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Every Sunday:

- 9:45 AM Choir Practice exc. 12/24 & 12/31
- 9:45 AM Adult Forum
- 10:30 AM Child Care - until 12:30 PM
- 11:00 AM Youth RE, exc. 12/24
Preschool class, Rm C
Elementary classes (K - 2nd, Rm K; 3rd - 5th, Rm 2)
Middle/High School Youth Group, Rm 3/6

Adult Forum Topics:

- Dec. 3, Margaret Chase, "My 30 Years in Cameroon, West Africa"
- Dec. 10, TBA
- Dec. 17, Jennifer Carver, "Practicing Right Relations at UUCT"
- Dec. 24, NO FORUM
- Dec. 31, Informal discussion

December Highlights:

- Congregational Voting Meeting, Sun. 12/3, 12:30 PM
- 2nd Sun. Potluck & Neighborhood Zones Meeting, 12/10, 12:30 PM
- Winterfest, Fri. 12/15, 7:00 PM (Dessert Potluck)
- Woohoo Wednesday 12/20, 6:30 PM



The Meridian

December Sundays (11:00 AM, exc. 7:00 PM Dec. 24)

Dec. 3 | Misguided Drug Laws--Their Human and Social Costs

Justice, equity and compassion in human relations. We will explore human consciousness and relate consciousness exploration to the use of entheogens. We'll also look at the prejudices, religious and racial, that underlay our drug laws, and describe the dilemma we face where our present social remedy for illegal drug use is too often worse than the disease.

Speaker: Allen Turnage; Lay Leader: Kelley Turnage

Dec. 10 | Follow Your Bliss

A free and responsible search for truth and meaning. This often-quoted directive on bliss from famed mythologist Joseph Campbell opens us up to many an interpretation. What is Bliss? How might we find and follow it as it unfolds within us as a spiritual sense, a sense of what ultimately matters in our lives? **Rev. Lyn Plumb**

Dec. 17 | Winter Solstice Celebration

For this intergenerational service we will explore ancient ways to dare the dark time of year and venerate the light. Songs of the season, trimming our tree, and much celebration and fellowship for all ages will abound! Come and be joyous with your community! (We'll also light candles of joy and concern.)

Rev. Lyn Plumb

Dec. 24 | The Spirit of the Christmas Tree (Christmas Eve 7:00 PM)

There will be NO SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE. Instead, come and share an evening of carols and candles, hear a touching message of the season and experience a pageant comprised of both adults and children. A potluck social time with holiday cookies, sweets and beverages will follow the service. (A special collection for ECHO will be taken.) **Rev. Lyn Plumb & Company**

Dec. 31 | The Secular Reality Mission of UUs

A free and responsible search for truth and meaning. The recent election shook up the mythic boxes we tend to live within, and that is probably a good thing. To the chagrin of Americans who hoped for better luck if not divine aid, Sunnis and Shiites in Iraq are still not ready to choose democracy over chaos. This is a time for facts, for secular reality. What is important is that the secular reality box remains open to all sides and stays flexible. We may think the world around us is no longer ruled by spirits; we may believe that cause and effect is wholly ours to manage, but huge numbers of people still hear and respond to whispered commands of the gods. The UU mission is one of secular realism in a deeply religious world.

Speaker: Dr. Wm. Richard Dempsey; Lay Leader: Ellen Dempsey

Rev. Lyn's Plumb Line

The holidays are upon us! And with them is a heady mixture of joyous celebration, frenetic activity and quite possibly sadness and pain. Whatever the season brings to us this year, I wish for you times of quiet reflection, rest and renewal. And toward that end I offer you some words from Elizabeth Selle Jones:

It starts early, too early,
With an innocent, colored light,
Or a jingling bell.
Almost unnoticed, certainly
resisted, the momentum builds.
It oozes, multiplies, infiltrates,

Permeates, engulfs, and
overwhelms.
Now there is no corner, no page,
no sound,
No thought, no mind, no heart
That is not pregnant with it.
Despite growing anxiety
Do not resist it.
Abandon cynicism.
Suspend suspicion.
Overindulge in friendship.
Give endlessly of compassion and
justice.
Unwrap possibility and promise.
Let the Soul Season flood
throughout.

Let holiness saturate,
Invigorate,
Hope purify.
Let love finally be born.
Oh, yes, let love be born.

May you surrender yourself to the
true meaning of this time of year.
May it flood your being despite
anything else. May you
experience joy and live the hope
that each new birth, each new year
brings.

With love and many blessings of
the season,

Rev. Lyn



Settled Minister Search Committee

By Bob Deyle, Committee Chair

As of November 28, five ordained UU ministers and one seminarian have expressed interest in our congregation by submitting their Ministerial Records for our review. Several of these applicants appear to be promising. The word from our UUA Ministerial Settlement

Representative, Rev. Katy Korb, is that the current field of ministers seeking settled ministry is smaller than in recent years. Nonetheless, we anticipate receiving inquiries from others before the first of the year. By early December we will have begun the exchange of

information packets with those in whom we are interested, followed by phone interviews through mid-January. We will keep you posted as the process progresses.

