November 2006 Volume 49, No. 11

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Every Sunday:

9:45 AM Choir Practice exc. 11/5

2:30 PM
11:00 AM Youth RE
Preschool class, Rm C
Elementary classes (K - 2nd,
Rm K; 3rd - 5th, Rm 2)
Middle/High School Youth
Group, Rm 3/6

Adult Forum Topics:

- November 5, Bob Sanchez, "Myths Concerning Race, Religion, & Ethnicity"
- November 12, TBA
- November 19, Charles Conklin, Homepark Farms, GA, "On Raising Cattle in a More Environmentally-Friendly Way"
- November 26, TBA

November Highlights:

- Cropwalk, Sun. 11/5, 1:30 PM (Register 12:15 PM on)
- Saving Energy Speaker, Wed. 11/8, 6:30 PM
- Green Meeting / Potluck, Sat. 11/11, Noon
- Woohoo Wednesday, Wed. 11/15, 6:30 PM
- Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner, Thurs. 11/23, 1:00 PM

Unitarian Universalist Church of Tallahassee



The Meridian

November Sundays (11:00 AM)

Nov. 5 Scarcity vs. Abundance

A free and responsible search for truth and meaning. Is your view of yourself and your world one of scarcity, or abundance? How can we liberate ourselves from the fears of scarcity and envision the world and our place in it in terms of the abundance that is always there for those who learn how to bring it forth? Rev. Lyn will ponder the answers to these questions. (Also Shelter meal collection) Rev. Lyn Plumb

Nov. 12 Giving Thanks for Cancer

Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations. A cancer diagnosis is one of the most feared things that can happen. It will unquestionably turn a life upside down regardless of the prognosis. Yet, if we are open to what it can teach us, it can also trigger a time of personal growth and even peace. Can we learn to accept its gifts as well as suffer its hardships?

Speaker: Anne Rudloe; Lay Leader: Isabel Sheridan

Nov. 19 Thanksgiving Intergenerational Service

The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all. Rev. Lyn and our DRE, Maggie, will lead this service engaging people of all ages in the spirit of giving and being thankful for our many gifts. Children and adults alike will inform us all of the focus of this year's Unitarian Universalist Service Committee Guest at Your Table (UUSC GAYT) program, which we will begin this day. Come to share of yourself in community, come to learn about UUSC projects, come to receive your GAYT boxes. (Also candles of joy and concern and UUSC special collection)

Rev. Lyn Plumb & DRE Maggie Geraci

Nov. 26 Defining Ourselves in the 21st Century

Our denomination has often been called more of a "movement" than anything else. While being mindful of our past, Rev. Lyn will explore various trends and issues our denomination faces as it continues to forge its changing identity for the future.

Rev. Lyn Plumb

About the UU Service Committee

"To make the world a better place" is what the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) has been about for more than 60 years, continuing its social justice work with many different projects at home and abroad, usually working with local partner groups. At the Nov. 19 service, we'll have a special offering for UUSC, including the opportunity to become a UUSC member, and "Guest at Your Table" boxes will be handed out. Families put the boxes on their tables over the holiday season and put coins in them to help those in need through UUSC. The boxes are returned to church after the New Year's holiday, and our collective gift is sent to UUSC. Together we can make a difference!

Rev. Lyn's Plumb Line

Some Saturdays ago now, Annette Pearce and I were in our sanctuary, listening to all the small groups of people who were discussing questions we posed to them to consider during our Appreciative Inquiry Forum this past October 7, the one she and I cofacilitated.

As we waited for all the small groups to finish their tasks so that we could regroup again as a whole, I felt compelled to comment to Annette, and then later to the whole group, "I wonder if you realize how precious you all are."

Precious, because you were all earnestly, respectfully exchanging views on the questions posed,

questions affecting the life of our congregation.

Precious because you were all mindful of differing views and accepted them in an open, non-judgmental fashion.

Precious because you were all bright, intelligent and so readily able to sort out various ideas with much polish and aplomb.

Precious because you took the time to come to such a forum, showing that the well-being of this whole congregation and its future was important to you all.

Precious because you were all harmoniously working toward a common goal, as one body. Precious because you so quickly caught the spirit of the exercise, and made such comments as feeling "energized," "connected," "optimistic," "alive," and "enlightened" during our informal exit poll.

As we continue on in our interim year together, I know I will keep on marveling at your preciousness. It is a pleasure to serve such a congregation who so willingly, open-heartedly, thoughtfully and respectfully wishes to engage with both its minister and each other. It is a pleasure to serve a congregation who so capably goes about the business of ministry.

In deep appreciation,

Rev. Lyn



District News

FL District Packet mid-October messages from FL District Executive Kenn Hurto and Acting Lifespan Program Consultant Connie Goodbread are posted at the back of the sanctuary. Highlights follow.

District Structure

From Rev. Hurto

Governance: 9-member Board of Directors that works by "policy governance," visioning and setting the policies that govern staff's work. (Vice President: UUCT's Jennifer Carver)

Staff: District Executive, ¼-time Lifespan Program Consultant, & Office Manager.

Consultants: Small, but dedicated group who can provide training in financial, educational, conflict management and organizational development. Come by invitation of board president or minister. With direct

support of the UUA, includes District Compensation Consultant (UUCT's Joan Patterson) and the Ministerial Settlement Representative.

Volunteer Councils: Work with DE on program. Include Leadership Council (UUCT's Trudy Deyle member) and Communications Council.

UUA Trustee: Represents the FL District on the UUA Board of Directors.

Let Kenn know if you'd be interested in serving the District in any capacity!

