



Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist
CHURCH NEWS

2931 Kingston Pike
Knoxville, TN 37919
(865) 523-4176

Volume 54, Number 10
May 18, 2008

Sunday, May 25

Worship Service at 10 AM

How Can I Keep From Singing? MUSIC SUNDAY

“Love cannot express the idea of music; while music may give an idea of love. Why separate the one from the other? They are the two wings of the soul.” —Hector Berlioz

Join us on Sunday, May 25, for a soaring flight of the soul, as we explore the ways that music and singing give wings to our humanity and spirit. The choirs will present an all-music program for worship under the direction of our Director of Music, Vicki Masters. The service will include the Children’s Choir, the Youth Ensemble, the Chalice Singers, and the Sanctuary Choir.

Forum at 11:15 AM— “The Brian Griffin Show!”

In addition to being TVUUC’s Director of Lifespan Religious Education, Brian Griffin is the author of published poetry and short fiction in *Shenandoah* and other literary journals, and the *New York Times* compared his collection *Sparkman in the Sky* to Hemingway’s early work. Brian studied under the famous Southern novelist Peter Taylor in Memphis, earned an MFA in Fiction Writing at the University of Virginia, and was Writer In Residence at UTK. He serves on the board of the Knoxville Writers’ Guild and manages the Peter Taylor Prize for the Novel. Brian has agreed to read some of his poetry and fiction and to talk about the link (which he considers to be deeply spiritual) between his literary work and his service to religious education at TVUUC.

At 3 PM, there will be a memorial service for Hans Jensen, former member of TVUUC.

Sunday, June 1

Worship Service at 10 AM

Children In Crisis Jerry Morton

Recently the W. K. Kellogg Foundation developed this new mission statement, “In ten years, what is now a crisis for children will have been transformed to a national priority and a moral commitment.” Why are they making this commitment? What are the issues? Is there a crisis here? Let us reflect on the realities and find direction.

Forum at 11:15 AM—“Biofuels (Part 1 of 2): Fuelishness or Biopportunity?”

Originally from Peru, Prof. Daniel De La Torre Ugarte is UT Associate Professor of Agricultural Economics and Associate Director of UT’s Agricultural Policy Analysis Center (APAC). He works on the synergism between agricultural and energy policies, their international impacts, and the consequences of trade liberalization, and he helped write the “25X’25 study” which determined that American agriculture could provide 25 percent of our total energy needs while continuing to produce affordable food, feed, and fiber. But biofuels—primarily ethanol and biodiesel—are hotly controversial, and a differing view—Biofuels (Part 2 of 2)—will be presented on June 29 by Dr. Henry Fribourg, UT Professor Emeritus of Forage Crops Ecology.

After the service, there will be a New UU Class for those who are thinking of joining the church. All are welcome!



Wednesday, May 21

FISH EMERGENCY FOOD DELIVERY, all morning
Fellowship Meal, 6:30 pm
Young Religious UUs, 7 pm
Dialogue, 7 pm
Choir Rehearsal, 7:15 pm

Thursday, May 22

Gentle Yoga, noon
Meditation, 6 pm

Friday, May 23

Saturday, May 24

Anime Club, 6 pm

Sunday, May 25

Course in Miracles, 8:45 am
Worship Service, 10 am
UU Conversations, 11 am
Personal Beliefs and Commitments, 11:15 am
Forum: "The Brian Griffin Show!" 11:15 am
Meditation, 1 pm
Memorial Service for Hans Jensen, 3 pm

Monday, May 26

MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY - CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
Viola Recital, 1 pm
Gentle Yoga, 5:30 pm

Tuesday, May 27

Conversation with God, 7 pm
Guitar Circle, 7 pm
African Drumming, 7:30 pm

Wednesday, May 28

Summer Teacher's Training, 6 pm
Environmental Concerns, 6:30 pm
Potluck, 6:30 pm
Young Religious UUs, 7 pm
Dialogue, 7 pm

Thursday, May 29

Gentle Yoga, noon
Meditation, 6 pm
Cool Congregations (Environmental), 6 pm

Blount County Outreach

Worship Service, June 1, at 11 AM

Everett Senior Center, 702 Burchfield Street, Maryville

Forgiveness Is a Great Power

by Owen Rhodes

Forgiveness is an important teaching in every major religion of the world. Theists and atheists alike see forgiveness as an important attribute for achieving true happiness. It is also, as the Hindus teach, a great power for drawing goodness into the world. And yet, for most of us here in America, forgiveness is often an elusive and intangible spirit, incredibly difficult to give once we believe we've been wronged as individuals, as communities, or as a nation. But we must learn to forgive if we are ever to achieve what the Hindus call "the one supreme peace" as we walk together along the path of life.

Emerging Leaders Workshop

The East Tennessee Cluster of UU Churches will hold its second workshop for Emerging Leaders in our congregations, on Saturday, July 12. Our first workshop, held on January 26 this year, was a big success, and we anticipate that this one will be also. Frony Ward, a long-time TVUUC member, will organize and run the workshop, based upon her experience with the Mountain School of Congregational Leadership, held annually at The Mountain.

The workshop is designed for those people in our congregations who have little experience in leadership positions in the church, or who would like to improve their leadership skills. The workshop will be held at Westside UU Church in Farragut, 9 AM to 5 PM. It's not too early to reserve a space. Any questions, please contact me.

—Alan Moore 573-7296

At Last—The New Library at TVUUC!

