

Inside this issue:

<i>Sundays</i>	1
<i>Minister's Message</i>	2
<i>President's Message</i>	2
<i>Announcements</i>	3-4
<i>Social Justice</i>	4
<i>Caring / Membership</i>	5
<i>Appreciation</i>	6
<i>Lifespan RE Education</i>	7-8
<i>Campus Ministry Corner</i>	8
<i>Green Corner</i>	8
<i>Calendar</i>	9
<i>UUCT Events, Social</i>	10
<i>FL District, Mountain</i>	11
<i>Board Actions</i>	11

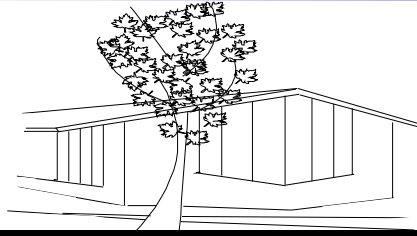
Every Sunday:

- 9:45 AM Choir Practice: exc. 12/26
- 9:45 AM Adult Forum
- 10:30 AM Child Care - until 12:30 PM
- 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM Youth Group (Ages 12-20)
- 11:00 AM Youth RE: Pre-K-Elementary

Scheduled Adult Forum Topics:

- December 5, Dr. Jeffrey Milligan, "Islam and the Philippines"
- December 12, TBA
- December 19, Anne Rudloe, "About Florida's Natural Areas"
- December 26, Open Discussion

Reminder:
Return Congregational Survey By 12/6
December Highlights:
Winterfest, Fri. 12/10, 6:15 PM
Solstice Singing, Sat. 12/11, 3:00 PM
Christmas Eve Service, Fri. 12/24, 7:00 PM



The Meridian

December Services (11:00 AM Sun. exc. Dec. 24)

Theme through December 24: **Tzedakah** (charity or giving)



Dec. 5 | Giving as Obligation

Justice, equity and compassion in human relations. Maimonides was a 12th C. Jewish sage who was physician to the sultan of Egypt. When the rabbi organized the eight levels of giving described in the *Talmud*, he ranked them by how much merit they had. But even the lowest three levels of giving are beneficial. Giving because it's right to do so is a religious duty with spiritual benefits.

Rev. Amy McKenzie; Lay Leader: Isabel Sheridan

Dec. 12 | Giving is its Own Reward

The inherent worth and dignity of every person. The middle levels of giving described in the *Talmud* and organized by Maimonides are relational. Empathy and compassion come in handy as we exercise giving in order to give. This is our UU *Mitzvah* Day, when we may each choose to help others outside of our congregation in the afternoon.

Rev. Amy McKenzie. We'll also share *Candles of Joy, Sorrow and Concern.*

Dec. 19 | Giving that Empowers (Intergenerational Winter Solstice Service)

Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. The final two are the most meritorious levels of giving that Maimonides organized from the *Talmud*. This kind of giving frees the giver and the receiver from the potential dependency of charity. The best of giving empowers and renews. Renewal is also a gift of the changing season; we'll mark "the turn of the wheel" of nature on Winter Solstice. **Rev. Amy McKenzie**

Dec. 24 | Gifts of Merit (Intergenerational Christmas Eve Service)

Gift giving has gotten a bad reputation from its association with greed, self-satisfaction and over consumption. However, giving is also good! Religious values keep *giving* rooted in love and empowerment. We'll have traditional readings and carols, and a few UUCTers will share memories of Christmas and giving in other countries. (So far, Leslie Wurster re Puerto Rico.) The evening's offering will be given to ECHO, a local organization supported by churches and helping those in need. Also bring clothing, blankets and canned goods for ECHO; toiletries for Shelter residents; and a favorite holiday sweet for our dessert potluck afterwards! **Rev. Amy McKenzie and others**

Dec. 26 | American Exceptionalism vs. Our Founding Fathers' Vision

Justice, equity and compassion in human relations. American exceptionalism is the doctrine that the Almighty has picked out the United States as his instrument to bless all humankind. This doctrine has led to a range of economic, political, moral and religious activities that undermine what this country is all about. What our founding fathers had in mind for this nation was freedom, equality, and a government "for the people, of the people and by the people." **Speaker: Rev. Harold Hawkins; Lay Leader: Trudy Deyle**



Minister's Message

By Rev. Amy McKenzie

December Theme: Giving

A theme of the season is also the theme for our services up to Christmas Eve.

In the extended McKenzie family, we're trying a new way to handle gift exchange. A few years ago we did alternative gifts: a check in your honor to the non-profit group of your choice. That was okay, but it didn't capture our imaginations.

This year, each couple directs money and energy to just one other couple. I already feel less frenzied.

I think it's going to be fun! Here's hoping you each find the fun and the festive in the season.

Follow the light of meaning to the new year,

(Rev.) Amy

UU Mitzvah Afternoon, 12/12

*Mitzvah: (Hebrew):
a meritorious or charitable act*

What difference could it make if our congregation took an afternoon to help other people in our city?

I first heard of the tradition of Mitzvah Day from our local Temple Israel. For this first try of ours, we'll each pick where to help, but I'll have a list of ways we can serve.

The seven principles guide our choices: how does the helping activity increase love, justice, spiritual growth, diversity, unity, peace, freedom, "green-ness" or meaning?

Please tell me groups or places other than UUCT where we can offer the work of our hands and feet for a good cause.

Christmas Abroad?

Part of our Christmas Eve service is to relive happy memories of holidays past.

If you spent time outside of the States during December, and you'll be in town on December 24 this year, could you share with us your experiences there of Christmas and giving?

Leslie Wurster will talk about Puerto Rico. What country can you talk about?

We're looking for 2 or 3 people to speak for 3 minutes each. You can also share food or mementos from the country.

