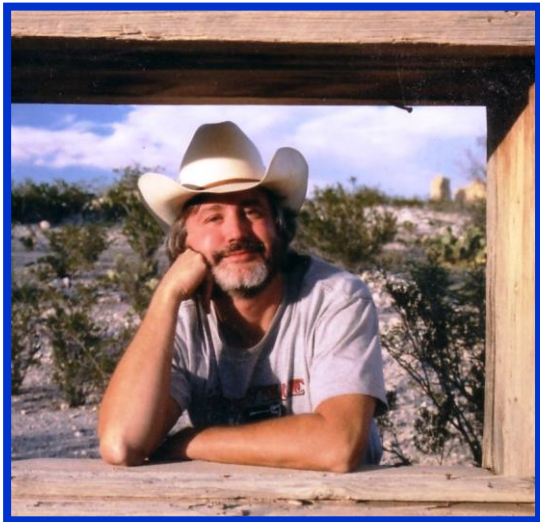




# Hill Country Happenings

The Newsletter for the Unitarian Universalist  
Church of the Hill Country  
February 2016



**Events & Activities Committee Announces  
"I'll Take You Home" Steve Brooks  
CD Release Concert  
Saturday, February 27 6:30pm  
Church Sanctuary**

Cross two famous guys named Brooks - Garth and Mel - and you get Austin folksinger Steve Brooks. A classic Texas troubadour who mixes storytelling, humor, heartbreak and cracker-barrel philosophy, his songs have been recorded by more than a dozen Americana artists, like Slaid Cleaves, Christine Albert and Russell Crowe. He wrote a song-a-week for Jim Hightower's nationally-syndicated radio show and appeared on TV's "I've Got a Secret" as six-time World Pun Champion. You can sample his songs, puns and sermons at [www.stevebrooks.net](http://www.stevebrooks.net).

His new CD will be available for \$15 and there will be free light eats and a cash wine bar.



## Church Outreach Activities

- Unitarian Universalist Service Committee "Guest at Your Table" program supports people around the world whose civil and political rights have been violated. Marie Brown spoke of the UUSC during the February 17 service and how donations may be made by completing the information found on the specific envelopes located on the Welcome Table by the front door. After doing this one simply needs to seal the envelope and place it into the collection plate or give it to Marie Brown. The deadline is **March 6th**.
- Texas UU Justice Ministry Launches "1000 Courageous, Sustaining UUs for Justice" Campaign! TXUUJM has accomplished impressive things in its brief existence but is still a start-up organization. Financially, it operates with only a

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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!

*I am pretty close to finishing my first month as your new minister. This has been a very, very busy month. I am happy to say that I have unpacked the last of the boxes that I brought with me from Arkansas and I have started to create an office in the Annex which I hope to begin utilizing very soon.*

*During this month I have met with many members and friends of the congregation and I am thoroughly enjoying getting to know you. I am happy that you have felt comfortable enough to be able to share not only the joys of being in this community but also the fears. Thank you for so graciously welcoming me into your community.*

*One of the things that I have found to be of great service not only to me but to the entire congregation is the committees that have been formed and how they are set up. For someone like me who is new to the community it is such a blessing to know that there are five people that I can call on to gain information. I have spent a great deal of time with Jan Lentner and the Social, Outreach and Congregational Committee and am amazed by all of the projects her committee is involved in. Mike Burkett and the Sunday Service Committee do an amazing job of making our Sunday services enjoyable. Ellen Jackson is working hard to gain new members and to keep those who are visiting informed. We would all be aimlessly floating down a river if it wasn't for Andy Pesez and his ability to keep the finances in order.*

*One last group of people that I have come to rely on are Susan, Kevin and Judy who keep us all informed of what is going on. I encourage everyone who has a great idea to speak with the committee responsible and have your item put on the agenda for their next meeting. In this way, we can all be informed and we can make our dreams become realities.*

