



The Community News

May 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.

Stewardship Final Gaps

We're nearing the end of the stewardship drive, with several yards to go before we reach our goal. For those unable to attend the cottage meeting yesterday, there are some budgetary issues that will impact the budget for the coming year.

First, the good news: our pledges are up for this year, and thank you!

Now the meat and potatoes: costs went up more than our pledges this year. Broad issues that contributed to this are Fair Compensation guidelines from the UUA for ministers and directors of Religious Education; rise in health insurance; building maintenance; cost of supplies for RE; and a number of others.

Fallout: we're still short of our goal, if we're going to maintain our current level. If we do not make our goal, then some deep cuts will have to be made that will be noticeable.

The board has been holding cottage meetings after church to inform the congregation of these issues, and to solicit ideas and needs. There are several ideas on the table regarding how to make up this shortfall, and if you have more ideas, please bring them to the attention of one of the members of the Board of Trustees.

In the meantime, if you haven't yet pledged, please fill out one of the pledge forms and turn them in. If you have pledged, and are able, please consider raising your pledge amount to help us make up the budget gap. Rob Saxon

May, 2015
Sunday Services
Theme - Mercy

May 3 - Guest Speaker - Rev. Gina Purcell

May 10- Flower Communion/
Mothers' Day - Rev. Patrick Price. See page 2.

May 17 - Can We Act Justly *and*
Love Mercy? - Rev. Patrick Price. See page 2.

May 24 - "Mercy, Mercy, Me:
Compassion and Climate Change" - Rev. Patrick Price

May 31 - Community UU
musicians will present a special
service celebrating the gift of
music.

**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 "Mercy"

As we approach Mothers' Day again, I am reminded of a very different Mothers' Day tradition than the commercialized consumption of flowers, dinners out and greeting cards. No, this other is the work of the Unitarian poet Julia Ward Howe who wrote "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" as an anthem for the Union Army. Ten years later, however, she changed her mind.

Appalled by the slaughter of the Franco-Prussian War, she issued a proclamation calling for the establishment of Mothers' Day in the name of peace: "Arise, then, women of this day! Say firmly: 'Our husbands shall not come to us reeking with carnage, for caresses and applause. Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn all that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy, and patience.'" It is this call to preserve charity, patience, and above all "mercy," that sings to me.

Despite, or because of, its frequent use "mercy" can be a hard word to pin down, often depending on the situation in which it is used. It can mean "compassion or forgiveness shown toward someone who is within one's power to punish or harm." It can also mean leniency, clemency, compassion, grace, pity, charity, forgiveness, quarter, humanity, etc..."

In the Tanakh, or Hebrew scriptures there are two principle Hebrew words that are usually translated as "mercy." First of all, there is the word *hesed* or *cheved*, which means "steadfast love, covenant love." ... the word *hesed/cheved* is often used in Hebrew in connection with other words which bring out its meaning, such as *hesed-emet* (steadfast, dependable love), *hesed-sedekah* (righteous, holy love) and *hesed-yesua* (rescuing, saving love). In the King James version of the Old Testament, of the 248 times that the Hebrew word *cheved* is found in the (KJV), 149 times it is rendered *mercy*, 40 times it is rendered *kindness*, and 30 times it is rendered *lovingkindness*.

The second most common word for God's mercy in the Hebrew scriptures is the word "*rachamim*": tender, compassionate love, a love that springs from pity. *Rachamim* is often used in conjunction with *hesed*. It comes from a root word "*rechem*," which means a mother's womb. Thus, there is a special intimacy and responsiveness about this kind of love, and a special concern for the sufferings of others.

And if we look at the western Christian tradition it is even more complex and nuanced. In the Christian scriptures, the Greek words that are usually translated as "mercy" are the words "eleos and eleoo." They can also be "loving kindness" or "tender compassion." They are translated as "mercy" 59 times. So "mercy" is not just the withholding of punishment, but it is the action of giving aid or having compassion on someone who is afflicted.

