



The Community News

February 2016

OUR VISION

We will become a dynamic and nurturing religious community that celebrates our human diversity, supports lifelong spiritual growth, and acts for compassion and justice in the larger community.

Stewardship Kickoff Begins February 28th -- Wait, what? Stewardship?

Alas, the Urban Dictionary does not yet have a definition, so Vocabulary.com was consulted.

"Stewardship means the management or care of something, particularly the kind that works. If your company is making money, there's probably been careful stewardship — or, a lot of luck...stewardship is often used to mean 'the care, handling and management of resources.' Your school requires stewardship to make sure its supplies aren't stretched. Your clean water may be thanks to the stewardship of an environmental office."

Wikipedia: "Stewardship is an ethic that embodies the responsible planning and management of resources. The concepts of stewardship can be applied to the environment and nature, economics, health, property, information, theology, etc."

Stewardship is about taking care of things. And let's be honest. This is the time of year when we all will be asked to pledge money to help support the church, and if so, would we increase our pledge over last year. But what is all that money going for? And why are we calling it 'Stewardship' instead of a 'Pledge Drive'?

Bear with me here for a minute.

There are very obvious places where our money can go. Getting our building back to full usability is probably one of the most visible. And an earnest case can be made that the minister and DRE both need to be paid their salaries for the excellent work that they do. The Church staff needs to be paid to keep the wheels going, and the grounds need to be kept up. Sure, all of that is true, and all needed, but it all appears to be nuts-and-bolts. It's the bus with parts to it, but where is it going anyway? and do I really want to be on this ride? Why does this church matter at all?

Why does our message as UUs matter? Why do we matter? Because we believe that if a beloved community is to be realized; if suffering is to be remedied, and if injustices are to be righted, it has to be done now in this life, no matter what any after-life may hold. Because we believe that the present moment is always the right time to do what's right. And because we believe that small groups of thoughtful, committed people can change, have changed, and will change the world.

As a congregation of above average size (Community UU currently 200 members and the average < 150), we are still a small group in relation to our larger society. We, like many are trying to do the right things, even in the face of economic hardship. Yet despite the financial and other difficulties of our country and individual members, we collectively rise to the tasks that hope, mercy and justice require. It is through this small

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February, 2016 Sunday Services

Theme - Love

February 7- "Where Is Love?" - Rev. Patrick Price.

February 14 - "What *Has* Love Got to Do With It?" - Rev. Patrick Price

February 21 - "Evolution Sunday" - Guest Speakers - Elena Westbrook, Jeannette Baillie and Tiffany Cheri Naquin.

February 28 - "Taking the Leap Forward" - Rev. Patrick Price

**12:15 p.m.: Inquirer's Class held the fourth Sunday of each month*

Typical Sunday

10:30 - 11:45 a.m.: Worship, Religious Education for Children and Youth, and Nursery Childcare

11:45 a.m.: Coffee and Conversation

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Patrick's Ponderings "What's Love Got to Do With It?"

There are so many different ways we use the word 'love' in English, and the concept usually has many meanings in other languages as well. "Love" is often a place holder for something larger than our selves. It is a symbol, which like all symbols, has many particular meanings at the same time. In religious language and use, "Love" is often a substitute for the Holy, or the experience of the Holy, or the underlying nature of the Holy. "God is Love." It is also a place holder for deepest intimacies when we "make love."

Our understandings and experiences of "love" change with our settings, and with those who are the subjects and objects, givers and recipients of the "love" being exchanged. Love can be selfish and self denying. It can be full and empty, light and dark, homey and exotic, comforting and disturbing. To talk of "love" can be sappy and silly. To talk of love can be a portal to risks and dangers, real and imagined.

The King Center in Atlanta offers this summary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s understanding of different loves and their role in creating a "Beloved Community" of All Souls.

The core value of the quest for Dr. King's Beloved Community was agape love. Dr. King distinguished between three kinds of love: eros, "a sort of aesthetic or romantic love"; philia, "affection between friends" and agape, which he described as "understanding, redeeming goodwill for all," an "overflowing love which is purely spontaneous, unmotivated, groundless and creative"... "the love of God operating in the human heart." He said that "Agape does not begin by discriminating between worthy and unworthy people... It begins by loving others for their sakes" and "makes no distinction between a friend and enemy; it is directed toward both... Agape is love seeking to preserve and create community." (<http://www.thekingcenter.org>)

