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Every Sunday:

9:45 AM Choir Practice exc. 1/18

9:45 AM Adult Forum

10:30 AM Child Care - until
12:30 PM

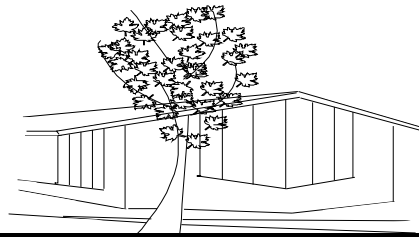
11:00 AM Youth RE for Pre-K -
Middle School

6 PM Youth Group
for ages 12 - 20 (1st & 3rd
Sundays)

Scheduled Adult Forum

Topics:

- Jan. 4 Anne & Jack Rudloe sharing their books
- Jan. 11 Green Sanctuary - Water Issues in the Panhandle - Chad Hanson
- Jan. 18 FTAA as Policy - FSU activists Alex Joyce & Steve Payne
- Jan. 25 TBA



The Meridian

January Sundays (11:00 AM)

Jan. 4 | Abundance and Scarcity

Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. Does what we have or what we want have any bearing on happiness? Just days after the biggest shopping spree in history and at the beginning of a national economic recovery, what makes anyone think satisfaction in life has anything to do with having it all or even enough? An examination of decision-making and character.

Speaker: Eric Draper; Lay Leader: Kristin King

Jan. 11 | Amazing Grace (New Member Recognition)

Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations. Our guest speaker borrows a term from dirt farmers to describe her experience of growing up as a Universalist in Mississippi: "It has been a 'hard row to hoe'." As a third generation Universalist, she will share with us some of her struggles and insight. **Speaker: Linda Forshee; Lay Leader: Helen Falb**

Jan. 18 | Continuing The Journey Toward Wholeness (Harmony Camp 2004)

Justice, equity and compassion in human relations. We will celebrate the receipt of a grant of \$2,020 and a challenge (matching) grant of \$1,400 from the fund for Unitarian Universalist Social Responsibility for a Harmony Camp sponsored by UUCT. The camp will be held at UUCT from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Monday - Friday, August 2-6, 2004 for our children and others from the community. Our mission is to provide opportunities for children to experience, value and create harmony within themselves and with friends of diverse religious and ethnic backgrounds, with different generations and with the interdependent web of life. *Special collection for Harmony Camp.*

Racial/Cultural Diversity Committee (RCDC)

Jan. 25 | American Then and Now; A Half-Century of Change

A free and responsible search for truth and meaning. A renowned physicist and FSU professor looks back at America over the fifty-plus years since his immigration to this country and discusses both changes that have taken place during that time and some of the challenges that remain. **Speaker: Professor Hans Plendl, FSU Dept. of Physics; Lay Leader: Richard Dempsey**

Congregational Meetings

- Discussion, Sun., Jan. 18, Noon
- Voting, Sun., Jan. 25, Noon (40% quorum needed.) See notice p. 18.



Minister's Message

By Rev. Amy McKenzie

If your New Year's resolution is to speak out more about your religion and your beliefs, you may find it helpful to read what other UUs wrote as "elevator speeches" during the 11/30 Sunday service. Here's what you might say if you had only a minute or two to answer, "What is Unitarian Universalism?"

- * The UU faith, for me, allows for all ways of exploring the mysteries of human existence – the path of the intellect (science and philosophy) – the path of the mystic (meditation and inner knowing) – the path of the creative (artistic and practical problem solving) – and the path of social action (seeking justice and peace and harmony for all).
- * UUism is a community of people who value each individual in their search for truth and meaning and respect the interdependent web of all existence.
- * Peter Raible, the minister at the University Unitarian Church in Seattle, WA always ends the service with: "Let your acts rather than your words declare your religion." To me that is the essence of Unitarianism.
- * Unitarian Universalism allows people to ask questions. To develop their own beliefs about the ultimate. It also encourages doubts and honest discussion of belief. As a result, UUs do not share one idea of religion. They also borrow from many religions and honor what is similar in most religions – love and compassion.
- * Each UU has a unique perspective and definition of UUism. What seems to me to connect most UUs is the notion that UUism is a path or framework to support our own sincere and honest searches for truth and meaning. We strive to be open-minded, inclusive, and action-oriented, committing ourselves to seeking justice for all through our actions.

- * Unitarian Universalist since 1999. Church of Tallahassee, it is the greatest church I know of. Thanks.
- * Being a UU is: freedom to believe what you choose; freedom to question openly; freedom to connect with others; freedom to be Me!
- * I don't believe: in organized religion; that there are preset creeds we must believe or ideas we must accept as truth even as evidence mounts against it; in an exclusive religion that says some must fail to find salvation. I do believe in racial equality and in a religion that accepts and welcomes rational science. I believe in the inherent worth of all people and the acceptance of spiritual questions and their individual answers. And finally I believe in a church the practices what it preaches. It doesn't just say "love one another" but encourages actions to show that we do and must love one another. All of this is what I feel about my place at the UUCT. UU is the table where Jesus sits with Confucius, Buddha, Jehovah, Abraham, Ralph Emerson, Chief Joseph and many others debating the nature of life.
- * I am a Unitarian Universalist because this religion fits my way of being in the world. It encourages me to be myself as I seek a path toward the spiritual meaning of life. That spirituality at the moment is about love, forgiveness, compassion, and social justice.
- * Every one has their own truth. Question, be an insurrectionist. Respect all life.
- * As a Unitarian Universalist I believe that each day I must create anew the meaning and meanings of life. Its purpose and point. I believe in free will, biology, physics and rhubarb pie. P.S. The 7 Principles and 6 Sources are helpful and centering.

- * UU is more concerned in making this world better, unlike, Christians getting ready for the next world, if there is one.
- * Four (Different) Sentences of Introduction – humor, avoidance, serious, as appropriate: A UU is an atheist with children; UUs believe in karma, not dogma; It's a secret, I can't say much; UUism is a spiritual home where seekers of all faiths are welcome and accepted to seek truth as they see it.

Thank you to those who wrote or spoke their elevator speeches at the service. Here is the elevator speech that started this recent round of brief statements on our religion:

"The Unitarian side tells us that there is only one God, one spirit of life, one power of love. The Universalist side tells us that God is a loving God, condemning none of us, valuing the spark of divinity that is in every human being. So my version of what Unitarian Universalism stands for is: One God, no one left behind." (UUA President, The Rev. William Sinkford)

Maybe each of us will always have different answers, but that's part of the draw of our religion. Belief statements are not written by religious authorities for everyone and for all time, but by individuals for themselves and for now.

May your religion be a source of strength and comfort in the New Year,
(Rev.) Amy

January Sabbatical Travel

Introduction to Process Theology, January 19-23, Meadville Lombard Theological School, Chicago, IL (The Center for Process Studies: <http://www.ctr4process.org/Process/CPWhatIs.htm>)

New Visions for the Long Pastorate, January 26-29, An Alban Institute Seminar, Simpsonwood Conference Center, Norcross, GA

President's Message

By Neil Mooney

Our Own Leadership School

For the second year, the four most recent Presidents of your church, plus a former Board member, have been meeting monthly with Rev. Amy and me to review leadership policies and procedures. The precise thinking of each participant is somewhat different, naturally, but I would explain it to you, generally, thus:

1. We (members and leaders together) have a duty to continually be alert to new leadership talent among members and friends.
2. By strengthening our welcoming behavior we should note the special skills of new members and friends, and provide them with leadership opportunities they may be seeking.
3. We need a process of continually improving and honing our leadership skills.

Unitarian leadership schools exist throughout the country. However, time and money prevent more of us from participating in these events which have been held exclusively – until now – out of town.

Beginning February 24 for two hours, and on the three succeeding Tuesdays, we will offer leadership training at the UUCT. Based on a successful model used in Clearwater for several years, our modifications to the curriculum are still being finalized. Nevertheless, we know that major components will focus on:

1. UUCT history, formal policies, resources, strategic plans and decision-making procedures.
2. Training in personal interaction, with an emphasis on Myers-Briggs & Steinke tools for understanding.
3. Managing committees and meetings; passing on the mantle.

4. Becoming a leader who cares, and other leadership skills.

Whether you are skilled in training in any of the above (or closely related) areas, or if you would like to participate through attendance, please contact me at 893-0670 (days) or neilmooney@yahoo.com. We will invite approximately fifteen attendees to participate in the first school. A crucial ingredient is desire. If you desire to hone your present leadership skills as they relate to the UUCT, or to become a new leader in our church, please put your name forward without delay.

In community,
Neil

Announcements

Pastoral Needs in January

As indicated in the *Sabbatical Handbook* received in November by all members and friends, three UUCTers who are or were professionals are available to talk with you should you have a pastoral need or find yourself in a crisis while Rev. Amy is on sabbatical: Nancy Bass (893-1806), Harold Hawkins (893-1331), and Byron Spice (668-6109). Byron will be much more available in January than in February and will actually have office hours at church once a week in January. These hours are given under Rev. Amy's listing on the back page of this *Meridian*. You may call Byron or the church office (385-5115) to schedule an appointment. (Note: Additional copies of the *Sabbatical Handbook* are available at the Visitor table on Sundays.)