*Thank you for welcoming me into your beloved community and I must thank Kay White and the members of the search committee for finding me. I would still be lost without them.*

*With gratitude,*

*Ja*



***Jan Lentner, S.O.C.S. Committee Chair with Scottie Rev. Scottie McIntyre Johnson at Scottie's last service with the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country; Sunday, January 10, 2016.***

***After the service, a small celebration ensued where members thanked Scottie for her leadership, generosity and service while the church was between ministers.***

**...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 - Church Outreach**

two month surplus, making it difficult to budget, plan and sustain the actions needed to bring about systemic change in Texas. With your help, the financial base needed to move forward more quickly, including increasing our Executive Director, Rev. Chuck Freeman, to a full time position will be fulfilled. Please visit [txuujm.org](http://txuujm.org), and press "DONATE" at the bottom of the page. It will take you to PayPal where you can put in your monthly sustaining donation. Our very own UUCHC Justice Ministry thanks you! Please contact Jan Lentner for more information 719.371-6825/ [macawma2001@yahoo.com](mailto:macawma2001@yahoo.com).



### February Chalice Table Décor

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

**7 - Pat Brown Haydel**  
**14 - Meredith & Monte Hensley**  
**21 - Kathleen Hudson**  
**28 - Ellen Jackson**

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

## February 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 Monday - 2pm - Palmer Annex: "The UUA 2015-16 Common Read" book discussion ☎ Contact Mary Jones 830.896-9182/  
[austinbound216@yahoo.com](mailto:austinbound216@yahoo.com)
- 2 Tuesday - Palmer Annex: Pastor Ja Rickard to begin office visiting hours; 10am-2pm, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. If you need to speak with her at another time, please call 262.237-0634 to set up another time. She is always available for any emergency.
- 4 Thursday - 2pm - Palmer Annex: S.O.C.S. Committee (Events & Activities) meeting ☎ Contact Jan Lentner 719.371-6825/  
[macawma2001@yahoo.com](mailto:macawma2001@yahoo.com)  
3:30-5pm - Church Sanctuary: Choir Practice ☎ Contact Meredith Hensley 830.522-0802/  
[pmeredithc@yahoo.com](mailto:pmeredithc@yahoo.com)
- 5 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)  
1:30pm - Palmer Annex: S.O.C.S. Committee (combined committees) meeting ☎ Contact Jan Lentner 719.371-6825/  
[macawma2001@yahoo.com](mailto:macawma2001@yahoo.com)

- 6 Saturday - 10am-3pm - First UU Church of San Antonio: **Heart of Texas Cluster Leadership Series** - Please refer to article below for more information.
- 7 Sunday - 9-9:45am - Palmer Annex: **Adult Forum** is a discussion of the last of the series, "Principles and Purposes: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part". ☎ Contact Karen Burkett 830.895-7076/  
[m.k.burkett@att.net](mailto:m.k.burkett@att.net)  
10am - Church Sanctuary: **Sermon** Pastor, Ja Rickard "Things That Go Bump in the Night": As we move through life things have a way of changing. Our lives, our homes, our jobs and even our religious beliefs change over time and as we age these changes that were once so easy become a bit harder and more confusing. Let's take a look at how easy it was and how hard it can be. ☎ Ja Rickard 262.237-0634/  
[jauhle@hotmail.com](mailto:jauhle@hotmail.com)
- 8 Monday - 2pm - Palmer Annex: "The UUA 2015-16 Common Read" book discussion ☎ Contact Mary Jones 830.896-9182/  
[austinbound216@yahoo.com](mailto:austinbound216@yahoo.com)

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## Heart of TX Cluster Leadership Series



**Saturday, February 6 - 10am-3pm**  
**First UU Church of San Antonio**  
(7150 Interstate 10 Frontage Rd,  
San Antonio, TX 78213 - 210.344-4695)

Natalie Briscoe, Southern Region Congregational Life staff, will lead this training series on crucial skills and knowledge for congregational leaders.

