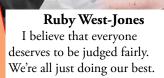
UUCE Connections

Volume 20 Issue 7 July 2016





My goal following COA is to try not to judge anyone by their clothing, actions, and looks. I want to give everyone a chance to have the world feel like a safe and fair place.



Brooke Wagner

I believe in interconnection, in the power of people and nature. I believe in the feeling of being understood and respected. You can have all the power in the world, but that's nothing compared to being loved.

Griffin Cameron

I think connections are what really bring together not only cultures and communities, but also religions. And I am proud to belong to a community that values them so deeply. . . If I were asked what I consider to be my religion, or what I value spiritually, I would say connections.



So I guess this brings around why I am here. Friendship. It's the one value that I show the strongest. Friendship is the most important thing in my life.

5 Youth Complete Coming of Age

UUCEMinister's Mess

July Services

July 3 Self-Healing Where do we go, what do we do, when we need to heal from the brokenness of the world.

July 10 Healing Friends: Allies of our own **choosing** We get to pick our friends so let's explore some of the ways friendships heal.

July 17 Healing Across the Divides Just how does that work, discovering our unity THROUGH diversity? What about when our teeth are set on edge? Can't we all just get along? Rev. Sydney will conduct the service.

July 24 The Roots We Heal From Families for good or ill hold the roots from which we spring. We will explore the intersections of healing and families.

July 31 Healing and Absolution: (blessing) those that wish us harm In this time of discord and possibilities how do we transform hurtful intent into forgiveness and action.

The Revolutionary Jesus

Not everyone is comfortable in the conventional Christian church. But Jesus' message, whether mundane or revolutionary, is truly for everyone. Jesus taught that we are all welcome at the table. Hear and share some interpretations of his message, and pull up a chair to the welcome table, even if you've never stepped foot in a typical church! Class lead by Kaye Lennox, four Sundays at 11:30 in Room 2 - 7/10, (no class 7/17), 7/24, 7/31, and 8/7. Contact Kaye for more information: (425) 218-5808.

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'They Were So Beautiful': Remembering Those Who Died in Orlando

Minister REV. SYDNEY A. MORRIS minister@uueugene.org Church Office Tues. - Fri., 9 am - 1:30 pm office@uueugene.org 541-686-2775

Board President SARAH FRANCE president@uueugene.org Dir. of Religious Education KATY SIEPERT uucedre@uueugene.org



UUCEMinister's Message

Our theme this month is "Healing" -- because our UUCE Aspirations speak of working together toward justice, healing and sustainability.

Symptoms of healing include moments of deep trust that passes understanding, sense of peace. We glimpse healing in forgiveness and gentleness in the face of pain. A colleague of mine kept on her desk a lovely scroll enjoining her to be like clay -- that sharp impressions and wounds should soften, and hard edges blur. Healing is a process, a restoration of a natural integrity of the resilient pliability of that clay.

The summer invites us to allow the healing earth to touch us, and to offer healing to it as we tread lightly and lovingly wherever we go or stay. It can give us the moments we need to locate ourselves, mourn our losses, rejoice in our bounteousness, re-commit to a faithful life. As Leonard Cohen says,

Ring the bells that still can ring Forget your perfect offering There is a crack, a crack in everything That's how the light gets in.

May there be loads of light for you to revel in this fine Oregon July. Lots of people who have just moved or are searching for a spiritual home will be among us on Sundays. Each brings new light to this chalice flame of free church.

We are so blessed to have summer services are coordinated by our Ministerial Intern Kimberly Wootan. I will be here much of July and preaching midmonth, reveling in the UUCE community. It's good to be together.

Rev. Sydney



UUCEBoard President's Message

The sun is hot this morning! I'm relieved to see the summer roll around, and with it the celebration of all we have accomplished in the 2015-16 church year. We have collectively accomplished great things in the past year, as you can all see in great detail in the Annual Report. We also have great things to look forward to in the upcoming year!