As UUs we choose *Standing on the Side of Love*, which is an interfaith public advocacy campaign, sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA), "that seeks to harness love's power to stop oppression ... When we stand on the side of love, we commit to recognizing the common threads in the justice struggles of marginalized communities, and to remaining steadfast in our work to support these communities. Through our collective commitment to justice, we live out our faith in a better world, and we do so with patience, with hope, and with conviction that our collective love is far more powerful than fear—indeed, more powerful than anything else in the world." (<http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org>)

So perhaps that's what love's got to do with... everything. I hope your lives are full of love and the opportunities to channel it's transformative powers. Blessings, Patrick

(Continued from front page) Stewardship Kickoff Begins February 28th -- Wait, what? Stewardship?

group that people have food to eat. It is through this small group that the teachers and children of Barron elementary receive needed supplies of health items and coats. It is through this and other groups like our neighbors, the Sai Center of Dallas, with who we band together, in helping the recent tornado victims in Rowlett and Garland. And it is our UU Community, among many allies, who stood up for those who struggle as second-class citizens because of skin color or sexual orientation or gender identity, or religion.

This is not the only reason why we matter, but also for what the life saving and transformational message of faith offers to everyone who needs it. By existing and working to transform our selves, we change the world, and in turn the world transforms our lives to be in greater harmony with the Holy, that which we know to be the greater good.

Just ask yourself or other members and friends of Community UU Church to think about how your (their) lives have been/are changed for the better by being a part of this religious community. When someone approaches to discuss pledging for the coming year, ask if this is the bus you want to be on. Because we plan on continuing on, Nourishing Spirits, Working for Justice, and Transforming Lives. - Rob Saxon

President's Column

In the front page article of this month's newsletter you read about stewardship and perhaps have begun to think about stewardship in a new way. As we begin our stewardship drive for 2016, I invite you to join us on February 6, 2016, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., at a one-day workshop presented by consultant Bill Clontz, as we learn about and talk about money, stewardship, and the connection to our mission and vision.

The flyer promoting this workshop suggests that "UUs can talk about anything with ease but MONEY." If you join us for this informative workshop, and I hope you will, we will learn about:

- Unitarian Universalist stewardship principles
- How to link stewardship goals and programs to mission and vision
- Power tools and techniques for effective stewardship
- Key stewardship questions

You will also enjoy a working lunch, small group discussions, and meet and share ideas with UUs from other UU churches in our North Texas Cluster. Special focus will be on:

- Stewardship principles and tools
- The stewardship questions we usually get wrong
- Capital campaigns and debt
- Planning for our future

In the last several months we have talked a lot about our future. The success of our stewardship efforts this year and in the years to come will play a large part in determining that future. So join us on February 6, 2016, and help us apply what is learned to our congregation's Next Steps. Fondly, Lexie

Newcomer Orientation Class

Sunday, February 7, 12 – 1:30pm, in Room F. Childcare provided. Do you want to learn more about Unitarian Universalism or Community Unitarian Universalist Church of Plano? Maybe you would like to meet some of our leaders, or to hear about our programs and activities. Maybe you're thinking about becoming a member. Are you interested in sharing your story or hearing those of other new UUs like yourself?

The Newcomer Orientation class is fundamental and perfect for experiencing the sense of community that you've been longing for.

The workshop is broadly divided into three areas:

- spiritual journey and worship,
- history and background of Unitarian Universalism,
- the programs and organization of Community Church.

To register for the class - please follow this link: [NCO Class Registration](#). Of course, walk-ins are welcome, too.

For more information: email membcom@communityuuchurch.org or talk to a Greeter or Membership Council member on Sunday.

February , 2016

Simple Living Chalice Circle

Meeting time and place – The next meeting will be **Saturday morning Feb. 13, at 11am.**

Theme/topic – Learning together to live deliberately.

Facilitator – Contact Ona Tannehill at Email simpleliving@communityuuchurch.org for location.

Thank You!

Betty Moore sends sincere thanks to all those who sent cards, visited or brought food during her hospitalization and recovery.

SWUUV Conference – Mountain Refuge

In Lawton Oklahoma, **February 26-28, 2016** - Save the date for the SWUUV Women's annual conference.

Keynote Speaker Lauren Zuniga is an internationally touring poet, activist & teaching artist. She is an author of two poetry collections. As a three-time national slam finalist, she's one of the top slam poets in the world.

Proposed Bylaws / Budget

We will be voting on these at the Annual Business meeting at the conference. Please be familiar with them. We will have a few print copies available at the meeting.

To register go to www.swuuv.org.

Deadline for the March newsletter is Friday, February 19. Email your articles to newsletter@communityuuchurch.org.

Rides to Sunday services

The Caring Committee is working to meet the needs of members and friends who need rides to Sunday church services.