Please contact me if you can participate.

Thank you!

President's Message

By Richard Dempsey

What does it mean to be "liberal" in a conservative era? Answer: The same that it means in other times. It means common sense caring, a willingness to listen to other views, an abiding concern for the earth, and a sensitivity to our own foibles and desires. We haven't left the human community, no matter what Jonah Goldberg writes, nor have we dug ourselves an anti-church pit to fight off clericalism. We are what we are and have been for some time: ordinary people who struggle for civil rights, for adequate health care for everyone, for keeping our heads in a crisis, and for talking first, and second, before resorting to force.

William Adkins shared an email containing political analysis of the recent election. Most interesting was the finding that shouldn't have been

lost in the election results: that the Republican "sweep" was barely a victory, that radical conservative policies held no majority, and that Democrats were out-worked in mobilizing their voters. In short, a more liberal political agenda isn't lost for the next two generations. It was a setback, not a destruction.

Therefore, if you were working in support of environmental issues before the election, continue as you were. If you believe that health care should be a universal right, as I do, continue to push. If you think the homeless deserve to be fed and housed, support The Shelter in Tallahassee and help us feed them once a month. If voter registration and education are your passion, do not be deterred.

And don't even think about moving to Canada, lovely as it is in summer. Nor to Europe, where the Euro is smashing the dollar as I write, despite the Administration's assurance that it favors a "strong" currency. It doesn't. No, this is your country, your home. This is where the struggle for human rights means the most, and so the venue is here, as it has been for the past half-century, and now, as always. Fight the good fight, and fight it here, in our neighborhoods. We are the home of liberal faith in Tallahassee. Steady on.

~In faith, Richard

Announcements



Surveys Due Dec. 6!!

Please do so especially if you have children. Last time, only two or three families with children turned in questionnaires, leading to an obvious problem with the validity of the results. However, whether you have children at UUCT or not, your opinions are needed! Based on submissions so far, we need to hear from more men and more members and supporting friends under 50.

The Committee on Ministry is in the midst of its triennial review of ministry at UUCT. You should have received a questionnaire in the mail by mid-November and also returned it by now. If you did not receive a questionnaire or have lost it, contact Bruce Brandt (893-5511) or Bob Deyle (422-1057) to get another. Please mail your completed questionnaire to the church office, or leave it in the box on the counter at the rear of the sanctuary BY December 6.

Vespers Service Planning

The Board has approved the initiation of a Sunday night Vespers Service to be held in Rm. L on an experimental basis, starting in February 2005. The first organizational meeting will be held in the northeast corner of the sanctuary during the December 12 second Sunday potluck following the service. Contact: VP for Worship Rod Oldenburg (297-0391).

Singing in the Service

Let's begin the service with some rousing song! Come give it a try! We are experimenting with starting our Sunday services at 10:55 AM by singing a few songs that really get us going! This clears our minds, gets our bodies and brains ready to worship, and pulls us together. During December, we'll be taking requests for your favorite Christmas carol. See (and hear!) you at 10:55 in the sanctuary!

Attention Committees

By January 16, you should have put together your program plan narrative, budget request and any fund raising proposals for FY 2005 - 2006 and submitted them to the VP for Finance. Committee chairs, staff and the Board will meet with the Finance Committee Jan. 17 to generate a draft Asking Budget. Questions? Contact VP for Finance Del DeTar (877-6649, ddetar@infionline.net).

Yard Sale in March

Start your "spring cleaning" early next year and save your treasures for our bigger, better-than-ever Spring Sale Extravaganza, sometime in March 2005. Contact: Maria Mena (907-0739; mcmena@ix.netcom.com).

Ongoing Opportunities

- **Music Committee:** Contact Ed Tribble (877-1845, cbfia@earthlink.net).
- **Nursery Help:** Contact Georgia Ackerman (894-0182) or Holly Mackie (926-4324).
- **2nd Monday Shelter Meal:** Contact Carla Conaway (575-8684).
- **Sunday Service Greeter:** Contact Nancy Harvey (668-9096, npharvey@aol.com).
- **Sunday Hospitality and Clean Up:** For December, contact Carolyn Pardue (386-1494).
- **Sunday Service Set-up:** Contact Elinor Elfner (224-3651, eelfner@istal.com).

Volunteer Computer/Data Entry Help Needed

The office administrator is looking for a volunteer who doesn't mind doing computer work and could do some data entry, among other things, for her. To volunteer, call Kathie (385-5115).

Please Volunteer in the Nursery

Sing, dance and play, be a role model for the little ones. We need you for one hour on one Sunday. Please sign-up in the nursery to have some fun with our UU little tikes. Contact: Georgia Ackerman (894-0182 georgiaackerman@earthlink.net)

Meridian Schedule

Please have articles e-mailed or turned in to Kathie Mackie and Trudy Deyle no later than the third Sunday of every month. Articles should be as concise as possible.

Mountaincamp 2005

The Mountain is our UU Retreat and Learning Center in Highlands, NC. The brochure for Mountaincamp 2005 for youth is available on-line at www.mountaincenters.org or on the sanctuary bulletin board. Registration began 11/1/04. Questions? Contact Director of Religious Education, Maggie Geraci (877-6301).

Audio Tapes

Audiotapes of Sunday services are available for 4-week loan. Sign-out info. and tapes are in the church audio closet. Contact: Gwendolyn Waldorf (dcbgbw@comcast.net, 668-3346).

Note: A number of tapes are missing. Please check at home and return any you might have, so others may borrow them. Also please remember to sign them out in the notebook on the back of the sound system door.