Minister's Discretionary Fund

While Rev. Amy is on Sabbatical, disbursements from the Minister's Discretionary Fund for members and friends in financial need will be decided by the Chairperson of the Committee on Ministry, Christine Boczarska, (893-7079).

Check Our Website

UUCT Webmaster Jack Martin has spent many hours recently converting our webpage to new software, updating information, and adding new features. Take a few minutes to visit it, and let Jack or Publicity Chair Kristin King know what you think. Finding us via the web continues to be one of the main ways visitors say they have learned about us. (See separate article asking for photos to use on the webpage.)

UU Spirituality

The Sunday service on February 8th will be devoted to delving into what spirituality means to Unitarian Universalists. Bob and Trudy Deyle will present a service that explores spirituality both intellectually and experientially. In preparation, we would appreciate hearing the thoughts of UUCT members and friends on any or all of the following questions:

- (1) How would you define spirituality?
- (2) What personal experience or place has had spiritual meaning for you and why?
- (3) When have you experienced spirituality in a worship service or other church gathering?

Please share your responses by January 15 (gdeyle@juno.com or a note placed in Trudy's UUCT mailbox).

Announcements (Continued)

Visitor Information Session

The Membership Committee will host a brief information session for UUCT visitors at 12:45 PM in Room L. on Sunday, January 11, following the potluck. This is an opportunity for visitors to ask questions and learn a little more about the church and Unitarian Universalism. (Note: This is intended to be a very brief introduction, and everyone interested in becoming a member or supporting friend of the church should still plan to attend New UU sessions.)

Phase One Final Report

The Capital Improvement Committee is preparing a brief final report on Phase One of completing our Master Site Plan. In mid-January, copies will be available on the back counter of the sanctuary, from the church office or by contacting CIC Chairperson Trudy Deyle (422-1057, gdeyle@juno.com).

Heartbeats Planning

We're looking for six "emcee-coordinators" to join in a *Love Around the World* Heartbeats concert on Saturday night, February 14. The emcee-coordinators will help in planning and introduce their culture-music/song-group at the concert. We will have groups of 15-minute musical selections from six different cultures.

We also need a Publicity Coordinator, Door Prize Coordinator, Food Coordinator, Beverages Coordinator, Kitchen Set-Up and Clean-Up Coordinator, Room Set-Up Coordinator, and Sound Manager. If interested, contact Ludy Goodson (ludy8@juno.com, 531-9819).

UUCT 50th Scrapbook

A UUCT 50th Anniversary Scrapbook is in the works! Do you have pictures and/or memories of UUCT's first 50 Years? Collect your photographs and memories, and give them to Jennifer Carver (with a description of the event, people in the photo, etc.).

It's best to include original photos, so if we can keep them, that's great. If not, scan them (or we can do it) and send them by email. If you have stories, we'd love them too! If you want to help, contact Jennifer Carver (402-0622 or phantoms cv@yahoo.com).

Giving statements

If you need a calendar year (versus fiscal year) statement of your UUCT contributions for income tax purposes, contact Collecting Treasurer Tom Chase (422-1985, twchase38@earthlink.net, or 405 Castleton Circle, Tallahassee, 32312).

Appreciation

To:

- * **Allen Turnage, Barbara Sterling, Dan Damerville, Al Starr, Don Weed, Nancy and Dave Harvey, Susan Snyder and Frank Deasy, Peggy Lentz, and Jim Denny and Sara Reece** for greeting on Sunday mornings 11/23-12/21.
- * **Jean Chulak, Mary Persons, Dick Leinberry, and Lois Bloom** (who was visiting) for hosting hospitality 11/23-12/21.
- * **Dot Mann, George Knight, Jean and Joe Chulak, Mary Persons, Grace Martin, and Dexter Easton** for being clean up "heroes" and **everyone else** who helped with clean up 11/23 - 12/21.
- * **Nina Cline** for being a regular volunteer in the nursery.
- * **Dorothy Mann and Eleanor and Earl Enge** for helping out in the office on a weekly basis.



- * **Peggy Lentz** for cleaning the oven and **Eleanor and Earl Enge** for cleaning out and scrubbing the refrigerator in the church kitchen.
- * **Everyone who contributed** something, no matter how small (or large), to our UUCT Thanksgiving Day dinner, especially **Will Adkins** for organizing the dinner and **George Knight, Steve Urse, Linda Logan, and Karen Share** for assisting with set up and decorating.
- * **Barbara Gearhart** for serving on the Endowment Committee for the past six years.
- * **Dan Damerville** for coordinating and **all who assisted** with the December Shelter Meal.
- * The **estate and family of Charlie Terrell**, long-time UUCT supporting friend, for our sanctuary and YRUU Christmas trees; **Will Adkins, Joe Lama, Ed and James Oaksford, and Steve Urse** for cutting, delivering and setting up the trees; and **Tom Chase** for assisting with set up.
- * **Jonathan Leib and family** for lending a menorah for the sanctuary for Hanukkah.
- * **Patty Burton, Mary Caine-Hafdahl, Leslie Eckhart, Bonnie Foster, Maggie Geraci, and Kelley Turnage** for helping with the December 21 Yule Service.
- * **Ed Baseheart, Bruce Brandt, Tom Chase, Adam Donaldson, Elinor Elfner, Earl and Eleanor Enge, Randall Gann, George Knight, Jeanne Ryder, Allen Turnage, Steve Urse and John Whitton** for their work landscaping and assembling the new playground set the afternoon of Sunday, December 14.

Appreciation (Continued)

Winterfest Appreciations

By William Adkins

Thanks to: **Francis Ventre, Mary Persons, and Joe Lama** for hours of preparing the UUCT walkways and sanctuary that afternoon; **Reverend Amy** for greeting us all at the start and reminding us of who we are; **Helen Falb and the O.K. Chorale; Howard Pardue & his Cajun band - Ken Horne and Keith**, the squeezebox player; the three young poets - **Devin Geraci, Elisabeth Michela Bryan-Waldorf, and Sierra Christianna Bush-Restor**; performers **Ron Crowe, Howard and Barbara Solomon, and Marja Millard; Molly Schmid** for bringing

winter artwork; **Tim Campbell** for setting up the PA system and for being Santa Claus; and **Bethany Cavano and Company** for singing festive Christmas carols at the south door.

Thanks to: **Barbara Sterling** for the table decorations and napkins; **Ed Oaksford** for creating the hot wassail and cookie table; **Joan Patterson** for the ham; **Eleanor and Earl Enge** for helping to make our kitchen ready; and **everyone who helped with cleaning up** the kitchen and the sanctuary. The Winterfest said it all to me about what our church community is about - everyone helping by finding something important to do and doing it!

Editor's note: And a big thank you to **Will Adkins** for once again organizing this event!

Thank you from UUCT Staff

A big thank you to individual members of the **UUCT Congregation and Board** for the generous monetary gifts to staff for the Holidays.

And from Rev. Amy: "Many thanks for your holiday cards and good wishes. The cards have added cheer to my office and the good wishes have cheered me."

Lifespan Religious Education

Youth Religious Education (RE)

Youth RE Committee Meeting, Sunday, January 4, 9:30 AM

YOUTH RE CONTACTS:

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

Special Pen Pals

Once again during February, adults and children who sign up to be Special Pen Pals will be paired and write weekly letters to each other, sharing thoughts, poems, stories, and artwork. Sign up on Sundays, January 18 and 25 (use form in the Order of Service or come to the RE Table).

Correspondence will be exchanged all five Sundays in February. A special revealing party will be held on February 29. See DRE Maggie.

Guest at Your Table

In November, children and youth received Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) *Guest at Your Table* boxes. Boxes are to be returned to church Sunday, January 4 or as soon after as possible.

Mountaincamp 2004

If you are interested in Mountaincamp 2004, the brochure is available at The Mountain's website: www.mountaincenters.org/youth_pgm.html. The registration form may also be downloaded from the website.

YRUU

(Youth Group for Ages 12 - 20)

Meetings: First and Third Sundays of the month from 6:00 - 8:00 PM (in Room 3&6) - with members taking turns planning and leading.

FL District Con Schedule Fall:

- January 16-18 All-Age CON Gainesville
- February 27-29 All Age CON Lakeland
- April 16-18 District Youth Caucus
- April 30-May 2 All-Age CON Vero Beach

Mountain CON:

- February 27-29 Senior High CON (Forms to be completed and given to Jennifer Carver) by Sunday evening, Jan. 4.

For more information, call YRUU Advisors Jennifer and DeWayne Carver (402-0622) or Howard Pardue (386-1494).

Lifespan Religious Education (Continued)

Adult Enrichment

ADULT ENRICHMENT CONTACTS:

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

The Adult Enrichment classes starting in January and February are described below. If you are interested in a class, please contact the person listed for that class soon to express your interest. We would like to know how many are likely to attend. Please also recruit your friends to sign up to be sure that the class has enough participants to make it interesting.

