

OUR CHURCH LIFE

The Newsletter for the Unitarian Universalist
Church of the Hill Country

October 2016

Transportation Study Group Grows & Evolves

The Transportation Study Group emerged from its summer cocoon to become The Transportation Planning Council. A successful community transportation forum was held at the Dietert Center on August 16 and the group received nearly fifty questionnaire responses describing specific needs, times and places. The next step is to distribute three different surveys throughout the community to three distinct populations: 1) employees, 2) potential riders, and 3) medical and social service providers. An email list of people who wish to get updates has been generated.

Below is the current Planning Council list, including some of the original core group:

- Gary Powers, Case Manager of VA Family Endeavors and Director of the Kerr County Homeless Coalition
- Kathy Rice, BCFS Health and Human Services Case Mgr
- Tina Woods, Executive Director of the Dietert Center
- Bob Ogle, Operations Manager of the Dietert Center
- Reverend Ja Rickard, UUCHC
- Karen and Mike Burkett, UUCHC
- Lisa Winters, Peterson Regional Medical Center Director of Marketing and Community Relations
- Tracy Davis, Peterson Regional Medical Center Director of Care Coordination (alternate)
- Harley David Belew, Kerr County Commissioner
- Kaitlin Berry, City of Kerrville Special Projects Mgr
- Mike Cagle, Mental Health and Developmental Disorders (MHDD) Case Manager for Vets
- Desire's Free, Young People in Recovery
- Clifton Fifer, community leader, former teacher, musician and historical re-enactor
- Gretchen Rye, First Presbyterian Church Congregational Care Coordinator

The Transportation Planning Council held its second meeting September 9 where the aforementioned surveys for specific populations were finalized. It was determined that the employer and medical community surveys would mostly be implemented electronically.

ALL transit rider surveys will be distributed in November and collected in early December.

Volunteers are needed for both of these times.

The results of these surveys will be instrumental in focusing further research and planning. Watch for more information in the Weekly Calendar Update or contact Karen Burkett: 830.895-7076/
m.k.burkett@att.net.

Karen Burkett thanks everyone for their support.



Reverend Ja's Ordination!

Friday, September 30 @ 6:30pm
Hartley Home: 322 Hoofbeat Trail, Kerrville

All are welcomed to celebrate the ordination of our minister, the Reverend Ja Rickard. Drinks will be provided. Please bring finger foods to share (remember our guest of honor is a vegetarian) and enjoy an evening celebrating Reverend Ja's accomplishments. Please contact Kevin or June Hartley with questions: home - 830.896-5191.



Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country
960 Barnett Street
Kerrville, TX 78028-4667
830.792-3626

www.uuchc.org

email: churchofthehillcountry@uuchc.org

Check out our Facebook page

FROM YOUR MINISTER...

Greetings!

You may have noticed that I have now become the Reverend Ja Rickard and may be wondering why my ordination was not held at UUCHC.

My ordination was held at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Mountain Home, Arkansas (UUFMH) which is my home congregation. This means that although I am your minister, my membership is held by the UUFMH. Many ministers choose to hold their ordination with their home congregation.

UUFMH is a tiny Fellowship. While I was part of that Fellowship, I met with the Ministerial Fellowship Committee (MFC) which is the committee of the Unitarian Universalist Association that determines whether a seminarian is ready to lead a congregation. I met with the MFC for the first time in October 2014 and as many UU Ministers experience, I did not pass their requirements at that time.

This 15-member group held me in their loving embrace for the next year while I prepared for my second attempt with the MFC. They encouraged me as I continued to study and helped me realize that I was indeed fit for ministry. We worked together to set up a working Board which the Fellowship never had and built the infrastructure that takes a Fellowship from a group of people to being a working congregation. By the time I returned to Boston to visit the MFC a year later we had both come a long way.

As I walked into the room for my meeting with the MFC I knew that 15 people were holding their breath and waiting for the results. I did pass and they were the first people I called with the good news. There were hugs and a party when I returned. The little Fellowship in Mt. Home will always have a special place in my heart and sharing this next part of my journey with them brought us both great joy.

