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Every Sunday:

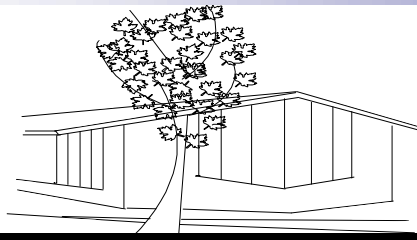
- 9:45 AM Choir Practice, exc. 3/26
- 9:45 AM Adult Forum
- 10:30 AM Child Care - until 12:30 PM
- 10:30 AM Middle/High School Youth Group, Rm 3/6
- 11:00 AM Youth RE
- Pre-school class, Rm C (1st - 3rd Sun.)
- Elementary classes (K - 2nd, Rm K; 3rd - 5th, Rm 2)

Adult Forum Topics:

- March 5 Video on the Southern Poverty Law Center, Elinor Elfner
- March 12 Video on Slow Food, Ed Oakesford
- March 19 "Alternative Healing Methods," Grace Martin
- March 26 "Orienting to the Perennial Philosophy," Mark Canter

March Highlights:

- * Mt. Retreat Cookout, Sat. 3/4, 4:00 PM
- * Canvass Party & Potluck, Sun. 3/12, 12:00 PM
- * Green Sanct. Field Trip, Sun. 3/19, 12:30 PM
- * Yard Sale, Sat. 3/25, 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM
- * Jazz Piano Concert, Sun. 3/26, 2:00 PM



The Meridian

March Sundays (11:00 AM)

Mar. 5 | You Gotta Have Heart

This sermon will deal with our calling as a congregation. (We'll light candles of joys and concerns.) **Rev. Bill Murchison**

Mar. 12 | So Well Rounded

In this sermon your interim minister will speak of how a round-headed boy had trouble fitting into a village with a point. (Also new member recognition ceremony and Canvass Sunday.) **Rev. Bill Murchison**

Mar. 19 | Campus Ministry Sunday: A Celebration of Music

Music touches all our lives. In this service UUCT's Campus Ministry group will share thoughts, feelings, poetry and songs. This service will relate to how music is our partner in *a free and responsible search for truth and meaning.*

University Unitarian Universalists

Mar. 26 | The Perennial Philosophy: The Esperanto of Enlightenment

A free and responsible search for truth and meaning. A number of religious philosophers have identified a set of ever-recurring spiritual principles at the heart of the world's mystical traditions. Together these universal tenets comprise what has come to be called "the perennial philosophy." Frithjof Schuon, Aldous Huxley, Alan Watts, and Lex Hixon spent their careers communicating this distilled essence of the world's religions. The transmission continues today with Huston Smith, Ken Wilber, and others whose writings convey a unifying transcendental vision, the Esperanto of enlightenment, the perennial philosophy. (Shelter meal collection also.)

Guest Speaker: Mark Canter; Lay Leader: Pauline Masterton

Canvass 2006-2007

We're almost there! The Asking Budget for FY 2006-2007 was approved by the congregation on 2/26. The budget total of \$245,497 is an increase of 15% over this year. It reflects the priorities and objectives approved at our 10/05 congregational meeting. It's an ambitious budget in support of an ambitious program and can only be achieved by a corresponding increase in our individual gifts of money and self.

By now, you should have received the annual canvass pledging package consisting of:

- A list of 2005 program accomplishments and our collective visions for '06-'07;
- A gift of money pledge form and a suggested giving guide, and
- A gift of self and service pledge form.

In order to finalize our budget it is necessary that you complete and return these forms as soon as possible. To expedite this process you are invited to bring your completed pledge forms to the pledging party and potluck dinner following the Sunday service on March 12. See you there!

Minister's Message: In the Interim

By Rev. Bill Murchison

This is the time of the year when our congregation has the annual canvass and you will be given an opportunity to make a financial pledge to this congregation for the coming year. I am comfortable with this situation because I am not going to ask any of you for a financial contribution. Is this because I am leaving and will not be here for the next year? No, it is not. It is just that it is my general policy to not get involved in this activity.

However, after being here for almost 6 months and getting to know you as a congregation, I want you to know that I am pleased with your many fine attributes that I have observed while being among you. And, there are some things that I would like to ask of each member and friend of this church family as we plan for a new year and for exciting developments. You are going to have a new interim next year and a new settled minister the following year, and I feel it is time to request some important and special things of you.

I want to ask you for a renewed involvement, rededicating your talent, your time and your commitment. As much as at any time in its history, your church needs your talent(s) to help it grow in many ways. By each person

rededicating his or her talents, we will assist each other in developing the finest congregation possible in this city and will all grow spiritually, intellectually and emotionally.

Yes, I know that we are busy people and we have many activities in which we participate with our church family. However, some of the time a small group is left to do much of the work. If every member would dedicate a little more time, think of the exciting things that we could accomplish, and by spreading out the responsibilities, we would, each of us, grown in the Unitarian Universalist spirit.

The third thing that I would ask is an overall commitment to the life and work of UUCT. This means commitment to programs, both internal and external. What I am suggesting is a passionate involvement in the life of your church family. Claim it as your own and make it transformational in your life and the community of Tallahassee.

We have approximately 175 church members and around 50 who are listed as friends of the church. That gives us an active group of about 225 people. If you do these three things, the financial commitment will be there. You will give what it takes to enhance the growth and development of this congregation.

If I had asked you for money, which I haven't, and each of you sent the church a yearly contribution of \$20,000.00 we would have a sizable bank account. But if you did not give of your time and talents and make the commitment of yourself, and you just stayed at home, we would have plenty of cash but no church family, no congregation, no community of Unitarian Universalists.

By rededicating your time, talents and commitment, there is no doubt that you will want to contribute financially to your church, and it is your privilege to do that; it just follows. So, I leave the decision to you and will let each of you decide the level of your involvement in our congregation and the congregation in your individual lives. To give is to nourish your church, and to nourish your church is to nourish yourself.

I have great respect for you and ask much of you because I care for you and want you to be all that you wish to be, all that your hearts desire. And, I wish you well in your pledge drive. Somehow, I have a feeling that it will be outstanding because you are outstanding.

Best, Rev. Bill Murchison, AIM

Nominating Committee: Annual Meeting Elections

Are you interested in serving in a leadership role in our church? Want to have more of a say in how things operate? The Nominating Committee is looking for you! The following positions on the Executive Board and Nominating Committee will be filled (elected) at our May 21 Annual Congregational Meeting, for terms beginning July 1, 2006. All terms are for two years, except for President-Elect who continues as President and Past President for a three-year term.

The positions to be filled are:
(VP = Vice President)

- President Elect
- VP for Church Community
- VP for Management
- VP for Worship
- VP for Social Justice
- Nominating Committee (2 positions)

If you are interested in finding out more information about any of the open positions, viewing any of the job descriptions, or suggesting yourself or

someone else for consideration, **please contact any Nominating Committee member by March 15:** Chairperson Don Crosby, Eliza Coyne, Howard Pardue, Linda Oaksford or Richard Dempsey, who is the past president serving on the committee. Per our bylaws, the four elected members choose a fifth member to serve on the committee from among the past presidents of the congregation.

President's Message

By Christine Boczarska, Executive Board President

The excellent results of the “Chili and Chocolate” dinner put on, start to finish, by the Executive Board spurred me to recognize the fine people who have volunteered their time and talents to serve on the board.