Sara Reece, Annette Pearce, Hollie Lloyd, Mimi Jones, Chris Ellrich, Bob Deyle, and Bruce Brandt

Memorial Garden Happenings

By Joan Patterson, Committee Co-Chair

A huge "thank you" to all who donated to make Phase II a reality. By Christmas all of the flowers will be planted!

We are now ready to take orders for cast-bronze plaques and engraved brick pavers. Anyone may pay for a cast-bronze plaque to be affixed to the plaque wall, but the name on the plaque must be that of a deceased member of the church. Cost of a cast-bronze plaque is \$250, and you may have up to three lines of wording.

If you wish to memorialize or honor someone such as a parent, child, relative or friend who is or was not a member of the church, you may purchase an engraved brick for the paved area that will be installed in front of the plaque wall. A 4" x 8" engraved brick costs \$100, and an 8" x 8" square costs \$190. Three lines of up to 18 characters per line may be engraved on the brick. Five or six lines are allowed on the square.

There are price breaks for orders of more than 1 brick if purchased at the same time.

Order forms for plaques, bricks and squares are available in the back of the sanctuary in the little plastic box next to the permanent display on the right-hand wall. Checks should be made payable to UUCT, with "Memorial Garden plaque, brick or square" in the memo line.

Thanks for your continued support of this beautiful addition to our church grounds.

Right Relations Initiative

When asked what makes us proudest of our congregation during the 2004 congregational assessment, two of the three most frequent responses included (1) tolerance and acceptance of diverse ideas, beliefs, and cultures and (2) the caring nature of our congregation. A common theme in the congregational conversations we have had since then, however, has been that we have room for improving our relationships with each other and with our ministers.

In an effort to enhance the personal interrelationships within our church, the Committee on the Ministry is working with Reverend Lyn and several other members of our congregation to coordinate a Right Relations Initiative that will culminate in a congregation-wide process to develop a Covenant of Right Relations.

What does it mean to speak of right relations? "Towards Right Relations" was the theme of the UUA General Assembly this past summer. In a keynote address to the Assembly, Jim Wind, president of the Alban Institute, described right relations as "healthy, life-giving, respectful, loving, and open relationships with one another."

The UUCT Right Relations Initiative includes a number of facets which are briefly summarized here. Some have

already transpired, others will be forthcoming. Watch for more details in future issues of *The Meridian* and through other media.

- (1) **Sunday service on Covenanting** – Presented by Rev. Lyn on October 15. Copies of her sermon, "Covenant: From Sinai to Tallahassee," are available on the sanctuary back counter.
- (2) **Adult Forum on Practicing Right Relationship** – Scheduled for December 17, this is a warm up for an Adult Enrichment course to be offered by Jennifer Carver and Isabel Sheridan based on a book of the same title: *Practicing Right Relationship: Skills for Deepening Purpose, Finding Fulfillment, and Increasing Effectiveness in Your Congregation*, by Mary K. Sellon and Daniel P. Smith.
- (3) **Sunday service on Right Relations** – To be presented by Rev. Lyn on January 14.
- (4) **Practicing Right Relations course** – This six-week long course, based on Sellon and Smith's book *Practicing Right Relationship*, will provide a group of UUCTers an opportunity to spend time learning about right relations and how practicing right relations helps strengthen our church community. Participants

will actually practice right relations through a series of in-class and outside activities, sharing circles, readings, reflection and journaling, in a format similar to Evensong. Scheduled to start in late January. Look for more information in the January *Meridian* or talk with Jennifer Carver or Isabel Sheridan.

- (5) **Right Relations in Committee** – An option to be provided to the church's committees via the Church Council to conduct a few selected exercises from the Practicing Right Relations course.
- (6) **Right Relations Covenanting Workshop** – To be facilitated by Rev. Lyn on a weekend in late March or early April. This will produce a draft covenant to be further refined by a small task force and presented to the congregation for discussion and formal adoption at the annual meeting in May. We hope to make this a church-wide event, with activities for children and youth so that all parents can participate and with a celebratory festival dinner following conclusion of the workshop.

How Are We Doing This Year?

The UUA Settlement Office requests evaluation, by both the interim minister and the lay leadership, of the progress of a congregation that is "in the interim" by February 15 and June 15 of every year. Each of these evaluations reviews progress made

toward goals set at the beginning of the interim.

The Executive Board, the Committee on the Ministry (COTM), and Rev. Lyn will collaborate to prepare this evaluation in late January. If you have any thoughts

to share on how we are doing as a congregation this year – What are we doing well? What could we do better or differently? – please share your thoughts with any member of the Board, the COTM, or Rev. Lyn sometime in the next month.

Social Justice

By Kim Ross, Committee Chair



CROP Walk report. Thank you to all who participated. If you walked or helped raise money, see me for a small appreciation gift. Sinners and Wizards tied for first place (literally!), with Saints coming in a distant third. (But Saints get a prize, too – the real winners are those we helped!) UUCT:

- Raised \$2,100 (~13.5% of total raised of \$15,500).
- Brought in several dozen cans.
- Had 32 people actually walking.

Once again, UUCT was well represented in an interfaith social justice event!

Announcements



• Joyous Giving.

Canvass for 07-08 fiscal year will be under the banner of joyous giving. What is “joyous giving”? Trudy Deyle says it is “to gladly and generously give to be and feel a part of something larger than myself -- something about which I feel passionately: Unitarian Universalism.”