Please Clean Up

As a rule our cleaning person only comes on Monday and Tuesday, so please clean up after yourselves in the classrooms. Don't leave food trash behind or debris such as popcorn on the floors. The trash has been especially bad in Room 3/6. Thank you for your cooperation!

Announcements (Continued)

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 (patterson090@comcast.net, 309-1248) or Del DeTar (ddetar@infionline.net, 878-7895). Donations of stock may be made to fulfill your annual pledge, your pledge for the Capital Campaign, or for any special fund 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.

Social Justice

Racial and Cultural Diversity Committee (RCDC)

RCDC will meet Tuesday, December 7, at 7:30 PM in Room 2. All those interested in social justice issues are invited to come; we especially welcome new members and friends. We will be planning for the next calendar year. Questions? Contact Isabel Sheridan (668-0785 or iasheridan@nettally.com).

Riley House Museum News

Thanks to all who will be rocking or sponsoring rockers in Riley House's annual Rock-a-thon December 4.

Blended Lives, the annual educational program co-sponsored by Riley House Museum and Goodwood Museum, is planning an exciting week of activities for all ages in our community starting January 24. The theme this year is "The Roaring 20's: Cultural Breakthroughs." You are invited to the opening symposium on Monday, January 24 and to a reception that evening at Tallahassee Community College. Look for more details in January's *Meridian*. Questions? Contact Isabel Sheridan (668-0785 or iasheridan@nettally.com).

Alternative Christmas Market

Sat. 12/4, 9 AM - 5 PM; Sun. 12/5, 1 - 5 PM. John Wesley Church, 1738 Old St. Augustine Road. A benefit for more than thirty non-profit charitable organizations. Suggested donation: one canned food item. (877-1738, johnwesley@nettally.com).

Harmony Camp 2005

Do you want to be involved in Harmony Camp 2005? Come to our planning meeting on Sunday, December 12, at 12:30 PM in Room L. Bring your potluck lunch, your enthusiasm, and your good ideas. Questions? Contact Isabel Sheridan (668-0785 or iasheridan@nettally.com).

Guest At Your Table Boxes

The November 21 Sunday service called attention to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) and its work in many areas of the world. During the service, Rev. Amy concentrated on UUSC's work in nearby Haiti. A special collection was taken up for the committee, and "Guest at Your Table" boxes were distributed. During the holiday season, many families and others at UUCT will fill these boxes with coins for a donation that will be sent to UUSC from our church after the holidays.

There will be a display at church for those of you who missed the 11/21 service. "Guest at Your Table" boxes are available. Contact: Norene Chase (422-1985, nochase@earthlink.net).

Trustee Tidbits Posted

December's letter from our FL District UUA Trustee, Joan Lund, is posted on the bulletin board at the back of the sanctuary. In the letter, she announces that: her report on the October UUA Trustee Board meeting is available at the FL District web-site or from the current District packet (available in the church office); and the nominating processes for various UUA offices, including FL District Trustee, are underway.

RCDC Trip to Civil Rights Sites

In honor and remembrance of the 40th anniversary of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, Jonathan Leib is leading a trip to civil rights sites along the Voting Rights March route from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. Among the sites we will tour include Mya Lin's Civil Rights Memorial, the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church and Parsonage (Martin Luther King's first church), and the Rosa Parks Museum in Montgomery; the Viola Liuzzo Monument on U.S. 80 along the march route; and the National Voting Rights Museum and the Martin Luther King Street historic district in Selma. In addition, we will also walk across the Edmund Pettis Bridge in Selma, where civil rights marchers were attacked in March 1965.

The trip will be held the weekend of February 19-20, 2005. We are still in the planning stages for the trip. If you are interested, please contact Jonathan (jgleib@comcast.net). We will have a planning meeting for the trip at the December 12 potluck.

Caring Network and Membership News

Caring Network

By Joanne Taylor, Caring Ministries Chairperson

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

The **family and friends** of UUCT member **Bob Garland**, who died recently at Tallahassee Hospice.

Paul, Melissa, Aidan and Emerson Forgey on the recent death of Paul's stepfather **Rick Call**, a long-time UU.

Sandy Smith, who is caring for her **mother** with the help of Hospice and appreciates phone calls (297-0012).

Dorothy Mann, who was hospitalized recently to receive a pacemaker.

Howard Kessler, who was assaulted at a polling area Election Day and continues to try to make a difference as a Co. Commissioner in Wakulla Co.

Editor's note: And also **Joanne Taylor**, who recently had successful back surgery!

We rejoice with former UUCT members **Chris and Laynie Mitchell** on the birth of **Lucy Alba** this fall and keep them in our minds and hearts as they and a small group restart a UU fellowship in Vermillion, SD.

Dinners in Homes

Dinners for 8 (intergenerational or all adult) will be happening this winter and spring. We have plenty of hosts; they will be choosing their own dinner dates. Watch for sign-ups by dinner at a Sunday dinners table in Jan.

Intergenerational dinners are for families and those wanting an intergenerational experience. Parents are also welcome to attend all adult dinners. A primary purpose for all dinners is for newcomers to meet longer-term members and friends. Hosts set menu, providing main dish, as casual or gourmet as they like; guests bring rest. Contact: Dinners Coordinator Junelle Brandt (893-5511).

Membership Notes

Welcome New Members & Friends:

- ☼ Karla DeTar
- ☼ Mary Huggins & Susan Teisciero
- ☼ Doug Martin

To explore becoming a member or supporting friend, contact Membership Chair Trudy Deyle (422-1057) or a Sunday greeter.

Next new member recognition is a Sunday in late Jan. or early Feb. If you missed the 11/7 recognition and want a copy of those new member biographies, contact the office or Trudy Deyle.

Help out visitors by wearing your name tag! New members and friends receive name tags. Contact office for replacements (\$6.20).