Richard Dempsey, past president, is always willing to take up a task and somehow fit it into his travel schedule – Egypt, Slovakia and Paris to date. His thoughtful counsel has helped guide the board in a variety of situations. I am grateful he is there.

DeWayne Carver, president-elect, holds Church Council meetings and presented the new safety policy with enthusiasm and competence. I am confident that he will bring the same energy to the presidency following me.

Jim Dawson, vice president for finance, has kept us up to date on the status of the church income and obligations, both of which are solid. Although I do not always understand the balance sheets he presents, I'm glad he does and can explain them to us all. He has reassured me when I was wondering.

Steve Urse, vice president for management, takes diligent care of the many facets that make the buildings run well and the grounds stay pretty. He instituted a number of “green sanctuary” actions that have now become habit for UUCT. He has done what I try to do at home, and I appreciate the complexity of it.

Rod Oldenburg, vice president for worship, has been a voice of reason in sometimes hectic situations. The quality of the services has been excellent and consistent. I appreciate that I can talk frankly with Rod when I need to vent.

Kelley Turnage, vice president for religious education, has been an unfailing advocate for the youth and youth leaders of UUCT, a group that is often in the background. There is a joy in her demeanor that I find infectious.

Dick Leinberry, vice president for church community, has been a quiet presence who successfully proposed, organized and ran the “Chili and Chocolate” dinner. I smile each time I think of his accomplishment.

Melissa Forgey, vice president for social justice, has worked to define an important job that expresses the best of UUCT. Her clear-eyed determination has moved several issues forward at the board meetings, and I am in awe

Molly Schmid, secretary, has dutifully recorded all the happenings at each board meeting and reported them to the *Meridian* editor, so all of UUCT could be aware of what their board was deciding. Her dedication to getting it right is only exceeded by her sense of humor.

If I get tired or discouraged I always know there are nine people who will help me through. This is my prayer of thanks to the many good and talented people who are on the board. And these are just a few of the many good people in the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tallahassee. We are indeed lucky to have each other. May we grow and share our church's wealth with all who come through our doors.

In faith, Christine Boczarska

Social Justice

Blended Lives

Several of our members attended the Blended Lives programs in late January. (See January *Meridian* for details about the program.) On Monday, Elinor Elfner assisted at the symposium; Joanne Taylor, Norene Chase, and Isabel Sheridan attended. Melissa Angel was there, too, as one of the students from SAIL High School.

Howard Pardue helped set up the sound system at Riley House Museum all three days of the fourth grade program. Wednesday, Elinor worked one of the Riley House stages and introduced Phyllis McEwen, who played the role of Zora Neale Hurston.

Friday, Elinor worked at Goodwood Museum and Gardens, moving students from station to station and through the main house. In preparation for the fourth graders' field trips to both museums, Isabel Sheridan wrote seven lesson plans, prepared classroom kits, and in early January presented an in-service workshop to Leon County fourth grade teachers.

Several UU members attended the Saturday program at Goodwood, a conversation between enactors Harriet Beecher Stowe and Frederick Douglass.

UU-UNO

The intergenerational spring seminar of the UU United Nations Office will be in New York City, April 6 – 8. The topic is “People, Poverty and Power.” For more info., contact Barney Cook (385-4499) or Joe Lama (576-1841).

UUCT Needs a TEAM Coordinator

UUCT has been involved in the local, multi-faith, social action effort TEAM since its inception, but has not had a coordinator for our involvement for awhile. If you'd be interested, contact VP for Social Justice Melissa Forgey (222-228-7981, lovecats@rose.net).

Settled Minister Search Process to Gear Up in March

By the Settled Minister Search Committee

Following election of four additional members of the Settled Minister Search Committee (SMSC) at the congregational meeting on February 26, the full committee will have a busy first month preparing itself for the work ahead. The committee's first task will be to confer with a UUA Ministerial Settlement Representative (MSR) early in March. The Reverend Katy Korb, of Naples, should be ready to assume her new position as MSR for the Florida District by that time, so our SMSC will work with her for the duration of the search. Our thanks to Rhonda Thomason, MSR of the Mid-South District, for her help getting UUCT started on the search process.

The Search Committee's next task is to conduct a retreat focused on team building. Florida District Executive Mary Higgins has offered to help the committee design a retreat that will be most appropriate to our needs. Mary, or a facilitator engaged by the Florida District, will most likely staff the retreat for the SMSC.

Following the retreat, the SMSC will select a chair, lay out its agenda of tasks to be accomplished, and allocate responsibilities for those tasks. The primary focus of the next several months (approximately April through June) will be on what the UUA's *Settlement Handbook* refers to as the self-study phase – gathering input from the congregation as background for preparing the *Congregational Record* that describes who we are and what we hope for in a settled minister.

In the meantime, the Committee on Ministry (COM), at the direction of the Executive Board, will be developing a proposed compensation package for the settled minister, which will be presented to the congregation for formal approval at the Annual Meeting. The COM also will be reviewing content of our By Laws and former Covenant Working Agreement with Reverend Amy McKenzie to suggest appropriate revisions concerning the procedure by which the congregation calls a minister, how the congregation conducts regular evaluations of the

church's ministry, and the procedures that govern termination of ministry.

Recommended By Laws revisions will be presented to the congregation for action at the Annual Meeting. Recommendations concerning the Covenant and Working Agreement will be provided to a Negotiating Team which is to be convened by the Executive Board in June. The Negotiating Team will take the lead on developing the formal draft ministry agreement to be included in the *Information Packet* prepared by the SMSC. The Negotiating Team will subsequently have responsibility for negotiating the final ministry agreement and compensation package with the candidate selected by the SMSC.

Anyone interested in the details of the ministerial search process is encouraged to examine the *UUA Settlement Handbook* which is available online in pdf file format at <http://www.uua.org/programs/ministry/settlement/handbook.pdf>.

More on the 2006 - 2007 Canvass

By the Canvass Committee

As part of the canvass, individuals and couples are asked to briefly speak about their commitment to UUCT at Sunday services. Here are highlights from the 2/26 service:

From Barbara Sterling

I came to Unitarianism late. I was in my mid-sixties when I moved to Tallahassee and found this little church in the woods. I knew immediately that I had found a caring community, a community not afraid to question tradition. Dare I say it? A liberal community.

I knew I needed this liberal community.

And I also knew that if you don't support something that is important to you...then that important "something" might not be here when you need it the most. So I joined this little church in the woods 9 years ago. I finally had found my chosen faith.

From Hollie and Tony Lloyd

Our spiritual journey hasn't really been much of a journey. We were both disillusioned by organized religion, as we knew it. Consequently, for many years, we slept in on Sundays. With the arrival of our daughters, Sierra and Drew, we had a desire to join a "church" that could help us reinforce

the values we were trying to instill as parents. We tried several churches but always came away frustrated.

At UUCT, we have found a home - a community that has allowed us to continue our own spiritual journey and a place our daughters love to come each week. We are committed to participating in our congregation's future. As evidence of that commitment, we are pledging a 25% increase in our annual giving. We are willing to play and pay our small part in seeing that our community is put in a position to succeed and flourish, and we hope that others will do the same.