Our linkage calendar for the upcoming year is as follows: Please save the dates!

September 18, 2016 December 4, 2016 March 5, 2017 May 7, 2017.

Annual Meeting – June 11, 2017

We need to focus in the upcoming year on fundraising. All of us need to pull together in order to meet or exceed our \$30,000 fundraising goal this year. For this reason, we hope that our church members and friends will collaborate and host the following events: Volunteer Fair, Holiday Bazaar, Auction, Spring Celebration.

If you are interested in helping to host, please discuss your interests with Reverend Sydney.

All told, we have much to look forward to in the year to come.

In gratitude, Sarah France



July Quick Calendar **Common Ground** Garden Tour July 17 after the service Contemplative Practices Mondays, 5:00 - 5:45 in the Chapel p. 6 Tuesday Potlucks continue throughout the summer. <u>5pm p. 9</u> **Contemplative Studies** Thursday, July 7th 5:15pm - 6:45pm The Revolutionary Jesus in the chapel Class lead by Kaye Lennox, four p.6 Sundays at 11:30 in Room 2 - 7/10, (no class 7/17), 7/24, 7/31, and 8/7. Page 2 Rummage Sale July 16, 9-4, Social Hall **Building Community** p. 15 July 10, 10:00am - 2:00pm <u>p.8</u>

UUCE Worship

Notes from Your Intern Minister

Summer is truly upon us as we head into the warmer days and sunnier skies of Eugene. I have noticed that everyone is out and about; perusing downtown, hiking up Spencer's Butte, and sitting under the trees at Owen's Rose Garden. It is a time to head out for vacations and picnics and visiting relatives. In this season I encourage you to take time and heal in whatever ways work for you. Heal from broken hearts, missed opportunities, shaky politics and an uncertain future.

For me July is a time to practice all of the skills that Rev. Sydney and this congregation have taught me. It is a time when I get to preach a full month of Sundays and interact with the office staff as the minister in residence. I get to practice coordinating all of the small tasks of ministry that, when I was watching Rev. Sydney do this year, looked so easy.....

It is also a time when I am spreading my ministry out into the community. I am representing our faith on the Steering Committee of the Refugee Resettlement Coalition of Lane County. On the steering committee I am the communications coordinator. In this capacity I have been able to see what all the other groups are doing and watch this community rally around the needs of the forthcoming Syrian families. The coalition is a wonder to behold and there is a lot of talent and dedication behind this brave move to become a welcoming community.

I, like you, will be out and about exploring this month. Though my family is far away I get to see you everywhere; climbing mountains, drinking tea downtown, or at the farmers market. In Beloved Community sometimes just seeing you across the checkout aisle is enough to heal the brokenness of the day.

Contemplative Practices Mondays, 5:00 - 5:45 in the Chapel

Silent mediation can include many traditions, silent prayer, sitting, mindfulness awareness practices, personal mantra and walking. Come this month and learn how to do walking meditation from Deb Huntley and friends.

Contemplative Studies Thursday, July 7th 5:15pm - 6:45pm in the chapel

Upcoming Studies:

Contemplative Studies will discuss The Tao and watch a scientific lecture on Qigong given by Dr. Yang, Jwing-Ming martial arts grand master and physicist. Bring munchies to share. Deb Huntley opencirclezen@gmail.com

Pastoral Associates and Kindness Team

August 4th: Mindfulness (Thich Nhat Hanh)

The Pastoral Associate and the Kindness Team would like you to know that we are still available for visits, cards, rides, and light tasks for the summer. Please call the church and leave a message with the Intern Kimberly Wootan or email one of the Team Leaders if you have a need, concern or you know of anyone in the congregation who does. kwministriess@gmail.com; cd_writer@msn.com



UUCEConnecting



Coming of Age Camp Out

Spirit Jam 2016

Multi-age Jams for mind, body and spirit with staff teachers. No more Sunday School! An experimental model. That's right. Paid Lead Teachers who will offer TinkerJams, NatureJams, MusicJams, and BodyJams around a theme for the month such as Justice, Unity, or Compassion.

