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June 2011

## The Good News

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Dear Ron,

### Pentecost Issue



Welcome,

Thanks for receiving our free online monthly Good News issues. This issue is full of big news including: General Assembly, Revival 2012, commentary for the liturgical holy days of Pentecost/Trinity Sundays and more. We hope you enjoy it

and will help support us as we grow our presence in the world.

We are always looking for contributors to our monthly online newsletters, our website and other publications. If you have book, film, music, website reviews, prayers, artwork, writings on biblical passages or spiritual issues, sermons, or more, send them to [Rev. Ron Robinson](#). We are especially looking for contributions to our weekly lectionary reflections posted on the [Virtual Monastery](#) section of our website.

To [join](#) with us in our movement, to [renew](#) your membership, or to make special a [donation](#) for our projects visit our [web site](#).

### Pentecost

Liturgical Season



On Sunday, June 12 the church celebrated the Day of Pentecost

and we entered the long liturgical season of Pentecost, or Ordinary Time. There has been, it seems, a resurgence of interest in the religious observance of Pentecost even among many different UU congregations. Many are coming to see what a powerful particularly universalist message and story that we have been left in the Second Chapter of Acts. There are elements of our touchstone of continuous revelation, of visions and the ability to prophecy coming to all kinds of people. There is the affirmation of unity in diversity and the yearning for a covenanted community focused on meeting real needs in the here and now, inspired by a Transcendent Spirit.

Here are just a few links to sermons and blogposts that delve into the spirit and the story of Pentecost in UU settings.

- "[Found in Translation](#)" by Rev. Rob Hardies of All Souls Unitarian Church of Washington, D.C.
- "[Tongues of Fire](#)" by the Rev. Harold E. Babcock at First Religious Society UU of Newburyport, Mass.
- Blogpost on [Pentecost Day and Unitarian Universalism](#) by the Rev. Fred Hammond, a UU minister in Mississippi and Alabama.

## General Assembly - June 22-26, 2011 Charlotte, North Carolina

### "Thieves in the Temple" Communion service by Rev. Kathleen Rolenz



Thieves in Your Temple

The UUCF will present the General Assembly Communion Service on Thursday, June 23, from 4:30 to 5:45 p.m. at the Convention Center Room 203AB in Charlotte, North

Carolina. The Rev. Kathleen Rolenz will be the preacher. Her homily is entitled "Thieves in the Temple." The communion service liturgy is designed after one used by the late Rev. Suzanne Meyer at Revival 2005 in Fort Worth, Texas, and in honor of her life and ministry, including service with the UUCF. See the [order of service](#) on our web site in the [General Assembly](#) section.

The Rev. Rolenz is co-minister at West Shore UU Congregation in the Cleveland area, past president of the UUCF, editor of the anthology *Christian Voices in Unitarian Universalism*, and co-author of *Worship That Works*.

We will once more have our major booth in the Exhibit Hall as part of the combined booth for the Theological Sources. It

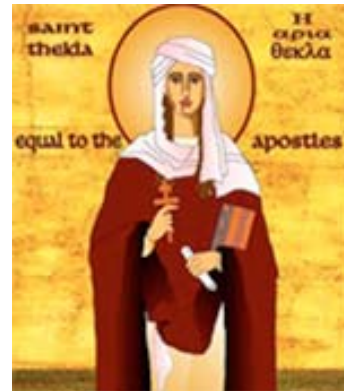
is number 322. We will have materials and resources for sale and giveaway, a chance to sign up for dinners out together, and opportunities for small group talks at the booth. It is a great place to rest during the event, meet old friends, make new ones and be an ambassador for the UUCF. Sign ups for volunteering at the booth will also be at the table. To help with set up on Tuesday, June 21, email [Rev Ron Robinson](#).

## Revival/Retreat 2012

### Many Voices, Many Verses: Revealing the Feminine in Christianity

To be hosted at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Fairfax, VA.

We will have three featured presenters:



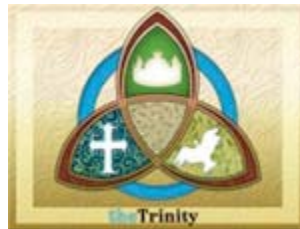
- We are pleased to bring Amy Oden, dean and professor of history at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. Dr. Oden received her B.A. from the University of Oklahoma and her Ph.D. from the Southern Methodist University. Dr. Oden has published such books as *In Her Words: Women's Writings in the History of Christian Thought*, and *You Welcomed Me: Sourcebook on Hospitality in Early Christianity*, and the *Wesley Study Bible*. She has recently finished a book entitled *God's Welcome: Hospitality for a Gospel-Hungry World*.
- Margaret Starbird is the acclaimed author of many books holding up the importance of Mary Magdalene and reclaiming the images of the Sacred Feminine in Christianity, including *The Woman With the Alabaster Jar*, and *The Goddess in the Gospels: Reclaiming The Sacred Feminine*, among others. She received her undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Maryland and studied theology at Vanderbilt.
- Mary Hunt is a feminist theologian who is co-founder and co-director of the Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics and Ritual (WATER) in Silver Spring, MD. Among her books are *Fierce Tenderness*, and editor of *New Feminist Christianity*, and *Guide To Women in Religion*, and *From Woman Pain to Woman Vision*. Dr. Hunt received her Ph.D. from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California. She also received the Masters in Divinity from the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley and a Masters in Theological

Studies from Harvard Divinity School. Her undergraduate degree in Theology and Philosophy is from Marquette University.

