

July 2006

Volume 49, No. 7

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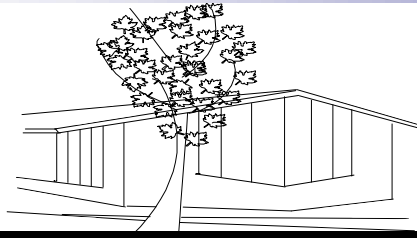
Every Sunday:

- 9:45 AM Choir Practice
(exc. for July Sundays)
- 9:45 AM Adult Forum
- 10:30 AM Child Care - until
12:30 PM
- 11:00 AM Youth RE Summer
Program (k-5th, Rm K)

Adult Forum Topics:

- July 2, "Culture of Oaxaca Mexico & Fair Trade," Roberta Christie
- July 9, TBA
- July 16, TBA
- July 23, TBA
- July 30, TBA

Unitarian Universalist Church of Tallahassee



The Meridian

July Sundays (11:00 AM)

July 2 | E Pluribus Unum: Out of the Many, One

Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations. The first motto of the United States was *e pluribus unum*—out of the many, one. Our challenge today is to find common ground in our pluralistic society and world because our common good depends upon it. Unitarian Universalism is a living example of *e pluribus unum*. The living tradition we share draws from many sources, but even so, our deep desire is "to be one." And so we commit ourselves to spiritual growth and to a broader, deeper, more profound and open-ended life together.

Speaker: Charlotte Dudley; Lay Leader: Richard Dempsey

July 9 | Consider the Great Turning!

Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. We are people who care deeply about this planet, and the places we live, our beloved Red Hills and our Gulf Coast. We also long for social justice and for a viable future for our children, and for the unborn generations of all species. Yet the reality of dire climate change, massive species extinctions, and unresponsive government can make us feel hopeless and without power. Let us consider together how we might make ourselves fully available to Earth's call to act on her behalf, to participate with joy and power in what Joanna Macy calls The Great Turning. (Also Shelter meal collection.)

Guest Speaker: Susan Cerulean; Lay Leader: Howard Pardue

July 16 | It's a Baby!

A free and responsible search for truth and meaning. Today's service will feature guest speaker Dr. Richard Hull, professor emeritus of philosophy at SUNY in Buffalo, NY, and founder and president of Tallahassee's Center for Inquiry. With Dr. Hull we will explore early pre-embryo metaphysics and the ethics of early abortion and stem-cell harvesting. He will explain why these procedures don't harm any individual human beings.

Guest Speaker: Dr. Richard T. Hull; Lay Leader: Ron Crowe

July 23 | The Ethical Considerations of Being a UU

The inherent worth and dignity of every person. As Unitarian Universalists we hold certain truths to be essential to our faith, including the inherent worth and dignity of every person and justice, equity and compassion in human relationships. Life forces choices upon us. Crime and other social problems inevitably follow. For instance, the war on crime and drugs also involves some injustice, inequity, and misplaced passion. Nothing occurs in a vacuum, nor can we stay uninvolved. Doing the right thing is not always easy or obvious, but it is possible to influence change. What ethical obligations related to social policy are implicit in our UU faith? (Also candles of joy and concern.)

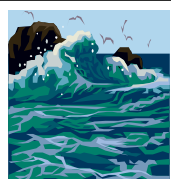
Speaker: Abbe Justus; Lay Leader: Chris Ellrich

July 30 | The Gospel of Mark as Greek Tragedy (See p. 2)



July Highlights:

- * "An Inconvenient Truth" & Dinner, 7/2 Afternoon
- * Harmony Camp, Mon. 7/24 - Fri. 7/28, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM (Care available before & after).



GATHER WATER ON YOUR TRAVELS

for our In-Gathering and Water Ceremony at summer's end.

July Sundays (Continued)

July 30 | The Gospel of Mark as Greek Tragedy

Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations. The Christian story of the first century CE borrowed heavily from the Greek cult of Dionysus and may have been structured to appeal to the Hellenized populations of the eastern Greco-Roman Empire. Mark's was first of the four gospels and appeared just as Jerusalem was destroyed and Jews were dispersed to the four winds. What are we to make of this?

Speaker: Richard Dempsey; Lay Leader: Ellen Dempsey

President's Message

By DeWayne Carver

One of the many benefits of being president of the church board, aside from use of the corporate jet and church limo, is the opportunity to attend really excellent District leadership training. I took advantage of this opportunity this past May, and I encountered some challenging ideas that I'll be sharing with you in the coming months. There were some interesting things about the training itself, however, that I'd like to share for this president's message.

First off, although I've had lots of leadership training over the years, I've never had church leadership training, and let me tell you, it's a different animal. I've been trained to lead university employees to do better research and public service; I've been trained to lead search and rescue teams in Civil Air Patrol; I've been trained to do leadership with a mission focus, where the priority was to get the job done, the best way we can do it. Church leadership training was not like that at all.

In church leadership training, they assume you already know those things -- you had darn well better be able to run a tight meeting, organize people around a mission, and identify problems and solutions, or you wouldn't be a leader in the first place, right? So the emphasis was on not only accomplishing the mission, but doing it while still being in church!

I did not know that church is more than just Sunday mornings. Did you know that committee meetings are church? Board meetings are church? Mowing the grass on a Saturday morning with the Building and Grounds committee -- yep, that's church too.

Turns out, when we lead in church, everything we do is church. There is supposed to be a spiritual aspect and community bond in all we do together. That's not too surprising really; I mean, leave it to the Unitarian Universalists to make committee meetings a spiritual activity, right? But who has time to focus on our spirituality and community bonding when there's a tough job to do, or a long agenda to work through? More on that idea later.