Announcements



Rummage Sale March 25

Donations needed: furniture, antiques, knick knacks, linen, clothing (no tears or stains, please), books, kitchenware, small appliances and yard/exercise equipment (in working condition), toys, lamps, etc., but no shoes. Bring your donated items on Friday, March 24 if at all possible. If it's difficult for you to bring items then, contact Maria Mena to arrange for delivery at a different time.

Volunteers needed on Friday from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM to take donations and organize and price items for Saturday's sale. Two or three people able to set up tables are needed early Friday morning. Also needed are one or two people with trucks or vans both on Friday and Saturday.

On Saturday, volunteers are needed starting at 7:00 AM and ending at 4:00 PM. Shifts are for 2 hours. There are sign-up sheets at the back of the sanctuary or contact Maria Mena (907-0739, mcmena@ix.netcom.com). Sale hours are 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM.

Memorial Garden

At its first meeting, February 13, six members of the Memorial Garden Committee were present to consider possible locations and sources of information about designs. A starting point was a description of the MG at the Fort Myers Unitarian-Universalist Church. Members of the committee are planning to locate individuals at such places as Tallahassee Nurseries and Expositos who have designed gardens in the Tallahassee area, so that they can visit these gardens. (Native Nurseries does not do "hard design.") Inquiries have been made at the office of the city attorney to find out about legal aspects. The next meeting of the Memorial Garden Committee will be **Monday, March 13, at 3:00 PM**. All interested in participating are invited to attend.

From Our Music Director

Please mark your calendars for a special upcoming music event right here at UUCT. On Sunday, April 23, we'll be celebrating Earth Day in a very musical way! The Sunday morning service, which will be intergenerational, will feature the musical gifts of many, both from within our church community and from the greater Tallahassee area. We'll all be coming together to sing nature's praises!

We'll have a special **All-Ages Choir** on that day. We'll have rehearsals on the Wednesday nights leading up to that Sunday, and we'll start rehearsal a little earlier to make it more family-friendly (7:00 PM instead of 7:30 PM). In addition, we're looking for musicians (instrumentalists in particular) in the congregation who would be willing to play solos or small ensembles with Earth Day as the musical theme. So look for details in next month's *Meridian* and contact me if you're interested in sharing your musical gifts with the congregation on Earth Day. Contact: Helen Falb (556-2533; pianoskin@nettally.com).

Frequent Flyer Miles Needed

To Fly Brian to the Moon! Not really! But the Campus Ministry Committee would like your help in flying Brian Lee, our hardworking Campus Ministry coordinator, to St. Louis this June to attend General Assembly. If you have frequent flyer miles that you would like to donate to this worthy cause, please contact Dan Damerville (576-5380, damervid@tcc.fl.edu).

Check for Your Dishes

The accumulation of serving dishes in the kitchen is limiting the space when we have potlucks and dinners. Please check for any items that might be yours, including dishes used for meals for the Rudloes.

Change in Board Meeting Time

Please note that the Sunday, March 5 Executive Board meeting will now be at 12:30 PM in Rm. L instead of at 6:00 PM. Contact: Christine Boczarska (893-7079, rrlee@infionline.net).

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).

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 (twchase38@earthlink.net, 422-1985 or 405 Castleton Circle, Tallahassee, 32312).

Greeter Coordinator Needed

We all know how important Sunday greeting is for the congregation and our visitors. As of July 1, we'll need a new greeter coordinator to line up greeters each week. If you might be interested, contact membership chair Trudy Deyle (gdeyle@juno.com, 422-1057).

Bring More for Potlucks!

We are routinely running out of food at potlucks before everyone is through the line! This often includes some of our guests. So please bring a potluck contribution if you are planning to stay and make a little extra while you're at it. Don't depend on others to cover your share of the food contributions! Also, please take modest amounts for first helpings and plan to return for seconds if there is enough food to go around. Let's make sure everyone gets fed on second Sundays, not just those who get in line first! Thanks!

Appreciation



To:

- **Sara Reece, Frank Deasy and Susan Snyder, Lugenia Dixon, Carolyn DuBard, Howard Pardue and Barbara Sterling** for greeting Sundays 2/5 - 2/26.
- **Charlotte and Woody Dudley, Ben and Mame Fleming, Ellie Whitney, Randall Gann, Sneed Collard, John Whitton and Elinor Elfner** for Sunday services set-up.
- **Francis Ventre, Joe Lama, Joanne Taylor, Kandy Crowe, Ruth Pestle, Maria Mena, Nancy Harvey, and Susan Snyder** for hosting coffee hours in January.
- **Ron Crowe, Bob Deyle, Rod Oldenburg, Carrie Hamby, Randall Gann, Will Adkins, LaRae Donnellan, Mimi Jones, Laura Cook, and Jerri Lee Wagner** for kitchen clean-up duties in January.
- **Maria Mena** for serving as January Kitchen Kontroller (recruiting and overseeing the volunteers).
- **Christen Ellrich** for helping in the nursery in February.
- **Dorothy and Amy Mann, Linda McConnell, Joe Grigg, Sally Andersen, Susan Snyder and Frank Deasy, and University UUs Brian Lee, Charlie Starr, Amanda Plummer, Ansel Bailey-Mershon, and Erin Carter** for doing the February Shelter meal.
- **Tom and Norene Chase** for helping every month with the bulk mailing of the newsletter.
- **Charlotte Dudley, Eleanor and Earl Enge, and Dorothy Mann** for volunteering in the office.
- **Eleanor and Earl Enge** for overseeing our inkjet/laser cartridge recycling program.
- **Tom Chase, Trudy Deyle, Charlotte Dudley, and Eleanor and Earl Enge** for helping with recent congregational mailings.
- **Building & Grounds Committee** for setting up tables and chairs for auction & chili & chocolate dinner.
- **Barbara Gearhart** for making our new chalice banner.
- The **FSU Muslim Tolerance & Dialog Group** for sharing Noah's pudding with us on March 12.

Buildings and Grounds Thanks

The All Church Workday in February was attended by 6 participants. Thanks go out to the following volunteers for contributing their time and effort. **Joe Lama and Steve Urse** replanted a lorepetelum that was removed because it was too close to the holding tank below the courtyard. **Ken Wood** worked on the toilet in the old men's room. **Chris Ellrich and Dave Harvey** installed a new light fixture in the kitchen which now uses screw-in fluorescent bulbs instead of tubes and fixed the light fixture above the kitchen serving counter. Ken removed spider webs from the sanctuary building. Ken and Joe set up Room L for the auction. **Don Berger** hung the new banner in the sanctuary. Don and Steve put together the new compost bin. Don cleaned and polished the counter at the back of the sanctuary. Joe sprinkled pesticide for fire ants around the grounds.

Outside the workday and on the workday, Steve mulched the three trees along the entrance driveway after removal of asphalt around them and also purchased six native trees that need to be planted. Dave expedited getting the water fountains in the church annex fixed, replaced the night light in the kitchen with a fluorescent night light, took steps to get the sewer lift pump fixed, modified some of the courtyard lights to accommodate screw-in fluorescent bulbs and ordered a new timer for the new building soffit lights. **Tom Chase** assisted with overseeing the sewer lift pump repair.

Auction and Dinner Thanks

The annual live and silent auction held the weekend of February 11-12 raised over \$4,500 for the church! Many thanks to all those involved.