The first and latter meanings seem to me to fit nicely with our UU Principles. Our first principle, the "inherent worth and dignity of every person," and our second, "justice, equity and compassion in human relations" seem to be a very good basis to justify acting on these ideas of mercy.

In all of this we are called back to Jesus' question of "who is my neighbor?" And the answer he pointed to was, "everyone, especially those who are in need of our compassion and mercy." As a parent I want to encourage my children to be kind, just and merciful people, and I know that the best way to do that is by modeling it myself in my words and deeds.

It can be hard to be merciful to others, let alone ourselves, when we are angry, or scared and anxious that our world is changing too fast or too much, or both. The mercy we would have from others in our own vulnerable and dark times, is the same mercy we are called on to practice with others in their need. But of the greatest priority is our exercise of mercy with ourselves.

See you in church, and remember your blooms to exchange in the Flower Communion on May 10th. Blessings, Patrick

May 10 - Flower Communion/Mother's Day Service. Please join us in the important UU celebration of community and of those who "mother" us all. Remember to bring fresh flowers to share as an integral part of this service of remembrance and community.

May 17 - Our Annual Congregational Meeting will follow the worship service. Election will be held for some positions of the Church and the 2015-16 Budget will be voted on. Lunch provided by Coming of Age Class, donations accepted for their Heritage trip to Boston the summer of 2015.

President's Column

So Long, and Thanks for All the Fish!

(with apologies to Douglas Adams)

Has it been two years already? How did that happen? As I near the end of my term as president of this congregation, I'm both proud of what we've done and excited at our potential for the future.

What have we accomplished in the last two years?

The biggest thing, for me, is our work to refocus beyond Community UU's four walls and help the larger community. Huge and special thanks to Nelah McComsey, Linda Frank, Deb Bliss, Charlie Battista and all the many volunteers who have made this work possible. Give yourselves a big pat on the back!

God's Food Pantry — Thank Linda Frank for her leadership on this, and Anita Van Ouwerkerk and Clarence Fisher (of blessed memory) for their passion and generosity that made our hunger relief work possible. Linda now serves on the food pantry's board, and she was instrumental in helping them acquire two commercial freezers and keep operating after the executive director's death last year. In addition to Linda's work on the board and our regular donations of food, our Community Gardeners donate half of all the produce from their plots. Thank you all for providing this help for families who really need it.

Barron Elementary — Nelah and a sizable corps of volunteers are making a difference every week at Barron, where more than 90% of the students qualify as low-income. They mentor students, provide supplies, support the teachers, and do things like volunteer at the book fair. The support these students get right now can make a difference for their entire lives. This is a perfect example of helping the community in our own back yard.

Community Garden — Beyond the good work of providing fresh produce to clients of the food pantry, the garden provides an opportunity for local residents to rent a plot and garden with a group of knowledgeable companions. We're teaching others about organic gardening methods, getting good PR for the church, and feeding people. Can't top that! Thank you to all the gardeners and all those who have supported them from the beginning.

Equal Rights in Plano — What a great opportunity to spread our gospel! Reverend Price, Charlie Battista and Dick Hildenbrand helped us work with other local groups to counter a discriminatory campaign to repeal the Equal Rights Ordinance. We voted unanimously to support the ordinance, hosted a press event, and sent members to speak at City Council meetings. After all, if we can't take a stand for one of our core principles, what good are we?

Next month, Lexie McGrane will become your president and I'll just be here to support her. Lexie is smart and capable, and she's backed up by a wonderful board that combines both experience and fresh viewpoints. You're lucky to have them at the helm.

Thank you all for your kindness, support and dedication over the last two years. I love and appreciate you all — what a wonderful group of people to change the world with!

Blessed be,
Elena Westbrook

Brunch Fundraiser May 17! The 8-9 Coming of Age class will provide lunch on **May 17** before the congregational meeting. Enjoy a variety of delicious breakfast foods, muffins, fruit and desserts – meetings are always better on a full stomach! Your generous donations for the brunch will go towards the Coming of Age Heritage Trip to Boston in Summer 2015. Join us in Founders Hall immediately after church and before the congregational meeting.