If you are a member or friend of the church and need a ride or can provide rides, please contact Caring Committee.

Rummage Sale Fundraiser. Save your stuff! The OWL and YRUU classes will be hosting a rummage sale on **March 11-12!** We'll take anything that is still usable but just doesn't fit in your life anymore - clothing, books, furniture, toys, baby items, knickknacks, you name it! As you clean closets and sort through the garage, be sure to set those treasures aside for the Rummage Sale!

Kathy Smith on Sabbatical!

All of Kathy's duties have been assigned to others while she is out. Please do not contact Kathy at all. This is Kathy's time for growth and rejuvenation. For all RE-related questions, please contact Sandy Kochenower or Amy Dessert at dre@communityuuchurch.org. You can also text or call Sandy at (972)841-3292, but please remember she is ours for only 10 hours a week.

SHARE THE PLATE. Our "Share the Plate" offering for February is designated for the Minister's Discretionary Fund. This fund helps many members of our congregation and the community at large. Half of the collection on **Sunday, February 28** will go to **Minister's Discretionary Fund.** You can also donate to this cause all month long via the CUUC web page by selecting the Share the Plate option.

Literary Ladies Book Club

Upcoming Meetings

Women members and friends of Community UU Church are welcome to join us on **the third Tuesday of the month from 7 – 9pm.**

Date: Tuesday, February 16

Location: Nancy Barlow's home. RSVP to Nancy by Feb. 12 if you plan to attend.

Selection: **Being Mortal** by Atul

Gawande *In Being Mortal, bestselling author Atul Gawande tackles the hardest challenge of his profession: how medicine can not only improve life but also the process of its ending. Medicine has triumphed in modern times, transforming birth, injury, and infectious disease from harrowing to manageable. But in the inevitable condition of aging and death, the goals of medicine seem too frequently to run counter to the interest of the human spirit. Nursing homes, preoccupied with safety, pin patients into railed beds and wheelchairs. Hospitals isolate the dying, checking for vital signs long after the goals of cure have become moot. Doctors, committed to extending life, continue to carry out devastating procedures that in the end extend suffering.* Amazon

Volunteer Opportunity.

Wanted: An AV-savvy volunteer to oversee the functioning of the church AV equipment (sound and projection equipment). Requirements include maintaining contact with the Sunday morning tech crew, troubleshooting issues that arise, reporting repairs that are needed to Janet Belden, and updating and maintaining an AV setup guide and general troubleshooting guide. Contact Deb Bliss if you are interested and able to serve our church in this way.

Religious Education

Words to Live By

“Justice is what love looks like in public.”

Dr. Cornel West

Love in Action = Justice in Progress

By Kathy E. Smith, Director of Religious Education

Unitarian Universalists believe that our faith calls us to work for justice – to create a world that is fair and peaceful for everyone. We believe that justice can only happen when we stand on the side of love – when we ask ourselves, “what would the highest calling of love for my fellow human being or for humankind require me to do in this instance?” and act accordingly.

Asking “what does love call me to do right now for someone else?” doesn’t necessarily come naturally, although with practice it can become second nature to us. (To quote Ralph Waldo Emerson, “That which dominates our imaginations and our thoughts will determine our lives and our character ... what we are worshipping, we are becoming.”)

It isn’t just about the dramatic moment – the opportunity to rescue a trapped animal or step up to a schoolyard bully – although those things are often what we think of when we think about justice. Love in action can be the small everyday actions that create small moments of justice. Love in action can be seeing someone standing alone in the cafeteria (or the fellowship hall) and patting the seat next to you. Love in action can be learning to pronounce someone’s name correctly. It can be speaking up to correct a negative stereotype in a joke someone just told, or it can be speaking your feelings of discomfort at hearing the joke at all. It is these small moments of love for our fellow human beings that move individuals and therefore the world, ever so slightly, towards justice.

And what about the larger picture? Love for humanity certainly motivates us to work for a better world by carefully considering the propositions we will vote for, whether we will join a protest march, or how we will vacation. But it motivates us to countless small actions as well. Love in action can be choosing to buy – and use – a water filter and a stainless steel water bottle, because draining aquifers and producing an endless supply of plastic bottles affects us all. Love in action can be writing a letter or making a phone call to a public official about a policy that unfairly impacts transgender individuals, because public policy is in part guided by public response. Love in action can be staying compassionately engaged with a conversation about Black Lives Matter on social media even when it gets difficult, because it is only in relationship and community that minds and hearts can change. It is in these small moments of love for humanity that the world can move, ever so slightly, towards justice for all.

