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Every Sunday:

- 9:45 AM Choir Practice exc. 9/3
- 9:45 AM Adult Forum
- 10:30 AM Child Care - until 12:30 PM
- 11:00 AM Youth RE
- Fun Day 9/3
- Classes Start 9/17
 - Preschool class, Rm C
 - Elementary classes (K - 2nd, Rm K; 3rd - 5th, Rm 2)
 - Middle/High School Youth Group, Rm 3/6

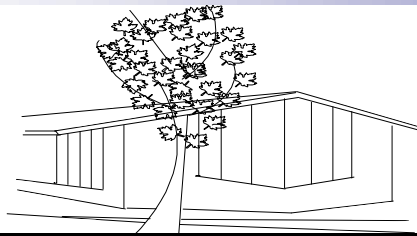
Adult Forum Topics:

- September 3, TBA
- September 10, Jim Stevenson, "An Update on Protection for Wakulla Springs"
- September 17, Lyn Artz, "An Update on Modern Septic Systems to Help Protect Water Quality"
- September 24, TBA

September Highlights:

- * Congregational Voting Meeting, Sun. 9/10, 12:30 PM (Proposed Bylaws revisions summary inside)
- * Woohoo Wednesday with Muslim students, 9/20, 6:30 PM

ATTENTION ALL!
Potluck is 3rd Sunday
in September.



The Meridian

September Sundays (11:00 AM)

Sept. 3 | A Beacon of Religious Liberty: Roger Williams and Today's Movement towards Theocracy

A free and responsible search for truth and meaning. For those whose memory of early U.S. history is a bit rusty, Roger Williams (1603-1683) was a pioneer of religious liberty who founded the colony of Rhode Island as a sanctuary from religious persecution. This talk will describe Roger Williams' experiences with and struggles against the religious tyrannies of his day in early New England, his search for religious liberty, and his work towards achieving a secular state. The emphasis of the talk will be that a secular state is absolutely necessary for all of us to enjoy religious liberty.

(Also Shelter meal collection)

Speaker: Harold Hawkins; Lay Leader: Ron Crowe

Sept. 10 | Water Communion Intergenerational Service

Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations. Please bring your water – whether from Tangiers or from the home tap. This is a time to celebrate the start of our new season together and our fellowship with one another, with Rev. Lyn, the children and the RE staff. (Also new member recognition ceremony)

Rev. Lyn Plumb

Sept. 17 | The Fear Factor

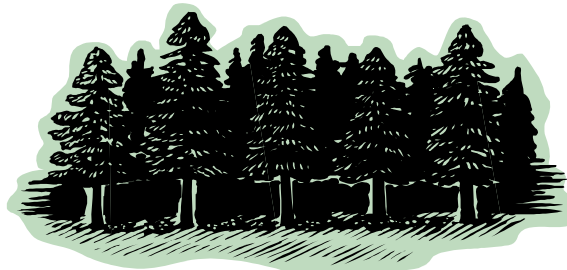
A free and responsible search for truth and meaning. It has been said that we are living in a culture of fear. Rev. Lyn will examine the causes of fear, what is healthy and unhealthy fear, and how fear can become a powerful tool for control. How can we navigate in such a culture of fear, and how can we learn not to unduly succumb to its influence? (Also teacher dedication and minister's discretionary fund collection)

Rev. Lyn Plumb

Sept. 24 | Into the Woods: The Individual and the Common Good

The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all. Sondheim's musical "Into the Woods" provides a wealth of examples of balancing the needs of the individual with the needs for the common good of all. Rev. Lyn will also explore how this balance can be maintained within our congregational life. (Also candles of joy and concern)

Rev. Lyn Plumb



Rev. Lyn's Plumb Line

This year is a very important year. It is the interim year where the congregation readies itself to welcome its new settled minister, who will be in my place this time next year. To that end, I have proposed that we accomplish a number of things together. Together, because what happens this year will affect the good of the whole congregation, possibly for many years to come.