Auction Set Up and Receiving: **Mimi Jones, Isabel Sheridan, George Knight, Dave Harvey, Jennifer and DeWayne Carver, Charlotte Dudley.**

Auction Cashiers: **Dave Harvey, Mimi Jones, Lugenia Dixon, Annette Pearce, Woody Dudley, Peggy Lentz.**

Live Auction: **Linda Winn-Brown, Trudy Deyle, Annette Pearce, Jennifer Carver, Molly Schmid.**

Auction Catalog, Spreadsheet, Certificates, and Bid Sheets: **DeWayne and Jennifer Carver.**

ALL who donated items and services, bid on items and services, or just browsed! We all had fun!

Overall coordination: **Jennifer Carver and Charlotte Dudley.**

Proceeds from the Chili and Chocolate dinner were \$777. **Thanks to all involved, especially the Board!**

Spiral Scouts Thank You

The Seven Hills Circle #11 Spiral Scouts held a successful breakfast fundraiser on Saturday, January 14 in the sanctuary. They would like to thank **all those who came out to support the scouts** with breakfast ticket sales and donations. They would also like to thank the **entire UU family** for allowing them use of the sanctuary and class rooms. Your support makes the group possible. Please look for information about their plant sale in April.

Caring Network and Membership News

Caring Ministries Network

Rev. Murchison's son, who fell outside his home in mid-February and sustained serious leg injuries, had surgery to repair his knee and is making slow progress in his recovery. Eight to ten weeks in a large cast is proving to be a challenge.

Our sympathy is with **Jean Chulak**, whose sister died a few weeks ago, and with **Randall Gann**, whose father died in mid-February, as they cope with the loss of their family members.

Anne Rudloe was hospitalized again in early February and is now home trying to regain her strength before having additional chemotherapy.

Jan Miller is recuperating following successful shoulder surgery and is most appreciative of assistance with meals and transportation to doctor and physical therapy appointments.

Will Adkins is fine but his van needs major repairs after being clipped by a turning tractor trailer rig while stopped at an intersection.

Welcome New UUCT Friends!

- *Mary Moore*
- *Linda and Tom Wheatley*

New UU Sessions

These sessions are offered on a regular basis for those new to Unitarian Universalism and UUs new to UUCT, usually two consecutive weeks on a weeknight from 7:00 – 9:00 PM. Occasionally we offer a single, three-hour Sunday afternoon session, when there is enough interest. Participants share some about themselves, including their spiritual journeys, and learn a little about the church and the greater UU movement. There is time for some discussion, and our minister is present for a question time. The next sessions will be later this spring. 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.

"Dinners for 8"

A winter round of dinners is being held 2/17 – 3/26, and a spring round will be held in May/June. Newcomers will be contacted and invited to participate. There are two dinner categories – adults only and intergenerational. Adults without children are welcome to 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. If you are interested in hosting and did not check dinner host on your gift of self, contact Junelle Brandt, dinners' coordinator (893-5511, junellebrandt@earthlink.net).

Successful, Growing Churches

Our own Joan Patterson is now FL District Compensation Consultant. In a district-wide letter recently, Joan shared highlights from the compensation consultant meeting in Boston this winter. In addition to sharing valuable information regarding compensation and benefits, Joan wrote: "Interesting factoid if you want to increase membership – Recent studies indicate the following as characteristics of successful and growing churches, in order of importance: 1) a charismatic leader, 2) a clear, straightforward message, 3) nice facilities, 4) a sincere and warm sense of belonging, 5) high expectations (members are expected to demonstrate their commitment to both the message and the institution by giving of time and money), and 6) many opportunities to participate in small-group activities: shared ministry, social activities, study groups, etc."

On-going Opportunities

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

Current UUCT Stats

- **Certified Membership (as of 1/06) -174**
- **Current Membership - 176**
- **Current Number Friends - 52**
- **Average Sunday Service Attendance - Adults**
 - **January 2006: 87.4**
 - **7/05-1/06: 100.6**
 - **7/04 - 6/05: 107.3**
 - **7/03 - 6/04: 107.4**
 - **7/02 - 6/03: 96.5**
- **RE Enrollment (nursery - 12th)**
 - **04-05: 61**
 - **05-06: 52**
- **Average RE Attendance (not including Fun Days)**
 - **9/04 - 5/05: 33.8**
 - **2/06: 26**
- **Nursery Help:** Contact Melanie Hennings (229-226-0446, melanie.hennings@mchsi.com)
- **2nd Monday Shelter Meal:** Contact Susan Snyder and Frank Deasy (907-1740, deasyf@comcast.net).
- **Sunday Hospitality and Clean Up:** March kitchen kontrollers are Eleanor and Earl Enge (926-9352).
- **Sunday Service Greeter:** Contact Nancy Harvey (668-9096, npharv@aol.com).
- **Sunday Service Set-up:** Contact Elinor Elfner (524-1026, eelfner@comcast.net).

Lifespan Religious Education

Youth Religious Education (RE)

Youth RE Committee Meeting, Sun., Mar. 5, 9:30 AM, Rm. K

YOUTH RE CONTACTS:

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

Special Pen Pals Take Note!

Keep the letter-writing going! To give everyone more time to get to know one another, we'll continue corresponding until March 19, when the Special Pen Pal Revealing Party will be held after the service in Room L. Pals will reveal themselves, and we'll all share pizza and conversation. If you have any questions, please contact DRE Maggie.

Youth RE Registration

Children, age 0 to 18 who attend any part of the Youth RE Program, should be registered if they attend three or more times. Registration helps with:

- * Keeping records of attendance so we know what classes and how many teachers we need each year,
- * Keeping track of allergy and health issues your child may have,
- * Keeping your child safe.

Most expenses of the Youth RE Program are met through our annual pledges to the church budget. A yearly registration fee covers additional costs. Family fees are \$30 for 1 child, \$40 for 2, and \$45 for 3 or more. Scholarships are available! Contact DRE Maggie or stop by the RE welcome table.

Now's Your Chance!

Now's your chance to find out what teaching RE is all about! Volunteer to assist in a RE class. No experience necessary...just one hour of your time on a Sunday. Assist the regular RE teacher in reading, helping children with crafts, setting up snacks, and other activities. Get to know the kids and have a blast! For open dates or more info., contact DRE Maggie.

Did You Know...

- * DRE Maggie will be attending a Renaissance Module (intensive training for RE leaders and a major component of the Professional Standards for RE Leadership) on the Philosophy of Religious Education at the UU Church of Birmingham, Alabama, March 3-5.
- * There are 30 participants in the 2006 Special Pen Pal program! That's a record! Pals corresponded with each other for Feb. and will continue until 3/19.
- * Sierra Bush Rester, a School of Arts and Sciences 5th grader and member of our Bridgers class, won the Tropicana Speech Contest for her school. Way to go, Sierra!
- * Eliza Coyne, Explorers teacher and Youth RE Committee chair, will attend Our Whole Lives (OWL) teacher training for grades K – 1 and 4 – 6 at the Gainesville UU Fellowship in March. OWL (a comprehensive sexuality education curriculum series) classes will be offered for elementary and middle school groups in 2006 – 2007.
- * DRE Maggie has started an email list group for DREs in the Florida District. The group focuses on support, networking, and the unique issues faced in Florida.

- * DRE Maggie visited Kathleen Smee, the Acting DRE of the Gainesville UU Fellowship for a day in January. Maggie and Kathleen shared ideas and stories of their respective programs. Thanks goes to Rev. Bill for setting up the meeting and chauffeuring.

