

# The Existentialist

Newsletter of the First Existentialist Congregation of Atlanta

470 Candler Park Drive, N.E., Atlanta, GA 30307 • Founded in 1976 •

A Philosophically Based Spiritual Community

Dedicated to Human Liberation

and Founded on Existentialist and Feminist Principles •

## First E 's 2013 Board of Directors



At our annual meeting in April, First E members voted on four new members to the Board of Directors. Welcome to Stell Simonton, Cindy Lou Who, Bill Read and Elaine Gale. All are long time active members of First E, and most have previously served on the Board. These four join returning members Libby Ware, Charlene Ball, Ted Pettus, and Andy Weiskoff. Leaving are Karla Crawford, Edith Covington, and Phyllis Thakis. The new Board elected officers: Chair, Libby; Recorder, Charlene; and Treasurer, Bill Read. Thanks to those who have served and are taking a well-deserved breather, to those who are continuing their three-year term, and to the "newbies." These are your representatives, your voice. Please let any of them know what is on your mind: suggestions, questions, fund-raiser ideas, whatever is important to you. And thank them all for their service to our community. Returning and new Board members, in reverse alphabetical order, introduce themselves below:

**Cindy Lou Who**—proud First E member for 19+ years. This is my third time on the board, including as chair. When not here I am making costumes for the Alliance Theatre and the Georgia Shakespeare Festival. I am a facilitator for COLs. Mother of Ociana and Hubert Carr.

**Andy Weiskoff** is mostly a lifelong 30307er, raised by civil rights activists and psychologist parents in the Emory area. Having nothing to rebel against, he's concentrated his efforts in graphic design and work with not-for-profits



*Clockwise from upper right:  
Libby Ware, Bill Read, Stell Simonton, Charlene Ball, Bill  
Laney, Elaine Gale, Andy Weiskoff*

*Continued on page 3*

**First Existentialist  
Congregation of  
Atlanta**

470 Candler Park Drive,  
NE  
Atlanta, Georgia 30307  
404-378-5570  
www.firstexistentialist.org

All Are Welcome  
Join us in our  
Celebrations of Life on  
Sundays at 11:00 a.m.  
Children's Program  
during Sunday services

Fellowship Minister:  
Marsha Mitchiner,  
revm@bellsouth.net  
Office Administrator:  
Rick Westbrook,  
office@firstexistentialist.org

Board of Directors:  
Libby Ware, Chair  
Bill Read, Treasurer  
Charlene Ball,  
Recorder  
Elaine Gale  
Bill Laney  
Ted Pettus  
Stell Simonton  
Andy Weiskoff  
Cindy Lou Who  
Newsletter Editor:  
Charlene Ball,  
mcharleneball@yahoo.com

*We are a philosophically based  
spiritual community  
dedicated to  
human liberation  
and founded on existentialist  
and feminist principles.*



## **Notes From the Board**

*By Libby Ware, Board Chair*

**On May 6 at 7:00 p.m., the Board met**, welcoming new Board members: Cindy Lou Who, Bill Laney, Bill Read, Stell Simonton, and Elaine Gale, and saying goodbye to those who were leaving: Edith Covington, Phyllis Thakis, and Karla Crawford. Many thanks to Edith for her years as Treasurer and to Karla for her years serving as Recorder.

New Officers were elected with Libby Ware being reelected as Chair, Charlene Ball as Recorder and Bill Read as Treasurer.

Each guild has a board member who acts as a liaison to the Board. The liaison may be a member of the guild or, if not a member, is responsible on reporting on the guild's activities or conveying information or requests to the Board. With the new members, the liaisons are as follows: Art—Andy and Ted; Buildings and Grounds—Bill Read and Bill Laney; Communications—Andy and Charlene (Newsletter); Education—Cindy Lou; Finance—Bill Read; Fundraising—Stell; Membership—Elaine; Program—Charlene; Social Justice—Libby.

Ted reported that the Doctor Von Donut booth made about \$1,000 after deducting expenses and dividing with Doctor Bombay. This will go toward the ramp fund. (See also the article about the ramp fund for more details.)