Lend Membership a Hand!

The Membership Committee needs:

- A Digital Photo Directory Coordinator and photographers (to work with the office and the Membership Committee to produce our own photo directory using the church database).
- Someone willing to provide transportation on Sundays and for other UUCT events to a long-time UU who has moved to Tallahassee, lives off Ox Bottom Rd., and does not drive.

Reaching Out to Visitors

The Membership Committee encourages all members and friends to reach out to our visitors on Sundays and at other times. We need everyone's help!

Here's what's currently being done in terms of visitor follow-up.

- Copies of each Sunday's Visitor Register go to the office, membership, youth RE & campus ministry.

Current UUCT Stats

- **Certified Membership (as of 1/04) -178**
- **Current Membership - 174**
- **Current Number Friends - 57**
- **Average Sunday Service Attendance - Adults**
 - **Oct. 2004: 105**
 - **July - Oct. 2004: 108.4**
 - **July 2003 - June 2004: 107.4**
 - **July 2002 - June 2003: 96.5**
- **RE Enrollment: 51 (incomplete; nursery - 12th grade)**
- **Average RE Attendance (not including Fun Days)**
 - **Nov.: 34**
 - **Sept. - Nov.: 36**

- A welcome letter and mailing are sent to all new visitors, and they are added to *The Meridian* mailing list for 3 mos.

- At the end of 3 months, those who have visited several times are sent a follow-up letter regarding further interest in the church.

- Prior to each New UU class, an invitation is sent to all regular and frequent visitors.

- The Membership Committee keeps a cumulative list of all visitors who sign in and the dates of their visits.

Of course, more could be done. There are many great ideas for reaching out to visitors and incorporating new members. They depend on people power! Next spring when you complete your gift of self, consider volunteering in the area of Membership!

Appreciation

To:

- * **Pam and Walter Hoskins, Barbara Sterling, Sara Reece, Bob Deyle, Laura Cook, Nancy and Dave Harvey, Joanne Taylor, Allan Turnage, Ken and Jean Wood, Carolyn DuBard, and Joan Patterson** for greeting on Sunday mornings 10/31 - 11/28.
- * **Eleanor and Earl Enge, Elizabeth Vigil, and the Youth RE Committee** for providing hospitality during October.
- * **Ellie Whitney, Eleanor and Earl Enge, Randall Gann, Jerri Lee Wagner, Rod Oldenburg, Nancy Bean, and Laura and Barney Cook** for hospitality clean up during October.
- * **Eleanor and Earl Enge** for serving as "kitchen kontrollers" (recruiting and overseeing volunteers) for the month of October.
- * **Pam Hoskins, Jean Wood, Patrick Lineberry, Ansel Bailey-Mershon, Nina Cline, Nancy Bean, Michael Donnellan, Dee Scarlett, and Gwendolyn Waldorf** for volunteering in the nursery.
- * **Donald and Pamela Crosby, Chelsea Fox, Amy Mann, Debbie Holt, Susan Snyder and Frank Deasy, and Carla Conaway** for volunteering for The Shelter meal in November.
- * **Earl and Eleanor Enge, Randall Gann, the Mooney Family, Ellie Whitney, Greg DeAngelo, John Whitton, and Elinor Elfner** for setting up the sanctuary in November.
- * **All who donated and bought** baked goods at the Youth RE Bake Sale. We had lots of yummy treats, judging by how fast we sold out! Funds raised are going to renew our adoption of Amanda the Manatee and to create a fund for playground maintenance.



- * **Tom and Norene Chase** for helping to give John Murphy rides to church on Sunday, and **Joe Lama** for making care visits to John when he hurt himself.
- * **The 41 members and friends** who attended the 11/14 learning event for UUCT's Religious Journey - Past, Present and Future; **Margaret Mooney** for making coffee and helping with clean up; and **Pat Riedell** for washing the dishes afterwards.

Thanksgiving Thank-You

Almost 40 UUs, friends, and relatives came to UUCT on Thanksgiving Day for our annual turkey and potluck. With two turkeys and trimmings, pies, cakes, cookies, wine, and cheese (5 tables full), there were a lot of reasons to suffer from the sin of gluttony. Special thanks to **Randall Gann, Karen Share, and Linda Logan** for setting up and decorating festively and to **Ron and Kandy Crowe** (in absentia) for one of the turkeys, Ron's first-Thanksgiving history note and his new turkey song. The song was both read and sung by **Howard and Barbara Solomon**, who also shared their new turkey song. Thanks to all for another great Thanksgiving dinner.

Building and Grounds Thanks

At the church workday on November 13, many tasks were accomplished on the buildings and grounds. **Francis Ventre** removed wood stored in the mechanical room to a location outside the building and removed weeds from the wax myrtles bordering the entrance driveway. **Tom Chase** worked on the old women's restroom, preparing it for painting. **Don Berger** added gravel to parking spaces that needed it. **George Knight** removed leaves from the driveways and walkways. **Dave Harvey** installed a gutter downspout deflector on the north side of the classrooms, replaced a burned out

light, programmed the timer for the outside lights of the new building, and removed mildew from the window sills of the new building.

Other time and effort was spent outside of the church workday by **Steve Urse, Trudy Deyle, George Knight and Dave Harvey**, working in concert with Mad Dog Design and Construction, Persica Landscaping and Dixie Paving to resolve drainage and erosion problems. **Steve Urse and Dave Harvey** set up the watering equipment for the newly laid sod. **Tom Chase and Dave Harvey** reset the loose front railing at the left side of the sanctuary entrance.