I was very grateful to not have a traditional ordination as it was just our small group and exactly what I had hoped for. UUCHC sent beautiful flowers that left no doubt that you were there with me and it felt wonderful to know that I had both congregations holding me.

UUCHC has another special spot in my heart and I am grateful that I am your minister. We have much that we can accomplish together and now that I have had a vacation I am ready to get back to achieving our congregational goals together.

With gratitude, *Ja*



“Donate the Plate”

On the fifth Sunday of every month with a fifth Sunday, all moneys in the collection plate not designated for the church are donated to a worthy non-profit organization. In October those proceeds will be given to **Hill Country Cares**. Through their three programs; Family Cares, Kid Cares and Kids’ Advocacy Place, Hill Country Cares provides intervention and recovery services for family violence, sexual assault, abuse, neglect, chronic illness and self-destructive behavior. They provide housing, counseling and legal advocacy to victims and their children.

NOTE→If you wish to make a donation by check to Hill Country Cares through “Donate the Plate”, please make your check out to UUCHC, then write “Donate the Plate” in the check’s notation line.

July was the last time there was a fifth Sunday and in that case; the additional moneys were donated to PFLAG. The Rev. Alan Conley, President of PFLAG - Kerr County Chapter shared the following with Ja:

“Please give to your congregation and to yourself the deep gratitude of our PFLAG chapter for your generous gift to our budget. That provides about four months of operation for our group and shows us your encouraging support in what we do. It is good to have your personal involvement and that of many of your church in the work we do. Thank you so much.”



Saturday, October 22

First UU Church of Austin

4700 Grover Avenue

Austin, TX 78756

Enjoy the first TXUUJM “General Assembly For Legislative Action Day” Training in preparation for the TXUUJM Statewide Legislative Action Day on February 15, 2017. Contact Mike Burkett: 830.895-7076/ m.k.burkett@att.net for more information.



October Chalice Table Décor

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

- 2 - Ellen Jackson
- 9 - Dave & Pat Kobe
- 16 - June & Kevin Hartley
- 23 - Jim & Diane McMahon
- 30 - Laurie & Andy Pesez

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

October Calendar of Upcoming Events, Programs & Meetings

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

- 2 **Sunday** - 10am - Church Sanctuary: **Sermon - Reverend Ja Rickard**; "The Historical Jesus and Paganism". Throughout history there are prominent figures that resemble Jesus. This sermon will take a look at Jesus and his counterparts throughout history. ☎ Contact Ja Rickard 262.237-0634/ jauhle@hotmail.com
ROSH HASHANAH BEGINS AT SUNDOWN
- 3 **Monday** - 7pm-8:30pm - The Unity Church, (corner Tivy & Jefferson Streets): **PFLAG Meeting** ☎ Contact Ja Rickard 262.237-0634/ jauhle@hotmail.com
- 5 **Wednesday** - **LAST DAY to enroll in September Circle Suppers** ☎ Karen Burkett 830.895-7076/ m.k.burkett@att.net
- 6 **Thursday** - 3:30-5pm - Church Sanctuary: **Choir Practice** ☎ Contact Meredith Hensley 830.522-0802/ pmeredithc@yahoo.com
- 7 **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/ sagalland143@gmail.com
6pm - "Circle Supper". Find out more and sign up to be a host or a guest. ☎ Karen Burkett 830.895-7076/ m.k.burkett@att.net



