

April, 2014



## *Thermal Belt UU Fellowship Newsletter*

### *April Meetings*

**April 13:**

**Rev. Sally Beth Shore—**

*The Generous Heart*



There are chalice lighting words in our hymnal that speak about “the generous heart” as a mission of Unitarian Universalism. What does it mean to be generous? How can we cultivate a greater generosity within our own hearts? What does it mean to be a giver? Our service will feature some of your experience with giving.

Not coincidentally, this is the Sunday that we embark on a new adventure for this fellowship: a pledge drive! We are very excited to take the following two weeks to ask our congregation to consider what of our time, resources and talents we plan to commit to this community in the upcoming church year, which starts July 1. This is more than a paper exercise, as this will allow the board to plan ahead for growth and programming. Your newly-formed finance committee is working hard on this event—please support their efforts.

**April, 2014**

**No. 3 of the UU principles**

Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.

**April 27:**

**Rev. Sally Beth Shore—**

**A Reason to Celebrate (the EARTH)**

“Earth Day” turned 44 on April 22. In this past half century, our knowledge of our planet has boomed, but sometimes it seems like the optimism and hope that were once part of the first Earth Day celebration have waned over the years. Perhaps it is because we also know that mitigating the strains that we humans have put on it are more daunting tasks than we could have envisioned in 1970. Looking ahead, where should we place our best efforts and hopes for the environment?

#### **Sunday Helpers:**

- **Chalice Lighter**

**Apr. 13 Annie Ewing**

**Apr. 27 Volunteer**

- **Host/Hostess**

**Apr. 13 Nan Covert &**

**Linda Jahnke**

**Apr. 27 Volunteer**

- **Greeter**

**Apr. 13 Linda List**

**Apr. 27 Volunteer**

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## *Shoreline*

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One of the more rewarding things I've done in the past few months was to be part of a **"This I Believe" class**, facilitated by my friend Juliana Austin at the UU Congregation of Asheville. Over the short sessions that this class met, I got to be in dialogue about things that matter with a dozen other people who for the most part were strangers. It was amazing how after less than 10 hours total we each had clarified something important for ourselves as well as connected deeply with one other. It was such a great experience, I want to offer

a similar opportunity beginning April 18. These meetings will take the place of the Friday morning coffee-meetup for a few weeks. Please see the information in the "THIS I BELIEVE" box in the newsletter.

If you haven't read Robbie ter Kuile's letter about our **first ever pledge drive** (at least as far as we remember) please do so now. I'm very excited that your board is thinking ahead about setting a budget and a direction for the coming church year; as you consider your pledge, I know if you probably have many competing demands on your wallet, and it's hard to put a dollar

value on being part of a community that values many of the same things you do, that comes together to discuss the most important issues in our lives, that speaks out as a unified voice against oppression and for human rights. But please give this some thought, and let's see what we can make happen if we all do give our best to this Fellowship.

Having a pledge drive is a great excuse to think about what resources, in addition to money, that we have as an institution, and what are the ways which we can continue "be a force for good in the Thermal Belt." I'm sure you have great ideas, and I look forward to hearing from you.

„ *Love, Sally Beth*

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### *"This I Believe" Class Starting April 18.*

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From 2009—2012, National Public Radio hosted a weekly series called *This I Believe*, during which people shared short essays about one or more of their most heartfelt beliefs. Using a curriculum developed for that program, TBUUF is offering a 4-session class this spring, during which we will have opportunities to share and learn from others about our beliefs and the experiences that have shaped them. As part of the class, participants will be encouraged and supported in producing their own written belief statement.

