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Every Sunday:

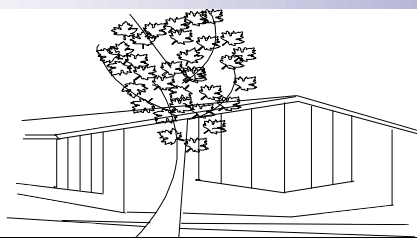
- 9:45 AM Choir Practice, exc. 12/25
- 9:45 AM Adult Forum
- 10:30 AM Child Care - until 12:30 PM, exc. 12/25
- 11:00 AM Youth RE, exc. 12/25
  - Pre-school class, Rm C (1st - 3rd Sun.)
  - Elementary classes (K - 2nd, Rm K; 3rd - 5th, Rm 2)
  - Middle/High School Youth Group, Rm 3/6

Adult Forum Topics:

- Dec. 4 "The Future of Health Care in the U.S.," Jill Quadagno
- Dec. 11 TBA
- Dec. 18 "Riley House and Blended Lives," Althemese Barnes
- Dec. 25 Open Discussion

December Highlights:

- Brown Bagging w/ Bill, Thurs. 12/8 & 12/15, Noon
- Cottage Meetings, Thurs. 12/8 - 7:15 PM, Mon. 12/12 - 7:00 PM, Tues. 12/13 - 1:30 PM
- Tree Trimming Party w/ SpiralScouts, Tues. 12/13, 6:30 PM
- UU Winterfest, Fri. 12/16, 6:00 PM



# The Meridian

## December Services (11:00 AM Sun. exc. 7:00 PM Dec. 24)

### Dec. 4 | Christianity, the Beginning

Many of our Unitarian Universalist folks came from Christian backgrounds, and in our society we are surrounded by churches of that particular faith. There are even some who say that the United States is a Christian nation. This has prompted Rev. Bill to deliver two sermons relating to the beginning of Christianity and its development as a major religion. On the first Sunday, he will talk about the man Jesus and the attributes that were attached to him by his followers. He will mention key factors that assisted his followers as they promoted the faith about Jesus. **Rev. Bill Murchison**

### Dec. 11 | Christianity, Its Continuation

This will be a second sermon on the development of Christianity and how it grew through the first two centuries. Was Jesus divine (i.e., the incarnation of God)? Christian churches today declare that he was. How did this happen and why? Rev. Bill will attempt to speak to these questions. **Rev. Bill Murchison**

### Dec. 18 | Reading Between the Lines

*Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.* Jewish tradition has a unique way of reading biblical text and ascertaining the meaning(s) of the text. This discussion will use the story of Joseph to demonstrate Jewish methods of exegesis. We will look at the episode of the attempted seduction of Joseph by Potipher's wife, both through the biblical narrative and through the Jewish art of *midrash*—the Jewish method of reading between the lines of the story. Together we will explore the hidden meanings in the biblical text that are implied by *midrash*. Rabbi Jack Romberg from Temple Israel will be presenting, and the cantor and choir from Temple Israel will join our choir to make a joyful noise!

**Guest Speaker: Rabbi Jack Romberg; Lay Leader: Helen Falb**

### Dec. 24 | A Festival of Light (Christmas Eve Service for All Ages)

This will be a candle-lighting service, held at 7:00 PM. It will be a fun and worshipful program, and people of all ages are invited to attend. Members of the congregation will participate along with the minister, and we will talk about enlightenment through the ages. Some say that light came into the world in the person of Jesus, but many of us see it somewhat differently. We observe that light has come into the world through the ages. (Dessert potluck and social time following the service.) **Rev. Bill Murchison**

### Dec. 25 | Christmas Day Gathering (11:00 AM, if interest)

With a special service the night before and many of us busy with our families, there will not be a church service Christmas morning. However, we want to offer the possibility of something that morning for those who will not have families close by—possibly a simple gathering at church. It is important to know ahead of time if there is interest in doing this. If you would like to attend a meditation and sharing circle, including the sharing of finger food, contact Kathie Mackie ([uuct@nettally.com](mailto:uuct@nettally.com), 385-5115) or Program Committee chair Kristin King (425-4658) as soon as possible.

## Minister's Message: *In the Interim*

By Rev. Bill Murchison

In my first sermon at UUCT, I used this quote by Lewis Carroll from *The Walrus and the Carpenter*.

"The time has come," the Walrus said,  
 "To talk of many things:  
 Of shoes and ships and sealing wax,  
 Of cabbages and kings,  
 And why the sea is boiling hot,  
 And whether pigs have wings."

This, for me, is a metaphor of what is done in interim ministry. A metaphor is and isn't, and this metaphor tells us that we need to talk and plan for the exciting future of the congregation.

You have done well over the years, and the congregation is to be admired for its accomplishments. Just last Sunday I expressed my appreciation for the number of outstanding efforts you make in the area of social justice. Thank you for all that you do. No, this is not intended to say that you are perfect, but I do see you as being exceptional. No system is really perfect, and most entities can occasionally afford a little polishing, some positive movement.

During my time here, I have had many conversations and have had a private interview with each board member, plus I have talked with many members who have come to my office for a visit and with others after services. One of my goals for the remainder of my time with you is to continue these discussions, one-on-one and in groups. We will begin this in December by having "brown bag" lunches at the

church (Thursdays, 12/8 and 12/15 at noon in Rm. L). I hope that many of you will participate in "Brown Bagging with Bill." It is good to eat together and discuss. There is no need to RSVP.

Another interim goal is to strengthen denominational linkages, and judging from the excellent participation in the FL District Leadership Conference in November, we are well on our way to doing this. It is valuable for us to meet and visit with members of other congregations. I also see our younger members taking leadership positions and making commitments to being a greater part of the life of UUCT. That, too, is an interim goal and is a positive aspect of what is happening.

An important area of interest is our new identity. It is a commitment to a new future. The operative word here was stated in my sermon "To Keep an Open Mind." We could indeed talk about our vision for UUCT and consider, not our limitations, but our possibilities. We need an open and adventurous spirit as we gaze into the looking glass of our future and develop that new vision for the congregation. What we have been is what we have been, and what we are is what we are, but what we can be is something else.

Traditionally, congregations in transition talk about their history. What brought us to where we are today? We should invite our personal observations and the observations of others in order to be impacted in a significant and positive way. Change is inevitable and

is at the heart of all that is. You are a different congregation now, and the historical question is what brought us to this point? Nothing stays the same. We cannot hold on to the past and who we were. Transformation is inevitable. It is a given as part of life. And, it just never seems to be easy. My ideas for you are directions of growth, and I hope this can be a part of our discussions in the coming months.

It is normal for there to be some stress during interim years. You have experienced the loss of your minister, and though I see you as having a bright future, I know that uncertainty frequently creates anxiety. During this interim time, remember that you are a fine and deserving congregation. And while you are keeping this in mind, also remember to relax a little (well, perhaps a lot) and have some fun as a church family. Be mindful, be present and laugh often (and a bunch), being certain that you enjoy your life as a church community. As was often said back in days past, *laughter is good medicine*, and I do believe that it is a great tool for dealing with whatever stress we may be experiencing.

For me, it is important for you to know that I like you and care for you. I want your future to be remarkable, beyond your greatest expectations. Again, thank you for all you do. "The time has come, the Walrus said, to talk of many things . . ."

Best, Rev. Bill Murchison, AIM

P.S. Happy Holidays to everyone!

## President's Message

By Christine Boczarska, Executive Board President

Who am I and why am I here? It's a question we all have periodically mulled over with various levels of deliberation. It is, of course, a question that cannot be answered and yet must be. I cannot fool myself into believing I

have unraveled the mystery of existence; I do know I have to live a life that is more meaningful than self-gratification, physical comfort and accumulation.

I look at my family and friends and see people starting out, people nearing the end of life and those in the journey. Though not rich, in comparison to some folks I am more than wealthy, in means and in spirit. So how do I follow

## *President's Message (Continued)*

that “free and responsible search for truth and meaning?” My father, who worked as a probation officer and social worker for errant boys, impressed on all seven of his daughters that the important part of life was how we helped others. He was not a worshipping Catholic, but he was a practicing one. We were involved in numerous volunteer activities. We lived on his civil servant salary but always managed to share with others. My mother was something of a miracle worker.