The Smart Church

From Connie Goodbread

Connie has received a UUA grant and Dr. Peter Steinke's permission to write a UU supplement to his *Healthy Congregations* to be called *The Smart Church*. Connie will discuss this more in future district packets and has these questions for congregations to ponder:

- What would it be like if we were generous with and serious about UUism?
- What are the most important things going on in and around your church?
- What are the highest reasons for your congregation to exist?
- Does your congregation empower, support, encourage leadership to lead?
- What happens in your congregation when someone is offended?
- Does you congregation practice and encourage deep listening?
- How much high drama happens in your congregation? How often? Is there a pattern? Does it stop the congregation from transition?
- Do you and does your congregation practice humility, action and covenant?
- How does your congregation deal with fears when they arise?

Settled Minister Search Committee (SMSC)

By Mimi Jones, SMSC Committee Chair

SMSC In Action!

By now, our Congregational Record, describing who we are as a UU society, should have been posted on a website available to UU ministers interested in a new call by the UUA Settlement Office. It will also be on the UUCT website, www.nettally.com/uuct. The SMSC will have access to the first round of Ministerial Records from interested prospective candidates in mid-November, by the time it meets with our UUA Ministerial Settlement Representative, Rev. Katy Korb.

Meanwhile, the Search Committee is finalizing the Information Packet (a fuller, more detailed "who we are," including the results of our recent survey) that is to be exchanged with prospective candidates with whom we appear to share mutual interest. That exchange process should begin in late November.

Following communications with interested ministers and committee decision-making, the SMSC plans to meet with pre-candidates during the month of February—soon!

Many of us have been thinking of what we want in our new settled minister. We must also think of how we might feel if we were to find ourselves calling a minister who may not be "just like us" or similar to our previous ministers. Your SMSC In Action likes to give you food for thought! More to come . . . In faith,

Bruce Brandt, Bob Deyle--Chair, Chris Ellrich, Mimi Jones, Hollie Lloyd, Annette Pearce, Sara Reece

Memorial Garden Fundraising

By Joan Patterson

Phase I of the Memorial Garden is in progress, thanks to a donation from a generous UUCT member. Additional funds are needed for Phase II, which includes most of the plants, shrubs and trees, as well as the paved brick area in front of the planter plaque wall.

Therefore, the Members of the Memorial Garden Committee are selling plants from the list submitted by Frank Douglas, our Landscape Designer from Tallahassee Nurseries. We have plants to fit all pocketbooks --from \$6.99 up to \$\$\$\$ for multiple plants or larger shrubs and trees, so

we hope that everyone can contribute toward the beautification of this addition to our church grounds. The plant list is posted in the back of the sanctuary and is available at the Memorial Garden table that will be outside after Sunday services, weather permitting. Checks should be made payable to UUCT, with "Memorial Garden Plant" in the memo line and the name of the plant you have selected. You can place your check in the collection basket at any Sunday service. The names of plant donors will be kept in the special Memorial

Garden book which will also contain the names of the deceased members and friends who are memorialized in the Garden.

We are in the process of finalizing the policies for purchase and placement of bronze plaques on the planter wall and for engraved bricks for the paved area in front of the wall. After these policies have been approved by the Board, they will be given to the congregation, hopefully within the next few weeks. Thank you for your support of this wonderful, serene garden for our church.

Opportunities to Participate

Kitchen Volunteers Needed

We still need kitchen kontrollers for January and the months that follow. Contact Nancy Harvey (668-9096, npharv@aol.com) if you are interested in volunteering.

Database Help

Volunteer needed to enter information in our UUCT database. Requires using church computers and Church Windows. Could come during Kathie's work hours, so she'd be there to answer questions. Call only if you can volunteer a couple of hours a week to this job. Contact Kathie: 385-5115.

Assistants Needed!

We need helping hands in the nursery and our RE Classes. Please consider volunteering one Sunday to help our dedicated teachers and nursery worker. No special skills required, just a willingness to help out our UUCT kids. To sign up, contact DRE Maggie.

Help Needed on Workdays!

More helpers needed on our all-church workdays; we do not get everything done. Come even for an hour or two. Next Saturday workday, **November 11, 9:00 AM** to 11:00 or 11:30 AM. A good chance to get to know some church members and friends better. If not physically able, perhaps provide refreshments and/or encouragement!

Social Justice Committee

The Social Justice Committee had its first meeting on October 22. We realize those involved in social justice are more interested in doing than talking so we appreciate those who came to put their two cents in. Sometimes a little talking is necessary for communication.

The Social Justice Committee will serve as a clearinghouse for related activities. In the coming months, look for us to begin gathering information, both about what you are doing and about what the church is already doing. We will look at what the priorities are for our congregants and determine where we might add just a couple of activities to meet the needs of our communities and gain strength from the passion of our members. We will also work to put together a quarterly publication with social justice activities both from within the church and from beyond our church but of interest to our congregants. Assist us in taking the first step by completing the survey on the next page and placing it in the labeled box at the back of the sanctuary.

Crop Walk: Sun. 11/5

At Tom Brown Park near the tennis courts. It's not to late to sign up to walk to represent UUs in this walk against hunger. Please bring your dry food and financial contributions to church prior to 11/5. If you won't make it to the service that day, please let Kim Ross know and plan on meeting the group at 1:00 PM at Tom Brown.

Food will be donated to local charities, as will 25% of the financial contributions. The rest goes to organizations working to end world hunger, including the UU Service Committee.

Over 16,000 children die daily due to hunger-related causes. More than 800 million persons in the world are in crisis for lack of food. More than 1 billion people lack access to safe drinking water, and more than 2 billion lack sanitation. These numbers indicate it is the largest physical problem of humankind.