Auction Thank You

A great big THANK YOU to all the members and friends who donated, helped and bid for the silent auction. It was a big success, and we anticipate making around \$3,000 this year. Special thanks to **Joan Patterson and Mimi Jones** for co-chairing the event and to **Connie Beane, Lugenia Dixon, Dorothy Mann, Maria Mena and Ellie Whitney** for helping to plan, set up and run the auction. Thanks also to **Randall Gann and George Knight** for carrying and moving large items, and to **Tom Chase and Kathie Mackie** for assisting with the collection of money. If you were a successful bidder, we hope you enjoy your item or service and will participate next year.

Lifespan Religious Education

Youth Religious Education (RE)

Youth RE Committee Meeting, Sunday, December 5, 9:30 AM

YOUTH RE CONTACTS:

- **Kelley Turnage, Youth RE Committee Chair (553-9416; kelleturnage@hotmail.com)**
- **Scott Geraci, Nursery Sub-Committee Chair (877-6301, sgeraci10@direcway.com)**
- **Maggie Geraci, Director of Religious Education (DRE), (877-6301 or mageraci26@aol.com)**

Fun Days, Sun. Dec. 26 & Jan. 2

Kids, come join us for some post-holiday fun, during the service on December 26 and January 2. Games, crafts, and good times for all! Grown-ups, if you'd like to help out our Fun Day coordinator with the kids on the 26th, please contact Maggie Geraci.

UU Youth Group

Youth, from grades 6 to 12, are invited to join us in Room 3 on Sunday mornings (11:00 to 12:30) for our UU Youth Group. As a group, we plan social events, educational experiences, social action, and lots of fun! Some upcoming events include a youth lock-in the night of Sat. 12/11 and maybe a trip to The Mountain or visiting retirement centers. Your input will help us decide what to do. Check us out! For more information, contact advisors Scott Geraci (sgeraci10@direcway.com, 877-6301), John and Barbara Donaldson (johnt0148@comcast.net, 878-5521), or Chelsea Fox (chelsuu@yahoo.com, 421-1575).

Mountain Cons

Parents interested in taking a group from UUCT to a Mountain Con this winter should contact DRE Maggie Geraci for more information.

Adult Enrichment

ADULT ENRICHMENT

CONTACTS:

Bruce Brandt, Adult Enrichment Coordinator (blbrandt@earthlink.net; 893-5511)
Maggie Geraci, Director of Religious Education (mageraci26@aol.com; 877-6301).

People interested in the Adult Enrichment opportunities at UUCT are invited, nay, urged to gather in Room K on Thursday, December 9 at 7:30 PM to discuss the classes to be offered from January through May, 2005.

Please come or contact Bruce Brandt (blbrandt@earthlink.net; 893-5511) if you would like to teach or organize a class. Also, please come if you have an opinion about the classes that should be offered to adults at UUCT.

Note: For detailed descriptions of the classes listed below, visit the Adult Enrichment section at www.nettally.com/uuct or stop by the Sunday RE table.

FALL CLASSES THAT ARE OPEN

Choices for Sustainability meets Saturdays at 10:30 AM in Room C. Contact Kathie Mackie (385-5115, uuct@nettally.com).

Understanding the Bible meets the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 7:15 PM in Room L. Next meetings will be January 4 - February 15. Contact: Bob Kenon (878-3647).

FALL CLASSES THAT ARE FULL

Christianity Without God meets Tuesdays at 7:00 PM in Room K, through December 21. Contact: Harold Hawkins, 893-1331.

FUTURE CLASSES

New UU Sessions are offered on a regular basis for those new to Unitarian Universalism and UUs new to UUCT. The next sessions will be in January or February, taught by Rev. Amy and a church member. A sign-up sheet is on the back counter, or contact the church office (385-5115, uuct@nettally.com) or Membership Chair Trudy Deyle (422-1057, gdeyle@juno.com).

Four Spiritualities - Growing Your Spirituality will meet after the first of the year - day and time to be set. Contact: Maggie Geraci (877-6301).

ON-GOING OPPORTUNITIES

Adult Forum meets Sundays, 9:45 - 10:45 AM in Room L. Open to everyone. See front page of this *Meridian* for the month's topics. Contact: Norene Chase (422-1985).

Dream Interpretation Workshop meets Wednesdays at 6:30 PM for about an hour in Room K. Contact: Elizabeth Vigil (656-9921). They will not meet 12/22 and 12/29.

The UUCT Book Club meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM in Room C. Newcomers are welcome. Contact: Elizabeth Vigil (656-9921). December's book will be *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini. January's book will be *Chalktown* by Melinda Haynes. "*Chalktown* is mysterious, bewildering and surprising. It is also gorgeously written and lavished with the tangled oddities that make the South the South."

UU Buddhist Fellowship. The UUBF meets every first and third Monday of the month at 7:00 PM in Room 3/6. The December reading discussion classes will continue through the busy holidays. We will email confirm before each meeting.

Beginning with the first Monday in January, 1/3/05, Dr. Anne Rudloe will

Lifespan Religious Education (Continued)

conduct 3 - 4 special evening classes on the history and philosophy of Buddhist practices. She has 18 years experience as a senior Dharma teacher in the Kuan Um School of Buddhist teaching. This opportunity will provide us with a broader context from which to view our readings, as well as help in the interpretation of future studies. UUBF especially welcomes

new, potential group members for these special classes. For more information on UUBF, contact William Riedell (562-0739, wmpat88@earthlink.net) or Anne Rudloe (984-5204).

Knitting meets Thursdays at 7:00 PM in Room 3/6. This class is for people who would like to learn or improve skills, and/or knit with others. Contact: Chelsea Fox (421-1575).

Women's Spirituality Group meets on Mondays at 7:00 PM off-site. Contact: Bonnie Foster (539-5563 or dbdfoster@yahoo.com).

