



The Community News

February 2015

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.

CITY OF PLANO EQUAL RIGHTS ORDINANCE by Charlie Battista

As Unitarian Universalists, our first and second principles specifically address our support for equal rights protections for all persons. Our UU Principles state:

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;

On December 8, 2014, the Plano City Council passed by a vote of 5-3, the Plano Equal Rights Ordinance (ERO). The ERO updates a 1989 City of Plano Policy by extending “equal opportunities of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness” to all individuals regardless of US military/veteran status, genetic information, sexual orientation and gender identity.

A group of citizens operating as “Plano Citizens United” (planoequalrights.com) and supported by The Houston Pastor’s Council and Plano-based Liberty Institute, have mounted a petition drive to recall the ERO via a city-wide election. The recall effort is also supported by the Prestonwood Baptist Church as well as Attorney General Ken Paxton, State Representative Jodie Laubenberg, R-Parker, Collin County Judge Keith Self and three Collin County commissioners.

The group needs over 3,800 signatures by January 20th to place the recall effort on the ballot of the municipal election. The stated goal of the opposition is to obtain twice the number of signatures needed to avoid their embarrassing failed attempt to overturn a similar Houston ordinance because of forged and invalid signatures. In all likelihood the opposition will be successful in obtaining the required number of signatures. (Note: the deadline for the signature drive is after the deadline for this newsletter - stay tuned for more information).

We at Community UU Church have the opportunity to walk the talk and practice our faith in action by our support of the Plano ERO. Consistent with our UU Principles, it is important that we keep ourselves informed on the status of the attempts to overturn the City of Plano Equal Rights Ordinance and do whatever we can to support the ERO. Accordingly, I will post information links and status updates including schedule of community meetings and volunteer opportunities in our Community UU newsletters and communications.

In mounting this effort to encourage support of the Plano ERO, I am reminded of
(continued on page 7)

February, 2015
Sunday Services
Theme - Authority

February 1 - "Exodus and Foundations: the Birth of Our Church." - Rev. Patrick Price .
(See page 2)

February 8 - “Social Justice and Religious Authority” Guest Speaker, - Courtney Van Lacy
(See page 2)

February 15 - “Evolution and Religious Authority ” -
Rev. Patrick Price

February 22 - “ Money and Religious Authority”
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 "Religious Authority and Truth "

Unitarian Universalists claim the title "heretic" (*one who chooses*) and our forbearers have been upending the usual ideas of what is or isn't religious authority for a long time. For much of human history people of authority were the principle source of what was to be believed and *obeyed*. They decided what was true or reliable. This was usually institutionalized as laws and as "tradition." As the character Tevye in the musical *Fiddler on the Roof* says in the prologue to the song "Tradition," ***"You may ask, how did this tradition start? I'll tell you - I don't know. But it's a tradition... Because of our traditions, everyone knows who he is and what God expects him to do."***

There are three basic sources of truth that are virtually universal in use by humans in determining authoritative truth, particularly, religious truths. These three sources of truth are *tradition, reason* and *experience*. And it is the ways we define these and in which we interact with them that is different for us as Unitarian Universalists. We make different choices for religious authority.

In most religions, tradition, or that which is the inherited understanding of things, usually is the lens through which critical thought or reason, and experience or intuition are viewed and interpreted. Tradition trumps the other two in a kind of hierarchy or ladder of truth. This is so whether tradition is embodied in people, beliefs, texts and/or practices.

As UUs, tradition has a slightly different definition and relationship to reason and experience. For us, tradition includes not only those things from our own institutional and theological past, but includes all of the inherited knowledge and wisdom of humanity. This is called "open canon" or "open source."

Critical thought and reason are exactly that, with all of the nuances and varieties from the scientific method to logic and debate and strives to present the empirical, that which can be observed and verified in an objective way. In contrast, intuition and experience are subjective, and usually highly personal and individual in nature. They are the things we can know but can only convey to others.

As UUs we understand these three basic sources, tradition, reason and experience, to be interacting with each other on the same level. That each is a lens through which we view the others. In the same way that various colors or magnifications of lenses bring out otherwise less obvious detail, so do these sources highlight in each other what might otherwise not be seen or understood. We discover truth through a three way conversation, or triologue.