Volunteer of the Month

For March 2005 our volunteer of the month is **Marco Messori**! Marco tells us a little about himself and his experience in Youth RE below.

Your volunteer positions: RE teacher with 3-5 graders (Bridgers) and RE Committee member.

Your family life: My wife Melanie Hennings and my son Nicolò Messori.

Your time outside of family and UUCT: After student teaching the 4th grade in Thomasville from August to November, 2005, I am now doing substitute teaching in k-8 classes full-time...waiting for my k-5 teaching certification in the spring.

Your hobbies or interests: With the very few extra-family hours I have, I practice swimming, read, play checkers and the hearts card game on line... and miss the additional time I would like to give to my family.

Why you decided to volunteer in Youth RE: Because I feel that the church can do more to have a more intergenerational attitude and is not working at this huge investment to attract new families. I am looking forward to contributing toward changing this attitude.

Your favorite part about Youth RE volunteering: The enthusiasm and intellectual/spiritual energy I can get and give from/to all people I work with (Youth RE people of any age). I also see education as the main contribution that I can give to my community.

How do you fit Youth RE into a busy life: I try to volunteer as much as possible on the weekends. Living in

Lifespan Religious Education (Continued)

Thomasville makes it difficult to contribute as much as I would like during the weekdays.

What you'd like others to know

about Youth RE: When a good play is performed, most of the time there are more people working behind the scenes than on stage.

UU Youth Group

Upcoming events include an All-age CON in March (see the schedule below). Details about this and other events will be provided to the youth during Sun. morning meetings and through the youth e-mail list.

The UUCT Youth Group, open to any middle or high school youth, meets from **10:30 AM - 12:30 PM in Room 3 on Sunday mornings**. For more information about the group, contact advisors Scott Geraci (877-6301; sgeraci68@yahoo.com) and Jennifer & DeWayne Carver (402-0622; jzcarver@earthlink.net; ddcarver@earthlink.net).

FL District CONs

The Youth Group and their advisors will decide which FL District CONs to attend. Trained advisors must accompany youth to district CONs.

3/17-19 All-Age CON, Clearwater or Oviedo

4/7-8 Youth Caucus, Vero Beach

May (dates TBD), All-age CON, Tampa

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).**

Intergenerational Coding

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

Baby-friendly – Infants and young toddlers are welcome to 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 the gathering.

In addition, transportation can be arranged upon request for those who cannot or prefer not to drive. Please contact the Adult Enrichment coordinator for assistance.

Future Classes & Opportunities

Please look for sign-up sheets on the RE Sunday table to express an interest in a class.

The following classes are being offered this spring:

How to Talk so Kids will Listen.

Based on the bestselling book *How to Talk So Kids Will Listen and Listen So Kids Will Talk*, the goal of the workshop is to help you communicate more effectively with children. The six sessions will cover helping children deal with their feelings, engaging cooperation, alternatives to punishment, encouraging autonomy, praise, and freeing children from playing roles. This is a wonderful course for parents, grandparents, and those who work with or just love children. A workbook is required at a cost of \$13.50. If you are interested,

please contact DRE Maggie as soon as possible. The tentative class schedule is 12:30 - 3:00 PM on seven Sundays 4/2 - 5/21, skipping 4/30. Contact: Maggie Geraci (dremaggie@earthlink.net, 877-6301). Childcare provided.

The Perennial Philosophy: Emphasizing the Universal in Universalist.

What common threads link the most influential sages in human history? What insights inspired these sages and have moved countless humans over millenia? What are the ever-recurring, transcendental principles in the mystic traditions, the universal tenets, comprising what has been called the 'Perennial Philosophy'? What do current scholars say about the validity of these human principles today?

At the Sunday service on March 26, Mark Canter will begin to discuss these questions and related issues. This class will continue pursuing these questions further on the following three Tuesdays: March 28, April 4 and April 11 from 7:00-8:30 PM in Room L. Contact: Mark Canter (656-1509, mnc03c@garnet.acns.fsu.edu).

Roots: An Exploration of the Free Church Tradition.

This four-session class will meet on Thursdays at 7:00 PM - March 23 and April 6, 20, and 27 - in Thomasville. Sessions cover: the questions of free religion; the ideas of Unitarian Universalism; church citizenship - covenant vs. creed; and our theology, our worship and our religious education. The class allows participants to gather in community to preserve and strengthen the capacity of each individual to discern what conscience dictates. Contact Charlotte Dudley (lcdudley@yahoo.com, 668-7126). Childcare will be arranged.

Lifespan Religious Education (Continued)

UU Vegetarians. Let's meet and 'talk turkey' over a real vegetarian meal on Tuesday, March 7 from noon to 1:00 PM at New Leaf Deli. There are hot meal, soup, or create-your-own salad options. If you can't make it but want to join the group, contact: Will Adkins (metamuse@comcast.net, 385-5071).

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

Evensong. *March is the last chance to express your interest for a class this Spring.* A curriculum to facilitate sharing and listening deeply about meaningful personal topics (religious and spiritual experiences, thoughts on the divine and being human, community, death and other endings...). After a successful 'run' in Thomasville in the fall, this structured series of gatherings for a small group is coming to Tallahassee in the spring, pending interest. Contact Kim Ross (508-9100, kim@cennexus.com) for more information or if interested. Childcare available upon request.

Who are we, and Where are we Going? These sessions will be offered again, if there's interest. Let's talk about walking... at a small gathering where ideas can be explored regarding this congregation and our denomination. Four sessions facilitated by Rev. Bill Murchison on: Unitarian Universalism, what and who we are, and our prospects for the future; how we are with each other; how we are with the world outside our doors; and our personal and collective investment in the future of our congregation and our faith. Please contact the church office to sign-up (uuct@nettally.com, 385-5115, e-mail preferred), or see the sign-up list at the Sunday RE table.

On-Going Opportunities

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

Ballroom Dance Interest Group. Anyone interested in ballroom dancing is invited to join this interest group. We learn dances and practice by going to the various dance venues around town. Partners not required. The interest group attends the Tallahassee Swing Band night at the American Legion Hall at Lake Ella on Tuesdays at 7:30 PM. Contact Annette Pearce (Annette.Pearce@gmail.com, 385-4053).

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). To some, he is an enigma, to others a visionary and genius. Wilber is an "integral philosopher" looking for "big pictures" – writing prolifically including on the web, sharing his ideas freely. UU groups everywhere have formed, even at SUUSI, to study his ideas. (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.

March 14. *Winner of the National Book Award: A Novel of Fame, Honor and Really Bad Weather* by Jincy Willett. "Start with twin sisters, one a celibate librarian, the other a sexually voracious man-killer. Add a preposterous historian, a dash of murder, and you've got a wickedly comic novel."

April 11. *The Lathe of Heaven* by Ursula K. Le Guin. "For George Orr, the effect of his dreams on the world around him is truly more significant than anyone realizes. An insignificant man in a futuristic Earth, Orr has the unwanted power of being able to change the course of world events not only for the future, but back to the very beginning...Realizing that this world is of his making, for better or for worse, Orr must search within to find the strength to battle another and survive in his ever-changing world. A dark tale of uncontrollable power, *The Lathe of Heaven* is a masterful rendering of humanity and the powers that corrupt."