Undoubtedly, I am better off financially than my parents were. So where has my vision of how to live taken me? I help friends and members of my family some, donate some to

charitable groups that feed the hungry, clothe the naked, house the homeless and educate. This is all politically correct for a liberal, active female.

I have also tackled something a bit more difficult – actively participating in and contributing income to a church that reflects most closely my beliefs and hopes for community and world order. When asked to serve on a committee or increase my pledge, my first reaction is no, no more. Then thinking through the issues follows. Why not? What am I if I don't assist when I can? Do I appreciate those who do serve and donate? Why not follow the example? Someday I will need to lean on these same people and their children. We are all the ones

who uphold the liberal tradition in Tallahassee through our actions and our donations. Neither is more important than the other.

So this year I serve as president of the church executive board and hope for your support when we do well and your understanding when we can't get it right. This is where my major contributions of time and money will go. I also hope to inspire more volunteers and more contributions. We support a liberal voice that we cannot allow to let die because without it we die. It is part of who we all are and what we are here to accomplish, if we are indeed committed to our UU principles.

In faith, Christine

## *Congregational Conversations*

By Ministerial Search Committee for Settled Minister

The Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) board appointees eagerly await four additional MSC members elected by the congregation, cottage meetings with members and friends, and in mid-January, Rhonda Thomason, our assigned MSR (Ministerial Settlement Representative).

The board-appointed MSC members, Bruce Brandt, Bob Deyle and Mimi Jones, have met and are eager to get started on our task, seeking the best possible fit of minister to membership. We believe the congregation is eager to begin our year-and-a-half journey, too. To that end, we have decided on three beginning cottage meetings in December, designed to pick up where we left off after the two congregational conversations that were conducted last March and April. There will be additional cottage meetings, perhaps modified as we go along, as well as other modes of conversation, reflective of the “will of the people.” We want to get it right.

The cottage meetings are designed to allow active, individual participation, so that everyone has ample opportunity to hear and be heard. They will consist of no more than 12 people meeting to discuss a small number of topics. The idea is for all the interested people to discuss the same topics in small-group settings. Each group will need one facilitator and one recorder. Bruce, Mimi, and Bob will staff the first three cottage meetings, but we would like to recruit other members of the congregation to assist with future meetings. So, please volunteer to be a facilitator or recorder for one or more future cottage meetings by contacting one of us. Training will be provided.

Future meetings will be held in members' homes and at UUCT. Volunteer your home if you are willing, also providing simple refreshment.

Cottage Meeting first round topics:

- Role of the UUCT settled minister,
- Sunday service structure/content.

December dates, times and places:  
Thursday, 12/8, 7:15 - 9:15 PM @ UUCT, Rm. K. MSC representatives: Bruce and Bob.

Monday, 12/12, 7:00 - 9:00 PM @ Mimi Jones' house. MSC reps: Bruce and Mimi. [2428 Basswood Dr., off Riggins Rd. south of Mahan, 385-4249]

Tuesday, 12/13, 1:30 - 3:30 PM @ Bob Deyle's home. MSC reps: Bob and Mimi. [2409 Oakdale St., off Woodgate Way, between Thomasville and Centerville, 422-1057]

To be a participant for one of these first cottage meetings, sign up on one of the clipboards at the back of the sanctuary, or contact Kathie Mackie ([UUCT@nettally.com](mailto:UUCT@nettally.com), 385-5115 - emails preferred over phone calls). There will be a 4th clipboard for those interested in future cottage meetings after the first of the year.

## Announcements



### Bakers Needed!

On **Sunday, December 4**, the Youth RE Program will hold our semi-annual bake sale. Delicious delectables, freshly made, can be purchased to munch on during coffee hour, or to take home as treats for the family! Buy a cake or a pie for holiday gatherings! Funds raised will be used to purchase playground equipment for the Totlot. To donate food items or help out, contact DRE Maggie Geraci (877-6301) or Youth RE Chair Eliza Coyne (877-5415).

### Congregational Update

In January, look for: a visit on Sunday, Jan. 15 from the UUA Settled Ministry Representative, Rhonda Thomason; the announced date for a congregational meeting following her visit for the election of the four remaining members of the Ministerial Search Committee for a settled minister; and an announcement by the Executive Board on their selection of the members of the Interim Minister Search Committee for 2006 - 2007.

### Budget Requests Due 1/8

Budget requests, fundraising plans and program accomplishments and visions (2-3 very short, key items) for 2006 – 2007 are due to VP for Finance Jim Dawson on Sun., Jan. 8, 2006 – using the form provided. The asking budget development and approval calendar is tight, so this deadline is a firm one. Questions? Contact Jim (383-1213, [jwdawson53@aol.com](mailto:jwdawson53@aol.com)).

### Re-feathering Your Nest?

If you are buying a new living room sofa, consider donating your big, overstuffed, cast-off sofa to our teens. Their RE room could use some serious refurbishing. The two major needs are a big, comfortable, clean sofa and a big (9'x12'), soft rug. Call Barbara Sterling (386-7453) to donate.

### Temporary Office Help

We are looking for someone who is computer literate with skills and experience using Microsoft Word to work part-time in the church office while Office Administrator Kathie Mackie is on vacation from Mon. 12/26 – Mon. 1/9, with most of the hours to be worked after the holidays. We have budgeted for 30 – 36 hours total at \$10/hr. The weekday hours could be flexible, although mornings are preferred in order to coordinate with Rev. Bill's schedule. Experience using Microsoft Publisher would be useful, but not absolutely necessary. If you might be interested, contact Kathie as soon as possible (385-5115, [uuct@nettally.com](mailto:uuct@nettally.com)).

### New Meridian Deadline

In an effort to have a more uniform schedule for Meridian production from month to month and also hopefully avoid last minute crunches, the new deadline for Meridian submissions will be the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month, regardless of what day of the week it falls on. We will also be indicating on each month's Meridian calendar the days the church office will be busy with Meridian production. Please try to refrain from making any special requests of Kathie during those days. And thanks in advance for your cooperation!

### Mountaincamp Scholarships

Money (\$450 total) is available in this year's operating budget for scholarships to The Mountain, our UU retreat and learning center in Highlands, NC. Brochures on Mountaincamp 2006 for elementary – high school youth were mailed out in Nov. The brochure is also available at [www.mountaincenters.org](http://www.mountaincenters.org), or make a copy of the brochure at the back of the sanctuary. Camperships are also available directly from The Mountain, and in the past, the two scholarships

have been combined to enable a UUCT youth to attend camp.

The **deadline** for UUCT scholarship requests is **December 15, 2005**. Send a letter stating the amount requested and why it is needed to the church, care of the Scholarship Committee, or place the letter in Board president Christine Boczarska's box. Questions? Contact Christine (893-7079, [rrlee@infionline.net](mailto:rrlee@infionline.net)).

### Donations Needed

The Minister's Discretionary Fund exists to assist members and friends of the congregation who might need a temporary loan or monetary help to get through difficult times. Administered by the minister in accordance with the traditions of ministerial discretion and pastoral confidentiality, this fund depends solely on donations from members and friends. The fund is running very low at the moment, so donations would be appreciated. Make checks to UUCT and indicate "Minister's Discretionary Fund" in the memo line. Place checks in the Sunday collection basket or give them to Collecting Treasurer Tom Chase.

### UUCT Housing Survey

A UUCT housing survey was recently sent out to all members and friends with email. If you would be willing to provide emergency or special events housing for UUs from out of town, please print the survey, fill it out and return it to the survey box in the church office. You would be contacted by the church when a need arises. Contact the office if you do not have email and want to complete a survey.

### Audio- tapes & CDs

Audio-tapes and CDs of Sunday services are available for 4-week loan. Sign-out information, tapes and CDs are in the church audio closet. Contact: Gwendolyn Waldorf ([dcgbw@comcast.net](mailto:dcgbw@comcast.net), 668-3346).



## *Announcements (Continued)*

### **Office Closed Some Mondays**

Office Administrator Kathie Mackie will be taking some well-deserved, accrued vacation days the first two Mondays of each month through December.

### **Trustee Tidbits Posted**

December's letter from our FL District UUA Trustee, Joan Lund, is posted on the sanctuary bulletin board, or you can e-mail Meridian editor Trudy Deyle

for a digital copy ([gdeyle@juno.com](mailto:gdeyle@juno.com)). The topic is the resources it will take to make our faith grow a vital, strong, liberal religion. The UUA's first priority is encouraging the health and vitality of our congregations in their ministries—creating more programs and ministries; developing free, on-line, lifespan religious education curricula and resources; and nurturing relationships and promoting spiritual growth through new programs and small group

ministries. Other priorities are advertising and marketing at several levels to make our congregations known, attracting more young adults through new campus ministries, providing significant financial support for start-up congregations, and continuing to be a respected public voice for liberal religious values, going beyond resolutions to visible participation in the public controversies of our society.

