

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



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IN THIS ISSUE

Sundays Front Page
 Calendar.....Back Page
 Minister’s Message..... Page 2
 Announcements Pages 2-3
 Appreciation Pages 3-4
 Lifespan Religious Education..... Pages 4-5
 Campus Ministry/Mountain..... Page 6
 Green Corner..... Page 6
 Social Justice..... Page 7
 About Our New Members Page 7
 Rev. Amy’s Invocation..... Page 8
 Facilities Update..... Pages 8-9
 Our Congregation Page 10
 December UUCT Events..... Page 11
 UUCT After December Pages 11-12
 District & National Events Page 12
 More on Sunday Topics..... Page 12
 Social Activities December Page 13

TO CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE

OFFICE HOURS M-F - 7:00 - 3:30

(Closed 11:00-11:30 AM)

PHONE: 385-5115 FAX: 385-5834

E-MAIL ADDRESS: uuct@electro-net.com

WEBSITE: www.electro-net.com/~uuct/

SUNDAY SERVICES BEGIN AT 11:00 AM

Sunday, Dec. 2	“Myths You Can Hang Your Hat On”, Rev. Amy
Sunday, Dec. 9	“Shaken Foundations”, Rev. Amy
Sunday, Dec. 16	“Bad Girls of the Bible” Rev. Amy
Sunday, Dec. 23	“Spirit of the Christmas Tree” Intergenerational Service
Monday, Dec. 24 7:30 PM	Intergenerational Christmas Eve Service, Rev. Amy and Rev. Paul Anway (of Gentle Shepherd Metropolitan Community Church)
Sunday, Dec. 30	“Thinking, Talking, Doing” Guest Speaker, Anne Rudloe

For service topic details see p. 12.

EVERY SUNDAY:

9:30 AM	Zen-Tao-Buddhist Sangha
9:45 AM	Choir Practice & Adult Forum (No Choir Practice Dec. 30)
10:30 AM	Child Care - until 12:30 PM
11:00 AM	Youth RE Program Classes for Pre-K-12th grade High School class meets off-site (No HS class Dec. 23 & 30)



OPEN MINDS - OPEN HEARTS - OPEN DOORS

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

By Rev. Amy McKenzie

It is easy to forget that one of the tasks of this season is to reflect on our hopes. Our attention is pulled in many directions: shopping, decorating, school holiday concerts. Our psyches are absorbed with attempts to become informed without becoming obsessed about terrorism here and our war abroad. At least I can say that my attention is pulled and my psyche is absorbed. And again this year, my hopes continue to be for abiding peace, love, joy and justice.

Those are lifetime goals, for me, for you and for who knows how many generations, for the world. In the meantime, I've taken on another project that it seems few have completed: the entire text of native New Yorker, Herman Melville's novel - *Moby Dick*. I started reading the novel because it showed up on my cultural radar three times in news magazine articles. I'm not done yet, but am determined to finish. Though Melville was a strong anti-Emersonian, and Ralph Waldo Emerson was a Unitarian minister as well as a "Transcendentalist," I've harvested a few gems that I want to share with you.

Ishmael, the narrator, described his story ("WHALING VOYAGE BY ONE ISHMAEL") as a tiny piece nestled between two events: "Grand Contested Election for the Presidency of the United States." And "BLOODY BATTLE IN AFFGHANISTAN (sic.)" Melville's book was from 1851.

A whaler turned preacher, Father Mapple, says: "...on the starboard hand of every woe, there is a sure delight; and higher the top of that delight, than the bottom of the woe is deep."

About a third of the way through, Ishmael states that small monuments "may be finished by their first architects; grand ones, true ones, ever leave the copestone (crown, or finishing touch) to posterity. God keep me from ever completing anything. This whole book is but a draught (draft)—nay, but the draught of a draught. Oh, Time, Strength, Cash, and Patience!"

I'll finish reading this book, but it's just a little thing. When it comes to "true" strivings, I wish for all of us: enough time, strength, cash, and patience to make headway on a grand project—one that has been started by our ancestors, that may be completed by our descendants, but which must be furthered by us. Only leave the finishing touches to posterity.

May every day of the holidays be a holy day,
In Faith,
(Rev.) Amy

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLANNED GIVING

The Planned Giving program is an ongoing project to encourage members of the congregation to make bequests to the Endowment Fund of UUCT by will, by a remainder annuity, or by some other instrument. At present we are aware of gifts

totaling about \$50,000. We have two goals. The first is to encourage everyone to make a will and to consider including a bequest to UUCT. A gift does not have to be large, though large gifts are welcome. The second is to encourage each person who has made a bequest or other future gift to fill out a form that can be kept on permanent file. For further information or to get a copy of the form, contact DeLos DeTar (385-5115 or ddetar@tdo.infi.net).

DONATIONS OF STOCK

If you wish to give a donation to UUCT in the form of stocks, bonds or mutual funds, please contact Joan Patterson (309-1248 or jpatters@mailers.fsu.edu). Donations of stock may be made to fulfill your annual pledge, your pledge for the Capital Campaign, or for any other fund or program of the church. Gifts of equities or bonds are particularly appropriate as we approach the end of the year if you wish to take advantage of the tax-related deduction.

ELECTRONIC MERIDIAN

Thank you to all those who indicated your willingness to receive *The Meridian* electronically. We have stopped sending you your printed copy; please let Kathie Mackie know if you'd rather still receive it. If you are not on the electronic *Meridian* list

Alternative Gift Giving For The Holidays



If you are looking for an alternative gift idea for the holidays, you need go no further than UUCT. Please consider "giving" your spouse, child, or relative a new chair for the sanctuary, or asking them to give one in your honor. Although the Capital Improvement Committee (CIC) has not yet made its final selection, a good estimate is \$50 per chair. We hope to have a small plaque on the gifted chairs or on a wall, indicating the name of the donor and the person in whose honor/memory it was given, and there will be a gift card that you can present to the honoree or his/her family. Donations of less than \$50 will be accepted. **Please contact Joan Patterson** if you wish to make a gift of a chair or have one given in your honor or in memory of someone (309-1248 or jpatters@mailers.fsu.edu). **Joan or Trudy Deyle will also be present on Sunday mornings through December 23**, with donor forms in hand.

and are willing to be, let Kathie know (uuct@electro-net.com).