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. In March, continuing to discuss Sam Harris's controversial and bestselling work: *The End of Faith: Religion, Terror, and the Future of Reason* (W.W. Norton and Company, 2004). This book looks at the growing dangers of divisive religions — Islam, Christianity, and Judaism, in an age of weapons of mass destruction. In each session, after about a 30-minute presentation, we enjoy a general round-table discussion of the issues covered. Upon conclusion of our discussion on *The End of Faith*, we will have several individual presentations in the same format. Contact Ron Crowe (rongcro2@juno.com, 997-5307).

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). Baby-friendly.

Campus Ministry Corner

By Brian Lee, Campus Ministry Coordinator

On the weekend of February 12, my family visited Orlando in order for Kim and me to observe and participate in a young adult service on the topic of campus ministry. Our friend Rebecca, who was active in UUCT's campus ministry when Kim was coordinator, is currently involved in Orlando's University Unitarian Universalist Society Young Adult group. She invited us down to share in the UUUS young adult led "Meaningful Relationships" service, speak to their congregation about campus ministry, and exchange ideas with the young adult group. It was educational and enjoyable, and quite an honor to be invited to participate in another congregation's service. We're hoping that the Orlando UUUS will begin a campus ministry program of their own.

Coming up on March 19, our own Campus Ministry will be leading the service at UUCT. The theme, "A Celebration of Music," came very naturally as there are many talented musicians involved in Campus Ministry, and many folks feel that music is one of the most powerful expressions of spirituality. Be sure to attend this service; it is a great way for the young adults and college students in Campus Ministry to get to know the congregation that is supporting them.

Weekly meetings will continue to be held at FSU's International Center on Mondays at 5:00 PM, and we will be helping UUCT to prepare and serve the Shelter Meal on March 13 at 5:00 PM. The International Center is on campus at 107 South Wildwood Dr. across from the Student Life Center.

Coffee Hour will continue at 6:30 PM Fridays at All Saints Café located at 903 Railroad Avenue, one block south of Gaines street. After coffee on Friday, March 3, we will be checking out the First Friday Gallery Hop at Railroad Square.

For more information about the University Unitarian Universalists, to volunteer your time for tabling at Market Wednesday, or to give your input for meeting topics or service project ideas, 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 Chair

Spring is here! Grab the kids, a friend, a sack lunch! Join in the continuation of the Deep Ecology Class on Sunday afternoon field trips! We will explore small local treasures to begin learning more about special, unnoticed ecosystems in this area. The first field trip will begin on **Sunday, March 19 at 12:30 PM** from UUCT. We'll be gone all afternoon. Elspeth Stowell will lead the carpool to her favorite natural spot in the area, near Panacea.

On these outings, we will examine and learn more about unnoticed but special natural areas, which is the first step in appreciating their unique features. We have a growing list of "my favorite spots" to share with adventurers but also welcome your suggestions.

Contact Michele Hope with your ideas (michele_hope@yahoo.com).

The Green Sanctuary Committee has worked long hours the past two months assembling the final report to Ministry for Earth to become a certified UUA Green Sanctuary congregation. By the time you read this, the report should be on its way. We'll display our copy at the back of the sanctuary and at the Green Sanctuary table for you to enjoy. Look for it!

The Green Sanctuary Committee meets **Tues., March 14 in Rm. K at 7:00 PM**. We welcome new members.

Earth Day Service

Along with Music Director Helen Falb, the Green Sanctuary Committee is working on the April 23 Earth Day service. Please send your favorite nature quotes or short passages to Michele Hope.

Climate Change Action Group

The Global Climate Change Action Group meets the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 7:00 PM in Rm. C. Anyone is welcome to attend these meetings. For some, there is a speaker from the community. For more information about GCCAG, contact Elinor Elfner (524-1026, eelfner@comcast.net).

December & January Board Actions

By Molly Schmidt, Executive Board Secretary

December Board Actions:

1. Approved the Personnel Committee's recommendation for a new Staff Personnel Manual policy on the provision of health insurance benefits to part-time staff, to take effect July 1, 2006. The recommendation was summarized as follows: "In brief, we are proposing to cover all non-ministerial staff working 16 hours (40% time) or more a week at the proportion of a 40-hour work week they work, with a limit on how much we'd pay for a group policy or reimburse for a private policy. The limit is the 100% amount we will pay for the Office Administrator's health insurance policy next year, \$3,600. The allocated money would only be available for health insurance reimbursement, although we are recommending further exploration and discussion of possibly reimbursing doctor and prescription medicine costs up to the allocated

reimbursement amount, if the employee can not pick up the remaining cost of health insurance and therefore can not purchase it. We feel this would be the fairest thing to do, but it needs to be workable for our Finance people, and we also are not sure about the tax ins and outs."

The Board took note that the employees need to understand that reimbursement for health insurance expenses may have some tax implications for them.

2. Approved providing health insurance for Music Director Helen Falb this fiscal year beginning in January or February. The music director works 42.5 % of a 40-hour work week, so 42.5% of her total private policy health insurance costs of \$350 per month will be reimbursed by UUCT (\$149 per month). The money will first come from the music director's professional fund expenses, then from

the piano fund if there are no prohibitions regarding that.

3. Approved providing a neutral pulpit to a nearby UU church to observe a settled minister candidate one Sunday, with that church reciprocating by giving us one when we need it next year.

January Board Actions:

1. Approved the 11/28/05 minutes.

2. Authorized the payment of the \$285.00 registration fee for the Conference for Midsize Congregations to be attended by Isabel Sheridan in early March.

3. Approved an amendment stating that the above registration fee would be paid from leadership school funds and that Isabel would submit a written report to the Board upon her return.

February Congregational Actions

By Molly Schmidt, Executive Board Secretary

At our 2/26/06 congregational meeting, 52 qualified members were present. Items required a quorum of 25% of 176 qualified members (44 voters) and a simple majority. The congregation took the following actions:

1. Approved the minutes of the 10/16/05 congregational meeting. (Unanimous)
2. Approved the Asking Budget for Fiscal Year 2006-2007, as recommended by the Finance Committee and approved by the Board. (Approved - 50, Opposed - 1, Abstained - 1)
3. Approved the expenditure of \$8,000 from the reserve fund to replace and upgrade the heating/cooling system for the sanctuary. (Approved - 50, Opposed - 0, Abstained - 2)

4. Elected the four at-large members proposed by the Nominating Committee to serve on the Settled Minister Search Committee: Annette Pearce, Christopher Ellrich, Sara Reece, and Hollie Lloyd. (Approved - 49, Opposed - 1, Abstained - 2)

Note: This completes the committee; they will serve along with the board-appointed members: Bruce Brandt, Bob Deyle and Mimi Jones.

5. Voted to support the UUCT Global Climate Change Action Group's recommended changes to the draft UUA Statement of Conscience on Global Warming and to encourage UUCT's General Assembly representatives to lobby for passage of the edited document. (Approved - 47, Opposed - 0, Abstained - 5)

Prior to voting on the global warming statement, an amendment was proposed to strike the following wording from lines 197 and 198: "and fourth generation nuclear plants with recycled fuel." The amendment failed. (Approved - 10, Opposed - 38, Abstained - 4)

Note: The full wording of the bullet in question under "We commit to proposing these Advocacy Goals" was as follows: "Shift of federal subsidies for fossil fuel industries to renewable technologies, and in the transition, funding for research and development of renewable energy technologies, and fourth generation nuclear plants with recycled fuel." (Lines 196 – 198)

Florida District & National News

Changing of the Guard

FL District Executive Mary Chulak Higgins will be leaving the position this summer. She has been invited to be the DE of the New Hampshire/Vermont and Northeast Districts as they move toward consolidation. The district board will announce plans for the interim time and for the search for replacing Mary as soon as they have completed them.