Bill Laney is working on specs to give electricians so that we can get bids on wiring for lighting. Several members helped with installing a strut for hanging lights so the electrician won't have to get involved in any structural work. Charlene will provide names and numbers of electricians to Bill so he can schedule estimates.

The Special Use Permit for an after-school program is progressing. It has passed the Zoning Review Board and now a statute has to be written allowing the after-school program. We also have to get a parking variance. The parking variance passed the Candler Park Neighborhood Organization, and now will go to the Zoning Adjustment Board on June 6th at noon.

Elaine said that more volunteers are needed to open the building on Sundays. If anyone is interested, please see Elaine, Wilj, or any other member of the membership guild.

Stell suggested that we have promotional materials available in the sanctuary for renters. We discussed reviving a two-sided paper with bullet points about First E on one side, and the commitment statement on the back. We also discussed creating something new.

The next meeting will be June 3rd. All are welcome to attend. ~

***If you would like to become a member or friend  
of First E, please fill out a pledge form located on  
the sanctuary literature rack or download the form  
from our website at  
<http://www.firstexistentialist.org>.***

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# *Guild Reports*

## *Program Guild*

*by Charlene Ball*

**June has five Sundays**, which means we will hear five great speakers, starting with the dynamic Mandisa Thomas on June 2 speaking on "Black Nonbelievers: Past, Present, and Future;" followed by our own Fellowship Minister, Rev. Marsha Mitchiner on June 16, who will speak on "As the Spirit Moves...." Rev. Chris Glaser returns on June 16 with "Our Spiritual Fathers and Mothers," and Rev. Jonathan Rogers will speak on "Not What We Believe But How" on June 23. June 30 will see a return visit by Bill and Eli Perras, who will bring us their unique combination of words and music focusing on the topic of "Our Planet, Our Habitat." Accompanists for COLs will include Alan Dynin, Richard Rifkin, Charli Vogt, and Bill Chelton, who will all provide special music.

The Program Guild consists of Patton White (chair), Charlene Ball, Linda Bell, and Bill Laney. If you have considered facilitating, or if you would like to suggest a speaker or musician, contact us: Patton: [patton@beacondance.org](mailto:patton@beacondance.org); Charlene: [mcharleneball@yahoo.com](mailto:mcharleneball@yahoo.com); Linda: [lbell@gsu.edu](mailto:lbell@gsu.edu); and Bill: [bill339la@yahoo.com](mailto:bill339la@yahoo.com). We welcome your suggestions and input. ~

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### *First E Board ~ continued from page 1*

including Georgia State's Rialto Center, while spending quality time with his wife, Judy Aehle, and his given and chosen families, including the First E.

**Libby Ware** has been a member of First E for 11 years. She is Chair of the Board and a member of the Social Justice Guild and the Finance Guild. She is a facilitator for Sunday COLs.

**Stell Simonton** has been a member of the First Existentialist Congregation since the early 1990s when she and Liz Albright worked to set up a children's Sunday program. She will serve this year as the board's liaison with the fundraising committee.

First E member since 1978, **Bill Read** has been on the Board several times and has served as Finance Guild Chair since the 1990s. Bill also is a member of Building & Grounds Guild and enjoys playing in E's garden and yard.

**Ted Pettus** teaches biology at Emory University, lives in Candler Park, and can be seen riding his bicycle in Little 5 Points and environs. He is currently in Darmsala, India, teaching and learning. Ted facilitates for COLs.

**Bill Laney** has been a member of First E since 1982 and wants to see us thrive. Bill enjoys dance, gardening and walking in the deep woods. He is a member of the Program Guild and the Membership Guild. He facilitates for Sunday COLs.

**Elaine Gale** has been involved with and supportive of the Existentialist Congregation from 1983 to the present. She has served

### **DR VON DONUT**

**Three cheers for griddle-fried donuts** topped with blue ice cream--and did I mention chocolate syrup and sprinkles?!! Thanks to the vision and hard work of Ted Pettus, First E had a booth at the Sweetwater 420 Festival to compensate us for the loss of rental income and Sunday COL inconvenience. Andy Weiskoff created an awesome promo flier and booth banner to further the irresistibility of our product. Add the volunteers who managed the booth Friday, Saturday and Sunday . . . voila!!! a successful fundraiser. The combination of efforts yielded over \$1000 for our accessibility project. Many thanks to all! ~

on the Board and been on a variety of guilds and committees, including the Education Guild--primarily the children's program; the Building and Grounds Guild; the Nominating Committee, and presently the Membership Guild.