The second thing that I'd like to share about the training is something that I consistently notice when I attend District events. I don't like to brag or anything, but we've got a pretty darn good church. Heaven knows we're not perfect (just think how boring that would be), but we've got some good things going on. As often as not, when I hear about how a church is "supposed" to be doing something, we're already doing it.

This is no accident. A lot of people in our church, especially from previous leadership schools, have brought home good ideas and put them into practice. It's easy to focus on the negative, on the things we don't do well (I learned at GA last week that

UUs tend to be perfectionists - surprise) and overlook the really great things we do have going on. Next time you think things are going pretty rocky for us, call up someone in another church and listen to their problems. It's true that our little boat gets tossed on some pretty rough seas, but it's still our own little boat, and it's a good boat, and we're all in it together.

And, of course, even when we're getting rocked and rolled from the latest storm... we're still in church!

In faith,

DeWayne

Welcome to Rev. Evelyn Plumb

By Elinor Elfner, Chair of Search Committee for 2006-2007 Interim Minister

On August 1, Rev. Evelyn A. Plumb (Lyn) will officially begin to serve as our interim minister. Rev. Lyn's Bachelor of Arts is from Worcester State College and her Masters in Divinity is from Andover Newton Theological School. She has been a consulting, an interim, and a settled minister, as well as a public school teacher and a lay leader of many different UU committees.

She has two daughters. Juliana just graduated from University of Maryland and was married in May with her mother officiating. Jennifer is a doctoral candidate in clinical psychology at University of Nevada. Rev. Lyn enjoys Dances of Universal Peace, reading, sewing, quilting, hydrobics, and travel. She recently

completed a solo cross-country trip in a RV motor home.

Rev. Lyn and the search committee feel that we are a good fit. In working on the contract, we mutually agreed to add the following specific provision that is reflective of the match between her view of ministry and UUCT's goal of shared ministry:

"The Interim Minister agrees to facilitate preparation of the congregation for the leadership of its future settled minister, believing that ministry is shared with the congregation and is a collaborative effort where no one has the power over another, and where power is shared with each other."

To be sure we are all focused on the same goals for this year, the contract also provides:

"Within the first month of this contract, the interim minister will work with the staff and representatives of the Committee on the Ministry, the Program Committee, the Religious Education Committee, the Search Committee, and the Board to identify goals and expectations to be accomplished during this interim year."

The Search Committee for the Interim Minister was unanimous in the decision to offer Rev. Lyn the ministerial leadership position for our church. As we work together, listen and respect each other, we will prepare for the transition to a settled ministry.

Settled Minister Search Committee

By Bob Deyle, SMSC Chair

Round one of the Settled Minister Search Committee's information gathering process is complete. Nearly 90 members and friends participated in a total of 9 cottage meetings. Strategic interviews with almost 60 individuals, including UUCT staff, board members, a cross-section of UUCT members, and others in Tallahassee and UUA will be wrapped up by the end of the month. The final piece is a survey of our members and friends.

The rule of thumb for calling a settled UU minister is at least a 90 percent vote in favor of the call. Some candidates will not accept a call unless 96 percent of the members present endorse the call. It is essential,

therefore, that the Search Committee get as true a picture as possible of the congregation's preferences regarding a new minister.

While the cottage meetings and strategic interviews are giving us depth of understanding, the survey is critical to providing an accurate sense of the breadth and variation of members' and friends' feelings about the most important attributes of a new minister. Responses to the survey will not only inform our search, they also will be used as one of the primary bases for describing our congregation to prospective candidates.

The SMSC developed the survey questions in part from guidance provided by the UUA with careful consideration given to the specific needs and circumstances of our congregation. Special thanks to Richard Dempsey, Trudy Deyle, Abbe Justus, and Molly Schmid for reviewing draft questions.

By the time this issue of *The Meridian* arrives, you already should have received a copy of the SMSC survey via first class mail. If you have not already responded, please do so promptly. If you did not receive a survey, please contact Annette Pearce at 850-386-4053 (home) or via email at Annette.Pearce@gmail.com

Social Justice

Harmony Camp News

By Joanne Taylor

Harmony Camp is filling up quickly. July 24 will be here before we know it. We hope all of our UUCT children who are entering 1st to 6th grade will be with us, so you need to get registration forms in as soon as possible. As soon as a registration is received, we will mail you a schedule of all the exciting activities from which to pick the ones most interesting to you. First choice of the classes is more likely if selections come in early.

All camp volunteers will receive a reduced rate of \$40.00 for registration of their children, and there is a reduced rate for families having more than one child registered. Child care will be provided for volunteers' children who are too young to participate in the camp. We will also provide before and after camp care from 7:30 - 9:00 AM and 4:00 - 6:00 PM for \$10.00 per day.

Deborah Holt requests that you contribute yarn, embroidery floss and beads for her class on weaving bracelets. Fenn Cawthon needs 12 egg cartons for paints for the class on designing gift bags.

We are having many requests for scholarships for the camp, so we welcome contributions to our scholarship fund. Checks should be made out to UUCT, with Harmony Camp in the memo line.

TEAM Talk Sessions at UUCT

By Pam Crosby

Adrienne Davis, lead organizer for TEAM, will speak on Tuesday, July 18 at 7:00 PM in Room L about the latest efforts of the Tallahassee Equality Action Ministry. Come join Adrienne and UUCT TEAM co-leaders Pam Crosby and Brian Lee for this informal talk. This session will be the first of several sessions throughout the year at UUCT that will offer opportunities for

UUCT members, friends, and others to find out more about TEAM, learn more about social action issues in Leon County, and contribute their ideas to the ongoing mission.

