to save our planet. Austin, TX folksinger and UU Steve Brooks talks and sings about the Wiccan and Native American paths and how he found out he was a Born-Again Pagan. Learn about the real old-time religion and help God get in touch with his feminine side.

3 SINGLE SERVICE SUNDAYS: MAY 22, 29 & JUNE 5 — 10:30 AM

WHEN YOU LOOK
AT A FIELD OF
DANDELIONS, YOU
CAN EITHER SEE A
HUNDRED WEEDS,
OR A THOUSAND
WISHES.

NEXT WEEK at UUTC

Yoga Workshop — Sat 5/14 @ 10:30am

Chair & Wall Yoga — Mon 5/16 @ 11:00am

Morning Meditation — Tues 5/17 @ 7:00am

Men's Group — Tues 5/17 @ 9:00am

Dream Group — Tues 5/17 @ 2:30pm

Eclectics Jam — Wed 5/18 @ 9:30am

Being Group — Wed 5/18 @ 1:00pm

Team Mtg Night — Wed 5/18 @ 5:30pm

Morning Meditation — Thurs 5/19 @ 7:00am

Living the Tao — Fri 5/20 @ 10:30am

Vitality Yoga — Fri 5/20 @ 1:30pm

Yoga Workshop — Sat 5/21 @ 10:30am

SOCIAL ACTION TEAM NEWS

SOCIAL ACTION OUTREACH FOR MAY—RISE & SHINE

Rise and Shine Freedom School is a comprehensive academic mentoring program where every child can shine! Tutors include members of UUTC. Scholars of all races are accepted and no Rise and Shine scholar has dropped out of school in the 19 years of the program. R&S is committed to long term support and empowerment for scholars from Kindergarten through 12th grade. Strategies of the program are implemented to ensure scholars leave R&S able to “think, read, write, compute, enjoy the arts and become economically independent”. Help support this empowering program for our Transylvania County youth. Go to www.riseshine.org for more details.



SOCIAL ACTION AGENCY ELECTION SURVEY FOR 2016-2017

For 2016-17, SAT is asking UUTC members and friends to choose from this list of social justice or human growth agencies. Please fill out and return [this questionnaire](#) **no later than Sunday, May 22nd**. There will be printed copies in the foyer, or you may print your own copy from the link above. Return to the box in the foyer or mail to UUTC, P.O. Box 918, Brevard, NC 28712.

There are **18** choices. Please put an X next to the **9** organizations you prefer to support for the next year [July 2016-June 2017]. The other three months will feature donations to the **Minister's Discretionary Fund, UUSC** [Unitarian Universalist Service Committee], and optional participation in **Christmas Blessings**. *An asterisk * indicates a new agency or one not previously supported; please consider choosing one (or more) of those.*

_____ **Backpack Buddies** feeds many children (and sometimes their families) who would otherwise go hungry in the Transylvania County Public Schools over the weekends.

_____ **Boys and Girls Club** is a youth development and after school program for children 5 to 18 years old to help them develop qualities to become responsible citizens.

_____ **Bread of Life** provides hot lunches every weekday for those in need both at their center in Brevard and via home delivery.

_____ **The Children's Center** provides emergency & educational assistance to families of young children plus new mother support and children's advocacy.

_____ **El Centro** helps immigrant families adjust with language tutoring, after-school assistance to school children, and documentation guidance.

* _____ **Free Rein Center for Therapeutic Riding** uses horses to provide benefits to children and adults with autism, ADHD, physical limitations and other disabilities.

_____ **The Haven** provides shelter, counseling and help with rehousing for the homeless of Transylvania County. Your support helps provide positive outcomes for our residents.

* _____ **The Hunger Coalition's** mission is to strengthen the existing food distribution network and engage additional resources to combat hunger in Transylvania County.

_____ **Meals on Wheels of Brevard** helps clients maintain their independence in their own homes by providing noontime home delivery of nutritious meals and personal contact with its volunteers.

* _____ **The Mediation Center** promotes positive change in individuals and organizations through mediation, dialogue, and the teaching of human relationship skills.

