



# Outer Circle

December 2011 Vol. 57, Issue 12  
www.uuclr.org



1818 Reservoir Rd., Little Rock, AR 72227

## MISSION STATEMENT

*We are a welcoming congregation that is a beacon for spiritual freedom and respect.*

*We offer opportunities for lifespan education emphasizing the Seven UU Principles, for personal and intellectual growth, for worship, and for service to the church and community.*

*Thereby, we work to transform ourselves and our world.*

### CONTACT INFORMATION

#### Minister

Rev. Bob Klein 501-240-2957 [uurevbobk@gmail.com](mailto:uurevbobk@gmail.com)

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#### President

Edith Bradberry [edithb9155@sbcglobal.net](mailto:edithb9155@sbcglobal.net)

### December Sundays

*The theme for this month is "Darkness"... the time of long nights, the shadow side, the underworld, hibernation, sleep, deep magic, the wait for renewal and rebirth...*

#### December 4

11:00am "Becoming Santa Claus"  
(NC 11: Not for Little Children's Ears)  
Rev. Bob Klein

#### December 11

11:00 am "Festivals of Light Service: A Celebration"  
Rev. Bob Klein, Rachel Finley, D.R.E., and Choir

#### December 18

11:00 am "Hanukkah and Christmas: Traditions of Darkness and Light"  
Rev. Bob Klein

#### December 24

5:30 pm "A Family Christmas Eve (Candlelight Service)"  
Rev. Bob Klein, the Angelic Voices of the UUCLR Choir, and a Host of Others!

9:00 pm "A UU Christmas Communion Meditation"  
Rev. Bob Klein

#### December 25

Christmas Meditation and Brunch  
Rev. Bob Klein



## You're Invited to a Holiday Party

On December 10th, please join the R.E. kids and teachers to make chalice cookies (yum!) and holiday tree decorations starting at 4:00 pm in the afternoon. All ingredients will be provided.

At 5:00 we'll share chili, bread and desserts, trim the sanctuary tree, and sing holiday songs. If you have a favorite chili recipe, please bring some to share. We'd love to have a variety of chili recipes to sample.

This will be a fun, multi-generational event to celebrate the seasonal holiday that is your tradition.

Please let us know if you can help out in any way. Please RSVP to the church office if you are coming. Call 225-1503 or e-mail Rachel Finley, [rfinley5@yahoo.com](mailto:rfinley5@yahoo.com)

We're looking forward to seeing everyone for fun and fellowship!

Peace, Rachel Finley and Sue McDonald



# GREETINGS FROM OUR CHURCH LEADERS

## *From the Minister...*

This month's program theme is "Darkness," a word that can refer to the physical darkness, the shadow side of each of us and the institutions with which we affiliate, or the sense that parts of the world in this season are devoid of light. Darkness can also refer to the magical and mystical conjunction between physical darkness and the mental extension of ourselves into the universe when we look into the heavens to see planets and stars and galaxies millions of miles up to untold numbers of light years away. We are just specks in the cosmos, but we are UUnique specks, inhabiting this 3<sup>rd</sup> rock from the sun, this little M-Class planet in the temperate zone of our solar system.

From time before recorded time, our humanoid ancestors looked into the heavens with reverence, awe, wonder, and sometimes fear. Today we have to get away from the city lights and smog to see clearly the billions of stars of the universe beyond our humble lives, to look into the darkness, to let our minds experience the wonder of ancient peoples. Did life come to earth from somewhere out there, or is our planet the home of life, or are there other worlds that have developed independently from ours? Did God, or gods, or the Goddess plant the seeds of life here or in many places, or was it all a series of evolutionary biochemical processes that we should thank for our origins?

This season of darkness, of wonder, of many celebrations of light, is a special and sacred time. It is a time to celebrate the solstice, Yule, Christmas, Hanukkah, and all the other festivals of light. It is a time of mystical magical mysteries, a time of light and a time of hope, a time of dreams and a time to remember loved ones near and far. May the hours of darkness in this season offer time for meditation and contemplation, for remembering and sharing the warmth and love of the best of human experience. Happy, merry, peaceful, safe and meaningful holidays to one and all!