Affordable Housing Committee

By Pam Crosby

One of the important issues on which TEAM is focusing is affordable housing. TEAM's Affordable Housing Committee attended a training session to kick off the summer's research process. Discussion centered around affordable *rental* housing for the working poor. A decision was made to look into affordable rentals to see if information can be gathered to help focus efforts. Members examine stats on rental housing, including the rental housing market, Leon County population, and Leon County profile information, before attending research meetings with Don Lanham from Leon County Health and Human Services and Michael Hervey with City of Tallahassee Housing. Pam Crosby, TEAM co-leader for UUCT, is a member of the Affordable Housing Committee and will be researching this community concern this summer.

TEAM is a congregation-based community organization comprised of 19+ faith-based groups united to hold systems accountable to their intended purposes. TEAM brings diverse people together (faith, racial, ethnic, social/economic) to redress community concerns that affect poor and low-income people. Please contact Pam Crosby (385-3292) or Brian Lee (877-1972) for more information. You can also visit <http://teamtally.org>

Clearwater Film Series

If you happen to be traveling south in FL, the Social Justice Committee of the Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater is presenting their second annual, free film series this summer,

every other Friday at 7:00 PM at The Octagon Arts Center, 2417 Nursery Rd. in Clearwater (727-531-7704). Dates and films are:

- July 7: *Seoul Train*
- July 21: *Discovering Domingo*
- Aug. 4: *Iron-Jawed Angels*
- Aug. 18: *The Corporation*

A flyer with descriptions is posted at the back of the sanctuary.

Gulf Coast Relief Fund

A stewardship report on this joint effort of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and the UU Service Committee (UUSC) has been prepared and is available to read and download (<http://www.uua.org/news/gulfcoastrelief/pdf/StewardshipReport2006-06.pdf>). Or a copy may be requested by calling 1-888-792-5886.

The letter sent to UU churches announcing the report thanks UU congregations and their members for contributing to the fund and states that more than three million dollars was raised. Donations were received from children and youth groups, social groups, and over 600 UU congregations and their members. The letter goes on to say: "So far, your gifts to the Relief Fund have made it possible for us to provide funding to the three UU churches hit hardest by the hurricanes, to help residents of the Gulf Coast access aid and develop a vision of how reconstruction will occur, to help protect immigrant workers in the area, to coordinate human-rights and social justice efforts in the communities and neighborhoods of New Orleans, to provide legal support for those in need, and to represent displaced families from the most marginalized and most needy impacted communities. That is just the beginning."

Announcements



To All Who Pledge

We have begun our July 2006 to June 2007 fiscal year. Please mark your checks "06/07 pledge" for contributions to this year's pledge. We urge those who did not complete last year's pledge to do so now. Please mark these checks "05/06 pledge." We accept contributions at any time. This past year we received \$11,489 in pledge contributions for the preceding fiscal year ending in June 2005, some as late as September 2005. - Thomas Chase, Collecting Treasurer

E-Mail Distribution

In April, all UUCTers with e-mail addresses were asked about receiving *The Meridian* and congregational mailings via e-mail rather than regular mail. Almost all who responded were fine with this, so we are moving toward e-mail distribution for all those willing and able. Those few who have e-mail but experience technical difficulties receiving large files electronically will remain on our regular mail distribution list, along with those who do not have email. Regular mail distribution will be first-class versus bulk permit, as we will no longer be sending the minimum required for bulk mailings.

Beginning in July, visitors will be asked to provide their email addresses if they wish to receive *The Meridian*.

Otherwise, they can pick up a copy at the visitor table. They will no longer automatically be mailed the newsletter for three months.

Volunteers Needed For Nursery

Love babies? Like reading stories to kids? Need an excuse to play with legos or doll houses? Consider volunteering for one hour in the nursery! We need a few good volunteers to help out our nursery staff. Contact DRE Maggie Geraci if you'd like to help!

Three People Needed!

The Youth RE Program is looking for three people who are willing to give 3 hours a month of their time and energy to the kids in the program. We need three teachers – one for the preschool class (ages 3 to 5) and two for the Bridgers Class (grades 3 – 5). Have you ever thought about volunteering as teacher in the Youth RE Program, but hesitated because you thought it would be too time-consuming? With our teaching teams, teachers rotate their teaching schedule, and it works out to about one class a month (only an hour). Most teachers report needing about two hours of preparation time for a class. So, for 3 hours a month, you could make a difference in a child's life. We provide the curricula, training, and supplies. You provide the time, love and support of our children. Teaching RE isn't just for parents with children in the program; we need help from all members and friends of UUCT. For more information, contact DRE Maggie Geraci.

Sunday Set-Up Help Needed

Only 14 individuals have signed up to help with Sunday morning chair set-up in 2006 - 2007. It takes 2 or 3 people each Sunday morning. With 52 weeks of services, we desperately need more people willing to be on the e-mail list to help with this UUCT task. Otherwise, you may be sitting on the floor! (NO, we're sure there are others who could help from 9:00 - 9:40 AM on Sunday mornings!) Please e-mail Elinor Elfner (eelfner@comcast.net) to indicate your willingness to help. THANKS!

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 (668-3346, dcbgbw@comcast.net).

Sun. Social Hour Volunteers

Each month we need one person or a team of two people to volunteer to be responsible for the Sunday social hour (to start the coffee and dishwasher at 10:30 AM, set out the cups and supplies, recruit clean-up volunteers, and generally oversee the Sunday kitchen for the month). If you'd be willing (especially for Nov. or Dec.), contact Nancy Harvey (npharv@aol.com, 668-9096).

Sunday Social Hr. Experiment

In July and August the kitchen controllers will experiment with serving only coffee after Sunday services. Potluck will continue as always. If the experiment is successful, we will continue it for the rest of the year. Individuals and groups who want to celebrate an event by sharing food with the congregation should let the controller coordinator (Nancy Harvey) or the controller for that month know. The person or group bringing the food is responsible for the food set up and the kitchen cleanup that day.

Strong Clean-up Volunteers!