AT THE BACK OF THE SANCTUARY

- * **The Sunshine:** Our Florida UU District newsletter. Also available at the District website: www.cyberstreet.com/uuFLD/
- * **Mountain Information:** Program schedules and brochures.
- * **What's Happening at UUCT?:** Be sure to check this bulletin board out each week for information on upcoming events.

MUSIC COMMITTEE

We are looking for a few music-loving members and friends, especially those not in the choir, to meet two or three times a year to help plan priorities for the Music Program. Call Isabel Sheridan (668-0785) or Helen Falb (422-0603) for details.

SUNDAY SET-UP

Five to ten people are needed to help set up the sanctuary chairs on Sunday mornings at 9:15. If you are coming to choir practice or Adult Forum anyway, this is an opportunity to work on an important task and save the church some money (by doing it ourselves rather than paying a custodial service to make an extra trip). To volunteer, contact Tom Chase (422-1985 or twchase@tallynet.com).

ON-GOING OPPORTUNITIES

- **B & B Host:** Be one of the homes for our UUCT listing in the nationwide UU B & B directory, *Homecomings*. Donate half (or all) the room fee to UUCT. Contact Lois Bloom (402-9044) or Pam Hoskins (893-5039).
- **Coffee Hour Host:** Sign up on the clipboard at the back of the sanctuary or contact Hospitality

Chair Dick Leinberry (386-4977).

- **Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual-Transgender Welcoming Congregation Committee:** Welcoming Congregations work toward reducing prejudice by increasing understanding and acceptance among people of different sexual orientations. If you are interested in helping our congregation become a certified UUA Welcoming Congregation, contact Isabel Sheridan (668-0785).
- **Shelter Meal:** Monday, December 10, 7:45 PM. To contribute or assist with, call Karen or John Mann (562-4781).
- **Social Justice Opportunity:** TCC's Reach Out Program (CROP) needs mentors for middle & high schoolers. Contact Isabel Sheridan (668-0785) or Craig Fletcher (201-8312).
- **New Social Justice Opportunity:** Or assist CROP by donating two or more tickets to a cultural event for a mentor and mentee. An example would be individual tickets that are part of a season subscription to FSU or FAMU events. Call Isabel Sheridan (668-0785) at least two weeks in advance.
- **Sunday Service Greeter:** Contact Jean Chulak (385-2214 or jeanchulak@aol.com).

ATTENTION COMMITTEES

Committees should begin now to think about and discuss plans for the next fiscal year, July 2002 - June 2003. For the Church Council meeting in January, you should have put together your program plan narrative, budget request, and any fund raising proposals.

APPRECIATION

To **Elinor Elfner, Megan Bakan, Jim Dawson, Allen Turnage, Jean Chulak, Barbara Sterling, Laura and Barney Cook, Richard and Ellen Dempsey, Ed Oaksford, Kathryn Hansman-Spice and Byron Spice, and Joan Patterson** for greeting members and visitors on Sunday mornings November 4 - November 25.

To **Laura Cook and Dick Leinberry** for providing hospitality during the coffee hour, and to **all others who helped out in the kitchen**, November 4 - November 25.

To **Keith Henry** for donating a much newer plain paper FAX machine to the church office.

To **Alicia Ulferts** for letting the High School class meet in her home during November.

To **Tom and Alana Taylor** for hosting the 11/25 RE Fun Day! The kids had a blast learning cooperative games and making GIANT bubbles. Also, thanks to **Xing Wei and Lorin Pratt** for assisting.

To **Dave Harvey and Richard Chackerian** for repairing the night light outside the nursery.

To **Tom Chase** for sweeping the sanctuary roof.

To **everyone who gave** to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) during the special collection in November. \$605 was collected.

A CORNUCOPIA OF THANKS

By Will Adkins

To all the Pilgrims who participated, came out, and helped to create our annual UU Thanksgivingfest dinner again this year. Everybody helped in some way with food preparation, setup, and clean-up. Special big thanks to **Linda Logan, John Murphy, and Tim Campbell** for assisting with our setup and

decorations the night before. As always, a great gratitude and thankfulness to our event founder **Eleanor Moore**, and to **Wes Van Sciver**, for cooking and cutting the main meaty courses of our feast.

About forty-plus came out; we had enough hot dishes, rolls, turkey and ham, and pies galore to feed double that number; many of us ate till we fell asleep (almost); and most of us took plates and bowls full of food and dessert home for later eatings.

CROPWALK THANKS

Thanks to all who walked and donated in this year's CROPWALK. Twenty-three from UUCT walked, raising \$1,161. Thank you to **Kathy Barnett, Julia Draper, Robert Draper, Richard and Sharon Chackerian, Norene Chase, Dave Haldane, Walter, Pam, Becky, and Katie Hoskins, Kristin King, Holly Mackie, Corinne Hauck, Jane McPherson, Dan, Nathaniel, and Ursula Vitkus, Bryn Samuels, Lynn Schell, Sandy Smith, and Steve Urse, and Rev. Amy McKenzie**, who also served as the Co-Coordinator for the CROPWALK.

LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**NEXT YOUTH RE
COMMITTEE MEETING:
Sunday, December 2, 9:45 AM**

YOUTH RE CONTACTS: Fran Bridges, Youth RE Committee Chair (894-2965); Kelley Turnage, Nursery Sub-Committee Chair (553-9416); and Maggie Geraci, DRE [Director of Religious Education] (877-6301).

OUR CURRICULUM. The curriculum for this year includes series on justice, earth-based spirituality, and the UU principles.



NURSERY VOLUNTEERS DESPERATELY NEEDED!

Helping hands are desperately needed for our nursery/preschool kids. We have had large numbers of kids under the age of 4 in the nursery on Sundays. This is great, but a little hard on our nursery care provider, especially when many of the kids need a potty break at the same time! Helpers are needed to read stories, help put puzzles together, pour juice, clean up spills, push swings, etc. Great physical strength is not necessary, but a desire to see the smile on a child's face is. Please consider giving one Sunday a month or whenever you can spare one to our littlest UUCT-ers! Contact Kelley Turnage, Nursery Subcommittee Chair (553-9416) or Scott Geraci, Nursery Care Provider (sgeraci10@aol.com or 877-6301).