So may it be! Rev. Bob



## *From the President...*

In November, I attended the SWUUC's Fall Leadership Conference and a track called "Examining Your Mission Field." I was excited to attend this because in our Strategic Plan we address our mission in the neighborhood, community and world. One of the speakers talked about an author, Conrad Wright who wrote a book called "Walking Together." In this book, he talks about how our identity still carries the characteristics of the Puritans and that we are bound by four interconnecting covenants. These covenants are internally and externally focused.

The internally focused covenants include: 1) the covenant between the member and the church; 2) the church and the minister or professional leadership; 3) the church and other churches; and 4) the minister and other ministers. We spend the most time on these four covenants. For example, we have recently spent time on the covenant between the minister and the church and there are plans to spend further time on this in the next year.

The externally focused covenants include: 1) the church and the neighborhood or community; and 2) the church and God (or the sacred.) Conrad Wright wrote that if we spend too much time on the first four covenants we create tension and become a collection of individuals.

We were then given examples of congregations and how they fulfilled their mission to the neighborhood or community. One congregation in Turley, Oklahoma, has a mission-based church located in a poverty area. The congregation has built a relationship with the community and has alliances with government and other agencies. That congregation provides services that address the needs of that neighborhood such as community gardens, a clothing and food bank, a computer lab and a library. The minister and people in that congregation have moved into that community/neighborhood so that they are a part of what they also support. This congregation does not have a traditional Sunday service. They gather to celebrate and rejuvenate themselves in community on Sunday. Their "church" is an active entity out in the world and community. They live their values out in their service.

In Galveston, Texas, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation has a very unique ministry. They have a kiln and once a week people gather to make and decorate ceramic bowls. They make up to 1,600 in a year, and then once a year they have a fundraiser where they serve soup and sell the bowls. This year they raised \$ 16,000 that they donated

*(continued on Page 3)*

# CHURCH MINISTRY

## The 2012 Budget Drive Can't Be Like All the Others...

For me, it pretty much started with my election to the Strategic Planning Committee in June, 2009. Sure, I was helping with Buildings and Grounds and had a stint in the 2009 annual Pledge canvas, but this was something else. "It" has been my introduction to the inner workings of the Church and the quality of the people involved in not only running the Church operations but of those truly interested in seeing the Church grow and improve. It has also been acknowledging my growing awareness that I must increase my involvement and commitment to this Congregation, that I have something of value to add. Nan and I were members here in the 80's, saw Thompson Hall get built and were pretty active in the Church. Job moves took us away for nineteen years, but now we're back in LR and reestablishing our Church life. I was flattered to be asked to serve, but had little exposure to the previous work already in place to prepare this plan or how this task would turn out. I guess it turned out well enough to get congregational approval to move forward!

With several changes made to Church committee structure, a congregation approved Strategic Plan, and a renewed approach to Fellowship, I don't think we are floundering around any longer on deciding what changes we want or need to make. From my view, what we now need is Member and Friend involvement – both in time and funding. Whether you agree with the Plan directions or even really disagree with some aspects of this direction, the real beauty of this Church is you are free to believe what you want, spiritually and functionally, and support what you wish to support. We aren't asked to show tax returns or W-2's like some other area churches; we aren't even asked to sign any "pledging or time commitment" language if you join this Church. But, that doesn't mean you have a right to **not be** involved.

To me Fellowship is the key. That's what this Strategic Plan is really all about – and that's really what being in a Church is all about. Getting involved with other people, helping with activities or functions, teaching young people or simply enjoying monthly Saturday evening dinners with other members and friends. *Your* personal involvement makes this Church come alive. Life in America is busy for everyone. Time quantity is equal to all, but most of it is discretionary as to how you spend it. Too often, this Church takes a back seat to other choices or demands on your time. I see this upcoming Budget Drive next year as a test of belief in our Fellowship together. *What's that really worth to you?* Please consider volunteering one to two hours a week or a month to the Church. Consider increasing your pledge by 10% to 15% from last year... or both. That will ensure we again are a growing congregation that supports and offers true religious freedom to Central Arkansas. I hope all of you choose to support that goal... **I do.**

Bill Kimpel

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*From the President (continued from Page 2)*

to a community organization.