For UUs reason informs tradition which informs and/or challenges experience and back and forth and around we go. It is an ongoing process of conversation and refinement in which we approach each other with at the least an initial openness that the other might have something to contribute to our understanding, and perhaps even change what we know to be true. It is an unrelenting openness to other possibilities of what the other might teach us and add to our understanding of the truths that are knowable by us.

So truth and its authority inform how we understand our communal and how our institutional life is lived. As an open and democratic approach we are gathered in the bonds of covenant rather than under obedience to a creed. From our tradition we have "congregational polity" or a "free church" with the locally gathered community of UUs as the supreme religious authority in regards to its activities. But even the congregation cannot dictate to its participants and members a creed, but offer to be gathered in humility in a democratically determined covenant.

Community Church's gathering and living in this way is part of the 40 years of history we are celebrating in 2015. On **Sunday, February 1 we will celebrate the church's birthday of February 2, 1975.** This is just the kickoff to a year of honoring our founders and our past, celebrating our present life and ministries together, and the visions of what we and UUism aspire to in our next 40 years. Make sure to get some anniversary cake and I'll see you in church. Blessings, Patrick

From front page

February 1 - Join us after worship in celebrating the 40th anniversary of the founding of our church. (There will be *cake*).

February 8 - Guest Speaker Courtney Van Lacy is a religious studies grad student at SMU

President's Column

We Need You!

This month, there are a couple of things I want to draw your attention to:

Facilities Friends

Our building needs some TLC, and you don't need mechanical or building skills to help out. There are a couple of opportunities that Facilities Trustee Duane Mortensen could use help with:

Odds 'n Ends Days — Every odd-numbered month, on the last Saturday (end), a group of Community UU (and sometimes Sai Baba) helpers gather at the church to take care of odd jobs. It might be replacing lightbulbs, painting, light carpentry, you name it. All supplies and training are provided, and they're here all day – just show up any time between 8am and 4pm.

The next Odds 'n Ends date is March 28. Please come and help, as many hands famously make light work.

Lawn Crew — This being Dallas, our landscape and grass need care for most of the year. There's a mowing crew with a regular rotation. If you're out here early on a Saturday morning during mowing season, you'll see one of our regulars riding around on the mower. It *is* a riding mower, so this isn't hard physical labor; just requires a little training and a commitment to the schedule for the season.

Please contact Duane Mortensen (facilities@communityuuchurch.org) to find out more or sign up. Or just show up for the work party on March 28!

Commitment to Fair Labor Standards

We're entering stewardship season, and you'll be hearing more about that soon. One of our big concerns over the last decade has been paying fair compensation to all our staff. The Unitarian Universalist Association publishes ranges based on location and congregation size, and that's the guideline we try to follow.

Unfortunately, because our pledges haven't allowed us to give incremental raises in recent years, our minister's and director of religious education's (DRE's) compensation has fallen off the bottom of the range — in the DRE's case, fallen well below.

It is true that we have paid bonuses to our staff at the end of the last two fiscal years. But that doesn't solve the basic compensation issue. And there are other components to fair compensation: for example, health insurance (which went up 12% in January) and worker's compensation insurance.

Additional pledge income required to compensate our staff fairly in 2015–2016: \$14,801*

It is our religious obligation, as people who believe that people should be paid fairly and treated with respect, to rise to this challenge. Yes, we have other non-negotiable increasing costs that we must also fund, but I want to highlight our commitment to living our values and treating our staff well.

** Includes paying the full cost of our quarter-time membership coordinator after the partial grant runs out in December 2015.*

Stay tuned for more stewardship and pledging news in February.

Thanks for being part of this community, and for chipping in all the ways you do to keep Community UU thriving! I appreciate you all.

Blessings,
Elena Westbrook

February, 2015

Simple Living Chalice Circle Meeting time and place – The next meeting will be **Saturday morning February 14, at 11.**

Theme/topic – Learning together to live deliberately.

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

Mardi Gras Beignet Fundraiser
A little taste of the Nawlins French Quarter. Celebrate Mardi Gras with our Coming of Age class before church on Sunday, February 15. Relax and enjoy Cafe Du Monde beignets and cafe au lait. Donations will be in support of the class Heritage Trip to Boston this summer.