This year a friendly competition is under way among the UUCT Sinners, Saints, and Wizards. We'll count walkers, dollars, and food cans brought in for each group to determine the winner. As of the writing of this article, the Wizards were ahead (barely) in numbers of walkers and collected canned goods, while the Sinners had the highest amount of money collected. May the best team win! Contact: Kim Ross (877-1972, kim@associatedadvocates.com).

UUCT Members Stand Up with TEAM at Nehemiah Action Night

Tallahassee Equality Action Ministry (TEAM) is a vehicle through which congregations identify urgent problems relating to social justice in our community and press public officials to take action to address them. Nowhere is TEAM's democratic process more visible than at the Nehemiah Action Night where all network members of TEAM faith communities gather. This large public assembly urges policy makers to respond publicly to TEAM proposals for resolving injustice in our community.

This year's Nehemiah Action Night took place at Bethel AME on Monday, October 16. When the final tally of congregations was done, UUCT came in second of all 19 participating congregations in number of people attending compared to number of people who had committed to attend.

TEAM continues to focus on three issues: affordable housing, health care for the indigent, and expanded public transportation. It is crucial that UUCT members who are concerned about social justice in Tallahassee join in the ongoing dialog about these issues. Becoming informed means attending informational meetings as well as city and county commission meetings, talking with experts, asking questions, and raising concerns. As is true of UUCT, TEAM's strength depends on both its diversity and its unity.

Contact UUCT TEAM co-reps: Pam Crosby (pcc02d@fsu.edu, 385-3292) or Brian Lee (brianlee@hcsmail.com, 877-1972).

Riley House Rock-a-thon!

One of UUCT's annual fund-raising events for an organization in the Tallahassee community is to participate in the Riley House Museum annual rock-a-thon during Tallahassee's Winter Festival. The date this year is Saturday, Dec. 2, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Sign up to rock (in a rocking chair) or to sponsor a rocker any Sunday in November. Contact: Isabel Sheridan (668-0785, iasheridan@nettally.com).

SOCIAL JUSTICE SURVEY - 11/06

We need your input to determine the issues that are important to our church members and friends.

This will assist us in prioritizing where we put our 'Social Justice' energy.

First, please list the social justice activities you have been involved in within the church.

Please list the social justice activities you have been involve	d in within the community.
Please number the following in order of their importance, wit important. Use the reverse side or another sheet if you need where you like.	
Opposing the Iraq war	Genocide issues (for example, Darfur)
Addressing the issue of war in general	Gulf Coast Relief
Addressing discrimination in the community	World and/or local hunger relief
Economic equality	Workers' rights issues
Global warming and other 'green' activities.	
Affordable Housing	
Healthcare for all citizens, inc. mental health care	
A woman's right to choose	
Please list any activities you feel the church should get invol	ved in, and why?
Are you willing to be involved in this issue(s) through your pe	ersonal time and energy?
Please identify any other issues you would be willing to be in	nvolved in even if only in a minor way.
I am interested in being a member of this committee.	
I am not interested in being a committee member, but	t may participate in projects/activities as needed.
[name/email/phone]	

Announcements

Attention Committees

Committees should begin now to think about and discuss plans for the next fiscal year, FY 2007 - 2008. Budget requests, fundraising plans and program visions (2-3 very short, key items) for 2007 -2008 are due to VP for Finance Jim Dawson on Sunday, January 7, 2007. The asking budget development and approval calendar is tight, so this deadline is a firm one. The Church Council will have the opportunity to review the draft asking budget with the VP for Finance the following Sunday, January 14. Questions? Contact Jim (383-1213, jwdawson53@aol.com).

Youth RE Bake Sale

Bakers and buyers needed! On Sunday, November 5, directly after the service, the Youth RE Committee and children will host a bake sale of yummy items, both big and small. If you're one of UUCT's great bakers, consider donating an item for sale (large items such as whole cakes or pies or small items such as cookies and brownies). Bring items 11/5 or drop off at the UUCT kitchen a day or so in advance. Donations of goods and money will help fund a mid-year teacher retreat for our wonderful volunteers. Contacts: Youth RE Chair Eliza Coyne (krelcoyne@gmail.com, 877-5415) or DRE Maggie Geraci (DREMaggie@earthlink.net, 877-6301).

Audio-tapes & CDs

Audio-tapes of Sunday services available for 4-week loan, plus compact disk loan copy as needed. Both in the church audio closet. Note on sign-out sheet each time you borrow or return a recording. If you do not find a CD in the collection, contact: Gwendolyn Waldorf (668-3346, dcbgbw@comcast.net).

Trustee Tidbits Posted

November's message from FL District UUA Trustee Joan Lund posted at back of sanctuary or available from gdeyle@juno.com. Topic: accessibility, combating ableism and dealing with all forms of oppression. Paul Kivel's book, *Uprooting Racism*, cited for its guidelines for dealing with oppression.

Appreciation



To:

- Carolyn DuBard, Rod
 Oldenburg, Frank Deasy and
 Susan Snyder, Nancy Harvey,
 Francis Ventre, Barbara Sterling,
 Jim Dawson, Joan Patterson,
 and Jennifer Carver for greeting
 Sun. 10/1 10/22.
- Everyone who helped our September coffee after church go so well. Woody Dudley, Tim Campbell, Tom and Dottie Baldwin, Janet Kistner, Mary Pope Grattan, Mary Braunagel, Linda McConnell, Michele Hope and Jerry Lawrence, Jerri Lee Wagner, Randall Gann, and Isabel Sheridan, the kitchen kontroller for Sept.
- Dave Harvey for mid-October Sunday set-up.
- Claudia Joyner and Devin Geraci for October nursery help.
- Beryl Cassiday for donating a vacuum cleaner to the church that our renters can use.