New Classes Starting:

A Seminar entitled ***Understanding the Bible, an Introduction for Skeptics, Seekers, and Religious Liberals***, based on the book of the same name written by Rev. John A. Buehrens will be offered four consecutive Thursdays at 7:00 PM starting January 8. The seminar will be led by Rev. Harold Hawkins. Contact Bob Kenon (878-3647) to purchase the book or get more information.

Reducing our impact on the earth can result in life styles that are better for us in many ways. To that end, Kathie Mackie and Maggie Geraci will organize a group to study ***Voluntary Simplicity and then the followup course, Sustainability***. The course is designed to be group led. Each week a different member of the class will be assigned a chapter in the workbook to present for discussion.

The class will meet Saturdays at 10:30 AM and start January 17. We will be using workbooks entitled *Discussion Course on Voluntary Simplicity* and

Discussion Course on Choices for Sustainable Living by the Northwest Earth Institute. Please make sure you either sign up at the RE table or contact Kathie Mackie (385-5115 or uuct@nettally.com) so we can give an accurate order for workbooks.

Evensong enables participants to explore the sources of meaning in their lives, their personal faith histories, and other religious questions through "check-in", meditation, readings, reflection, art, and discussion. It is a wonderful way to get to know other UUCT members and friends more deeply than is possible through casual conversation.

This class is strongly recommended to new members and persons considering membership as a way to get to know other members of our community. The class will meet on Thursday evenings from 7:15 PM to 9:00 PM, starting January 15. Contact Bruce Brandt at 893-5511 or blbrandt@earthlink.net for more information.

How's your elevator speech? Come to ***Articulating Your UU Faith***. Curriculum materials from the UUA will form the basis of a class to be lead by Trudy Deyle and Jennifer Carver on five Monday evenings from 7:15 PM to 9:00 PM starting February 2. Figure out what you believe and how to explain it to friends and relations who have a hard time understanding Unitarian Universalism. Contact Trudy Deyle at gdeyle@juno.com or 422-1057 for more information.

Program on Wayne Dyer. There is such a strong association between psychological wellbeing and mental health that Dr. Wayne Dyer and other counselors use spirituality to help their clients. This is nowhere more apparent than in his PBS specials, *Ten Secrets of Success* and *There is a Spiritual Solution to Every Problem*. We'll get

together once a month to review and discuss a segment of these tapes. Our first meeting will be Sunday, January 18 at 12:30 PM in Room L. Contact Dick Leinberry (386-4977).

Continuing classes and groups:

The Artist's Way workshop meets Saturday mornings 10:00 - 11:30 AM. The class does not always meet in Room C, due to a metal-works project they're working on. So if interested in attending, contact Amy Mann at amann@infionline.net or 222-1420.

New UU sessions are offered on a regular basis for those new to Unitarian Universalism and UUs new to UUCT. The next sessions are Tuesdays, January 20 and 27, 7:00 - 9:00 PM, and will be taught by UUCT members Annette Pearce and Byron Spice. Location: Room L. Subsequent sessions will be Mondays, April 5 and 12, taught by Rev. Amy and a church member. Contact the church office (385-5115, uuct@nettally.com) or Membership Chair Trudy Deyle (422-1057, gdeyle@juno.com) if interested.

UU BUDDHIST FELLOWSHIP

The Unitarian Universalist Buddhist Fellowship has begun meeting at the church twice a month on alternate Monday evenings at 7:00 PM in Rooms 3 and 6 behind the Sanctuary. Members take turns sharing the role of discussion facilitator at the meetings. The next meeting will take place on January 5.

In the two meetings in December, discussion began on Pema Chodron's book, "When Things Fall Apart", facilitated by William Riedell. The author is a Buddhist monk living in Nova Scotia and has written extensively on both Buddhist philosophy and practice. This first selection is quite interesting because she illustrates Buddhist concepts and

Lifespan Religious Education (Continued)

philosophy of coping with life quite successfully by relating them to real life experiences, rather than confining them to an abstract-theoretical orientation.

We are currently in the process of discussing chapters 5 - 10, about 30 pages. Some of the topics discussed have been:

- ❖ The universal nature of fear, coping with painful emotions.
- ❖ A spiritual journey: learning to cope with Life and Change.

❖ Learning from experience in the present moment.

❖ Meditation: purpose and methods.

❖ Self-awareness and acceptance: the journey towards peace.

If you are interested in joining our study group, the paperback book is available at Borders Books for \$12.95, or copies of the discussion material will be provided at the prior meeting. For more information, contact Anne Rudloe (984-5297) or William Riedell (562-0739, wmpat88@att.net).

Learn more about the UUBF at the web site: <http://www.uua/uubf/>.

OPEN PARTICIPATION

- **Adult Forum, Sun., 9:45 -10:45 AM, Room L.** Open to everyone. See front page for topics. Contact Norene Chase (422-1985).
- **Women's Spirituality Group.** Meets on Mondays at 7:15 PM off-site. Contact Bonnie Foster (539-5563).

Campus Ministry Corner

By Chelsea Fox, Campus Ministry Coordinator

The University UUs will begin the Spring semester's meeting schedule the week of January 12. As usual we will meet once a week for a discussion/spirituality meeting (please check the calendar in the order of service sometime in January for the exact day of the week), and every Friday at 6:00 PM for Coffee Hour at Javaheads (903 Railroad Avenue). We

plan to continue asserting our presence on FSU's campus by setting up an information booth every Wednesday at Ogelsby Union. If you're on campus during that time, please stop by to say hello, or to help.

If you frequent the campuses of FAMU or TCC, please consider assisting us in our outreach to those students. This semester we are also planning to have

a spiritual retreat with FSU's Pagan Student Association, serve two shelter meals, and hold two more soup lunch fundraisers to support UUCT's operating budget and a charity of our choice.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, comments, or willingness to help:
chelsuu@yahoo.com ~ 222-3931

Spiral Scouts

By Maggie Geraci, Director of Religious Education

As recommended to the Church Council by the Youth Religious Education Committee, the Council is in turn recommending to the Executive Board that the Spiral Scouts – Seven Hills Circle become an officially sponsored program within the Youth RE Program. Spiral Scouts is a program for girls and boys of minority faiths working, growing and learning together. The international organization began in February of 2001 as an organized children's program within the Aquarian Tabernacle Church and now recognizes groups worldwide.

The program has a unique approach to youth programming. Each group is led by both a male and a female adult, to achieve and teach the balance that is central to Earth-centered beliefs. While Spiral Scouts was developed on Pagan beliefs and practices, it is designed to be adaptable by other minority faiths as well. In addition to traditional woodland lore, camping and the customary scout activities, the program includes teaching the many mythologies of the ancient world.

Within the program there are three levels of child participation: Fireflies, who range from preschoolers through age 8; Spiral Scouts, ranging from age 8 through 14; and Pathfinders, who range from 14 upward. Groups are

organized into Circles, which may be made up of Hearths for the different age groups.

The Seven Hills Circle has been meeting at UUCT for three years. The recommended, new relationship between the Youth RE Committee and the Spiral Scouts - Seven Hills Circle will enhance both the abilities of the Circle and the offerings of the Youth RE Program.

The Circle currently meets at UUCT on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 PM. For more information, please call Spiral Scout Leader Patty Burton (942-4056).

Green Corner



By Steve Urse, Green Sanctuary Committee Chair

Taking the Next Step to Making the World a Better Place!

As you begin 2004 you may be thinking about new resolutions or even just making a few incremental changes to better your life and make the world a better place. We would like for you to make at least one change to make the Earth more environmentally friendly. If you have not yet taken the UUCT Green Pledges, we would like you to do that.

You could combat global warming by reducing carbon emissions or eat more locally grown or organic vegetables. Ed Oaksford will be doing this by commuting with his new electric powered bicycle and riding it to New Leaf Market and to the farmers' markets.

Or You could:

- make your yard more environmentally friendly by xeriscaping with native plants or planting a rain garden;

- help remove the Exotic Pest Plants that have invaded UUCT;
- take the Master Gardener Program beginning in February;
- educate yourself on new Green Links on the UUCT website, www.nettally.com/uuct/ and attend a Green Forum and then
- write letters to state legislators and local commissioners supporting clean air and water.

Other possibilities are buying green products and investing in environmentally friendly or socially responsible companies. Thanks to Annette Pearce, who belongs to Co-op America, we now have four of their publications to place in the UUCT Library. These are the National Green Pages 2003 and 2004 editions, the Co-op America Fall '03 Quarterly and their Financial Planning Handbook. You could also check out TheGreenGuide, www.thegreenguide.com/.

"If you are Pondering Green Home Improvements", check out a great article by TheGreenGuide by emailing me or looking in our Green Sanctuary Notebook at the back of the church under our bulletin board.

May 2004 be your best year yet! I look forward to hearing your good, green ideas. Contact: Steve Urse (surse2@earthlink.net).

InkBank Recycling Program Update

Recently, we have received two more checks from InkBank totaling \$63.66. Please keep those laser and inkjet cartridges coming in! Spread the word around for us, and please pick up some flyers on Sunday to spread around the community.

Remember that InkBank cannot accept any Epson cartridges and cartridges must be OEM (Original Manufacturer cartridges). They won't accept previously recycled cartridges. Thanks.