May, 2015

Simple Living Chalice Circle Meeting time and place – The next meeting will be **Saturday morning May 9, at 11am.**

Theme/topic – Learning together to live deliberately.

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

What is the Committee on Ministry?

The committee is three caring, open-minded people, appointed for three-year terms, who will give honest and pertinent feedback and advice relative to the effectiveness of the ministry of the minister within the context of the congregation's total ministry, which is considered to be everything the congregation does to fulfill its mission.

The committee meets on a monthly basis with the minister and will discuss topics brought up by either the minister or a committee member. The committee's role is to keep a pulse on what is going well at church as well as what needs attention in the ministry of the church. The committee consults with the minister about effective leadership and relationships. We act as a conflict management group and have a covenant of confidentiality and mutual honesty in respect to all deliberations.

We are the current committee members: **Chair Nancy Barlow, Anne Smith and John Hart.** Please feel comfortable coming to any of us with your concerns, thoughts and joys.

Friday Night Flicks - Founders Hall 7pm

MAY 15 - Casablanca - 1942 - B&W
The time: World War II. The place: Morocco, seething with European refugees desperate for passage to neutral Lisbon. Winner of 3 Oscars for Best Picture, Best Director, Michael Curtiz and Best Screenplay. Humphrey Bogart is the owner of Rick's Cafe and into it walks Isla, Ingrid Bergman, his old flame.

MAY 29 - 12 Angry Men- 1957 - B&W
Henry Fonda heads an excellent cast in this exciting, suspenseful drama of 12 jurors trying to reach a verdict in a murder trial. Eleven agree the defendant is guilty, but Fonda believes the man is innocent and sets out to prove he's right.

Newcomer Orientation Class

The next class is **Sunday, May 3, noon to 1:30pm.** Click on our website www.communityuuchurch.org for more information.

K-1 OWL Starts in May!

OWL – Our Whole Lives – is a lifelong curriculum developed by the UUA as an expression of our belief that religious communities can form meaningful partnerships with parents to provide positive and responsible sexuality education. At the kindergarten-first grade level, we talk about health and safety, love and family, sex and gender, communication and decision-making in a positive and age-appropriate manner. **The program begins on May 3 from 9-10am with a mandatory parent-child orientation session, and will continue through June.** If you have questions, please talk to Kathy Smith, DRE, or Amy Dessert, OWL teacher.

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: May 19

Location: June Bruns' home. Contact June by May 15 if you plan to attend.

Selection: Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail by Cheryl Strayed. *The year is 1995. Cheryl, the narrator and author of the story, explains that she was 26 years old when at the lowest point of her life she began her solo trek on the Pacific Crest Trail. She describes the trail as being 2,663 miles long and two feet wide, stretching from Mexico to Canada and including nine mountain ranges. She has embarked on her journey just 38 days before in an effort to find herself.- Amazon*

Memory Garden Bricks Available

The Memory Garden will be selling bricks for the garden path on the west side to be inscribed with name/s or dates to honor the memories of loved ones. Each brick is \$65.00. This price includes the engraving and installation. There are several options available.

See Linda Frank for more information.

Looking for a few good adults!

Well, actually 96 of you (or at least 96 hours of time). We are filling slots for summer teachers. Please email Kathy Smith at dre@communityUUchurch.org. One Sunday or several Sundays – you choose the age level you want to teach – we provide lessons – you provide... you!

Religious Education

Among the most accomplished and fabled tribes of Africa, no tribe was considered to have more warriors more fearsome or more intelligent than the mighty Masai. It is perhaps surprising, then, to learn the traditional greeting that passed between Masai warriors: "Kasserian ingera," one would always say to another. It means, "and how are the children?"

It is still the traditional greeting among the Masai, acknowledging the high value that the Masai always place on their children's well-being. Even warriors with no children of their own would always give the traditional answer. "All the children are well." Meaning, of course, that peace and safety prevail, that the priorities of protecting the young, the powerless are in place, that Masai society has not forgotten its reason for being, its proper functions and responsibilities.