**Charlene Ball**, a long-time First E member, is on the Program Guild and the Social Justice Guild and is the editor of The Existentialist, First E's newsletter. This is her second year on the Board. She is a facilitator for Sunday COLs.

Let's welcome our new Board members and give support to the entire Board as they start their journey together as member guides of the Congregation for the coming year. ~

# *May 2013 Finance Report*

General Operating Account      Thru May 31  
 Total Income      22,889  
 Total Expenses      (26,992)  
 2013 Cash Flow      (4,103)

Fund Types & Names	Account Balances on May 31
	< unaudited >
General Operating Account	(1,322)
Designated Operating Funds	11,154
Gay Dellinger Estate Gift	297
Accessibility	4,460
Lanier Clance Lighting	1,144
Leadership Development	255
Community Garden	(143)
Building & Grounds	259
Woodland Sanctuary	1,419
Minister's Discretionary	682
Original 1st E History	68
Labyrinth & Garden	256
Social Justice	935
Attic Insulation Fund	1,250
Children's Program	122
Music Fund	150
	11,154
<b>Pat Hewatt Revolving Loan Fund (\$8K)</b>	<b>5,064</b>
<b>Special Use Permit Loan Fund (\$4.5K)</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Total First E Funds</b>	<b>14,940</b>
<b>Old Stone Church History Project</b>	<b>3,127</b>

**Please 'like' us on Facebook!**  
[https://www.facebook.com/  
 groups/43340332955/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/43340332955/)

**Third Friday Film Series**  
**5 Broken Cameras**  
 Friday, June 21, 2013  
*Doors open 7:00 pm – film starts at 7:30 pm*  
*Popcorn and refreshments available*  
*Donations welcome - \$1 to \$10 sliding scale*  
*No one turned away*  
 Co-sponsored by  
**Interfaith Peace-Builders, Jewish Voice for Peace,**  
**and First E's Social Justice Guild**  
*Discussion after the film*  
*led by Ilise Cohen & Dan Rice*  
**of Interfaith Peace-Builders**  
**& Jewish Voice for Peace**

## **Accessibility Fund**

*by Libby Ware*

Last year the Candler Park Neighborhood Association (CPNO) pledged they would donate \$4000 towards a lift if we raise the remaining funds. At the Annual meeting in April, Elaine Gale reminded us of that pledge. Andy Weiskoff suggested that if 50 people donated \$50, we would raise \$2500. Instantly, people started writing checks for the accessibility fund (previously called the ramp fund). By the end of the meeting, \$925 was raised just by people spontaneously writing checks. Additional donations have come in since then, including \$1000 from the Atlanta Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence/the Order of the Flaming Sugarbakers. As of the end of May, the fund has \$4460. Thanks to all who generously donated, we now have enough funds to qualify for the CPNO grant. However, we still need to raise approximately \$4000 more to pay for a lift. ~

**Wednesday Night Suppers**  
**and**  
**Ukeleles!**  
**each Week**  
**6:30 to 8:00/8:30 pm**  
**in the Sanctuary**  
*If you would like to provide a meal*  
*or bring a covered dish,*  
*please contact Elaine or Wilj*  
*of the Membership Guild.*  
**Ukelele Practice After Supper-Bring your ukelele**

# Social Justice Corner

## *Chaos or Community?*

### *Organizing for Real & Lasting Change*

#### *UUA Southeast District Racial Justice Conference,*

#### *Columbia, SC ~ reported by Edi/th Kelman*

Thanks to the generosity and support of First E's Social Justice Guild, I was able to attend this year's UUA Racial Justice Conference in Columbia, SC, March 1-2, 2013. It was held at the UU Congregation of Columbia, founded in 1950 in this university town by a small cohort seeking a safe haven for free thought, and striving to promote equality and social justice in an often hostile environment.