Acting Program Consultant

Connie Goodbread, who has done or participated in at least three workshops at UUCT, has been hired by the FL District as acting program consultant through June, 2006. The quarter-time position has been vacant since the departure of Laurel Amabile for a full-time position with the UUA; Laurel also filled the same position part-time for the Mid-South District.

The focus of the program consultant has been to support and deepen our relationships with youth and young adults, and also support the professional religious educators in the district so that they are better able to serve the education needs of their congregations. Rather than providing direct service to congregations with the limited hours funded, Connie will train others to do so and supervise their work.

In her introduction to the district, Connie wrote: "I will enjoy working with you to achieve the vision that includes wonderful, varied, innovative programs for youth. These programs should help congregations to build dynamic youth programs that enhance the faith communities and support youth as they grow and become our leaders.....I would like to support our new DREs with a new DRE workshop and our long-time RE professionals with the support they need to go deeper into their calling."

During the time Connie is in the position, the UUA and the Mid-South and Florida Districts will be envisioning the continuation of the joint funding of a program consultant to serve the Southeast.

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.

- **District Annual Assembly**, Fri-Sat., 4/7-8, Vero Beach. "Sacred Threads - Many Paths." Open to all interested.
- **3rd Annual All-Cluster UU Renewal Service**, Wed. 5/24, Clearwater, with Rev. William Sinkford.

Trustee Tidbits

March's message from FL District Trustee Joan Lund is posted on the bulletin board at the back of the sanctuary; you may also contact *Meridian* editor Trudy Deyle for a copy (gdeyle@juno.com). The topic is the UUA Office for Congregational Advocacy and Witness (OCAW). This office assists UU congregations and organizations in developing their capacity and effectiveness for social justice work and involves them in state, national, and international coalitions on these issues. Among other duties, OCAW manages the "Social Justice Empowerment Workshops," which bring together at least 20% of a church's membership along with clergy and help accurately assess capacity in terms of size and other factors, and also identify the "passion" in a congregation. The office is piloting a follow-up consultation to congregations that have sponsored these workshops.

Congregational Handbook

The UUA has significantly revised and updated *The Congregational Handbook*, and it is now available at the UUA website:

www.uua.org/cde/handbook. With a subtitle of "How to Develop a Healthy and Vital Unitarian Universalist Congregation," the handbook contains unique information on growth, adding worship services, meetings that work, effective committees, congregational life dynamics and conflict management, anti-oppression programs, programming for all ages, lifespan faith development, marketing, and many other topics. It also has links to other information at the UUA website on such topics as bylaws, archives and finances.

CLF On-line Classes

The UU Church of the Larger Fellowship (for everyone, but especially those who do not have or belong to a nearby UU congregation) is offering the following on-line classes. Costs \$40. Registration www.clfuu.org.

Our Way of the Spirit, starting March 6 for six weeks, taught by Rev. Roy Phillips and Linda Giesen. Encounter and reflect on the great thinkers of our liberal faith.

This I Believe: A Writer's Journey, starting April 26 for six weeks, taught by Rev. Amanda Aikman. Encounter your most deeply-held beliefs and values through an experience of writing as spiritual practice. Emphasis will be on writing from the heart and supporting each other.

Children's Literature: The Joy of Great Picture Books, starting about July 20 for eight weeks, taught by the Rev. Keith Kron. Explore wonderful children's picture books and their meanings and uses in our lives and in our UU Faith. Family participation encouraged.

Events: UUCT Upcoming, National

Upcoming UUCT Events

Brown Bagging with Bill, Thursdays, March 2 & 16, Noon.

Bring a bag lunch to UUCT and join Rev. Bill in the sanctuary for an hour of conversation and fellowship. No need to RSVP. Contact: Kathie Mackie in office (uuct@nettally.com, 385-5115).

UUs and FSU Muslim Tolerance and Dialog Group, Thursday, March 2, 7:00 PM.

Everyone will meet in Rooms C, K, and the nursery. Lorraine Warren and Bruce Brandt will facilitate discussions of topics raised by participants. Contact Bruce Brandt (blbrandt@earthlink.net, 893-5511).

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

Peace Dances, Saturday, March 11, 7:30 PM, off-site. At the B'a 'hai Temple, 1310 Cross Creek Circle. Simple, meditative circle dances, rejuvenating and uplifting. Contact: Tom and Katya Taylor (656-9321, katyata@earthlink.net).

Pledge Party & Potluck, March 12, 12:00 PM. Remember your pledge forms to complete and hand in, and bring your favorite dish!

Movie Discussion Group, Sunday, March 19, Afternoon. See a movie chosen by consensus, then go to a restaurant for discussion. Contact: Dave Harvey (daveharv@mac.com, 668-9096).

Yard Sale, Saturday, March 25, 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Volunteers needed all-day Friday and 7:00 AM - 4:00 PM Saturday. More info. in

Announcements. Contact Maria Mena (907-0739, mcmena@ix.netcom.com).

Jazz Piano Concert, Sunday, March 26, 2:00 PM. The UUCT Music Committee has invited Marvin Halleck back for this one-hour, solo concert,

"From Fats Waller to Bill Evans: A personal interpretation of a true American art form." He has been a guest pianist at the last two Winterfests and looks forward to sharing his lifelong love of piano jazz. This is a FREE concert, with donations for church expenses accepted. Contact: Will Adkins (385-5071).

Mountain Retreat May 2006

Greetings from your Mountain Ambassador! The big news is, of course, THE BIG RETREAT! Have you signed up yet? We are planning a retreat at The Mountain in North Carolina for Memorial Weekend. You may choose to stay either 2 or 3 nights. If you have never been to The Mountain, this is your chance to find out how really wonderful it is. Sign up in the back of the sanctuary, or call me (562-4755, winn41@earthlink.net).

We are planning a cookout at my home on **Saturday, March 4 at 4:00 PM** to discuss our retreat. Please sign up and attend our meeting to learn more. Children are welcome at The Mountain and also at the cookout. Please let me hear from you!

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 Thursday, 7:00 PM, Zen Meditation (Sanctuary)

National Events

WhaleCoast Alaska. Five Alaskan UU fellowships invite other UUs to their eco-cultural programs in June, July and August 2006. Info.: www.wuurld.org, dick@wuurld.org, or 1-888-998-8753. Taking reservations now.

See Chicago! The congregation of Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist invites you for a weekend getaway to Chicago, June 2 - 4, hosted by members of the congregation. The highlight of the weekend is the city's celebrated architecture. For details, email ccuu@ccuu.org or call 847-359-8440, ext. 1. Reservations due by April 15.

2006 UUA General Assembly. Wed. - Sun., 6/21-6/25 in St. Louis, MO. Theme: Toward Right Relations. Open to all interested. Registration and housing opens at uua.org/ga on 3/1.

UU Ireland Tour. Travel to Ireland to focus religious attention on the situation in Belfast. Tour managed by Global Exchange, with emphasis on political and cultural education. Will meet with Roman Catholics, Protestants and hopefully Irish UUs. Tentative dates 7/31-8/14/06.