Annual Canvass News

By Isabel Sheridan, 2004-05 Canvass Committee Chairperson

Building a Home for Liberal Faith, Canvass 2004-2005

In the past two years, members and friends have found Canvass potlucks an easy way to make their pledges as they gathered to share a meal with friends. So we are continuing that winning combination this year.

And to make life easy for the committee and you, we are inviting you to **sign up for the potluck of your choice before or after Sunday services all through January**. Choose the date, time, and host early. The potlucks will run the last three weekends in March. If you don't know your schedule then, we will call you in February.

The opening of the Canvass will be Sunday, March 7, Rev. Amy's first

Sunday back after her winter session sabbatical. That will also be the day the congregation votes on the Asking Budget.

It's not too late to volunteer to help with phone calls and mailings. Contact Isabel Sheridan at 668-0785 or iasheridan@nettally.com.

Canvass 2003-2004

Here are more of the hopes and dreams members and friends shared at the Canvass potlucks last Spring. We'll list them all, from September through February.

My hopes and dreams for this congregation are:

Growth in numbers, more involvement by all of us.

To have a vibrant youth program with many new members.

Growth in membership and activities.

To grow and prosper.

To have more personal relationships with young families outside of church.

To develop leadership throughout the new membership so that we can do more.

Build membership – committed, steady.

That we continue to grow with an increase in young couples and African Americans, Asians, etc.

To have a continued sense of "our religious home"; evolving spiritual capacity.

Social Justice

Exciting News! Receipt Of Grant For Harmony Camp

By Joanne Taylor

In October the planning committee for a Harmony Camp August 2-6, 2004, at UUCT submitted a grant application to the Fund for Unitarian Universalist Social Responsibility (FUSSR). We have just received notification that we were awarded a grant of \$2,020 and a challenge (matching) grant of \$1,400.

Harmony Camp provides young people experiences with people of various religions, cultures, ages and abilities and with the interdependent web of life. It enables them to share common experiences, discovering that we are more alike than we are different.

We already have numerous in kind contributions including use of the UUCT facility and commitments of staff to teach diversity and conflict management through interactive activities, games and learning experiences. Other activities will include meditation, journaling, yoga, dances of universal peace, creativity through art, ethnic food preparation, cooperative projects like environmentally friendly gardening, and interaction with the elderly population at Edenbrook.

Partners from the greater Tallahassee community will be: the Islamic Center of Tallahassee; the School of Arts and Sciences, a charter school that emphasizes diversity and parental involvement; Temple Israel; Friends-Religious Society of Quakers; the Multicultural Families Group of Tallahassee; the Center for Equity and Cultural Diversity at Florida A & M University; the students at Florida State University's Center for International/Intercultural Development; and The Riley House Museum. Having Harmony Camp at UUCT is an important step in our commitment to diversity.

The Martin Luther King Sunday service will be about the Harmony Camp and will be the kick-off of our fundraiser to match the challenge grant of \$1,400 received from FUUSR.

Riley House Museum

By Isabel Sheridan

Rock-a-Thon

Thanks to all who contributed to this annual fundraiser for Tallahassee's African American museum. We raised \$495, a new record for UUCT. Fourteen people rocked, including Elizabeth Waldorf, Charlotte Leib, Becky and Katie Hoskins and Holly Mackie. Twenty-four members and friends sponsored those rockers, another record.

These contributions are an important way to support the preservation of our historical heritage.

Blended Lives

Blended Lives, offered jointly by the Riley House Museum and Goodwood Museum and Gardens, is an opportunity to explore the powerful roots of our collective history. Celebrating the 50th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education and the 40th anniversary of the passage of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, the theme is *Opening Doors: A Decade of Change 1954-1964*. There are three events for adults:

- Reception on Monday evening, January 26, a chance to meet personally with people who played dominant roles locally.
- Symposium on Tuesday, January 27, with Judge Joseph Hatchett, first African American to the Florida Supreme Court, as Keynote Speaker, followed by two panel discussions.
- Heritage Tour on Saturday morning, January 31, visiting local sites significant in this decade of change.

For brochures and registration forms, contact Isabel Sheridan (668-0785) or Elinor Elfner (224-3651). The Racial and Cultural Diversity Committee will also have them available before and after the services in mid-January.

TEAM (Tallahassee Equality Action Ministry)

By Rev. Amy McKenzie

During January and February, while Rev. Amy is on sabbatical, Joanne Taylor (893-9024; taylorjoanne@earthlink.net) will go to TEAM board meetings and keep the congregation informed.

Let Your Voice Be Heard and Share Your Ideas

In early January, TEAM organizer Tyrone Scorsone will call those who were at the TEAM Action at Faith Presbyterian in September. He will ask to set up a ½ hour meeting with you to talk about your interest in TEAM and community concerns. If you were not at the Action and would like to talk with him, contact Tyrone (224-2100; tscorsone@istal.com).

2003-2004 Issues Update

Housing and Homelessness: The Round-Up program has been changed so much by commissioners that it is unrecognizable. The TEAM proposal was to offer utility customers an Opt-Out on rounding our utility bills up to the next dollar, an average of \$6.00/year per customer (business and residential). However, the commissioners will vote on January 14 for an Opt-In rate of 50 cents/month. The original plan was based on a program that has been tested in other cities, and was to raise substantially more money to help meet the needs of local homeless people and help people stay in their homes. So the "Round-Up" program needs a new name; the 50 cents Opt-In version is not what commissioners originally agreed to.

Social Justice (Continued)

Teen and Juvenile Issues: Our elected officials voted unanimously to budget \$50,000 for a teen center. The center is held up because no suitable property has been found.

Health Care: By a slim majority, commissioners voted to fully fund indigent health care in our area from the MSTU tax that had been temporary and raises \$1.2 million/year.

TEAM needs your help!

What will it take for this interfaith organization to gain the clout it needs to bring social justice to Tallahassee? More chances to propose issues, more follow-up at commission meetings, more active congregations, more people like you!

Support Drive

TEAM participants from UUCT decided to help with the corporate support drive (meeting with local CEOs) but not the congregation member support drive. The support drive goal this year is \$25,000. Older organizations like TEAM can raise 3–4 times that amount in order to supplement congregational dues that pay the organizers and keep up the office.

Next TEAM Gathering: Monday, January 26, Assembly and Support Drive Kick-off.

UUA Study and Actions

Excerpted from UUA Materials

UUA Study / Action Issues: Each year 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. CIVIL LIBERTIES, the S/AI for 2002 - 04, will be presented for vote as a Statement of Conscience at the 2004 General Assembly. The Commission on Social Witness is asking for congregational input on the wording of the draft statement, by 3/1/04. What can UUs do to protect civil liberties against governmental violation in the name of "homeland security" and in the wars against terrorism and drugs?
2. CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PRISON REFORM, the S/AI for 2003 - 05, asks: How do UUs successfully advocate for reform of the criminal justice and prison systems, even as the prison industry expands to accommodate more people and becomes increasingly inhumane and unjust? The Commission on Social Witness is asking for congregational input on this S/AI by 3/1/04.

Suggestions for congregational involvement are in the Resource Guide for each S/AI. These have been mailed to congregations. All information in the

guides is also available at the Commission on Social Witness web site: www.uua.org/csw. If you are interested in discussing these issues, contact VP for Social Justice Annette Pearce (386-4053) and see the information posted on the Denominational Affairs bulletin board at the back of the sanctuary.

Action of Immediate Witness: One of the Actions of Immediate Witness passed at the 2003 UUA General Assembly calls for congressional support for the Depleted Uranium Munitions Study Act of 2003. In addition to communications to members of Congress, we can use publicity in various forms to help raise public awareness and support for a study and hopefully a future end to the use of depleted uranium in weapons. One of these publicity forms is bumper stickers which can be purchased from UUs for Social Justice and which read: "Support Our Troops by Stop Using Depleted Uranium, www.UUsforSocialJustice.org, uusj@att.net". They can be purchased by mail for 10 for \$8.00, with each additional sticker costing 60 cents. Checks should be made payable to "UUSJ" for "bumper stickers".

Notes from The Mountain



By Linda Winn-Brown, Mountain Ambassador

Elderhostel Programs begin in March 2004.

Spring / Summer program schedule posted on bulletin board in rear of sanctuary.

2004 UUCT Mountain Retreat Labor Day Weekend! Would you like to help

with the planning? I will be actively seeking volunteers in the next few months.

For more information, check the bulletin board or Mountain notebook at the back of the sanctuary. Or contact Linda (562-4755, lwinn41@earthlink.net) or The

Mountain Retreat and Learning Centers, Highlands, NC (828-526-5838, www.mountaincenters.org).

FY 2004 - 2005 Committee Budgets and Program Plans

By DeLos DeTar, VP for Finance

Attention to all who wish to have input into the 2004 - 2005 UUCT asking budget. The Finance Committee needs your help in determining what money is needed to support the programs of the church for next year. Each chair of a committee and anyone else whose work requires support from the operating budget needs to submit to me by Sunday, January 11, a request in writing which includes sufficient information to justify the budget request: the activities and items requiring funding, and the amount requested for each. (Submissions may be made via e-mail or by putting a hard copy in my mailbox at church.)