See you in church next month! In faith, Kathy

By the way, if you are interested in doing some further reading on some of the topics lifted up in this article, check out one or more of these links:

www.standingonthesideoflove.org/lgbtq-equity/

www.kennywiley.com/2015/03/26/a-unitarian-universalist-black-lives-matter-theology/

www.uuministryforearth.org/reflections

In faith, Kathy

Community News

Connections

The Leadership Development Committee would like to express deep gratitude to the following attendees of the **UUA Southern Region's leadership conference in Glen Rose last November: Reverend Patrick Price, Dick Hildenbrand, Duane Mortensen, Celeste Kennedy, Sandy Kochenower, and Vicki and Gene Verinder.** These fine folks attended workshops on long-range planning and implementation; covenant, conflict and community; and facilitating change and intercultural development, among others. The knowledge they attained at the conference is undoubtedly a boon to our congregation as we continue to flourish "Into the FUUTURE!"

If you are interested in developing your leadership skills for the benefit of our community, please speak with a member of the Leadership Development Committee (we wear the maroon nametags) or email LDC@communityuchurch.org. ~Your LDC Correspondent

Women's Alliance Annual Retreat "Seasons of Joy"

This year our retreat will be held on April 8, 9 and 10, 2016. We will again be returning to Glen Lake Retreat Center in Glen Rose, TX. The theme this year is "Seasons of Joy". The deadline for registration is March 31, 2016.

We have two price options:

Option 1 is a deluxe cabin, which will accommodate 9 persons on the bottom bunks. The cabin has a large lighted vanity area and a bathroom with showers. The mattresses are wide and firm. You will need to provide

your bedding and towels. This price is \$100 for the weekend which includes 3 meals on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday.

Option 2 is an hotel style room available for \$150. These rooms are semi-private with 2 twin beds and a private bath in each and you do not need to bring bedding or towels. This price also includes your meals. There is a limited number of these rooms so it is first come, first serve. You must submit payment for a room to be held in your name.

Come join us for our annual gathering. It is a fun weekend filled with sharing, singing, activities and more.

A

chance to make new friends and visit with old friends. This is your chance to get away from it all!! We hope to see you there!

If you plan on joining us, contact Barb Salvo for more details or questions.

Calendar of Upcoming Family-Friendly Events:

Sun. Feb. 7 – Worship/Religious Education classes, 10:30am.

Sun. Feb. 14 – Coffee and Coaching (for RE Teachers), 9:15am.

Sun. Feb. 14 – Worship/Religious Education classes, 10:30am.

Fri. Feb. 19 - Everybody Game Night, 6:30-9pm

Sun. Feb. 21 – Worship/Religious Education classes, 10:30am.

Sun. Feb. 28 – Worship/Religious Education classes, 10:30am. (children's chapel K-7th)

Adult Religious Education Classes for Spring, 2016

The Mission of the **Adult Religious Education Program** is to nurture and stimulate the religious and personal growth of the adult church community. We offer a varied and cohesive program within the context of the living Unitarian Universalist tradition and principles.

We offer a range of classes of interest to adults and youth on weekday evenings throughout the year. Each evening class ends no later than 9pm. Our programs include our continuing meditation group and a variety of topical classes. CHILDCARE is available for all classes, upon request. To reserve childcare call the Church office (972-424-8989) at least 48 hours in advance.

Sundays

Study and Discussion Group - Rev. Patrick Price. The Winter/Spring Series **9 am in the Annex.** The book for this series is: **Waking the Karma Fairy by the Rev. Meg Barnhouse.** This book can be ordered from the UUA bookstore or Rev. Price will have copies for sale at discounted price.

Mondays

Vipassana Meditation with Clifton Rule. 7 - 9 pm in Room G of the annex. "We are not in the business of making Buddhists but we do study their suggestions for starting and continuing a meditation practice of your own. We meditate for 30 minutes, read and discuss books about meditation, and learn about this path of personal freedom from stress, anxiety, and wanting. Please come join us and partake of this opportunity to explore this exciting new tool for your own personal journey."

Tuesdays

Tibetan Buddhism – 7pm – Sanctuary. Meditation and Mind Training. Please join us for guided meditation and a skillful approach to developing mental peace and clarity. Facilitated by the Ven. Tashi Nyima.

Thursdays

NEW CLASS: *Long Strange Trip: The Journey Through Two Thousand Years of Unitarian Universalist History* - Facilitator: John Hart, 6 pm, Church Annex. Started Jan. 28 - "In the Beginning".

