



## Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Carolina Foothills January 2019

Services at 10:30 a.m. on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month at  
835 N. Trade St., Tryon, NC  
[www.TBUUF.org](http://www.TBUUF.org); Like/follow us on Facebook @ TBUUF  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 653, Tryon, NC 28782

### Greetings from Your Board President

Dear Members and Friends,

As we begin our new year, the board of directors will be implementing a few important changes. One is a name change to **Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Carolina Foothills (UUFCF)**. I know it's still a mouthful, but the consensus was to choose a name that puts Unitarian Universalist first on our signage and press releases.

Due to family obligations, his schedule will only allow Rev. Ernie Mills to continue on an as-needed basis after January. Many thanks to Ernie for providing such inspirational and thought-provoking sermons over the past year. We look forward to him returning from time to time. Starting in February, he will be passing the torch to Lyndon Harris to provide the ongoing pulpit support for our congregation.

A forgiveness coach, peace activist, and an inspirational and motivational speaker, Lyndon Harris spoke to our fellowship about forgiveness in November 2018. He has also spoken at numerous conferences across the United States and around the world. His work at Ground Zero as priest-in-charge of Saint Paul's Chapel (located directly across from the World Trade Center in New York City) has been written about widely, including The New York Times, The Washington Post, Time Magazine, The Christian Science Monitor, and Die Zeit (Hamburg). He now lives in Zirconia, NC, with his wife, Maria Lund, and will be conducting the first six sessions of our community outreach project, Community Coffee Conversations (see the announcements section of the newsletter for more about the community outreach project.)

Looking forward to seeing all of you in the New Year!

Robin Edgar

# Upcoming Services

**January 6, 2019**

## **“Making the Future: Choice not Fate”**

**Rev. Ernie Mills**

What will the year, 2019 bring? Well, as they say; "que sera, sera" ("whatever will be, will be"). Yet regardless of whatever will be, we have a choice in what we make of it. As John Schaar once put it "The future is not some place we are going, but one we are creating. The paths are not to be found but made. And the activity of making them changes both the maker and the destination." Let us usher in the New Year by reflecting on these words by Schaar.

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**January 20, 2019**

## **“Mark Twain on Biblical Curiosities”**

**Rev. Ernie Mills**

Mark Twain (Ernie) will be our guest speaker for this Sunday. He will share his views on the biblical story of the Fall and the Dammed Human Race with excerpts from his book "Letters from the Earth." *(Disclosure: You may find his comments a bit irreverent and often bordering on the vulgar, but that's to be expected from a master of serious humor.)*

*Rev. Mills completed a BA in Philosophy from the University of North Carolina at Asheville, a Master of Religious Education from Duke Divinity School, and a Master of Divinity from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University. He previously served as minister to the Unitarian Universalists of Transylvania County.*

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***UUFCF services are held at 10:30 a.m. on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month at  
835 N. Trade St., Tryon***

***Coffee, light refreshments and fellowship follow our services.***

***Sign-up sheets to volunteer for hospitality and to greet are on the back table at each service.***

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## From Minister Ernie Mills

### Equality and the Stoics



The Greek philosopher, Aristotle was not the only one in the ancient world who believed that there were "slaves by nature." This belief was as prevalent in religious doctrines as it was in philosophical treatises. Humans were not created equal. Some of us were predetermined, by nature, to be slaves while others were created to be our masters. This belief not only served as justification for slavery in the ancient world but was used as a weapon to resist the forces of emancipation before and during the Civil War. Unfortunately it still exists among modern-day extremist groups such as the Neo-Nazis.

The Greek, Stoic philosophers (ca. 500 B.C.E.) combatted this belief by introducing the principle of equality as a moral law. Equality, for the Stoics, stood side by side with justice. The Stoic philosophers understood equality, not in a physical sense, but, as a moral law. From a physical perspective we humans differ in innumerable ways and are not created equal. But the Stoics understood equality as a moral principle. They believed that humans, by nature, were free and would naturally strive toward the good of society. Self-reliance and responsibility were at the heart of the Stoic belief in equality. Not nature, but, if anything, culture, and especially governments, were the corrupting factor in human lives.

A direct line can be traced from the Declaration of Independence to the Stoic philosophers. Thanks to them we declared ourselves equal in the freedom to form our lives...irrespective of physical inequalities.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **UUFCF Community Coffee Conversations about Forgiveness**

In our on-going efforts to better ourselves as well as the community, the UUFCF fellowship will be holding Community Coffee Conversations. Starting on Wednesday, January 16 at 3:30, Lyndon Harris and Robin Edgar will be holding six conversations about forgiveness every other week at our usual meeting place at 835 N. Trade Street. The goal of this project is to create community and personal peace and harmony that will improve actions of social justice and conflict resolution in our area.

A former Episcopal minister totally immersed and involved in the 9/11 Twin Towers event, Lyndon Harris has been helping to build Forgiveness Gardens across the world. He has also been working on a community forgiveness pilot with Dr. Fred Luskin ([www.learningtoforgive.com](http://www.learningtoforgive.com)), Stanford consulting professor and author of *Forgive for Good*.

Nationally known journalist, author, and workshop facilitator, Robin A. Edgar was a Love & Forgiveness Campaign facilitator with the Fetzer Institute and has been facilitating love and forgiveness sessions for over ten years. She also has a TEDx talk entitled, "Reminiscence: A Healing Pathway to Forgiveness."

Please join us and invite your friends, neighbors and co-workers! Forgiveness is a trainable life skill that heals grievances, increases hope and optimism, and offers a real-world approach to the transformation of conflict.

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## REFLECTIONS

The poem shared by Adrienne Darr during the chalice lighting on December 2:

ABOU BEN ADHEM

By Leigh Hunt

Abou Ben Adhem (may his tribe increase!)  
Awoke one night from a deep dream of peace,  
And saw, within the moonlight in his room,  
Making it rich, and like a lily in bloom,  
An angel writing in a book of gold:-  
Exceeding peace had made Ben Adhem bold,  
And to the presence in the room he said,  
"What writest thou?" - The vision raised its head,  
And with a look made of all sweet accord,  
Answered, "The names of those who love the Lord."  
"And is mine one?" said Abou. "Nay, not so,"  
Replied the angel. Abou spoke more low,  
But cheerily still; and said, "I pray thee, then,  
Write me as one that loves his fellow men."

The angel wrote, and vanished. The next night  
It came again with a great wakening light,  
And showed the names whom love of God had blessed,  
And lo! Ben Adhem's name led all the rest.