• Nursery/RE class help

needed. No special skills required, only a willingness to help. Contact DRE Maggie Geraci.

• Workday helpers needed.

Coming by even for an hour or two will be a big help. Time: 2nd Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM. Good chance to get to know church members and friends better. Contact Don Berger (442-2847, berger-don@comcast.net)

• Kitchen Kontrollers needed.

For 2007. Kontrollers are volunteers that oversee the kitchen and volunteers for a month. Contact Nancy Harvey (668-9096, npharv@aol.com)

UU Service Committee (UUSC).

The Nov. 19 Sunday service educated us about UUSC’s work and ways to support their work of helping others. Norene Chase has UUSC Christmas cards and fair-traded coffee for sale at a Sunday table, also UUSC educational materials. Coffee is shade-grown by small farmers in cooperatives giving them a fairer return.

Support UUSC through:

- membership,
- “Guest at Your Table” box,
- or donation (to UUCT for UUSC).

Keep “Guest at Your Table” boxes over the holidays and return by 1/31/07. Save collecting treasurer work by writing check to UUCT for UUSC for box total. Thanks for your support of UUSC!

Social Justice Committee Survey.

Please complete. Available at church or in November *Meridian*. Return to Abbe Justus or Kim Ross, or place in VP Social Justice mail-box.

Next Social Justice Committee meeting. In January. Stay tuned for details.

• **Appreciating staff.** Our past practice of informally collecting for holiday gifts of cash to staff is not IRS-allowed, unless reported as taxable income. Instead, small gifts of appreciation to staff from individuals are allowed; any checks should be to the individual and not the church.

• Budget requests due 1/7/07.

2007 – 2008 budget requests, fundraising plans and program accomplishments and visions (2-3 very short, key items) due, on form provided, to VP for Finance Jim Dawson (jwdawson53@aol.com, 383-1213). Deadline firm.

• Mountaincamp Scholarships.

\$450 total available in UUCT budget for scholarships to The Mountain. Mountaincamp 2007 brochure soon at

www.mountaincenters.org.

Deadline for scholarship requests: 1/1/07. Send letter with amount requested and why needed to UUCT: Scholarship Comm., or put in DeWayne Carver’s box.

• UUA Social Witness Process.

Congregational comments due 3/1/07 on: (1) Draft Statement of Conscience on Moral Values for a Pluralistic Society and (2) Study/Action Issue on Peacemaking (resource guide at www.uua.org/cws). Contact Abbe Justus or Kim Ross for more info. and UUA comment forms.

• December Trustee Tidbits.

FL District UUA Trustee Joan Lund’s article posted at the back of the sanctuary. Subject: UUA independent affiliates.

• Board Actions: 10/06.

By Molly Schmid, Executive Board Secretary. (1) Approved Consent Agenda: a. Report from Settled Minister Search Committee, b. Report from Committee on the Ministry, c. Vice President for Management Report. (2) Approved 9/24/06 Board meeting minutes. (3) Approved Sept. Treasurer’s Report. Note: Brief meeting before Board Retreat follow-up gathering.

Green Corner



By Elinor Elfner, Green Sanctuary Member

UUCT is a Green Sanctuary church. Concern for the interdependent web of all existence permeates our church life. The committee now meets only every other month to share information on "green" activities. All interested parties are welcome to attend the next potluck in January.

Solar Power Project: On Dec. 3 the congregation will consider a motion to approve the project to install solar photovoltaic panels on

the south roof of the new building and to authorize the financing as planned. Over \$34,000 has been contributed to the fund. Hopefully, by February we will be using some solar-generated electricity.

Alternative Christmas: Consider giving alternative gifts this year. By making a donation to worthy causes in the name of your loved ones, you experience the joy of giving while reducing excessive consumerism. There are two

opportunities in Tallahassee:

- John Wesley Methodist church on Lafayette, near Blairstone, Dec. 2 & 3.
- Christ Presbyterian Church on Bannerman Road, Dec. 8 & 9

UUCT continues to audit our energy consumption and to work to reduce carbon emissions by using energy more efficiently. Are you doing the same at home?

Appreciation



To:

- **Susan Snyder and Frank Deasy, Christine Boczarska, Annette Pearce, Rod Oldenburg, Sara Reece, Steve and Mary VanSciver, Barbara Sterling, Joan Patterson, Carolyn DuBard, and Francis Ventre** for greeting Sun. 10/29 - 11/26.
- **Gabriel Justus, Chris Ellrich, Carolyn and Howard Pardue, Sara Reece, Linda Logan, Elinor Elfner, Jerri Lee Wagner,** and kitchen controller **Abbe Justus** for October Sunday coffee and clean-up.
- **Joanne Taylor, Elinor Elfner, Dick Leinberry, Joe Lama, & Norene Chase** for Sun. set-up.
- **Claudia Joyner** for November nursery help.
- All who have prepared meals for members recovering from surgery: **Linda Logan, Kathie Mackie, Peggy Lentz, Joan Patterson, Mimi Jones, Amy Mann, Jennifer Carver, Pam Hoskins, Debbie Holt, Pam & Don Crosby, Junelle Brandt, Elinor Elfner, Lorin Pratt, and Joanne Taylor.**