All classes, kindergarten through middle school, cover the same material, using age appropriate lessons. The High School class covers an eclectic mix of topics based on issues important to today's teens. See our *Lifespan Religious Education* brochure for more details on the curriculum and the general goals for each age grouping, as well as descriptions of special youth and family events throughout the year.

DECEMBER LESSONS. 12/2 - Green Sanctuary; 12/9 - Hanukkah Observance; 12/16 - Solstice Observance; 12/23 - Intergenerational Service in the sanctuary (All classes attend, including High School class); 12/30 - Fun Day of games and special activities for Kindergarten through Middle School classes. No High School class that day.

SPIRIT OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE. To prepare for the intergenerational Sunday service on December 23, the children (K—8th grade) will not be attending the beginning of the service for the first part of December. Instead, they will be meeting for 15 minutes with Fran Bridges, song leader, to learn the songs involved in this special service. After song practice, they will go to their regular RE class. On Sunday, December 16 at 9:45 AM in the sanctuary, there will be a joint rehearsal of the children and the choir in preparation for the service. If you have questions, contact DRE Maggie Geraci (DREMaggie@aol.com, 877-6301).

GUEST AT YOUR TABLE. At the November 18 service, children and youth received Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC). *Guest at Your Table* boxes. These are to keep on the tables where we eat throughout the holiday season, for making contributions to UUSC. Boxes are to be returned to church in January. If your family did not receive a box and would like one, see your teacher or DRE Maggie Geraci.

ATTACHMENT PARENTING SUPPORT GROUP. Attachment parenting develops an infant's or child's need for trust, empathy, and affection to create secure, peaceful, and enduring relationships. The group meets at 6:00 PM the third Tuesday of each month at UUCT and is open to the congregation and the Tallahassee community. Children are welcome. Contact: Maggie Geraci (877-6301; DREMaggie@aol.com).

YRUU

Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU) is our youth-led group for 12 - 20 year olds.

Meetings - Every Sunday evening, 6:00 - 8:00 PM, UUCT Room 4. Members take turns planning and leading meetings. No meeting 12/23.

Conferences - YRUU *members** can go to Florida District CONs (ages 12 - 20) and Mountain CONs. (*YRUU *members* come to meetings, but not necessarily every single meeting.) See the list of CONs below.

Florida District CONs:

- * December 7-9 Social Action
- * January 18-20 Gainesville
- * February 1-3 Spirituality Con
- * February 22-24 Lakeland
- * March 8-10 Social Action
- * April 12-14 Youth Caucus
- * April 19-21 Vero Beach

Mountain CONs: The first set of registration forms for these Mountain CONs has been sent in. Contact the YRUU advisors immediately about additional YRUUers interested.

- * January 18-20 Jr High
- * February 8-10 Sr High
- * February 22-24 Sr High

For more information about YRUU, call YRUU Advisors Jennifer and DeWayne Carver at 402-0622.

ADULT ENRICHMENT

ADULT ENRICHMENT

CONTACTS: Sheila Meehan, Adult Enrichment Coordinator (smeehan@hklaw.com; 668-5075). Maggie Geraci, Director of Religious Education (DREMaggie@aol.com; 877-6301).

UPCOMING CLASSES

Building Your Own Theology I & II.

Facilitated by Rev. Harold Hawkins, and to begin as soon as can be arranged, based on convenience of enrollees. A classic program for UUs to develop, understand, and articulate their own religious beliefs and values. Contact Harold (893-1331 or revhlhawk@aol.com).

Evensong: A Series of Gatherings. A new series of eight gatherings will begin in the new year. Evensong participants explore individual life journeys through sharing thoughts, experiences, doubts, and beliefs about traditional religious concepts. Contact Sheila Meehan (668-5075 or smeehan@hklaw.com).

New UU Sessions. Facilitated by Rev. Amy and Elinor Elfner on Mondays, January 28 and February 4 from 7:00 - 9:00 PM, these sessions

offer an opportunity for newcomers to explore the history, philosophy and policies of our congregation and denomination, as well as to share a little about their own spiritual journeys. Contact the church office (385-5115) or New UU Coordinator Steve Urse (385-2864).

Weaving the Fabric of Diversity.

Facilitated by Mary Ventre, Nancy Bass and Maria Mena, January - June, this anti-bias, pro-diversity program for adults involves examining and challenging some of our "isms" - ableism, racism, heterosexism, ageism, and classism - in the safe, respectful environment of religious community. Participants will tell their stories, listen to others and engage in a variety of activities. Watch for announcements for sign-up.

OPEN PARTICIPATION

Adult Forum, Sundays, 9:45 -10:45 AM. The forum is held in Room 4 and open to all interested. Every third Sunday the topic relates to the Green Sanctuary program, with December 16 being a review of John Perkins' Pulitzer Prize nominated book, *Spirit of the Shuar, Shapeshifting, The World Is As You Dream It.* If you have ideas for programs, contact Norene Chase (422-1985) to schedule.

Bible Study. On-going every Sunday evening through 12/2 at 7:00 PM at the home of Del and Patty DeTar, 1912 Sharon Rd. (385-3332). Each evening begins by watching two half-hour videos by Amy-Hill Levine on the Old or New Testament. Discussion follows. Join the group at any time; each evening stands alone. Watch for announcements on further Bible Study after the first of the year.

UU Night at the Movies. There will be movies and videos for viewing and discussing throughout the year. Dates and times TBA.

Women's Spirituality Group. Any women interested in learning more about Goddess spirituality may sign up at the RE table or contact Bonnie Foster (504-2963). The group meets on Mondays at 7:15 PM off-site.

ZEN-TAO-BUDDHIST SANGHA

"A Beginner's Launch Pad to Buddhism" — zTB Sangha meets every Sunday morning (9:30 to 10:45 AM) at the church or at Lake Ella (monthly "Peace Walks," starting at Black Dog Café deck). Our meetings are held either outdoors on the back grassy knoll or in Room 5 (through Room 2). Bring a pillow, blanket or bench, or portable chair, or whatever fits you best. Sanghas include readings, discussion, and a brief zazen (sitting) meditation. All are welcome anytime. Our schedule is posted in the church sanctuary. See the November *Meridian* for more information, or contact William Adkins (385-5071 or wmadins@post.harvard.edu).

UUHUMANISTS & SPEAK OUT

SPEAK - OUT! and UUHUMANISTS are now turned dormant -- from once-very-active groups -- looking for new leadership to breathe life back into them. Are you interested in leading? Contact Board member: Isabel Sheridan (668-0785).