I am pleased that we have our two areas where we serve the community. We presently have 10 people who consistently work at Our House once a month or at the Prison Literacy Program once a week. We do have volunteers that float in and out of those programs but, the consistent number is around 10. We have other members who generously contribute money to both of those programs, but we sometimes struggle to keep the programs going financially.

I am not sure that we are ready for the "radical" service that is being done in Turley, Oklahoma. But, I do think that it is important that we look at doing more and that more of us become involved. I have to stop and take in Conrad Wright's analysis that if we stay too internally focused we become a collection of individuals and create tension. I also see that living our UU values in the greater world in an experiential way makes them become more real for us and somehow that deepens us spiritually and as a community.

Edith Bradberry, President



# IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH



## Birthdays in December



Jessica Lovelace- Chandler	12/6	Danny Wildman	12/13
Noah South	12/6	John Mize	12/16
Bob Klein	12/7	Lily Robison	12/18
Ron Gimblet	12/7	Beatrice Robinson	12/20
John Willis	12/7	Jason Kyle	12/23
Sarah Wildman	12/9	Alma Viscarra	12/23
Laura Luce	12/10	Kiva Hanson	12/27
Chris Kupper	12/11	Curtis Goolsby	12/28
Diane McConnell	12/11	Carol Silverstrom	12/30
Rebecca Nelsen	12/12	Johnye Strickland	12/30

Contact the church office at 225-1503 with corrections or additions or log into the Church database on the UUCLR web site and make your changes.

### Expand Your Mind... Read a Book! Between the Lines Book Club



December 5: *Freedom*, by Jonathan Franzen

January 2: *Cutting for Stone*, by Abraham Verghese

More info? Contact Allan Ward, 664-5921 or e-mail [alward@ualr.edu](mailto:alward@ualr.edu).

## Festivals of Light

Festivals of Light is a celebration of light from faith traditions old and new, from around the world. On December 11, join us in worship as we honor the blessings of peace and hope that these traditions bring to the world in a season of cold and darkness.

We will also use the flame of our chalice to light the first candle of the IIIUmination wreath, in honor of our first UU principle. We will light an additional candle each week for seven weeks, reflecting on each principle as we prepare for IIIUmination on January 22.

## FORUM

Sundays @ 10:00 am ~ Thomson Hall

- Dec 4** Monthly Theme: Darkness  
Jean Speegle, Psychiatric Social Worker, speaking on depression
- Dec 11** Congregational Meeting in January  
UUCLR Program Council
- Dec 18** "The Best and/or Worst Gift That You've Received for Christmas"  
Open Discussion
- Dec 25** No Forum on Christmas Day

## CAYRE Schedule

**Dec. 4:** Time All Together, and then children will go to class.



**Dec. 11:** Festivals of Light, children will be in worship. No classes, but the nursery will be open.

**Dec. 18:** Class

**Dec. 25:** Christmas Day. **No classes, and the nursery will be closed.**

## Our House Fundraiser

The Choctaw Crawdads' special concert last month raised \$190.00 for the UUCLR Our House meals! Thank you, Crawdads, and all those who came out in support!



## Young at Heart

Please join your friends at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, December 13, at 11:30 to visit and eat a delicious lunch (\$5).

We have a program prior to lunch, the topic will be announced at the gathering. Come, invite friends, enjoy being together and learn something new. Questions and comments are always welcome!

The program will begin after lunch (\$5) around 12:15 and our all-important visiting. As usual, you are welcome to bring friends and guests. We'd love to meet newcomers.

# GENERAL INFO

## RE-Questors

Sunday Mornings 10:00 a.m. ~ Pehrson Room

### Topic: A Discussion of Ethics in Daily Life

Reference Book:

*Justice: What is the Right Thing to Do?*

By Michael J. Sandel

- Dec 4 Chap 10: Serial Bubbles & Foreign Debt Holders
- Dec 11 Chap 11: The Erring Republican Majority
- Dec 18 A Potluck Holiday Brunch ~ Call 663-2929 for details.
- Dec 25 No Meeting
- Jan 1 No Meeting

*You do not have to read the book to join the discussion*

## Items of Interest

**Save the Date** - Big Bad Gina returns for the 3rd Annual Valentine's Day Dance on February 11th at UUCLR. Stay tuned for more information!