Campus Ministry Corner

By Kim Ross, Campus Ministry Committee Chairperson

Well, we're making progress on hiring a Campus Ministry Coordinator. We have interviewed two good applicants, but as of the writing of this article, that's, unfortunately, about all I can say. We do still plan to have someone on board by December 1, and so if we are successful in that goal, we will make an announcement at church at the right time. Stay tuned to the

Meridian next month for more information.

In the meantime, the UUUs continue to meet weekly for coffee hour on Fridays, 6:30 PM, at All Saint's Cafe; and bi-weekly on Mondays for discussions and activities. In December, we will have an end of the year celebration. Contact me for more information.

Also, on December 5, at 12:30 PM, the Campus Ministry Committee will meet for an hour, to discuss our goals for the next semester. Please come join us, as the committee now has an integral role in the success of the program. If you can't make it, but are still interested in helping out, please let me know. Contact: Kim Ross (414-6658, kim@cennexus.com).

Green Corner

By Michele Hope, Green Sanctuary Committee

In the spirit of fun and conservation, I'm recycling some time-tested holiday tips this month to help you create a more environmentally friendly holiday season. First, think back to simpler times. What creative gifts, ornaments, or wrappings gave you pleasure as a child? Hunt through your closets, drawers, craft supplies, and jewelry boxes and see what treasures you have on hand. Then sit down together with family or friends and let your imagination soar! Find last year's Christmas cards. They can be cut down and reused on cards, ornaments or wrappings. Use funny papers or brown paper for wrapping paper. Think reusable!

Buy a live tree. Try a native Loblolly Pine, Slash Pine, or Red Cypress. After the holidays, plant or compost the tree. String popcorn and cranberries

on your tree. Compost them later as well. Make ornaments with pinecones, shells, flowers and ribbons. Light the tree only at night when you can appreciate it.

Create an email Christmas card this year and save on paper and postage. Make or bake something for friends. Hand-made gifts are always in fashion! Donate to a favorite environmental organization in loved ones' names or give memberships. Plant a native tree or bush in someone's honor. Buy reusable linen napkins, tablecloths, and shopping bags. Give gifts of time, like baby-sitting, cooking, and errands run for busy family and friends. Give an experience rather than a gift, like tickets to a movie, sports, theatre, music, or museum event or an outdoor outing to nearby forests, springs and rivers or the coast.

Giving of self, along with responsibility to the environment, will enrich and simplify your holiday season. Please write to me at

Michele_hope@yahoo.com with your ideas and creations! Send pictures. I'll post them on the Green Corner bulletin board after the holidays!

Have a Merry and Green Holiday Season!

Note: We are now doing business with a new cartridge recycling company, Northeast Ink and Office Supply. In less than a month's time we have netted \$170.55 for our empty laser jet and ink jet cartridges. Proceeds benefit the Green Sanctuary Program. Keep them coming!



December 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																										
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<p>5</p> <p>9:30 AM Youth RE Committee, Rm 2</p> <p>12:30 PM Campus Ministry Comm., Rm C</p> <p>Afternoon - Movie Discussion Group</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7:00 PM UU Buddhist Fellowship, Rm 3/6</p> <p>7:00 PM Women's Spirituality Group, off-site</p> <p>7:30 PM Buildings & Grounds Committee, Rm C</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6:30 PM Spiral Scouts, Rms 3/6&2</p> <p>7:00 PM Christianity w/out God, Rm K</p> <p>7:30 PM RCDC, Rm 2</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6:30 PM Board Consultation, Rm L</p> <p>6:30 PM Dream Workshop, Rm K</p> <p>7:30 PM Choir Practice, sanctuary</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:00 PM The Knitting Goddess, Rm 3/6</p> <p>7:30 PM Adult RE Meeting, Rm K</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:15 PM Winterfest Potluck & Party, sanctuary</p> <p>6:30 PM University UUs, off-site</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:00 AM -1:00 PM All Church Workday</p> <p>10:30 AM Choices for Sustainability, Rm C</p> <p>2:00 PM Youth Group Lock-in Begins, sanc.</p> <p>3:00 PM Solstice Singing, off-site</p>																																																																																																										
<p>12</p> <p>9:00 AM Youth Group Lock-in Ends</p> <p>12:30 PM Planning Meetings -RCDC Trip, sanc. -Vespers Service, sanc.-Harmony Camp, Rm L</p> <p>2:00 PM -6:00 PM Carver Open House, (All invited)</p> <p><i>UU Mitzvah Day</i></p>	<p>13</p> <p>7:00 PM Women's Spirituality Group, off-site</p> <p>7:15 PM The Shelter Meal, off-site</p> <p>8:00 PM University UUs, off-site</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6:30 PM Spiral Scouts, Rms 3/6&2</p> <p>7:00 PM Christianity w/o God, Rm K</p> <p>7:00 PM UU Book Club, Rm C</p> <p>7:15 PM Comm. on Ministry, Rev. Amy's Office</p> <p>7:30 PM Music Committee Meeting, Rm L</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:30 PM Dream Workshop, Rm K</p> <p>7:30 PM Choir Practice, sanctuary</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:00 PM The Knitting Goddess, Rm 3/6</p>	<p>17</p> <p>12/17-12/19 UU Camping Trip, off-site</p> <p>6:30 PM University UUs, off-site</p>	<p>18</p>																																																																																																										
<p>19</p> <p>11:00 AM Intergen. Winter Solstice Service</p> <p>12:30 PM Meridian Deadline</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7:00 PM Finance Committee, Rm 2</p> <p>7:00 PM UU Buddhist Fellowship, Rm 3/6</p> <p>7:00 PM Women's Spirituality Group, off-site</p> <p>7:15 PM Program Committee, Rm L</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6:30 PM Spiral Scouts, Rms 3/6&2</p> <p>7:00 PM Christianity w/out God, Rm K</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7:30 PM Choir Practice, sanctuary</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:00 PM The Knitting Goddess, Rm 3/6</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7:00 PM Intergen. Chirstmas Eve Service, sanctuary</p> <p>6:30 PM University UUs, off-site</p>	<p>25</p>																																																																																																										
<p>26</p> <p>11:00 AM RE Fun Day</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7:00 PM Women's Spirituality Group, off-site</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Amy Vacation</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7:00 PM The Knitting Goddess, Rm 3/6</p>	<p>31</p> <p>6:30 PM University UUs, off-site</p>																																																																																																											