Today, UUCC is led by the dynamic Rev. Dr. Neal Jones. In some respects, he made me think of First E's Rev. Lanier Clance. Dr. Jones presented a practical, humanistic spirituality, respecting the inherent worth and dignity of every person, encouraging a free and responsible search for truth and meaning, working for peace and justice, and recognizing the interdependence of all existence. His familial links with the Labor Movement, degrees in Political Science and Clinical Psychology, and clinical practice conducting therapy with individuals, couples, and families have helped to shape his articulate and penetrating understanding of complex social issues of our time.

***"We are learning that anti-racism is not just about overcoming personal prejudice; it's also about overcoming institutional and systemic patterns that operate to the benefit of white people and to the detriment of people of color all the time."***

On both Friday evening and Saturday morning, Dr. Jones offered opening remarks/ sermonettes that set the tone for the workshops and activities at the conference. I found his observations to be thoughtful and succinct, offering a useful perspective on the trajectory of racial dynamics in this country:

"We..., like you, have continued to fight the good fight against racism and other forms of oppression in our personal lives and as a congregation. But the fight is different today. We are learning that anti-racism is not just about overcoming personal prejudice; it's also about overcoming institutional and systemic patterns that operate to the benefit of white people and to the detriment of people of color all the time. Racism is endemic in our social, political, and economic institutions and systems so that unequal wages, unequal treatment in the legal system, discrimination in our immigration policies, and segregation in jobs, housing, health care, and education continue no matter how much prejudice we may have overcome or how color-blind we think we may be. In fact, as long as we remain focused only on our individual attitudes and actions and ignore institutional patterns, we will leave the system of racism intact. Overcoming our personal prejudices is the starting point, but it cannot be the end point for ending racism.... it is our hope that this weekend's conference, "Chaos or Community: Organizing for Real and Lasting Change," will help us take the next step in the continuing struggle for what Martin Luther King called 'the Beloved Community.' This struggle is as much for internal integrity and awareness as against external forces and patterns." A fellow struggler, Rev. Dr. Neal Jones, UUCC.

(I have Dr. Jones' permission to share the full texts of his two racial justice sermonettes. Please let the E-Office know if you would like to receive them. ek) ~

**Please consider  
a special donation to the Accessibility Fund (formerly Ramp/  
Lift Fund). We are over halfway to our fundraising goal!  
Many thank-you's to the Chalice Lighters, CPNO, and First E  
Members and Friends for your support.**

## **Mandisa Lateefah Thomas on June 2**

**Mandisa Thomas, a native of New York City**, is a founder and current President of Black Nonbelievers, Inc. Although never formally indoctrinated into belief, Mandisa was heavily exposed to Christianity, Black Nationalism and a bit of Islam. As a child she loved reading, and enjoyed various tales of gods from different cultures, including Greek and Ghanaian. "Through reading these stories and being taught about other cultures at an early age, I quickly noticed that there were similarities and differences between those deities and the God of the Christian Bible. I couldn't help but wonder what made this God so special that he warrants such prevalence in today's society."

Mandisa was featured in the April 30 issue of *JET Magazine*, has been a guest speaker with such organizations as the Secular Humanists of the Low Country, Humanists of Florida and American Atheists. She has been also been a guest on podcasts including The Critical Eye, Ask an Atheist, and the Black Freethinkers Blogtalk Radio Show. In addition to her work as an activist, she created MLT's Elevation Station, an agency that offers booking, management and business writing services to independent musicians.

As President of Black Nonbelievers, Inc., Mandisa works to encourage more Blacks to come out and stand strong with their nonbelief. "The more we make our presence known, the better our chances of working together to turn around some of the disparities we face. We are NOT alone." ~

## **Rev. Chris Glaser on June 16**

**Gay Christian author and activist Chris Glaser** has published twelve books, including *Uncommon Calling*, *Coming Out to God*, and *Coming Out as Sacrament*. His newest books are *As My Own Soul: The Blessing of Same-Gender Marriage* (Seabury Press, 2009) and *The Final Deadline: What Death Has Taught Me about Life* (Morehouse, 2010). He posts weekly *Progressive Christian Reflections* at [www.chrisglaser.blogspot.com](http://www.chrisglaser.blogspot.com).