**Recommended Reading** - Relating to this month's theme of "Darkness"... an excellent online article on the UUA web site called "*Our Shadow Side*" about the UU faith. Read it here:

[www.uuworld.org/ideas/articles/188492.shtml](http://www.uuworld.org/ideas/articles/188492.shtml)

## Fair Trade Store

The UUSC Fair Trade Store is open on the first and third Sunday of the month before the 11:00am service and after during coffee hour in Thomson Hall. We have added orange and mint chocolates plus hazelnut coffee just in time for the Holiday Season.

## STAFF HOURS

**Rev. Bob Klein** - Walk-In Hours 2-4 p.m. T-W-Th  
Additional hours vary Tuesday-Saturday  
Rev. Bob's day off is Monday.

**No Office Hours 12/27/2011 - 1/5/2012**

Please call Rev. Bob's cell to make an appointment or for emergencies: 501-240-2957

## Office Hours

**Tues. - Fri.** 10:00am - 2:00 pm

Phone 225-1503, e-mail [uuclr@aristotle.net](mailto:uuclr@aristotle.net)

# CALENDAR

- 1 December, Thursday**  
6:30pm-8:30pm  
7:00pm-8:30pm  
Teens and Tweens Youth Group (Pehrson)  
Strategic Planning Committee (Emerson)  
Prison Literacy (Offsite)
- 2 December, Friday**
- 3 December, Saturday**  
12:00pm-1:00pm  
7:00pm-10:00pm  
Hindi/Hindu Class (Barnum)  
Little Rock Folk Club (Thomson)
- 4 December, Sunday**  
9:00am-12:00pm  
9:45am-11:00am  
10:30am-1:00pm  
11:00am-12:00pm  
Recycle Sunday/Book Exchange  
Children and Adult Programming  
Fair Trade Coffee Store (Thomson)  
Worship
- 5 December, Monday**  
7:00pm-9:00pm  
Between the Lines Book Club (Pehrson)
- 6 December, Tuesday**  
TBA  
7:00pm -9:00pm  
Annual Budget Drive Committee  
Choctaw Crawdads (Thomson Hall)
- 7 December, Wednesday**  
7:00pm -9:00pm  
6:30pm-8:00pm  
Choctaw Crawdads (Thomson Hall)  
Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
- 8 December, Thursday**  
6:30pm-8:30pm  
Teens and Tweens Youth Group (Pehrson)  
Prison Literacy (Offsite)
- 9 December, Friday**  
11:00am-1:30pm  
Rhubarb Club (Thomson)
- 10 December, Saturday**  
8:30am  
4:00pm-8:00pm  
12:00pm-1:00pm  
1:00pm -6:00pm  
Small Group Dinners (offsite)  
Leaf Clean-up Day  
UUCLR Holiday Event  
Hindi/Hindu Class (Barnum)  
Yoga Instructors Class (Alcott)
- 11 December, Sunday**  
9:00am-10:00am  
9:45am-11:00am  
11:00am-12:00pm  
1:00pm -6:00pm  
Drumming Circle  
Children and Adult Programming  
Worship (Sanctuary)  
Yoga Instructors Class (Alcott)
- 12 December, Monday**  
5:30pm-7:00pm  
League of Women Voters (Pehrson)
- 13 December, Tuesday**  
11:30am-1:00pm  
1:30pm-2:30pm  
5:30pm-7:00pm  
7:00pm-8:00pm  
Young at Heart Luncheon (Thomson)  
Daytime Covenant Group (Emerson)  
Program Council (Pehrson Library)  
Stewardship / Finance Meeting (Library)
- 14 December, Wednesday**  
6:30pm-8:00pm  
Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
- 15 December, Thursday**  
6:00pm-8:00pm  
6:30pm-8:30pm  
OUTER CIRCLE DEADLINE  
Committee on Ministry (Emerson)  
Teens and Tweens Youth Group (Pehrson)  
Prison Literacy (Offsite)
- 16 December, Friday**
- 17 December, Saturday**  
12:00pm-1:00pm  
Hindi/Hindu class (Barnum)
- 18 December, Sunday**  
9:45am-11:00am  
11:00am-12:00pm  
10:30am-1:00pm  
Children and Adult Programming  
Worship (Sanctuary)  
Fair Trade Coffee Store (Thomson)
- 20 December, Tuesday**  
4:00pm  
5:00pm-6:30pm  
7:00pm -9:00pm  
Our House Meal Day (Offsite)  
Worship Arts Team (Emerson)  
Choctaw Crawdads Special Concert (Thomson)
- 21 December, Wednesday**  
6:30pm-8:00pm  
Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
- 22 December, Thursday**  
6:30pm-8:30pm  
Teens and Tweens Youth Group (Pehrson)  
Prison Literacy (Offsite)
- 23 December, Friday**
- 24 December, Saturday**  
12:00pm-1:00pm  
5:30pm  
9:00pm  
Hindi/Hindu class (Barnum)  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
Christmas Meditation/Communion
- 25 December, Sunday**  
10:30am-11:00am  
11:00am-12:00pm  
Christmas Brunch (Thomson)  
Christmas Meditation (Sanctuary)
- 27 December, Tuesday**  
7:00pm-9:00pm  
Board Meeting (Thomson)
- 28 December, Wednesday**  
6:30pm-8:00pm  
Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
- 29 December, Thursday**  
6:30pm-8:30pm  
Teens and Tweens Youth Group (Pehrson)  
Prison Literacy (Offsite)
- 30 December, Friday**
- 31 December, Saturday**  
12:00pm-1:00pm  
Hindi/Hindu Class (Barnum)