SpiritJam is multi-age explorations of monthly themes for Mind/Body/Spirit with paid lead teachers, based on the innovative model developed by Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration, Katie Covey.

Goals:

- Align Religious Education with Thematic Ministry.
- Create a program which will grow the congregation outreach to the "nones" through vision and excitement.
- Provide consistency, professional leadership and safety for the children.
 - Free up the energy of parents with paid lead teachers.
 - Offer service opportunities for all ages.
- Remove age boundaries and create the congregation as a "School of the Spirit."

SpiritJam seeks to provide spiritual growth and learning for adults, families, children and youth. Kindergarten through Youth plus adults will partake of multi-age "Jams" offered on Sundays 3-4 times a month and led by consistent, paid Lead Teachers. Youth will be invited to be Jammers and take part in the leadership of the Jams. In addition, SpiritJam will be lifespan in reach. Already, there are adults ready to be Teaching Associates and offer

Religious Education

WritingJams, PoetryJams, and ImprovJams, based on their gifts. In addition, the DRE's time will be freed up from recruiting and training volunteers and will be better able to offer support to a Lifespan Program.

Based on a model created by Katie Covey of Boulder Valley, CO, SpiritJam offers an opportunity for "Just In Time" theology: responsive, collaborative, interactive, and fun!

Thematic Ministry is an approach to congregational life devoting worship and reflection to one theme every month. At the UU Church in Eugene, we have been practicing Thematic Ministry for the past 4 years. During that time, your DRE has been curating and writing lesson plans to reflect these themes in the various RE classrooms. Too often, it takes huge amounts of time to invent theme-related, age- and ability-level differentiated lesson plans, write them up and share them with volunteers.

With the SpiritJam Model, our paid faculty develops thematic Jams during weekly brainstorming sessions. In addition, we offer "SpiritJam Co-Creator Labs" once a month, to which we invite interested congregants, minister, musicians and others to co-create ideas for Jams for the upcoming month. By shifting to the SpiritJam Model, the possibilities for learning and reflection through mind, body and spirit are expanded for the entire congregation.

This year, our themes have been drawn from UUCE's Covenant of Right Relations.

So far, our 2016-17 themes will be:

Sept: Covenant Oct: Trust Nov: Respect Dec: Gratitude

Jan: Honor

Feb: Suffering and Pain

Each Sunday, members and guests are invited to engage with these themes in one of three ways:

- Through service in the Sanctuary
- Through meditation in the Front Entry Hall
- Through SpiritJam, starting with a CircleJam in the Chapel and then breaking off into various Jam Sessions based on the theme.

Continued



UUCEConn

Summer Session:

Building Community

The theme for our summer session is Building Community. Each Sunday, children get to take part in actively helping to build our beautiful new church playground (make sure you bring them with clothes they can get dirty!) They will learn about what it is to work together in community, how working toward a common goal can help bring us closer together, healthy ways to navigate conflict when it arises in community, and the joy of our interconnection with one another and with the planet!

How will they learn these things, you ask? Through direct experience! We are undertaking a cob building project this summer.

Here is what Wikipedia has to tell us about cob:

"Cob, cobb or clom (in Wales) is a natural building material made from subsoil, water, some kind of fibrous organic material (typically straw), and sometimes lime.[1] The contents of subsoil naturally varies and if it does not contain the right mixture it can be modified with sand or clay. Cob is fireproof, resistant to seismic activity,[2] and inexpensive. It can be used to create artistic, sculptural forms and has been revived in recent years by the natural building and sustainability movements."

In the coming months, we will be working together to create a fun, beautiful, useful, play structure on the children's playground as part of our visioning for the future of our church as an active and vibrant center of community activity.