Rev. Glaser is a frequent speaker and retreat leader across denominational boundaries throughout North America on issues ranging from sexuality to spirituality. He has worked for almost forty years to affect church policies regarding the welcome, ordination, and marriage of openly gay and lesbian people, as well as the full inclusion of bisexual and transgender people. He has lived in Atlanta since 1993 and makes his home in its Ormewood Park neighborhood with his partner, Wade, and their golden lab, Hobbes. For more information, please visit [www.chrisglaser.com](http://www.chrisglaser.com). ~

## **Bill & Eli Perras on June 30**

**Bill & Eli Perras are Performers of Original**, Inspired, Acoustic Folk & Blues from DeLand, FL. The many inspired lyrics given to and interpreted by Eli, combined with Bill's bluesy finger-style guitar playing create a uniquely modern take on true Americana music in its purest form. Receiving much recognition for their tightly woven musical creativity, they humbly remain true to their personal values. They speak out with strong, heartfelt lyrics accompanied by soulful genuine pentatonic rhythms against social injustices, corporate greed, and daily follies in everyday life. They can grip your heart, search your soul, change a mindset, or softly strike a funny bone, all the while leaving the audience with a sentiment for the common good we desire in all mankind.

Bill & Eli have opened or shared the stage with Bill Staines, Michael Smith, John Gorka, Jack Williams, Steve Gillette & Cindy Mangsen, Paul Geremia, Anne Feeney, Rod MacDonald, Scott Ainslie, Small Potatoes, Emma's Revolution and many more nationally recognized entertainers. They are regulars at many Florida folk music venues and festivals and frequently travel beyond the Sunshine State sharing their music. ~

# **June 2013 Sunday Celebrations of Life**

**June 2**            *Black Nonbelievers: Past, Present, and Future*  
*Speaker: Mandisa Thomas*  
*Facilitator: Charlene Ball*  
*Accompanist: Alan Dynin*

**June 9**            *As the Spirit Moves . . .*  
*Speaker: Marsha Mitchiner*  
*Facilitator: Libby Ware*  
*Accompanist: Richard Rifkin*

**June 16**          *Our Spiritual Fathers and Mothers*  
*Speaker: Rev. Chris Glaser*  
*Facilitator: D. Patton White*  
*Accompanist: Bill Chelton*

**June 23**          *Not What We Believe But How*  
*Speaker: Rev. Jonathan Rogers*  
*Facilitator: Marsha Mitchiner*  
*Accompanist: Charli Vogt*

**June 30**          *Our Planet -- Our Habitat*  
*Bill and Eli Perras*  
*Facilitator: Cindy Lou Who*  
*Accompanists: Bill and Eli Perras*

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## **Rev. Jonathan M. Rogers on June 23**

**Jonathan Rogers is an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister** and a 2012 graduate of Harvard Divinity School. He has worked as an intern at First Religious Society (UU) in Carlisle, MA, as a counselor and lifeguard at a Quaker summer camp near his childhood home in Maine, and was an assistant at a synagogue practicing Renewal Judaism in Berkeley, California before attending divinity. Jonathan currently lives in Decatur with his fiance, Annie Massart, and their rabbits, Rockit and Mrs. Hughes, and is exploring the possibilities for a new UU congregation in the greater Atlanta area. When he is not driving a medicaid transportation van, he enjoys playing ultimate frisbee and going barefoot(-style) running. ~

## *Memories of Lanier ~ Continued from last issue ~*

**Consummate role model for pure joy, total acceptance and boundless love.**

**Carol Sandiford** Straight and tall. Mary Howard **Genuine. interesting. interested. VERY funny.**

**a good talker and a great listener. Deborah & Carol** *Never was their another Lanier Clance, nor will there be. A man of strong opinions, committed to each discovering their own path, Lanier supported me with unconditional love through thick and thin. Each encounter was complete; nevertheless I feel a huge hole with him gone... Gus Kaufman, Jr., Ph.D. Lanier was a pioneer. Diane Dickson* Lanier: gentle as silk, strong as steel, curious as a child, brave as a bear, true as the friend that never forgets yet always forgives.

