

OUR CHURCH LIFE

The Newsletter for the Unitarian Universalist
Church of the Hill Country

June 2016

Outreach/Social Justice Committee Backpack/Undie Sunday Update

Led by Ellen Jackson, the **Backpack/Undie Sunday** Program which is part of the UUCHC Outreach/Social Justice Committee supports La Casa de RAICES ((Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services) in San Antonio. Following is an overview and recap of the committee's major efforts.

In April, 39 complete backpacks donated by UUCHC were delivered to La Casa de RAICES. La Casa serves between 300 and 400 families per month and each family receives a backpack as they leave for their final destination somewhere in the U.S. The backpacks contain items to make traveling a little more comfortable. Please refer to this list at the end of the article.

These refugees are primarily young mothers and their small children who are escaping violence in their Central American countries. The numbers of refugees have surged recently due to the perceived threat of the "Trump Wall" at the Mexico/ United States border.

In September 2015, La Casa de RAICES launched its emergency shelter program for refugees who travel through San Antonio. San Antonio is unique because refugees from several detention centers across South Texas are released to the Greyhound station there prior to traveling to cities around the United States.

Refugees released from detention typically stay at La Casa between 12 to 48 hours. The work of the shelter is to make sure families have a warm meal, a place to decompress and collect supplies before heading out for 2-3 day bus or plane trip.

All of the work in sustaining the shelter is supported by volunteers. Typical volunteers work at the house for at least one 4-hour shift each week.

In May, **Undie Sunday** was added because La Casa reported a need for undergarments. Just like **Backpack Sunday**, **Undie Sunday** surpassed expectations with over 100 undergarments supplied.



June 12 is the date of the next **Backpack Sunday** at UUCHC. Here are several ways to donate:

- ☺ Give a check made payable to "Interfaith Welcome Coalition".
- ☺ Donate a new or gently used backpack.
- ☺ Fill a backpack with items from the list below.
- ☺ Buy and donate some of the items from the list below.

Toiletries (packed in gallon sized Ziploc bag)

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2 Toothbrushes | 1 Travel size toothpaste |
| 1 Small deodorant | 1 Package hand wipes |
| 1 Pack travel size Kleenex | 1 Small hairbrush |
| 2 Hair bands or scrunchies | |

Food/Drinks (packed in gallon sized Ziploc bag)

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| 2 refillable water bottles | 3 Bags trail mix |
| 2 Packages cheese on crackers | 3 Packages fruit snacks |
| 3 Packages animal crackers | 4 Granola Bars |
| 2 Packages non-salty snacks (trail mix, peanut butter crackers, etc.) | |

Other (optional but highly recommended)

- | | |
|--|--------|
| 1 Small size English-Spanish dictionary | 2 Pens |
| 1 Small note pad | |
| Coloring book/crayons/small stuffed animal | |



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Check out our Facebook page

FROM YOUR MINISTER...

Greetings!

"What Does a Minister Do?"

During the Start Up Retreat held on May 14 this question was asked several times combined with a request for a time allocation for each named duty. I thought I would address these questions.

When a congregation begins its search for a Minister there is a Congregation Record which is suggested to be completed. Although our congregation did not utilize the form, below is the list of items which would have been assessed a number from 1 to 4, in terms of what the congregation was looking for.

Administration	Adult religious education
Community building	Children's religious education
Committee work	Denominational activities
Facilitation	Stewardship
Music and liturgical arts	Home visitation
Hospital calling	Leadership
Membership growth	Personal counseling
Preaching	Scholarship
Social action	Spiritual guidance
Staff relations	Worship
Youth work	

These are the areas a Minister is taught to handle during the three years they are in seminary and when they are in a congregation being mentored by a seasoned Minister. Not all ministers do all of these things and most do more.

I was called by UUCHC as a half time Minister and as Natalie Briscoe, our UUA District Representative, emphasized during our Minister Start-Up Retreat, there is no such thing as a half time Minister.

I have found that Ministers do what is needed whenever it is needed and I agree with that 100%. Every one of the items listed above was either a seminary class or part of one and I have been trained in all areas.

The seminary I attended trained its students to become the CEO of their congregation according to guidelines put out by Peter Morales, President of the UUA. Ministers with larger congregations follow this model but our congregation does not and should not, as we are currently far too small. However, if we reach 300 members we might consider all these areas.

That being said, I handle all of these areas, plus I listen to you so that I can be your voice during Board meetings. I am your Minister and I am here for you during every phase of your life from blessing children, to marriage and to holding the hand of someone taking their final breath.

With gratitude,

Ja



What kind of influence did being a mother or how did the kind of relationship you had with your mother affect your life? These questions were asked of Julie Davis, Linda Smith, Sherri Curry, and Carolyn Osborn and they shared their insights at the Forum on Mother's Day; Sunday, May 8. From left to right with photos are Julie, Sherri, and Carolyn.