Our dishwasher reduces the time spent washing dishes but requires at least one clean-up volunteer strong enough to lift trays full of dishes and glasses into and out of it. If this sounds like you, consider volunteering more often to be one of the clean-up crew! Watch for the monthly sign-up sheet at the back of the church or contact the kitchen controller for the month or the controller coordinator (Nancy Harvey, npharv@aol.com, 668-9096).

Missing Hymnals

If you have borrowed a hymnal in the past, please check at home. We are missing some of UUCT's hymnals. Order your own from the UUA Bookstore (www.uua.org/bookstore). Or give a hymnal to UUCT, dedicating it to the person of your choice.

Appreciation



To:

- **Barbara Sterling, Mimi Jones, Susan Snyder and Frank Deasy, and Christine Boczarska** for greeting Sundays 5/28 - 6/18.
- **Eleanor and Earl Enge, Joan Patterson, Norene Chase, and the Youth RE Committee** for hosting May Sunday social hours.
- **Randall Gann and Jerri Lee Wagner** for May kitchen clean-up duties.
- **Dick Leinberry** for serving as May Kitchen Kontroller (recruiting and overseeing the volunteers).
- **Christen Ellrich and Pam Hoskins** for helping in the nursery in June.
- **Jeanne Ryder, Jim Stangel, Randall Gann, Helen Meacham, Bob Deyle, and John Whitton and Elinor Elfner** for June Sunday set-up.
- **Dan Damerville, Mimi Jones, Jan Oldenburg, Mary Braunagel, Abbe Justus, Dick Leinberry, Jan Miller, Susan Snyder and Frank Deasy, and University UUs Brian Lee, C.B. Smith and Jennifer Ackerman** for doing the June Shelter meal.
- **Elinor Elfner, Steve Urse, DeWayne Carver and Christine Boczarska** for serving as UUCT's delegates to the UUA General Assembly in June, **Jennifer Carver** for serving as an alternate delegate, and **Joan Patterson and Brian Lee and Kim Ross** for also attending.
- **Kandy Crowe** for the special good-bye cake for Rev. Bill.
- **Tom Moore** for hosting the blueberry picking and picnic outing in early June.
- **Marty Beech, Charlotte Dudley, Elinor Elfner, George Knight and Tom Moore** for serving as the 2006-2007 Interim Search Committee.

Leadership Appreciation

Thanks to the following UUCTers who completed their service in the leadership positions they had held for the past two years or longer:

Richard Dempsey for serving on the board as president-elect, president and past president.

Rod Oldenburg for serving as VP for Worship.

Steve Urse for serving as VP for Management.

Melissa Forgey for serving as VP for Social Justice.

Sara Reece for serving on the Committee on Ministry, most recently as chair.

Dave Harvey for serving as chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, a committee whose motto has become "We make it happen!"

Nancy Harvey for serving as Greeter Coordinator.

Margaret Mooney for serving as Hospitality Coordinator.

Linda Winn-Brown for serving as Mountain Ambassador.

And apologies if we've forgotten anyone!

Buildings and Grounds Thanks

The all church workday on June 10 was attended by eight hard-working volunteers. Thanks go out to each and every of them for taking the time to help around the church. Most of them are faithfully there every month. **Chris Ellrich** and **Mitch McDermott** mowed. Mitch also edged the grass along the sidewalks and weeded. **Tom Baldwin, Tom Chase and Don Berger** repaired the screen door on the church office. Tom Chase also painted. **Barbara Sterling** worked on limb cuttings, books and library and, along with Tom Chase, got a hose fitting done.

Chris cut up and removed a large tree branch which had fallen on the driveway. Chris, George, Barbara and **Steve Urse** then moved the cuttings to a wildlife pile. **George Knight** cleaned the leaves and trash off all the driveways and sidewalks on the workday and on other weekends as well. Steve pruned and weeded and was consulted on other landscape tasks. Tom Baldwin and **Dave Harvey** cleaned cobwebs off the outside of buildings. Dave also cleaned some of the windows on the sanctuary building and cleaned mildew off windowsills and, along with Chris and Don, moved books from Rm. 5 to Rm. L.

Outside the workday, Dave replaced the battery in the timer for the lights in the church annex and repaired the door closer for the women's restroom. Tom Chase painted the railings around the church. The watering team consisting of George, **Charlotte Dudley**, Barbara, and Steve took care of the native-tree plantings and the flower gardens.

Caring Network and Membership News

Caring Ministries Network

Anne Rudloe injured her knee and is currently using a crutch to ambulate. She says it's improving and hopes not to require surgery.

Our hearts are with **Connie Beane** as she copes with the death of her father in early June.

We had an enjoyable time at the Farewell Reception for **Rev. Bill** on June 17. His ministry during the past year is appreciated. Thanks to all who brought food and beverages.

Welcome To UUCT!

- *Lex Coleman (as member) and Mary-Claude Phillippe Coleman (as friend)*
- *Emily Leventhal & Dan Mears (as members), as well as 2 yr.-old Eli*
- *Linda Logan (returning member)*
- *Valerie Newsome (as friend)*

New UU Sessions

Offered on a regular basis for those new to Unitarian Universalism and UUs new to UUCT, usually two weeknights from 7:00 – 9:00 PM, but occasionally in one 3-hour Sunday afternoon session. Participants share some about themselves, including their spiritual journeys, and learn a little about the church and the greater UU movement. There's time for some discussion. The next sessions will be in the early Fall. A general sign-up sheet is on the back counter of the sanctuary. Or contact the church office (385-5115, uuct@nettally.com) or membership chair Trudy Deyle (422-1057, gdeyle@juno.com). Childcare available on request.