- Eleanor Enge, Mary Braunagel, Joan Patterson and Erin Hamilton, Linda and Ed Oaksford, Susan Snyder and Frank Deasy, and University UUs/Campus Ministry Committee members: Frank Green, Charles Starr, Sara Reece, Kim Ross and Brian Lee for doing the October Shelter meal.
- Grace Martin and Cathy Briggs for visiting the Explorers (Preschool) class on 10/8/06 and for sharing your wisdom and stories with the children.
- Jim Dawson, Eleanor Enge,
 Joanne Taylor, Isabel Sheridan,
 Abbe Justus, Joan Patterson,
 Linda Oaksford, Bruce Brandt,
 DeWayne Carver, Nancy Harvey,
 Charlotte Dudley, and Christine
 Boczarska for providing food,
 drinks and help with set-up and
 clean for the Appreciative Inquiry
 Forum on 10/6.
- The anonymous donor of the pamphlet rack for the sanctuary.

 UUCT from Big Bend Cares for the gift in support of the 2006 AIDS Walk.

Workday Thank Yous

The all church workday on October 14 was attended by ten volunteers: Mitch McDermott, Tom Baldwin, Jim Stangel, Don Berger, Dave Harvey, Charlotte Dudley, George Knight, DeWayne Carver, Tom Chase, and Steve Urse. Thanks go to each and every one of them for a job done well.

Also thanks to those who have done maintenance work around the church during the rest of the month: Charlotte and Steve who have been weeding, pruning and planting; George who clears the drives and walks every week; and the watering crew and others.

Caring Network and Membership News

Welcome New Member!

* Dick Steele

Caring Ministries Network

The evening many of us spent with Rev. Kenn Hurto, our new district executive, was quite interesting and provided new perspectives on how we might view ourselves as a congregation and on our vision for the future. The next weekend the Appreciative Inquiry Forum was exciting as we focused on all the things we are doing well as a congregation and considered ways to further enhance our many strengths. Both events were energizing and infused us with a sense of optimism about who we are and where we are going.

Our hearts and minds are with **Ann Conn** and her husband, **Erling**, as he receives Hospice care at their home at 240 Lafayette Circle. Ann is a long-time member of UUCT and would appreciate hearing from us as she provides love and support for Erling.

We are thinking of **Anne Rudloe** as she continues diagnostic testing to determine the status of her cancer.

We are also thinking of frequent visitors **Kevin and Jill Morrell** and happy that Kevin's motorized wheelchair is now fixed. Their phone number is 229-872-8079 to contact them about ways we can be helpful.

We send our condolences to the family and friends of beloved and long-time UUCT member **Eleanor Moore**, who died October 24 in Newnan, GA. There will be a memorial service at UUCT, date yet to be determined.

We are happy to announce that 33 of **Grace Martin's** paintings are now hanging in her apartment for her to enjoy. Grace would love to share this enjoyment with others. Just give her a call (222-2651).

New UU Sessions Now in Dec.

Next sessions: Wednesdays, 12/6 and 12/13. Sign up at back of sanctuary, or contact the church office (385-5115, <u>uuct@nettally.com</u>) or membership chair Trudy Deyle (422-1057, <u>gdeyle@juno.com</u>). Childcare available on request.

Offered on a regular basis for those new to Unitarian Universalism and UUs new to UUCT, usually two weeknights, 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. Some discussion time. Rev. Lyn cofacilitates 2nd night.

Connecting with Visitors

The "Greet & Meet Group" is a special team of UUCTers who take the initiative to really connect with visitors during social time after the Sunday service. If you'd be interested in the group or in making phone calls to visitors contact Linda Oaksford (422-0240, lloaksford@earthlink.net).

Dinners for 8

Spaces remain in the intergenerational dinner for fall series of "Dinners for 8" :

Tentative - Sat. 11/18, DeWayne and Jennifer Carver's

Hosting means welcoming guests to your home, providing the main dish (any style or theme you wish), and calling the others to complete the menu. There are two dinner categories: adults-only and intergenerational. Adults without children are welcome to sign up for intergenerational if they wish and adults with children can find a sitter and enjoy an all-adult evening. To participate as a guest or host, contact Junelle Brandt (893-5511, junellebrandt@earthlink.net).

Current UUCT Stats

- Certified Membership (as of 1/06) -174
- Current Membership 173
- Current Number Friends 51
- Average Sunday Service Attendance Adults
 - September 2006: 98.5
 - 7/06 9/06: 98.2
 - 7/05 6/06: 99.4
 - 7/04 6/05: 107.3
 - 7/03 6/04: 107.4
 - 7/02 6/03: 96.5
- RE Enrollment (nursery -12th)
 - 06-07: 35 (incomplete)
 - 05-06: 52
 - 04-05: 61
- Average RE Attendance (not including Fun Days)
 - 9/06 28
 - 9/05 5/06: 27
 - 9/04 5/05: 33.8

On-going Opportunities

- 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 Frank Deasy (907-1740, deasyf@comcast.net).
- Sunday Hospitality and Clean Up: Contact November kitchen kontroller Lorin Pratt (891-6106 prattl@talgov.com).
- Sunday Service Greeter:
 Contact Debbie Holt (553-3231, holt0119@earthlink.net).

Lifespan Religious Education



Youth Religious Education (RE)

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

YOUTH RE CONTACTS:

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

Youth RE in October

Explorers (preschool ages 3 to 5) Room C with Eliza Coyne, Amy Hall, and Maria Mena:

11/5: "We Need Rain!" w/ Amy & Maria 11/12: "Native Americans Have Taught..." w/ Eliza

Artists (Grades K, 1, 2) Room K with Pam Hoskins, Hollie Lloyd & Kim Ross:

11/5: "A Time to Give Thanks" w/ Hollie 11/12: "A Time for Getting Ready" w/ TBA

Bridgers (Grades 3, 4, 5) Room 2 with Terri Martin & Rosa Morgan:

11/5: "Abraham and Isaac" w/ Rosa 11/12: "Jacob and Esau" w/ Terri

For All Classes:

11/19 Intergenerational Service -- all children attend, no RE classes.