**Place:** Anne Elizabeth Suratt Nature Center at Walnut Creek Preserve; directions can be found by going to: <http://www.walnutcreekpreserve.com/directions/naturecenter.html>

**Time:** Fridays, April 18—May 09, 9:30-11:00 am

**Cost:** \$10 donation requested

**Register** by emailing [revsbshore@charter.net](mailto:revsbshore@charter.net)

**PACWalk for Preservation  
April 26, 2014  
at Harmon Field in Tryon**

Registration is from 9:00-9:45, with the walk starting at 10:00. Walkers can preregister at the PAC office, get a form online at [Pacolet.org](http://Pacolet.org), or pick one up at the April 13 service. The walk is approximately 2 miles.

Our team name is **UU Spirit**.

Awards and snacks.

*"Walk to save our mountains, farms,  
forests, waterways & greenspace!"*

*Entry Fee: \$10.00 (tax deductible)*

The Fellowship meets regularly on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month (Sept-June), 10:30am at Tryon Youth Center, Route 176N Tryon, NC. For more information call [828-582-6704](tel:828-582-6704) Or visit our website: [www.tbuuf.org](http://www.tbuuf.org) All are welcome.

Please send newsletter renewal requests, suggestions and/or comments to [murch2@windstream.net](mailto:murch2@windstream.net) or call 828-894-2011  
L. Murch, Editor

## Thermal Belt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

April 2014

Dear Members and Friends,

For the last several months, the Board of Directors has been planning a financial pledge drive for the upcoming year, which starts on July 1. Since I've been a member of this Fellowship, we've never done this. So why now, you might ask?

In order to create a budget, it is necessary to know our income as well as our expenses. Phil Nungesser, Gretchen Boyd, and Linda Jahnke, the members of our newly formed Finance Committee, have done a great job analyzing the financial status of our Fellowship. They project that for this church year of 2013-2014, our income will total \$10,500, while our estimated expenses are \$12,600. These are only estimates because until now we haven't had a budget and we just pay the bills as they come in. We have been meeting the shortfalls with savings, but of course, this isn't sustainable indefinitely; moreover, it doesn't allow us to plan for the future.

In March, the Board had a retreat during which we began visioning for TBUUF, a process that we look forward to continuing with you in the months to come. We know there are things we can do to reach others in our area who are hungry for the hope that comes from being part of a UU community, a community that honors reason, diversity, freedom of thought, and the environment. Thanks to your past generosity, we were able to take a leap of faith and hire a part-time consulting minister for '13-'14; attendance is up, and there's a sense of excitement as we see new faces among us. However, if we are to keep professional ministry and take further steps to nourish our Fellowship (such as increasing our programming, offering religious education for children, or having a permanent home) then it is imperative that we start by getting our finances on a positive footing.

**This is why we are having a pledge drive. The Board of Directors has set a revenue goal of \$14,000 for the 2014-15 church year. It's a high bar, up considerably from this current year's (projected) income. But, we absolutely believe we can do this if we have full participation from our members and friends. So, we are asking you to do two things—one, complete and turn in the pledge form (available by mail, in the newsletter, on the website, and at the April Sunday services) and two, be as generous as you can.**

In our bylaws, it reads, "Our growth and actions as thoughtful, compassionate, and ethical human beings advance our vision of a world of peace and love, dignity and equality, freedom and justice. Our Fellowship strives to be a force for good in the Thermal Belt region." By working together, we can continue to fulfill that mission. Please join me.

Most Sincerely,

*Robbie*

Robbie ter Kuile, President

on behalf of the TBUUF Board

My (Our) 2014-2015 Pledge of Financial Support for the  
Thermal Belt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: H: \_\_\_\_\_ C: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

My (our) total pledge for the 2014-2015 church year is: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

My (our) pledge payments will start in September 2014 on the following schedule:

• Quarterly Donations in the sum of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

• Ten Monthly Donations in the sum of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

• Twelve Monthly Donations in the sum of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

A Single Donation on \_\_\_\_\_(date) in the sum of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Your continued support of TBUUF is greatly appreciated.**

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form at the Sunday Service on April 27, 2014, or mail to the address below:

Thermal Belt Unitarian Universalists Fellowship