



# OUR CHURCH LIFE



A PUBLICATION OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF THE HILL COUNTRY

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JANUARY 2014

## CHURCH CALENDAR

January 3 Friday 11:30am: Men's Fellowship Lunch in the Annex

**January 5 Sunday 10:00am Service:** *A Ceremony of Renewal* with the Rev. Mark Skrabacz On this first Sunday of our New Year we gather to look back in remembrance and forward in hope. During our annual Burning Bowl Ritual the Congregation will be invited to write their offerings on paper and come forward to light and burn them. We'll have a new and safe kind of paper this year.

January 6 Monday 1:30pm: Centering Group meets in the Sanctuary

January 8 Wednesday 6:30pm: Board Meeting in Annex

January 10 Friday 8am: Tailwinds bike group. Contact Susi Czarnek 377-5993  
2pm: Needles a crafting group open to all, meets in Annex.

**January 12 Sunday 9-9:45am: in Annex.** Unity In Diversity-- What Holds Us Together. Explore the diversity of our faith and the challenges it brings. This is a continuation of last month Forum.

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

January 17 Friday 11:30am: Men's Fellowship Lunch in the Annex

January 18 Newsletter Deadline

**January 19 Sunday 10:00am Service:** *Our Fifth UU*

*Principle* with the Rev. Mark Skrabacz "We covenant to affirm and promote the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and society at large." That sounds great. But what does it mean? On the verge of our semi-annual meeting, let's examine these practices. **POTLUCK/CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO FOLLOW SERVICE IN ANNEX**

January 20 Monday 1:30pm: Centering Group meets in the Sanctuary

January 24 Friday 2pm: Needles a crafting group open to all, meets in Annex.

**January 26 Sunday 9-9:45am: in Annex.** UU Magazine Discussion Topic; Religious Community is Not Enough. The writer asks "What kind of religious community do we aspire to be?" on page 30. This is a particularly important topic to discuss because of the changes in leadership that will take place in the coming year. Come and join the conversation.

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

**February 2 Sunday 10:00am: Service** *What is Faith?* with the Rev. Mark Skrabacz For Unitarian Universalists this can be a challenging question. It might come as a surprise that many leaders of religious cultures do not think that faith is first and foremost a collection of religious beliefs handed down to us by tradition.

### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**On January 19, 2014, we will have our semi-annual congregational meeting following the potluck luncheon. Please plan to attend.**

### CHALICE QUILT

Our chalice quilt hanging in the sanctuary was constructed in 2002 by member Selma Gibson. Members/Friends were asked to make a chalice "your own concept of what our chalice is to you". We are planning another chalice quilt to include new members and friends. Squares will be available in back of church; please pick one up and design a chalice square for your family. Use material, crayon, paint, thread. (no buttons) Don't forget to sign your square. More info, contact Jan Lentner 719-371-6825 [macawma2001@yahoo.com](mailto:macawma2001@yahoo.com)



# January 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 Men's Fellowship 11:30am JCHC	4
5 Service 10am Rev. Mark Skrabacz	6 1:30pm Centering Group	7	8 Board Meeting 6:30pm Annex	9	10 Tailwinds 8am Needles 2pm JCHC	11
12 9am Discussion in Annex Service 10am	13	14	15	16	17 Men's Fellow- ship 11:30am JCHC	18 Newsletter Deadline
19 Service 10am Rev. Mark Skrabacz POTLUCK LUNCH/ CONG. MEETING	20 1:30pm Centering Group	21	22	23	24 Needles 2pm JCHC	25
26 9am Discussion in Annex Service 10am	27	28	29	30	31 JCHC	

# From Our Minister's Desk

By Rev. Mark Skrabacz

## The Effective Committee (continued)

Happy New Year! Last month we began to look at ideas for organizing our Church's Committees. They are, after all, the staple of our organizational model. We looked at the importance of Leadership that participates as a Committee Member, the primacy of purpose and clarity of participation, a balance of task-work and teamwork, and, finally, the need for flexible and adaptable leadership. This month we'll complete this exploration with the following attributes of effective committees.

**Committees must learn how to deal with dysfunctional member behavior.** Most human groups will experience periodic difficulties in the way members interact with one another. Here are some common group problems: aggressiveness, anxiety, avoidance of depth, backstabbing, cultural insensitivity, defensiveness, disgruntlement or agitation, distrust, domination, fearfulness, inappropriate settings, inflexibility, judging, passivity, stubbornness, superficiality, and unfilled expectations. Perhaps the best way for a group to deal directly with dysfunctional behavior is to build in regular periods of review. Have people name specific troublesome behaviors, describe how they experience such behavior, and then offer suggestions for changing the dysfunctional behavior.