During the weeks not actively building the structure itself, children will be asked to envision what they'd like to experience and see in community. They will be encouraged to help build smaller components of the playground, such as a tennis ball run, bamboo wind catcher, outdoor musical components, and other fun, interactive, creative, and playful engineering activities. Most importantly, they will have a lot of fun!

If you are a parent, child, youth, young adult, or interested congregant who wants to help to build the new cob structure, please RSVP to uucedre@gmail.com, or sign up on the R.E.

bulletin board display, and come to one or more of the whole church build sessions, listed below:

Build Sessions:

- June 26, 10:00 AM 2:00 PM This session already occurred and was hugely successful! The sandbox area was dug out, stumps to create the perimeter were placed, and black plastic was laid for the bottom of the sandbox. Also, a second layer of foundation was laid for the cob house!
 - July 10, 10:00 AM 2:00 PM
 - August 14, 10:00 AM 2:00 PM







UUCE Connecting



Potlucks Are Not Retro

I arrived a little late, nearing the end of our blessing or thanks, gratitude circle. I join hands and toss in a bag of green peas from working at Grassroots Garden. Last week Sarah added a few peas and nasturtiums to her homemade salad she brought. Yummy. Some days we in are concord, harmony when we hear many thanks for our pets, a warm days finally or a wet day finally, a very early crocus or daffodil, a fastidious, tidy morning of planting and caring for new raspberries and blueberries, an evening of televised political debates. We line up behind the only child present, sometimes there are several other children and teens. Today we see many summer salads. Noodle salads with yummy avocado. Two pizzas, one with cooked peppers and tomatoes. Two salads with varied greens. Yellow lentils. Green chard with some type of sausage listed, possibly vegetarian. Cookies, crackers, tortilla chips.

I sit and eat with helpful Bob, pianist Misha and a couple others. Did I say healthy? This is my healthiest of the week when not attending a poetry potluck. Then I pour and collect a small cup of water in a small pitcher behind us. Water, Sprite, sometimes Gatorade, juices, homemade cocoa chai. A new friend talks of nearby Corvallis and a church she attended there with Sunday two services. It's the day after Memorial Day and Bob's friend is talking about his service in Korea and in submarines. Misha asks about my hike with our mutual friend David. David is a walking nature lexicon and he taught me a new word, dendrophilous – someone who is fond of trees. Bob talks about his comprehension of tai chi in class,

a study on senior exercise. Later Bob shares a church report with Lizzy and he diligently collects the condiments from the center of the tables.

Bob returns them to the kitchen near Tom, the volunteer dishwasher. Misha wanders back to the chapel to play piano. Food is collected and left on the metal counter. Gardener Sarah scrapes food into the small compost bins above the bus tubs near the kitchen door. Tom and Owen fold the large round tablecloths. I have done this awkwardly with my friend Fred who is blind. Others slowly leave, gathering their food and people.

I have collected tablecloths from a back supply room and helped set up them on tables with décor. I have helped set up the food tables at the other end, with plates at one end utensils and napkins at the other.

Bob again offers me and Misha a ride home while listening to Misha's awkward long jokes. Every day he needs to wait for one or both us especially tall meandering Misha. Then Misha again asks if we are at the correct car as Bob and I enter his car and Misha is making silly jokes. I exit Bob's car and he asks if he will see me Sunday and about my cat, who is usually near waiting or wandering.



June Community Offering



When the Eugene Mission's kitchen burned down in June, we switched our planned recipient to be able to assist the Mission. Thanks to your contributions, we sent a check for \$843!

Community Offering for July

If you care about Earth EqUUity, you'll appreciate Common Ground Garden, the July 17 recipient of our Community Offering. Located only about a mile from our church, at the intersection of 21st and Van Buren, this once empty ot is a thriving neighborhood sharing garden that provides food for locals in need as well as volunteers.

A model of sustainability, Common Ground grows everything from blueberries and raspberries to potatoes and onions.

"It's a win-win-win-win," says spokesperson Doug Black, noting that common Ground has achieved such worthy goals as building community cohesion, mitigating climate change and promoting self-sufficiency.