It will save committees time if they also think about and outline their accomplishments for the past year and program visions for next year. These are due to Canvass Chair Isabel Sheridan

February 1. Isabel has distributed last year's accomplishments and visions to all committee chairs for updating in a uniform format. The information needed includes: a description of what your committee does, recent accomplishments (since the last canvass), goals and plans for the coming year, larger hopes and dreams for future years, and names of committee members.

Committees are especially reminded that Rev. Amy will be on sabbatical leave during part of the next fiscal year (July and August 2004). They need to consider what effects, if any, Rev. Amy's absence will have on their work and whether they will require special funding to accomplish essential tasks.

They should include such money in their budget requests for the next fiscal year.

Some activities are supported by collections or donations, are managed by "pass-through" accounts and do not appear in the operating fund. However, they need to be included in the budget to provide a complete description of activities of the UUCT. Estimates of amounts for these accounts, as well as any fund-raisers proposed for the next year, also need to be submitted with committee budget requests. Even if you can not give all the details of a fund-raiser at this time, it should still be included in your budget request if you are sure you want to do it in the coming year.

The Church Council will meet Tuesday evening, January 20 at 7:00 PM in Room C, to review budget requests and the draft asking budget formulated by the Finance Committee.

Church Council Actions in December

By Richard Dempsey, President Elect

The Church Council met December 14, 2003 and considered the following:

1. **Budget Preparation** for FY 2004-2005. (See article above.)

2. **Shared Ministry.** Jennifer Carver reported her research into how other churches accomplish their Shared Ministry goals and noted that some congregations consider periodically volunteering for basic church tasks, such as Greeting and Hospitality, to be part of the membership covenant. Discussion followed on how that might be accomplished and kept on an "encouraged" versus mandatory basis, possibly as an addition to the Annual "Gifts of Self" form that members and supporting friends complete.

3. **Spiral Scouts.** Maggie Geraci, DRE, presented a recommendation from the Youth RE Committee that the local Spiral Scouts group be accepted into the UUCT as one of Youth RE's subcommittees. After discussion the Council approved recommending this

to the Executive Board on a one-year trial basis, provided that a covenant of mutual goals and responsibilities is developed between Scout leaders and the Youth RE Committee. A separate, related proposal to approve a Spiral Scout fundraising event in January will be forwarded to the Board with a recommendation that it not be approved for this fiscal year. However, the consensus of the Council was that, if the relationship goes well, a fundraising event by the Spiral Scouts might be considered for the next fiscal year.

4. **Policy Concerning Sale of Books, CDs and other Materials** by Guest Speakers and Presenters at or after Sunday services. At the request of the Green Sanctuary Committee and by vote of the Council, the Council's September 2003 policy recommendation to the Board was opened for reconsideration. A substitute motion was considered to permit Sunday morning service

presenters / Guest Speakers / musicians to offer books, tapes, and other materials related to their subject, topic or performance outside the sanctuary but on site, and without it being mentioned in the Order of Service or during the service. The substitute recommendation was not approved, so the September 2003 policy recommendation not allowing such sales stands. The key objections to permitting such sales are: first, that the purpose of Sunday morning worship seems undermined by the obvious goal of vending materials; and second, that making even-handed exceptions to such a policy, even when desirable, would be extremely difficult.

5. **Next Meeting.** The Church Council will meet again Tuesday evening, January 20 at 7:00 PM in Room C, to review budget requests and the draft asking budget formulated by the Finance Committee.

Calling All Photographers

By Kristin King, Publicity Committee Chair

At the Publicity Committee meeting on December 9, we discussed some ways of making UUCT's Web page more appealing to visitors. We agreed that we could display many more photos—of events such as Heartbeats, SUUSI, the pig roast, the coastal cleanup, Crop Walk, Green Sanctuary activities, Halloween, Thanksgiving dinner, Winterfest, and the Christmas Eve service, to name a few.

Along with creative shots of special events, we could intersperse some close-ups of Reverend Amy lighting the chalice and speaking to the congregation, the OK Chorale singing, folks attending the Sunday service and

the second-Sunday potluck, and members participating in committee meetings and study groups. In the resulting pictorial sampler of UUCT, visitors to the Web page could see us in spiritual community: sharing our vision, working together, serving Tallahassee, and enjoying each other's company. What good incentives to come explore the church!

So...if you have a camera and a desire to capture your fellow UUCT members in some candid moments, bring your camera to the next service or event, and let's add some color and zest to our Web page! We can accommodate both 35mm and digital formats. We'd

also like to maintain a list of photographers we can contact as the need arises. If you're willing to be listed as a photographer for UUCT events, please contact me (425-4658, luz_antigua@earthlink.net).

A few guidelines: Please use good judgment and be mindful of photo quality, people's privacy, timing, and the needs of performers. For example, pass up that "perfect shot" for the Web page if taking it might mean distracting performers or shifting the tone of the service or event. (In other words, photo enthusiasts, no nostril shots or flash frenzies!)

Church Photo Directory

By Ken Wood

A UUCT Photo Directory is being planned! I am coordinating this project, and Will Adkins is assisting by getting help from others with digital cameras, the church office and the Membership Committee.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! Bring an image of you and yours to church and place it in the marked "in-box" on the back counter of the sanctuary. Or arrange with me or Will to have a digital photo taken at church. With modern scanning technology almost any medium to high resolution image will do, but try for a simple background

and high resolution. (For digital photos, resolution should be 600 dpi or higher.) Any material that members submit will be promptly returned via the "out-box" on the sanctuary back counter. Images could include: photographs up to 8x10s; color slides; negatives; CDs, floppies, flash cards (MS,SD,SM,CF). The finished pictures will be cropped as needed and reduced to 2 x 2 inches in size. Please identify the image with your names.

I want to assemble the color pages gradually, so bring your images in any time - the sooner the better! Please

talk to Will Adkins or me about help with photography (digital or conventional) of church members and of images from around our beautiful church grounds and buildings. After the pages are assembled a printer will be contacted, and a cost per copy will be determined. We are also considering posting the directory on the UUCT web-site with access limited to members and friends, via a secure password. For questions please contact me (229-377-8739, caldy23@yahoo.com).

About Our New Members

Connie Beane. Connie is married to Ed Tribble, and they are co-owners of Florida Information Associates, Inc., a Florida public records research and retrieval firm that specializes in Legislative History Research, 1985 – to date. Connie was born in Nebraska and lived in a number of places before moving to Tallahassee in 1957.

Connie has been an avid quilter since the mid-1970s and also enjoys other crafts. Connie says: "I will read almost anything, but prefer science fiction, fantasy and mysteries for relaxation."

Connie was raised a Baptist, but quit church after starting FSU, because: "I did not see any relevance in a church experience that was focused solely on

the salvation of my soul, without any suggestion that I might do something for my fellow creatures, except maybe lead them to salvation." As she grew older, she missed having a religious community, but was not interested in being a "social" Christian. Connie explored Judaism and "came to the conclusion that what I really wanted

About Our New Members (Continued)

was a sort of Judaism-for-Gentiles: a church with a commitment to social justice, an open mind about the nature of the Deity, and a respect for the religious experiences of others."

Over a year ago, while on the internet, Connie discovered the UUA web-site. When she saw the September Democrat article on our new building, it re-sparked her interest. She convinced Ed to attend a service or two. Connie says: "That first service hooked me; I decided that any church that called its choir 'the OK Chorale' was worth exploring. The service was unlike anything I had experienced in other churches I had attended, but I felt welcome and that I had been a member of UU most of my adult life." When asked what the church can do for her and what she hopes to find here, Connie says: "Be a community that accepts me for what I am, for all that I am, and provides a place for me to grow. I hope to find friends and teachers. And I would like to help others find their home in UU."

Linda W. Jamison. Linda recently retired as a Sr. Personnel Representative at FSU, in order to fill the time formerly dedicated to her job with volunteer environmental work and environmental education. Her interests and hobbies include: the environment, especially plate tectonics, tropical forest dynamics, water issues from local to global, and cave diving; equestrian activities, especially jumping; and reading. She says: "I seldom find the time for any of my leisure pursuits anymore."

Linda was born and reared in the Daytona Beach area, where her elderly mother still lives. She attended church in her youth and sang in the choir, but drifted away in adolescence. A Green Forum last April brought Linda on a Sunday. She stayed for the service and found "a good service, good fellowship, and a highly palatable

philosophy". She's been coming ever since. Linda says UUCT can "give me opportunities to: meet and interact with like-minded individuals, broaden my horizons, and share my perspectives with others and receive the perspectives that others have to share. "I have already found that I am interested in things I never expected to be interested in, and I hope and fully expect I will continue to evolve in this way as long as I interact with this congregation. I am already involved with the Green Forum, and I hope to become involved with others who are interested in ethnomusicology."