The next time you are at TVUUC, take a look at our new library, now under construction in the "Hall Room"—you know, that room off the hall that used to be the RE office. The task force (Ginna Mashburn, Greg McKendry, Dick Trowbridge and Jenny Arthur) consulted with our librarians, Jeff Gordon and Sherry Kasper, to turn this narrow room into our own little "stacks."

This project has literally been years in the making. When the Preschool Cooperative moved out a few years ago, we relocated the RE office to gain a much-needed meeting room. Note, however, that this will be a "meeting room of last resort" so that it can operate as a library, available to anyone who'd like to peruse the books or sit down for a casual conversation or a small, interruptable meeting. There are custom-built bookcases (designed and built by Dick Trowbridge) and new carpeting, paid for by donations to the Memorial Fund. As the library starts to function, you'll hear more from our librarians about what books are needed and how to use the library.

Enjoy your new space.

—Jenny Arthur, Director of Administration



Is TVUUC in a Recession?

As you know, the Board of Directors rescheduled the Congregational Meeting because there were so many unknowns regarding the outcome of canvass.

Now, with more results in, it appears that the news is not good. While we have had generous increases and a some terrific new pledges—a gain of \$29,651 (6%)—and 125 households have renewed at the same level, many households are feeling the effects of the economic decline and have had to reduce their pledges. A significant number are managing personal or medical crises of various kinds. In all, as of this writing, we have \$46,936 (9.4%) in confirmed reductions, as well as \$48,733 (10.2%) which are still unknown.

Are the Blount County pledges the problem? We are grateful for the past support of our members who are starting up the new church in Blount County. In terms of our overall budget, the pledges from members who are now at Blount account for a *small percentage* of current TVUUC pledges—at present, \$9,360, or less than 2%. Most of the attendees in Blount County are *new* Unitarian Universalists; only a handful are from our current pledge base. We wish them the best as they build on this core group and generate more resources for liberal religion in East Tennessee. But they are not the reason for the shortfall here.

We have heard reports from other churches around town and from other UU churches around the country that they, too, are feeling an impact from the economic decline.

Your Board and Canvass Committee will continue to work hard to bring in the remaining pledges, and the Finance Committee will be working on various budget scenarios in anticipation of our June 15 congregational meeting. In the meantime, **if you have not made a pledge to TVUUC, or might be able to increase the pledge you have already made, please contact Jenny Arthur, Director of Administration, at 523-4176 or jenny@tvuuc.org.**

Many thanks for your continued support.

—Jayne Raparelli, *President*

PLEDGE DRIVE STATUS

<i>pledges needed for “Bare Bones” budget (3% increase, no “wish list” items)</i>	\$513,917
<i>pledges in—thank you!</i>	\$432,500
<i>current pledges not yet renewed</i>	\$48,733
TOTAL IF ALL RENEW AT SAME LEVEL	\$481,233

AMOUNT NEEDED BEYOND RENEWALS TO MEET THE “Bare Bones” BUDGET	\$32,684
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As you can see, even if all the remaining pledges renew at the same level, we are still short. Even without a 3% increase, we are short, needing \$498,949 to maintain our present giving level.

Sunday, June 1

Course in Miracles, 8:45 am
Worship Service, 10 am
UU Conversations, 11 am
Personal Beliefs and Commitments, 11:15 am
Forum: “Biofuels,” 11:15 am
BLOUNT COUNTY WORSHIP SERVICE, 11 am
New UU Class, 11:30 am
Meditation, 1 pm
Invest UU, 1 pm
Program Council, 4:30 pm
Sing-Out Knoxville, 7 pm

Monday, June 2

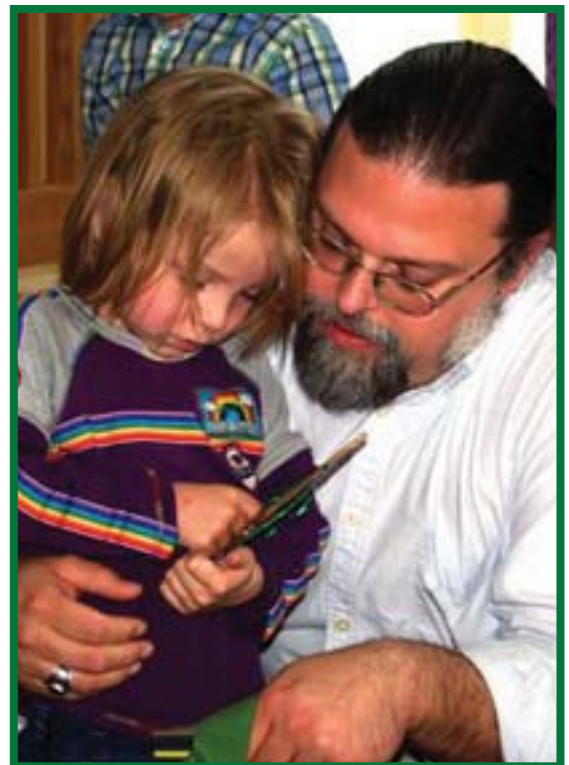
Sweet Potato Pie, 3:30 pm
Personnel Committee, 5 pm
Gentle Yoga, 5:30 pm

Tuesday, June 3

Newsletter mailing, 11:30 am
Conversations with God, 7 pm

Wednesday, June 4

Fellowship Meal, 6:30 pm
Young Religious UUs, 7 pm



Rob Spirko & son, Zeke, at the intergenerational service last Sunday

Going in Peace

A Message from the RE Wing by Brian Griffin

Certain moments seem like the end of something and the beginning of something else. Now is one of those moments for me as Director of Lifespan Religious Education.