Summer Series of Dinners for 8

Spaces are available at these adult dinners: Sat. 7/15 (Isabel Sheridan) and Sat. 8/19 (Elinor Elfner & John Whitton at Oyster Bay). This is a special opportunity for newer members

and friends to get better acquainted with our UUCT community. To sign up, contact Junelle Brandt (893-5511, junellebrandt@earthlink.net).

There are two dinner categories -- adults only and intergenerational. Adults without children may sign up for intergenerational, and adults with children can find a sitter and enjoy an adults-only evening. Hosting means providing the main dish -- any style or theme you'd like -- and calling the others to complete the menu.

On-going Opportunities

- **Buildings & Grounds 2nd Saturday Workdays:** Contact Don Berger (422-2847, berger-don@comcast.net).
- **Nursery Help:** Contact DRE Maggie Geraci (877-6301, dremaggie@earthlink.net).
- **2nd Monday Shelter Meal:** Contact Susan Snyder and Frank Deasy (907-1740, deasyf@comcast.net).
- **Sunday Hospitality and Clean Up:** July kitchen controller is Maria Mena (907-0739, mcmena@ix.net.com).
- **Sunday Service Greeter:** Contact Debbie Holt (553-3231, holt0119@earthlink.net).
- **Sunday Service Set-up:** Contact Elinor Elfner (524-1026, eelfner@comcast.net).

UUCT Mountain Retreat

This past Memorial weekend (May 26-29), 16 UUCTers (including 4 families and 6 children) drove for half a day up to "The Mountain," our UU retreat and learning center atop Little Scaly Mountain, 4 miles outside of Highlands, NC. We enjoyed 2 full days of indoor workshops and outdoor activities including: "Sustainability" (a very thought-provoking Powerpoint talk

Current UUCT Stats

- **Certified Membership (as of 1/06) -174**
- **Current Membership - 173**
- **Current Number Friends - 64**
- **Average Sunday Service Attendance - Adults**
 - **May 2006: 92.5**
 - **7/05 - 5/06: 100.2**
 - **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: 52**
- **Average RE Attendance (not including Fun Days)**
 - **9/04 - 5/05: 33.8**
 - **9/05 - 5/06: 27**

by Elinor Elfner), "Making Joyful Noises," a quiet "Zen at sunrise" meditation each morning, hikes to Chinquapin and Whiteside Mountains, whitewater rafting on the Nantahala river, three Memorial Sunday services (including one on "wilderness" by our church group), The Mountain annual meeting (including the election of Trudy Deyle as a one-year-term trustee), a "spiritual hike" and evening of American folksongs by Lee Knight, and many opportunities to just relax and enjoy one another.

We are now calling this our "First Annual Memorial weekend church retreat," in hopes that we can attract an even larger crowd from UUCT in 2007. All are invited and welcome. Talk with Elinor Elfner, our "Mountain Ambassador" and retreat organizer, to learn more. Come join us next year!

Lifespan Religious Education

Youth Religious Education (RE)

No Youth RE Committee Meeting in July.

YOUTH RE CONTACTS:

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

July Youth RE Committee Meeting

The Youth RE Committee will not meet in July. We will resume regular monthly meetings on August 6 at 9:30 AM in Room K. If you have any questions, please contact DRE Maggie Geraci or Eliza Coyne, Youth RE Committee Chair (877-5415, krelcoyne@gmail.com).

Woohoo Wednesday Takes a Break!

Woohoo Wednesday will take a break for July. Enjoy your time off and make plans to join us for another fun, intergenerational evening of community on August 16. Look in the August *Meridian* for more details!

Traveling Around the Globe!

Our elementary-age children have been doing some majoring "traveling!" As part of the UU World Travelers summer RE program, the children have "visited" some wonderful destinations with the help of members of the congregation. We kicked off our trip with a Bon Voyage party on June 4 where the children had their photos taken for their passports. On June 11, the children toured Romania, learned about Unitarian churches and had some tasty bread and plum jam, with Elinor Elfner as a guide. The Alrutz-

Stierna family hosted a tour of Japan on June 18, complete with Japanese lessons and instruction in origami. As of this writing, the kids are getting ready for a fascinating tour of Spain with Pauline Masterton on June 25. The schedule for the rest of the summer includes:

July 2 – Fun Day

July 9 – Greece with Isabel Sheridan

July 16 – Germany/Switzerland with Kathie Mackie

July 23 – France with Richard Dempsey

July 30 – Israel with Eliza Coyne

August 6 – Turkey with Bruce Brandt

August 13 – Canada with the Lloyd Family

August 20 – Russia with Kim Ross

August 27 – Welcome Home Party

This program is a fun way for children to learn about different cultures. If you have any questions about UU World Travelers or would like more information, please contact DRE Maggie Geraci.

Traveling DRE!

Maggie Geraci, Director of Religious Education, will be spending some time traveling and learning this month.

From July 2 to July 7, she'll be at The Mountain for RE Week. As part of her time there, she will be participating in a Teacher Training Renaissance Module and spending time with other DREs.

July 21 - July 23, Maggie will be at the UU Church in Vero Beach for a district Renaissance Module on Administration. If you have any questions or need any information about the RE program during that time, please contact Eliza Coyne, Youth RE Committee Chair (877-5415, krelcoyne@gmail.com), or Kelley Turnage, VP for RE (553-9416, kellyturnage@hotmail.com).

Youth Group for Summer

Our middle and high school youth group will not be meeting weekly this summer on Sundays but will get together for one or more special activities over the course of the summer. Watch for announcements; details will be provided to the youth through the youth e-mail list. For more information about the group, contact advisors Scott Geraci (877-6301; sgeraci68@yahoo.com) and Jennifer and DeWayne Carver (jzcarver@earthlink.net; ddcarver@earthlink.net; 402-0622).