Rev. Dr. Patrick T O'Neill, First Parish UU Church, Framingham, MA

"How is it with the Children?"

By Kathy E. Smith, DRE

Through all the 40 years since its founding, this congregation has placed a high value on their children's well-being. In 2010 you increased the hours for the Director of Religious Education for Children and Youth into a fulltime position. So, five years into this forward-thinking move, how might we answer the question, "and how are the children?"

Numbers are one way, of course. In my year-end report, there are two pages of "RE by the Numbers" for those who like to track things strictly by numbers. They show that enrollment has gone up and down, but attendance has remained roughly the same. But in looking at church health, attendance numbers are only part of the story. Nationally, across denominations, church leaders are noticing that attendance patterns are changing. It is no longer the statistical norm, as it may have been 40 years ago, for families to bring their children faithfully every week. (Not that we DREs do not continue to advocate for consistency! We have, however, learned to expect it less and thus give it less statistical significance.) Another measure is how active and engaged the participants are, and how they live their faith. And that part of the story is told on the last page, with details and stats on service projects, leadership, social action, participation in events and outreach, and participation in the larger denominational community.

Here are some other ways in which the religious education program is serving our community. Lesson plans every week are linked to thematic ministry, with most lessons written by the DRE for CUUC or adapted from existing curricula. We have been doing this for three years and in September, the worship themes and thus the RE class themes will start over again. That intentional link between monthly worship topics and RE lesson plans allows everyone in the church to be learning and talking about the same "big questions". Children worship every week, which sets the stage for lifelong participation. A full RE class period of Children's Chapel on the last Sunday of the month (replacing our old format of ten minutes in Founder's Hall instead of the Message for All Ages) gives grades K-7 30-40 minutes of in-depth learning and engagement with worship, and builds a familiar repertoire of Unitarian Universalist music and ritual. We now include a Message for All Ages in every worship service, and have four to six worship services for all ages every year. All of this helps build a culture of intentional, sustained worship for everyone.

We've now established a regular rotation in 8th-9th grades for both Coming of Age and Our Whole Lives programs, giving our emerging teens some of the best programming the UUA has to offer. We've improved our Spirit Play rooms and our other programming, too. We improved our welcoming environment in our nursery, often the first point of contact for families, as well as childcare for older children during meetings and congregational events.

We've also improved our teacher training. The DRE does a CUUC-specific training for each teaching team that covers safety, classroom management, and church policies. We've added a separate child abuse training (using an online program through the state Department of Family and Children's Protective Services). We participate in the day-long teacher training in August and appreciation dinner in January, sponsored by the DRE professional association in the DFW area. As a cluster we have tried to offer more trainings for our teachers. This program year there were five, three hosted at or led by CUUC: Spirit Play, Youth Ministry, and three OWL trainings (elementary, adult/young adult, and middle/high school).

We have also been successful in our efforts to grow multi-generational community. The DRE works directly with chapel, Coming of Age/OWL, and youth programs to build bonds with the youth. I continue those relationships with

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(Continued from Page 5) the high-schoolers by participating in social justice projects with them such as the New Orleans Service Trip and the Pride Parade, or working together on large events such as the NTX rally. We have youth in both volunteer service roles and leadership roles in our church community and the larger UU community. This year, we had three age-specific programs (elementary OWL, Coming of Age, YRUU) this year and would like to add more. We had 8 multi-generational events as well as 6 all-ages RE Sundays. Social action and service to the church by all ages is seamlessly woven into classes/events.

There's much more information in the May 2015 Report to the Congregation, which I do hope you will read! And now, I'd like to invite your input. How would you like to see our program grow? Please contact me or our RE Board Chair, Amy Dessert. We'd love to hear from you.

See you in church! Kathy

Please join Multicultural Outbreak Roundtable's recognition of the **Interfaith National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 7, 2015 at 7pm** in the Senator Florence Shapiro Council Chambers located at 1520 K Avenue (Plano Municipal Center). This is a free event featuring musical selections and a reception following the program.

What's New in the Community Garden?