**Groups function properly when everyone contributes.** Active participation of all small group members is imperative for healthy group discussion and quality decision-

making. It's okay that some people are talkative while others are quiet. What's not okay is when people so dominate group discussion that opportunity for everyone to speak is sacrificed. Conversely, what isn't okay is when people so withhold their contribution to group discussion and decision-making that valuable insight is forfeited.

### **Committees can profit from collaborative decision-making.**

In our post-modern, post-Christian, post-denominational era, there seems to be a greater receptivity, renewal, and practice of collaborative leadership than in previous generations. Nonetheless, the top-down, corporate model of directed leadership remains commonplace in many quarters. While some may resist this movement from bureaucratic to collaborative leadership, this shift will be particularly beneficial for leading meetings in churches.

### **A very simple agenda can lead to lively group discussion.**

Stimulating content seems to produce lively group discussion. A simple, single question almost always results in lively, stimulating, productive group discussion: "What strikes you about our Church's \_\_\_\_\_?" Invite reflections, and then moderate the sharing of responses. In short, help one another to contribute and learn from each other. This experience is a classic demonstration of the adage the process is the product. In case you haven't figured it out yet, UUs are a process-oriented people.

## UU and UUCHC Orientation

Are you interested in learning more about our religion and church? Rev. Mark will present an orientation in early 2014. Contact him at 830-928-3722 or [markskrabacz@hotmail.com](mailto:markskrabacz@hotmail.com) or Joyce Randle, Membership Chair at 830-257-2346 or [rjpa47@stx.rr.com](mailto:rjpa47@stx.rr.com).



## Building Your Own Theology

A 10 week course starting Monday January 13th and ending March 10th from 7--9pm in the Annex. Cost is \$15 for a workbook. This program is designed to provide a systematic disciplined and communal approach to the process of building a new theology/philosophy/ethical life on the residue of your old belief system. It is developed by the UUA

Facilitated by Marie Brown and Lucy Silva.  
Sign up by January 1st Maximum participants 12

## A NOTE FROM COMMUNITY OUTREACH

According to the latest CAM-O-GRAM, they need blankets, sheets (all sizes), towels and men's white work socks. They always need soap, toothpaste and shampoo. In the food area, they are asking for SOUP, CEREAL, PEANUT BUTTER, CANNED MEAT AND TUNA, PACKAGED MEALS LIKE MACARONI AND CHEESE. For their homeless clients, they need EASY-OPEN FOOD ITEMS THAT DON'T REQUIRE COOKING."



## THE DALAI LAMA ON GOODNESS

For me, human beings' ability to smile is one of our most beautiful characteristics.

If nothing can change the situation, worrying only makes it worse.

Peace in the world depends on peace in the hearts of individuals.

If you can, try not even to think of yourself as better than the humblest beggar.

### 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

Jan . 5 Eldridge Family	Jan. 12 Fannin Family
Jan. 19 Galland Family	Jan. 26 Gore Family

## CHURCH CONTACTS

### Board of Directors 2013-2014

**Pres.** Diane McMahon 896-3195 [dianelm@windstream.net](mailto:dianelm@windstream.net)

**VP** June Hartley 896-5191 [juneh@ktc.com](mailto:juneh@ktc.com)

**Sec.** Jan Lentner 719-371-6825 [macawma2001@yahoo.com](mailto:macawma2001@yahoo.com)

**Treas.** Judy Ashcraft 896-8319, [whodit@hotmail.com](mailto:whodit@hotmail.com)

**Past Pres.** Steve Galland 634-7668 [sgalland@afgimail.com](mailto:sgalland@afgimail.com)

### Minister

The Rev. Mark Skrabacz

890-5784, [markskrabacz@hotmail.com](mailto:markskrabacz@hotmail.com)

### Other Key Contacts

**Service Committee—June Hartley (see above)**

**Newsletter—** Joyce Randle-257-2346, [rjpa47@stx.rr.com](mailto:rjpa47@stx.rr.com)

**Book Club -** Kevin Hartley [kevinh@ktc.com](mailto: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](mailto:bestjerry@hotmail.com)

**Publicity-**Judy Ashcraft (above)

**Chat & Chew-**Joyce Randle (above)

**Community Outreach -** Laurie Pesez

**Membership -** Joyce Randle (above)

**Men's Fellowship Lunch -** Steve Galland 634-7668

**Ministerial Relations Committee -** Donna Schloss 830-792-6189  
[dschloss@ktc.com](mailto:dschloss@ktc.com)

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## UUCHC

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