Topics will include Governance, Power and Authority, Growth, Change, and Church Size. Theory Tools planned are Goals for Board Work and RASCI Model of Accountability.

The \$50 registration includes lunch. Register:  
<http://www.formdesk.com/UUASR/SanAntonio>



## ...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3 - Calendar

- 10 Wednesday - 2pm - Palmer Annex: **TXUUJM (Texas UU Justice Ministry) Transportation Group meeting.** The original date for this meeting was 2/3, but was moved to allow us time to bring information gleaned from meeting with Donna Teall, Regional Mobility Office of Alamo Area Council of Governments. ☎ Contact Jan Lentner 719.371-6825/ [macawma2001@yahoo.com](mailto:macawma2001@yahoo.com) or Karen Burkett 830.895-7076/ [m.k.burkett@att.net](mailto:m.k.burkett@att.net)  
6:30pm - Palmer Annex: Monthly Board Meeting. Open to all. ☎ Contact President, Bob Lentner 719.371-6825/ [rwlinthewest@yahoo.com](mailto:rwlinthewest@yahoo.com)
- 11 Thursday - 3:30-5pm - Church Sanctuary: **Choir Practice** ☎ Contact Meredith Hensley 830.522-0802/ [pmeredithc@yahoo.com](mailto:pmeredithc@yahoo.com)
- 12 Friday - 2pm - Palmer Annex: **"Needles" Group - Church crafting open to all.** ☎ Contact Shari Gore 830.367-3142

Updates & additions to February "Hilltop Happenings" may be found on [www.uuchc.org](http://www.uuchc.org) and/or in the weekly calendar updates emailed Thursdays. Also see page 4 for contacts regarding church print & electronic communications. 😊

- 14 ♥ **VALENTINE'S DAY!** Sunday - 9-9:45am - Palmer Annex: **Adult Forum** is a discussion led by Ja Rickard on the Social Justice issues she dealt with while ministering to a UU church in Wisconsin.  
10am - Church Sanctuary: Carolyn Osborn to speak. Subject TBA. ☎ Contact Mike Burkett 830.895-7076/ [m.k.burkett@att.net](mailto:m.k.burkett@att.net)  
Christian Area Ministry (CAM) Sunday - Focus is on boxed and canned food items.  
**Last day to enroll in "An Odyssey of Faith" Writing Workshop.** The form for this may be found on the table in the rear of the Church Sanctuary.
- 15 Monday - 10am - Palmer Annex: **S.O.C.S. Committee (Social Justice) meeting** ☎ Contact Jan Lentner 719.371-6825/ [macawma2001@yahoo.com](mailto:macawma2001@yahoo.com)  
2pm: **"The UUA 2015-16 Common Read" book discussion** ☎ Contact Mary Jones 830.896-9182/ [austinbound216@yahoo.com](mailto:austinbound216@yahoo.com)
- 17 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)
- 18 Thursday - 3:30-5pm - Church Sanctuary: **Choir Practice** ☎ Contact Meredith Hensley 830.522-0802/ [pmeredithc@yahoo.com](mailto:pmeredithc@yahoo.com)  
**Information for inclusion into the March newsletter due by this date.**

- 19 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)  
5:30 or 6pm - Circle Supper Night: A sheet where those church members wishing to be either a host or a guest may be found in the rear of the Church Sanctuary.

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**"An Odyssey of Faith" Writing Workshop**  
**Saturday - Sunday, February 20-21**  
**Saturday - Sunday, March 5-6**  
**Led by Donna Harrison**

Please see the course description, details and enrollment sheet on the back table in the sanctuary.

**Workshop Description**

What is the story of your life? What do you want others to know? What do you want to be sure to do before you die? These are the questions that form the foundation for our personal stories and odysseys. Our workshop, "From the High Hill: Odyssey Writing for Elders" by Reverend Anne Odin Heller, will engage elders in mining the stories of a lifetime to create a presentation to share with co-congregants, peers, and loved ones. Two weekend retreats—one for preparation, one for presentations—will frame an individual period of remembering, sorting, reflecting, and writing. We will have some fun exercises to help all participants, even those who are nervous about writing, tell their story.