We will have Centering and Contemplative Prayer on Thursday, opening worship, Communion and Baptism, Prayer and Healing service, a joint worship on Saturday afternoon with the Fairfax congregation, workshops and conversations on special topics of spiritual issues, small groups for more intimate exploration, three meals as part of the event registration, dinners out together Saturday night, and much more.

Details are being developed so stay tuned to our [web site](#) for updated information. Plan now to come celebrate with us in the Washington, D.C. area!

## Trinity Sunday - June 19th, 2012



Whenever the UUCF gathers, we often hold conversations with seekers who get to ask any question about UU Christianity. One of the most popular questions is about if we believe in the Trinity. After responding about the non-creedal nature of our organization and tradition, and mentioning our roots and continuing connection with churches and individuals who are Trinitarian Universalists, we may get into a conversation about how the Trinity has been undergoing a reconstruction and liberalization of interpretation by many theologians. Liberation, Process, Feminist, and new Missional theologians have been reframing the Trinity in terms of an experience that reveals a divinity in community, in mutuality, and incarnation.

For this Trinity Sunday, here is a [link](#) to an essay called "The Truth in the Trinity" by Rev. Carl Scovel, minister emeritus of King's Chapel in Boston, originally published in the Summer, 1973 issue of The UU Christian.

A wonderful discussion related to Unitarian Universalism and the Trinity, in history and contemporary times, was held in the space of the Philocrites blog by Chris Walton, now editor of the UU World magazine. Those posts can be read [here](#).

As one theologian, Henry Van Dusen, expressed back last century, too, Christian faith began as "a trinitarian religion with a unitarian theology." Meaning that early Christians experienced the divine in three ways, Father, Christ, Spirit, but they, being grounded in the God of Israel, thought of God as One. The recent scholarship in process theology has explored some of this territory. Here is a [link](#) to bibliography and more resources for further study.

Finally, here is another [link](#) where you can see materials used in a course on Unitarians Looking At The Trinity that was held last Fall at [Pathways UU Church](#) in the Dallas and Fort Worth area. It is full of background material on historic and contemporary ways to consider Christology and the related theological concepts.

## Carl Scovels Annual Retreat at Glastonbury Abbey, Hingham MA: Christlike Lives



Rev. Scovel has sent out this information about his annual retreat.

"Our annual Jesus retreat will take place on the weekend of Friday, November 11, through Sunday noon the 13th at Glastonbury Abbey in Hingham, MA.

In this retreat we will focus on the lives of people who have represented to us "Christlike" qualities. First, we will discuss what kind of qualities we find "Christlike" and then we will read to each other accounts of people who have exemplified these qualities to us.

The cost for the retreat will be \$130, checks payable to me and sent to me at 36 Hampstead Road, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130. One registers by sending a check.

Some of you may remember that in past years I asked for contributions to a woman who was living on the edge of poverty. This year I am asking for contributions to the summer program of a small youth center in the housing project one block from our house. The leaders, Maura and Elvin, run a full program in the basement of a unit and do this on a bare-bones budget. I'm hoping to raise money to help their efforts. I've gotten to know a few of these youth; they are wonderful people and deserve all the support they can get. If you'd like to give, please send a tax-deductible check to "Community Service Care," Inc." at 36 Perkins Street, Jamaica Plain MA 02130, and write "Attn Alison Yoos." On the lower left line of your check please write "South St.Youth Project" with an X after it. This will make sure your check goes to the project and the "X" will let Alison know that it's from our retreat group.

Although we were pretty close to full on the last two retreats, if you know of someone who might profit by our kind of time together, please let them know."

## Support the UUCF

The UUCF is a self-supporting and self-



sustaining institution. The first and most important reason to stay connected to the UUCF is because we represent a liberal religious Christian presence in the Unitarian Universalist Association. We believe that Unitarian Universalism is broadened and deepened by our active presence and our faithful witness. We represent one of the few organization in the UUA that can claim an authentic theological position, and the only one that can claim a historical tradition that dates back to the beginning of our movement.

You can change the world by keeping alive the free and radical spirit of Jesus in the world, especially in our UUCF life. Here you can **join** with us for the first time, **renew** your membership, answer the call to **contribute** to specific projects or make special **donations**. To support UUCF click on this **link** to be redirected to our website.



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We are non-creedal followers of Jesus rooted in the history and tradition of Unitarian Universalism. All who wish to freely follow Jesus are welcome to be members of the UUCF.

**Sincerely,**

Ron Robinson  
Unitarian Universalist Christian Fellowship

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