Registration for 2006 - 2007

Registration for the upcoming year in Youth RE will be held Sundays in August and early September. New registrants should stop by the RE table then to fill out a registration form. Parents of currently registered children will receive a printout of the information on file to update during the summer. Return the forms and any corrections to DRE Maggie by early September. Most expenses of the RE program are met through pledges to the church budget. A yearly fee covers additional costs. Family fees will be \$30 for 1 child, \$40 for 2, and \$45 for 3 or more. Scholarships available; see Maggie.

Lifespan Religious Education (Continued)

Adult Enrichment

ADULT ENRICHMENT CONTACTS:

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

We're looking for a new Adult Enrichment coordinator. If you're able or want to learn what's involved, see the DRE or current coordinator.

Intergenerational Coding

To address the needs of all, find the following codes under some classes:

Baby-friendly – Infants and young toddlers may attend with parents, who assume responsibility for them.

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

Childcare available upon request – Let the contact know you need childcare; s/he will arrange for it at or near class.

In addition, transportation can be arranged upon request for those who cannot or prefer not to drive. Contact the AE coordinator for assistance.

Summer Camp for Parents

The camp focus will be on *Being a UU Parent*, a UUA curriculum that offers 5 sessions on theology and real-life child rearing. This curriculum offers an initial theological exploration, an examination of ways we can encourage a greater sense of our religion in our family lives, and an opportunity for parents to raise and discuss real-life childrearing questions and challenges and how these might be answered from a UU perspective.

Camp will be on five consecutive Monday nights (dates being determined now by those interested). We might do potluck or brownbag

dinners, if there's interest. Contact DRE Maggie Geraci or sign up at the Adult RE sign-up board near the Sunday RE welcome table. Childcare provided.

In the future, follow-up curricula will be offered, including *Parents as Resident Theologians*, which helps parents and kids explore together their beliefs about God, prayer and other religious issues, and *Parents as Social Justice Educators*, which provides sessions on values clarification and how to talk about social issues.

On-Going Opportunities

Adult Forum. Meets Sundays 9:45-10:45 AM, Rm. L. Open to everyone. July's topics to be announced. Contact: Norene Chase (422-1985, nochase@earthlink.net).

e-Ken Wilber. It's a new way for interested UUs to get together to study – online! (via email). Ken Wilbur is a modern day "Emerson" (but not a Unitarian). He's an "integral philosopher" looking for "big pictures" – writing prolifically including on the web, sharing his ideas freely. (His "Neo-Perennial Philosophy" is UUism in a nutshell.) Learn more – get connected – join us online: contact Will Adkins (metamuse@comcast.net, 385-5071).

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

July 11, *My Name Is Red*, by Orhan Pamuk. This is at once a fantasy and a philosophical puzzle, a kaleidoscopic journey to the intersection of art, religion, love, sex, and power. "A murder mystery set in 16th-century Istanbul [that] uses the art of miniature illumination to explore a nation's soul. . . Erdag Goknar deserves praise for the cool, smooth English in which he

has rendered Pamuk's fine-spun sentences, passionate art appreciations, sly pedantic debates, [and] eerie urban scenes." -- John Updike, *The New Yorker*

August 8, a culminating book celebration. Since many of our book lovers will be traveling, we will not have a specific book. Instead, bring a friend, lover, or family member and books, if you'd like, to this celebration. We'll discuss the books we have read over the last few years - both for the book club and for ourselves. Which books have sparked our interest? Why were they great reads? Do you have some favorites to recommend to your fellow book lovers?

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

Freethinkers' Forum. Meets Thursdays, 7:00 PM to about 8:30 PM, Rm. L. Contact Ron Crowe (rongcro2@juno.com, 997-5307).

For July, we'll attempt to complete our presentations of Gary Stilwell's book, *Christianity: 5000 Years of History and Development*. This book begins the story around 3200 BCE in the Fertile Crescent in the heart of modern-day Iraq and continues through successive regions and religions until we arrive at the first century CE. The second half of the book explores early Christianity and continues through the Enlightenment, science, and up to the present day.

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) to get the latest information via email list. Baby-friendly.

Campus Ministry Corner

By Brian Lee, Campus Ministry Coordinator

As I write this, I am about to board a plane for St. Louis to attend the UUA General Assembly. There are Young Adult and Campus Ministry events scheduled every day at GA. I'll be attending all of them that I can and will fill you in with next month's *Campus Ministry Corner*.

We've suspended Monday meetings (except for Shelter Meal Monday – July 10) for the summer, resuming with the start of fall semester. However, for the month of July, coffee hour will continue on Fridays at 6:30 PM at All Saints Café, located at 903 Railroad Ave., one block south of Gaines St.

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

Green Corner

By Michele Hope, Green Sanctuary Committee Chairperson

How to Pick a Better Bulb

Though we call them light bulbs, traditional incandescent bulbs are actually small heaters that give off a little bit of light—something you know if you've ever touched a bulb that's been on for a while. These bulbs were technological wonders when they were patented in 1880, but today they are inefficient dinosaurs. They waste energy and money, and they are responsible for millions of tons of global-warming pollution.

Using CFLs (compact fluorescent light bulbs) puts less strain on the electric grid and saves you money. If every household replaced just three 60-watt incandescent light bulbs with CFLs, we would reduce as much pollution as if we took 3.5 million cars off the roads! The design of the bulbs and quality of light have improved dramatically. They lower your electric bill and last up to 20

times as long as incandescent bulbs.

Here's how to make the switch. Look for packages labeled “2700 degrees Kelvin” or “warm-white.” CFLs provide much more light at a fraction of the wattage of traditional bulbs. Because of this, CFLs are often categorized by lumens. Lumens measure the amount of light a bulb gives off, and they are a more accurate way to tell how bright the new bulbs are.