On **Saturday, October 7 from 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM**, we have planned a congregation-wide forum to envision our future in a rather new and exciting way. The process, called Appreciative Inquiry, has been used in many groups, and lately churches are beginning to adopt it as well.

This process begins by asking you to identify the times in this church when you felt the most alive, the most joy, the most meaning. It is not the old process of identifying one's "challenges" and then hashing out how to "fix" them. This old process, as many of you have experienced, I am sure, often leads to becoming stuck on those "challenges" and never really being able to "fix" them.

The Appreciative Inquiry process, on the other hand, begins with joy. It begins with a very positive outlook as we then determine what our vision should be, what mission we may all wish to contemplate. It begins with focusing on what we as a congregation already do well. And, I, as your new interim minister, already

can speak long, earnestly and appreciatively about the many things you do right, the many things that you do very well. This process allows you to acknowledge – and celebrate – those accomplishments. And then we go on from this basic understanding.

So, I urge you to save the date on your calendars. The more of us that attend, the more representative of the whole congregation, the more it is a true reflection of what all of the congregation envisions. Childcare and a continental breakfast will be provided.

Saturday, October 7 – be there to plan your congregation's vision and future!

Many Blessings, Rev. Lyn

President's Message

By DeWayne Carver

Faith in What?

Recently, I've been asked what I mean by "In faith" when I sign off on these President's messages. It's a great question. My answer explains why I think we come together to make a church out of this disparate group of free thinkers, runaway Christians, errant philosophers, and treehuggers (to grossly label just a few of us....). And when I'm done, I want to hear what gives you faith!

I believe we come to church seeking the transcendent, something larger and greater than ourselves. Many secular organizations offer this, but church is special. For church, we seek a place where we can reveal our true selves, not just be part of a greater body. We need to reveal and share our deepest center. We need to connect with the power of the eternal, in the company of those who share our beliefs (or at least let us share them

openly). Opening up at this deep level requires immense trust.

We also come to connect with a community that will support us. My family experienced this humbling aspect of our church when our son Kenneth was born, and I've talked to others who have experienced it. We expect our church to take care of us in difficult times and rejoice with us in good times, and UUCT delivers. We are a loving and generous community.

There is no reason we should be this way, except that we desire it to be so. No God commands us as UUs to love each other; there is no Hell for us if we choose to be selfish instead of sharing our gifts. We choose love simply because that is what we choose to do.

In short, we create the church that we want to be, and the church we create is bigger than any of us. The church we construct and share among

ourselves is greater and more powerful than any single person. Members and even ministers may come and go. What remains is the common creation that we carve out of our shared realities – our church. The center of our shared power together. Our UUCT; our community of faith.

Faith in what? For me, faith in each other. Faith that our church will be there for us. Faith that if you don't understand what I mean, you will ask me about it. Faith that we are going to disagree, and argue, and have opposite points of view about all manner of things, but we will turn our diversity to greater wisdom. Faith that we all respect and love each other.

At church, your love for me challenges and enables me to be more than I am alone. And I hope that my love for you challenges and enables you to do the same. I have faith that it may be so.

In faith, DeWayne

Want to Feel Good About Caring?

From time to time people in our very own congregation - and sometimes others in the community - have a particular monetary need that they cannot meet - such as buying some medication, paying a bill, and needing to buy an item for their health and well-being that they cannot afford. The **Minister's Discretionary Fund** does often help in

these circumstances, in a discreet and private way.

However, UUCT's fund is depleted and needs to be replenished very soon. Thus, a **special collection will be held at the Sunday service on September 17**. Rev. Lyn asks that you come prepared to dig deep within your

pockets if you are able and contribute generously to the people in our congregation. Know that you are contributing in one of the higher levels of giving - not knowing exactly where your money will be going, but knowing that wherever it goes, it will be very much needed and appreciated.