Events: Upcoming UUCT, Social

Upcoming UUCT Events

UU Downtown Chowdown, Wednesday, December 1, 11:30 AM. First Wednesday of the month, Jacob's Doubletree Inn. All welcome, no RSVP needed. Soup and salad \$6.95, full buffet \$10.95. Contact: Annette Pearce (386-4053, 891-8660).

Peace Dances, Saturday, December 4, 7:30 PM. In the sanctuary. Simple, meditative circle dances, rejuvenating and uplifting. Contact: Tom and Katya Taylor (656-9321, Katom@istal.com).

UUCT Movie Discussion Group, Sunday, December 5, Afternoon. See a movie chosen by consensus, then go to a restaurant for discussion. Contact: Dave Harvey (668-9096, daveharv@mac.com).

UU Winterfest 2004, Friday, December 10, 6:15 PM. For everyone, especially families with children and those young at heart. Dinner at 7:00 PM. Entertainment at 8:00 PM. Bring jingle-bells to ring and a new or old ornament for our church tree! Hot-wassail and cookies with Christmas caroling, decorating and lighting the church tree, a winter art show and a holiday potluck supper. (Also, a Weihnachtsmann Santa might show!) Entertainment during and after dinner: poetry, storytelling, holiday songs and music by Helen Falb and the O.K. Chorale, carol sing-a-long, and a Peace Circle. There will be a collection box for food and necessities for the Tallahassee homeless. For information and to volunteer or contribute, contact: Will Adkins (385-5071).

All Church Workday, Saturday, December 11, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Enjoy fellowship working on chores and projects to keep our buildings and grounds in shape. Contact: Dave Harvey (668-9096, daveharv@mac.com).

Solstice Singing, Saturday, December 11, 3:00 PM. Come be a part of our 2nd annual UUCT Solstice Singing get-together. (Think Christmas Caroling, with a UU touch!) ALL ARE WELCOME! You don't have to be a member of the choir or even our church to come! Bring your kids and all your friends!

We'll meet in the UUCT parking lot at 3:00 PM and car pool to several pre-arranged destinations (some of our congregation's shut-ins, nursing homes, and perhaps Hospice House). Call Helen Falb if you have suggestions of someone who you think would enjoy a visit. Helen will provide the music. We may end our afternoon by meeting at a restaurant to share dinner together. Please call Helen (309-6853, pianoskin@comcast.net).

Second Sunday Potluck, Sun. 12/12, 12:30 PM. Bring your favorite dish to share.

Holiday Open House, Sunday, December 12, 2:00 - 6:00 PM. All are invited to DeWayne and Jennifer Carver's home, 1608 Redwood Drive. Call 402-0622 for directions or more information.

UUCT Camping Trip, Friday - Sunday, December 17 - 19. Have fun with UUCT adults and kids at Torreya State Park. Join Pam, Walter, Becky and Katie Hoskins, who will be tent camping there, at site 22. Come for a day, one night or two nights. It's best to make a reservation for a campsite. For more information, contact Pam Hoskins (893-5039, or pvhoskins@aol.com).

Spiral Scouts Breakfast, Saturday, January 8, 8:00 - 11:00 AM. Come join the Spiral Scouts for a yummy breakfast of eggs, bacon, sausage, muffins, and more! We will have door prizes and information about the scouts. Tickets are \$6 for adults and

\$4 for kids; 3 and under are free. This is a fund raiser for materials, our fieldtrips and camping trips throughout the year.

Church Council Meeting, Sunday, January 9, 12:30 PM. The Council's quarterly meeting to share plans and coordinate. Contact: Christine Boczarska (893-7079, rrlee@infionline.net).

Heartbeats Concert, Saturday, February 11, 7:00 PM. It's never too early to begin planning for Valentine's Day, so mark your calendars now to attend this enchanting evening of wonderful music and annual UUCT fund raiser. Help needed with publicity, door prizes, food and beverages, kitchen set-up and clean-up, and room set-up. To volunteer to help or perform, contact: Helen Falb (309-6853, pianoskin@comcast.net).

UUCT Social Events

See Upcoming UUCT Events for details. Contact Pam Hoskins (893-5039, pvhoskins@aol.com) regarding possible UUCT social events.

- **UU Downtown Chowdown**, Wed. 12/1, 11:30 AM
- **Peace Dances**, Sat. 12/4, 7:30 PM
- **Movie Discussion Group**, Sun. 12/5, Afternoon
- **Winterfest Dinner & Celebration**, Fri. 12/10, 6:15 PM
- **Second Sunday Potluck**, Sun. 12/12, 12:30 PM
- **Open House at the Carvers'**, Sun. 12/12, 2:00 - 6:00 PM
- **UUCT Camping Trip**, Fri. 12/17 - Sun. 12/19
- **Spiral Scouts Breakfast**, Sat. 1/8, 8:00 - 11:00 AM
- **Annual UUCT Heartbeats Concert**, Sat. 2/11, 7:00 PM

Events: Non-UUCT, FL District, The Mountain

December Non-UUCT Events

- Every Sunday, 7:00 PM, Gentle Shepherd Metropolitan Community Church (Sanctuary)
- Every Thursday, 7:00 PM, Zen Meditation (Sanctuary)
- Tues. 12/7, 6:30 PM, Therapy Group (Rm L)
- Wed. 12/15, 6:30 PM, Therapy Group (Rm L)
- Fri. 12/17, 3:00 PM, Member's private party (Sanctuary)
- Sat. 12/18, 7:00 PM, Capital City Cyclist Club (Sanctuary)

District Events

Info. at back of sanctuary or in office.