Rummage Sale Fundraiser
Save your stuff! The Coming of Age class will be hosting a rummage sale on **March 13-14** to raise funds for their Heritage Trip to Boston. We'll take anything that is still useable but just doesn't fit in your life anymore - clothing, books, furniture, toys, baby items, knickknacks, you name it! We are doing an early collection of items in Room F, although space is limited. We will be doing the major push for donations starting February 1 – so as you clean closets and sort through the garage, be sure to set those treasures aside for the Coming of Age class!

Friday Night Flicks - Founders Hall 7pm

February 6 - Boyhood

After divorcing, a mother (Patricia Arquette) and father (Ethan Hawke) continue to share the task of guiding their young son (Ellar Coltrane) through youth and adolescence, and finally to adulthood. As the years roll by, the relationships among the three characters continue to evolve as well. Winner of the GOLDEN GLOBE for best director, Richard Linklater, and best picture.

February 27 - The Good Lie

Sudanese refugees given the chance to resettle in America arrive in Kansas City, Missouri, where their encounter with an employment agency counselor (Reese Witherspoon) forever changes their lives.

Replenish health supplies for Barron

During the month of February, we would like to once again collect tissues and Clorox wipes for the teachers at Barron. We have had a heavy colds and flu season and this will help to replenish their supplies. Keep in mind that the average teacher spends \$500 per year out of her/his own pocket for classroom supplies - this is one of those items that we can help with! Please leave your donations in the white box in the church foyer.

PLEASE NOTE EARLY DEADLINE. Deadline for the March newsletter is Tuesday, February 10. Email your articles to newsletter@communityuuchurch.org.

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 – 9 pm.

Date February 17

Location: Janet Belden's home.

Contact Janet by February 13 if you plan to attend.

Selection: Under the Wide and Starry Sky: A Novel by Nancy Horan

(historical fiction) *From Nancy Horan, New York Times bestselling author of Loving Frank, comes her much-anticipated second novel, which tells the improbable love story of Scottish writer Robert Louis Stevenson and his tempestuous American wife, Fanny. At the age of thirty-five, Fanny Van de Grift Osbourne has left her philandering husband in San Francisco to set sail for Belgium—with her three children and nanny in tow—to study art. It is a chance for this adventurous woman to start over, to make a better life for all of them, and to pursue her own desires. Not long after her arrival, however, tragedy strikes, and Fanny and her children repair to a quiet artists' colony in France where she can recuperate. Emerging from a deep sorrow, she meets a lively Scot, Robert Louis Stevenson, ten years her junior, who falls instantly in love with the earthy, independent, and opinionated “belle Americaine.” Amazon*

iPad Mini2 WiFi RAFFLE!

\$5 per ticket or 5 for \$20 DRAWING February 22, 2015

7.9 inch Retina Display, 64-bit A7 chip at 0.75 Lbs, 16Gb model with iOS 8 Use apps from iTunes: Netflix, free games for the kids, Twitter, Facebook Facetime with the family or surf the web for 10 hours on a charge. Proceeds will go to the General Operating Funds. Tickets are on sale now, see Charles Long.

Religious Education

Quotes to Live By

“The Magic Pool of Communion
is a powerful ritual and a powerful spiritual experience.
As far as I can tell, it is the UU conversion experience.
Not only youth converts, but also young adults, ministers and lay leaders
will tell you that intellectually, they think that UU ideas are nice,
but that they first knew they were really UUs when they attended
certain conferences, summer camps, assemblies, or retreats ...
We know that once someone has been to the Magic Pool,
chances are high that he or she will serve the movement for life.
Even if they still can't explain what it is.”
~Kate Tweedie Erslev, “Full Circle: Fifteen Ways to Grow Lifelong UUs”~

Why camp?

By Kathy E. Smith, Director of Religious Education

So where can we find the Magic Pool for our children and youth? Here are some ideas for Unitarian Universalist summer programs. If you're going to any of them, let us know! (And yes, I know it's early. But for parents, February is Register-For-Summer-Camp-Month. I just wanted to be sure you have the information you need!)