## *Social Justice*

### **CROP Walk a Success!**

The Tallahassee CROP Walk was very successful this year, raising more than \$7,000 (at last count) for hunger relief locally and globally. UUCT can be very proud that we were one of the highest contributing groups, bringing in \$1,625 and over 200 canned goods, with 19 walkers. Many thanks **to all who contributed either by walking, bringing in canned goods, or pledging financially.**

As you know, we had a friendly competition amongst several groups at UUCT. Many thanks go to **the choir, the University UUs, the Freethinkers, the Board, our youth and parents, and the Green Sanctuary Committee** for participating. By adding the number of cans, walkers, and dollars, we got the grand total for each group. Congratulations to the children of our church, who won, with the choir second and the Freethinkers and University UUs tied for third. Of course, the real winners are the recipients. Thanks again to all of those who participated, with special thanks to **Kim Ross** for coordinating such a successful social justice effort!

### **TEAM Update**

Sixteen UUCT members attended the TEAM (Tallahassee Equality Action Ministry) rally Nov. 7 at Mt. Zion AME Church. Team committees presented two plans to aid the poor in the Tallahassee area. One plan was presented to the city's new director of transportation regarding improvements to TalTran services. He was the lone representative for the city, standing in for the city commissioners, none of whom attended the rally. Another plan was presented to the two county commissioners present concerning increased funding for health clinics for the poor in Tallahassee.

All in all, it was an enthusiastic rally. TEAM representatives will follow up after the holidays to work closely with both city and county officials on these two urgent issues.

### **UU Service Committee**

For those not at the November 20 Sunday service, a basket at the back of the sanctuary has "Guest at Your Table" boxes, UUSC membership envelopes, and information on the projects of UUSC. This is your opportunity to support the UUSC work around the globe "to make the world a better place." Families set the "Guest at Your Table" boxes on their tables,

put money in them over the holiday season, and bring them to church in Jan. to be combined as a single collection for UUSC. Contact Norene Chase (422-1985).

### **Fair-Traded Coffee**

Norene Chase will be able to take orders for "fair-traded coffee" through Sunday, December 4 for the holiday season. Contact Norene at 422-1985.

### **Heifer International Collection**

Help fight hunger and poverty this holiday season by donating to Heifer Project International at the UU Winterfest on Dec. 16. The Heifer Project donates farm animals to poor families around the world, including in the U.S. The gift of livestock allows the new farmers to take the first steps toward financial independence. The first offspring of donated animals are given to a new family. Donations will be taken at the Heifer Project table during the Winterfest. Make checks payable to Heifer Project International, as part of a congregational donation and/or to purchase an animal in a loved one's name for a unique holiday gift. Natalie Binder, a FSU student who is a regular UUCT visitor and member of the Okay Chorale, is coordinating this effort. Contact Natalie at 727-644-3971 or [nataliebinder@yahoo.com](mailto:nataliebinder@yahoo.com).

## Social Justice (Continued)

### UUA Study/Action Issues

Each year the UUA General Assembly chooses a social justice issue for congregational study and action for two years, so there are two current Study/Action Issues (S/AI). They give congregations and districts opportunities for study, discussion, involvement and action.

1. **THE THREAT OF GLOBAL WARMING**, the S/AI for 2004 - 06, will be presented for vote as a Statement of Conscience at the 2006 G.A. The Commission on Social Witness is asking for congregational input on the wording of the draft statement. Our Global Climate Change Action Group will be doing this for UUCT.

2. **MORAL VALUES**, the new S/AI for 2005 - 2007, asks: "How might the moral and ethical grounding of Unitarian Universalism be given greater voice in the public square?" The Commission on Social Witness is asking for congregational input on this S/AI by 3/1/06. If you would be interested in leading a study group on the S/AI, please contact VP for Social Justice Melissa Forgey (229-228-7981, [lovecats@rose.net](mailto:lovecats@rose.net)) or Norene Chase (422-1985). Suggestions for congregational discussion and involvement are in the resource guide

for the S/AI, available at the Commission on Social Witness web site: [www.uua.org/csw](http://www.uua.org/csw).

Congregations may also submit an issue for possible inclusion on the 2006 GA agenda as a proposed S/AI for 2006 – 2008. Proposals are due 12/15/05. The CSW website has complete instructions for completing proposals. Contact Melissa if you'd like to have the church consider proposing an issue.

### Monthly Peace Demonstration

VP for Social Justice Melissa Forgey would like to let the congregation know about this local monthly social justice event. The contact, Natalie Provo, is a member of the Auburn, AL UU Fellowship and has recently moved back to Tallahassee. She has visited UUCT in the past and is currently a frequent UUCT visitor.

Every third Thursday of each month from 5:00 – 6:00 PM, "Women in Black" demonstrate for peace in front of the state capitol building. Their presence reminds us and others of the consequences of war and violence—death and woundedness, both physical and spiritual, and the degradation of our environment and life support. This is a time of

introspection and meditation. It is a public mourning. Wearing black, the motionless silence, minimal signage, leaflet available, and single spokesperson has a sobering and reverent impact.

Bring a chair, if you are unable to stand for the hour. Arrive at anytime during the hour. Approach the demonstration site in silence and stand so as to generate the largest visible impact. Men who wish to stand in solidarity are encouraged and welcomed to join the demonstration, gathering behind the women.

Visit [www.womeninblack.org](http://www.womeninblack.org) for the history of the movement and individual group expressions. Contact: Natalie Provo (222-7195).

### Alternative Christmas Market

Held the weekend of December 3 and 4, this 19th annual event will feature a showcase of local charities and third world crafts, providing alternatives to holiday commercialization where the true giving is to the needy and the spirit of hope is shared. Canned food donations will also be collected. The location is John Wesley United Methodist Church, 1738 Old St. Augustine Rd. Contact: Cindy Casper ([jwumc@earthlink.net](mailto:jwumc@earthlink.net), 877-1738).

## Appreciation



- To:**
- **Frank Deasy and Susan Snyder, Carolyn DuBard, Eleanor and Earl Enge, Sara Reece, Nancy Harvey, Barbara Sterling, Marty Beech, and Randall Gann** for greeting Sundays 11/6 - 11/27.
  - **The peace dancers, Charlotte Dudley, Elinor Elfner and John Whitton, Greg DeAngelo, Jeanne Ryder, and Randall Gann** for November Sunday services set-up.
  - **Linda Winn-Brown** for serving as October kitchen controller, recruiting/overseeing volunteers.
  - **All who helped Linda** during October by bringing food and cleaning up.
  - **Christen and Lauren Ellrich and Melanie Hennings** for helping in the nursery.
  - **Melissa and Paul Forgey** for hosting the eight weeks of Thomasville Evensong gatherings.
  - **Charlotte Dudley, Rod Oldenburg, and Trudy Deyle** for facilitating fall New UU sessions.
  - **Christine Boczarska, Jennifer and DeWayne Carver, Trudy Deyle, and Joan Patterson** for attending the Nov. FL District Fall Leadership Conference.
  - **All who contributed** to the special UUSC collection at the Nov. 20 Sunday service (\$481 collected).

## Appreciation (Continued)

- **Dan Damerville, Stowe Alrutz, Eric Stierna and Ander Alrutz-Stierna, Amy Hall, Mary Janik, Mimi Jones, Jan Miller, Susan Snyder and Frank Deasy, and University UUs Brian Lee, Amanda Plummer, Charlie Starr, Eric Bryer, and Ansel Bailey-Mershon** for doing the November Shelter meal.
- **Joan Patterson** for agreeing to serve as FL District Fair Compensation Consultant, assisting congregations in the district with matters pertaining to salary and benefits for ministers and non-ministerial staff.