- **Dan Damerville, Abbe Justus, Isabel Sheridan, Jan Oldenburg, Jan Miller, Ed and James Oaksford, Emily Leventhal, Susan Snyder and Frank Deasy,** and University UUs **Brian Lee, Jessica Gist, Charles Starr, & Frank Green** for doing the Nov. Shelter meal.
- **Barbara Sterling and Bruce and Junelle Brandt** for hosting a fall dinner for 8.
- **Linda Logan** for coordinating UUCT's Thanksgiving Day potluck and **all those** who entertained, purchased, cooked, decorated, helped set up and take down, and washed dishes. You helped make the event a pleasure!
- **Pam Crosby** for serving as one of UUCT's TEAM co-coordinators over the past year.
- **Maria Mena** for the lovely Mexican chocolate surprise after the 10/29 service.
- **Jennifer Carver, Trudy Deyle, Joan Patterson, and Steve Urse** for attending the fall FL District Leadership Conference.

Bake Sale Thank You!

The Youth RE Committee thanks talented bakers who helped our bake sale be a huge success: **Kelley Turnage, Hollie Lloyd, Isabel Sheridan, Kim Ross, Lorin Pratt, Linda Oaksford, Jennifer Carver, Amy Hall, Eliza Coyne, Eleanor Enge, Lindsey Weaver and Janet Kistner and other unsung bakers!** Thanks to the congregation for generous support! \$170 was raised for a teacher retreat for our hard-working volunteers!

Workday Thank You

The all church workday on 11/11 was attended by these volunteers: **Mitch McDermott, Tom Baldwin, Don Berger, Charlotte Dudley, Tom Chase, Joe Lama, and John Whitton.** Thanks go out to each and every one of them for a job done well. If someone was forgotten, thank you and our apologies. Also thanks to those who have done maintenance work around the church during the rest of the month: **Francis Ventre** who has volunteered to blow the leaves off the drives and walks, **the watering crew,** and **others.**

Caring Network and Membership News

Caring Ministries Network

Our hearts and minds are with:

Nina Cline as she recovers from surgery on 11/15.

Michele Hope as she recuperates from an 11/15 surgery.

Abbe Justus as she copes with the death of her mother, Jean Davis, 11/16.

Marty Beech as she copes with the loss of her partner, **Tony Johnson**, 11/20.

Ann Conn whose husband, **Erling**, is in Hospice House.

Linda Logan whose cataract surgery was successful.

Jan Miller who is recovering nicely from a recent hospitalization.

Mary Braunagel whose home was destroyed by fire 11/17. (She and her husband are living in a rented home while theirs is being re-built. They lost two cats, and their dog is quite ill. They have adequate clothing, but can use moral support and perhaps household furnishings when they have a new home.)

The **family and friends** of **Eleanor Moore** whose memorial service will be at UUCT on January 13.

Dinners for 8

Winter round after Jan. 1. Hosting means welcoming guests to your home, providing main dish (any style or theme you wish), and calling the others to complete menu. Two dinner categories: adults-only and intergenerational. Adults without children welcome to sign up for intergenerational; and adults with children, find a sitter and enjoy an all-adult evening. To participate as guest or host, contact Junelle Brandt (893-5511, junellebrandt@earthlink.net).

Welcome New Friend!

* *Diedra Schaub*

New UU Sessions

Next sessions: **Wednesdays, 12/6 and 12/13**. Sign up at back of sanctuary, or contact the church office (uuct@nettally.com, 385-5115) or membership chair Trudy Deyle (422-1057, gdeyle@juno.com). Childcare available on request.

Offered on a regular basis for those new to Unitarian Universalism and UUs new to UUCT, usually two weeknights, but occasionally in one 3-hour Sunday afternoon session. Participants share some about themselves, including their spiritual journeys, and learn a little about the church and the greater UU movement. Some discussion time. Rev. Lyn co-facilitates 2nd night.

Connecting with Visitors

The "Greet & Meet Group" is a special team of UUCTers who take the initiative to really connect with visitors during Sunday social time. To volunteer for group or making phone calls to visitors, contact Linda Oaksford (422-0240, lloaksford@earthlink.net).

On-going Opportunities

- **2nd Saturday Workdays:** Contact Don Berger (422-2847, berger-don@comcast.net).
- **Nursery Help:** Contact DRE Maggie Geraci (877-6301, dremaggie@earthlink.net).
- **2nd Monday Shelter Meal:** Contact Frank Deasy (907-1740, deasyf@comcast.net).

Current UUCT Stats

- **Certified Membership (as of 1/06) -174**
- **Current Membership - 173**
- **Current No. Friends - 52**
- **Average Sunday Service Attendance - Adults**
 - **October 2006: 95.6**
 - **7/06 - 10/06: 97.5**
 - **7/05 - 6/06: 99.4**
 - **7/04 - 6/05: 107.3**
 - **7/03 - 6/04: 107.4**
 - **7/02 - 6/03: 96.5**
- **RE Enrollment (nursery - 12th)**
 - **06-07: 40 (incomplete)**
 - **05-06: 52**
 - **04-05: 61**
- **Average RE Attendance (not including Fun Days)**
 - **11/06 - 28**
 - **9/06 - 11/06: 29**
 - **9/05 - 5/06: 27**
 - **9/04 - 5/05: 33.8**

- **Sunday Hospitality and Clean Up:** Contact December kitchen controller Carolyn Pardue (pardue2@comcast.net, 386-1494).
- **Sunday Service Greeter:** Contact Debbie Holt (553-3231, holt0119@earthlink.net).