For Families

General Assembly, the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists from all over the country (and all around the world), will be in **Portland, Oregon from June 24-28**. The theme is ***Building a New Way***. This is where UUs do the business of the denomination! Too many workshops to count, inspiring worship services, and opportunities for social justice make General Assembly an amazing experience for all. Youth Caucus for ages 14-18 and separate programming for children and middle-schoolers make General Assembly a place where all can learn and grow in our faith. Information here: www.uua.org/ga

SWUUSI, the SouthWest UU Summer Institute, is a family favorite. Held from **July 19-24 at Western Hills Guest Ranch** just over the border in Oklahoma, SWUUSI is UU family summer camp, with separate daytime programs for children, youth and adults. Families stay together in motel-style rooms, cabins, or tents. There are wonderful worship services, engaging workshops, and time to just hang around with fellow UUs. Added bonus: this year's theme is “Just Good Food” and the artist in residence is a chef! The 2015 registration isn't up yet, but you can keep an eye out on the Southern Region website (www.uuasouthernregion.org) for updates.

For Youth

Our district (SWUUC – the Southwest UU Conference) offers two sleep-away camps for youth – **Junior Camp (July 1-11) is for rising 7th-9th graders and Senior Camp (July 12-18) is for 9th-12th graders and those who have just graduated. Both camps are held at U-Bar-U, a UU retreat center** in the heart of Texas Hill Country. These are wonderful experiences that really help youth deepen their faith and also make some incredible friendships. Programs include a ropes course, swimming, labyrinth, hiking, pottery, worship, and lots of social activities. Details: www.ubaru.org/home/Summer-Camp

For Children

SWUUC also offers a sleep-away camp (**June 28-July 4**) at U-Bar-U for children who are going into 3rd-6th grade. This is a great first sleep-away camp, because the children are surrounded by caring, engaged UU adults who will make this an experience to remember. Children enjoy a ropes course, swimming, labyrinth, hiking, pottery, worship, and lots of social activities. Learn about camp here: www.ubaru.org/home/Summer-Camp

Right here at CUUC

Don't forget that we run a summer program every Sunday morning! We're still planning what this summer will look like.

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Community News

(continued from Page 5) The RE Board has also batted around the idea of running a summer day camp for a week, but no firm plans yet. If you'd like to help plan or produce our summer program, please talk to someone on the RE Board. In faith – and here's to summer! Kathy

Family Events at CUUC in February

Sunday, February 1, 10:30am –Worship and RE

Saturday, February 7, 7:30pm - Coffee House

Sunday, February 8, 10:30am – Worship and RE

Friday, February 13, 6-10pm– Parents Night Out (fundraiser)

Sunday, February 15 – Worship and Religious Education, 10:30am. Beignets Fundraiser, 9:30-10:30am (before church)

Sunday, February 22 – Worship and Religious Education, 10:30am.

Social Action Notices

TXUJLM Legislative Action Day Rescheduled

Our Legislative Action Day is now scheduled for **February 17** due to a conflict in schedules with the Inauguration activities. This will allow us to join Texas Freedom Network "Advocacy Day for LGBTQ Equality" rally on the Capitol steps from **1 - 1:30pm** as part of our day long activities.

There will be buses from Dallas and Houston, but the seats are limited. For more information on the planned agenda and bus schedule, see **North Texas Unitarian Universalist Congregations**.

God's Pantry

Every Holiday season our church donates 50 frozen turkeys for Thanksgiving and 50 for Christmas boxes. This year the Pantry received the needed turkeys from other donors but had a freezer storage problem(again). The Hunger Initiative was able to use the funds budgeted for turkeys to buy an additional freezer. With this addition, the Pantry will be well equipped for the coming year.

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

Thanks to all who contributed to the "Guest at Your Table" in support of the UUSC. Our congregation sent \$610 in gifts from eight individuals or families. There were four gifts of \$125 which were matched, so our total value of UUSC is \$1,110. Thank you for your support. Sam Nickols

What's New in the Community Garden?