June Calendar of Upcoming Events, Programs & Meetings

-Subject to Change; Consult www.uuchc.org and/or Weekly Calendar Update emailed on Thursdays-

- 3 **Friday** - 11:30am - Palmer Annex: Men's Fellowship Lunch - There will be news, views, and thought provoking discussion. Guys bring your sandwich or gourmet repast as you wish. ☎ Contact Steve Galland 830.634-7668/ sgalland@afgimail.com
- 4 **Saturday** - 10:30am - Palmer Annex: Activities & Events Committee Meeting -The committee is currently coordinating a fundraising activity with the Finance committee. ☎ Contact Judy Ashcraft 210.326-0084/ whodit@hotmail.com
- 5 **Sunday** - 9-9:45am - Palmer Annex: **Adult Forum** - Statements of Faith: UUCHC is a diverse group with individual religious belief systems. To celebrate this diversity Joyce Randle and Monte Hensley will share what they believe. ☎ Contact Marie Brown 830.895-5138/ marieuu34@gmail.com
10am - Church Sanctuary: **Sermon** - Pastor Ja Rickard; "Flower Communion". All are urged to bring a flower to share and then there will be a flower to bring home. Why do we as UU's do this? The Flower communion service was created by Norbert Capek (1870-1942), who started the Unitarian Church in Czechoslovakia. Let's explore why he did this and then share some beauty. ☎ Ja Rickard 262.237-0634/ jauhle@hotmail.com

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June Chalice Table Décor

Thank you to the following members
decorating the chalice table
on these Sundays:

5 - Shari Gore
12 - Susan Lipp
19 - Jim & Diane McMahon
26 - Andy & Laurie Pesez

For more information about Chalice Table décor,
please contact Shari Gore 830.367-3142.

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- 8 **Wednesday** - 6:30pm - Palmer Annex: **Monthly Board Meeting**. Open to all. ☎ Contact Acting President Mike Burkett 830.895-7076/
m.k.burkett@att.net
LAST DAY to enroll in June Circle Suppers
☎ Contact Marie Brown 830-895-5138/
marieuu34@gmail.com
- 9 **Thursday** - 3:30-5pm - Church Sanctuary: **Choir Practice** ☎ Contact Meredith Hensley 830.522-0802/
pmeredithc@yahoo.com
- 10 **Friday** - 6pm - "Circle Supper" for June. Find out more and sign up to be a host or a guest by Wednesday, June 8 on the special enrollment form on the back table of the sanctuary. ☎ Contact Marie Brown 830.895-5138/
marieuu34@gmail.com
- 11 **Saturday** - 6pm - "Circle Supper" for June. Find out more and sign up to be a host or a guest by Wednesday, June 8 on the special enrollment form on the back table of the sanctuary. ☎ Contact Marie Brown 830.895-5138/
marieuu34@gmail.com
- 12 **Sunday** - 9-9:45am - Palmer Annex: **Adult Forum** Pam Umstead, Co-Director of Freedom Loans, will explain how her team helps motivated clients convert their high-interest payday loans to more manageable arrangements, and how their Guides help them apply sound budget principles to their finances. ☎ Contact Marie Brown 830-895-5138/
marieuu34@gmail.com

Sunday Program on next column →

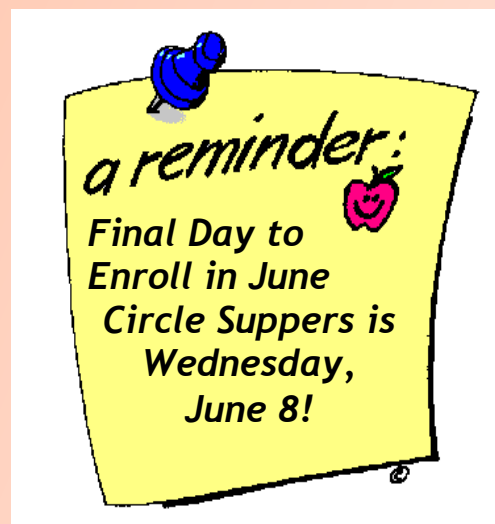
10am - Church Sanctuary: **Speaker** - Steve Brooks to speak; "The Canyons of Your Mind: A Soul Journey through the Grand Canyon". America's great gorge is a landscape of imagination as well as geology, beautiful and brutal, vast and intimate. For Austin folksinger Steve Brooks, it turned out to be a spiritual teacher. In a week backpacking its inner reaches, with four other UUs (led by UUCHC's Kevin Hartley), he learned a series of lessons - about pain, transcendence, his place in the universe and why so many world religions emerged from the desert. He finds that they're lessons that might be as useful above the rim as below it.