Donna Harrison is a UU lay leader who serves our faith in a variety of ways. She recently completed 6 years of service on the UUA Board of Trustees. During that time she served for two years as the Vice-Moderator of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Donna serves as secretary on the board of UBarU and has served for 8 years as the co-director of the senior high camp at UBarU. She has served on the board of two different UU congregations, including a term as the President of First UU San Antonio. She has completed UU trainings in lay chaplaincy, Anti-Racism / Anti Oppression work, governance, "Aging to Saging," youth ministry, and conflict resolution.



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

- 7 - Marie Brown**
- 14 - Julie Davis**
- 21 - June Hartley**
- 28 - Judy Ashcraft**

**Thanks for the yummys  
for our tummies!**

...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4 - Calendar

- 20 Saturday - time TBA - Palmer Annex: "An Odyssey of Faith" Writing Workshop** - Please refer to article below for more information.  
5:30 or 6pm - Circle Supper Night: A sheet where those church members wishing to be either a host or a guest may be found in the rear of the Church Sanctuary.
- 21 Sunday - 10am - Church Sanctuary: Pastor Ja Rickard to speak. Subject TBA.**  
🎧 **Pot Luck Dinner after the Service**  
12:30pm - Palmer Annex: "An Odyssey of Faith" Writing Workshop - Please refer to article on the previous page of this newsletter for more information.
- 25 Thursday - 3:30-5pm - Church Sanctuary: Choir Practice** ☎ Contact Meredith Hensley 830.522-0802/ [pmeredithc@yahoo.com](mailto:pmeredithc@yahoo.com)
- 26 Friday - 2pm - Palmer Annex: "Needles" Group - Church crafting open to all.** ☎ Contact Shari Gore 830.367-3142
- 27 Saturday - 6:30pm - Church Sanctuary: "I'll Take You Home" Steve Brooks CD Release Concert** - Please refer to article on front page of this newsletter for more information.
- 28 Sunday - 9-9:45am - Palmer Annex: Adult Forum** is a discussion led by Kevin Hartley on humanity's contribution to climate change.  
10am - Church Sanctuary: Steve Brooks to speak. Subject TBA. ☎ Contact Mike Burkett 830.895-7076/ [m.k.burkett@att.net](mailto:m.k.burkett@att.net)  
**Christian Area Ministry (CAM) Sunday** - Focus is on personal products; shampoos, soaps, facial tissues, etc.

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

- President Bob Lentner**  
719.371-6825/ [rwlinthewest@yahoo.com](mailto:rwlinthewest@yahoo.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 Diane McMahon**  
830.370-6590/ [dianelm@windstream.com](mailto:dianelm@windstream.com)

**Service Committee Chair: Mike Burkett**  
Service, Music, Chalice Table, Coffee, Wayside Pulpit, Ministerial Relations committee

**Membership Committee Chair: Ellen Jackson**  
Adult/Youth RE, Child Care, Greeters, Library

**Budget, Finance, Operations & Planning  
Committee Chair: Andy Pesez**  
Budget, Pledging, Fundraising, Property Management & Maintenance, Audits, By-laws, Operational Directives, Long & Short term Planning

**S.O.C.S. (Social/Outreach/Congregational)  
Committee Chair: Jan Lentner**  
Social, Women's Connection, Community Care & Outreach, Men's Fellowship Lunch

- 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)
- Print Media: Susan Lipp  
619.248-0669/ [susan@lipphealth.com](mailto:susan@lipphealth.com)

**save the Date!**

**Starting Tuesday, March 15  
& continuing for 6 consecutive  
Tuesdays - World Religions Series**



**2-4pm ☎ Palmer Annex**