_____ **The Mountain** is a retreat center outside Highlands, NC, with programs that inspire people to work for the common good of fellowship, peace, justice and environmental stewardship.

* _____ **Mountain Sun Community School** is a local independent school serving children ages 3-15. It seeks to inspire compassionate, responsible learners while emphasizing the outdoors, the arts, and community service.

_____ **Muddy Sneakers** seeks to awaken in school children a deeply felt connection with the natural world, one that inspires curiosity, stimulates learning, and brings new life to classroom performance.

_____ **Pisgah Legal Services** provides free civil legal aid to the most vulnerable people in WNC—disadvantaged children, senior citizens, families at risk of homelessness and victims of domestic violence.

_____ **Rise and Shine Freedom School** mentors children and empowers parents to equalize opportunity and build a community of racial justice.

_____ **S.A.F.E.** offers shelter, court assistance and free counseling services for anyone affected by domestic violence or sexual assault.

_____ **Sharing House** provides emergency assistance to the poor including food, clothing, household goods, and assistance in paying utility and rent bills.

* _____ **Smart Start** is a public-private early childhood initiative that promotes positive early learning experiences for young children, to help them become healthy and school-ready.

All of these organizations and causes can use your help. Please consider volunteering for those of your choice. Please let SAT know YOUR thoughts. Our meetings are open (Team Meeting Nights!), and we always seek new members. JOIN US!

Name _____

RESPONDING TO THE WORLD REFUGEE CRISIS: HOW CAN WE HELP?

In the most serious humanitarian crisis since World War II, nearly 60 million people were displaced from their homes last year because of war, conflict, or persecution. As pointed out by **Amnesty International**, “most rich countries are still treating refugees as somebody else’s problem. They have allowed poorer, Middle Eastern, African and South Asian countries to host 86% of all refugees. They



Take Action

have left UN agencies so broke they cannot even feed many refugees properly.” People are dying while governments spend billions on border control.

While we may not be able to change the direction of governments, what we can do that can make a real difference is to send desperately needed money where

it will be used effectively. **Charity Navigator**, an agency that evaluates the effectiveness of charitable organizations, suggests you consider what it is that you want your donation to accomplish and find a charity offering that specific type of aid. (By going to www.charitynavigator.org and looking up the agency you have in mind, you can learn about the type of assistance it is providing in the refugee crisis and about the organization’s general effectiveness.) In a guide article, **Charity Navigator** listed a number of organizations providing humanitarian aid in the Syrian crisis which it gives 3 or 4 approval stars (out of a possible four): **American Refugee Committee, CARE, Catholic Relief Services, Global Hope Network International, Global Giving, International Rescue Committee, Islamic relief USA, Mercy-USA for Aid and Development, Oxfam America, Save the Children, United States Fund for UNICEF.** You can learn more about each of these organizations at the Charity Navigator web site and at their individual web sites. (The [Unitarian Universalist Service Committee](#) receives a high rating from Charity Navigator but is not listed here, possibly because its mission is broader and more general.)

The [International Rescue Committee](#) was founded with the mission of providing sanctuary for refugees. They have advocated tirelessly to ensure that refugees can come to the United States and have helped resettle 499 Syrian refugees here. It is the only international relief agency responding to the crisis on all fronts, working inside war torn Syria, in the neighboring countries, and along the main refugee route into Europe, while also responding to other crises throughout the world.

[Oxfam America](#) helps in Syria and neighboring countries with clean water, sanitation, and supplies. They also help people get information about their rights. [Doctors Without Borders](#), after heavy

RESPONDING, CONT.

losses in Syria, still supports health posts and field hospitals in the country. They help also in neighboring countries and have operated search-and-rescue ships in the Mediterranean.

[Save the Children](#) provides emergency aid and health care and supports schools in northern Syria. It supports six health care facilities that provide medical services and 24 hour emergency care for pregnant women. It also runs child-friendly spaces for children affected by the conflict.



Finally, inadequately funded by the governments of the world, the [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees \(UNHCR\)](#) (image above is theirs) is in desperate need of private donations to assist its work. All these agencies are also responding in other refugee crises in Afghanistan, Burundi, and other trouble spots.