UU Humanists is a study group to keep alive the spirit of modern humanism by providing opportunities to share ideas, knowledge and views about the current issues and controversial ideas of our modern life, religion and culture. Humanists vary widely in their beliefs, but generally regard our life on earth as all we have, as far as we know, and human beings as the ultimate source of all reliable knowledge and final arbiters of their actions.

CAMPUS MINISTRY CORNER

By Kim Ross

University Unitarian Universalists meet on Tuesday evenings at 8 PM at the International Center on FSU's Campus (107 S. Wildwood) for discussion and fellowship. They also meet for coffee hour on Fridays at 6 PM at the Black Dog Café on Lake Ella. All students and young adults (as well as those young at heart) are invited to join us for either event. There will be a break in meeting while FSU is not in session during the holidays. For information about these and other activities, contact Kim Ross (385-6856 or 443-4361 or kim@cennexus.com).

UUCT MOUNTAIN RETREAT

AUG. 30 - SEPT. 2, 2002

We have received a great response in pre-registrations for a UUCT Labor Day weekend 2002 *Mountain* Retreat. So far, we have about 25 people signed-up. If you are not registered yet, please see Rod Oldenburg or Rosa Morgan and submit a \$20.00 deposit, per interested adult, payable to UUCT (with "Labor Day Mountain Retreat" on the memo line). Programming decisions have not been finalized, so we welcome your suggestions; send them to Byron Spice. See the November *Meridian* article for more details on the retreat, including costs. Contacts:
Overall Coordinator, Rosa Morgan (668-0885)
Finances/Contract, Rod Oldenburg (297-0391)
Program, Byron Spice (668-6109) and Tim Campbell (386-7085)

THE MOUNTAIN

By Jean Chulak

Mountain Ambassador

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

The Gifts of the Solstice December 20-23 (Thu-Sun)

Each day's program will honor one of the four elements and the four directions. Childcare will be provided during some portions of the program; others will be intergenerational.

Light in the Dark: Christmas 2001 December 23-26 (Sun-Wed)

A simple, intergenerational celebration of Christmas.

New Years at The Mountain December 28-January 1 (Fri-Tue)

Explore the implications of interdependence and sustainability. Programming for youth of all ages.

2nd Volunteer Host Training January 11-13 (Fri-Sun)

Interested in volunteering as a program host? The weekend is free, but you will be asked to commit to hosting on one or more weekends during 2002. Full details are in the blue notebook on the back counter.

Adult CON January 25-27 (Fri-Sun)

Join the Mountain staff and guest workshop leaders for the first-ever Adult CONference. Morning and afternoon workshops.

FOR MORE INFORMATION about specific programs - including the many ELDERHOSTEL PROGRAMS scheduled for the fall and spring - or about *The Mountain* itself, see the bulletin board and/or blue notebook on the back counter or contact Jean Chulak, 385-2214; jeanchulak@aol.com. You may also make direct contact with The Mountain Retreat and Learning Centers, Highlands, NC (828) 526-5838.
www.mountaincenters.org.

GREEN CORNER

By Bob Deyle

Minimizing energy use for whatever refrigerator you have: "With a little planning, you don't really need to spend half an hour taking inventory every time you open the fridge. Think about what you want before you reach for the door. Better yet, get in the habit of keeping items in the same place in the fridge (e.g., milk in the door, eggs on the second shelf, chocolate cake front and center) so you don't have to rummage through the food, letting the cold air out. Your mother would be so proud." (Energy Hawk).

"Label items in the freezer clearly so you don't spend a lot of time with the door open trying to identify mystery casseroles from four months ago. Make sure foods are covered before you put them in the refrigerator. Otherwise the moisture in them will evaporate, which makes the refrigerator use more energy." (Energy Hawk)

Let foods cool before you put them into the refrigerator or freezer. But don't leave food out so long at room temperature that bacteria such as salmonella will start to multiply. The Energy Hawk website recommends not leaving food out longer than 30 minutes.

Allegedly, freezers work more efficiently when full than when nearly empty. Energy Hawk recommends putting some plastic containers like old milk jugs with water in them in the freezer to take up empty space. (Really. This isn't a joke!) Evidently there is debate about whether or not the same principle applies to refrigerators. Is there a physicist who can answer this one for us?

Clean those coils! Check those seals! Adjust the temperature! Cleaning the dust off the condenser coils at least once every six months

will improve cooling efficiency and reduce energy use.

Warped, cracked, or brittle rubber seals around fridge and freezer doors can let a lot of cool air out (and warm air in). For older refrigerators with non-magnetic door seals, use a dollar bill or sheet of paper to check how tightly your door seals adhere to the frame. For those with magnetic seals, try placing a battery-operated, 150-watt flood light inside the refrigerator, darkening the room, and looking for light leaks! New seals can be expensive so you might want to consider a new, low energy refrigerator if the seals are bad.

Recommended temperature settings vary. Energy Hawk says to set refrigerators at 36-40 F; ECO says 37-40F. The American Dietetic Associations says the temperature should be below 40 F for food safety. Other sources recommend temperatures of 35-38F for protection against food spoilage and bacterial growth. Energy Hawk recommends setting the freezer temperature at 0-5 F.

Make sure there is a minimum of 1 inch of space on each side of the refrigerator and the freezer to let the air circulate. Better yet, give the back of the refrigerator 4-6 inches of space (Energy Hawk).

SOCIAL JUSTICE UUCT DEATH PENALTY RESOLUTION

In early 2002, UUCT members will consider a resolution on a "Moratorium on the Death Penalty". The draft resolution, as developed by a committee consisting of Sandy Smith, Steve Urse, and Norene Chase, was published in the November *Meridian*. It was reviewed by the Racial and Cultural Diversity Committee at their November meeting and approved as published. The resolution will be considered by the congregation at a January discussion meeting. Call Sandy (297-0012), Norene (422-1985) or Steve (385-2864) for more information.

ABOUT OUR NEW MEMBERS

Pat and LaRae Donnellan. The Donnellan family recently moved to Tallahassee from Knoxville, Tennessee. Pat is a former bank attorney and fifth grade teacher. He is looking forward to substitute teaching and eventually a permanent teaching position. Pat enjoys golf, *The New York Times*, his family, Tony Hillerman novels, and the company of friends - though not necessarily in that order. Originally from New Jersey, this former altar boy has been a tag-a-long UU for years and now wants to commit himself more to the principles of UUism.