When I came into this role as Acting DLRE in October, I took an existing program and attempted to keep it running, making it better where I could and “holding the line” elsewhere.

Then, when I accepted the “permanent” position in January, I found myself sprinting toward May, as though the end of the academic year were somehow the finish line of a race I was running against myself.

All in all, the past few months have been, for me, quite an education. I can only hope that someone besides has been educated since I have been here.

If things have gone well since October, it was for one simple reason: dedicated volunteers. The worship services on the past two Sundays were loaded with gratitude as we recognized RE teachers on May 11 and as we celebrated the fruits of their work in the Bridging Ceremonies on May 18. These were celebrations of community, statements of hope for the future of Religious Education at TVUUC – and something we can’t take for granted.

I am still charting new territory for myself: I am running a summer program for the first time; I am working to choose curricula and to build a new teaching staff for the first time; I am working to rebuild the Adult RE Committee and to create a new slate of Adult RE classes for the fall. I go forward with these and other tasks in hope and in gratitude for your patient support. Thank you for granting me the opportunity to serve this wonderful community!

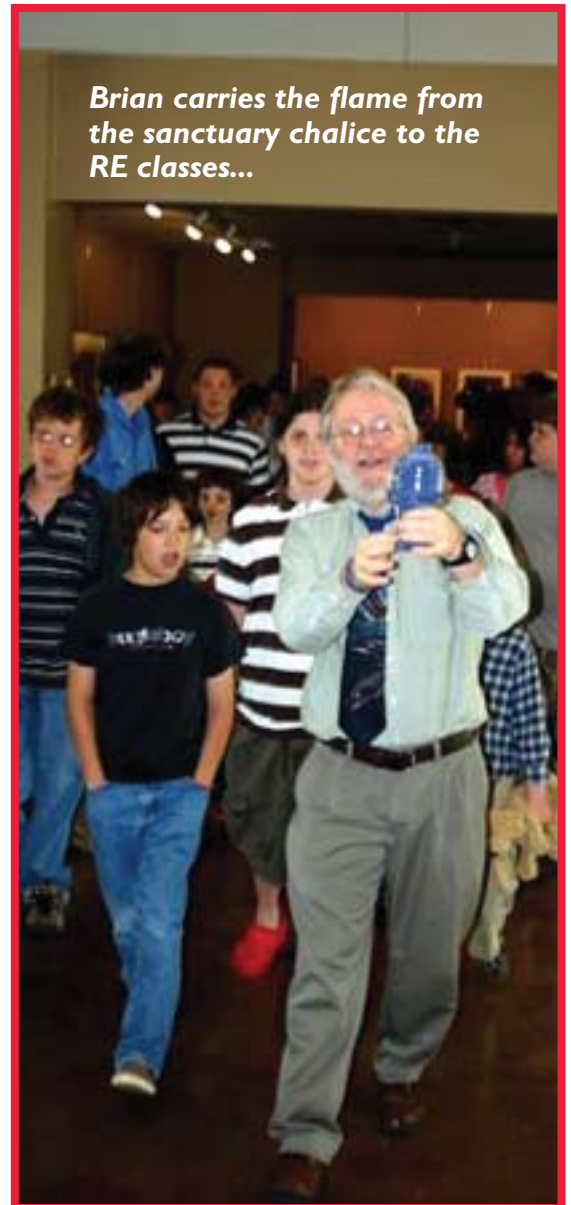
SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our summer Sunday School program begins June 1. During the 10 AM service we will have a wonderful session for children of all ages, grades K to 8, centered on story-telling. The core of the curriculum is a book by UU author Colleen McDonald called *What if Nobody Forgave and Other Stories*. The stories point toward truths contained in the Unitarian Principles, with activities designed to engage the thinking skills and artistic creativity of all the children. We will tell, re-tell, illustrate, act-out, analyze, criticize, re-think and play with these stories in ways that are engaging, fun, and educational for everyone!

The sessions will run from 10 to 10:15 each morning. And remember, the Nursery will be open during the 10 AM worship service and will remain open until 12:15 for those who want to attend Sunday Morning Forum. For more information, contact Brian at 523-4176.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP THIS SUMMER

The High School Youth Group will continue to meet on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights through the summer, with special events in the works. Come be a part! On Sundays we will meet from 10:00 to 11:00 AM. Wednesday’s meeting is from 7:00 to 8:30 PM, though many teens begin to gather at 6:30 if they plan to bring stuff for the potluck. For more information, contact Chris Douglass at douglassac@knology.net or 661-8795.



Brian carries the flame from the sanctuary chalice to the RE classes...

HIGH SCHOOL FRESHMEN—HEADS UP!

This week Youth Programs Coordinator Chris Douglass will be contacting the families of each of our High School freshmen to set up a get-to-know-you session. We want each of you to become involved with our group! Meanwhile, if you have questions, contact Chris at douglassac@knology.net or 661-8795.

ADULT RE PROGRAMMING

Ideas for Adult Religious Education are welcome! What courses would you like to participate in next fall? What courses would you like to lead? Please contact Brian Griffin with your ideas: briangriffin@tvuuc.org or 523-4176.

OUR ADULT RE CHAIRPERSON IS CROSSING THE ATLANTIC!

The chair of the Adult RE Committee, Wade Zinn, has recently announced that he is moving to France! Congratulations, Wade, on your bold move! We will miss you, and we wish you all the best as you hash out the problems of mankind over café au lait at a sidewalk café. Meanwhile, our Adult RE committee has a big empty chair to fill! Contact Brian Griffin 523-4176 or briangriffin@tvuuc.org

YOUNG ADULT MEETING

The TVUUC Young Adult group will meet on Sunday, May 27, from 5:30 to 7:00 pm in Room A. All college-age adults are welcome to join us! We will not meet on June 1, as Brian will be attending his son's wedding that day. For more information, contact Brian at 523-4176 or briangriffin@tvuuc.org.