We are happy to report that we are at 348 pounds of fresh, organic produce harvested and donated to Plano's community food banks! That's almost 100 pounds ahead of last year. And it doesn't count the generous donations of produce from our "good karma" gardeners – **Janie McDermott, Melia Newman, Jim Binnings**, and others – who bring us some of their bounty from their home gardens. If you, too, would like to build some "good karma", bring any freshly harvested, organically grown produce from your garden to our Community Garden by 9 a.m. on Saturday morning. We will gladly deliver it to a local food pantry. Folks who utilize food pantries are always happy to see fresh produce!

We have been thrilled that one of the families at **Barron Elementary** has been able to participate in our harvest Saturdays in exchange for fresh produce. It's one more way to build good neighbors and good community, while sharing the knowledge, the work and the rewards!

The Sai Baba community continues to partner with us in the Community Garden. They have a couple of particularly exciting initiatives going on. **Raji Josiam** reports that **Sai Center** has a goal of increasing their backyard gardens from 25 to 45 this year in honor of Sai Baba's 90th birthday. Members are given the option of having a community installation of a keyhole, raised bed or plant tower. The produce they raise is donated to the monthly meal prepared and served at the Dallas homeless shelter and excess will be delivered to a community garden harvest in their zip code area. A team from Sai Center led by president **Sarma Gunturi** hosted a booth and a workshop on building plant towers at the UU Red River Congregation's Earth Day Festival in Sherman, TX.

Our monthly socials are always open for visitors. Come visit us sometime – second Saturday of the month from 10-12 noon. Contact Deb Bliss for location and more information! We also always welcome helping hands at our harvests on Saturday morning. 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.

Until next month – your Community Garden Correspondent

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HOLD THE DATE; June 13, 2015

One Day Conference: Standing on the Side of Leadership: Breaking Down Walls, Building Bridges. Location: First Unitarian Church of Dallas. Cost: \$30. Sponsored by North Texas Unitarian Universalist Congregations (NTUUC)

The conference looks at Cultural Competency and Community Engagement. **Keynote Speaker: Rev. Tamara Lebak**, Adjunct Minister, All Souls, Tulsa; Celebrating Difference Consulting.

Topic: Cultural Competency

Luncheon Keynote: Ginny Goldman

Executive Director Texas Organizing Project (TOP)

Topic: Community Engagement

Breakout sessions. More information to come.

God's Pantry

First, thank you for all of your donations. It does make such a difference to know people care and are willing to help.

The Pantry has good news. They have received a grant from Walmart Foundation to help our clients needing assistance with ongoing hunger concerns for their families. We have also applied for a grant from the City of Plano.

The Board of Directors for the Pantry hope to be able to identify a better location for the Pantry by the end of the year using the funding from the grants. We would like to have better parking and a waiting area for our clients, but will remain in East Plano. This is a big step for the Pantry.

A Life Enrichment Program – Workshop

“How to Plan for Your Memorial Service” led the Rev. Patrick Price, Minister, Community UU Church

10am – 12 Noon, Saturday, May 2, 2015, Community Unitarian Universalist Church of Plano in Founders Hall

Planning a memorial service/funeral is often complicated by simply not knowing what someone would want, or what would be truly representative of their life. This workshop addresses many of the basic issues that come up regarding memorials and funerals, and how we can better prepare for our own and/or for someone else's. The workshop is open to anyone wanting to know how to be better prepared for this important and inevitable rite of remembrance and celebration.

Participation is free and open to all. . Registration is encouraged to allow for planning. Child care is available upon request. To register, and/or to request child care please contact the church office at cuuc-office@communityuuchurch.org or 972-424-8989.

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."

Tuesday Evenings -

Tibetan Buddhism, Ven. Tashi Nyima - Sanctuary – 7pm. Class starts up again on May 26.

The Eightfold Noble Path - Approaching Enlightenment with Confidence. Please join us for an exploration of the eight components of the Buddhist path: Right View, Right Thought, Right Speech, Right Conduct, Right Livelihood, Right Effort, Right Mindfulness, and Right Concentration

Music 101 Class – Founders Hall - 7pm - Ed Qualls

If you are new to Music and just want to learn more about it, are more experienced and feel like a refresher, or just want to come along and share your joy in it this class will cover the musical notation (notes, staves and associated hieroglyphs), and will also introduce you to simple elements of harmony, basic musical structures, and music history. You will not be required to perform.