LaRae is a professor at Florida A&M University, teaching public relations and journalism. Previously she led communications offices at the universities of Tennessee, Idaho, and Vermont. Originally from Minnesota, LaRae loves Florida weather, singing, good movies, biking, and hanging out with her guys. She's been a UU for 15 years.

Son Michael just turned 14. He is an eighth-grader at Raa Middle School, where his favorite subject is math. He loves baseball, basketball, golf, and singing. Born in Vermont, Michael has attended UU churches his entire life.

Barbara Hines. Barbara moved to Tallahassee in early August, after spending the past 21 years in Muncie, Indiana. Her husband, David Hines, is currently teaching Psychology at Ball State University and will be joining her in July. Barbara is a lawyer for the state Department of Transportation and served as a judge, senior judge and Attorney General while in Indiana. She discovered UUism when her daughter and son, Meredith and Marc, tried out and were given parts in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* at the local UU church. She has now been a UU for about 18 years. At UUCT, she hopes to find friendship and people who are doing good things in the community. Her hobby is doing miniatures, and she is looking for a miniature club.

REV. AMY'S INVOCATION

Here is the invocation Rev. Amy delivered for the dedication of the World War II memorial on the lawn of the County Courthouse:

Please join me for a time of prayer. We gather in memory, we gather in thanks, we gather in hope. We lift our prayers to the Infinite, the god of no name and many names, that the meaning we seek may be made clearer, and the love and the justice we crave may be ours to give and to receive. Today we dedicate a statue and invoke sacred values. We lift up sacrifice, honor, duty, freedom, unity, and peace. The statue we will unveil has been made as a symbol to evoke our feelings of pride and gratitude, grief and love. The bricks portray names, and we hold their stories. Today we will share our stories and listen to truths. We pray for healing for the families and friends of those who died and served this country, most especially in World War II. We also pray for the well-being of all living veterans, including those in our midst. And we pray for the safety of our friends and loved ones, our defenders, the men and women now serving in active duty. May the statue, and the memorial, be a place for reflection, prayer, thought and meditation. May it remind those who come to the courthouse and those who pass by here of the freedom we cherish and our humanity: the greatness, the dignity, we are capable of, and the humility we may foster. We have gathered to recognize the blessing of lives lived in service of the Most High and to take the measure of ourselves next to our ideals. May the value of our lives shine forth in our hearts and in the minds of others. We end our prayer with the hope that this statue will inspire us to seek: justice worth fighting for, peace worth giving our lives to establish, a noble cause

worth our undivided attention, and sacrifices that will benefit future generations. We pray these things for the sake of all we hold dear. Amen.

FACILITIES UPDATE

By Trudy Deyle, CIC Chairperson

PERMITTING. Our phase one site plan was approved by city staff on November 26 with several minor adjustments specified, such as repositioning the now required bicycle rack. Staff approval is the only level of decision-making required for site plans. Our civil engineers had worked hard during November to resolve earlier concerns raised by staff. Because we are proposing additions and changes to our facilities, the city is examining our current facilities, including parking and driveways, to make sure they conform to current requirements. When we originally built the facilities in the early 1970's, there were few requirements.

The city is now requiring that we create a protected conservation easement along our south and west perimeters in currently undisturbed, sloped areas and also a four foot landscaped buffer on our north side, where parking extends to the lot line. This will require taking up some asphalt and shifting the driveway to the south somewhat.

Other requirements are that our driveway loop, beginning on our northside, be wide enough to accomodate a fire engine and that we have a fire hydrant on site. We also must create a ten foot landscape buffer between our asphalt parking area near Meridian and the road, take up the asphalt just behind our road sign, and take up or block off any parts of the current driveway which will no longer be used.

Another requirement is to move our storm water facility in slightly from our northwest corner. The city is saying that the corner is flood plain, and storm water facilities can not be located in flood plains. The design of the facility will be exactly the same, and the relocation should not interfere with any of our activities. It does mean a longer drain pipe from the facility to the creek where the pipe empties. These requirements will mean expenses we were not counting on, but hopefully they will not be excessive! A primary CIC guideline in any site plan adjustments continues to be sacrificing as few trees as possible.

ZONING CHANGE. By the time you receive this issue of *The Meridian*, we will know whether our required zoning change to a PUD (Planned Unit Development) has been approved. The unofficial word we are getting is that it will be approved at the November 28 City Commission meeting. The Capital Improvement Committee (CIC) has had some interaction with Starmount neighbors in recent weeks, explaining our plans to them, listening to any concerns they voiced, and answering their questions. We had three separate meetings with neighbors, had several phone conversations, and also mailed a letter and brief overview of our plans to all neighbors within the 525' city notification zone and all neighbors on Starmount. We would especially like to thank Starmount UUCTers

Helen Falb and Rod Oldenburg for assisting us in talking with and meeting with neighbors. With the phase one site plan already approved, we will be able to proceed with applying for an environmental permit as soon as the zoning change has been approved.

PHASE ONE CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS. Our architects have been working hard on the detailed plans for the Phase One building; they are working with several consultants, including a geological testing firm which will be doing soil borings to advise on choices for the building foundation and paving. The CIC reviewed preliminary building plans and has been busy researching specifications for the new building and discussing them via email - where phones or intercoms might be needed, where stubbed in plumbing and electrical connections should go in the kitchen, based on equipment to eventually be installed, etc. We are also consulting with UUCT users of the various facilities, such as members of our Youth RE team and those members who have prepared and served large and small meals from the kitchen. We will continue to meet with the architects and construction manager every two weeks, or more often if needed, in order to review the latest developments in the building plans.

INTERIM SANCTUARY IMPROVEMENTS. The CIC has a tentative choice for new carpet and is discussing specifications for a moveable stage; this will allow more flexibility in use and set-up of the sanctuary. With this change, we will move to using quality, cordless microphones all of the time. The new carpeting will cover the current stage area, the area of linoleum in back, and the north and south entry areas. We are close to a choice on chairs and have been collecting congregational opinions on sample

chairs on Sundays. It is possible that we will pick a complimentary but different style chair for the choir, as they have slightly different needs in a chair than the general congregation. Based on congregational input regarding comfort and appearance, we are now considering fabric-covered chairs in our final selection; we had originally specified no fabric. We have decided to postpone consideration of any window treatment until a later time - after we see how much improvement there is in acoustics when the sanctuary is fully carpeted and the chairs are covered in fabric.

