



OUR CHURCH



CHURCH CALENDAR

JUNE 2014

June 1 Sunday 10:00am Service: *10 Things You Might Not Understand about being a Minister* with the Rev. Mark Skrabacz.

Would you like an honest look at what it's like to be a Minister? What is it like in the hard times, when none of us feels understood?

Where do our intentions come from? How best can Members and Supportive Friends help a Minister to help the Church? Plan to attend and during Congregational Talk-Back, ask about things you always wanted to know.

June 6 Friday 11:30am: Men's Fellowship Lunch in the Annex

June 8 Sunday 10:00am: Service Steve Brooks, Austin based singer/songwriter/champion punster, will talk about "*What if Dog Were Among Us?*," a reflection on adopting a dog for the first time at age 50.

June 11 Wednesday 6:30pm: Board Meeting in Annex

June 13 Friday 2pm: Needles, a crafting group open to all, meets in Annex

June 14 Saturday 2:00pm: UBarU Building Dedication of the Dwight and Marie Brown Center followed by a Reception.

June 15 Sunday 10:00am Service : "The Rest of the Story" with the Rev. Mark Skrabacz.

On his final Sunday at the Church of the Hill Country, it seems appropriate for Mark to talk about what's next both for him and our Con-

gregation. Plan to attend and bring your questions, thoughts and ideas. Our journeys continue in differing ways, yet there has been a lot that has brought us together. **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING FOLLOWED BY POTLUCK SUNDAY (Mark's last Sunday with us)**

June 18 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

June 20 Friday 11:30am: Men's Fellowship Lunch in the Annex

June 22 Sunday 10:00am Service: To Be Announced: Information not available at time of publication. Contact June Hartley, Service Chair 896-5131 for details

June 27 Friday 2pm: Needles a crafting group open to all, meets in Annex

June 29 Sunday 10:00am: Service Wrapping up an eventful month is UU minister Rev. Chuck Freeman, from Austin. "*A Shrewd Awakening*" After the devastating defeat of Barry Goldwater in 1964 conservative strategists hatched a plan that led to the convergence of fundamentalist Christianity and socio political power in America. The recent highly restrictive abortion bill passed by the Texas legislature is a direct result of this scheme. We have had a rude awakening. Now its time for a shrewd awakening! The Texas UU Justice Ministry is here to answer the alarm.

June 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Service 10am Rev. Mark Skrabacz	2	3	4	5	6 JCHC Men's Fellowship 11:30am	7
8 9am Discussion in Annex Service 10am	9	10	11 6:30 Board Meeting in Annex	12	13 JCHC Needles 2p	14
15 Service 10am Rev. Mark Skrabacz CONGREGATION MEETING/POTLUCK	16	17	18	19	20 JCHC Men's Fellowship 11:30am	21
22 9am Discus- sion in Annex Service 10am	23	24	25	26	27 JCHC Needles 2p	28
29 9am Free Speech in Annex Service 10am	30					

From Our Minister's Desk

By Rev. Mark Skrabacz

For most of us, we have come to a UU congregation, because we hope for a different kind of religious community. We hope to be welcomed and valued. Perhaps some of us even hope to contribute to the formation of the community, its values, its mission, its vision, its actions in the greater community. Maybe these are some of our motivations.

Certainly, here we can find like-minded people. But is that enough to build a community that makes a difference in today's world? We could join the AmVets or Rotary or some other club of like-minded people, if that were the case. My suspicion is that we come together not to be a part of a club, but part of a spiritual community in which we can be transformed, and learn to trust in a larger purpose. We come to the Church of the Hill Country with the hope that we will be encouraged in our self-discovery and supported to develop our insights, creativity and imaginations beyond our perceived limitations.

Questions beg to be asked: How do we wish to be in community together? What does it mean to be a vital and effective UU community in the Hill Country? I hear these from many of you.

Let's look at some givens: We have some talented and intelligent people here. We have some people who desire to love and serve each other and our larger community. We live in interdependence with all of existence. Most of us do not accept only one way to live our faith, or only certain revealed answers. The path of our liberal faith is one of an ethical and religious life. It is constantly changing as we receive more information from science and direct experience. Yes, we have differing beliefs. And we desire to use our resources to make a positive difference in our community and our world.