Susanne Rolland for the Social Action Team

SERVING WITHOUT SPENDING...LOCAL NEED IN JUNE



Next month, UUTC Members & Friends are needed to help Sharing House **PACK THE PANTRY**. Helping in this way is easy and will require only an hour of your time. UUTC is manning & womaning the doors of Food Lion, where we will pass out a recommended list to shoppers and ask them to purchase something from the list to contribute to the needs of our community through Sharing House. A minimum of two people are needed for each hour, starting at 9:00am and ending at 3:00pm. A sign-up sheet is on the front counter. For more information, call June Litchfield at 877-5058.

May is a month with FIVE Sundays, so 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 May 22 and 29. Please take with you a list of most needed items from the basket on the Social Action table.

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. This collection is separate from the Pack the Pantry community project on June 4. Please consider supporting one or both.



WORK WITH OUR CHILDREN!

CRE is looking for folks willing to share their favorite story, art activity or other talents during the 11:00 Sunday School. Heather needs Leaders on the following dates: July 3 and July 24th. These Leaders will meet with the children, ages 4-8years old for one hour, leading them in an activity related to our 7 UU Principles or otherwise known to the children at the Rainbow Promises. Leaders choose

the story or activity they would like to lead.

We need assistants to Leaders on the following dates: June 19, 26 and July 3, 10, 17, 24th. The assistants support the Leader and aid in setting-up, cleaning up and general supervision of the youth in attendance.

We need volunteers for **both** Chalice Camps: **Chalice Children**, a 3 day, half-day camp for pre-schoolers held at UUTC from 9:00am-12:00pm, August 9, 10 & 11 and **Chalice Camp** 2016: An Olympic Adventure, August 15-19th, 9:00am-12:00pm, for ages 6-10.

Please contact Heather Layton at creuutc@gmail.com or call 553-3810.

YOGA WITH KASHMYRA ASNANI — WORKSHOP THIS SATURDAY

Several people are already enjoying classes, and on May 14th, the first workshop begins! The first class of the week, **Chair & Wall Yoga**, is offered on **Mondays** at **11:00am**. **Vitality Yoga** takes place on **Fridays** from **1:30-2:45pm**. You can now sign up at the front desk!

Chair & Wall Yoga is open to all fitness levels, including those who may need walking aids or wheelchairs. With regular practice, students will see improved range of motion, flexibility and strength and reduced stress. Kashmyra has introduced some props to this class to make it even more fun.

Kashmyra's **WORKSHOPS** begin **tomorrow, Saturday, May 14th**. The first series of workshops is on **Spinal Health**. See the bulletin board, the front counter and the [Public Calendar](#) for more information!



YOU CAN HELP IN THE SEARCH FOR OUR NEXT SETTLED MINISTER

The most important issue for the future of our congregation is obtaining the next full-time settled minister who is the best fit for our congregation. We all want a minister who can lead us together into being the best congregation we can be. Your Ministerial Search Task Force is already hard at work on this process.

There is just one problem. Nationally, 58 other Unitarian Universalist congregations are also in the process of searching for their next minister. However, there are not 58 UU ministers looking for a church to serve. Sadly, not every congregation will get a new minister.



As you can see, we are in competition with those other congregations for our next settled minister. In October of this year, each church will post on a secure website a resume of their congregation. Ministers available to serve a congregation will look at these websites and decide which ones appear to be most attractive to them. Obviously, we want to present an accurate and positive picture of our congregation to gain the interest of potential candidates. This will provide us with the greatest opportunity to secure the right minister for our congregation. The more candidates who show interest in us, the more choices we will have for our next settled minister.

This is where you come in. As a retired minister, I know a potential minister will be looking for a church in strong financial condition. No minister wants to go to a financially struggling congregation.

One piece of information we must provide on the website is the percentage of the congregation that has made a pledge commitment this year. Ministerial candidates will see this figure as a key benchmark of any congregation's financial health. The higher the pledge rate, the more attractive we will be to a potential minister.