DECEMBER NON-UUCT CALENDAR OF EVENTS	
Every Thursday (Sanctuary)	6:00 PM Intro. to Zen 7:15 PM Zen Meditation
Every Sunday	6:30 PM Urantia (Rm. 4) 7:00 PM Gentle Shepherd Metropolitan Community Church (Sanctuary)
Every Wednesday (Rm. 2)	7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender
Saturday, Dec. 1:	7:30 PM Peace Dances (Sanctuary)
Saturday, Dec. 8 & 22:	6 PM Spiral Scouts (Rm. 4)

OUR CONGREGATION

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.”

MEMBERSHIP

If you wish to explore being a member or friend of our congregation, contact Membership Chair Trudy Deyle (422-1057) or Rev. Amy.

UUCT NAME TAGS

Please, help our visitors get to know us by wearing your NAME TAG and thinking of yourself as “HOST”. New members will be given nametags. Others may order them (\$3.50 each); contact the office.

NEW MEMBER RECOGNITION

Sunday, January 27, 2002 during the service.

DINNERS

Dinners for 8 (adults only) and *Dinners for Families with Children* will resume in January. A primary purpose for both is to provide opportunities for newcomers to meet longer-term members and friends of the congregation. Contacts: Barbara Lineberry (668-0762) for *Dinners for 8* and Kelley Turnage (553-9416 or akt@nettally.com) for *Dinners for Families*.

BABY, WHAT'S FOR DINNER?

Are you expecting or adopting a child? If you or another UUCT member is expecting a new arrival, please contact Megan Bakan (216-0510, Dixon@psy.fsu.edu). If you are interested in preparing meals for new arrivals and their families during the first days of parenthood, please contact Megan.

OUR STAFF

Rev. Amy McKenzie's office hours at church: Monday & Wednesday 1:00 - 5:00 PM, Thursday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM. *These and others by appointment.*

E-Mail: revamq@earthlink.net
Home Study: 383-9186
Cellular Phone: 850-566-1388

Kathie Mackie, Administrative Assistant, 385-5115

Helen Falb, Music Director, 309-6853; helen@townbeacon.com

Maggie Geraci, Director of Religious Education, 877-6301; DREMaggie@aol.com

Kim Ross, Campus Ministry Coordinator, 443-4361; kim@cennexus.com

Scott Geraci, Nursery Worker, 877-6301; sgeraci10@aol.com

UUCT CLASSIFIEDS

For \$2 per month (3 month minimum), *members and supporting friends* may advertise their business or service on the bulletin board located near the north sanctuary doors. *Available to others* for \$5 per month. Submit ad and check for fee to church office.

LOST AND FOUND

We have many items in the lost and found right now. If you are missing anything, take a moment to look for it on top of the gray filing cabinet in the library.

LOST: A play station CD that was in Rev. Amy's church mailbox. If you find or found it, please turn it into the office.

JOYS AND SORROWS

We keep in our thoughts and prayers, minds and hearts...

Dexter Easton and his family as they adjust to life without wife, mother and grandmother Jean Easton.

The memory of two former UUCT ministers who died recently, **Rev. Harry Thor and Rev. Vi Kochendoerfer**.

Toni Latino whose father Anthony Latino died last month.

Congratulations to Holly Mackie who won a first place ribbon at the North Florida Fair for her artwork.

CURRENT UUCT STATS

Certified Membership (as of 1/01).....	158
Current Membership.....	180
Current Youth Membership.....	2
Current Number of Friends.....	42
Average Church Attendance for November	95
RE Enrollment	84

THE COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Chair: Annette Pearce (386-4053);
Richard Dempsey (671-2748);
Christine Boczarska (893-7079).
Rev. Amy is a non-voting member.

DECEMBER UUCT EVENTS

RCDC OUTING, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 4:00 PM. The Racial and Cultural Diversity Committee invites everyone to attend the art exhibit "Hello Cuba" at the Mary Brogan Museum and then go to dinner at Carlos' Cuban Cafe. We will meet in front of the museum at 4:00 PM and then meet at Carlos' at 5:30 PM. Feel free to join us for either part of this event. Contact: Annette Pearce (386-4053)

UUCT LUNCH, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 11:30 AM. Held at Jacob's at the Doubletree Inn downtown, this is a new, monthly lunch gathering for all interested members and friends of the congregation. Soup and salad is \$6.95, the full buffet \$10.95. Let Annette Pearce know if you are coming (386-4053 or 891-8660).

RILEY HOUSE MUSEUM'S ANNUAL ROCK-A-THON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8. Sponsored by the Racial and Cultural Diversity Committee (RCDC), this is our only fund raiser for Riley House for the year. Their Endowment Campaign of \$360,000 is within \$50,000 of the goal. So sign up to rock (in a rocking chair) and/or to sponsor a rocker. The sign-up table will be outside, weather permitting. Questions? Call Isabel Sheridan (668-0785).

SECOND SUNDAY POTLUCK, DECEMBER 9, 12:30 PM. Bring your favorite dish to share.

ALL CHURCH WORKDAY, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Enjoy fellowship working together on chores and projects needed to keep our buildings and grounds in shape. Contact: Tom Chase (422-1985).

YOUTH EVENTS

See Youth RE (p. 4).

- * **YRUU Meets** Sundays, 6-8 PM. No meeting 12/23.