This video story of Unitarian Universalism is a first...and such a gift to our movement." "So many people have no idea about our long history and that our concepts go back to the first century..." says one of the reviewers. The author of the series, Ron Cordes, received grants from a UU entity and used most of the money to travel - enabling him to bring historical figures to life...in front of their statues, houses, and churches throughout Europe and the United States. Importantly, he's made the history accessible, not dry and abstract, but lively and present." ...he has connected the historical dots of Unitarian history from ancient history until the present. The series includes provocative questions. **A syllabus for the first half of 2016 can be found on our website under Education/Adult.**

Other Educational - Transformative Experiences

Mondays

Harvest the Power - The Nurturing and Training of Lay Leaders (by invitation only). Feb. 8. Facilitator: Sarah Reiling, 7pm. This is a program about Connections. Part of being a leader is learning how to shake things up, the changing of the status quo. The class helps you to explore leadership as a spiritual practice. **The Leadership Development Committee (LDC)** is charged with identifying, nurturing and supporting Community UU Church lay leaders. Approximately every 18 months the LDC offers the UUA Harvest the Power workshop. It weaves Unitarian Universalist values, Principles and Sources with the four strands: spiritual development, ethical development, UU identity development and faith development. The LDC hopes to support attendees' spiritual journeys. Each session is 2-hours, the program runs for 12 weeks. Free childcare is provided.

Thursdays

Great Decisions 2016 - This group has starting meeting in Founders Hall at 1:30pm.

For members and friends who like to learn about and discuss American foreign policy. Meetings are held every 2 weeks to discuss the topics selected by the Foreign Policy Association in their "Great Decisions 2016" program. There are eight topics. Pre-ordered books have arrived. Read the chapters at home, view the DVD background at the meeting, and then discuss these topics. This group meets at the church in Founders Hall: To attend contact **Donna Bening** (donnabening@verizon.net) The group takes turns facilitating the topics.

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Community News

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Fridays

Great Decisions, 2016. 2pm This group has starting meeting off-site in homes.

To attend contact **Grace Morrison**. The group takes turns hosting and facilitating the topics. To order the 2016 books see www.fpa.org.

Saturdays

New Interest Group Artist Colony @ CUUC – 10am, Founders Hall, this class meets the last Saturday of the month starting February 27.

Calling all Artists and "Wanna Be" Artists! Come join us in expressing yourself through the Visual Arts The **Artist Colony @ CUUC** can provide you with the opportunity to be creative, get inspired, and further develop your artistic skills. The core of our activities will be to work on personal projects. You also can share your completed creations with other participants. We are all teachers and learners. Those who are not currently involved in producing art are also encouraged to come so you too can join us on the endless journey of creativity. Participants are responsible for bringing their own supplies and taking care of their own cleanup. In addition to the traditional visual art media and techniques, digital art is also encouraged so feel free to bring your laptops, tablets, *etc.* if you are so inclined. The leader/facilitators are **Clyde Grauke and Miles Dillon**. If you are interested in participating or have any questions, **contact Clyde Grauke**.

Building Racial Bridges: CUUC's February Common Read

Help us build racial bridges HERE, NOW. Read **Why We Can't Wait** by **Martin Luther King, Jr.** Join the discussion on **Monday, Feb. 1st and 8th** at 7pm at the church. MLK's message to white churches is as relevant today as it was in 1964. **Facilitator: Michael Phillips, PhD, Professor Collin College History Dept., scholar of Texas race relations.** This is the first of a series of programs by the CUUC Social Action Committee. **Members and friends of the church who need a ride to the discussions can contact Betsy Friauf. Childcare will be available by contacting Deb Bliss by Thursday, Jan. 28.**

The Shared Pulpit: A Sermon Seminar for Lay People. Schedule pending, sessions are 3 hours each and class size is limited to 8 participants. Facilitated by Rev. Patrick Price and others.

Here is a complete workshop to help lay people gain experience writing and preaching a full-length sermon for their congregation. This easy-to-use guide for both facilitators and participants provides a step-by-step lesson plan for eight sessions. Workshop members learn about the theory and theology of preaching, then practice writing and speaking with authenticity, gradually building toward composing quality 20-minute sermons. Workshop leaders learn to foster a supportive environment in which participants offer one another helpful feedback. The Shared Pulpit includes a separate leader's guide, readings for homework, sample sermons, and exercises to help first-time preachers polish their preaching craft.