- Social Justice Workshop, Sat. 12/4, East Orlando - Global Warming
- Southeast Winter Institute (SWIM), 12/26 - 1/1, Miami - Intergenerational retreat. Contact: www.swimuu.org.
- Integrating World Religions into Liberal Spirituality, Sat. 1/29, Jacksonville
- Healing the Interdependent Web...Let It Begin with Me, Margot Adler, Fri.-Sun., 2/18-20, Ft. Myers
- District Annual Assembly with UUA President Bill Sinkford, Fri. & Sat. 4/8-9, Oviedo
- Northeast Cluster Risk Management Workshop, Sat. 4/16, Gainesville
- Roots Hold Us Close: An All - Age FL UU Fest, Fri. - Sun., 5/27 - 29, Oviedo

Mountain Events

A Magical Winter Solstice, Dec. 17 (evening) –19. Celebrate this spiritual time of moving out of the darkness into the light. Activities are planned to allow you and your family members to open and express your inner self to truly let your light shine in joy and celebration.

New Year's at The Mountain, Dec. 30–Jan. 2. Celebrate endings and beginnings with morning sing-ins, workshops, walks, crafts, an old-fashioned hoe-down, services of meditation and reflection, and opportunities to enjoy The Mountain in winter. Helen Bishop will offer a fascinating and inspiring workshop, "Connecting Our Principles and Values to Justice Work."

E-mail Carole Mackey at carole.mackey@mountaincenters.org or call 828-526-5838, ext. 238.

Executive Board Actions for November

By Carolyn DuBard, Secretary

Actions November 17, 2004:

- Approved the October Balance Sheet and Treasurer's Report.
- Authorized the Interviewing Committee for the Campus Ministry Coordinator position to hire a Coordinator after the candidate interviews are completed.
- Tabled the issue of disposition of funds collected by a fundraising

event in excess of a specific goal. This issue was referred back to the Finance Committee for a more specific recommendation to be brought back to the Board at which time the Board will reconsider it.

- Approved an initial consultation with FL District Consultant Connie Goodbread on December 8, 2004, to guide conversations concerning the ministry. This consultation (with the Executive Board, the

Committee on Ministry, the Journey Leadership Team, Rev. Amy McKenzie and other UUCT staff) was approved with the understanding that additional meetings with the leadership and with the entire congregation would follow.

- Set January 19, 2005, as the date for the January Executive Board Meeting.

The Holiday Pledge

Jo Robinson and Jean Coppock Staeheli propose the following Christmas / Holiday pledge in their book [Unplug the Christmas Machine](#):

"Believing in the true spirit of the Holidays, I commit myself to:

Remember those people who truly need my gifts,

Express my love in more direct ways than gifts,

Examine my holiday activities in the light of my deepest values,

Be a peacemaker within my circle of family and friends,

Rededicate myself to my spiritual growth."

They conclude: "In general, people ask the Holidays to do too many things for them. They want them to strengthen their family bonds, give their spirits a

lift in the dark days of winter, stimulate their compassion and generosity, help them keep tabs on far-flung friends, confirm their deepest religious beliefs, show off their skills as hosts and hostesses the list goes on and on. No one celebration can do all that!"

Editor's Note: "Christmas" has been changed to "the Holidays" whenever it is used, and other religious references have also been broadened.

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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

**Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Tallahassee, FL
PERMIT NO. 37**

Our Web Address:
www.nettally.com/uuct

Building A Home for Liberal Faith

Our Staff:

Rev. Amy McKenzie's office hours at church:

Wednesday 1 - 5, Thursday 9 - 5

These and others by appointment.

E-Mail: revamq@earthlink.net

Church: 385-5115; Cellular Ph: 850-566-1388

Kathie Mackie, Office Administrator, 385-5115

Helen Falb, Music Director, 309-6853;
pianoskin@comcast.net

Maggie Geraci, Director of Religious Education,
877-6301; mageraci26@aol.com

To be announced, Campus Ministry Coordinator

Holly Mackie, Nursery Worker, 926-4324

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."**

Our Board

- * Richard Dempsey, President
- * Neil Mooney, Past President
- * Christine Boczarska, President Elect
- * Carolyn DuBard, Secretary
- * Steve Urse, VP for Management
- * Rod Oldenburg, VP for Worship
- * (Vacant) VP for Social Justice
- * Del DeTar, VP for Finance
- * DeWayne Carver, VP for Religious Education
- * William Adkins, VP for Church Community

Non-Voting Members are:

- * Ellen Dempsey, Treasurer
- * Joan Patterson, Asst. Treasurer
- * Tom Chase, Collecting Treasurer

Rev. Amy McKenzie, Settled Minister

The Committee on Ministry

Bruce Brandt, Chair
Sara Reece
Bob Deyle

Directory Changes

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.

Mark Your Checks

- Note the purpose of every check in the memo line (pledge, UUSC...)
- Note the year for pledge checks: 03/04 or 04/05.
- Write separate checks for the Operating Budget (payable to UUCT) and Capital Campaign (payable to UUCT Building Fund).
- And a reminder that the three-year Capital Campaign pledge period ended 6/30/04.