Wednesday Evenings

"Guns, Germs and Steel." - date to be decided.

Thursday Evenings - The Origin of Civilization - Rev. Don Fielding - 7:00pm

May 7 - Borders & Territories of Ancient States

May 28 - ***BREAK***

May 14 - The Levantine Copper & Early Bronze Ages

June 4 - Early Minoan & Mycenaean Civilizations

May 21 - Hierarchy & Society in the Aegean

Humanists Group - The humanist group meets at 6:30pm at the Church annex.

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For our May 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, 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 Saxton.

communications@communityuuchurch.org

Personnel Coordinator, Mike Owens

personnel-chair@communityuuchurch.org

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

March Financial Report

Finance Committee, by *Dick Hildenbrand, Treasurer*

The March 2015 financial summary for our operating accounts is listed below. As the year starts drawing to a close, I anticipate we will end up with an annual net income between +\$1,000 and +\$2,500 as of the end of May. This net income comprehends paying back money to our Unrestricted Planned Giving investment account as planned for the loans made for new HVAC units and the payoff of our Line of Credit.

Share the Plate: A new financial program to support more charities will start in June. Replacing our current “5th Sunday” collection will be this new program where on one Sunday per month, the undesignated plate collection will be split between the church and a designated charity. Be on the lookout for dates and specific monthly recipients as decisions become finalized.

Did You Know?: About 70% of our annual income is provided by pledges from Members and Friends; another 10% comes from our fund raisers (mainly Service Auction, Balloon Festival Parking and the Pops Concert), 8% comes from Sai Baba’s usage, 5% from undesignated Sunday collections and the remaining 7% from a combination of all other sources. As an autonomous congregation, we receive no funding from the UUA,

region or district. Our cash reserves are minimal, so it is imperative that we have a balanced or surplus (to build up cash reserves) budget every year. Balancing involves increasing income, decreasing expenses or both. By the time you read this, I hope you will have taken the opportunity to give inputs at the April 19th or 26th Town Hall meetings.

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

The church will get a portion of all purchase

INCOME & EXPENSE March 2015

	March 2015	Month Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget	% Annual Budget (FY 83.3% comp)
INCOME						
Total Offering Income	\$18,564	\$17,360	\$204,352	\$201,084	\$234,300	87.2%
Total Fund Raiser Income	\$927	\$210	\$32,674	\$30,370	\$33,170	98.5%
Total Building Usage	\$2,270	\$2,121	\$20,271	\$21,885	\$26,863	75.4%
Misc. Income	\$1,139	\$837	\$11,642	\$12,932	\$16,006	72.7%
TOTAL INCOME	\$22,900	\$20,527	\$268,938	\$266,271	\$310,339	86.7%
EXPENSE						
Administration	\$4,196	\$3,972	\$48,701	\$48,642	\$57,867	84.2%
Programs	\$1,567	\$2,188	\$18,556	\$18,780	\$22,775	81.5%
Religious Education	\$3,992	\$3,897	\$46,973	\$46,772	\$54,685	85.9%
Facilities/Grounds	\$4,297	\$5,300	\$51,423	\$51,394	\$62,874	81.8%
Ministry	\$7,775	\$7,932	\$78,345	\$78,634	\$94,498	82.9%
Denomination	\$1,607	\$1,607	\$14,460	\$14,460	\$17,674	81.8%
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$23,434	\$24,895	\$258,459	\$258,683	\$310,374	83.3%
NET INCOME	-\$534	-\$4,367	\$10,480	\$7,588	-\$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.

Membership Coordinator Cindy Pilcher Thursday: 9:30 to 11:30am.

Church Secretary Connie Meints

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

Music Director Christopher Wolff 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



2875 E. Parker Rd.
Plano, TX 75074

Community Unitarian Universalist Church of Plano