### Buildings and Grounds Thanks

The all-church workday on November 12 was well attended by 13 participants. Thanks go out to the following volunteers for contributing their time and effort. **Randall Gann and Robyn Wallace** spread gravel around the air conditioning units behind the church annex. Working on roof resealing were **Don Berger, Chris Ellrich, Brian Lee, Joe Lama, and Robyn. George Knight** and Brian took unwanted items to the county dump, using Brian's truck to haul the items. Mowing of the grass was done by **Rod Oldenburg** and Chris. Removing lots of spider webs around the buildings was accomplished by **Don Weed. Tom Chase** installed a towel rack in the men's bathroom in the annex. Working on landscape tasks were **Charlotte Dudley, Elinor Elfner, Randall, Jean Ryder, and Robyn.** Final cleanup and lock-up was done by George. Chris coordinated all the tasks that day.

Outside of the workday, **Bruce Brandt** pressure-washed the roof, with a little help from Chris and **Steve Urse.** Joe removed gravel from the driveway and also did some raking. Tom installed shelving in the Room L closet. Tom and George replaced a broken door on

the kitchen cabinet stored there. **Ed Oaksford** put sealant on the new picnic table. **Sheri Mishler, Ivan Baggett** and Steve mulched the street sign garden and *lorepetulum* donated by **Dave Harvey. Barbara Sterling** continues to water that area. Chris and Dave replaced burnt-out light bulbs in the sanctuary stage light fixtures. Dave adjusted all of the thermostats in the annex to standard time.

### UUCT Thanksgiving Dinner

Thanksgiving at UUCT has long been a special time of community ingathering and feasting together, since the early 1970s. We bring our cooked "Tom turkey" and "Henry ham" and a cornucopia of hot dishes, veggie mixes, nuts, wine and other holiday drinks, hot coffee, and pumpkin, mince meat, cranberry, and apple pies, cakes, left-over Halloween candy, you name it. Our tables of potluck gifts to one another overfloweth. There's also harvest season music and perhaps a simple word of "thanks" to life itself. This year's gathering at the church saw new things: the presence of three families from our local Muslim community—invited to join us as guests, a kosher turkey, more entertaining music, our minister to greet us and give thanks, and everyone having the chance to say greetings to everyone else, formally.

**Charlotte Dudley and Will Adkins** played three Native American harvest songs as recorder duets, as we got settled into our seats at a great UU-shaped (or M-shaped) table, **Rev. Bill Murchison** gave a Thanksgiving day story and welcome to all, and **Ron Crowe** sang (with guitar) four new Thanksgiving turkey songs (all humorous) of his own making.

We were honored by the families (some with children) of **Ramazan Erbilgin, Yalcin Akin, and Akif Aydin** from the FSU Muslim Student Tolerance & Dialog group. After the main meal, we invited them to stand up and tell us something about themselves. Then we went around our great UU-table to allow everyone introductions and greetings.

We are trying to discover how our annual Thanksgiving potluck dinner at UUCT came into being. We know **Eleanor Moore** (91+ years old and now living in Newnan, Georgia) started it and kept it going all these years. **Louise Kahn**, a former UUCT member, tells Will Adkins that she helped Eleanor start it. Will remembers his first Thanksgiving Day dinner here in 1973, at the time he joined the church. About 30-40 "pilgrims" show up every year. Most are UUs, but the gathering also includes relatives and friends. The food tables are the greatest, most varied, and special that you could imagine. No two Thanksgivings are the same, except for the gift of quiet, peace and goodwill, and the warm sharing, including stories and old memories that we bring.

Special thanks go to **Robyn Wallace, Linda Logan, Karen Share, Randall Gann, Pam and Don Crosby, and Jerri Lee Wagner** for helping to create this event and seeing it through to "clean up," and **to everyone** who brought their food dishes, drinks, music, and new friends to share with everyone else. We look forward to this special ingathering every year. (Thank you also, Rev. Bill, for joining us and reminding us of our community spirit.) And finally, thanks to **Will Adkins** who has taken over from Eleanor Moore as the coordinator of this annual event. Three cheers for Will!

## *Caring Network and Membership News*

### **Caring Ministries Network**

**Anne Rudloe** will have her third chemotherapy session starting Dec. 1. She has weathered the first two very well. These sessions continue every two weeks for six months.

Thankfully, **Ellie Whitney** is recovering from her fall which cut open her forehead and left her with a very sore shoulder. Of course, she never slowed down at all during this time!

**Barbara Hogan** recently reported that she is feeling good, so we're delighted to hear that her back is improving.

And we are thinking of **Dorothy Mann** and hope that she is feeling better.

Congratulations to **Mary Huggins and Susan Teisciero** on the grand opening of their new store, Wild Birds Unlimited. Mary and Susan are both avid birders. We are happy that Mary has completed her chemotherapy at Mayo and is feeling much better.

And a reminder to all that our long-time members who are no longer able to attend on Sundays and at other times would probably love to receive a holiday greeting from old friends at UUCT: **Ann Conn, Eleanore Adam, Virginia Anderson, Louise Dando, Art and Carolyn Fixel, Eleanor Moore, John Murphy, Mabel Richardson, and Virginia Wilcox.** (Apologies if we've forgotten someone.) Current addresses and phone numbers are in the Sept. 2005 church directory. If you can't locate your copy, contact the office or see Trudy Deyle on Sunday.

### **Photo Directory**

The UUCT photo directory is almost ready. Although we don't have pictures of everyone, enough pictures have been taken to publish what we have. A PDF of the photo directory will be emailed to all members and friends who have email. Hard copies in black

and white will be available. Watch for announcements later this month. The photo directory and directory of addresses and phone numbers will remain separate documents.

If you have not yet had your picture taken, contact directory photographer Mary Van Sciver (893-0353) to arrange a picture-taking time. Couples and families should be together. There is no need to dress up.

### **"Dinners for 8"**

Dinners for 8 rounds will be held this winter and spring, depending on the overall UUCT calendar. Dinners coordinator: Junelle Brandt (junellebrandt@earthlink.net, 893-5511).

### **New UU sessions**

These sessions are offered on a regular basis for those new to Unitarian Universalism and UUs new to UUCT. They are usually offered two consecutive weeks on a weeknight from 7:00 – 9:00 PM, but occasionally we also offer a single, three-hour Sunday afternoon session, when there is enough interest in one. Participants share some about themselves, including their spiritual journeys, and learn a little about the church and the greater Unitarian Universalist movement. There is also time for some discussion, and our minister is present for a question and answer time. The next sessions will be offered in late January. A general sign-up sheet is on the back counter of the sanctuary. Or contact the church office (385-5115, [uuct@nettally.com](mailto:uuct@nettally.com)) or membership chair Trudy Deyle (422-1057, [gdeyle@juno.com](mailto:gdeyle@juno.com)).

### **On-going Opportunities**

- **Buildings & Grounds 2nd Saturday Workdays:** Contact Dave Harvey (668-9096, [daveharv@mac.com](mailto:daveharv@mac.com)).

### **Current UUCT Stats**

- **Certified Membership (as of 1/05) -178**
- **Current Membership - 182**
- **Current Number Friends - 53**
- **Average Sunday Service Attendance - Adults**
  - **October 2005: 103.6**
  - **July - Oct. 2005: 102.6**
  - **7/04 - 6/05: 107.3**
  - **7/03 - 6/04: 107.4**
  - **7/02 - 6/03: 96.5**
- **RE Enrollment (nursery - 12th)**
  - **04-05: 61**
  - **05-06: 45 (incomplete)**
- **Average RE Attendance (not including Fun Days)**
  - **9/04 - 5/05: 33.8**
  - **11/05: 19.5**
- **Nursery Help:** Contact Melanie Hennings (229-226-0446, [melanie.hennings@mchsi.com](mailto:melanie.hennings@mchsi.com))
- **2nd Monday Shelter Meal:** Contact Susan Snyder (907-1740, [deasyf@comcast.net](mailto:deasyf@comcast.net)).
- **Sunday Hospitality and Clean Up:** For December, contact Jennifer Carver (402-0622, [jzcarver@earthlink.net](mailto:jzcarver@earthlink.net)) and Carolyn Pardue (386-1494, [pardue2@comcast.net](mailto:pardue2@comcast.net)).
- **Sunday Service Greeter:** Contact Nancy Harvey (668-9096, [npharv@aol.com](mailto:npharv@aol.com)).
- **Sunday Service Set-up:** Contact Elinor Elfner (524-1026, [eelfner@comcast.net](mailto:eelfner@comcast.net)).



