

## Why Give Generously?

Generosity is a spiritual practice that's encouraged by every world religion, not for the benefit of the guru, priest or temple, but for the benefit of the giver.

This may seem counterintuitive...you may wonder, "How can I benefit by giving to another? I worked hard for that money! And even if I'm willing to share, it's scary. What if I need resources later?"

Religions encourage generosity because they know that generous people begin to look more at the possibilities of a situation than at its deficiencies. In similar ways the practice of generosity helps create a sense of optimism and well being within the giver. Even more, when we give generously we open our hearts, and this creates a feeling of kinship with fellow human beings; it connects us to something larger than our selves. Practicing generosity also helps us remember that the gifts of creation are not exclusively for our own private use.

*"Thousands of candles can be lighted from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened.*

*Happiness never decreases by sharing."*

*Buddha*

Unitarian Universalists are religious liberals. "Liberal" means "generous." We're generous in our thinking and in the latitude we allow others in their thinking. In an important sense, the practice of generosity is a way that religious liberals take a stand on our belief in human freedom, worth and dignity. It's an important way to put our faith into action.

## CALENDAR

### Sunday February 21 (Kickoff Sunday)

#### **Pledge packets are distributed.**

Please read the materials and carefully consider your household's financial pledge of support for the coming year.

### Saturday March 20 (Service and Community Day)

#### **9:00 am A Day of Community Outreach and Service.**

Join fellow ERUUFians in one of several projects being planned by the Social and Economic Justice Council. (Gather at 9 am for coffee and goodies. Teams will then disperse to clean up a stream, paint a room at the Homeless Shelter, make signs for RJ Reynolds shareholders meeting in May, and more.)

#### **7:30 pm Celebration of Community.**

Saturday evening the ERUUF Staff will host a party. Come celebrate with dancing, liberal helpings of snacks, and good company!

### Sunday March 21 (Commitment Sunday)

**Celebrate** the Vision and Values that are at the heart of ERUUF. Bring your pledge card to services.

### **Eno River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**

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Welcome to the 2010 - 2011  
Stewardship Campaign

# Living Generously



*"We make a living by what we get.  
We make a life by what we give."*

*Winston Churchill*

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Eno River  
Unitarian Universalist  
Fellowship

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## Living Generously

Every year as winter turns to spring, the people of Eno River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship turn to one another to raise the funds that will be needed for the next year's operating budget.

What an awesome act of faith! Equipped with these promises of support, later in the spring leaders will develop the new year's budget in a way that reflects the Fellowship's values and vision. Then, outfitted with these promises and plans, the people of ERUUF boldly set forth to create the world they envision.

They do it every year...how astonishing! The generous gifts of members support the shared ministries at ERUUF: Sunday services, faith development for all ages, Wednesday evening



programs, small groups, pastoral support and companionship, collective witness and advocacy, and partnership for social and economic justice in the larger world.

No one does any of this alone, and yet when single acts are focused in the direction of a vision, amazing things happen.

*"...true giving is not an economic exchange; it is a generative act. It does not subtract from what we have; it multiplies the effect we can have in the world."*

**Kent Nerburn**

When we contribute to the Fellowship our power becomes concentrated in marvelous ways that help to make the world a little more friendly and kind, in ways that also help to bend the moral arc of the universe toward justice.

And it all starts with the act of generosity.

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### We asked ERUUFians in small groups: What are you grateful for in this spiritual community?

*"ERUUF is a community filled with people of diverse opinions who are still truly willing to listen to yours."*

*"ERUUF is a place to practice listening - to music, to conversation, to sermons. There are many places to practice listening, but many utterances are chatter."*

*"ERUUF has been a constant in my life for 23 years. It has been a vehicle for so many values—fostering giving and receiving, compassion, and has provided structured ways for me to demonstrate my commitment to justice, among others."*

*"ERUUF, particularly on Sunday morning, provides a break from the 'dailyness' of life, and is a vehicle that nurtures me toward being more whole."*

*"I take tremendous pride and joy in belonging to a fellowship where its members selflessly help to feed the homeless in Durham; it makes my soul soar!"*

*"At work there hasn't been a place for me to express all my interests and passions. At ERUUF, I've been able to enact neglected parts of myself in ways that involve community."*

## Vision

The Fellowship has a vision, stated as three Ends:

- I) The people of ERUUF are engaged in a deeply meaningful, transformative liberal religious experience.
- II) The people of ERUUF create and sustain a community of care, mutual respect, inclusiveness and love.
- III) The people of ERUUF reach beyond their congregation, individually and collectively, as they live out Unitarian Universalist values.

## Stewardship Goals

To keep moving forward in the direction of the Fellowship's vision, this year's stewardship campaign has a goal of raising \$700,000 in pledges. This represents an overall 10% increase in pledges over the current fiscal year. This increase will support both daily operations and new program initiatives, including renewed commitment to fair compensation for ministers and staff, plus increased giving for community outreach (e.g. Durham CAN and the UUA) which carry our liberal values into action in the larger world.

## Mission

*The mission of the Eno River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is to transform lives by building a free and inclusive covenantal religious community of spirit, service, justice and love.*