Lifespan Religious Education

Youth Religious Education (RE)

Committee Meeting, Sun. 12/3, 9:30 AM, Rm. K

YOUTH RE CONTACTS:

- **Eliza Coyne, Youth RE Committee Chair (877-5415; krelcoyne@gmail.com)**
- **Vacant, Nursery Sub-Committee Chair**
- **Maggie Geraci, Director of Religious Education (DRE), (dremaggie@earthlink.net; wkdays, 443-2586; eves & wkends, 877-6301)**

December RE Classes

Explorers (ages 3 to 5)

12/3 "Winter Brings Changes"

12/10 "Different Religions Celebrate..."

The Artists (grades K, 1, 2)

12/3 "A Time For Freedom of Worship"

12/10 "A Time For Joy to Be Born"

The Bridgers (grades 3, 4, 5)

12/3 "Moses in the Bulrushes"

12/10 "Moses and the Burning Bush"

Youth Group (grades 6 – 12)

Sundays 10:30 to 12:30, includes business meeting, discussion topics, and activities.

Contact a Youth Group Advisor for more details.

For All Classes

12/17 Intergenerational Service – all children attend, no RE classes.

12/24 Evening Christmas Eve Intergenerational Service (no morning service or RE classes).

12/31 Holiday Fun Day – all elementary-age children gather in Room K for fun activities. Crafts, games, and a few special treats.

Holiday Fun Day Help Needed

If you'd like to volunteer as a helper for Holiday Fun Day, 12/31, please contact DRE Maggie Geraci.

December WOOHOO Wednesday

What could be more representative of this magical, holiday time than a meal shared in community?

Wednesday 12/20, 6:30 PM, sanctuary

Stone Soup (postponed from Nov.) & Singing!

Bring an ingredient (chopped vegetable, pasta, rice or a seasoning) for community soup.

Carol Sing in Rm. L afterwards.

Set-up help needed - come around 6:00 PM if you can.

All ages are invited to attend!

Contact: DRE Maggie

FL District CONS

The Youth Group and their advisors decide which FL District CONS to attend. Trained advisors must accompany youth to district CONS. CON schedule:

1/12-14 All-Age Con, Gainesville

2/16-18 Transition-In Con, TBA

3/16-18 Social Action Con, TBA

4/27-28 Youth Caucus, Clearwater

5/4-6 All Age Con, Tampa

✽2006-2007 MT. CON Schedule✽

2/2 - 4 Junior High

2/16 - 18 Elementary

3/2 - 4 Senior High

For more information or to volunteer to take a group, contact DRE Maggie.

Adult Enrichment

Planning Meeting, Thurs. 12/14, 6:00 PM, sanctuary

ADULT ENRICHMENT CONTACTS:

- **Isabel Sheridan, Adult Enrichment Coordinator (iasheridan@nettally.com, 668-0785)**
- **Maggie Geraci, Director of Religious Education (dremaggie@earthlink.net; wkdays, 443-2586; eves & wkends, 877-6301)**

Intergenerational Coding

In an effort to address the needs of all our congregants, find the following codes at the ends of some classes:

Baby-friendly – Infants and young toddlers welcome to come w/ parents, who assume responsibility for them.

Childcare provided – Childcare has already been lined up for this.

Childcare available upon request – Let contact know childcare needed; s/he will arrange for it at or near gathering.

In addition, transportation can be arranged upon request for those who cannot or prefer not to drive. Please contact the Adult Enrichment coordinator for assistance.

Details on Classes

Classes which have an asterisk following class name have more detailed information available at Sunday RE welcome table or church website:

www.nettally.com/uuct (Adult Enrichment Offerings or Religious Education - Adult Programs).

Current Classes & Opportunities

Exploring Spiritual Practices.

Newcomers of all ages are welcome! Join us on our journey, by exploring some simple spiritual practices. Led by Rev. Lyn Plumb. Class meets in the sanctuary at

Lifespan Religious Education (Continued)

7:00 PM on Thursday, Dec. 14.

Will continue throughout the winter and into the spring. Contact Rev. Lyn (LynPlumb@aol.com, 671-2634).

Future Classes and Opportunities

The following classes will be offered in the winter and spring. Visit the Lifespan RE table on Sundays for the latest information and to sign up for the class.

Evensong. This 8-session course is designed to promote a deeper sense of community in a small group setting that allows deep listening and knowing of each other. We are planning multiple groups of ten with a facilitator for each. The class facilitated by Rev. Lyn Plumb starts **February 4, running the first, third, and fifth Thursdays through early May.** Sign up at the Sunday RE table or contact Rev. Lyn (385-5115, LynPlumb@aol.com). See January *Meridian* for schedule of **additional classes and facilitators.**

Practicing Right Relations. Starts in **late January.** See *Right Relations Initiative* on pg. 3. Contacts: Jennifer Carver (402-0622, jzcarver@earthlink.net), Isabel Sheridan (668-0785, iahseridan@nettally.com).