ATTENTION PARENTS

UU writer and editor Michelle Richards, author of several books, including *Coming Into the Circle: Worshiping with Children* and *Popcorn Theology: Exploring Ethics and Theology Through Film*, is soliciting stories from parents for an upcoming book about "the blessings and challenges of raising children in the Unitarian Universalist faith." She has an on-line questionnaire that she asks parents to fill out. The questionnaire is designed to help stir ideas and memories of parenting experiences. If you would like to participate, please contact Brian Griffin at briangriffin@tvuuc.org.

ATTENTION UU WRITERS

Skinner House book author Victoria Safford is soliciting short prose and poems for a new meditation anthology to be published in May 2009. If you would like to contribute an original meditation, please contact Brian Griffin (briangriffin@tvuuc.org or 523-4176) for a copy of Ms. Safford's guidelines for submission. The deadline for submission is July 1.

TEACHER TRAINING SESSION FOR SUMMER PROGRAM

We have an excellent slate of volunteers for our summer Sunday School program. Thanks to you all! Brian is holding a training session for those teaching or assisting in the summer program on Wednesday, May 28, from 6:00 to 8:00. A letter with more information is being mailed to each of you. Meanwhile, feel free to contact Brian at 523-4176 or briangriffin@tvuuc.org.

CHILDREN'S ART!

Wow, what an art show! Thanks so much for sharing your child's work with the TVUUC community! The art is now being stored on the table in the "Spirit Play" room (Room F). Please drop by and pick up your child's work—I'm sure you will want to treasure it for years to come! Call Brian for more info: 523-4176.

Women's Table

Women's Table will meet on Tuesday, June 10, 5:30 at Stir Fry on Kingston Pike (same strip mall as Chili's). Dinner will be followed by a movie (usually at Downtown West). All women are welcome. —*Diane Fox*

May Sunshine Brings June Flowers

Learn how to arrange flowers at a class on Saturday, June 7 from 1-3. Come with one or two containers, clippers, fresh flowers and foliage, and a low box to take your creations home. If you cut flowers at home, do it the evening before, or early in the morning, and condition them by keeping them in deep, cool water. The fee is \$10, which goes into the TVUUC Floral Fund. Contact Ellie Gardner, to reserve a place, or if you have questions: 546-4004 or gardnerel@comcast.net

FELLOWSHIP MEAL June 4 6:30 PM

Join us for the last Fellowship Meal of the season. We will prepare Carolyn's homemade burrito bake and serve a fresh green salad. This is one of the recipes that the kids think should be on the menu at "The Restaurant." Watch your newsletter and listserv for information about the Welcome Back Fellowship Meal in August! Meanwhile, we will look for you on June 4. \$5/adult, \$3/child, \$13 max/family.

—*Carolyn Rogers, Alan Moore, Fellowship Meal Coordinators*

Anime Club

Hello, Anime lovers! On Saturday, May 24, at 6 PM, we will be watching Ghost in the Shell: S.A.C. Solid State Society (run time: approximately 105 min.) The short is an episode from *Pani Poni Dash*. There will be pizza which you should bring FIVE DOLLARS to eat. Also, feel free to bring drinks and snacks to share. RSVP if you have not already. Very important.

—*Taylor Bessette, dark_v_krad@hotmail.com*

Thank you to all who have pledged to support TVUUC in the upcoming year!

In the Congregation

Our thoughts and prayers are with...

Mellrose Flockhart, whose husband **Ed Flockhart** died on Thursday, May 1.

Michelle Harris and Mark Sumter, upon the death of Michelle's mother, Shirley Burks of Oak Ridge, on May 4.

Eddie Chin and his wife Polly Dillon. Eddie's 97-year-old mother, Moy Bo Chin, died on May 5.

The family and friends of Hans Jensen, former member of TVUUC who died last week. There will be a memorial service on Sunday afternoon, May 25, 3 PM, at TVUUC.

The Green Corner

UPDATES FROM THE TVUUC ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

WATTS happening?? In an effort to help members and friends figure out how much energy their home appliances are using, the Environmental Committee purchased two Watt Meters to loan out for one week periods. So far, to my knowledge, no takers! Please let us know what you need to use these to advantage – personal demonstration, workshop/forum, or written procedure. Or, just see Nina Lee in the office to sign up for your Watt Meter.

CFL disposal – please use the disposal container provided in the office for CFLs no longer functioning.

We are a member of the Knoxville Recycling Coalition (KRC), which allows us to recycle paper, cell phones, ink cartridges, and computers at their office on Sutherland Ave. KRC provides the very helpful Recycling Guide annually, which we have distributed at TVUUC.

Last month, we received a written response from TVA to our inquiry in your behalf about Green Power Switch. TVA promises more info on the GPS website and they assure us that all funds paid for GPS power blocks are invested in renewable generation. Please let me know if you want a copy of the letter.

Green Sanctuary Program is now an official part of UUA! After years of Affiliate status, relying on volunteers stretched thin by the large number of congregations signing up to participate in the Program, the GSP will now be managed by the UUA national office. The UU Ministry for Earth will continue to support UU congregations with resource material and training. Anyone who wants their personal copy of the new Green Sanctuary Manual (paper or CD), can purchase it on the website (\$30 for paper, \$20 for CD) – <http://uuministryforearth.org/grsmanual.htm>. Sanctuary Manual (paper or CD), can purchase it on the website (\$30 for paper, \$20 for CD) – <http://uuministryforearth.org/grsmanual.htm>.