## Lifespan Religious Education

### Youth Religious Education (RE)

#### Next Youth RE Committee

**Meeting: Sunday, December 4, 9:30 AM, Rm. K.**

#### YOUTH RE CONTACTS:

- **Eliza Coyne, Youth RE Committee Chair (877-5415; [krelcoyne@gmail.com](mailto:krelcoyne@gmail.com))**
- **Melanie Hennings, Nursery Sub-Committee Chair (229/226-0446; [melanie.hennings@mchsi.com](mailto:melanie.hennings@mchsi.com))**
- **Maggie Geraci, Director of Religious Education (DRE), ([dremaggie@earthlink.net](mailto:dremaggie@earthlink.net); 877-6301)**

#### Tree Decoration Party

On **Tuesday, December 13 at 6:30 PM**, all children in the Youth RE Program are invited to join the SpiralScouts in trimming the UUCT winter solstice evergreen tree. This is an intergenerational event, with snacks and drinks provided. Contact: Amy Hall (402-1010, [andarta2@yahoo.com](mailto:andarta2@yahoo.com)).

#### No Youth RE 12/25

With a special all-ages service Christmas Eve and many busy with family, there will not be a church service or Youth RE, including nursery and youth group, Christmas morning. Please note that this is a change from the calendar in the RE brochure. The following Sunday, January 1, will be a Youth RE Fun Day.

#### Now's Your Chance!

Now's your chance to find out what teaching RE is all about! Volunteer to assist in a RE classes. No experience necessary...it just requires one hour of your time on a Sunday. Assist the regular RE teacher in reading, helping children with crafts, setting up snacks, and other activities. Get to know the kids and have a blast! To find out what

dates are open or for more information, contact DRE Maggie Geraci.

#### Time Is Running Out!

Youth RE registration needs to be completed for the coming year. All children should be registered for safety and record-keeping reasons, including regular nursery attendees and youth group members. New and previous registrants should stop by the RE table to fill out a registration form.

Many of the expenses of the RE program are met through our annual pledges to the church budget. A yearly fee covers additional costs. Family fees are \$30 for one child, \$40 for two, and \$45 for three or more. Scholarships are available. Contact DRE Maggie Geraci for information.

#### Did You Know...

There are 12 volunteers working regularly with the Youth RE program!

We offer three RE classes (including a class for preschoolers, kindergarteners to second graders, and third graders to fifth graders) and a youth group (for grades 6 through high school).

Four members of our congregation recently attended District Youth Advisor Training! Thanks to **DeWayne and Jennifer Carver, Scott Geraci, and Elizabeth Vigil!**

Five members of our Youth Group and two advisors recently attended a district CON (called "CONDiments"! ) at the Sarasota UU Church: Kellen Denny, Daniel and Devin Geraci, Zach Thomas, Lindsey Weaver, and DeWayne and Jennifer Carver.

The Youth Group hosted the Halloween RE Fun Day on October 30. They provided games, crafts, and treats for the younger kids of RE. Everyone had a "spooktacular" time!

The children won the friendly Crop Walk competition. Way to go, kids!

UUCT has the fourth largest children's RE program in the District!

#### Volunteer of the Month

For December, our volunteer of the month is **Eliza Coyne!** Eliza tells us a little about herself below.

**Your volunteer positions:** Youth RE Committee chair and Explorers (pre-school) teacher.

**Your family life:** Husband Sean, daughters Omie and Renee.

#### Your time outside of family and

**UUCT:** I work full time in a local public relations firm, where I do a lot of writing and relations with the media.

**Your hobbies or interests:** I'm in a couple of book clubs and haven't found time for much else.

#### Why you decided to volunteer in

**Youth RE:** Kids are HUGELY important to our future. Children—my own as well as others—enrich my life tremendously. I learn so much from them and can think of nothing more rewarding than sharing with them, teaching them, helping them discover the beauty the world has to offer, as well as the beauty within.

#### Your favorite part about Youth RE

**volunteering:** Story time in the preschool class I teach.

#### How you fit Youth RE into a busy

**life:** I'm not always able to commit as much time as I'd like, but giving a little is better than giving nothing.

#### What you'd like others to know

**about Youth RE:** It's terribly rewarding, refreshing and doesn't need to take as much time as you think. Volunteer once a month, once a year ... whatever! It means a great deal to the kids for you to take the time, and you'll learn a thing or two in the process. Our congregation has SO much to share with the kids ... and vice-versa!

## *Lifespan Religious Education (Continued)*

### **UU Youth Group Update**

Parents of middle and high school aged youth are invited to join the youth and their advisors for an update on youth group activities. Since the advisors have now been to advisor training, we'd also like to share some of what we learned. The meeting will be **Sunday, December 11 at 12:45 PM** in the youth room (Room 3/6). Grab your lunch plate from potluck and join us! For more information, contact Jennifer Carver (402-0622) or Scott Geraci (877-6301).

The UUCT Youth Group meets Sundays at 11:00 AM in Rm. 3 and is open to any middle or high school youth. The group is youth-led and youth-oriented, with some gentle guidance and adult supervision from the advisors. This year, the group is working more closely toward the YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists) model of community building, social action, leadership, worship, and learning.

For more information about the group, contact advisors Scott Geraci (877-6301; [sgeraci68@yahoo.com](mailto:sgeraci68@yahoo.com)) and Jennifer and DeWayne Carver (402-0622; [jzcarver@earthlink.net](mailto:jzcarver@earthlink.net); [ddcarver@earthlink.net](mailto:ddcarver@earthlink.net)). Christine Boczarska assists the advisors with discussion activities.

### **FL District Cons**

The Youth Group and their advisors will be deciding which FL District Cons to attend this year. Trained advisors must accompany youth to district cons.

1/13-15 All-Age CON, Gainesville

2/17-19 Trans-In CON, TBA

3/17-19 All-Age CON, Clearwater

4/7-8 Youth Caucus, Vero Beach

### **Adult Enrichment**

#### **ADULT ENRICHMENT CONTACTS:**

- **Kim Ross, Adult Enrichment coordinator (877-1972; [kim@cennexus.com](mailto:kim@cennexus.com))**
- **Maggie Geraci, Director of Religious Education ([dremaggie@earthlink.net](mailto:dremaggie@earthlink.net); 877-6301).**

The **Adult RE Interest Group** will meet **December 5 at 7:00 PM** in Room K to discuss ending Fall classes and new Spring classes. If you are interested in teaching or taking a particular class, please give your input to Kim Ross at or before the meeting.

#### **Future Classes & Opportunities**

The following classes will be offered in the Spring, pending interest:

**How to Talk so Kids will Listen and Listen so Kids will Talk.** A parenting class taught by Maggie Geraci on working with children - great for parents, teachers, grandparents, and others who work with children.

#### **Ken Wilber Workshops, Anyone?**

Abstract, integral philosopher Ken Wilber is not everybody's "cup of tea," but he is highly controversial and revolutionary in his ideas about the evolution of human consciousness and the paths to enlightenment. A beginner's workshop is planned for January or February, pending interest. Contact Will Adkins (850-385-5071, [metamuse@comcast.net](mailto:metamuse@comcast.net)).

**Roots: An Exploration of the Free Church Tradition.** A four session curriculum which Rev. Bill has shared with us, covering: the questions of free religion; the ideas of Unitarian Universalism; church citizenship—covenant vs. creed; and our theology, worship and religious education. Contact Charlotte Dudley (668-7126, [lcdudley@yahoo.com](mailto:lcdudley@yahoo.com)) or Trudy Deyle (422-1057, [gdeyle@juno.com](mailto:gdeyle@juno.com)).

**UUVegetarians.** Is there any interest in starting a "vegetarian" group at the church? We can exchange ideas on nutrition, possibly have a monthly all-veggie party, share suggestions, and generally spread the "gospel" of eating well without consuming meat or dairy products. Contact: Will Adkins (385-5071, [metamuse@comcast.net](mailto:metamuse@comcast.net)).

#### **On-Going Opportunities**

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

#### **Ballroom Dance Interest Group.**

Anyone interested in ballroom dancing is invited to join this interest group. We learn dances and practice by going to the various dance venues around town. Partners not required. All sessions are in Rm. L:

Thurs. 12/1, 7:00 - 7:45 PM (a 3/4 hour lesson with Carolyn DuBard)

Tues. 12/6, 7-9 PM

Tues. 12/13, 7-9 PM

Tues. 12/20, 7-9 PM

Tues. 12/27, 7-9 PM

The non-lesson sessions will be for practice and for trying new steps. Contact Annette Pearce (385-4053, [Annette.Pearce@gmail.com](mailto:Annette.Pearce@gmail.com)).