Molly Schmid. Molly is a fine artist by occupation and enjoys reading, music, chess, canoeing, running and practicing the traditional style of Shotokan Karate. Her parents were married in the UU Church, and she began attending with her mother at the age of 16 in the town where they lived. Molly says: "My religious beliefs have never been consistent with traditional Christian teachings. However, I still felt the need to explore my spirituality in a community setting as well as a private setting. I find the UU church to be an open-minded, spiritual community that respects and honors the spiritual journey of each individual member. The church doesn't seem to feel threatened by our differences but rather embraces and celebrates them. I like that. This church supports me in my own individual, spiritual quest in a gentle and loving way." Molly has a toddler son named Ian who frequents the church nursery on Sundays.

Ed Tribble. Ed is married to Connie Beane and co-owner with her of Florida Information Associates, Inc. He was the first professional archivist for the Florida State Archives and became the State Archivist. Ed grew up in DeLand, FL. His interests and hobbies usually involve building: structures, a business, web pages, and what some

consider artworks - imaginative creations made from common materials such as fish hooks and clock parts. He has shown these at the LeMoyne Art Foundation.

Regarding his religious journey, Ed says: "Spiritually, I had lost interest in Judeo-Christian religions some time ago, mostly because they had rules and dogmas. I wasn't really awakened to a spiritual awareness until I became a *Northern Exposure* groupie." When asked what he hopes to find and be involved in at UUCT, Ed says: "All I really want is a spiritual home where I'll be accepted for what I am. I want to be involved in anything that needs to be done - anything that won't conflict with the demands of our business."

Leslie Ann Wurster. Leslie was born in Connecticut, moved to Puerto Rico when she was 10, and moved back to the U.S. at 30. Before getting Master's degrees in social work and public administration, she worked in advertising for ten years. She currently works with the Florida Department of Health, School Health Services Program. Her interests include: reading, home improvement, swimming, hiking, cooking, movies, music and concerts, and meditation. Leslie says: "I'm also single, and not liking it."

Regarding her religious journey and her reasons for joining UUCT, Leslie says: "My Dad was Lutheran, my Mom was Jewish, and they didn't raise me according to any faith. I did go to the Unitarian church school in Westport when I was a little girl, and later went to the Unitarian Church in Orlando for several years. I've been coming to UUCT on and off since 1992. I'm finally joining because it is the only ongoing way of meeting, spending time with and learning with a large group of liberal thinkers whose values are consistent with mine."

Church Community News

By Will Adkins, VP for Church Community (385-5071 or wmadkins@infionline.net)

Full House at Winterfest

Rev. Amy called us a "Full House" when on Friday night December 12 she welcomed us all to the 2003 UU Winterfest. Indeed, the church was jam-packed with UU humanity -- a wondrously tight, merry crowd! With thirteen eating tables set up, six chairs to a table, so we could accommodate 78 guests, we were at our limit of 42% of our membership. A new projected Fellowship Hall should hold more of us at one time, but our sanctuary is such a special place (with its great Christmas tree, and kitchen) to hold parties like Winterfest. If you didn't come, but had, you might have been sitting on someone's lap, or had someone on yours. Our December "full house" is teaching us our limits and stretching our future dreams.

Pilgrimage to Plains to Visit its Nobel Peace Sage

On Sunday, December 14, three UUs - Tim Campbell, Joe Lama, and Will Adkins -- eagerly trekked up to little Plains, Georgia to "get religion" at Jimmy Carter's famous Sunday school class. They were greeted by a large entourage of Secret Service agents who screened the pilgrim suspects. Alas, we were all friendly, peaceful beings, like Jimmy.

And Jimmy's class is all about very practical ways of bringing peace and meaning into a war-racked, troubled, chaotic world. Jimmy talked about his latest book and his first novel "The Hornet's Nest" as well as Saddam Hussein's capture (which was a surprise Big News for the Tallahassee pilgrims). We even joined the Carters for a meal at a nearby restaurant down town in Plains.

If anyone is interested, maybe we could organize a springtime pilgrimage of UUs up to Plains to visit Jimmy

Carter's class -- maybe in March or April. Let me (Will Adkins) know so we can plan ahead and see what dates are available. You can check the website to learn more about this: www.sowega.net/~alcrump/maranatha By planning ahead, we can secure reserved seats in the often very crowded Maranatha Baptist Church sanctuary. (The Secret Service will still check us out!)

Our E-Mail Church

Is UUCT becoming an "e-mail church"? From what I've seen, I'd answer yes, indeed! Some UUs are not too happy about this; they complain there is much too much e-mail. Well, it has its pluses and minuses, like all other modes of communication between ourselves. And we all do need time away from church business -- to be off alone, to have time with our family and friends, or just to be undistracted and "silent."

Often, the e-mail takes the form of an urgent ASAP reply requested. Maybe, we need to restrict such matters to less frequent meetings scheduled for this purpose. In the meantime, computer e-mail allows many of us to enjoy hearing from one another often and to keep up with our daily joys as well as concerns. Long live our e-mail and its church -- thoughtfully sent out. Joyfully received!

Gwendolyn Waldorf Is New A/V Coordinator

We now have a new Coordinator for our Sunday service audio-tape library and other such useful UU library resources at UUCT. Gwendolyn Waldorf brings a wealth of archivist experiences (in museum collections, exhibits, and administration) to her task. She is currently writing a history of Grady County, Georgia.

Gwendolyn writes: "We have over 200 tapes, with a new one added each week; we circulate around 30 tapes a year. Most - 75% - of the tapes checked out are for dates within the previous three months. I want to create a finding aid so it is possible to look for tapes by topic. I'd also like to make the tapes easier to locate by organizing their storage. The donation of storage drawers or other units would be helpful, as would the return of borrowed tapes!" Please check with her if you have any suggestions about how we can make this ever-growing treasure work well for you and everyone.

Shared Ministries for Caring

The delicious quiche and salad "Season of Caring" luncheon, lovingly prepared by Peggy Lentz, was enjoyed by the 30 people who attended. After lunch Rev. Amy presented a stimulating program. We considered a time when we had cared for ourselves, a time when we had cared for someone else and a time when someone else cared for us. We participated in an exercise that provided an experience of loss -- loss of family members, friends, health, jobs, favorite activities or something else that would create feelings of loss. Then we considered the ways in which we would prefer to offer caring for each other in our congregation, especially during Rev. Amy's sabbatical.

Rev. Amy, thank you for an experiential program and thanks to all who took time on a Saturday to attend and show your caring for your fellow UUCTers. A special note of appreciation to Peggy Lentz for a delicious meal.

Welcome New Members

- *Connie J. Beane*
- *Linda Jamison*
- *Molly Schmid*
- *Edward J. Tribble*
- *Leslie Wurster*

Welcome New Friend

- *Rebecca Sager*

New Member Recognition

Sunday, January 11.

Membership

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

UUCT Name Tags

Help visitors get to know us by wearing your NAME TAG and thinking of yourself as "HOST". New members and supporting friends receive nametags. Contact office for replacements (\$3.75 each).

New Arrivals

If you or another UUCTer is expecting or adopting a child, contact Heike Sanford (668-6369). If you'd like to prepare meals for families during the first days of parenthood, contact Heike.

Directory Changes

If your mailing address, phone number or email address changes, please let the office know. Unless you direct us otherwise, changes will be published in updates.

Joys and Sorrows

We keep in our thoughts and prayers, minds and hearts... **Pam, Walter, Becky and Katie Hoskins**

on the death of Pam's father, **Richard Vincent**, last month; **David Christensen** on the death of his wife, **Carol**, in October (David and Carol were UUCT founding members); **Jennifer Rampollo** (frequent visitor and fellow UU who moved here from NY) on the hospitalization of her young son, **Robbie**, for a viral infection following pneumonia; **Virginia Wilson** (former long-time member of UUCT) on the death of her husband, **Joe**. No service is planned for Joe until the ashes are scattered. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Franklin, PO Box 1023, Franklin, NC 28744.

And Best Wishes to Rev. Amy as she embarks on the winter session of her sabbatical! We hope it is refreshing and renewing.

On-going Opportunities

- **Clean Up on Sunday:** To volunteer, contact Eleanor and Earl Enge (926-9352).
- **Hospitality on Sunday:** January Hospitality Chair: Maria Mena (907-1740).
- **Music Committee:** Members needed - anyone who loves music. Contact Al Starr (383-2556).

- **Shelter Meal:** Monday, January 12, 7:15 PM. To contribute or assist with, call Pat Farris (422-2847).
- **Sunday Service Brigade:** People needed Sat. or Sun. mornings at 9:00 to set-up chairs, etc. Contact Richard Dempsey (671-2748; richardd@nettally.com).
- **Sunday Service Greeter:** Contact Jean Chulak (385-2214 or jeanchulak@aol.com).

Dinners In Homes

Dinners for 8 (Adults Only or Intergenerational) will be happening this winter and spring. We have plenty of hosts; they will be choosing their own dinner dates and contacting both newcomers and longer-term members and friends about attending. If you want to be sure to attend a dinner, please contact Dinners for 8 Coordinator Barbara Gearhart (386-7370) or Membership Chair Trudy Deyle (422-1057, gdeyle@juno.com).

Intergenerational Dinners are for families and those wanting an intergenerational experience. Parents are also welcome to attend Adult Only Dinners. A primary purpose for all dinners is for newcomers to meet longer-term members and friends. Hosts set the menu and provide the main dish, as casual or gourmet as they like; guests bring the rest.