Christian Area Ministry (CAM) **Sunday** - Focus is on boxed and canned food items. The basket for these items may be found at the back of the church. ☎ Contact Susan Lipp 619.248-0669/
susan@lipphealth.com

14 **Tuesday** - **FLAG DAY**

15 **Wednesday** - **10:30am (CHANGE!)**- Palmer Annex: **Women's Connection** - Church women and their female friends meet for fun, support and then enjoy lunch afterward. This month the eatery is "Pint & Plow" - 332 Clay Street - 11:35am. ☎ Contact Kay White 830.896-2852/
kaywhite201222@gmail.com

1:30pm - BCFS Resource Center, 1127 East Main Street - 1st floor conference room:
Transportation Study Group meeting - Agenda includes defining and beginning to design what the community wants for Kerrville. Ideas and anyone you know who wants more transportation options welcomed. ☎ Contact Karen Burkett 830.895-7076/
m.k.burkett@att.net



16 **Thursday** - 3:30-5pm - Church Sanctuary: **Choir Practice** ☎ Contact Meredith Hensley 830.522-0802/
pmeredithc@yahoo.com

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3 - Calendar

- 17 **Friday** - 11:30am - Palmer Annex: **Men's Fellowship Lunch** - There will be news, views, and thought provoking discussion. Guys bring your sandwich or gourmet repast as you wish. ☎ Contact Steve Galland 830.634-7668/ sgalland@afgimail.com
- 18 **Saturday** - **Last Day to Submit items for July newsletter** ☎ Contact Susan Lipp 619.248-0669/ susan@lipphealth.com
- 19 **Sunday** - 10am - Church Sanctuary: **Sermon** - Pastor Ja Rickard; "Father's Day Celebration lauding the wonderful men in our lives. ☎ Ja Rickard 262.237-0634/ jauhle@hotmail.com

☎ **Pot Luck Dinner after the Service**

- 23 **Thursday** - 3:30-5pm - Church Sanctuary: **Choir Practice** ☎ Contact Meredith Hensley 830.522-0802/ pmeredithc@yahoo.com
- 25 **Saturday** - 6:30-9pm - Palmer Annex: **"Saturday Night at the Movies"** - "Monty Python & the Holy Grail" 1975 movie (1 hour, 31 minutes). The Monty Python comedy clan skewers King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table as they quest far and wide for the Holy Grail. The Black Knight suffers gory dismemberment at the hands of Arthur himself, yet maintains that "it's just a scratch." Cast: Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Eric Idle, more. Bring treats to share!
- 26 **Sunday** - 9-9:45am - Palmer Annex: **Adult Forum** - During the Minister Start Up Retreat held on Saturday, May 14 facilitated by Natalie Briscoe, we took a good look at our congregation - past, present and future. The Reverend Jane Dwinell, Small Church Specialist for the North East offers two areas to examine and discuss: quality of worship and radical hospitality. Copies of her introductions to these topics are on the back table in the sanctuary. ☎ Contact Marie Brown 830-895-5138/ marieeu34@gmail.com
10am - Church Sanctuary: John Carpenter to speak with Subject TBA
Christian Area Ministry (CAM) **Sunday** - Focus is on personal products; shampoos, soaps, facial tissues, etc. The basket for these items may be found at the back of the church. ☎ Contact Susan Lipp 619.248-0669/ susan@lipphealth.com
- 30 **Thursday** - 3:30-5pm - Church Sanctuary: **Choir Practice** ☎ Contact Meredith Hensley 830.522-0802/ pmeredithc@yahoo.com

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country
Board Members for 2016

President	TBA
Vice President	Mike Burkett
830.895-7076/	m.k.burkett@att.net
Secretary	Laurie Pesez
830.895-4764/	lpesez@stx.rr.com
Treasurer	Judy Ashcraft
210.326-0084/	whodit@hotmail.com
Past President	June Hartley
830.896-5191/	june@windstream.net

Service Committee Chair: Mike Burkett
Service, Music, Chalice Table, Coffee, Wayside Pulpit, Ministerial Advisory Committee

Membership Committee Chair: Ellen Jackson
Adult/Youth RE, Child Care, Greeters, Library, Congregational Care

Budget, Finance, Operations & Planning Committee Chair: Andy Pesez
Budget, Pledging, Fundraising, Property Management & Maintenance, Audits, By-laws, Operational Directives, Long & Short term Planning

Activities & Events Chair: Judy Ashcraft
Social, Women's Connection, Men's Fellowship Lunch, "Needles", Building Scheduling, Interior Decor

Electronic Media: Judy Ashcraft
210.326-0084/ whodit@hotmail.com

Order of Service: Kevin Hartley
830.496-2174/ khartley@windstream.net
Newsletter Editor & Head of Information Services:
Susan Lipp 619.248-0669/ susan@lipphealth.com



**June Sunday
Coffee Hour
Church Treats
brought to you by...**

**5 - Judy Ashcraft
12 - Julie Davis
19 - Activities & Events Committee
26 - Shari Gore**

**Thanks for the Yummies in our
Tummies!**

Updates & additions to this newsletter may be found on www.uuchc.org and/or in the weekly calendar updates emailed Thursdays.