Musical Musings by Vicki

♪♪♪ HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING?
As the culmination of a year of vibrant music activity, the combined choirs will present a music service on May 25 at the 10 AM worship service. Included in the program are performances by the Children's Choir, the Youth Ensemble, the Sanctuary Choir, and the Chalice Singers. In celebration of the "Great Uniter," we offer to the congregation, a festival of group singing, soloists, and young people with the common theme of the words of the hymn, "How Can I Keep from Singing?" Don't miss the last performance of the choirs for the season! The program will be a moving celebration of humanity's urge toward self-expression in song!

♪♪♪ SUMMER MUSIC FOR WORSHIP
We will continue our "Sunday Morning Singers" throughout the summer months. Listed below is the schedule. Remember, your only commitment is an 8:45 rehearsal and 10 AM service on the day of the schedule. A small commitment for you—a big pay-off for congregation AND you!

Sunday, June 29

Sunday, July 13

Sunday, August 10

♪♪♪ MEN'S CHOIR

There will be a special choir formed for June 15 worship service (Father's Day). All men interested in singing for this service will meet Wednesday, June 11 at 7:15 for one rehearsal and will sing on June 15. Gordon Gibson will be giving the sermon.

♪♪♪ ANNIE!

There are still spaces open in the musical theatre workshop this summer, July 14–27. Check previous newsletters for details or call Vicki Masters at 523-4176 for more details. Application forms are in the lobby!

—*Vicki Masters, Director of Music*

Thank you to all who have pledged to support TVUUC in the upcoming year!

UU Means YOU!

by Jerry Bone, Membership Services Coordinator

SOME STRANGE IDEAS ABOUT JESUS

Recently, a couple who had moved here from a faraway city stopped in to check us out. They had been visiting a few churches on Kingston Pike, and at one of them they had learned that we, Tennessee Valley UU Church, had some “strange ideas about Jesus.” Now, that got me to thinking, “What could they mean by that?”

Not that I hadn’t heard about some “strange” UU ideas myself. Long ago, way back before I even thought of becoming a Unitarian Universalist, someone told me that the patron saint of the UU church was Ralph Waldo Emerson. Since I was raised Catholic, I was pretty familiar with saints—those holy, holy people who get to sit near the seat of the Most High for all Eternity. Emerson didn’t seem to fit the bill. Now that I’ve been around a while, I’ve got to ask myself: Why wouldn’t the Most High want such a delightfully provocative dinner companion?

Coincidentally, on the way in to work this morning, I was listening to John Prine’s Jesus—the Missing Years. It’s an outrageously funny exploration of what might have happened to Jesus in the years between the age of twelve and thirty. He gets married, has a baby (even deals with baby “poop”), gets arrested, lives among a group of wild, rootless young people and, presumably, consorts with other “sinners.” In Prine’s fantasy, Jesus is a man who lives life the way many of us have lived it, even if ever so briefly, in our youth.

If some of us have “strange” ideas about Jesus, maybe it’s because we believe that real life experiences might have been at least partially responsible for making him the great moral

teacher that he was. Maybe tolerance, justice, mercy, love, the search for truth and meaning and a belief in the inherent worth and dignity of every human being doesn’t come to a person from “out of the blue.” Maybe it comes from living, from experiencing, from embracing life, then reflecting upon our experiences.

We are a church that embraces all kinds of ideas, all kinds of people. We welcome a very wide range of ideas—even ideas about Jesus. Or Emerson. Or John Prine.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

We’re still looking for someone to coordinate the rummage sale. Please call the church if you can volunteer for this very important job. You will need to be able to commit to a week or so of activity in the fall.

Don’t forget. Sewing starts for *Annie* on July 14. Contact Barbara McKendry if you can help.

NEW UU CLASS JUNE 1

People who are thinking about joining TVUUC should consider attending the next New UU class. It will take place at 11:30 AM on June 1, following the 10:00 service. We’ll have a room by then, and I’ll get the word out to all who will be in the class.

The class usually takes from three to four hours to complete, depending on the number of new prospects attending. Lunch will be served and childcare is provided. If you cannot stay for the entire time, it would probably be better to wait for the next New UU class, which takes place in early August.

If you would like to enroll for the June 1 New UU class, please call the church office at 523-4176 or email jerrybone@tvuuc.org. Don’t forget to let us know if you need childcare.



Thanks, Church Hosts!

We’ve had several smooth evenings here at the church ever since our volunteer hosts have been staffing the church on unstaffed evenings. At left, Alan Moore helps a guest find his way to a meeting room down the hall.

Church hosts so far have included Alan Moore, Jo Rogers, Greg McKendry, Eleanor Peplow, and Gail Anderson. Several others are planning to volunteer in the future. All have reported that they felt useful and that it was not a waste of their time. If you’d like to be a church host, please call me at 523-4176.

—Jenny Arthur, Director of Administration

Recent Attendance

Sunday, May 11: 33 / 136

Sunday, May 18: 198 / 69 Blount

Call to Congregational Meeting

Sunday, June 15, 11:15 AM

All members are encouraged to participate in the annual congregational meeting. This important event will take place in the sanctuary immediately following the June 15 service. TVUUC members who have been members at least six weeks prior to June 15 can vote. Items to be voted on: the 2008-9 operating budget, the Nominating Committee's slate, and a recommendation to remove the Ways and Means Committee from the Bylaws.