11/26 Thanksgiving Fun Day -- all children gather in Room K for fun activities.

Youth Group (grades 6-12) Room 3: Sundays 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM, includes business meeting, discussion topics, and activities. Contact a Youth Group Advisor for more details. Scott Geraci (sgeraci68@yahoo.com, 877-6301), Jennifer & DeWayne Carver (izcarver@earthlink.net, ddcarver@earthlink.net, 402-0622).

Nov. WOOHOO Wednesday

As we approach the holiday season, our thoughts turn to thankfulness and sharing. What could be more representative of this magical time than a meal shared with your community? On Wednesday, November 15, 6:30 PM in the sanctuary, join us for some Stone Soup. This is a community soup – each person brings an ingredient (a chopped up vegetable, pasta, rice, or some seasoning) and together, we make a wonderful meal. We'll tell some stories and do some activities around the Stone Soup theme. If you've not attended a WOOHOO Wednesday, please consider an evening with both kids and adults. All ages are invited to attend! Contact DRE Maggie Geraci.

Thanksgiving Fun Day

Children (ages 3 to grade 5) will meet in Room 2 on Sunday, 11/26, during the service. Activities will include crafts, games, and a few special treats. If you'd like to volunteer as a helper for Fun Day, contact DRE Maggie Geraci.

Time Is Running Out!

Youth RE registration needs to be completed for the coming year. All children should be registered for safety and record-keeping reasons, including regular nursery attendees and youth group members. New and previous registrants should stop by the RE table to fill out a registration form. Many of the expenses of the RE program are met through our annual pledges to the church budget. A yearly fee covers additional costs. Family fees are \$30 for one child, \$40 for two, and \$45 for three or more. Scholarships are available. Contact DRE Maggie.

FL District CONS

The Youth Group and their advisors will be deciding which FL District CONS to attend over the next year.

Trained advisors must accompany youth to district CONS. The district CON schedule for the fall and winter is:

11/10-12	All-Age CON, River of Grass
12/1-3	Social Action Con (place tbd)
1/12-14	All-Age Con, Gainesville
2/16-18	Transition-In Con. TBA

\$2006-2007 MT. CON Schedule \$

11/17 - 19, Junior High

12/1 - 3, Elementary

2/2 - 4, 2007, Junior High

2/16 - 18, 2007, Elementary

3/2 - 4, 2007, Senior High

For more information or if you would like to volunteer to take a group, please contact DRE Maggie Geraci.

Adult Enrichment

ADULT ENRICHMENT CONTACTS:

- Isabel Sheridan, Adult **Enrichment Coordinator** (iasheridan@nettally.com, 668-0785)
- 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 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 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.

Lifespan Religious Education (Continued)

Details on Classes

Classes with an asterisk following the class name have more detailed information available at the Sunday RE welcome table or at:

www.nettally.com/uuct (click on Adult Enrichment Offerings or go to Religious Education - Adult Programs).

Current Classes & Opportunities

Exploring Spiritual Practices. On Tuesday, November 21 at 7:00 PM in Rm. L, come hear what we have begun to discuss. Join us on our journey, by exploring some simple spiritual practices. All ages welcome! Led by Rev. Lyn. For more information, contact Rev. Lyn (671-2634, LynPlumb@aol.com).

Transitions: Making Sense of Life's Changes*. What is the difference between a change and a transition? The book *Transitions: Making Sense of Life's Changes* by William Bridges (2nd edition, ISBN 0-7382-0904-X) deals with transitions at every phase of one's life. Last discussion class: 7:00 - 9:00 PM, Thurs. 11/16. Contact: Isabel Sheridan (668-0785, iasheridan@nettally.com).

Future Classes & Opportunities

UUCT is also planning for other future classes. The following classes will be offered in the winter and spring, if there is interest. Visit the Lifespan RE table on Sundays for the latest information and to express an interest in classes.

Monthly Potlucks & Discussions for Parents*. Will begin in the spring of 2007, depending on interest. UUCT parents would come together to share a meal. After the meal, the discussion would center on Parents as Resident Theologians, a UUA-published parenting course which helps adults articulate their religious experiences and beliefs in order to more effectively respond to children's religious questions. Would occur monthly

throughout the year. Parents of all ages would be welcome! If interested, please contact DRE Maggie Geraci.

UU Parent Support Group. Several parents have expressed an interest in forming a parent support group. Participants will play a role in planning the format and topics discussed. If interested, sign up at the Sunday RE Table or contact Cathy Briggs (219-3637, cbriggs@nettally.com).

UU Committed Couples Enrichment

Program*. A new, 20-hour, UU principles- and values-based enrichment program designed for married/partnered adults, gay and straight alike, to nurture intimacy, spiritual connection, and emotional fulfillment. To be offered as a series of short workshops or as a more intensive retreat-type program.

Currently seeking volunteer couples to facilitate some or all of the course. If you are interested in taking or facilitating, contact Kim Ross (kim@associatedadvocates.com, 877-1972).

Evensong. Come share and listen deeply about meaningful personal topics (religious and spiritual experiences, thoughts on the divine and being human, community, death and other endings...). Several groups will be offered in the winter and spring. Though each group will be limited to 12 participants, we plan on having as many groups as needed to accommodate those interested. We are hoping to have widespread participation by the congregation in this Evensong, small-group experience. Stay tuned for details and plan on participating, even if you have done Evensong before!

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).

The UUCT Book Club*. Meets at 7:00 PM the 2nd Tuesday of every month in Rm. C. Newcomers are welcome. Contact: Linda Oaksford (422-0240, linearth:link.net). Childcare available upon request.