How much impact does the Community Garden make? The tally is in for 2014: Community Garden donated 1,612 pounds of fresh, organic produce to local food banks! In 2013 we increased our production by 25% over previous years. In 2014 we managed to match that donation and even increased our donation by about 30 pounds! This January the garden has continued to produce. Despite the freezing temperatures, we have greens, turnips, beets, onions and lettuce growing through the winter. We are also happy to announce that the Community Garden has been honored by the North Texas Unitarian Universalist Congregations (NTUUC) at this year's luncheon.

For more information about what's coming up this year, check out our web site and blog at <http://www.communityharvestgarden.org/> If you are interested in learning more, contact Deb Bliss.

Visitors are always welcome at the monthly socials – second Saturday of the month from 10-12 noon. Contact Deb Bliss for location and more information.

Until next month – your Community Garden Correspondent.

Community News

(continued from front page) of the critical role our congregation played in 1995 in forming Keep Quality in Plano Schools (KQUIPS) and pressuring the Plano School Board to drop plans to add Creationism into the PISD science curriculum. Our past success serves as a current model for supporting the Plano ERO.

Contrary to Plano Citizen United statements, the Plano ERO does not:

- promote deviant sexual behavior
- support a radical left agenda
- violate the US Constitution
- allow biological males to enter women's restrooms
- criminalize faith based beliefs about men and women

To quote Plano Mayor Harry LaRosilieri "A city of excellence reflects the rights of everyone and discriminates against no one." I would also add that hate and prejudice do not belong in Plano. It is not the right of the majority to deny civil rights to a minority.

Plano Equal Rights Ordinance Resources and Upcoming Events:

Information, social media and support groups for the Plano ERO are evolving. Here's some resources to get started:

Follow / "Like" on Facebook "People in Support of the Equal Rights Policy of Plano TX"

Access city website to get ERO FAQs: plano.gov/ero

Contact City, County and State officials to register your support of the Plano ERO.

Equality at Plano Moving Forward event, Courtyard Theater, Feb. 19, 2015 6-7 pm.

Women's Alliance Annual Retreat.

This year our retreat will be held on **April 17, 18 and 19, 2015**. We will be going to **Glen Lake Retreat Center in Glen Rose, TX**.

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.

Adult Religious Education

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 begins at either 6:30 or 7 pm and ends no later than 9 pm. Sunday class begins at 12:05 pm and ends at 1:30 pm. 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.**

Sunday Mornings

A Study and Discussion Group occurs on Sunday mornings 9 to 10am in Room F. Join us for UU Discussion and Study (GUUDS), principally led by the **Rev. Patrick Price**. Child care is provided. This open ended, ongoing study and discussion group is for first time visitors as well as long time practitioners of Unitarian Universalism. Using books by UU authors, we will examine the wide and deep intersection of human longing and experience with that which is greater than our individual selves, and calls us to heed the "better angels of our nature." We are starting GUUDS with ***A House for Hope: The Promise of Progressive Religion for the Twenty-first Century***, by John Buehrens and Rebecca Parker.

Monday Evenings - Vipassana Meditation - Clifton Rule

Clifton says, "Vipassana means insight into the nature of reality. It is a way of self-transformation through self-observation and introspection. Vipassana meditation is often referred to simply as "insight meditation." This is the backbone of our studies in Meditation on Monday nights. We invite you, as a beginner or as a practiced meditator, to join us on our exploration. We view Buddhism not as a religion but rather as learning the process of meditation to reduce the suffering in our lives and in the world around us. We explore through readings, dharma talks, questions and answers, group discussions and meditation. Join us and explore this process as we all grow together."

Wednesday Evenings

Coming attraction a new program. **"Guns, Germs and Steel."** - 7 pm- Founders Hall. Mary Hrbek and George Hrbek are the facilitators. Watch for mid - Feb start date.

Thursday Evenings - The Origin of Civilization - Rev. Don Fielding - 6:30pm

Feb. 5 - A Complex Neolithic - Halafian & Samarran Feb. 26 - The Uruk World System
Feb. 12 - Hierarchy & Urbanism - 'Ubaid Mesopotamia Mar. 5 - Sumer and Afterward
Feb. 19 - ****BREAK****

Humanists Group - 8pm.

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Community News

For our February 2015 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>.

