

# OUR CHURCH LIFE

*The Newsletter for the Unitarian Universalist  
Church of the Hill Country*

**May 2016**

## **Outreach Committee Transportation Study Group Update**

**Led by Karen Burkett, the Transportation Group which is part of the Outreach Committee has made headway in making this initiative viable for the Kerrville and surrounding communities. Following is an overview and recap of the committee's efforts since inception.**

In September 2015, the UUCHC Chapter of Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry selected "Expanded Transportation Options" for Kerrville/Kerr County as its local issue for study. The complex task began by identifying 1) who needs transportation in Kerrville, where they live and need to go; 2) existing services; 3) resources in the community for history, needed data, financial resources, and support for a community effort.

The group began attending monthly meetings of the newly organized Inter-Agency Partners (non-profits in Kerrville and Kerr County), as well as those of the Homeless Coalition. Kathy Rice of BCFS was enlisted and she shared a detailed proposed plan for a fixed-route Kerrville transit system which was not capable of sustaining itself, but provided a good overview of needs and routes. The indication was that any new effort would require a city- or county-wide effort with local as well as private and government funding. The group learned of a recent Kerrville Comprehensive Plan which described unsuccessful efforts at public transportation, yet noted a strong need since the area population continues to grow and will increasingly need public transit.

In January, Tom Jones, Director of Christian Men's Job Corps and incoming chair of the Inter-Agency Partners advised the group of Kerrville community leaders who might be helpful with this project.

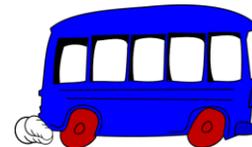
In February, a meeting was held with Donna Teall, Mobility Coordinator; Siena Lindemann, Regional Mobility Manager; and Dan Goetz, Access and Intake Specialist at the AACOG offices in San Antonio. The group learned of the possibilities of building a transit system, beginning with the Alamo Regional Transit service now active in Kerrville and expanding over time with community support and government funding. Suggestions were to visit the co-ops operating in the San Antonio metro area, and one in Seguin; to develop local support from all sectors of the community; review community education efforts; determine volunteers and in kind contributions.

The bi-monthly meeting of the Alamo Senior Advisory Committee was attended in March. Bill Moseley, Regional Transportation Director for AACOG, presented information about all transportation services provided by AACOG in their 13 county areas. In addition, the group also attended the Gillespie and Kerr Counties Focus Meeting in Fredericksburg. Questionnaires gathered from these attendees were tallied along with those from the other counties' to determine high priority issues in the 13 counties. The top two issues were determined to be affordable housing and accessible transportation.

In the first week of April the group met with Rick Cortes, Assistant City Manager of Seguin, Texas and learned of the startup and development of their fixed route transit system, "Connect Seguin", which is now in its third year.

At the April Study Group meeting, Kristen Johle, one of two Kerr County Advisory Committee members of the AACOG informed the group about the most recent (two years ago) failed transit system in Kerrville. The next steps for the group were identified which included finding volunteers to engage in the various tasks.

**The monthly Wednesday meetings which are held at 1:30pm at the BCFS Kerrville Resource Center on East Main Street will be posted in the newsletter and in weekly calendar updates. All are welcomed.**



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

[www.uuchc.org](http://www.uuchc.org)

*email: [churchofthehillcountry@uuchc.org](mailto:churchofthehillcountry@uuchc.org)*

*Check out our Facebook page*

## FROM YOUR MINISTER...

### Greetings!

#### Policy Committee

*Our Board has formed a committee to review our policies and write new ones if the committee finds that to be necessary.*

*Wondering what a policy is? Policies are simple guidelines followed to ensure that we are doing the right things and not simply making a snap decision.*

*We have policies that give guidelines for our Worship Committee, how our elections are run and other functions of congregational life. These are important to our congregation for several reasons. The first, and I believe the most important, is so that we have a clear cut understanding as to how our congregation runs. The second is so that each person in our congregation is treated fairly and equally.*

*Why has this committee been appointed to review and possibly write policies? Our congregation has been together for a while now and some of our policies were written as long ago as 2009. Things change in congregational life such as our Board, our Committees and our Committee Chairs. Members have moved away and new members have taken their place. Things change and to keep our policies current it is advisable to take a look at them from time to time to see if there have been changes that need to be addressed. Our policies are also reflected in our By-Laws and the committee will be checking the By-Laws also to be sure that the policies are in accordance with the By-Laws, if not, they will be rewritten and it will be up to the congregation to vote as to whether they accept the changes or not.*