Nursery Volunteers Needed



Contact **Scott Geraci**, (sgeraci10@comcast.net or 877-6301 or Holly Mackie hollyedythe@yahoo.com or 926-2497)

The Committee on Ministry

Chair: Christine Boczarska (893-7079)
 Bruce Brandt (893-5511)
 Sara Reece (309-1933)
 Rev. Amy is a non-voting member.

Current UUCT Stats

- **Certified Membership (as of 1/03) - 174**
- **Current Membership - 181**
- **Current Number of Friends - 49**
- **Average Sunday Church Attendance for month of November - 97.4**
- **Average Sunday Attendance July - November 2003 - 102.2**
- **Average Sunday Attendance July 2002 - June 2003: 96.5**
- **RE Enrollment: 46**

January UUCT Events, Social Activities, After January & District

DANCES OF UNIVERSAL PEACE, SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 7:30 PM.

Simple, meditative circle dances, rejuvenating and uplifting. In the sanctuary. Contacts: Tom and Katya Taylor (656-9321, Katom@istal.com).

UU DOWNTOWN CHOW-DOWN, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 11:30 AM.

First Wednesday of the month, Jacob's Doubletree Inn, for all interested. Soup and salad is \$6.95, the full buffet \$10.95. No RSVP needed; just come. Contact: Annette Pearce (386-4053 or 891-8660).

MOM'S NIGHT OUT, THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 6:30 PM.

Moms with one or more children at home, come out and join us for conversation and companionship. We will meet at the Sahara Restaurant. Contact: Kelley Turnage (553-9416).

ALL CHURCH WORKDAY, SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM.

Enjoy fellowship working together to complete the new playground set and on chores and projects needed to keep our buildings and grounds in shape. Contact: Francis Ventre (402-3050, MFVentre@aol.com).

SECOND SUNDAY POTLUCK, JANUARY 11, 12:30 PM.

Bring your favorite dish to share.

VISITOR INFORMATION SESSION, SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 12:45.

Held in Room L by the Membership

Committee, this is an opportunity for visitors to ask questions and learn a little about our church and Unitarian Universalism, prior to attending New UU sessions. Contact: Trudy Deyle (422-1057, gdeyle@juno.com).

CONGREGATIONAL DISCUSSION MEETING, SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, NOON.

See *Notice of Special Meeting of Qualified Members* in this *Meridian*. Contact: Board President Neil Mooney (893-8250, neilmooney@yahoo.com).

MULTICULTURAL FAMILIES, JANUARY 18, 3:00 PM.

At UUCT. Children's activity for celebration of Martin Luther King's birthday, birthday cake and art project. Art will be displayed at the upcoming February Unity in the Community Celebration, downtown Tallahassee. Contact: Rosa Morgan (668-0885, www.multiculturalTal.org).

CHURCH COUNCIL, TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 7:00 PM.

Held in Room C, this is an opportunity for committee chairs to meet with the VP for Finance to review the Asking Budget as proposed by the Finance Committee. Contact: Richard Dempsey (671-2748, richardd@nettally.com).

CONGREGATIONAL VOTING MEETING, SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, NOON.

See *Notice of Special Meeting of Qualified Members* in this *Meridian*. Contact: Board President Neil Mooney (893-8250, neilmooney@yahoo.com).

UUCT Social Activities

See *events write-ups* for details. Contact Ludy Goodson (531-9819, ludy8@juno.com, or with a note given to her on a Sunday) regarding possible UUCT Social Events. **Check Social Activities section of UUCT website for more activities:** www.nettally.com/uuct.

- Peace Dances, Sat. Jan. 3, 7:30 PM
- UU Downtown Chow-Down, Wed. Jan. 7, 11:30 AM
- Mom's Night Out, Thurs. Jan. 8, 6:30 PM
- Second Sunday Potluck, Jan. 11, 12:30 PM
- Isabel Sheridan's 60th birthday potluck celebration, Sat., Feb. 7, 7 PM, UUCT (All invited!). Peace Dances will be Feb. 21.

BOARD GAMES FOR ADULTS!

Archaeological excavations of Mayan temple complexes, civilization-building in Mesopotamia, undersea exploration, and more. Contact Gary Robinson (chuft@comcast.net or 877-3513).

Events After January

"HEARTBEATS" CONCERT, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 7:00 PM.

A Valentine's Day enchanting evening of romance and wonderful music by talented UUCTers and others. See *Announcements* for help needed for this annual fundraiser. Contact: Ludy Goodson (531-9819, ludy8@juno.com).

CONGREGATIONAL FORUM, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 12:30 PM.

An opportunity to ask questions about and discuss the Asking Budget, with background material mailed in advance. Contact: Neil Mooney (893-8250, neilmooney@yahoo.com).

CONGREGATIONAL VOTING MEETING, SUNDAY, MARCH 7, NOON.

An important meeting to vote on the FY 2004 - 2005 Asking Budget. Plan on attending. Childcare will be provided. Contact: Board President Neil Mooney (893-8250, neilmooney@yahoo.com).

District Events

DISTRICT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, SATURDAY, JANUARY 10.

Held in Bradenton, the topic is "Show us the \$\$\$\$\$" - canvass training. Contact the church office for more information (385-5115).

INTERFAITH RELIGIOUS FREEDOM CONFERENCE, THURSDAY - SATURDAY, JANUARY 15 - 17.

Held at the UU Church of Clearwater. Registration: \$100 for adults, \$60 for students or one day. Contacts: Bill Norsworthy or Abhi Janamanchi (727-531-7704). See December *Meridian*, *Social Justice* for more information.

District Events

AGING WISELY WORKSHOP, FEBRUARY 28, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM.

Come gather in Vero Beach with other UUs to consider the spiritual dimensions of aging. Led by the UUA's Rev. Pat Hoertdoerfer. Registration \$20 (includes breakfast, lunch and materials). Forms in church office.

MEMBERSHIP PRACTICES WORKSHOP, SATURDAY, MARCH 13.

An all-day workshop at the UU Church of Jacksonville. Rev. Anne Odin Heller, author of *Churchworks*, is keynote speaker. Home hospitality and childcare provided. Trudy Deyle plans to attend and welcomes any others to attend with her! Contact Trudy if interested (422-1057, gdeyle@juno.com).

SOUTHWEST CLUSTER WORKSHOP, SATURDAY, MARCH 13.

Held in Clearwater, the topic will be "Separation of Church and State: Meeting the Challenge to Tear Down Jefferson's Wall". Contact the church office for more information (385-5115).

**DISTRICT ANNUAL ASSEMBLY,
APRIL 16-18.** To be held in Oviedo. Open to all interested.

UUA Trustee Tidbits

By Joan Lund, FL District Trustee

The UUA Board of Trustees is vested by the UUA Bylaws to conduct the affairs of the Association and, subject to the Bylaws, carry out the Association's policies and directives as provided by law. The Board also has the power to "act for the Association between General Assemblies". This is in contrast to the General Assembly's responsibility to "make" policy. The responsibility of the Board also includes the authority to adopt resolutions and to take actions necessary to implement policies. There are twenty District Trustees, four At-large Trustees, and a Youth Trustee.

Certain responsibilities are delegated by the Board to committees through which the Board may act. These include standing committees: Executive, Ministerial Fellowship, Finance and Investment. The Board is able to create additional committees and determine their duties. Examples include the Anti-Racism Assessment and Monitoring Team and the Justice working group.

In January, the UUA Board of Trustees will be meeting in Boston, with "working groups" meeting on the Friday preceding the Board meeting, which is held on a Saturday and Sunday. The Board meets in Boston three times per year and a fourth time

before and after General Assembly. The Board agenda is prepared by the officers and suggestions for agenda items are requested from Board members. We receive a tentative agenda at least a week prior to the meeting, with all available supporting documents. The Board, District Presidents, the Commission on Appraisal, and the full professional staff receive the minutes as soon as possible after the meetings. Minutes of past meetings are available at www.uua.org.

It is the normal practice of the UUA Board to conduct business in public, but the Board may decide by majority vote at any time to deal with certain matters in Executive Session. These may include personnel matters of a delicate nature, legal matters of which public discussion could be legally injurious, budget matters that involve legal or personnel matters, and property acquisition. Any officer or trustee may initiate a request for an Executive Session, a Session may be ended at any time by majority vote, and the session will close with a determination as to whether the material is confidential and needs to be confidential.

In addition to the President and Moderator, who may act as UUA representatives, Trustees may represent the Board or the Association at meetings and events where it is desirable and where the Moderator has agreed to the representation. Trustees are entitled to represent themselves as UUA Trustees at ceremonial events where such representation is considered desirable by the Trustee. Trustees are responsible and accountable for avoiding any ambiguity about their representative role or authorization to speak for the Board or the UUA.

I can be reached at jlund@uua.org, lundjb@earthlink.net, or 813-931-9727. As some of you know I do enjoy visiting congregations and have been known to "do a Sunday service". Happy New Year!