To replace a traditional 60-watt bulb, buy a 15-watt CFL. Some CFLs have a larger bulb, which can be too big for some lamps. Depending on where you're going to install your CFLs, be sure to know how big the shade is (to know how big a bulb it can accommodate) and whether or not the bulb will show. Many CFLs have a coiled bulb, but there are now versions available in the same shape and size as an old-fashioned bulb.

Second, most CFLs screw into standard light sockets; however, on some bulbs, the plastic piece above the screw part is slightly wider and might not fit in every lamp. Avoid the modular bases that terminate with pins. The most energy-efficient CFLs carry the Energy Star label, the imprimatur of the government-backed energy-efficiency program.

All compact fluorescents contain trace amounts of mercury. But don't worry -- changing to a CFL will result in less mercury being released. Your reduced electricity use means far fewer mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants. Recycling your burned out bulbs is the best option. UUCT's Building and Grounds Committee has purchased containers which will be available at the Green Sanctuary table after Sunday services for disposal of used compact fluorescents.

Board Actions

By Molly Schmid, Executive Board Secretary

The UUCT Executive Board met June 4 and took the following actions:

- Accepted April Board minutes and April Treasurer's report.
- Approved sending a church-wide e-mail informing the congregation of a potential cash flow problem and encouraging members and friends to pay their pledges in full.
- Approved allowing Rev. Murchison to keep a computer bought by the church but add its estimated value of \$1,100 as taxable income to the W-2 that UUCT will issue to Rev. Murchison next January.
- Approved the appointment of George Knight, Elinor Elfner, Tom Moore, Charlotte Dudley and Marty Beech to the 2006-2007 Interim Minister Search Committee.
- Approved the appointment of a Settled Minister Negotiating Team

with Mimi Jones as the SMSC representative and as team chair, Steve Urse as a current Board member who will remain on the Board in 2007-08 to provide carryover on the Board for the new minister, and Tony Lloyd as the Committee on Ministry representative.

- Approved that fundraising for the UUCT Solar Power Project may begin immediately.

Florida District News

As of July 1, Rev. Mary Chulak Higgins will no longer be our FL District Executive. She will become DE of the New Hampshire/Vermont and Northeast Districts. In her farewell letter to Florida UUs, Mary says: "I want you to know what an honor it has been to serve you and your congregations for the past ten years. The years have gone by so quickly, though our work has not always been the easy kind! When I think of all we have managed to do together I am proud. You are a strong, committed, growing and visionary group of people."

The Rev. Kenneth Hurto, currently senior minister in Ft. Myers, will be our new FL District Executive, beginning this fall. In his letter to the district introducing Rev. Hurto, District president Steve Helle says:

"Prior to receiving his call to SW Florida, Kenn served the UU faith in a wide array of parish ministries over 30 years. Additionally, Kenn has served on two district boards (including the FL District), as the chair of the UU Ministers Association Continuing Education Team, and as the vice-president of UUMA."

"Rev. Hurto, who studied for 12 years with Rabbi Dr. Edwin H. Friedman, has been in frequent demand by his colleagues for consultation in applying systems theory to congregational life. Among his many writings, Kenn recently authored two chapters of the UUA Congregational Handbook on family systems theory, church leadership and conflict management. A native of Chicago, Kenn is a graduate of Augustana College (Rock Island, IL) and the Divinity School of Harvard University. Kenn is married to Sharon Kelly of Melbourne, FL."

Trustee Tidbits

By Joan Lund, FL District UUA Trustee

I recently came across something called "Simple Ways You Can Help Your Congregation Grow," developed by Art Brewer, which states that research shows the single, most effective way for a congregation to grow is to practice an OUTWARD ORIENTATION. What follows is an abbreviated list of some personal ways you, as an individual, can practice an outward orientation:

Bring someone to a Sunday service...wear your name tag every Sunday...tell a visitor that you're glad

they came or came back if this is a return visit...put a UU decal on your car or home window...wear UU jewelry...be a Sunday greeter...tell people about your congregation's web site...participate in a community event that reflects UU principles...link your favorite social justice cause to the congregation...host a party and invite members and non-members of your congregation...wear a UU t-shirt...if you are a member of a small group, invite a non-member to a meeting.

Give a copy of a sermon or presentation you liked to a non-member...display our "Seven Principles" at home or work...carry "Seven Principles" cards to give to people when they ask...give a copy of *World* magazine and/or your congregation's newsletter to someone you think would like to learn more about us...attend a FL District meeting or General Assembly...tell someone about a provocative thought you heard at church, then ask their opinion...have a chalice in your home.

Events: UUCT Upcoming, National

Upcoming UUCT Events

Peace Dances, Saturday, July 1, 7:30 PM. Simple, meditative circle dances, rejuvenating and uplifting. Contact: Tom and Katya Taylor (656-9321, katyata@earthlink.net).

“An Inconvenient Truth” & Dinner, Sunday, July 2, Afternoon. Unitarian Universalists will gather at Miracle Theater on Thomasville Rd. to see this film based on Al Gore's book about global warming. Then we'll eat together at Julie's Place on N. Monroe St., discuss the film and hear about plans for solar photovoltaic panels to generate electricity for UUCT. For more information, contact Elinor Elfner (524-1026), Steve Urse (385-2864), or Ed Oaksford (422-0240).

Note: This event will be in place of the 3rd Sunday Movie Discussion Group outing for July.

All Church Workday, Saturday, July 8, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Enjoy fellowship working on chores and projects to keep our buildings and grounds in shape. Contact: Don Berger (422-2847, berger-don@comcast.net).

Second Sunday Potluck, July 9, 12:30 PM. Bring your favorite dish.

Woohoo Wednesday, August 16, 6:30 PM. A communal meal in the sanctuary followed by an intergenerational activity in Rm L. Contact: DRE Maggie Geraci (877-6301, dremaggie@earthlink.net).