Monthly Potlucks & Discussions for Parents*. Will begin in the **spring of 2007**, depending on interest. UUCT parents would come together to share a meal. After the meal, the discussion would center on *Parents as Resident Theologians*, a UUA-published parenting course which helps adults articulate their religious experiences and beliefs in order to more effectively respond to children's religious questions.

Would occur monthly throughout the year. Parents of all ages would be welcome! Contact DRE Maggie Geraci for more information.

UU Parent Support Group.

Several parents have expressed an interest in forming a parent support group. Participants will play a role in planning the format and topics discussed. Sign up at the Sunday RE table or contact Cathy Briggs (219-3637, cbriggs@nettally.com).

UU Committed Couples

Enrichment Program*. A new, 20-hour, UU principles- and values-based enrichment program designed for married/partnered adults, gay and straight alike, to nurture intimacy, spiritual connection, and emotional fulfillment. To be offered as a series of short workshops or as a more intensive retreat-type program. **Currently seeking volunteer couples to facilitate some or all of the course.** Contact Kim Ross (877-1972, kim@associatedadvocates.com).

On-Going Opportunities

Adult Forum. Meets **Sundays 9:45-10:45 AM**, Rm. L. Open to everyone. See front page of this *Meridian* for the month's topics. Contact: Norene Chase (422-1985, nochase@earthlink.net).

The UUCT Book Club*. Meets at **7:00 PM the 2nd Tuesday** of every month in Rm. C. Newcomers are welcome. Contact: Linda Oaksford (lloaksford@earthlink.net, 422-0240). Childcare available upon request.

- 12/13: *March*, Geraldine Brooks
- 1/10: *The Sea*, John Banville

Freethinkers' Forum*. Meets weekly to study and discuss issues of philosophy and religion, inc. the contributions to civilization of freethinkers across the ages, the history and evolution of religious mythology, and the effects of organized religion on our democracy and the world's civilizations. Meets **Thursdays, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM**, Rm. L. Contact Ron Crowe (rongcro2@juno.com, 997-5307).

Knitting for All*. Meets **Thursdays at 7:00 PM**, Rm. 3/6. Baby-friendly. Contact: Chelsea Fox (chelsuu@yahoo.com, 421-1575).

UU Buddhist Fellowship. Will resume when Anne Rudloe is again able to lead the group, anticipated to be in **Spring 2007.** Contact: Anne Rudloe (984-5204, rudloe@bio.fsu.edu).

Programs at The Mountain

New Year's Celebration, 12/29 - 1/1, "Living Simply and Well," with gifted musicians Randy and Sandra Locke.

Elderhostels throughout the year.

For more info., contact The Mountain (828-526-5838, info@mountaincenters.org) or UUCT Mountain Ambassador Elinor Elfner (524-1026, eelfner@comcast.net) or visit www.mountaincenters.org.

Campus Ministry Corner

By Brian Lee, Campus Ministry Coordinator

The UUUs have had a busy semester, helping out with the Shelter Meal each month and participating in the CROP Walk and the CIW Breakfast (Coalition of Immokalee Workers). All that and classes, too! We also had the pleasure of attending long-time UUU member Jessica Gist's flute recital on Friday, Nov. 17. Jess is a very expressive and talented musician, and it was quite a

privilege to have the opportunity to hear her perform.

With the end of the fall semester and the holiday season upon us, the UUU schedule will be a bit abbreviated this month. **Coffee hour** will be held at **6:30 PM Fridays** on **Dec. 1**, with following festivities at the First Friday Gallery Hop, and also **Dec. 8** and **Dec. 15**. Location: All Saints Café located at

903 Railroad Ave., one block south of Gaines St.

For more information about the University Unitarian Universalists, contact your Campus Ministry coordinator Brian Lee (877-1972, brianlee@hcsmail.com). To sign up for our email list please send an email to UUUTally-subscribe@yahoo.com.

Are We Tallahassee's Best Kept Secret?

By Dan Damerville

If we are serious about increasing the membership of our church, why do we forego the most effective (and cost-effective) way of putting out the good word? I'm referring to the church street sign.

I was told the sign was selected to "blend in" (or something to that effect). Think about that for a moment. A sign designed to "blend in" is like a candle that sheds no light, a book of blank pages, a face that can't be kissed, a kielbasa that can't . . . you get the idea.

Here's a contest/game: Try to find any church sign in Tallahassee that conveys less information than ours. While other churches list times, events, and pass along pithy (yes, sometimes idiotic) messages, we don't even announce when services are held!

To take two nearby examples, the church just north of us has an attractive sign that offers ample space for information. NFC/Temple Baptist has two "scrolling" signs. All we have on our sign is our

name and the street address number. Yes, the number might be helpful, except the only people who read it are already there.

Think about the thousands of cars that pass the church everyday (often at a crawl). What message does our sign convey? I think it whispers, "We're back in the woods . . . leave us alone."

Is that all we have to say to the community?