A brief introductory video by the author, Erika Hewett, is at: <https://smallscreen.uua.org/videos/the-shared-pulpit>. Copies of the book will be available at the beginning of classes for \$14 and/or can be ordered directly from the UUA bookstore. A few copies will be available to use for free from the Church library. <http://www.uuabookstore.org/cw> [Search.aspx?k=shared+pulpit](http://www.uuabookstore.org/cw/Search.aspx?k=shared+pulpit). Please contact the church office to RSVP for this series, so we can better gauge participation, provide Child care and books to be ordered. cuuc-office@CommunityUUChurch.org or 972-424-8989.

Community News

UBarU Corner

Kid's camp opportunities this summer

Dates	Age Category	Grade as of Sept 1, 2016
June 19 - 25	Sojourner	rising grades 3-5
July 10 - 16	Reeb	rising grade 10 through 2016 high-school graduates
June 26 - July 2	Olympia	rising grades 6 & 7
July 3 - 9	Seeger	rising grades 8 & 9

There is also a family camp happening June 10 thru June 13

Summer Camp at UBarU! Make new friends and reconnect with old friends. Swim in the beautiful limestone swimming tank, ponder the Milky Way on clear evenings, do some community service, walk the labyrinth, take a trip to swim in the Guadalupe River and enjoy the ropes course at Mo Ranch. And of course, spend some time having fun while deepening UU faith. Registration may be found at <http://ubaru.org/home/SummerCamp>.

Family Camp at UBarU! Spend time with your family in the beautiful Texas Hill Country! This week of camp will offer opportunities to learn, grow, and share as a family, as well as opportunities for parents to enjoy some free time and activities designed just for them. Activities will include cookouts, campfires, sing-alongs, worship, swimming, nature education, and star party. June 10-June 13. Go to <http://ubaru.org/home/FamilyCamp> for more information and to register or contact Trustee Bill Daffinee.

What's New in the Community Garden?

Have you noticed the new arbors at the garden entrance? **Nancy and Joe Barlow** made the donation which will allow us to add grapes to the fruit we produce this year. **Carrie Dubberley** arranged the transport and installation.

In 2015 we donated 2600 pounds of fresh, organic produce to area pantries. A new **butterfly garden** and milkweed plants attracted Monarch butterflies and caterpillars. **Mason bee homes** and native plants provided for pollinators. A **partnership with the North Texas Food Bank** increased our public exposure and brought us many volunteers for harvests and projects. In December North Texas Food Bank gave us \$50 for tools.

Three new gardeners will be working plots in 2016. Forty percent of our gardeners are from the community at large. Congregation gardeners include: **Carrie Dubberley, Heather Joy, Jeffrey Hagerhorst, Jo Howser, Kathy Smith, Kimberly Meadows, Mary Ann and Mike Owens, Melia Newman, Ninhda Nosavan, and Tricia Lewandowski.** **Raji Josiam and Rashmi Mishra** continue as loyal supporters from the **Sai Congregation.**

In February we will be planting onions and potatoes. Okra stalks will serve as trellises for sugar snap peas and we will plant more asparagus roots. Our thorn-less blackberry canes produced a bumper crop last spring. If you would like to help harvest once in a while or have excess food from your garden to donate, you will find

December Financial Report

By Dick Hildenbrand, Treasurer

The December 2015 financial summary for our operating accounts is listed below. For the fiscal year (starting 6/1/15) we are \$9k “better than budget”. While December’s offering income is significantly below budget, YTD offering income is \$4k ahead of budget, due primarily to early payment and extra pledge payments. All expense groups are very close to budget; within Administration, the overspending is mainly due to extra fund raising expenses – ya gotta spend money to make money.

By the time you read this article, you should have received from us your annual statement of tax-deductible contributions. If you have any questions about your statement, please send an email to treasurer@communityuuchurch.org.

Major Repair financial status: Individual contributions totaling \$600 have supplemented the initial \$10k borrowed from our Investment Funds. About \$6,300 of this has been spent thus far. We will pull another \$10k from investments in January to pay the accumulating bills for these projects. Individual contributions are always welcome!

Donate Now

Upcoming *Share the Plate* Offerings

Date	Recipient
Jan. 31, 2016	Human Rights Initiative of NT
Feb. 28, 2016	Minister’s Discretionary Fund
March 27, 2016	Community Harvest Garden

If you forget your checkbook on a Share the Plate Sunday, remember you can always donate on line.

FREE MONEY!

Kroger: Update your Kroger Plus card to link to organization 83309 at www.kroger.com/communityrewards. NOTE: It’s time to renew you Kroger Community Rewards - just follow this link: <https://www.kroger.com/communityrewards>

Tom Thumb: Link your Rewards card to charity 8089 at Customer Service.