- 8 **Saturday** - 10am - Palmer Annex: **Activities & Events Committee Meeting**. Final touches are being put on the October Handicrafts Fair & Auction, Thanksgiving, and Christmas activities. In addition, movie suggestions for next year's "Saturday Night at the Movies" are welcomed as well as activity ideas.
6pm - "Circle Supper". Find out more and sign up to be a host or a guest ☎ Contact Karen Burkett 830.895-7076/ m.k.burkett@att.net
- 9 **Sunday** - 9-9:45am - Palmer Annex: **Lifespan Learning (Adult Forum)** - Subject: "Caring for someone with Dementia". Congregation member, **Lucy Silva**, will lead an informal sharing of material and experience from a 6-session workshop for family caregivers of those with dementia. ☎ Contact Marie Brown 830.895-5138/ marieuu34@gmail.com or Karen Burkett 830.895-7076/ m.k.burkett@att.net
10am - Church Sanctuary: **Speaker - Michael Wurth**; San Antonio Director of Clinical Outpatient Services for a Hill Country rehabilitation center. Subject; "The Addict's Advantage: What Substance Abuse Survivors Teach Us about Compassion, Spirituality, and Community". Wurth was raised as a UU who was first exposed to Buddhism in the UU Religious Education curriculum "The Church across the Street" in the late 1970s. He has since embraced Buddhist principles as part of his growing spirituality and in his counseling work. He is a Licensed Professional Counselor with a Master's Degree from the University of Texas, San Antonio. He has worked with youth, mindfulness and meditation, addiction, the blind, and specializes in counseling for men.
Christian Assistance 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
- 10 **Monday** - **COLUMBUS DAY**
- 11 **Tuesday** - **YOM KIPPUR BEGINS AT SUNDOWN**

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New Members classes will be held during the first three weeks of October. These will be three, one hour sessions; UU History, our congregation and an introduction to our committees. Anyone interested in attending may sign up on a special sheet found on the back table of the sanctuary. Pastor Ja will contact everyone on the list to find a day and time that will work for all.

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- 12 **Wednesday** - 6pm - Palmer Annex: **Monthly Board Meeting**. Open to all. ☎ Contact President Linda Smith 830.257-2529/ president@uuchc.org
- 13 **Thursday** - 3:30-5pm - Church Sanctuary: **Choir Practice** ☎ Contact Meredith Hensley 830.522-0802/ pmeredithc@yahoo.com
- 14 **Friday** - 2pm - Palmer Annex: **Lifespan Learning Full Committee Meeting**. Everyone is welcome to help plan the year's programs! ☎ Contact Marie Brown 830-895-5138/ marieuu34@gmail.com or Karen Burkett 830.895-7076/ m.k.burkett@att.net
- 15 **Saturday** - 9:30am-3:30pm - Sanctuary: **Minister Start-Up Retreat Continued**. This gathering is a continuation of the Start-Up retreat began May 14. Natalie Briscoe, UUA Congregation Consultant will again lead the discussion. More information on content to come.
- 16 **Sunday** - 10am - Church Sanctuary: **Speaker - Dr. Kathleen Hudson**, Professor of English & Interdisciplinary Studies (IDST) at Shreiner University and recipient of the prestigious Piper Award. Subject: TBA ☎ Contact Mike Burkett 830.895-7076/ m.k.burkett@att.net for more information.
- 🍲 **Pot Luck Dinner after the Service**
- 18 **Tuesday** - 2-3:30pm - Palmer Annex: **Seminar Series #1 of 4 - "Who Wrote the Bible...if it wasn't Moses?"** "It is a strange fact that we have never known with certainty who produced the book that has played such a central role in our civilization," so states Richard Elliott Friedman in his book, Who Wrote the Bible. "For centuries scholars have assembled small pieces of an enormous puzzle. Now, modern research and recent archaeological discoveries offer answers to the mystery of who wrote the Old Testament." Friedman's book reads like a detective story, and will be the basis of this four week discussion, facilitated by congregation member, **Don Pyle**.
- Last Day to Submit items for October newsletter** ☎ Contact Susan Lipp 619.248-0669/ susan@lipphealth.com or communication@uuchc.org
- 19 **Wednesday** - 10:30am - 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 "Grape Juice" - 623 Water Street in Kerrville, 11:45am. ☎ Contact Kay White 830.896-2852/ kaywhite201222@gmail.com
- 20 **Thursday** - 3:30-5pm - Church Sanctuary: **Choir Practice** ☎ Contact Meredith Hensley 830.522-0802/ pmeredithc@yahoo.com

- 21 **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/ sagalland143@gmail.com
- 22 **Saturday** - 10am - Palmer Annex: **Activities & Events Committee Meeting**. Final touches are being put on the October Handicrafts Fair & Auction, Thanksgiving, and Christmas activities. In addition, movie suggestions for next year's "Saturday Night at the Movies" are welcomed as well as activity ideas.