**The UUCT Book Club.** Meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month in Rm. C. Newcomers are welcome. Contact: Linda Oaksford (422-0240, [loaksford@earthlink.net](mailto:loaksford@earthlink.net)).

December 13, *Obsessive Genius: The Inner World of Marie Curie* by Barbara Goldsmith. Through family interviews, diaries, and Curie's work books, Goldsmith reveals an understanding of what Curie went through in her personal and scientific life, with the prejudice against women in science.

## *Lifespan Religious Education (Continued)*

January 10. *Oryx and Crake* by Margaret Atwood. Margaret Atwood takes us into an outlandish, but wholly believable world, where people and animals have been genetically engineered. Snowman, the main character, who appears to be the only "human" left on Earth, is searching for supplies in a basic wasteland. The story weaves back and forth between the present time and the recent past, the overture to doom.

### **Cakes for the Queen of Heaven.**

A UUA-sponsored program to explore female religious history and reclaim its meaning in women's lives. Six sessions total on two Thursdays each month, Oct. – Dec., 7:00 PM in Rm. 2.

Final two sessions are:

Dec. 1 - Seeking the Female Presence in Contemporary Witchcraft

Dec. 8 - Creating the Female Presence in Your Future Spiritual Life

Contact Pauline Masterton (385-2879, [pauline.masterton@gmail.com](mailto:pauline.masterton@gmail.com)). While the session objectives are cumulative to some degree, contact Pauline if you would like to discuss attending a selected session.

**Deep Ecology.** Meets 2nd Sundays at 1:00 PM in Rm. 2 to explore

environmentalism from a variety of perspectives through reading and discussion. New members and drop-ins are welcome. Contact: Mary Janik ([marybethtally@earthlink.net](mailto:marybethtally@earthlink.net), 878-5060) for a copy of the month's study material.

December 11 topic is Bioregionalism. Discussion will address the question of whether developing a deeper understanding of our bioregion, our unique geographical area, may enable us to better care for the earth. Discussion led by Michele Hope. Final topic of the series.

**Freethinkers' Forum.** Meets Thursdays at 7:00 PM, in Rm. C on the first Thursday of the month and in Rm. L the other Thursdays.

December 1, 8, 15, and 22 (no meeting 12/29): Dr. Gary J. Whittenberger, a member of Freethinkers' Forum, will present his intriguing book, *God Wants You to be an Atheist*, in eight weekly sessions. We will address questions such as these: Why does God want you to be an atheist? Does God even exist? If God exists, what does he want from us? How can belief in God be measured? What might have happened before the Big Bang? What are the twelve flaws in the evidence for

the resurrection of Jesus? Does free will explain the existence of evil in our world? Does religion actually spawn violence? Can a new approach help to persuade liberal Christians to take a different path toward free thinking?

January 5, 12, 19, and 26, and continuing: We will present and discuss *The End of Faith: Religion, Terror, and the Future of Reason* by Sam Harris (W.W. Norton and Company, 2004).

Contact Ron Crowe (997-5307, [rongcro2@juno.com](mailto:rongcro2@juno.com)) to be included in notifications of each week's topic.

**Knitting for All.** Meets Thursdays at 7:00 PM in Rm. 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, [chelsuu@yahoo.com](mailto:chelsuu@yahoo.com)).

**UU Buddhist Fellowship.** Will meet again when Anne Rudloe is able to resume leading the group. Temporary contact: Joanne Taylor (893-9024, [taylorjoanne@earthlink.net](mailto:taylorjoanne@earthlink.net)).

**Women's Spirituality Group.** Meets on Mondays at 7:00 PM off-site (no meeting 12/26). Contact: Bonnie Foster ([dbdfoster@yahoo.com](mailto:dbdfoster@yahoo.com), 539-5563).

## *Campus Ministry Corner*

By Brian Lee, Campus Ministry Coordinator

As the semester winds down, schedules have been very hectic for everybody involved in the Campus Ministry. We appreciate all the time and effort our University Unitarian Universalists members have spent this semester on such projects as the CROP Walk and the Shelter Meals.

**Weekly meetings** will continue at FSU's International Center on Mondays at 6:30 PM through Dec. 5. The International Center is on campus

at 107 South Wildwood Dr. across from the Student Life Center. On Monday, Dec. 12 at 5:00 PM, we will help to prepare and serve our last Shelter meal of the year.

**Coffee Hour** will continue throughout the holidays at 6:30 PM Fridays at All Saints Café, located at 903 Railroad Avenue, one block south of Gaines street. After coffee on Friday, Dec. 2, we will be checking out the First Friday Gallery Hop at Railroad Square, and

on Friday, Dec. 9, we will be checking out UUU member Gabrielle Giron's free Latin Music concert with Mariachi del Sol at the Club Downunder.

For more information about the University UUs, to volunteer your time for tabling at Market Wednesday, or to give input for meeting topics or service project ideas, contact your Campus Ministry coordinator Brian Lee (877-1972, [brianlee@hcsmail.com](mailto:brianlee@hcsmail.com)). Or learn more at: [www.uutally.org](http://www.uutally.org).

## Green Corner



By Michele Hope, Green Sanctuary Committee Chair

The November Sunday service by the Global Climate Change Action Group, "Choices for our Grandchildren's Future," produced a strong response from those present. Thanks go to the youth for helping us focus on the future of our families and community, not just our present needs. Clearly, we aren't content to go down in history as the "Me" generation!

A "Commitment to Earth" pledge form was included as an insert in the order of service, and those who wished to do so completed the form during the service. **Fifty-seven** pledges were turned in! This pledge form replaces and includes the 1-2-3 pledge of prior years. Just as the complexities of global warming have become apparent as we study and learn about its causes and effects, so, too, will our solutions be more complex and varied. A majority checked at least **13 areas** in which they planned to take action to

conserve and preserve resources! That's commitment!

The Green Sanctuary Committee will examine the survey responses and provide more information for areas where there was the most commitment. We'll have pledge forms at our Sunday table for those of you who missed the November service. We'll try to vary the information available from week to week, so be sure to check in with us after Sunday services. Green Sanctuary Committee members will be outside the sanctuary after services on Dec. 4 and 18 and Jan. 8 and 22. And we still have fluorescent light bulbs to sell if you're looking for holiday presents!

The Green Sanctuary Committee will meet **Tues., Dec. 13, 7:00 PM** in Rm. 2 for a celebration of the Green Sanctuary certification report we are compiling to send to UU Ministry for

Earth (formerly 7<sup>th</sup> Principle Project). Willing hands are invited to join us.

In the Nov. 6 service, Rev. Bill encouraged us as UUs to both savor the moment and work to save the earth, quoting E.B. White: "I arise in the morning torn between a desire to improve (or save) the world and a desire to enjoy or (savor) the world. This makes it hard to plan the day."

Let's enjoy the holidays and look forward to the new year. As individuals, families, church, and community, we have work to do!

The **Global Climate Change Action Group** meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of each month at 7:00 PM in Rm. L (no meeting 12/26). Anyone is welcome to attend these meetings. For some, there is a speaker from the community. For more information about GCCAG, contact Elinor Elfner (524-1026, eelfner@comcast.net).

## October 2005 Executive Board Actions

By Molly Schmid, Executive Board Secretary

Approved the September 25, 2005 minutes.

Made an amendment to the previously approved October 16, 2005

Congregational Meeting minutes showing that the May 2005 Annual Congregational Meeting minutes were approved.

Approved the Treasurer's Report for September 2005.

Approved a motion that the minister of the congregation shall provide general oversight and supervision of paid staff. (Details are to be worked out and recommended to the Board by the Personnel Committee and minister.)

Approved a motion to accept Option 2 as recommended by the Committee on Ministry for revising Reverend Murchison's contract.

Approved a motion to increase the amount of the additional salary bonus by \$500.00, from \$2,099.00 to \$2,599.00, in order to honor the original contract between Reverend Murchison and UUCT.

Approved a motion to revise the wording of the Minister's Contract to read:

The Governing Board agrees:

a. To provide the following compensation and benefits

- Salary of \$12,000.00,
- Per Diem of \$40, 432.00 (361 days x \$112.00 per day),
- Taxable payment to find housing prior to start of work - \$544.00,
- Professional expenses, under an accountable reimbursement plan, of up to \$10,068.00,
- Additional salary bonus (taxable) of \$2599.00.