A member who is unable to attend the meeting may give his/her proxy to another TVUUC member who attends the meeting, authorizing the latter member to cast a vote or votes for the absent member (in addition to the attending member's own vote). A written statement, which could be in the form of a printed email, must be presented to the Secretary-Clerk of the TVUUC Board or other designated person at the meeting. No attending member can vote proxies for more than two absent members.

Finger foods will be served. I hope to see many of you at the June 15 congregational meeting.

—*Jayne Raparelli, Congregation president*

Nominees for Election at the Annual Congregational Meeting

At the Congregational meeting June 15, 2008, members will be asked to elect individuals to several open positions at TVUUC. The Nominating Committee has the task of searching for and recommending a qualified slate of nominees for those positions. Our recommendations are included here for review in advance of the meeting. Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor at the meeting. If you are considering nominating anyone not listed here, please be sure to discuss the nomination with the potential nominee in advance of the meeting.

The Nominating Committee members are Chloe Airoidi-Watters, Bee DeSelm, Ted Jones, Tim Klein, and Elnora Williams. We met from October 2007 through April 2008 to sift through a gratifyingly large list of qualified candidates, originating in responses to an open solicitation of the entire congregation. Our goals were to match people, personalities, and skills to open positions for which TVUUC has the most need and to which they were best suited.

To help us get to know them, the nominees were asked to provide some basic biographical information to present before the congregation. The following questions were offered as suggestions, but each was free to present their own information as they saw fit.

- How long and in what ways have you been involved with TVUUC?
- Why is TVUUC important to you?
- What relevant skills or experience do you bring to the position for which you are nominated?
- Additional information, such as family, partners, or other interests, is optional.

Grier Novinger President-elect

I am currently serving on the Board for the second time. In addition, I have headed up the auction several times and helped to coordinate Treasures from the Attic fundraiser. I have been Canvass Chair, am serving on the Committee on Ministry, and am helping revive the Caring Committee.

The community at TVUUC is a very special place for me. I learn something new about myself and the world in interactions with its members, and I value its impact on our

community at large.

What relevant skills or experience do you bring to the position for which you are nominated?

I bring experience and enthusiasm.

Greg McKendry Treasurer-elect

My wife Barbara and I have been members of TVUUC for 5 years. We joined after attending for 6 months. We have two adult children.

I have been an active TVUUC'er in various capabilities:

- Board member
- Helper at the auction, the rummage sale, Performing Arts, and Fish food pantry
- Member of the room redecorating committee for the new library and Lizzie Crozier French room
- Member of Long Range Planning Committee
- Member of the Building Needs Task Force and the Building & Grounds Committee
- Facilitator, with my wife, of Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University classes as part of the Adult RE program
- Spectrum Café: Chaperone, Food & Security volunteer for 5 years
- Purchasing agent for TVUUC on various replacement items, refrigerator, carpeting, chairs, table cloths, printing needs, and other quality products

I consider TVUUC the place to pursue my spiritual growth and be part of a community. I bring to the position of Treasurer Elect:

- Management skills honed through 30 years experience at various levels of supervisory and management positions
- Business, accounting, and computer education and experience
- Strategic planning, financial controlling and budgeting a multi-million dollar facility
- Human Resources and Personnel experience developed as the plant manager of over 550 employees
- Multi-disciplined Team Leadership experience
- Dedication to report finances in an accurate, timely and precise manner to help the board manage the church functions
- Commitment to get the best value for all church spending
- Masters in Engineering

Carolyn Franks *Secretary-clerk*

One reason Reid and I chose to retire in the Knoxville area in 1999 was the availability of a UU church, as we had been teaching in western NC and missed the community of like souls--a lot. Since I'm a retired English teacher and one who feels a need to give back to the community that sustains me, serving as secretary of the board this past year has been a good fit. In fact, I'm happy to do another stint now that I have the process figured out. The TVUUC board is an inspiring group of people to work with.

Jo Rogers *Board*

I've been part of TVUUC since the mid 60's because I found here a vibrant group of committed, thoughtful, articulate, open-minded people of all ages who have the drive to make a humane difference in the community and the world. Although this is the only church I've ever been involved in, I've served on boards and in administrative capacities in a variety of service oriented associations for many, many years, and have the training and experience to help groups stay focused, to think in broad and long-range terms, and to plan, budget, and act effectively. Most of my involvement in TVUUC has been behind the scenes—as assistant treasurer, on auction and rummage committees, working with the children's musical theatre camp program, serving Sunday coffee, feeding the kids in Spectrum, and as a greeter and an usher.

Among other things, I'm interested in getting more involved in long-range planning, meaningful social action, and integrating members (and "friends") into the fabric of this blessed community.

Jamie Adcock *Board*

Jamie Leanne Adcock has been a member of TVUUC since 1997, where she served on the landscape committee and as Secretary-Clerk for the Board in 1999-2000. She has strong attachments to TVUUC as a supportive and beloved community and finds strength there to meet the challenges of this world. She has been a Professor of Chemistry at the University of Tennessee since September 1974, where she teaches and does research. Her major hobby is gardening and landscaping.

Erven Williams *Canvass Committee Chair-elect*

I have been a member of TVUUC for about 20 years.

- In that time span I have served on several Canvassing Committees.
- I was a member of the Search Committee that brought our current Music Director to TVUUC.
- I am a member of the TVUUC Choir.

TVUUC provides a place for me to worship that is in agreement with my values on religion. It does not try to crowd me and allows me to worship at my own pace. TVUUC has also been important for members of my family especially Elandria who, because of TVUUC, became involved with several national efforts of the UUA.