- •11/14: Ember from the Sun, Mark Canter.
- •12/13: March, Geraldine Brooks
- •1/10: The Sea, John Banville

Freethinkers' Forum*. An adult education group that meets weekly to study and discuss issues of philosophy and religion, including the contributions to civilization of freethinkers across the ages, the history and evolution of religious mythology, and the positive and negative effects of organized religion on our democracy and the world's civilizations. November: Gary Whittenberger's analysis of *The* Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief by Francis Collins, and Dexter Easton on "Science: What It Is and What It Isn't." Meets Thursdays, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM, Rm. L. 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) to get the latest information via email list. Baby-friendly.

UU Buddhist Fellowship. Will begin meeting again when Anne Rudloe is able to resume leading the group, which is anticipated to be in **Spring 2007**. Contact: Anne Rudloe (984-5204, rudloe@bio.fsu.edu).

Campus Ministry Corner

By Brian Lee, Campus Ministry Coordinator

On the weekend of October 6-7, I had the pleasure of bringing UUU member Charles Starr to the Regional Campus Ministry Training at the First Unitarian Church, Orlando. There were several other campus ministry professionals at the training, but Charles was the only student actively involved in a UU campus ministry group to attend the training. He provided a much-needed perspective into what it is that students want from UU campus ministry, and his presence was greatly appreciated.

On Wed. 10/25, the UUUs got up extra early to serve breakfast to the touring Coalition of Immokalee Workers. The

CIW are traveling from Immokalee, FL to McDonalds' headquarters in Chicago, IL to raise awareness of the conditions the farm workers who supply our food live and work in, and to persuade McDonalds to improve their business practices. Thanks to UUU members Frank Green, Jake Kessler, Eric Savage, C.B. Smith, and Charles Starr for volunteering to help out with this project, and also to Vance Raines and the Wesley Foundation for hosting the CIW tour. Extra special thanks to long-time UUU member Pippin Whitaker and husband Steve Lize for all of their hard work in

the UUUs and taking the initiative to organize and coordinate it! For more on the CIW, visit www.ciw-online.org/.

Other than Shelter Meal Mondays, we won't meet Mondays until we come to a group consensus on a convenient meeting time and place for the most members. Coffee hour continues at 6:30 PM Fridays, All Saints Café, 903 Railroad Ave., 1 block s. of Gaines St. For more info. on the University UUs, contact your Campus Ministry coordinator Brian Lee (877-1972, brianlee@hcsmail.com). To be on our email list, send an email to UUUTallysubscribe@yahoogroups.com.



By Green Sanctuary Committee members

Saving Electricity in Our HomesBy Ed Oaksford

On Wednesday, November 8 from 6:30 – 9:00 PM in Rm. L, come hear about ways homeowners can solve the electricity shortage in Tallahassee. As local residents debate construction of a new coal-fired power plant, one might ask if it is possible to reduce the need for power-plant electricity to the point that the new plant is not necessary.

Guest Speaker Kirk Vincent will attempt to answer this question using his personal experience reducing the energy budget, and the atmospheric carbon budget, of his home. His house was built in 1929 and, although charming, was a blatant energy hog. Kirk installed a geothermal (aka "ground source") heat pump for heating and cooling, insulated the walls, installed solar photovoltaic (PV) panels, and installed solar hot water panels. Although his "experiment" is not complete, he has enough data to discuss the environmental and economic implications of PV panels

and the geothermal heat pump for his home in Boulder, CO, and to speculate on their use for homes in Tallahassee.

bringing this event to the attention of

Green Meeting: Sat. 11/11By Elinor Elfner

If you are interested in the greening of UUCT, Tallahassee, or our living, come to this potluck meeting **at noon** in the sanctuary. Bring a salad to share or bread, and bring your ideas for greening. We will share what we know and inspire one another. Contact: Elinor Elfner (524-1026).

On Being a Vegetarian By Pam Crosby

In the 1950s when I grew up in rural Tennessee, I was envious of the freedom of my playmates who could roam in the open pastures behind their houses, playing baseball or riding horses in what seemed to me infinite green space. But in my backyard loomed the source of our family's livelihood: my father's slaughterhouse.

Instead of waking up to the versatile songs of the mocking bird, our

Tennessee state bird, I awoke to the sharp squeals of pigs after the firing of booming rifle shots. When I was five and was learning how to ride a bike, I fell in the open sewage ditch that carried some of the leftover carnage of the cattle and pigs. To alert my father for meals each day, my mother would send me to the blood drenched "kill floor." I remember standing there, a four-year-old child, licking a lollypop. I waited patiently while my father shot a large brown cow between the pair of eyes staring at me before I could say, "Supper's ready."

It is easy for most of us humans "to make no apology for eating meat."
"Supper's ready" means a much different story to them. They have no slaughterhouses in their back yard.
Although meat process companies such as Montfort in Greeley, Colorado, are notorious for a stench that on windy days makes its way to Fort Collins, my former home, most meat packers are hidden far enough away from us that most carnivores can eat

Green Corner (continued)

contentedly without a thought that they are eating a once-living being. And it is much easier to reduce the lives of cattle to abstractions and consider them as only food when one does not know firsthand of their suffering.

If the taste of beef and the threat of methane are your only concerns, however, according to the EPA, the most promising approach for reducing methane emissions from U.S. livestock is by improving the productivity and efficiency of production. In the U.S., cattle emit about 5.5 million metric tons of methane per year into the atmosphere, accounting for 19% of global, human-related methane emissions. Globally, ruminant livestock produce about 80 million metric tons of methane annually, accounting for about 28% of global, human-related methane emissions.