Additional information:

www.globalexchange.org or Rev. Robert Murphy, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 840 Sandwich Road, Falmouth, MA, 02536.

Wine Country Excursions. Offered April - October by UUs of Napa, CA (2 days of touring, 2-3 nights). Customized to your interests, e.g. wine tasting, art, history, gourmet dining, or exploring the beauty of our hills and valleys. Private room/bath and breakfast in UU homes. Contact: Tom Wilson (707-254-7443, twilson9@sbcglobal.net).

SUUSI. Intergenerational Southeast Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute. July 16 - 22 in Blacksburg, VA. Watch for more information on the back counter of the sanctuary, visit suusi.org, email info@suusi.org, or talk with UUCT SUUSI veterans (Helen Falb, Rosa Morgan, Will Adkins, and Dick Leinberry to name a few).

March 2006

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																												
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Feb 2006</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; font-size: small;"> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Apr 2006</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; font-size: small;"> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> </div>		S	M	T	W	T	F	S				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28					S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30							<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">1</p> <p>7:30 PM Choir Practice</p> <p>7:30 PM Endowment Committee, Rm K</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">2</p> <p>12:00 PM Brown Bagging with Bill, sanctuary</p> <p>7:00 PM -8:30 PM Discussion w/ Muslim Tolerance & Dialog Group, Rms K, C, Nursery</p> <p>7:00 PM Freethinkers' Forum, Rm L</p> <p>7:00 PM Knitting for All, Rm 3/6</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">3</p> <p>6:30 PM University UUs, off-site</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">4</p> <p>4:00 PM Mt. Retreat Planning Cookout, off-site</p>		
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<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">5</p> <p>9:30 AM Youth RE Committee, Rm K</p> <p>9:45 AM Adult Forum, Rm L</p> <p>12:30 PM Board Meeting, Rm L</p> <p>1:00 PM Rehearsal for Helen Falb & Dan Peterson, sanctuary</p> <p>Candles of Joys & Concerns</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">6</p> <p>5:00 PM University UUs, off-site</p> <p>7:00 PM Bldgs. & Grounds Comm., Rm C</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">7</p> <p>12:00 PM UU Vegetarians, off-site</p> <p>2:00 PM -3:00 PM Staff Meeting, Rm K</p> <p>7:30 PM Swing Dancing, off-site</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">8</p> <p>7:30 PM Choir Practice</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">9</p> <p>7:00 PM Freethinkers' Forum, Rm L</p> <p>7:00 PM Knitting for All, Rm 3/6</p> <p>Rev. Bill away at marriage counseling seminar</p> <p>Rev. Bill away at marriage counseling seminar</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">10</p> <p>6:30 PM University UUs, off-site</p> <p>Rev. Bill away at marriage counseling seminar</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">11</p> <p>9:00 AM -1:00 PM All Church Workday</p> <p>7:30 PM Peace Dances, off-site</p> <p>Rev. Bill away at marriage counseling seminar</p>																																																																																												
<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">12</p> <p>9:45 AM Adult Forum, Rm L</p> <p>12:00 PM Pledging Party, sanctuary</p> <p>12:30 PM Potluck, sanctuary</p> <p>Rev. Bill away at marriage counseling seminar</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">13</p> <p>3:00 PM Memorial Garden Committee, sanctuary</p> <p>5:00 PM University UUs, off-site</p> <p>7:00 PM Climate Change Action Group, Rm C</p> <p>7:15 PM The Shelter Meal, off-site</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">14</p> <p>6:30 PM Spiral Scouts, Rms 3/6 & 2</p> <p>7:00 PM Green Sanctuary, Rm K</p> <p>7:00 PM UUCT Bk. Club, Rm C</p> <p>7:15 PM Committee on Ministry, Rm L</p> <p>7:30 PM Swing Dancing, off-site</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">15</p> <p>12:30 PM Meridian Deadline</p> <p>7:30 PM Choir Practice</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">16</p> <p>12:00 PM Brown Bagging with Bill, sanctuary</p> <p>7:00 PM Freethinkers' Forum, Rm L</p> <p>7:00 PM Knitting for All, Rm 3/6</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">17</p> <p>6:30 PM University UUs, off-site</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">18</p>																																																																																												
<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">19</p> <p>9:45 AM Adult Forum, Rm L</p> <p>12:30 PM Green Sanctuary Field Trip</p> <p>12:30 PM Special Pen Pals Party, Rm L</p> <p>Afternoon Movie Discussion Group</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">20</p> <p>3:00 PM Finance Comm, Rm K</p> <p>5:00 PM University UUs, off-site</p> <p>7:15 PM Program Comm, Rm L</p> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold; margin-top: 10px;">Spring Begins</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">21</p> <p>7:15 PM Personnel Committee, Rm K</p> <p>7:30 PM Swing Dancing, off-site</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">22</p> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">Meridian Workday</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">23</p> <p>7:00 PM Freethinkers' Forum, Rm L</p> <p>7:00 PM Knitting for All, Rm 3/6</p> <p>7:00 PM Roots, T-ville</p> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold; margin-top: 10px;">Meridian Workday</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">24</p> <p>7:00 AM -7:00 PM Yard sale set-up, sanctuary</p> <p>6:30 PM University UUs, off-site</p> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold; margin-top: 10px;">Meridian Workday</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">25</p> <p>8:00 AM -2:00 PM Yard Sale, sanctuary (Volunteers 7:00 AM-4:00 PM)</p>																																																																																												
<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">26</p> <p>9:45 AM Adult Forum, Rm L</p> <p>2:00 PM Marvin Halleck Concert, spons. Music Comm., sanctuary</p> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold; margin-top: 10px;">No Choir Practice</p> <p>Shelter Meal Collection</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">27</p> <p>5:00 PM University UUs, off-site</p> <p>7:00 PM Climate Change Action Group, Rm C</p> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold; margin-top: 10px;">Meridian Workday</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">28</p> <p>6:30 PM Spiral Scouts, Rms 3/6 & 2</p> <p>7:00 PM Perennial Philosophy, Rm L</p> <p>7:30 PM Swing Dancing, off-site</p> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold; margin-top: 10px;">Meridian Workday</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">29</p> <p>7:30 PM Choir Practice</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">30</p> <p>7:00 PM Freethinkers' Forum, Rm L</p> <p>7:00 PM Knitting for All, Rm 3/6</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">31</p> <p>6:30 PM University UUs, off-site</p>																																																																																													

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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

Our Web Address:
www.nettally.com/uuct

Building A Home for Liberal Faith

Our Staff:

Rev. Bill Murchison, 385-5115 (office at church);
bmurchison@uuma.org. Office hours: 9:00 – 12:00 on
Tues., Wed., Thurs. Others by appointment.

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uuct@nettally.com

Helen Falb, 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, 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">* Christine Boczarska, President* Richard Dempsey, Past President* DeWayne Carver, President Elect* Molly Schmid, Secretary* Steve Urse, VP for Management* Rod Oldenburg, VP for Worship* Melissa Forgey, VP for Social Justice* 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>Sara Reece, chair</p> <p>Bob Deyle</p> <p>Maria Mena</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, president Christine Boczarska, or Rev. Bill Murchison.</p> <p>Help our visitors by wearing your nametag on Sundays. New members and friends receive name tags. Contact church office for replacements (\$6.60).</p> <p>Next new member recognition is March 12.</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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