I was a Project Manager for TVA for over 25 years. This included several years as Chief of the Budget and Planning Office for a major Division of TVA. I have also been a salesman and teacher.

I am married to Elnora C. Williams, and we have two children and two grandchildren. I enjoy photography, traveling, and UT Sports.

Frony Ward *Endowment Committee*

[Frony Ward was not able to submit a bio, but has been a member of TVUUC since 1977 and has served as President of the Congregation in addition to many other roles.]

Jim Kasper *Endowment Committee*

Over thirty years ago I worked for a very short time as a CPA, and then served as a criminal investigator, specializing in white collar fraud, with the Federal Government. For the past three years, I have labored as a homemaker, specializing in food acquisition and preparation, cleaning and laundry, and auto and yard maintenance. I have limited my financial responsibilities to preparation of a yearly tax return and to rebalancing of personal investment accounts; I have not maintained any other family books and records.

April Burt *Ways and Means Chair-Elect*

I have been a member of TVUUC for over 4 years. During that time I have been involved with Volunteer Ministries meal preparation and FISH, and I have served on the Canvass Committee for 2 years. Currently I am serving as a Greeter, on the Flower Committee, Long Range Planning, and I was and am the 2007 and 2008 Auction Committee Chair.

TVUUC is important to me because it provides a more liberal point of view toward spirituality. The fact that everyone is welcomed with open arms is another reason I'm so glad to be associated with TVUUC.

I have served on many Boards of Directors and served as Fundraising Chair for several organizations, including serving as last and this year's Auction Chairman.

Eleanor Peplow *Program Council Chair-elect*

I joined TVUUC in October 2005 after attending off and on for about two years. The first job I volunteered for was helping to get the newsletter out every other Tuesday, and I'm still doing that. I was on the Forum committee for a while until I realized my true calling—new members. Gail Anderson wanted to concentrate more on art, so I took over for her temporarily until we got Jerry (what a perfect choice!), and now I'm trying to help him as much as I can. I had been attending Program Council meetings as a non-voting member and learned a lot about how the Church works. Ted asked me if I would accept a position on the Council, and I was happy to say yes.

I directed the *Walden* play on April 20, but the success of that (packed house & standing ovation!) is due entirely to my four fabulous ladies who worked together like magic!

Tina McMillan *Nominating Committee*

I have been an active participant at TVUUC for about 3 years, and a member for just over 2. The church is vitally important to me because it is the only spiritual place I've found where members actually walk their talk. TVUUC feeds our souls, but more importantly, its programs are vital to making our community better. I own my own business and thus bring to the "skills table" the talents and gifts of organization plus planning and communication. My partner, Cheri Roop, and I decided early in our relationship that belonging to a church family was important to our growth both as individuals and as a couple. We live in Halls where she owns and operates a boarding kennel on our home's property, and we share our lives with 6 dogs, 4 goats, and 5 cats.

Bill Fields *Nominating Committee*

My partner Walter Davis and I have been members of TVUUC for three years. In that time I have served on the Social Action Committee, been involved in the Marriage Amendment Task Force, the Hospitality Task Force, and the Entryway Committee. I have been involved with the Welcome Table since its beginning and now coordinate the Welcome Table Volunteers. I have been on the board since January 2007 and through that involved in several of the leadership retreats.

It is hard for me to give a quick answer to what TVUUC means to me because it means different, ever-changing things to me. Sometimes it is the spiritual center of my life. Sometimes it is a community of like-minded people. Sometimes it is a vehicle to make a difference in the world. Sometimes it is a way to learn and expand my thinking. But whatever it is, it is always positive, enriching—one of the good things in my life. I believe strongly that just as we give of our treasure during canvass, it is important that we also give of our time and talent. I'm interested in the nominating committee as a way to serve this community. I think I am at a rather unique point: new enough to retain a fresh perspective yet experienced enough to understand the needs of our congregation. We have gotten so much better in so many ways just in the years I have been involved. I want to see that continue, and I see the Nominating Committee as a way to insure that we continue to foster leadership and involve folks who are committed to seeing TVUUC continue to challenge itself and to grow.

Tammy Sommers *Nominating Committee*

My husband Steve and I have been involved in TVUUC for 4 years. We came to Unitarian Universalism from Presbyterian/Lutheran backgrounds looking for a community that suited us both and provided the kind of spiritual community we had in mind for our children. I have taught in our preschool RE program for the past two years. I have found the TVUUC community to be a safe and happy place for us and our two children and a place where our spiritual growth is fostered. Outside of the church I am the COO of a local real estate company. I have a Masters of Educational Psychology, and I am active in the local community supporting public schools.

Monica P. Castaneda *Nominating Committee*

Monica P. Castaneda is a native of Quito, Ecuador, who has lived in the US for the past 13 years. She became acquainted with the Unitarian Universalist Church while living in Iowa about 7 years ago, where she served in various committees. She has been in Knoxville 2 years and joined TVUUC a year ago. She attends the Spiritual Parenting classes at TVUUC and has presented at the fora about Feng Shui and the Campaign for a Commercial Free Childhood. She also provides the graphic design for the postcards for our church gallery.

Lorraine Hart *Nominating Committee*

Lorraine Hart started attending TVUUC when she arrived from California with a 2-week old son and a 20-month old one, in 1969. She made a few good friends soon after she came, but did not get highly involved until she had completed a course concerning gay, lesbian, and bisexual concerns offered by Lynn Strauss, a former minister at TVUUC.