But for me, and for many other vegetarians, a life is still a sacred life, whether its intrinsic worth is masqueraded with a word such as "beef," whether production for humans becomes more efficient or causes less environmental harm, or whether its suffering is confined to kill floors conveniently located miles from our minds.

Board Actions: October 2006

By Molly Schmid, Executive Board Secretary

- Authorized the Memorial Garden Committee to enter into contracts with Tallahassee Nursery and Bob Hayes Masonry Contractors, Inc., for oversight, planting and masonry work on the memorial garden. Funds contracted are not to exceed the amount available in the Memorial Garden fund.
- Approved the consent agenda:

 a. Report from Settled Minister
 Search Committee, b. Report from
 Committee on the Ministry, c. draft minutes of Church Council
 meeting, d. Vice President for Management Report.
- Approved the Draft Covenant and Working Agreement prepared and recommended by the Negotiating Team for use in our settled minister search.
- Amended section 3.4.3 of the Draft Covenant and Working Agreement so that the negotiations regarding compensation and benefits will take place between the Minister and the Committee on the Ministry instead of the Executive Board. Section 3.4.3 will read: The final distribution among the components of the compensation package of the total budgeted each year for
- compensation and benefits is subject to negotiation between the Minister and the Committee on the Ministry.
- Approved the 8/27/06 Board meeting minutes.
- Accepted the August Treasurer's report.
- Accepted the Minister's report.
- Authorized the formation of an adhoc committee to review leadership policies regarding committees, with Steve Urse chairing the committee.

UUCT OPERATING BUDGET INCOME AND EXPENSES							
July - September 2006							
INCOME	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	TOTAL			
Pledges	26,365.47	7,849.00	26,249.00	60,463.47			
Non-pledge cash/checks	801.95	1,038.73	500.24	2,340.92			
All Other Income	968.85	4,689.94	915.37	6,574.16			
Total Income	28,136.27	13,577.67	27,664.61	69,378.55			
EXPENSES							
Administrative Expenses	4,550.01	4,182.01	4,475.91	13,207.93			
Nat'l & District UU Fair Share	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			
Campus Ministry	546.24	546.24	546.24	1,638.72			
Religious Education	2,177.12	1,164.37	1,718.09	5,059.58			
Music	1,673.30	1,988.91	2,076.30	5,738.51			
Other Programs & Committees	150.00	1,015.11	112.04	1,277.15			
Buildings & Grounds	3,724.51	2,038.55	1,739.90	7,502.96			
Minister's Package	9,926.30	9,529.17	5,442.20	24,897.67			
Total Expenses	22,747.48	20,464.36	16,110.68	59,322.52			

Events: UUCT, District, The Mountain, National

Upcoming UUCT Events

Peace Dances, November 4, 7:30 PM. Simple, meditative circle dances, rejuvenating and uplifting. Contact: Tom and Katya Taylor (656-9321, katyata@earthlink.net).

Cropwalk, Sunday, November 5, 1:30 PM. Registration 12:15 PM on. See Social Justice. Contact: Kim Ross (kim@AssociatedAdvocates.com 877-1972).

All-Church Workday, Saturday, November 11, 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM. 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, November 12, 12:30 PM. Bring your favorite dish.

Woohoo Wednesday, November 15, 6:30 PM. A communal stone soup meal in the sanctuary followed by activities in Rm. L. See *Youth RE*. All welcome! Contact: DRE Maggie Geraci (dremaggie@earthlink.net, 877-6301).

Church Council Meeting, Sunday, November 19, 12:30 PM. Meeting of committee chairs and program coordinators to share and coordinate. Also: simplifying committee structure, budget development FY 2007-2008. Contact: Steve Urse (385-2864, surse2@earthlink.net).

Thanksgiving Dinner potluck,
Thursday, November 23, 1:00 PM. In
the sanctuary. Come early at noon for
coffee and fellowship, table setup/decorating at 10:30 AM. Volunteer
table decorators and turkey chefs
needed. Check the sign-up sheet in
the back of the sanctuary. Contact:
Linda Logan (575-2780,
lindalogan850@earthlink.net).

Riley House Rock-a-thon! Saturday, December 2, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Sign up to rock (in a rocking chair) or to sponsor a rocker any Sunday in November. Contact: Isabel Sheridan (668-0785, iasheridan@nettally.com).

Christmas Eve Service, Sunday, December 24, 7:00 PM. Our traditional intergenerational service, followed by a dessert potluck. Note: In place of a Sunday morning service.

Non-UUCT Events

- Every Sunday, 7:00 PM, Gentle Shepherd Metropolitan Community Church (Sanctuary)
- Every Tuesday, 7:00 PM, Zen Meditation (Sanctuary)
- Wedding Reception Rental, sanctuary,
 7:00 PM 9:00 PM, Fri. 11/10
- Induction Ceremony Rental, sanctuary, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM, Sun. 11/12
- Tai Chi Society, sanctuary, 9:00 AM -5:00 PM, Mon. - Wed., 11/13 - 11/15

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.

Southeast UU Winter Institute (SWIM), Tues. 12/26 – Mon. 1/1, West Palm Beach.

Social Action Workshop, Sat. 3/3, with UUSC President Charlie Clements, Clearwater

District Annual Assembly, Fri. & Sat. 4/27 & 4/28, Clearwater

Programs at The Mountain

- * Workshops with Davidson Loehr, author of "America, Fascism & God: Sermons from a Heretical Preacher." During Thanksgiving Weekend and weekend of 12/1 - 3.
- * New Year's Celebration, "Living Simply and Well," with special guest and gifted musicians Randy and Sandra Locke.
- * Elderhostels throughout the year.

For more info., 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.

UUWinterfest, Friday, December 15 at 7:00 PM

Please bring a dessert and food items for ECHO.