Is what we are doing now working for us? Is the way we are governing ourselves and making decisions effective? Are we actualizing our desires to serve the larger community? How will we move forward as a spiritual community and live in harmony in the Hill Country with others of differing beliefs and attitudes?

We must do so with humility and integrity, and the capacity for awe and service and especially the honoring of each other. Humility calls us to remember that while we may be people of a liberal faith, people of the question, of scientific fact and even of skepticism, we can still be people of an abiding sense of the great mysteries of which we are a part. That honoring of each other is essential to forming a safe, healthy and whole community. The 2010 congregationally-defined core values of acceptance, communication and interdependence might just be at the very essence of our present day congregational mission. They might be the values that we in our conscious minds wish to make real in our community.

We need each other to discover the truth. That's why community is important. We need the challenge of persons with differing beliefs and ideas about what is effective and what is caring. We need a place where we feel safe, and where our ideas are welcomed. We need a healthy, forgiving, vital and accepting community where communication is open and compassionate, and we no longer live in the delusion of separate selves. We are part of each other and the interdependent web of life. From the core of a healthy self esteem, we can then accept and honor others, regardless of their beliefs, and from that core of a compassionate community we can honor the larger immeasurable reality of which we are all a part. For some of us, that indescribable reality, that Ground of all Being is the same as God.

It's been my joy and my challenge to serve as your first minister. I am deeply grateful to all who have supported me, advised me and even to those who have made my life more difficult. These have all combined to bring me to this place of greater maturation, greater honesty, greater humility. I go forth from here as a more seasoned minister. One who is ready for other challenges and committed more than ever to the service of our UU Faith. You, however, Church of the Hill Country ordained me to the ministry. You will always be my first spiritual community, and a cherished Beloved Community at that. Thanks to each of you with all my heart!

LOVE REACHES OUT

South West Unitarian Universalist
Conference (SWUUC)
Annual Conference
April 25-27, 2014
Dallas Texas

“...to share our knowledge, to learn
from each other, to grow our UU
Faith...”

co-sponsored by:

*SWUUC (one of nineteen districts in
Southern Region UUA);
North Texas UU Congregations (one
of several congregation clusters in
SWUUC); First Unitarian Church of
Dallas (one of the congregations in
NTUUC)*

Attending from UUCHC were Rev.
Mark Skrabacz, Marie Brown, Lucy
Silva, Mike and Karen Burkett.

This is the first of several
newsletter articles in which we will
share some of what we learned.

CLUSTERS:

Self-help from Beyond Our Walls

As the governance of UUism in the
US is in the process of consolidation,
simplification and streamlining, sever-
al new opportunities present them-
selves to UU congregations across the
whole country. The concept of groups
or clusters of congregations

“connecting, sharing, healing the
world” is being increasingly discussed
since the 2000 General Assembly. In
other words, our reaching out to con-
nect with others in our geographic area
who have similar circumstances and

concerns can expand all our capacities
for learning, inspiring the living of our
faith, and sharing in social justice ac-
tion. (go to: [uua.org/directory/
districts](http://uua.org/directory/districts) or google: districts and re-
gions of the Unitarian Universalist As-
sociation - UUA)

In the words of the Rev. Mark
Skrabacz, “About the use of the term,
'cluster', I would say that there is little
to be found of the history of the term
or concept, yet UU ministers have
been gathering in chapters, clusters,
study groups and other structures of
support for decades. With the dissolu-
tion of our individual Districts like
SWUUC, which has existed for sev-
enty-five years and comprises seventy-
seven UU Congregations, and with the
centralization of them into a Region of
more than 200 Congregations, it seems
more important and timely than ever
for Congregations to seek to embrace
each other in forming clusters in a cov-
enant of care for all of us who seek to
grow in love through our free Faith.”