Amazon.com: Use this link for purchases: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/75-1787256>

The church will get a portion of all purchase amounts!

INCOME & EXPENSE December 2015

	Dec. 2015	Month Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget	% Annual Budget (FY 58.3% comp)
INCOME						
Total Offering Income	\$25,370	\$30,364	\$160,528	\$156,274	\$246, 596	65.1%
Total Fund Raiser Income	\$6,462	\$3,035	\$25,883	\$22,485	\$24,900	103.9%
Total Building Usage	\$3,561	\$2,633	\$17,046	\$14,895	\$26,404	64.6%
Misc. Income	\$1,010	\$1,343	\$8,178	\$7,309	\$15,760	51.9%
TOTAL INCOME	\$36,403	\$37,375	\$211,634	\$200,963	\$313,659	67.5%
EXPENSE						
Administration	\$6,678	\$4,423	\$36,898	\$33,931	\$54,155	68.1%
Programs	\$1,897	\$1,698	\$13,587	\$13,286	\$22,789	59.6%
Religious Education	\$4,503	\$4,560	\$36,756	\$36,801	\$59,839	61.4%
Facilities/Grounds	\$5,320	\$6,512	\$33,972	\$33,815	\$60,222	56.4%
Ministry	\$8,057	\$7,797	\$55,248	\$57,328	\$98,900	55.9%
Denomination	\$1,614	\$1,614	\$9,684	\$9,684	\$17,754	54.5%
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$28,070	\$26,604	\$186,144	\$184,845	\$313,659	59.3%
NET INCOME	\$8,333	\$10,771	\$25,490	\$16,118	\$0	

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Sabbatical Dir. of Rel. Edu.: Sandy (K) ochenoweer

dre@CommunityUUChurch.org

Director of Music, Robert Brown,

musicdir@communityuuchurch.org

Church Secretary, Connie Meints:

cuuc-office@CommunityUUChurch.org

Church Bookkeeper, John Elder:

bookkeeper@CommunityUUChurch.org

Facilities Coordinator, Duane Mortensen:

facilities@CommunityUUChurch.org

Membership Coordinator, Cindy Pilcher

mc@communityUuChurch.org

Board of Trustees: **board@CommunityUUChurch.org**

Trustees meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month at 7pm in Founders Hall. Members, friends and visitors are always welcome.

Worship Programs (Sunday Services, Ushers Coordinator, Interior Arts)

worshipteam@CommunityUUChurch.org

Caring Committee Coordinator, Mina Daffinee

Caring @CommunityUUChurch.org

Communications Director, Rob Saxon.

communications@communityuuchurch.org

Personnel Coordinator, Mike Owens

personnel-chair@communityuuchurch.org

Committee on Ministry, Anne Smith, Chair

Mincom@communityuuchurch.org

Social Action Programs

UUSInAction@CommunityUUChurch.org

Bridge Group Coordinator, Clint Burleson:

bridge@CommunityUUChurch.org

Circle Suppers Coordinator, John Snyder:

Circlesuppers@CommunityUUChurch.org

Friday Flicks Coordinator, Alice Mayo:

flicks@Community UUChurch.org

First Friday Folksingers Coordinator, Dick Hildenbrand:

folksingers@CommunityUUChurch.org

Outdoor Adventure Coordinator, Dick Hildenbrand:

outdooradventure@CommunityUUChurch.org

Leadership Development Committee:

ldc@CommunityUUChurch.org

Capital Improvement Committee (Bill Daffinee, Chair):

wrdaffinee@aol.com

Strategic Planning Committee:

planning@CommunityUUChurch.org

Chalice Circle/Simple Living (Coordinator Ona Tannehill):

simpleliving@CommunityUUChurch.org

Program Board: (Chet Smith, Chair):

programs@CommunityUUChurch.org

Finance Committee: **finance@CommunityUUChurch.org**

Stewardship Committee (Gene Verinder, Chair):

stewardship@CommunityUUChurch.org

Investment Committee: (David Hollands, Chair, Carol Wise, Karen Bethel): **investment@CommunityUUChurch.org**

Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (Kathy Smith, Coordinator):

yruu@CommunityUUChurch.org

Adult Enrichment/Adult Education (Celeste Kennedy, Director): **adultre@CommunityUUChurch.org**