Check out the Facebook page at:

https://www.facebook.com/

Common-Ground-Garden-170099919716481/

Better yet, take a guided tour of Common Ground Garden following the Sunday service on July 17. See you then!

Valerie Elliott, community-offering@uueugene.org



Sponsors Receives First Handmade Quilts

The UUCE Quilters have completed a milestone with the first presentation of their handmade quilts to Sponsors, an organization which offers support to women in making a new life after prison.

UUCE Quilters meet every Friday morning to enjoy cutting, stitching, batting and quilting. All sewers are welcome. More information at sewing@uueugene.org.



Dear UU friends,

As a result of your generosity, Sponsors has been there for more than 300 men and women who were released from prison in the past year after serving their sentences. When people arrive at our door, they are homeless and indigent. When clients successfully complete our program, they leave with full-time employment, and/or schooling, drug and alcohol free, in compliance with their release conditions, and will be moving into permanent, sustainable housing. As a result, our community is safer, and you have helped our clients in their efforts to become contributing, law abiding, tax paying members of our society.

Thank you so much for the beautiful handmade quilts you donated to our program. We will look forward to sharing them with the women who successfully complete the program and who will gratefully take your gorgeous handiwork with them into their own new homes. Our programs would not exist without your support. Thank you for the difference you make in our community.

> Sincerely, Margaret Hallock, Board Chair Paul Solomon, Executive Director

Travel with UUs

We are celebrating 10 years of once-a-year trips with 2 journeys for 2017. thank you! — Beverly Carr, Neighbourhood UU Congregation, Toronto, Canada.

Two Mindful Journeys in 2017, for UUs & their friends

Peru: Always wanted to experience Machu Picchu? Join us March 25-April, 2017. Our journey will be filled with comfortable places to stay, shamanic conversations, lovely food, water blessings at an old Inca spring, beautiful natural vistas and reflections while sitting on a mountain top.

Portugal/ Spain, May 14-24, 2017, from Lisbon to Santiago de Compostela. Along the way, we enjoy soulful Fado music, a tile-making workshop, wine, port and culinary tastings, and a bit of a walk on the Camino. Imagine cruising down the Douro River tasting Port while reflecting on the scenic vineyard-covered hillsides.

Journeys led by UU minister, Wayne Walder, Toronto, Canada, www.nuuc.ca

To receive a detailed itinerary for either journey, please email Beverlz@me.com. To learn more about Mindful Journeys go to http://nuuc.ca/spiritual-growth/spiritual-practice/mindful-journeys/





Aesthetics Working Group to Disband

The original Aesthetics & Logistics Task Force began 6 years ago. Its one purpose was to develop and implement the plan for moving the belongings of the old church to the new space. This was a massive undertaking that envolved completing a total inventory, sorting, labeling, packing and ultimately transporting all church goods. It required the efforts of almost the entire congregation. The move took place during 2 weeks in May of 2012. Once the move was completed, the task of the new Aesthetics Working Group became that of transforming our new church space into a warm and welcoming church home.

As of May 25, 2016 our committee decided to disband. We took to heart the suggestion of our Board leader Sarah's suggestion to reexamine the need for some of the committees we started with. Although there are things still on our list of needs, to improve the looks of some of the unresolved areas, we were unable to pursue slated projects due to the lack of funds. We'd like to be available, as consultants, on an as needed basis.

Early accomplishments:

- A color pallet selected and implemented for the interior walls throughout the church and the exterior of the building. The creation of a wall commemoration panel of church members who helped in the move and reconstruction.
- Placement of bulletin boards, clocks, recycle bins, some signage.
- Collaborated with the B&G folks on the design of the chapel doors.
- Chapel: Hands Quilt and rug to soften the space.
- Plants: purchase and continual care and feeding of them.

- The installation of an Art Gallery and monthly exhibits.
- The use of drapes in the Sanctuary to enhance sight and sound.