ADULT ENRICHMENT

See Adult Enrichment (p. 5)

- * **Attachment Parenting Support Group**, Every Third Tues., 6:00 PM
- * **Bible Video & Discussion**, Sunday 12/2, 7:00 PM
- * **Evensong Gatherings**, 2nd & 4th Thurs. Eves.
- * **Rise Up & Call Her Name**, Resumes Jan. 10, every other Thurs., 6:30 PM
- * **Women's Spirituality**, Every Mon., 7:15 PM. Not 12/24 & 12/31.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Open to All Interested

- * **Capital Improvement**, Thurs. 12/13, 7:15 PM; Fri. 12/14, 3:30 PM. Contact: Trudy Deyle (422-1057)
- * **Finance**, Mon. 12/10, 7 PM. Contact: Del DeTar (385-3332)
- * **Green Sanctuary**, Sun. 12/16, 12:30 PM. Contact: Ed Oaksford (422-0240)
- * **Program**, Mon. 12/10, 7:00 AM. Contact: Richard Dempsey (671-2748)
- * **Racial & Cultural Diversity**, Tues. 12/11, 7 PM (Elinor Elfner's Oyster Bay Residence). Contact: Bob Kenon (878-3647)
- * **Youth RE**, Sun. 12/2, 9:45 AM. Contact: Fran Bridges (894-2965)

UUCT EVENTS AFTER DECEMBER

MULTICULTURAL FAMILIES GROUP, TUESDAY, JANUARY 1, 3:00 PM. This will be a covered dish celebration dinner for the new year at the home of Nancy Bass. Contact: Sandy Niedert (656-7894).

RCDC BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP. The Racial and Cultural Diversity Committee book discussion of *Kindred* by Octavia Butler has been postponed until January. Look for the announcement in the January Meridian for this and other activities

PLAN NOW TO DRESS WARM & FESTIVE!

Come one! Come All!

Young & Old! Old timer UUs and Young Families!

To UUCT's annual All Souls UU Winterfest

Winter Holidays Celebration

Friday, December 14

6:30 PM Happy Hour

7:00 PM Potluck Dinner (Bring a dish, dessert or drink)

8:00 PM Entertainment

To encourage as many people as possible to attend, no admission fee is being charged. However, to offset the costs of decorations and utilities, and to support the ongoing operations of the church, a goodwill offering will be taken.

Come enjoy the Music and song of Winter-tide from many lands and cultures — Madrigal, Yuletide, and traditional Christmas caroling (with sing-alongs) — a "10-in-One Show" About Winter Around the World — Storytelling from the olden times (20th Century America) — and a Peace-on-Earth Dance — plus Winter-Solstice sweets, treats and hot wassail. To get involved or for more information contact Will Adkins (385-5071 or wmadkins@infi.net).

to compliment January's "Blended Lives" program sponsored by the Goodwood Plantation and the Riley House Museum. Contact: Annette Pearce (386-4053).

DINNERS, JANUARY

THROUGH MAY. Dinners for 8 and Dinners for Families with Children. See *Our Congregation*.

"HEARTBEATS", SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 7:00 PM. It is never too early to begin planning for Valentine's Day, so mark your calendars to attend this evening of good food and wonderful music. The annual UUCT "Heartbeats" concert is now a CHILI, CHOCOLATE & CONCERT event. Contact: Ludy Goodson (ludy8@juno.com, 531-9819).

DISTRICT EVENTS

ORDINATION CELEBRATION, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 4:00 PM, VALDOSTA, GA.

Rev. Amy will deliver the sermon, and the Buckman Bridge UU Society and the UU Church of Valdosta invite our congregation to celebrate the ordination of Jack Ford at the Valdosta Church, 1951 East Park Ave., Valdosta. RSVP for dinner by December 1 to Virginia Branan in Valdosta (229/244-6335) or Kathy Ford in Jacksonville (904/880-1155).

S.W.I.M., DECEMBER 26 -

JANUARY 1, MIAMI. S.W.I.M. is the UU Southeast Winter Institute, a week of fun, fellowship and learning for all ages. See the bright pink brochures on the back counter of the sanctuary for more information.

ELDERHOSTEL AT UU IN THE PINES, JANUARY - APRIL.

Specific dates are: January 20-25, February 17-22, March 17-22, April 7-12. See the Community Bulletin board for more details. Contact: Elderhostel, 1-877-426-8056 or uupines@bellsouth.net.

MORE ON SUNDAY AND CHRISTMAS TOPICS

Dec. 2 - "Myths You Can Hang Your Hat On" - Myths have a place in Unitarian Universalist religion, though creeds do not. Are there myths we can enjoy and tell and embrace? What is the role of myth in human endeavors and our quest for meaning? I recently realized that one of our best myths is the story of our chalice. There may be others.

Dec. 9 - "Shaken Foundations" - Almost a quarter of a year has passed since the violence and shake-up of September 11. I'll talk about what happened to our faith, and our foundations, on that day. We'll talk together about how we have fared since.

Dec. 17 - "Bad Girls of the Bible" - *Jesus taught his gospel of love and justice with commentary on what was going on around him. One day he and his followers came upon a crowd who was about to stone a woman to punish her. Jesus said to them: if any of you are without sin, you ought to throw the first stone. A rock flew through the air at the woman. And Jesus said: "Aw, Mom!"* But you don't have to be Jesus' perfect mother Mary to get into the Bible. We can also learn to be good people by reading the stories of bad boys and bad girls of the Bible. Today I'll talk about the girls.

Dec. 23 - "Spirit of the Christmas Tree" - An intergenerational worship service, including Christmas carols, original songs and the

Christmas nativity story from a Unitarian Universalist perspective. This service marks the return of youth to the sanctuary (since they won't need to practice the songs after today). Service Coordinator: Maggie Geraci; Service Leader: Rev. Amy; Song Leaders: Fran Bridges and Christy Crandall; Narrator of the Nativity Pageant: Ethan Deyle; Children's Story Teller: Barbara Lineberry.

Dec. 24, 7:30 PM, with Gentle Shepherd MCC - "The Holy Child" - Christians believe Jesus is the holy child of God; Unitarian Universalists believe that every child born is holy. Rev. Amy and Pastor Paul will lead an intergenerational service that considers the holiness of birth and the birth of holiness, on this night that commemorates Jesus' birth. We'll end the service with our traditional candlelit carol: "Silent Night, Holy Night."

Once again, the offering will go to ECHO, the local emergency help organization. Also, bring soap, toothbrushes, shampoo and other toiletries for The Shelter. And of course, bring holiday goodies and beverages for our dessert potluck following the service!

Dec. 30 - "Thinking, Talking, Doing" - Anne Rudloe will contemplate intellectual vs. experiential spiritual practice.

UUCT SOCIAL ACTIVITIES DECEMBER 2001

Would you like to suggest or coordinate an activity in January? Let Ludy Goodson know the when, what, and who of it by December 23 at ludy8@juno.com or 531-9819. THANKS!!!

Bridge, anyone? We'd like friendly players. If interested, call Bob Kenon, 878-3647.