EarthSpirit (Janie McDermott, Coordinator):

earthspirit@CommunityUUChurch.org

Men's Fellowship (John Elder, Coordinator):

men@CommunityUUChurch.org

Religious Education Board (Amy Dessert, Chairperson):

reboard@CommunityUUChurch.org

Hospitality Committee (Coordinator):

hospitality@CommunityUUChurch.org

Women's Alliance: **women@CommunityUUChurch.org**

Safe Congregations

Safecongregations@communityuuchurch.org

UU Website Links

Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA): www.uua.org

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC):

www.uusc.org

Southwest District (SWUUC): **www.swuuc.org**

North Texas Unitarian Universalist Congregations (NTUUC):

www.ntuuc.org

CUUC Representatives, Celeste Kennedy and Grace Morrison:

NTUUC@CommunityUUChurch.org

UBarU Camp and Retreat Center, Trustee, Bill Daffinee

Wrdaffinee@aol.com

Church Office Hours

Monday: church offices closed: **Tuesday:** 9 am to 3 pm
Wednesday: 9 am to 2:30 pm: **Thursday:** 9 am to 2:30 pm
Friday: 9 am to Noon: **Office Phone #:** 972-424-8989

Reverend Patrick Price

Monday: Available for emergencies only.
Tuesday through Thursday: Noon to 4 pm
Friday: Available for emergencies only.
Other times by appointment. Please contact Reverend Price for appointments and scheduling information.

Director of Religious Education Kathy Smith - On Sabbatical
Sabbatical Dir. Of Religious Education Sandy Kochenower (Sandy K.)
Sunday mornings.

Bookkeeper John Elder Tuesday & Thursday: 10:30am - 2:30pm
other times by appointment.

Membership Coordinator Cindy Pilcher Wednesday: 9 - 11:30am.

Church Secretary Connie Meints

Tuesday 9am to 3pm, **Wednesday & Thursday** 9am to 2:30pm, **Friday**
9am to noon.

Music Director Robert Brown

The Community News

The Community News is distributed to Members and Friends of this church. Visitors who complete a visitor card receive issues for three months. To continue receiving issues, sign the "Welcome Back" book on each visit. Others may subscribe for an annual donation of \$25.00.

The editor encourages and appreciates submissions and on-time submissions are especially delightful. The Community News is published once a month.

Email articles to
newsletter@CommunityUUChurch.org

Please include your name on any news item submitted for The Community News.

Items may be edited for clarity and brevity

Community Unitarian Universalist Church of Plano
2875 E. Parker Rd.
Plano, TX 75074



For our February 2016 calendar, go to our website at:

CommunityUUChurch.org

Events listed on the calendar are subject to change. For more information and confirmation of these events, please visit the church calendar at <http://www.communityuuchurch.org/pages/calendar>.

Southwest Spring Conference April 8 - 10, 2016
Wildflower Church, 1314 E. Oltorf Street, Austin, Texas 78704

Differences that Make a Difference:
Multicultural Justice Making Inside and Out

In today's world, conversations about difference are both difficult and necessary. Unitarian Universalists, with our theology of and commitment to pluralism, are called to lead the way in navigating a respectful discourse around emotional topics such as diversity in culture, ethnicity, and theology in a world that is increasingly divided. At this year's Spring Conference, we will be exploring the differences in our congregations and how they make a difference in the way we chose to be in the world.

Please join our Theme Speaker, Kathy McGowan, Congregational Life Field Staff for the Southern Region of the UUA and Specialist in Intercultural Sensitivities, for a day of engaging conversation around areas of difference that make a difference.

We will explore how congregations are answering the call to multicultural justice-making through a panel discussion featuring leaders who are seeing success in navigating the difficult waters of difference in their congregations, clusters, and states. Following the panel discussion, the panel speakers will lead small-group conversations which deepen our understanding and bring light to our struggles in each area. Areas include cultural differences and racial justice, LGBT justice, generational issues and faith development as a justice issue, and navigating interfaith partnerships.

Participants who are 14 and older are invited to attend all workshops. Participants who are ages 5 through 13 are invited to attend the workshop on generational and faith development issues. Participants under 5 years of age may either attend workshops with their guardians or attend on-site childcare. **To register go to [UUASouthern Region/Events/scroll down to the listing for the Southwest Spring Conference](#).**

Friday:

8PM - Opening Worship
9PM - Gathering Reception
10PM - End

Sunday:

9AM - Faith Presbyterian Worship
11AM - Wildflower UU Church Worship

Saturday:

9AM - Morning Worship
9:30- 10:30AM - Key Note with Kathy McGowan
10:30- 11AM - Coffee Break
11AM - 12PM - Panel Discussions
12- 1PM - Lunch
1- 3PM - Workshops
3- 4PM - Closing Discussion/Processing/Take Homes
4PM - Adjourn