Unresolved projects:

- A continuation of wall colors in the Social Hall to visually match the Sanctuary.
- The North Entrance issue; a need to "streamline" the appearance of the collection bins to allow their service availability but to improve/formalize the appearance.
- A pleasing visual solution for the doors on the storage space in the Social Hall.
- Further enhancement of the interior of the Chapel's sight and sound: carpet and color

It is the Aesthetics Working Group's hope that once the funds for the church's mortgage are paid, that another group may emerge to take on some of the interior décor challenges.

Yet to happen

I'm happy to report that the execution of historic panels, telling an abbreviated history of our UU beginnings, up to today, are currently being researched and hopefully installed over the Summer.

Finally, we're looking forward to the implementation of the wood panel sound east wall, gifted by Tom Sears and the congregation. Our committee has longed for a visually pleasing and inspiring "touchstone" for our congregation and the fact that it will enhance our wonderful music, is an unexpected bonus for our original conceptualization.

Sincerely,

Martha Snyder, chair

Members: Betty Ehrlich, Scott Hovis, Wanda Kuenzli, Linda Meyer



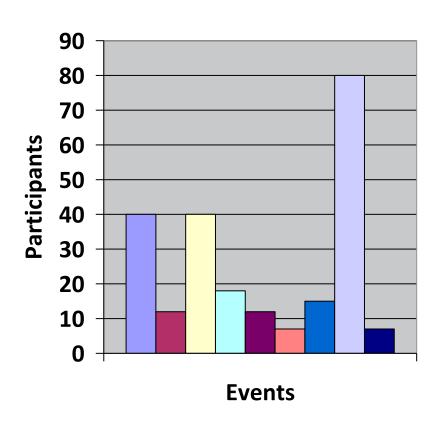


Earth EqUUity Food Project Celebration

The first year of the Earth EqUUity Food: Nourish Others and Ourselves / Sustain the Earth project has come to a close. The Food project held a celebration after service on Sunday, 6/5, so people could enjoy being with each other, have some closure to Year 1 of the project, watch a slide show of events, and see some numbers that reflected what we can do when we work individually and come together. Of course there was some vegan, (mostly) organic and local, delicious food too. Check out the slide show online and he numbers here. The members of the Earth EqUUity Food project group would like to thank everyone who participated. One person can make a positive dfference in the world -- and it's amazing when we're doing it together.

Keep an eye out for what's to come next year! Berry, Jean, Judy, Justine, Nadja, and Phil

Earth Equuity Food Events





Rummage Sale! Come Join the Fun!

We are having a rummage sale, Saturday July 16 9:00 - 4:00 in the Social Hall. Find more space in your home by donating some items to the UUCE rummage sale. No clothes, please. We are looking for items that will sell.

Rummage sale items are now being accepted.

We will begin taking donations for the sale on July first in Room 5. The donation room will be staffed each Friday and Saturday from 9:00 am until noon through July 15. Can't drop off items at these times? Give a call to Phyllis O"Neill (541-510-2739) or Nita White (541-343-7567.) We will set up a time to meet you at the church.

Volunteering for the sale -

We need help staffing in the donation room and we need even more help at the sale. At the sale we will need 15 volunteers in the morning and another 15 in the afternoon. We hope to overlap the shift of helpers at lunch (pizza) with the intention that folks can visit and meet each other. Sign up on line at uueugene.org/volunteer/. You can also sign up after church at the table near the coffee cart.

Please share this info with friends who love rummage sales.





Food Rescue Night

Thursday July 28th 6:30-8:30 770 Bailey Hill Rd.

Our most requested food for July is high-protein canned meat, which includes tuna, salmon, chicken, corned beef, sausage.