UUWinterfest will be an active celebration of the festive season for all ages! The first hour will feature **activity tables** and **music** by the Etruscan Pals (Carrie Hamby and David Leporati) and Helen Meacham.

- Make a simple decoration for our winter solstice/Christmas tree!
- Write a holiday card to special UUCT people who are shut-in, sick, or have moved away, or are new to our community!
- ♣ Learn to write winter haiku with Katya Taylor!
- Decorate our tree!
- Pack food items for ECHO!

You will have time to do two or three of these activities from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM. All materials and necessary information will be provided.

At 8:00 PM we will feast on yummy desserts (organized by Carolyn Pardue) and have some more music, storytelling, and the lighting of the tree. We'll close by 9:00 PM with one or two BIG circle dances led by Katya and Tom Taylor, followed by clean-up (everyone!) and an **After Glow** by the fire outside, with spiked and unspiked hot wassail (provided by Rod Oldenburg and Linda and Ed Oaksford with Howard Pardue "picking"!).

Thanks to all who have offered to help so far! We still need table leaders for each of the tree decoration crafts (5) and the card writing projects as well as people to help set up the tree, put the lights on, pack the ECHO food, etc. And we need a **TREE**! If you can help with any of these things, please contact Charlotte Dudley (668-7126, lcdudley@yahoo.com).

November 2006

	1		ellibel Z		Т	1
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesda	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7:30pm No Choir Practice	2 7:00pm Knitting for All, Rm 3/6 7:00pm Freethinkers' Forum, Rm L 7:15pm Membership Committee, Rm C	3 6:30pm University UUs, Off-site	4 7:30pm Universal Dances of Peace, Sanctuary
5 9:30am Youth RE Committee, Rm K 9:45am Adult Forum, Rm L 9:45am No Choir Practice 12:00pm RE Bake Sale, sanctuary 1:00pm K/1 OWL, Rm C 1:30pm Cropwalk (register 12:15 pm on)	6 7:00pm Bldgs. & Grnds. Comm., Rm C	7 General Election, Sanctuary ALL DAY 12:30pm Personnel Committee, off- site	8 6:30pm Green Sanctuary Forum: Household Energy Usage, Rm L 7:30pm Choir Practice, Sanctuary	9 7:00pm Freethinkers' Forum, Rm L 7:00pm Knitting for All, Rm 3/6	10 6:30pm University UUs, Off-site	11 9:00am All Church Workday 12:00pm Green Sanctuary Potluck Meeting, sanctuary
12 9:45am Adult Forum, Rm L 12:30pm Potluck, sanctuary 1:00pm K/1 OWL, Rm C	13 3:00pm Memorial Garden Committee, Rm 2 5:00pm University UUs, Off-site 7:15pm The Shelter Meal, Off-site	14 6:30pm Spiral Scouts, Rm 3/6, 2 6:30pm Committee on the Ministry, Rm K 7:00pm UUCT Book Club, Rm C	15 12:30pm Meridian Deadline 6:30pm Woohoo Wednesday, Sanctuary (Rm L, 7:30 PM) 7:30pm Choir Practice, Sanctuary	16 7:00pm Knitting for All, Rm 3/6 7:00pm Transitions, Rm C 7:00pm Freethinkers' Forum, Rm L	17 6:30pm University UUs, Off-site	18 5:00pm Youth Group Lock-in begins, sanctuary
19 9:00 am Youth Group Lock-in ends, sanctuary 9:45am Adult Forum, Rm L 12:30pm Church Council, Rm L 1:00pm K/1 OWL, Rm C	20 3:00pm Finance Committee, Rm K	21 Meridian Workday 7:00pm Exploring Spiritual Practice, Rm 3	22 12:00am No Choir Practice Meridian Workday	23 Office Closed 1:00pm UUCT Thanksgiving Dinner Potluck, sanctuary (set up & decorating, 10:30 AM)	24 Office Closed 6:30pm University UUs, Off-site	25
9:45am No Choir Practice 9:45am Adult Forum, Rm L 11:00am RE Fun Day 5:00pm Executive Board, Rm L	27 Meridian Workday	28 Meridian Workday 7:30pm Publicity Meeting, Rm C	29 Meridian Workday 7:30pm Choir Practice, Sanctuary	30 7:00pm Freethinkers' Forum, Rm L 7:00pm Knitting for All, Rm 3/6		

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Phone: 850-385-5115 Fax: 850-385-5834 Church Office hours: M-F 7:00-3:30 (Closed 11:00-11:30)

Email: uuct@nettally.com

Our Web Address: www.nettally.com/uuct

Building A Home for Liberal Faith

Our Staff:

Rev. Lyn Plumb, Interim Minister, 385-5115 (office), 671-2634 (home study); LynPlumb@aol.com. Office hours: Tues. & Wed., 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM; Thurs., 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM; and by appointment.

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 AM - 12:00 PM, Tues. & Thurs. Call 1st 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."

Our Board

- 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,
 Abbe Justus
- Jim Dawson, VP for Finance
- Kelley Turnage, VP for Religious Education
- Dick Leinberry, VP for Church Community

Non-Voting Members are:

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

The Committee on Ministry

Bob Deyle, chair Maria Mena

Tony Lloyd

Directory Changes

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

Membership Notes

To explore becoming a member or supporting friend, contact Rev. Lyn Plumb, Membership chair Trudy Deyle or president DeWayne Carver.

Help our visitors by wearing your nametag on Sundays. New members and friends receive name tags. Contact church office for replacements (\$6.60).

Next new member recognition: This winter

Mark Your Checks

- Note the purpose of every check in the memo line (pledge, UUSC...)
- Note the month or fiscal year for pledge checks.

Place Stamps
Here