Dan DeNoon *A Fierce and Gentle Giant of Authenticity. Sue Matthews* *I met Lanier in the mid 1970's as a doctoral student at Georgia State University. I remember meeting at his house for inspiration long before the 1976 founding date for the First Existentialist Congregation. Although I had read many existentialist authors in French literature and Philosophy courses as an undergraduate, he helped me understand the relationship between existentialism, psychology, and my life. Without knowing it, Lanier helped me recognize and appreciate my SELF. Before that, I was a Catholic Vietnam war widow who was in college to become something other than a wife and a mother of many children I would never have.*

*Thank you, Lanier. Jeanne Stahl* *Lanier's sermons were like no others. I loved them! Rita* Lanier was **delightfully enthusiastic** about my work on Sartre, sometimes embarrassingly so for someone who's not used to being singled out in that way. Whenever he would read something of mine from the pulpit, I would hold my breath, hoping it was decently written. But I really did appreciate his support of me as a scholar. In addition, I appreciated his concerns and activism around important moral and political issues. Linda ***I have many words that come to mind concerning Lanier. The word at the very front of the list is Courageous.***

***Lanier consistently supported the value of finding the courage to be yourself. He understood that this was not easy, and that nobody does this perfectly. He valued the struggle to live authentically. He lived this value and he supported it in others, including me. I will always be grateful to him for this. Bob Coyle*** **Maverick.**

**Terry Simerly** Lanier: gentle as silk, strong as steel, curious as a child, brave as a bear, true as the friend that never forgets yet always forgives.-- in memoriam, Dan DeNoon ***Lanier was my valued colleague, office mate and an exemplary existential psychotherapist. His wit, charm and intelligence were captivating. Doris S. Gordon*** **Lanier: Amazing insight, brilliance and spirituality. His essence stays with me. Forever. Mary M. Pike**

For myself I know of no finer closing than thinking back on the example Lanier often mentioned while he was serving a congregation in West Virginia. The church was small, but generous to Lanier, and welcomed him even as he was questioning what the Bible's meaning might be. Lanier said during that year, he preached 52 sermons on 'God is love'. Nothing about punishment, nothing about exclusion, nothing about us-vs-them, nothing about one group being better than another, just a weekly reminder that the highest value is love. A shy man, troubled by dyslexia, who read pages in his books multiple times to be able to get and hold the meaning, who practiced preaching in the woods to overcome his fear of public speaking, from a part of Florida with strong military ties, became a therapist to help individuals, a minister to lead groups interested in moral values and justice, and a voice for and example of compassion, justice and love,



wherever he went. Robert Stewart Mentor, father of choice, dear one, thank you for our years together at 1st E and beyond. Peace. Beth York *Lanier's presence influenced my self compassion and my self love. He helped me see me. Love, Demmie* A poet of life... Patton *15 wonderful years of discovery and creativity, much gratitude to Lanier's encouragement and fostering . . . that we no longer have to live our lives in fear; to live "colorfully" (and did he love to express that!); the FREEDOM songs that he loved and we in turn still love to sing; "Imagine" by John Lennon. I loved his stories in sharing in his peaceful protests and sit-ins and even being put in a "patty-wagon" at one time when the neighbors in that part of intown protested the construction of . . . "The Carter Expressway." I absolutely loved his paintings and artwork. He mentioned that it's okay to be shy (which I am). I FOUND JOY. Lanier strongly stated . . . to see beauty in EVERYONE . . . Blessed memories. Braden Lanier's **flair for life** in all its rich colors, swirled together with his **compassion and joy**, transformed our communities and added layers to my own journey. Linda Bryant One of the most important things I learned listening to Lanier was "You can't grab on to something new if you're holding on to something in the past." Judith Johnson **Lanier was the ultimate Existentialist who knew how to BE with intention and integrity.** Sheryll Dahlke As a wise mentor to an existentially frustrated student, Lanier replied, "The purpose of a thesis is to make a period." Andra Gallis ~*

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### **Link to Slideshow from Lanier's Art Booth Last October**

Andra Gallis created a slideshow of Lanier's art booth of last October. She writes, "I put the pictures in order to tell a story of the day's events and included persons' names and personal captions which they may find meaningful. Here is the link. The program is Picasa & it's online:

[https://picasaweb.google.com/117618340318295321988/LanierSArt02?authkey=Gv1sRgCK\\_1xc2S7-2wSw#slideshow/5803341792288729266](https://picasaweb.google.com/117618340318295321988/LanierSArt02?authkey=Gv1sRgCK_1xc2S7-2wSw#slideshow/5803341792288729266)

"I'd suggest when opening the link, to go to the bottom of the screen, and on the menu, where it says 'seconds,' to press the '+' plus button up to '10 seconds or more' so the viewer will have enough time to read the captions before it automatically goes to the next picture." ~

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*What though the radiance which was once so bright  
Be now for ever taken from my sight,  
Though nothing can bring back the hour  
Of splendour in the grass, of glory in the flower;  
We will grieve not, rather find  
Strength in what remains behind. ~ William Wordsworth*

# The Back Page

## Members and Friends Speak Out

### From Rev. Marsha Mitchiner ~

#### OUR THOUGHTS GO OUT TO

**Alan, son of Elaine Hall (partner of Carol Harter)** who has been diagnosed with stage 3 cancer. Everyone is feeling positive and hopeful as he begins his treatment.

**Brownie Hendricks** who has recently recovered from a terrible fall that required a stay of several days in the hospital, part of it in ICU. Glad you are ok, Brownie.

**The Trestrail family** is going through a hard time. This was **Victoria's** first Mother's Day since her Mother passed.

#### THANKS TO

**Andy Weiskoff** for the latest postcard handout (it is great!)--if you haven't seen it, check out the bookcase below the welcome sign in the sanctuary. And for the wonderful program he created for **Lanier Clance's** memorial service. It was a beautiful presentation and reflection of Lanier.

**Ashlea Davis and her friend Phillip** for hanging Lanier's art for the memorial service. It was wonderful to be surrounded by his creativity. And for providing the light fixtures so we could see the art at Lanier's service.

**Ashlea Davis, Betsy Henderson, Karen Thornton and Kitty Wimbish** for providing the twinkle lights in the Rev. R. Lanier Clance Woodland Sanctuary and to **Ashlea, Wilj Sturkey and Bill Read** for putting them up. Also, to **Betsy and Karen** for the beautiful chimes that now hang in the woodland as a tribute to Lanier.

**Jill Ruhlman and Carol Calvert** for hanging some of Lanier's silk scarves in the windows and across the back light bar in the sanctuary. It was breath taking to behold. And for the loving care with which they created an altar befitting Lanier's life.

**Bill Laney, Bill Read, Ted Pettus, Robert Stewart, Fred Conrad, Jon Nye and Andy Weiskoff** for the hard labor they put in over several months to provide the strut system for installation of the sanctuary lighting (yet to come). And to Bill Laney for putting up the twinkle lights and temporary lights on the art work for Lanier's service.

**Fred Conrad** for heading the Community Garden.

**Charlene Ball** for taking on the responsibility as editor of our monthly newsletter.

**Robert Stewart** for his delightful and informative weekly e-mail updates.

**Kitty Wimbish** for caring for our indoor flora and being a good steward of the sanctuary.

**Edi/ith Kelman** for her initiation of the Greater Edgewood/Candler Park History Project and the First E connection with Antioch East Baptist Church. And to **Rev. Dr. John Williams and the members of Antioch East** for the recent "Picnic in the Park" get together.

**Bill Read**, perennial "Man for All Seasons," who provides such important on-site care of our building and grounds. And **Nathaniel Jones** who assists Bill.

**All the wonderful volunteers who do so much behind the scenes:** opening(making coffee, getting the collection plates and bulletins, putting out songbooks and instruments) and closing the building on Sunday; counting/recording/depositing Sunday collections;serve on special focus guilds and committees; participate on projects; the list goes on.....

**All the wonderful volunteers who do so much that is up front:** facilitate at Sunday's COL;serve on our Board, act as "Greeter" at COL; take up the offering;..... ~



*The First E Newsletter is published monthly. Deadline for July 2013 newsletter is June 9. Send your articles and announcements to mcharleneball@yahoo.com. The editor reserves the right to edit or refuse any material submitted.*