# FAITH IN ACTION

## Faith in Action Feedback

*A Note of Appreciation*

"The prison literacy program has done amazing things for myself and other residents. The program has provided us with a productive and calm environment. It allows us to express our thoughts and feelings about the other groups and our stay here. The program allows us to broaden our horizons as well as our minds. I believe this experience we gain from this program is critical to our recovery and rehabilitation. Without this program, I feel that our progress will be slowed and hindered. And, to sum it up, I do thank everyone involved."

Miles Pulliam

## Faith in Action News

### **KROGER CARDS BENEFIT THE CHURCH!**

Cards are great for gas, gifts cards, and groceries. 5% of all card re-loads come back to UUCLR, and that adds up! See Kay Danielson at Coffee Hour to get yours!

### **RECYCLE SUNDAY & BOOK EXCHANGE ~ DEC 4**

Bring your empty ink cartridges, used batteries and old electronic devices and the Recycle Team will responsibly dispose of these items for you. There have been a few changes concerning recycling of household hazardous waste recently. The drop-off hazardous waste centers now will only accept the following items: gasoline, oil, antifreeze, compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs), and 4' and 8' fluorescent tubes. Other household chemicals, such as pesticides and fertilizers, and other types of light bulbs, are to be disposed of in ordinary trash. Aerosol cans, including those containing spray paint, can be "trashed" after removing the spray button from the can. Therefore, your Recycling Team will only accept CFL and fluorescent tube light bulbs. Leave bulky items by the curb near the arbor for pickup **ONLY ON SUNDAY**. Bring your used books to swap and share. Also, bring your items for the TerraCycle team.

### **ALUMINUM CANS AND METAL RECYCLING...**

Please bring your aluminum cans to church every Sunday and the cans will be carried by trailer to ABC's Recycle Center. **Please put bags of cans in back by the dumpster** so the front of the church will remain uncluttered. Lance Scott will bring the trailer each Sunday and pick up the cans. Lance is also expanding his efforts by offering to recycle of all types of other scrap metals. Please call Lance to schedule pickups with his trailer; don't leave scrap metal at the church, just cans. All money will come back to the church! Lance's phone number is 766-4172. Thank you, Lance, for your Faith in Action!

## Share the Plate Schedule



Collections that taken during the service on the upcoming Second Sunday will go to:

December: Prison Literacy

Thanks to the Prison Literacy Team for the good work you do - you are appreciated!

## Opportunity to Support the Church

Do you have an Individual Retirement Account (IRA)? Are you 70½ years of age? If you answered YES to both questions, then you qualify to give up to \$100,000 from your IRA to a charitable organization between now and December 31, 2011. The transfer must be made directly from the IRA to the charity. The donation also counts towards the minimum distribution for 2011.

The donor gets no tax deduction for the gift nor does she or he pay tax on the withdrawal. Read more about it in IRS Publication 590 ([www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)) and consult your financial advisor.