Food for Lane County fact: 57% of food box recipients are working or are retired. Thank you,

Berry

Touch Justice Active this Summer

The committee Touch Justice is now in the process of contacting Oregon senators and representatives to be on board to co-sponsor, along with chief sponsor Senator Prozanski, a Measure which addresses a US Constitutional Amendment for Personhood, declaring corporations and money do not have the same legal rights as individual citizens. The Measure will be presented this fall to the Oregon Legislative Counsel, and then to the 2017 Oregon legislative session. Consequently, co-sponsors are needed this fall! Touch Justice needs help in contacting all Oregon senators and representatives, for co-sponsorship. The

Measure, sample text for emails, and a system for getting email addresses throughout Oregon, will be provided. If you want to in effect over-turn Citizens United, get big money out of politics, and help create a system that functions with political, social, and economic equity and justice for all, then let's work this summer to complete these important emails to our state legislation! For further information, please contact Diane Conrad 541 942 6113 or mydiane@q.com.







Created for Abundance

The Most Rev. Dr.
Katharine Jefferts Schori

Bishop Jefferts Schori will explore what the Christian spiritual tradition has to teach us about the present critical illness in the Garden and how we might respond more faithfully and effectively.

3-4pm, Sunday, September 11, 2016
Reception to Follow
St. Mary's Episcopal Church
1300 Pearl Street, Eugene, Oregon

Sponsored by St. Mary's Episcopal Church and the Interfaith Earthkeepers. Free and open to the public.

For more information please email stmaryskjspresents@gmail.com or call 541-343-9253.

Bishop Jefferts Schori was elected and served as the 26th Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. Prior to her role as presiding bishop, Dr. Jefferts Schori served as Bishop of Nevada, and earlier was a lecturer at Oregon State University (fisheries, religious studies, and philosophy), priest, and hospice chaplain in Oregon. She speaks passionately for the role of all the baptized in serving God's mission of healing the world.

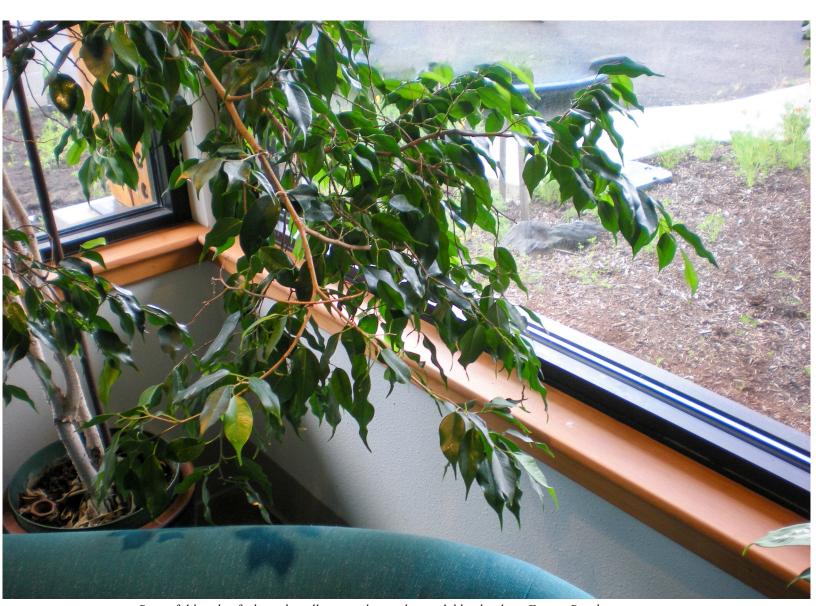


UUCEStewardship

2016 Annual Report Now Available

The UUCE Annual Report for 2016 is available for viewing and downloading from our web site. In order to get it, go to the UUCE home page, click on "Annual Report" under the Administry drop-down menu, and then follow the link on the Annual Report page. If someone wants aprint copy this summer, please contact John Clay. Later, in the fall, contact the office for help in getting a printed copy. Next year, the Board or Operational Team will take responsibility for the Annual Report.

John Clay



Beautiful handcrafted windowsills now enhance the east lobby thanks to Emmet Band.