FL District News

FL District Packet mid-November messages from FL District Executive Kenn Hurto and Acting Lifespan Program Consultant Connie Goodbread are posted at the back of the sanctuary. Rev. Kenn writes: "Networking among congregations is a priority for me, because no one has all the wisdom we need nor are the challenges we face unique." He also reminds us of the motion adopted at the 2006 UUA General Assembly: "Resolved, that the Delegates to General Assembly are charged to work with their congregations to hold at least one pro-

gram over the next year to address racism or classism, and to report on that program at next year's GA." Rev. Kenn asks if our congregation has made such plans.

In her message, Connie Goodbread continues the discussion of "The Smart Church" that she began in October. She asks us to think about our congregation and answer these questions:

- How are people greeted?
- How are they welcomed into the community?

- Who is welcomed? Do we leave open space for true diversity?

- Who does the congregation serve?

- How and when do we talk about UUism? Do we practice deep listening?

- What is the path to membership? Do we take membership seriously?

- What are the privileges of membership and the responsibilities?

- How do we communicate both to prospective members?

Events: UUCT, District, The Mountain, National

Upcoming UUCT Events

Peace Dances, Dec. 2, 7:30 PM.

Simple, meditative circle dances, rejuvenating and uplifting. Contact: Tom and Katya Taylor (656-9321, katyata@earthlink.net).

Congregational Voting Meeting, Sunday, Dec. 3, 12:30 PM.

Approving: UUCT Solar Project and related bridge loan; additions to 2006-2007 operating budget. See mid-November information distribution to congregation.

Contact: DeWayne Carver (402-0622, ddcarver@earthlink.net).

All-Church Workday, Saturday, Dec. 9, 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM.

Enjoy fellowship working on chores and projects to keep our buildings and grounds in shape. Contact: Don Berger (422-2847, bergerdon@comcast.net).

Second Sunday Potluck, Dec. 10, 12:30 PM. Bring your favorite dish.

Neighborhood Zones Meeting, Sunday, Dec. 10, 12:30 PM. Pat Maurer, commuter services manager with Commuter Services of Northwest Florida, will meet with us. We'll view the map of Tallahassee with the homes of our membership circled. This will assist us in carpooling and in creating neighborhood zones for caring.

Contact: Joanne Taylor (893-9024, taylorjoanne@earthlink.net).

Woohoo Wednesday, Dec. 20, 6:30 PM. A communal meal in the sanctuary followed by carol singing in Rm. L. See *Youth RE*. All welcome! Contact: DRE Maggie Geraci (dremaggie@earthlink.net, 877-6301).

Christmas Eve Service, Sunday, Dec. 24, 7:00 PM. Our traditional intergenerational service, followed by a dessert potluck. Note: In place of a Sunday morning service.

UU Winterfest, Friday, December 15, 7:00 PM

A celebration for all ages! Bring a dessert and food items for ECHO.

- 7:00 PM activities and music (make decoration, write a card or haiku, decorate tree, pack food for ECHO).
- 8:00 PM yummy desserts, more music, storytelling, and lighting the tree.
- 9:00 PM circle dances.
- Clean-up by everyone to follow.
- **After glow** by the fire outside with hot wassail and banjo picking.

Contact Charlotte Dudley (668-7126, lcdudley@yahoo.com).

Church Council Meeting,

Sunday, Jan. 14, 12:30 PM. In Rm. L. Main agenda item will be reviewing the draft asking budget with the VP for Finance. Contact: Steve Urse (385-2864, surse2@earthlink.net).

Non-UUCT Events

- Every Sunday, 7:00 PM, Gentle Shepherd Metropolitan Community Church (Sanctuary)
- Every Tuesday, 7:00 PM, Zen Meditation (Sanctuary)
- Sat. 12/9, 4:00 PM-9:00 PM, Capital City Cyclist Club (sanctuary)

FL District Events

For more information on these events, contact church office, look on the sanctuary back counter or bulletin board, or visit www.floridadistrict.org.

Southeast UU Winter Institute (SWIM), Tues. 12/26 – Mon. 1/1, West Palm Beach.

Curriculum Renaissance Module, Fri.-Sun., 1/19-21, at UUCT for District RE community.

District Youth Ministry Gathering, Sat. 2/10, Tampa. FL vision for local youth programs.

Social Action Workshop, Sat. 3/3, with UUSC President Charlie Clements, Clearwater

District Annual Assembly, Fri. & Sat. 4/27 & 4/28, Clearwater

National Events



UUSC JustWorks Camps. February - August. Katrina Relief, Return to Earth Camp, GA One-day Teen Camp, Civil Rights Journey, Teen Leadership. (www.uusc.org/info/workcamps)

wUUrld's 2007 WhaleCoast Alaska. June or July. Alaskan UUs host & lead tours. See UUCT bulletin board or www.wuurld.org, alaska@wuurld.org, 888-998-8753.

UU Niagara Experience. 7/15 - 7/17/07. Explore rich historical & natural wonders (www.uunex.net).


MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR SPECTACULAR FUNDRAISERS

Saturday, February 10:

 5:00 – 7:00 PM – Chili & Chocolate Dinner (by UUCT Executive Board) 

5:00 – 7:30 PM – UUCT Silent Auction (live auction at 6:30 PM)

Sunday, February 11:

9:30 AM – 2:00 PM – Silent Auction continues 

Sunday, February 24:

UUCT Rummage Sale

Details in January *Meridian*!