Film Discussion Friday afternoons (TBA). Contact Dixon Chandler 219-9604 or dchandler@nettalk.com.

Dance Lessons, American Legion Hall, Lake Ella, **Mon.**, 7 p.m., swing, Latin, ballroom, country, \$4. **Tues.**, Swing, 7:30 p.m. \$6. **Wed.**, 7:00 p.m. dances no partner, \$6. About Wed, contact Victor Venos, 877-7242.

Dec. 1, Sat., and Dec. 21, Fri., **Irish Music** at "The Warehouse". Free. Call Victor Venos, 877-7242.

Dec. 2, Sun., 2:00 p.m., **Market Days** at Fair Grounds, Fee, Let Ludy know if your are coming.

Dec. 5, Wed., 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. **UU lunch**. Jacob's, Doubletree Hotel, downtown, Adams & Park. Separate dining area in back. Let Annette Pearce know if you are coming, 386-4053 or 891-8660.

Dec. 7, Fri., 8:00 p.m., **MFA Dance**, Montgomery Gym. Tickets, 644-1023. Contact Steve Urse, 385-2864.

Dec. 8, Sat., **Riley House RockaThon**. Many will rock. Contact Isabel Sheridan, 668-0785.

Dec. 8, Sat., 8:00 p.m., **Tallahassee Little Theatre**, *Collected Stories*. Box office 224-8474. Contact Ludy.

Dec. 8, Sat., 7:00 p.m., **Old Time Dance**, Miccosukee Land Coop. No partner, no experience needed. Call

Victor Venos, 877-7242, for more information.

Dec. 9, 2nd **Sun potluck** after the service.

Dec. 9, Sun., 3:00 p.m., **Chez Pierre, Caroling, Velma Frye**. \$10. Contact Ludy, 531-9819, ludy8@juno.com.

Dec. 14, Fri., 6:30 PM, **UU Winterfest**. See December UUCT Events.

Dec. 15, Sat., 6:00 p.m., **LeMoyné Art Foundation**: Holiday decorations, garden light show. \$2 donation; members and younger than 12 free. Let Ludy know if you plan to attend.

Dec. 16, Sun., 2:30 p.m. **Holiday Magic, Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra & Community Chorus**: Some holiday sing-along. General admission \$15. Tickets, 644-6500. Contact Ludy.

Dec 22., Sat., 10:30 a.m., **Tallahassee Museum of History & Natural Sciences: Chinese leopards**. Natural habitat zoo. \$6.50 adults; \$6 seniors; \$4.50 children; free, children 4 and younger. 3945 Museum Drive. 575-8684. Let Ludy know if you plan to attend, 531-9819 or ludy8@juno.com.

Dec. 24, Mon., 7:00 p.m., **UUCT Christmas Eve Service**. See More on Sunday Topics.

Dec. 31, Mon., 7:30 p.m., **New Year's Eve potluck dinner party**, 2415 Old St. Augustine Road, #211, St. Augustine Hills Apartments. Contact Bob Kenon, 878-3647.

Prevent Christmas Blues:

Divorced, single, far from family? Pained by those sentimental Hallmark commercials? Feeling rootless this time of year when there's so much emphasis on togetherness? Or will you be with the whole family, wishing you could share the labor of cooking or the joy of UU fellowship? This brunch is for you! Inspired by the wonderful Thanksgiving at UUCT (Thanks, Will, Eleanor and Wes!), I'd like to host a UU gathering on Christmas Day.

You are cordially invited to...

A Christmas Day Brunch.

December 25, 2001, at 12 noon

At UUCT.

Menu will include:

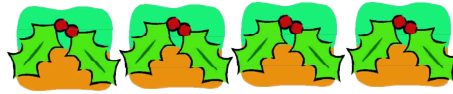
Orange juice and champagne - Croissants, muffins, Scones & accompaniments (jam, butter, etc.) - Excellent UU Coffee - Scrambled Eggs - Stuffed omelets (Omelet stuffings: onion, cheese, mushrooms) - Bacon & ham - Potato-cheese casserole - Pasta & Green Salads

Choose a menu item you would like to prepare & sign up on the sheet in the back of the Sanctuary.

Also, please prepare to share: a) Your special joys of Christmas (then or now), and b) What you are most grateful for this year. We may do some carol singing, too. Call Mary Millard at 980-8980 for more information.



December 2001



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
For sermon titles & "Every Sunday" activities, see the front page.	*Details on another page.	For contacts for committees, events, and classes, see appropriate articles inside.				1
2 9:45 AM Youth RE 6 PM YRUU 7 PM <i>Bible Study</i> (off-site)*	3 7:15 PM Women's Spirituality Group (off-site)*	4 8 PM University UUs (off-site)	5 11:30 AM UU Lunch (off-site)* 7:30 PM Choir (Sanctuary)	6 7 PM Board (Rm 4)	7 6 PM University UUs (off-site)	8 Fix a dish for  Riley House Museum's Rock-A-Thon*
9 12:30 PM Potluck & <i>Meridian</i> Deadline 6 PM YRUU	10 7 AM Program Committee (off-site) 7 PM Finance (Rm 4) 7:15 PM Women's Spirituality Group (off-site)*	11 7 PM RCDC (Elinor Elfner's, Oyster Bay)	12 7:30 PM Choir (Sanctuary)	13 7:15 PM CIC (Rm 4) Eve Evensong	14 3:30 PM CIC (Rm 2) 6 PM University UUs (off-site) 6:30 PM UU Winterfest*	15 9 AM–1 PM Workday*
16 9:45 AM Choir & Youth RE Rehearsal 12:30 PM Green Sanctuary 6 PM YRUU	17 7:15 PM Women's Spirituality Group (off-site)*	18 6 PM Parenting Support Group* (Nursery)	19 7:30 PM Choir (Sanctuary)	20 7 PM Board (Rm 4) - Tentative, if needed	21	22
23	24 7:30 PM Christmas Eve Service w/Gentle Shepherd Church* 	25 OFFICE CLOSED 	26 7:30 PM Choir (Sanctuary) Rev. Amy Vacation	27 Eve Evensong OFFICE CLOSED	28 OFFICE CLOSED Rev. Amy Vacation	29
30 6 PM YRUU	31	Jan. 1 OFFICE CLOSED	Jan. 2 Rev. Amy Vacation			