This year it is more vital than ever to the future of your church that you make a pledge commitment. Any minister looking at us on the secure website will want to know we are fully committed to the future of the church we all love. A high percentage of pledges is clear proof of that commitment.

By making a pledge this particular year you can make a significant difference in the search for our next settled minister to lead our congregation into the future. We are counting on you.

Earle Rabb, on behalf of your Ministerial Search Task Force

UUTC BUDGET FORUM THANK YOU, COMMENTS, Q & A • MAY 4, 2016

Thank you to the 40 Members and Friends who attended and contributed to this forum held in preparation for the Annual Meeting, May 22nd.

President Peg Hall and Treasurer Dave Roberts presented the Projected Income and Proposed 2016-2017 UUTC Program Budget as well as Capital Project Opportunities for Sponsorship.

Capital Projects are not part of the budget and sponsorship is welcome beyond an operating budget pledge. You will find the Sponsor Project list in any of several copies of the forum handout, our UUTC Programs and Ministries, on the office counter. ***It is happening already!***

Q: How much of our budget comes from pledges and how are we doing?

A: Usually 85% for most churches. We project \$200,000 for 2016-2017. We have received \$180,000 in pledges with 25+ anticipated pledges to go.

Comment: Solve our money problems by not hiring a second Interim.

Response: Was considered and ruled out. This budget will support a second Interim with a moving cost capped at \$3000. UUTC's needs for this next year can not be met with speakers, volunteers, and our GAP ministers (Amen from Earle Rabb!)

C: We need to do a better job of asking for money. **R:** Better already. (Have you read your letter?)

C: Stop saying we are in good financial condition when we need more money.

R: We ARE in good financial condition now. We have a bigger, more accurate budget for 2016-2017 and will need renewed, increased and fulfilled pledges.

Q: Why have we spent \$30,000 more than our income this fiscal year?

A: We were fortunate to start with \$100,000 unrestricted cash on hand so the Board could approve unanticipated costs such as management and financial software and a full time Administrator. Not all pledges have been fulfilled so unrestricted cash will be low at the end of this year. Restricted cash will remain at \$40,000.

Q: Why are people calling Dan Carter about this? **A:** We wish we knew.

Q: Why do we have to take out a loan? **A:** We may not. We have applied for a line of credit to manage cash flow and time specific project costs in 2016-17 as pledges and other income comes in.

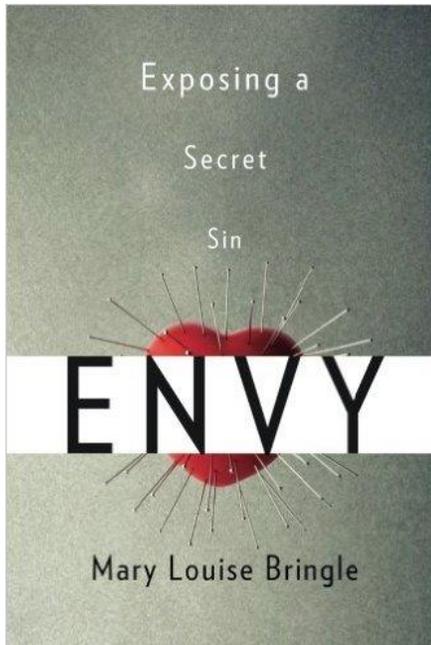
Q: Does the Finance Committee endorse this budget? **A:** Yes!

Q: How can I see the line item details of the proposed budget?

A: Email a request to admin@uutc.org. (Program budget and line item summaries were included in Annual Meeting document email/mail.)

Susan Slocum, Secretary of the Board

“LAST NIGHT’S PROGRAM WAS OUTSTANDING!”