*This is what the new Policy Committee will be doing: looking at what we have/don't have and being sure that everything is up to date and covers all aspects of our congregational life. As they work through this and finalize a policy it will be presented to the Board who will vote whether they accept the policy or if they feel that it still needs adjustment. No policy will be put into place without Board approval.*

*The Policy Committee consists of three members of our congregation, one Board member and I. The Board has 5 members. Not one policy will be put into place without these 10 members of our congregation approving them. Furthermore, not one change will be made to our By-Laws without the vote of you, the congregation.*

*If you think you might see where a policy might be effective please let Joyce Randle, Monte Hensley, Ellen Jackson, Mike Burkett or me know.*

*With gratitude,*

*Ja*



*A record-breaking 39 Backpacks were assembled on April 6 to help refugees which La Casa RAICES in San Antonio assists. Just a few of the volunteers from UUCHC were (from left) Selma Gibson, Meredith Hensley, Ann Cornelius and Mary Jones. This is an ongoing effort of the church Outreach Committee.*

## May Calendar of Upcoming Events, Programs & Meetings

*-Subject to Change; Consult [www.uuchc.org](http://www.uuchc.org) and/or Weekly Calendar Update emailed on Thursdays-*

- 1 **Sunday** - 9-9:45am - Palmer Annex: **Adult Forum** - Teresa Stewart, Community Liaison for Region 8 Prevention Resource Center of the San Antonio Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse to address the statistics and trends in Kerr County regarding three priorities: the use of alcohol, marijuana and prescription drugs among all categories of the population. Contact Marie Brown 830.895-5138/ [marieuu34@gmail.com](mailto:marieuu34@gmail.com)  
10am - Church Sanctuary: Andy Gerhart to speak; "Environmentalism today: the blind eye to environmental justice".
- 3 **Tuesday** - 2-4pm - Palmer Annex: "World Religions" Continuing Series #6 of 6. We will watch a video about Hinduism and then discuss it. ☎ Contact Marie Brown 830.895-5138/ [marieuu34@gmail.com](mailto:marieuu34@gmail.com)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3 →



### May Chalice Table Décor

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

- 1 - June & Kevin Hartley
- 8 - Monte & Meredith Hensley
- 15 - Sherri Curry
- 22 - Ellen Jackson
- 29 - Dave & Pat Kobe

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

...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2 - Calendar

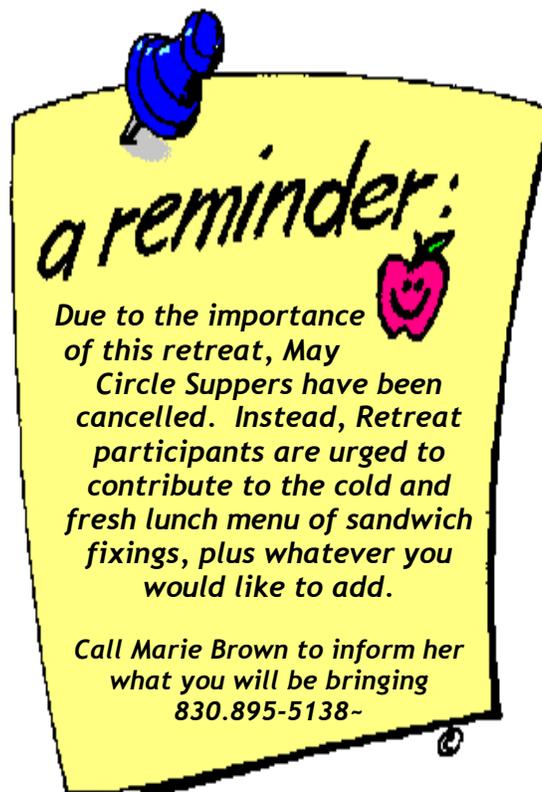
- 5 Thursday - 3:30-5pm - Church Sanctuary: Choir Practice ☎ Contact Meredith Hensley 830.522-0802/ [pmeredith@yahoo.com](mailto:pmeredith@yahoo.com)
- 6 Friday - 11:30am - Palmer Annex: Men's Fellowship Lunch - There will be news, views, and thought provoking discussion. Guys bring your sandwich or gourmet repast as you wish. ☎ Contact Steve Galland 830.634-7668/ [sgalland@afgimail.com](mailto:sgalland@afgimail.com)
- 8 Sunday - 9-9:45am - Palmer Annex: Adult Forum - What kind of influence did being a mother or the kind of relationship you had with your mother have on your life? This question was asked of Julie Davis, Linda Smith, Sherri Curry, and Carolyn Osborn and they have all agreed to share their insights with us on this Mother's Day. ☎ Contact Marie Brown 830.895-5138/ [marieuu34@gmail.com](mailto:marieuu34@gmail.com)  
10am - Church Sanctuary: Sermon - Pastor Ja Rickard; "Mother's Day". Who really is a mother and how do we pay homage to our mothers?☎ Ja Rickard 262.237-0634/ [jauhle@hotmail.com](mailto:jauhle@hotmail.com)