December 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 6:30pm University UUs, Off-site	2 9:00am Riley House Rock-a- thon, off-site 7:30pm Universal Dances of Peace, Sanctuary
3 9:30am Youth RE Committee, Rm K 9:45am Adult Forum, Rm L 12:30pm Congregational Voting Meeting, sanctuary	4 7:00pm Bldgs. & Grnds. Comm., Rm C	5	6 7:00pm New UU, Rm L 7:30pm Choir Practice, Sanctuary	7 7:00pm Freethinkers' Forum, Rm L 7:00pm Knitting for All, Rm 3/6 7:15pm Membership Committee, Rm C	8 6:30pm University UUs, Off-site	9 9:00am All Church Workday
10 9:45am Adult Forum, Rm L 12:30pm Potluck, Sanctuary 12:35pm Neighborhood Zones Meeting, Sanctuary 12:35pm Program Committee, Rm L	11 3:00pm Memorial Garden Committee, Sanctuary 5:00pm University UUs, Off-site 7:15pm The Shelter Meal, Off- site	12 12:30pm Personnel Committee, off- site 6:30pm Committee on the Ministry, Rm K 7:00pm UUCT Book Club, Rm C	13 7:00pm New UU, Rm L 7:30pm Choir Practice, Sanctuary	14 6:00pm Adult Enrichment Planning, Sanctuary 7:00pm Freethinkers' Forum, Rm L 7:00pm Exploring Spiritual Practices, Sanctuary 7:00pm Knitting for All, Rm 3/6	15 10:00am Winterfest Set Up, Sanctuary 12:30pm Meridian Deadline 6:30pm University UUs, Off-site 7:00pm Winterfest, sanctuary	16
17 9:45am Adult Forum, Rm L 5:00pm Executive Board Meeting, Rm L	18 Rev. Lyn Vacation 3:00pm Finance Committee, Rm K	19 Rev. Lyn Vacation	20 Rev. Lyn Vacation 6:30pm Woohoo Wednesday, Sanctuary (Rm L, 7:30 PM) 7:30pm Choir Practice, Sanctuary	21 Rev. Lyn Vacation 7:00pm Knitting for All, Rm 3/6 7:00pm Freethinkers' Forum, Rm L	22 Rev. Lyn Vacation	23
24 NO: ADULT FORUM, MORNING SERVICE, OR YOUTH RE 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service & Dessert Potluck, Sanctuary	25	26	27	28 7:00pm Knitting for All, Rm 3/6	29	30 Rev. Lyn Vacation, through 1/8/07
31 Rev. Lyn Vacation NO CHOIR PRACTICE 9:45am Adult Forum, Rm L						

Unitarian Universalist Church of Tallahassee
2810 N. Meridian Road
Tallahassee, FL 32312

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Phone: 850-385-5115 Church Office hours: M-F
7:00-3:30 (Closed 11:00-11:30)
Fax: 850-385-5834
Email: uuct@nettally.com



Our Web Address:
www.nettally.com/uuct

Building A Home for Liberal Faith

Our Staff:

Rev. Lyn Plumb, Interim Minister, 385-5115 (office),
671-2634 (home study); LynPlumb@aol.com.
Office hours: Tues. & Wed., 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM;
Thurs., 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM; and by appointment.

Kathie Mackie, Office Administrator, 385-5115;
uuct@nettally.com

Helen Meacham, Music Director, 556-2533;
pianoskin@nettally.com

Maggie Geraci, Director of Religious Education,
wkdays: 443-2586; eves. & wkends: 877-6301;
dremaggie@earthlink.net. Office hours: by appointment

Brian Lee, Campus Ministry Coordinator, 877-1972;
brianlee@hcsmail.com

Emmy Barthel-Mackie, Nursery Worker, 553-4574;
sattcomm74@yahoo.com

Our Mission:

"The mission of UUCT is to be a liberal religious presence that supports individual spiritual quests and service to others in a community of open hearts, minds, and doors."

<p>Our Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* DeWayne Carver, President* Christine Boczarska, Past President* Steve Urse, President Elect* Molly Schmid, Secretary* Dave Harvey, VP for Management* Charlotte Dudley, VP for Worship* VP for Social Justice, Abbe Justus* Jim Dawson, VP for Finance* Kelley Turnage, VP for Religious Education* Dick Leinberry, VP for Church Community	<p>Non-Voting Members are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Ellen Dempsey, Treasurer* Joan Patterson, Asst. Treasurer* Tom Chase, Collecting Treasurer <p>The Committee on the Ministry</p> <p>Bob Deyle, chair Maria Mena Tony Lloyd</p> <p>Directory Changes</p> <p>If your mailing address, phone number or e-mail address changes, please let the office know. Unless you direct us otherwise, changes will be published in updates.</p>	<p>Membership Notes</p> <p>To explore becoming a member or supporting friend, contact Rev. Lyn Plumb, Membership chair Trudy Deyle or president DeWayne Carver.</p> <p>Help our visitors by wearing your nametag on Sundays. New members and friends receive name tags. Contact church office for replacements (\$6.60).</p> <p>Next new member recognition: This winter</p> <p>Mark Your Checks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Note the purpose of every check in the memo line (pledge, UUSC...)• Note the month or fiscal year for pledge checks.
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