Approved a motion to take donations at the upcoming UUCT Winterfest on December 16 to support Heifer International. Donation checks will be made out to Heifer International, so the money will not need to go through the church books.



## Events: UUCT Upcoming

### Upcoming UUCT Events

**Riley House Rock-a-thon, Saturday, December 3, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM.** See *Social Justice*. Contact: Isabel Sheridan ([iasheridan@nettally.com](mailto:iasheridan@nettally.com), 668-0785).

**Peace Dances, Saturday, December 3, 7:30 PM.** In the sanctuary. Simple, meditative circle dances, rejuvenating and uplifting. Contact: Tom and Katya Taylor ([katyata@earthlink.net](mailto:katyata@earthlink.net), 656-9321).

**“Einstein Revealed” Video, Sunday, December 4, 12:30 PM.** In Rm. L for all interested. This is the video on Einstein recommended by Rev. Nels Oas, who spoke to us on Sunday, 11/27 about Einstein and liberal religion. Length: 111 minutes. Contact: Mary Jernigan (386-7301), who has reserved the video from the library.

**Brown Bagging with Bill, Thursdays, December 8 & 15, Noon.** Bring a bag lunch to UUCT and join Rev. Bill in Rm. L for an hour of conversation and fellowship. These lunches will be continued in the new year. No need to RSVP; just come. Contact: Kathie Mackie in the church office (385-5115, [uuct@nettally.com](mailto:uuct@nettally.com)).

**Cottage Meetings, December (Thurs. 12/8, 7:15 PM; Mon. 12/12, 7:00 PM; Tues. 12/13, 1:30 PM).** At UUCT and off-site. Held by the Ministerial Search Committee for a settled minister, these small-group meetings will pick up where we left off after the two congregational conversations last spring. Meetings continue in January so all interested have a chance to attend. See *Congregational Conversations* on p. 3 for more details. Sign up sheets are on the sanctuary back counter or contact the church office – e-mail preferred ([uuct@nettally.com](mailto:uuct@nettally.com), 385-5115).

**All Church Workday, Saturday, December 10, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM.** Enjoy fellowship working on chores and projects to keep our buildings and grounds in shape. Contact: Dave Harvey ([daveharv@mac.com](mailto:daveharv@mac.com), 668-9096).

**Second Sunday Potluck, December 11, 12:30 PM.** Bring your favorite dish.

**SpiralScout Tree Decoration Party, Tuesday, December 13, 6:30 PM.** Come join the SpiralScouts in the sanctuary to trim the winter solstice evergreen tree in preparation for the UUCT Winterfest! The scouts will present their hand-made ornaments and tell what they represent. This is an intergenerational event, and children in the Youth RE Program are invited to attend and meet the SpiralScouts. Snacks and drinks will be provided. Contact: Amy Hall (402-1010, [andarta2@yahoo.com](mailto:andarta2@yahoo.com)).

**Movie Discussion Group, Sunday, December 18, Afternoon.** See a movie chosen by consensus, then go to a restaurant for discussion. Contact: Dave Harvey ([daveharv@mac.com](mailto:daveharv@mac.com), 668-9096).

**UUWinterfest 2005, Friday, December 16, 6:30 PM.** Come for the hot wassail ingathering at 6:00 PM and potluck dinner at 6:30 PM, with lighting of our annual winter-solstice evergreen tree, secular holiday music and sing-along, poetry, storytelling, and a peace dance. After 8:30 PM, there'll be an outdoor campfire party for the clean-up crew and late-nighters in need of a warm “afterglow.”

This is intergenerational and a special event for children and families. This year, there will be the opportunity to donate directly to Heifer Project International. The project donates farm animals to poor families around the world, including in the U.S.

To help with set-up or other related activities, contact Will Adkins (385-

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR SPECTACULAR FUNDRAISERS AT UUCT!

#### Saturday, February 11:

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

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

#### Sunday, February 12:

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

Details in the January Meridian!

5071, [metamuse@comcast.net](mailto:metamuse@comcast.net)). We'll set up the tree on Saturday, Dec. 10, with, sanctuary set-up and table decorating after 9:00 PM on Thursday, Dec. 15 and all day on Friday, Dec. 16.

**Christmas Eve Service, Saturday, December 24, 7:00 PM.** Our traditional intergenerational service, followed by a dessert potluck.

**Church Council Meeting, Sunday, January 15, 12:30 PM.** In Rm. L. The main agenda item will be reviewing the draft asking budget with the VP for Finance. Contact: DeWayne Carver (402-0622, [ddcarver@earthlink.net](mailto:ddcarver@earthlink.net)).

**Family Potluck & Mountain Program, Saturday, January 28, 5:30 PM.** In the sanctuary. Come share good food and learn about youth programs at The Mountain, our very special UU retreat and conference center in Highlands, NC. See pictures, learn about Mountaincamp from UUCT youth who have attended, hear what UUCT parents and youth conference advisors have to say, and sing some Mountaincamp songs. Our special guests will be the Mountain Quartet. We'll eat, then have a short program at 6:45 PM followed by dessert. The Mountain can make a real difference in the lives of our UU youth; don't miss

## Events: UUCT Social & FL District

this chance for the whole family to learn more about it! Contacts: Elinor Elfner ([eelfner@comcast.net](mailto:eelfner@comcast.net), 524-1026) or Trudy Deyle ([gdeyle@juno.com](mailto:gdeyle@juno.com), 422-1057). Let Elinor or Trudy know by January 15, at the latest, if you plan to attend and will need childcare for a baby or toddler.

### UUCT Social Events

See Events listings. Contact Pam Hoskins ([pvhoskins@aol.com](mailto:pvhoskins@aol.com), 893-5039) regarding possible social events.

- Peace Dances, Sat. 12/3, 7:30 PM
- Brown Bagging w/ Bill, Thurs. 12/8 & 12/15, noon.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Potluck, 12/11, 12:30 PM
- Tree Decorating w/ SpiralScouts, Tues. 12/13, 6:30 PM
- UU Winterfest, Fri. 12/16, 6:00 PM
- Movie Discussion Group, Sun. 12/18, afternoon
- Dessert Potluck, Sat. 12/24, 8:00 PM
- Potluck & Mountain Program, Sat. 1/28, 5:30 PM
- Chili & Chocolate/Auction, Sat. 2/11, 5:00 PM

### Non-UUCT Events

- Every Sunday, 7:00 PM, Gentle Shepherd Metropolitan Community Church (Sanctuary)
- Every Thursday, 7:00 PM, Zen Meditation (Sanctuary)
- Sat., Dec. 10, 5:30 PM, Capital City Cyclist Club (Sanctuary)

### UU in the Pines Elderhostels

UU in the Pines is a UU conference center in west-central Florida specializing in Elderhostel programs that explore the FL wilderness. Jan. 15 - 20, Feb. 12 - 17 and Feb. 26 - Mar. 3, it is offering "Explore Florida's Ecosystems from the Water Up: Canoeing Three Rivers." To register, contact Elderhostel (by phone toll free at 877-426-8056, by fax to 877-426-2166, on-line at [www.elderhostel.org](http://www.elderhostel.org), or by mail to 11 Avenue de Lafayette, Boston, MA 02111-1746).

### S.W.I.M. 2005

S.W.I.M., the Southeast Unitarian Universalist Winter Institute in Miami, is all about having fun in a supportive UU community in the warm Miami sunshine! S.W.I.M.'s annual intergenerational retreat for UUs and like-minded people of all ages happens every year from December 26 through Jan 1. S.W.I.M. offers south Florida hospitality, outdoor adventures

(including tours, hikes, windsurfing, canoeing, and sailing), workshops (including spirituality and personal growth), special programs for youth, teens, and young adults, fantastic food, and a new community of friends from across the continent. This year's theme is "Heavenly Bodies." For more information, visit:

<http://www.swimuu.org>

### FL District Event

For more information on these events, contact church office or denominational affairs coordinator Jennifer Carver (402-0622, [jzcarver@earthlink.net](mailto:jzcarver@earthlink.net)), or visit [www.floridadistrict.org](http://www.floridadistrict.org).