Within the current Southwest Dis-
trict there are presently three groups of
congregations who have more or less
defined themselves as congregational
clusters: THE NORTH TEXAS UU

CONGREGATIONS (congregations in
the Fort Worth/Dallas area), THE
HOUSTON AREA CLUSTER, and
**THE HEART OF TEXAS CLUS-
TER (including Corpus Christi, New
Braunfels, San Marcos, Kerrville
{UUCHC & Fellowship}, San Anto-
nio, Austin {First, Wildflower, &
Fellowship}, Georgetown, and Wa-
co).**

Perhaps one of the best examples of
the potential of reaching out to area
congregations is the North Texas UU
Congregations, who helped organize
and sponsor the April annual SWUUC
conference with the theme “Love
Reaches Out”. NTUUC has existed
for forty-five years. It has its own en-
dowment and awards grants annually
to congregations and to volunteers,
ministers, and lay staff. They often
present training seminars, such as for
RE teachers, for leadership, and for
boards, as well as on other UU topics.
The cluster also takes part in the Fort
Worth and the Dallas LGBT Pride Pa-
rades. (go to: ntuuc.org)

We will be exploring possible ways
of connecting congregations in our
cluster in the future

Invitation to the UBarU Building Dedication of the Dwight and Marie Brown Center

On Saturday June 14 at 2:00PM you are invited to UBarU to join with our Church of the Hill Country UBarU Board Members Kevin and Mark, Ranch Hands Marie and Betty Lou, and many volunteers and friends of UBarU for this special event which will involve UU Youth, UUA and UBarU Trustees, the Board of SWUUC and other distinguished participants. The Building Dedication is followed by a Reception. Come to celebrate UBarU, meet statewide and National UU leaders and enjoy each other!



SOCIAL EVENT—March 29 Saturday 7pm Sing-Along with Meredith in the church.



**CHAT & CHEW at
Elaine's Table.
Troy Fannin and
Julie Davis**

CHURCH CONTACTS

Board of Directors 2013-2014

Pres. Diane McMahon 896-3195 dianelm@windstream.net
VP June Hartley 896-5191 juneh@ktc.com
Sec. Jan Lentner 719-371-6825 macawma2001@yahoo.com
Treas. Judy Ashcraft 896-8319, whodit@hotmail.com
Past Pres. Steve Galland 634-7668 sgalland@afgimail.com

Minister

The Rev. Mark Skrabacz
890-5784, markskrabacz@hotmail.com

Other Key Contacts

Service Committee—June Hartley (see above)
Newsletter— Joyce Randle-257-2346, rjpa47@stx.rr.com
Book Club - Kevin Hartley kevinh@ktc.com 896-5191
Music Director – Meredith Hensley 830-522-0802
Director of Children's Religious Education- Joyce Randle (above)
Lifespan Faith Development Marie Brown 895-5138

Care-Shari Gore 367-3142, Marie Brown 895-5138,

Chalice Lighter-Judy Ashcraft (above)

Chalice Table Coordinator– Shari Gore (above)

Librarian– Shari Gore (above)

Maintenance– Jerry Best 210-633-7553

bestjerry@hotmail.com

Publicity-Judy Ashcraft (above)

Social Committee—Jan Lentner (above)

Community Outreach - Laurie Pesez

Membership - Joyce Randle (above) Sandy Schlosser 512-657-3782 jssvdr@gmail.com

Men's Fellowship Lunch - Steve Galland 634-7668

Ministerial Relations Committee - Donna Schloss 830-792-6189 dschloss@ktc.com

Address: 960 Barnett St,
Kerrville TX 78028

Church phone: 830-792-3626

Webpage uuchc.org

Chalice Table/Greeter

Following is the roster for decorating the chalice table and greeting members and guests. If you cannot participate on the Sunday listed, please contact Shari Gore, 367-3142

June 1 Smith Family	June 8 White Family
June 15 Zeke	June 22 Ashcraft/Best
June 29 Brown	

We are cups, constantly and quietly being filled. The trick is, knowing how to... let the beautiful stuff out." -

Ray Bradbury

"Happiness is like a butterfly. The more you chase it, the more it will elude you. But if you turn your attention to other things, it will come and sit softly on your shoulder."

~ *Henry David Thoreau, Unitarian*

UUCHC

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