Dr. Mel Bringle rocked a large crowd Wednesday night with her program entitled, “Eat Your Heart Out: The Costs of Envy.” Her book, *ENVY: Exposing a Secret Sin*, is available on Amazon. Did you know that if you are an Amazon Prime user, you can have Amazon donate a portion of your purchase price to UUTC at no cost to you? Click [HERE](#) to register UUTC as your charity of choice, and then slide over and order Mel’s book! [NOTE: She did not ask us to do this. But the kudos were deafening... she must be good!] Some Members and Friends have already registered, as we have received funds from Amazon. These funds go into the general operating account, helping us to support our ministry programming—ministry programming like Wonderful Wednesdays. Sign up today!

WOMEN’S LUNCHEON DRAWS A GOOD-LOOKING CROWD



Thanks to Phyllis Nesbitt for the photo!

TEAM MEETING NIGHT — WEDNESDAY, MAY 18TH!

Teams, get those pizza orders ready! An email to the Administrator with the names of all those you expect would be most welcome. That way, individuals who serve on more than one Team will be counted only once.

ARE, CRE, Events, Music, Social Action and Worship. Other teams may join too, as desired.



Learned at our last Game Night that the best way to make water more palatable is to flavor it with beer. Thanks for the tip to Tom Bindrim!



EVER WATCH CHURCH SOFTBALL?

Does the very idea make you groan? Do you imagine kids running onto the field to retrieve a just-hit ball? Or someone's dog beating them to it? Ever see a 72 year old woman hit a base run, or an elder player waiting to hear from his doctor to if he was going to need shoulder surgery?

Well, it happens like that, or very close to it, at every church softball game. And, there's the shapely young women who can't hit and the chubby middle-aged ones that can't miss! It's what happens when a group of people draw together because they like each other, and want to have fun and not prove anything. It's a Hoot! Really try it ... you'll like it.

It cleanses the soul, it builds muscles, and it makes you feel Reeeeeal Small Town American. Watch our team play.! Next Game: Tuesday, May 17th at 6:30pm! — Lackey Rowe

HELPING THE ADMINISTRATOR

During this time of transition, we have lots of balls in the air— TWO search teams, a vision/mission team, all the regular teams, a new Events team...many, many moving parts. You can help to retain your Administrator's sanity by doing a couple of things:

Give us 48 hours on copies. BOOK EVERYTHING through the Admin, even small things that wouldn't ordinarily be an issue, **so we can preserve group privacy when needed.** Use the Lost & Found/ Transfer of Custody basket on the Social Action table. Be patient. The office receives close to 80 emails a day, and almost none of it can be "just filed." If something is time essential, notify the office early, and then again close to crunch time. Thank you!

NEW MEMBERS & FRIENDS!

Mark & Joyce Henneberry have been UU for over 20 years—and now they are now Members of Transylvania County UUs! Mark & Joyce have two girls, Aby & Aly—Aby lives and works in Raleigh and Aly is currently a sophomore at Brevard High School. They found out about UUTC from mutual friends who are Friends of UUTC.

Joyce was trained as a graphic artist and is now doing fiber art. She also enjoys reading, walking and cooking. Mark pursues wood carving and hiking. They clearly chose the right place to live!



The Henneberrys come to us by way of Central Illinois and Florida; like many others, they were attracted to the natural setting of Brevard—and the diversity of its people.



New Friends **Pam & Bill Drellow** have lived in the mountains since the fall of 2014, when they relocated from their home in Western New York. They are retired from a business they owned which provided communications services to business clients.

Pam, a Washington DC native, and NYC-born Bill enjoy a blended family of three children in their thirties who currently reside in Georgia and California. Their move to Western North Carolina was largely motivated by their wish to live within striking distance of their Atlanta-based daughter.

The Drellows both volunteer at Gorges State Park, whose visitor center is within a mile of their home. They also serve as volunteers at Transylvania County Home Care and Hospice. Pam's hobbies include painting, focusing primarily on acrylics, and gardening. Bill devotes much of his spare time to the banjo and guitar, which he plays in the Eclectics as well as the Blue Ridge Bakery Boys.

The couple have been intrigued by Unitarian Universalism since they first learned of it from friends several years ago. They were drawn to UUTC by a combination of curiosity and friendships with the Austins, Hardys and others they made since moving here. They continue to be amazed by the open-mindedness and overall quality of the folks they have met at UUTC.



"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.