- **"Creating the UU Church of the Future,"** Sat. & Sun. 2/3-4, Vero Beach, with Mike Durrall, author of *Creating Congregations of Generous People* and *The Almost Church: Redefining Unitarian Universalism for a New Era*. (\$500 for unlimited no. per church.)
- **Interweave Convo**, Fri. – Sun., 2/24-26, Clearwater, "Accepting Ourselves, Accepting Each Other."
- **District Annual Assembly**, Fri-Sat., 4/7-8, Vero Beach.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual All-Cluster UU Renewal Service**, Wed. 5/24, Clearwater, with Rev. William Sinkford.

## Mountain News

By Linda Winn-Brown, UUCT Mountain Ambassador

Upcoming Programs at The Mountain:  
 Dec. 2 - 4 - Celebration of the Season,  
 Dec. 26 - 30 - Senior High Winter Break Week,  
 Dec. 30 - Jan.1 - New Year's at The Mountain.

Gift of the Season: Surprise someone special with a Mountain gift certificate to any of the above programs. A 10% discount is offered on these gift

certificates. This is a very special and unique gift, plus you will be supporting The Mountain.

For information on any of these programs, you may contact The Mountain directly (828-526-5838 ext. 0, [info@mountaincenters.org](mailto:info@mountaincenters.org)) or visit: [mountaincenters.org](http://mountaincenters.org). You may also contact me ([lwinn41@earthlink.net](mailto:lwinn41@earthlink.net), 562-4755) with any questions.

Be sure to read in *Events* about the Jan. 28 Mountain potluck and program the weekend The Mountain Quartet visits UUCT. And watch the Sunday announcements for further information about our possible UUCT retreat at The Mountain, Memorial Day Weekend, May '06.

Holiday Greetings to all!



# December 2005

## Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																						
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Nov 2005</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; font-size: small;"> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Jan 2006</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; font-size: small;"> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> </div>				S	M	T	W	T	F	S			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30				S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><b>1</b></p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">12:00 PM Hosting Interfaith Ministers' Meeting, Rm L 7:00 PM Ballroom Dancing Group, Rm L 7:00 PM Freethinkers Forum, Rm C 7:00 PM Knitting for All, Rm 3/6 7:15 PM Cakes for the Queen of Heaven, Rm 2 7:15 PM Settled Minister's Search Comm, Rm K</p>		<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><b>2</b></p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">6:30 PM University UUs, off-site</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><b>3</b></p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">9:00 AM Riley House Rock-a-thon, off-site 7:30 PM Peace Dances, sanctuary</p>	
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<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><b>4</b></p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">9:30 AM Youth RE Committee, Rm K 9:45 AM Adult Forum, Rm L 12:00 PM Youth RE Bake Sale, sanctuary 12:30 PM "Einstein Revealed" Video, Rm L</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><b>5</b></p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">6:30 PM University UUs, off-site 7:00 PM Adult Enrichment, Rm K 7:00 PM Bldgs. &amp; Grounds Comm., Rm C 7:00 PM WSG, off-site <span style="color: red; font-size: small;">Office Closed</span></p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><b>6</b></p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">5:30 PM Evensong, T'ville, off-site 7:00 PM Ballroom Dancing, Rm L</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><b>7</b></p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">7:30 PM Choir Practice</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><b>8</b></p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">12:00 PM Lunch w/ Bill, Rm L 7:00 PM Freethinkers Forum, Rm L 7:00 PM Knitting for All, Rm 3/6 7:15 PM Cakes for the Queen of Heaven, Rm 2 7:15 PM Cottage Meeting, Rm K</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><b>9</b></p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">5:00 PM Personnel Committee, Rm K 6:30 PM University UUs, off-site</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><b>10</b></p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">9:00 AM -1:00 PM All Church Workday</p>																																																																																						
<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><b>11</b></p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">9:45 AM Adult Forum, Rm L 12:30 PM Potluck, sanctuary 12:45 PM Youth Group/Parent Meeting, Rm 3/6 1:00 PM Deep Ecology, Rm 2</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><b>12</b></p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">5:00 PM University UUs, off-site 7:00 PM 7:00 PM Climate Chg Act Grp., Rm L 7:00 PM Cottage Meeting, off-site 7:00 PM WSG, off-site 7:15 PM Membership Committee, Rm K 7:15 PM The Shelter Meal, off-site <span style="color: red; font-size: small;">Office Closed</span></p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><b>13</b></p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">1:30 PM Cottage Meeting, off-site 6:30 PM Christmas Tree Trimming Party/Spiral Scouts, sanctuary 7:00 PM Ballroom Dancing, Rm L 7:00 PM Green Sanctuary, Rm K 7:00 PM UU Book Club, Rm C</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><b>14</b></p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">6:00 PM Technology Committee, Rm K 7:30 PM Choir Practice</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><b>15</b></p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">12:00 PM Lunch w/ Bill, Rm L 7:00 PM Freethinkers Forum, Rm L 7:00 PM Knitting for All, Rm 3/6 After 9:00 PM Winterfest Set Up, sanctuary</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><b>16</b></p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">7:00 AM Meridian Deadline 6:00 PM Winterfest, sanctuary 6:30 PM University UUs, off-site</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><b>17</b></p>																																																																																						
<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><b>18</b></p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">9:45 AM Adult Forum, Rm L 6:00 PM Board Meeting, Rm L Afternoon - Movie Discussion Group</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><b>19</b></p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">3:00 PM Finance Comm, Rm K 7:00 PM Program Comm, Rm L 7:00 PM WSG, off-site <span style="color: red; font-size: small;">Office Busy w/ Meridian</span></p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><b>20</b></p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">7:00 PM Ballroom Dancing, Rm L 7:15 PM Committee on Ministry, Rm K <span style="color: red; font-size: small;">Office Busy w/ Meridian</span></p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><b>21</b></p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">7:30 PM Choir Practice <span style="color: red; font-size: small;">Office Busy w/ Meridian</span></p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><b>22</b></p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">7:00 PM Freethinkers Forum, Rm L 7:00 PM Knitting for All, Rm 3/6 <span style="color: red; font-size: small;">Office Busy w/ Meridian</span></p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><b>23</b></p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">6:30 PM University UUs, off-site <span style="color: red; font-size: small;">Office Busy w/ Meridian</span></p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><b>24</b></p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">7:00 PM Christmas Eve Intergenerational Service and Dessert Potluck, sanctuary</p>																																																																																						
<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><b>25</b></p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">9:45 AM Adult Forum, Rm L 11:00 AM Christmas Gathering, sanctuary, if interest (No church service) Christmas Day <span style="color: red; font-size: small;">No Choir Practice or Youth RE</span></p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><b>26</b></p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;"><span style="color: red; font-size: small;">Office Closed</span></p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><b>27</b></p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">7:00 PM Ballroom Dancing, Rm L <span style="color: red; font-size: small;">Office Closed</span></p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><b>28</b></p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">7:30 PM Choir Practice <span style="color: red; font-size: small;">Office Closed</span></p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><b>29</b></p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">7:00 PM Knitting for All, Rm 3/6 <span style="color: red; font-size: small;">Office Closed</span></p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><b>30</b></p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">6:30 PM University UUs, off-site <span style="color: red; font-size: small;">Office Closed</span></p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><b>31</b></p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;"><span style="color: red; font-size: small;">New Year's Eve</span></p>																																																																																						

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](mailto:uuct@nettally.com)

**Non-Profit Org.  
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PERMIT NO. 37**

**Our Web Address:**  
[www.nettally.com/uuct](http://www.nettally.com/uuct)

**Building A Home for Liberal Faith**

**Our Staff:**

**Rev. Bill Murchison**, 385-5115 (office at church);  
[uuctrev@nettally.com](mailto:uuctrev@nettally.com). Office hours: 9:00 – 12:00 on  
Tues., Wed., Thurs. Others by appointment.

**Kathie Mackie**, Office Administrator, 385-5115;  
[uuct@nettally.com](mailto:uuct@nettally.com)

**Helen Falb**, Music Director, 556-2533;  
[pianoskin@comcast.net](mailto:pianoskin@comcast.net)

**Maggie Geraci**, Director of Religious Education,  
877-6301; [dremaggie@earthlink.net](mailto:dremaggie@earthlink.net)

**Brian Lee**, Campus Ministry Coordinator, 877-1972;  
[brianlee@hcsmail.com](mailto:brianlee@hcsmail.com)

**Emmy Barthel**, Nursery Worker, 553-4574;  
[sattcomm74@yahoo.com](mailto:sattcomm74@yahoo.com)

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

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