What a great way to make a gift UUCLR. You can support the operating budget or designate the gift for the future building fund. If you have questions, please contact Dave Rickard, Chair of the Stewardship/Finance Committee, at [rickardd@att.net](mailto:rickardd@att.net)

## Building the Beloved Community

Well, they say that "time flies when you're having fun." Obviously, UUCLR has been having fun, since 2011 has flown by and 2012 will be here before we know it. The arrival of the new year will bring with it the church's annual budget drive!!

The theme for 2012's budget drive is BUILDING THE BELOVED COMMUNITY. Plan now for the Fellowship Event on March 31, and the Pledge Drive during April of 2012. Look forward to hearing various members describe their reasons for financial support of the church during February and March. And start thinking about your pledge for the 2012-13 church year. Watch for more information next month!

Jan Bowen,  
Annual Budget Drive 2012 Leadership Team

# IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

## MY PRAYER

By Fred Roberson, Jr.

To Those Creative Forces in the Universe:

*Enable me to be a unifying force, rather than a divisive one, so that I may help create an atmosphere of love and harmony;*

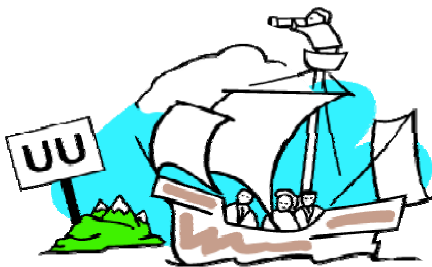
*If I see something I believe needs changing or improving, give me the courage and stamina to become involved and do the best of which I am capable, rather than yield to the temptation to remain on the sidelines and criticize or complain;*

*Help me to remember that mine is indeed a Church, established to serve the spiritual needs of all who go there, and not a social club existing for my benefit;*

*When I am tempted to withdraw my physical, moral and/or financial support of the Church because of disagreement with the minister or other members, give me the strength to overcome this temptation;*

*Keep me ever mindful that my spiritual well-being requires that I give as well as receive, and that as in my other relationships, I receive from this one in relation to what I give of myself to it;*

*If I become inactive in this Church for any reason, but am still committed to the continued growth of liberal religion in Arkansas, give me the character to continue my support of the Church so that it will be there for others and for me when my needs change.*



## Exploring Unitarian Universalism

Newcomers, Members and Friends  
Sunday, Dec 4 ~ 12:30pm to 3:00pm  
(A light lunch will be served prior to the class)

The membership team will be holding several *Exploring UU* classes in the upcoming months. The first class will be on December 4th. These classes are a great refresher for those of us members and friends who want to learn more, be reminded of some information about UUCLR that we might not know, and to meet new folks and renew old acquaintances.

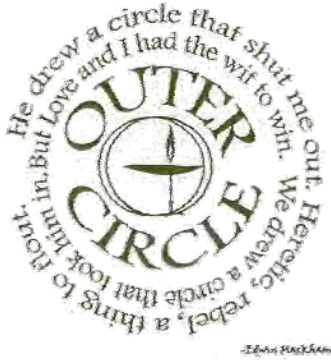
The goal is to have members and newcomers share their journey that has gotten them to UUCLR's doors, meet board and council members, learn what UUCLR and members/friends/newcomers can do for each other, get any questions answered and have the opportunity to get to know each other better.

People attending will be program council and board members, membership team volunteers, newcomers to UUCLR, Rev Bob and then any other folks who would like to join us.

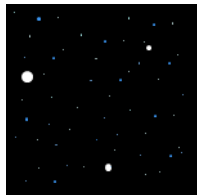
Child care will be provided if requested by December 1st. If you have questions, please call Sue McDonald, Membership Team Liaison, at 442-6623.



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**Outer Circle Policy:** The Church Office reserves the right to edit all Outer Circle articles for content and length. Deadline for publication usually falls on the **15th of the month** *unless holiday considerations apply*. No articles will be accepted by telephone or verbally. **Articles must be submitted in writing** in the church office by fax (423-6666) or via e-mail ([uuclr@aristotle.net](mailto:uuclr@aristotle.net)) by **5:00 p.m.** on the deadline date. Any articles received after the deadline may be omitted due to limitations of time and printable space.



Darkness