### Mother's Day

- 11 Wednesday - 1:30pm - BCFS Resource Center, East Main Street - 1st floor conference room: Transportation Study Group meeting  
6:30pm - Palmer Annex: Monthly Board Meeting. Open to all. ☎ Contact President, Diane McMahon 830.370-6590/ [dianelm@windstream.com](mailto:dianelm@windstream.com)
- 12 Thursday - 3:30-5pm - Church Sanctuary: Choir Practice ☎ Contact Meredith Hensley 830.522-0802/ [pmeredith@yahoo.com](mailto:pmeredith@yahoo.com)

- 14 Saturday - 10am-3pm - Church Sanctuary: Minister's Startup Retreat - The Board of Directors and the Ministerial Advisory Committee have scheduled this event to discuss and clarify the role of the minister in our congregation. Natalie Briscoe, our UUA District Representative, will be leading the Retreat which will begin with sharing what makes the church meaningful to members. Then the church's history will be shared, which is often a very powerful experience. Thereafter, the expectations for the minister in terms of priorities and time spent will be discussed. In conclusion, all participants will think about the 3 - 4 congregational/ministerial top priorities for the immediate future. All church members and friends are invited.



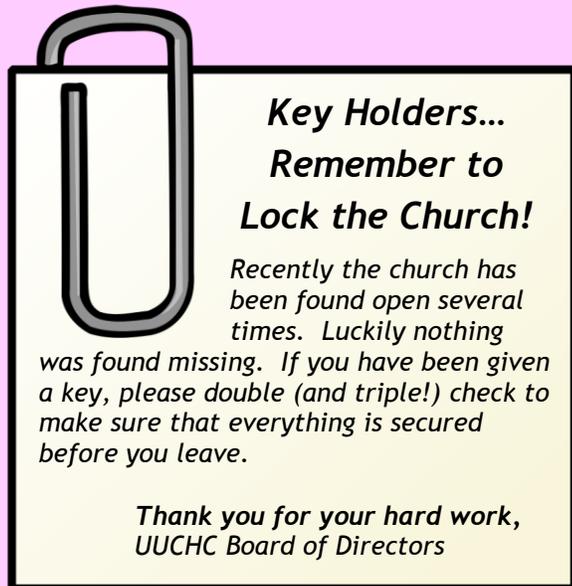
- 15 Sunday - 10am - Church Sanctuary: Steve Galland to speak; "Unlearning Not to Speak". This interactive service will utilize a sermon by Rev. Joshua Pawlelek of the UU Society, Manchester, CT; explore our own UU Seven Principles and share challenges facing many UUs within their own faith.

☎ Pot Luck Dinner after the Service

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 →

...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3 - Calendar

- 18 **Wednesday** - 11am - Palmer Annex: **Women's Connection** - Church women and their female friends meet for fun, support and then enjoy lunch afterward. ☎ Contact Kay White 830.896-2852/ [kaywhite201222@gmail.com](mailto:kaywhite201222@gmail.com)  
**Last Day to Submit items for May newsletter** ☎ Contact Susan Lipp 619.248-0669/ [susan@lipphhealth.com](mailto:susan@lipphhealth.com)



- 19 **Thursday** - 3:30-5pm - Church Sanctuary: **Choir Practice** ☎ Contact Meredith Hensley 830.522-0802/ [pmeredithc@yahoo.com](mailto:pmeredithc@yahoo.com)  
 20 **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](mailto:sgalland@afgimail.com)  
 21 **Saturday** - 10am-4pm: **A Day at UBarU Camp & Retreat Center** - We will meet for lunch, fun and activities. Kevin Hartley will lead a walking tour of the facilities or you can relax on the porch, walk on your own, bird watch (remember binoculars), enjoy the wildlife/plants plus many other options.  
 Please bring a covered dish and your favorite beverage for lunch. If you are participating in outdoor activities, remember comfy walking shoes, sunscreen and hat. There may be some pool time, so bring your suit if you would like to get wet.  
 Since this is Armed Forces Day, there will be a time set aside for honoring our veterans. Directions are on page 5 but there will be car pools as well.  
 Please sign up to let us know how many to expect on the sheet on the table at the back of the sanctuary. ☎ Contact Marie Brown 830-895-5138/ [marieuu34@gmail.com](mailto:marieuu34@gmail.com)