UU Church Contact Email Addresses

Rev. Patrick Price:

revpprice@CommunityUUChurch.org

President, Elena Westbrook:

president@CommunityUUChurch.org

Director of Religious Education, Kathy Smith:

dre@CommunityUUChurch.org

Director of Music, Christopher Wolff:

wolff08@gmail.com

Church Secretary, Connie Meints:

cuuc-office@CommunityUUChurch.org

Church Bookkeeper, John Elder:

bookkeeper@CommunityUUChurch.org

Facilities Coordinator, Duane Mortensen:

facilities@CommunityUUChurch.org

Membership Coordinator, Shanda Harris

membershipcoord@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 Hight:

communications@communityuuchurch.org

Personnel Coordinator, : **Vacant**

Committee on Ministry, Nancy Barlow, Chair

Mincom@communityuuchurch.org

Social Action Programs

UUSInAction@CommunityUUChurch.org

Bridge Group Coordinator, Clint Burleson:

bridge@CommunityUUChurch.org

Circle Suppers Coordinators, 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 (Tom Reid, 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**

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

December Financial Report

Finance Committee, by Dick Hildenbrand, Treasurer

The December 2014 financial summary for our operating accounts is listed below. Pledge payments continue to run slightly better than budget, with overall income about 2.4% ahead and expenses over by 1.5%. Part of the expense overage has been an accounting change, where we are now formally accruing our utility savings toward paying back our Investment Fund. Year-to-date, we have saved about \$1,750 due to HVAC replacement.

Did You Know?: Of our annual budget of \$310k, about 60% goes for pay & benefits (including health insurance), about 20% goes toward the physical plant, about 10% goes to office and financial administration and the remaining 10% goes toward everything else. The church spends about \$350k per year, with the \$40k balance coming out of Dedicated Funds, primarily to support the needy, special funds for youth activities and fellowship programming.

As it stands, we have slipped below Fair Compensation guidelines for some of our staff, which you will be hearing more about soon, so we

as congregational members need to be looking at how we can come up with the financial wherewithal to pay our staff fairly. Note too that health insurance premiums for the staff that has insurance thru the Church just increased 12% in January.

FREE MONEY!

Albertson's: Use Community Partners key chain tag or have them enter 49000109261.

Kroger: Update your Kroger Plus card to link to organization 83309 at www.kroger.com/communityrewards.

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

Amazon.com: Search for Community Unitarian at smile.amazon.com and link to your account.

The church will get a portion of all purchase amounts!

INCOME & EXPENSE December 2014

INCOME	December 2014	Month Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget	% Annual Budget (FY 58.3% comp)
Total Offering Income	\$23,183	\$25,914	\$146,629	\$142,800	\$234,300	62.6%
Total Fund Raiser Income	\$5,474	\$4,090	\$27,940	\$25,860	\$33,170	84.2%
Total Building Usage	\$2,569	\$2,646	\$14,257	\$15,429	\$26,863	53.1%
Misc. Income	\$1,348	\$867	\$6,736	\$6,872	\$16,006	42.1%
TOTAL INCOME	\$32,575	\$33,517	\$195,562	\$190,961	\$310,339	63.0%
EXPENSE						
Administration	\$4,611	\$4,489	\$35,711	\$34,999	\$57,867	61.7%
Programs	\$2,431	\$1,828	\$13,553	\$12,938	\$22,775	59.5%
Religious Education	\$4,085	\$4,068	\$34,877	\$34,823	\$54,685	63.8%
Facilities/Grounds	\$7,920	\$5,960	\$37,164	\$36,004	\$62,874	59.1%
Ministry	\$7,482	\$7,834	\$55,136	\$54,838	\$94,498	58.3%
Denomination	\$1,607	\$1,607	\$9,640	\$9,640	\$17,674	54.5%
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$28,135	\$25,786	\$186,081	\$183,243	\$310,374	60.0%
NET INCOME	\$4,440	\$7,732	\$9,481	\$7,718	- \$35	-

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

Wednesday and Thursday: 1pm to 5 pm, other times by appointment.

Bookkeeper John Elder Tuesday and Wednesday: 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, other times by appointment.

Music Director Christopher Wolff and Church Secretary Connie Meints are available during church office hours.

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



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Community Unitarian Universalist Church of Plano