TXUUJM (Texas UU Justice Ministry) - First UU Church of Austin, 4700 Grover Avenue - Austin, TX 78756. Enjoy the first TXUUJM "General Assembly for Legislative Action Day" Training in preparation for the TXUUJM Statewide Legislative Action Day on February 15, 2017. ☎ Contact Mike Burkett 830.895-7076/ m.k.burkett@att.net for more information.

6:30-9pm - Palmer Annex: **"Saturday Night at the Movies"** - "The African Queen" 1 hour, 45 min. Charlie Allnut (Humphrey Bogart), the booze-guzzling rough-hewn captain of broken-down East African river boat, teams with a strait-laced, iron-willed missionary (Katharine Hepburn) to take on menacing German gunboat during World War I. ☎ Contact Judy Ashcraft 210.326-0084/ whodit@hotmail.com.

- 23 **Sunday** - 9-9:45am - Palmer Annex: **Lifespan Learning (Adult Forum)** - Subject: "Reflections on the Start-Up Retreat of Saturday, October 15". Linda Smith and Reverend Ja Rickard will lead the discussion. ☎ Contact Marie Brown 830-895-5138/ marieuu34@gmail.com or Karen Burkett 830.895-7076/ m.k.burkett@att.net
- 10am - Church Sanctuary: **Speaker and Subject: TBA** ☎ Contact Mike Burkett 830.895-7076/ m.k.burkett@att.net for more information.

Christian Assistance 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

- 25 **Tuesday** - 2-3:30pm - Palmer Annex: **Seminar Series #2 of 4 - "Who Wrote the Bible...if it wasn't Moses?"** Refer to the Tuesday, October 18 entry in this newsletter for more information.

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

29 **Saturday** - 11am-3pm - Palmer Annex & Sanctuary: **Activities & Events Committee Handicrafts Fair & Auction.** Take advantage of early holiday shopping during the silent & live auctions featuring one-of-a-kind, handmade crafts, as well as delightful services & specialty items. Savor & vote for your favorite chili during the Chili Cook Off. Enjoy Fall Fun for all ages during the Pumpkin Decorating Contest. ☎ Contact Judy Ashcraft 210.326-0084/ whodit@hotmail.com.

30 **Sunday** - 9-9:45am - Palmer Annex: **Adult Forum** - Free Speech Café led by Jim McMahon. A free wheeling, open discussion on whatever is of concern to you. ☎ Contact Marie Brown 830-895-5138/ marieuu34@gmail.com

10am - Church Sanctuary: **Sermon - Reverend Ja Rickard**; “Dia de los Muertos”. In Mexican tradition this is a day to celebrate those who have gone before. Please bring a picture or memory of someone in your life whose life you would like to celebrate. ☎ Contact Ja Rickard 262.237-0634/ jauhle@hotmail.com

“Donate The Plate” 5th Sunday program: Recipient of non-church funds will go to “Hill Country Cares”. Please refer to the article on page 3.

31 **Monday** - **HALLOWEEN**



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. Check for information in an upcoming Weekly Calendar Update!

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

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country **Board Members for 2016**

President - Linda Smith

830.257-2529/ president@uuchc.org

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/ juneh@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

Communications Committee Chair: Susan Lipp
communication@uuchc.org
Electronic Media (Facebook & web site): Judy Ashcraft
Order of Service: Kevin Hartley
Newsletter, Wkly Calendar Update, Publicity: Susan Lipp



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

**2 - Susan Lipp
9 - Julie Davis
16 - Pot Luck Dinner
23 - Judy Ashcraft
30 - Marie Brown**

*Thanks for the Yummies
for our tummies!*