- 22 **Sunday** - 9-9:45am - Palmer Annex: **Adult Forum** - The Unitarian Universalist Association will be voting for a new President to lead in 2017. Currently two women ministers are vying for that honor and will be traveling the country asking for votes. Read about them on page 49 of the Spring "UU World" and then express/share what you would like to see in a President and the direction our denomination should move. ☎ Contact Marie Brown 830-895-5138/ [marieuu34@gmail.com](mailto:marieuu34@gmail.com)  
 10am - Church Sanctuary: Sermon: Pastor Ja Rickard; "My Grandfather Was Undocumented." People have been coming to the United States since the first boatload of pilgrims arrived. Why do they come and what do we do when they get here?  
 Christian Area Ministry (CAM) **Sunday** - Focus is on personal products; shampoos, soaps, facial tissues, etc.  
 26 **Thursday** - 3:30-5pm - Church Sanctuary: **Choir Practice** ☎ Contact Meredith Hensley 830.522-0802/ [pmeredithc@yahoo.com](mailto:pmeredithc@yahoo.com)  
 28 **Saturday** - 6:30-9pm - Palmer Annex: **"Saturday Night at the Movies"** - "My Man Godfrey" 1936 movie (1 hour, 35 minutes). A high-society scavenger hunt leads to levity when scatterbrained socialite Irene Bullock (Carole Lombard) stumbles upon an erudite vagabond named Godfrey (William Powell) living in the city dump and offers him a position as the Bullock's butler. As it happens, the seemingly bankrupt bum is, in fact, the heir of a well-to-do family. While Godfrey sets out to teach the pampered Bullocks a few lessons, Irene conspires to capture his heart.  
 29 **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](mailto:marieuu34@gmail.com)  
 10am - Church Sanctuary: TBA

30 **Monday**



**Memorial Day**

Updates & additions to the May church newsletter may be found on [www.uuchc.org](http://www.uuchc.org) and/or in the weekly calendar updates emailed Thursdays. Also see page 5 for contacts regarding church print & electronic communications. 😊



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

- 1 - Julie Davis
- 8 - Activities & Events Committee
- 15 - Judy Ashcraft
- 22 - Susan Lipp
- 29 - Shari Gore

**Thanks for the yummys  
for our tummys!**

### **Outreach Committee TXUUJM Update**

**-Minutes from the Tuesday, April 26 Meeting-**

There are 33 congregations of the Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry. Each congregation has two representatives to the TXUUJM advisory group. UUHC representatives for this year are June Hartley and Karen Burkett.

Rev. Chuck Freeman, TXUUJM Director, led the discussion on the conference call meeting structure based on feedback obtained from TXUUJM congregation representatives.

Ideas included calls based on geographical clusters and each of the three state-wide focus issues, the importance of retaining the benefits/values of total group sharing, face to face cluster gatherings, large group gatherings planned around Planned Parenthood Lobby Day or Legislative Action Day, various ideas on utilizing webinars, Zoom, Skype, Google group/doc, or Loomio. Chuck will review notes from the conference call and develop several options for the structure. This and some ideas on renaming the TXUUJM advisory group will be sent to the congregation members for review and further suggestions.



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

- President Diane McMahon**  
830.370-6590/ [dianelm@windstream.com](mailto:dianelm@windstream.com)
- Vice President Mike Burkett**  
830.895-7076/ [m.k.burkett@att.net](mailto:m.k.burkett@att.net)
- Secretary Laurie Pesez**  
830.895-4764/ [lpesez@stx.rr.com](mailto:lpesez@stx.rr.com)
- Treasurer Judy Ashcraft**  
210.326-0084/ [whodit@hotmail.com](mailto:whodit@hotmail.com)
- Past President June Hartley**  
830.896-5191/ [june@windstream.net](mailto: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](mailto:whodit@hotmail.com)

Order of Service: Kevin Hartley  
830.496-2174/ [khartley@windstream.net](mailto:khartley@windstream.net)

Newsletter Editor & Head of Information Services:  
Susan Lipp 619.248-0669/ [susan@lipphealth.com](mailto:susan@lipphealth.com)

### **Directions to UBarU Camp & Retreat Center from the church**

From I-10 and Sidney Baker, head west. Exit 492 (15.4 miles) and turn right. Take the first right onto Thrill Hill Road. When the road ends there will be a gate with a sign that indicates that you have arrived at UBarU. Turn left and follow road.