Non-UUCT Events

- *Every Sunday, 7:00 PM Gentle Shepherd Metropolitan Community Church (Sanctuary)*
- *Every Tuesday, 6:00 PM Spiral Scouts (Rm 2 or next available room)*
- *Every Thursday, 7:00 PM Zen Meditation (Sanctuary)*
- *Saturday, Jan. 17, 6:30 - 10:00 PM, Tibetan Monks*

Notice of Special Meeting of Qualified Members

To: All Qualified Members

From: Neil B. Mooney, President

Date: December 17, 2003

Now that our Phase One building project is complete and final costs are in, it is time to finalize the long-term financing package, including how we will pay off the remainder of the construction loan. As you may remember, the construction loan was necessary because we did not have all the Capital Campaign pledge money available during construction. The three-year pledge period does not end until June 30, 2004. On March 10, 2002, we approved a flexible financing package for Phase One consisting of Capital Campaign pledges, endowment funds and a mortgage. It is now time to decide the specifics of this package: the final amount of mortgage, the final amount of endowment funds, and exactly how these endowment funds will be used.

Therefore, a **Special Meeting** of the Qualified Members of the church will be held at 2810 N. Meridian Road, Tallahassee, Florida, on Sunday January 25, 2004, at 12:00 noon.

As approved by the Executive Board on December 4, 2003:

“The purpose of the meeting is to approve alternative procedures for paying off the remainder of the construction loan using a combination of a 15-year bank mortgage and an interest-free loan from the Endowment Fund after the construction loan has been reduced as far as possible with current money in the Building Fund and from money yet to be received from building fund pledges. The loan from the endowment fund is to be paid off with income from the remaining endowment funds; this will require about 15 years. During this time endowment funds will not be available for financing Phase II or for other purposes.”

Our By-Laws require:

1. A quorum of 40% of the Qualified Members of the church in attendance at this Special Meeting in order to take action on the above item, and
2. Two-thirds (2/3) of those in attendance voting in favor in order to adopt procedures.

“Qualified Members” are those who are 18 years of age or older who have been members of the church for at least 30 days.

Consequently, your presence at this Special Meeting is very important.

A discussion meeting will be held at the church, 2810 N. Meridian Road, Tallahassee, Florida, on Sunday January 18, 2004 immediately following the service.

Board Actions in December


By Carolyn DuBard, Executive Board Secretary

The December 4, 2003, Meeting of the Executive Board:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approved the minutes of the November 6, 2003, meeting as amended. 2. Accepted the Treasurer's Report | <p>and Balance Sheet. These reports displayed the financial condition of the church as of October 31, 2003.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Approved the call for a congregational meeting on January 25, 2004, immediately after the church service, and | <p>specified the wording of the call as quoted in the <i>Notice of Special Meeting of Qualified Members</i> above.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Appointed Bob Kenon to fill the opening on the Endowment Committee. |
|--|--|---|



JANUARY 2004 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
New Building Rm L - Large Room Rm C - Corner Room		Rm K - Kitchen To Be Rm N - Nursery			1 New Year's Day, office closed. 	2 3 10 AM Artists Way, Rm C 7:30 PM Peace Dances
4 9:30 AM Youth RE Committee Mtg. Rm 2 6 PM YRUU, Rm 3&6	5 7:15 PM Women's Spirituality Group (WSG), off-site 7:30 PM Buildings & Grnds. Comm., Rm C	6 7:15 AM Committee on Ministry, Rms 3&6	7 7:30 AM Leadership Development, off-site 11:30 AM UU Chowdown 7:30 PM Choir, sanctuary	8 6:30 PM Mom's Night Out, off-site 7 PM Understanding the Bible, Rm C 7 PM Globalization Study Circle, Rm 2	9	10 9 AM - 1 PM Workday 10 AM Artists Way, Rm C
11 Committee Budget Requests Due 12:30 PM Potluck & Meridian Deadline 12:45 PM Visitor Information Session, Rm L	12 7 PM UU Buddhist Fellowship (UUBF), Rm 3&6 7:15 Shelter Meal, off-site 7:15 PM Program Committee, Rm C 7:15 PM WSG, off-site	13	14 7:30 PM Choir, sanctuary	15 7 PM Board Meeting, Rm L 7 PM Understanding the Bible, Rm C 7:15-9 PM Evensong, Rm K	16 6 PM University UUs, off-site	17 10 AM Artists Way, Rm C 10:30 AM Voluntary Simplicity, Rm K
18 Noon: Congregational Discussion Meeting, Sanc. 12:30 PM Wayne Dyer Disc., Rm L 3 PM Multicultural Families Group, Rm L 6 PM YRUU, Rm 3&6	19 Holiday: Office Closed 7 PM Finance Committee, Rm 2 7:15 PM Women's Spirituality Group, off-site	20 Noon: Personnel Comm., Rm 2 7-9 PM New UU, Rm L 7 PM Church Council, Rm C	21 7 PM Green Sanc. Comm., Rm C 7:30 PM Choir, sanctuary	22 7 PM Understanding the Bible, Rm C 7:15-9 PM Evensong, Rm K 7:15 PM Canvass Committee, Rm 2	23 6 PM University UUs, off-site	24 10 AM Artists Way, Rm C 10:30 AM Voluntary Simplicity, Rm K
25 Noon: Congregational Voting Mtg., Sanc.	26 7 PM UUBF, 3&6 7:15 PM WSG, off-site Eve: TEAM Assembly & Support Drive Kick-off, off-site	27 7-9 PM New UU, Rm L	28 7:30 PM Choir, sanctuary	29 7 PM Understanding the Bible, Rm C 7:15-9 PM Evensong, Rm K	30 6 PM University UUs, off-site	31 10 AM Artists Way, Rm C 10:30 AM Voluntary Simplicity, Rm K

➔ Please check the Order of Service for the day of the week the University UUs will resume their discussion/spirituality meetings (previously on Mondays).

Rev. Amy Sabbatical Winter Session 1/1-2/29/04

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

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Building A Home for Liberal Faith

Our Staff:

Rev. Amy McKenzie is on sabbatical 1/1 - 2/29/04.

UUCT member Rev. Byron Spice (668-6109 or church office) will have office hours at UUCT: Fri. 1/9, 1 - 4 PM; Wed. 1/14, 10 AM - Noon; Tues. 1/20, 1 - 5 PM; Tues. 1/27, 1 - 5 PM. Nancy Bass (893-1806) and Harold Hawkins (893-1331) are also available for pastoral care.

Kathie Mackie, Administrative Assistant, 385-5115

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

Maggie Geraci, Director of Religious Education,
877-6301; DREMaggie@comcast.net

Chelsea Fox, Campus Ministry Coordinator,
222-3931; chelsuu@yahoo.com

Holly Mackie, Nursery Worker, 926-2497;
hollyedythe@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."

ADULT ENRICHMENT

- * **Artist's Way**, Every Sat., 10:00 AM. Amy Mann (222-1420)
- * **Evensong**, Thurs. 1/15 - 1/29, 7:00 PM. Bruce Brandt (893-5511)
- * **New UU**, Tues. 1/20 & 1/29, 7:00 PM. Trudy Deyle (422-1057)
- * **Understanding the Bible**, Thurs. 1/8 - 1/29. Bob Kenon (878-3647).
- * **UU Buddhist Fellowship**, 2nd & 4th Mon., 7 PM. Anne Rudloe (984-2504)
- * **Voluntary Simplicity**, Sat. 1/10 - 1/31, Kathie Mackie (385-5115).
- * **Wayne Dyer**, Sun. 1/18, 12:30 PM. Dick Leinberry (386-4977).
- * **Women's Spirituality**, Every Mon., 7:15 PM. B. Foster (539-5563)

EXECUTIVE BOARD

- * Thurs., 1/15, 7 PM. Pres. Neil Mooney (893-8250)

COMMITTEES MEET

- * **Adult RE**, TBA. Bruce Brandt (893-5511)
- * **Buildings & Grounds**, Mon., 1/5, 7:30 PM. Francis Ventre (402-3050)
- * **Church Council**, Tues., 1/20, 7:00 PM. Richard Dempsey (671-2748)
- * **Committee on Ministry**, Tues., 1/6, 7:15 PM. Christine Boczarska (893-7079)
- * **Finance**, Mon., 1/19, 7:00 PM. Del DeTar (878-7895)
- * **Endowment**, TBA. Jim Dawson (383-1213)
- * **Green Sanctuary**, Wed., 1/21, 7 PM. Steve Urse (385-2864)

- * **Harmony Camp**, TBA. Joanne Taylor (893-9024)
- * **Membership**, Next: Wed. 2/4, 7:15 PM. Trudy Deyle (422-1057)
- * **Music**, TBA. Al Starr (383-2556).
- * **Personnel**, Tues., 1/20, 12:00 PM. Margaret Mooney (893-8250)
- * **Program**, Mon., 1/12, 7:15 PM. Eric Draper (668-5075)
- * **Racial & Cultural Diversity**, via e-mail. Isabel Sheridan (668-0785)
- * **Publicity**, TBA. Kristin King (425-4658)
- * **Youth RE**, Sun., 1/4, 9:30 AM. Kelley Turnage (553-9416)
- * **YRUU Youth**, 1st & 3rd Sun., 6:00 PM