Subsequent to the course, she took over the pulpit one Sunday morning, had forums, book sales of books about homophobia, and provided many activities to educate and influence members of the church about the acceptance and equality of GLBT persons in our midst. With others, she contributed to our church becoming a welcoming congregation.

Lorraine continues to be available and supportive to persons dealing with discrimination and rejection by being an active member of Parents, Friends, Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) that meets monthly at TVUUC.

She has enjoyed monthly folk dances at the church and especially the forums which she attends regularly and participates in actively. She is currently a greeter on some Sunday mornings. She taught 5th grade RE a good while ago. She recently joined a small group ministry.

Lorraine is a licensed psychologist, but has been in retirement mode recently. Her recent energy has been spent in political activity. She is a Vice Chair in the local Democratic Party and was a ward chair and a district representative before that. She moderates a Democratic Club every 4th Tuesday at the West Knox County Library and gets provocative speakers to give presentations. She informs the church members of these activities on the church list serve.

She is studying Taoist Tai Chi with other TVUUC members. She is particularly interested in environmental and immigration issues.

John McNair *Nominating Committee*

I was raised at TVUUC and decided to join about 1972. While I've been on a couple of committees, been deeply moved by many services, and participated in some events—the main draw for me is and has always been participating in the choir. I find forcing energy into harmonic and rhythmic radiation of sound waves with a group to be a spiritual endeavor.

The main skill I bring to the nominating committee is not saying "no" when asked by Bee to be included on this slate.



**Memorial Day
Monday, May 26, 1 PM
A Free Recital**

Donations to the Performing Arts and
Lecture Series are welcome.

**Duo violinists
Scott Slapin & Tanya Solomon**

More information is posted at
www.tvuuc.org.

You may remember that Scott and Tanya have performed at TVUUC in the past, most notably after their New Orleans home was flooded by Hurricane Katrina. They still perform with the Louisiana Philharmonic, but Scott has an upcoming temporary assignment with the Cincinnati Symphony. He and Tanya will stay in Ohio for the 08-09 season.

—*Bill Pierce*



A Thank You from Family Promise

Dear TVUUC Friends,

We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation for all the hard work everyone did last week while hosting the Family Promise families. We realize what a difficult time it can be to line up all the necessary volunteers as well as coverage of the meals, etc.

A very special thank you to Elizabeth Brister-Franks for taking this on for the very first time and doing a great job making the week a success for everyone at TVUUC as well as our families. Both Elizabeth and Chloe did a fantastic job making sure everyone involved had a great week.

Family Promise could not continue to meet the needs of the families we serve without the dedication of the coordinators from our host and support churches. We realize what a job it is to turn your Sunday school rooms upside down to turn them into bedrooms for a week and then put everything back in its' place again, and to coordinate all the meals, volunteer support, etc. It can be a very overwhelming job, but Ann continues to give her all to making sure the week is successful not only for our families but also for your church members as well.

We see these women and Jayne Raparelli as wonderful examples of the true spirit of volunteerism. We are sure they are appreciated by the members of TVUUC as much as they are by us. If you have never been involved with hosting the Family Promise families, you have missed a great opportunity to see these dynamite women in action!

With sincere appreciation,

Nicole Craig, Executive Director

Joyce Shoudy, Director of Family Support Services

A Special Invitation from Oak Ridge UU Church: Tolle's A New Earth

Join the Integral Salon for a discussion of Eckhart Tolle's best seller *A New Earth*. The book has been a recent Oprah Book Club selection. Does Tolle authentically speak about spirituality? What can we learn from Tolle's insights? Does Tolle offer the path to enlightenment?

Join the Integral Salon on Tuesday, May 27, from 6:30-8:30 at ORUUC. We will use Ken Wilber's AQAL teachings to examine Tolle's work. All are welcome.

For more information, call Mark Evans at 573-6959.

**Send your church news
to newsletter@tvuuc.org!**



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 Nina Lee Braden, Administrative Assistant
 Donald Williams, Custodian & Groundskeeper
 Vicki Masters, Director of Music
 Jerry Bone, Membership Services Coordinator
 Chris Douglass, Interim Youth Programs Coordinator

label goes here!



**Performing
Arts &
Lecture
Series**

June 6&7
8:00pm

Thomas Lanier Williams III, with an accent so strongly southern, his college friends nicknamed him "Tennessee" Williams. *An Evening With Tennessee Williams* echoes literary voices from many sources: at least 9 major award-winning plays; 13 lesser (nay, "obscure") plays; 3 novels; 9 short stories; 43 one-acts; screen plays; poetry; and an autobiography. Co-sponsored by the Actors Co-op. **\$15/10**

**southern
voices:**

AN EVENING WITH

**Tennessee
Williams**

An Evening With Tennessee Williams, directed by Robert Mashburn, will be presented on June 6 and 7 at TVUUC. Admission is \$15 general and \$10 for seniors and students. Tickets are available in advance with no service charge from www.knoxtix.com or by calling 523.7521 and will be sold at the door on the evening of the performances. Show time is at 8 PM.

An Evening with Tennessee Williams brings together several of Knoxville's well-known actors: Robert Mashburn, Jayne Morgan, Amy Hubbard, Dennis Perkins, and Katie Prange. Mashburn has assembled scenes from several Williams' plays, the well-known as well as the obscure, that highlight the playwright's humor as well as his development of women characters. The second act will be a little-known short play, *A Lovely Sunday for Creve Coeur*.

Using a method he refers to as "chamber theatre," Mashburn builds on the successes of the past three Southern Voices productions that are a part of the Performing Arts and Lecture Series, sponsored by the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church