Code for Events Listings

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

Baby-friendly - Infants and young toddlers welcome to attend gathering with parents, who assume responsibility for them.

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

Childcare available upon request - Let the contact know you need childcare; s/he will arrange for it at or near the gathering.

Transportation available - This can be arranged by event contact upon request for those who cannot or prefer not to drive.

Non-UUCT Events

- Every Sunday, 7:00 PM, Gentle Shepherd Metropolitan Community Church (Sanctuary)
- Every Tuesday, 7:00 PM, Zen Meditation (Sanctuary)
- Sat. 7/1, 11:00 AM, Members' personal event (Sanctuary)
- Sat. 7/15, 5:30 PM, WAVE, Inc. (Sanctuary)
- Mon. 7/17, 7/24, & 7/31, 6:30 PM, Yoga Class (Rm. L)
- Sat. 7/22, 1:00 PM, Member's personal event (Sanctuary)

FL District Events

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

Religious Challenges to our Constitution & Everything You Need to Know Scientifically, Sat. 11/4, 9:00 AM – 2:30 PM, UU Society of Daytona.

Youth Ministry Gathering, Sat. 2/10, location TBA, a gathering of youth and adults to discuss ministry to youth in the FL District.

National Events

UUSC Freedom Summer Camp

Third annual, intergenerational civil rights journey through several southern cities, Sat. 7/8 – Sat. 7/15, concluding with a service component in Atlanta. Download application and learn more at: www.uusc.org/FreedomSummer. Or call 800-388-3920, ext. 201.

SUUSI (Southeast Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute)

“Rejoice and Renew,” July 16 - 22, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg VA. A community of nearly 1,000 and a week

of conversation, of reflection, of activity, of family. Special programs for youth and teens, so be sure to bring the whole family. Visit www.suusi.org.

Programs at The Mountain

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

Family Mini-Camp. Fri. 7/14 – Sun. 7/16. 10% discount family of 4 or more.

Chamber Music Workshops. Sun. 7/16 – Thurs. 7/20 & Thurs. 7/20 – Sun. 7/23, in partnership with the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival. Intergenerational and weaving together classical, jazz and Appalachian music. Concerts, musicales, lectures and discussions, “music in nature” hikes, art exhibit and visual arts experience. Flyer posted at back of sanctuary; extras on counter. A conversation in Community. There is an urgent need to explore religious pluralism and how diversity can strengthen non-violent social action. Peacemaking resides in the heart of spirituality. Flyer posted at back of Sanctuary; extras on counter.

Interfaith Visions for Peace. Mon. 8/7 - Sat. 8/12 with UU minister Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt and others. A conversation in community. There is an urgent need to explore religious pluralism and how diversity can strengthen non-violent social action. Peacemaking resides in the heart of spirituality. Flyer posted at back of sanctuary; extras on counter.

Compassionate Communication & Peaceful Living. Fri. 9/8 - Sun. 9/10 with Mary Mackenzie, author of *Peaceful Living: Daily Meditations for Living with Love, Healing and Compassion*, as guest facilitator.

July 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesda	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 7:30pm Peace Dances, sanctuary
2 Afternoon - Al Gore Movie & Dinner, off-site 9:45am No Choir Practice 9:45am Adult Forum, Rm L	3 7:00pm Bldgs. & Grnds. Comm., Rm C	4	5 6:30pm Board and Comm. on Ministry Meeting, Rm L 7:30pm No Choir Practice	6 7:00pm Freethinkers' Forum, Rm L 7:00pm Knitting for All, Rm 3/6	7 6:30pm University UUs, Off-site	8 9:00am All Church Workday
9 Shelter Meal Collection 9:45am No Choir Practice 9:45am Adult Forum, Rm L 12:30pm Potluck, sanctuary	10 3:00pm Memorial Garden Committee, sanctuary 5:00pm University UUs, off-site 7:15pm The Shelter Meal, Off-site	11 7:00pm UUCT Book Club, Rm C	12 7:30pm No Choir Practice	13 7:00pm Freethinkers' Forum, Rm L 7:00pm Knitting for All, Rm 3/6	14 6:30pm University UUs, Off-site	15 9:00am Harmony Camp Staff Meeting, sanctuary 12:30pm Meridian Deadline
16 9:45am No Choir Practice 9:45am Adult Forum, Rm L	17 3:00pm Finance Committee, Rm K 7:15pm Program Committee, Rm C	18 Meridian Workday 7:00pm TEAM Talk Meeting, Rm L	19 Meridian Workday 7:30pm No Choir Practice	20 Meridian Workday 7:00pm Knitting for All, Rm 3/6 7:00pm Freethinkers' Forum, Rm L 7:15pm Personnel Committee, Rm K	21 Meridian Workday 6:30pm University UUs, Off-site	22
23 9:45am No Choir Practice 9:45am Adult Forum, Rm L	24 Meridian Workday 7:30am Harmony Camp	25 7:30am Harmony Camp 7:30pm Publicity Committee, Rm K	26 7:30am Harmony Camp 7:30pm No Choir Practice	27 7:30am Harmony Camp 7:00pm Knitting for All, Rm 3/6 7:00pm Freethinkers' Forum, Rm L	28 7:30am Harmony Camp 6:30pm University UUs, Off-site	29
30 9:45am No Choir Practice 9:45am Adult Forum, Rm L 12:30pm Executive Board Meeting, Rm L	31 Office Closed					

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. Bill Murchison, bmurchison@uuma.org. On vacation for July.

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

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

Maggie Geraci, Director of Religious Education, 877-6301; dremaggie@earthlink.net. Office hours: 9:00 - 12:00 on Tues. & Thurs. Please call first for appt.

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

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

Our Mission:

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

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