Message from the Director of Religious Education

By Maggie Geraci

The Youth Religious Education program has a long-standing commitment to provide quality religious education for the children of UUCT. Each year, we explore one or more of five major topics, drawn from the Seven Principles and Six Sources of Unitarian Universalism. Those topics include UU Identity; Jewish and Christian Heritage; Peace, Social Justice, and the Interdependent Web; World Religions; and Personal Spiritual Growth and Development. Each year, the Youth RE Committee reviews past offerings to determine the appropriate topic for each age group.

Curricula are most often drawn from UUA-published offerings, and on occasion, outside sources are used if it is determined by the DRE and the Youth RE Committee that the sources fit well within a UU framework and fulfill one of the five topic areas. Outside sources include curricula developed by Unitarian Universalists, but not UUA-published, and materials available from like-minded publishing houses, such as Free Spirit Publishing. (Some of the materials from other publishers are available through the UUA Bookstore.) Much thought goes into selecting curricula that is age-appropriate, interesting, and teacher-friendly.

This year, the **Explorers (ages 3 to 5)** will be using *We Are Many, We Are One*, a UUA-published yearlong preschool curriculum that offers children

the grounding of a religious community and tradition, along with the freedom to discover and express their uniqueness. The underlying theme throughout is anti-bias and multicultural education, which celebrates diversity and interdependency.

The **Artists (grades K, 1, and 2)** will be using *Special Times*, a UUA-published curriculum that acquaints children with the Jewish and Christian heritages and engages them in celebrating Jewish and Christian holidays and other "special times" such as the Shabbat/Sabbath, Thanksgiving, and everybody's birthday. Children learn to appreciate our Jewish and Christian heritages, to understand and appreciate the special qualities of worship and celebration, to honor diversity and universality in religious traditions, and to grow in Unitarian Universalist community and religious meaning-making.

The **Bridgers (grades 3, 4, and 5)** will be using *Timeless Themes*, a UUA-published curriculum that introduces children to religious literature that is central to North American culture and to Unitarian Universalist heritage. Children become familiar with their cultural heritage and the human issues that inspired these scriptures--the timeless themes of transcendent power, human responsibility, love of freedom, speaking out against injustice, respect for the beliefs of others, love of one's neighbor, and forgiveness. The Bible

stories are taught from a UU value structure. God is referred to as "God," not "he." The stories, drawn from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, are gender-inclusive. Violence is not avoided, but recognized and used to guide participants toward an understanding of non-violent ways to resolve conflicts.

Our **Middle and High School** youth will be participating in Sunday morning **Youth Group**, based on the Young Religious Unitarian Universalists' concept of "Six Components of a Balanced Youth Program" as developed by the UUA. These components include worship, youth-adult relations, community building, social action, learning, and leadership. At the beginning of each school year, the Youth, with guidance from the Advisors, develop a program that includes the six components in a manner that is youth-friendly and encourages consensus and friendship. The Youth plan social activities, service projects, and attend CONs (youth conferences held within the district) throughout the year.

We are gearing up for an exciting year! **RE Classes will begin on September 17**. If you would like to participate in the Youth RE Program or if you have any questions about our offerings, please contact DRE Maggie Geraci, Youth RE Committee Chair Eliza Coyne, or VP for RE Kelley Turnage.

Congregational Vote on Proposed Bylaws Revisions, Etc. September 10

As has been previously reported through various means, the Executive Board is calling a congregational voting meeting on Sunday, September 10, to vote on three proposals that have been reviewed and approved by the Board:

- 1) a proposed compensation package for the settled minister, developed by the Settled Minister Negotiating Team,
- 2) proposed amendments to the church Bylaws developed by the Committee on the Ministry, and
- 3) a proposed revision to the FY 2006-2007 Operating Budget to allocate \$7,240 in additional pledges received after the adoption of the budget in May.

A copy of the compensation package proposal approved by the Board was mailed to each UUCT member in late August, along with details on the proposed budget revision. Copies of the Bylaws indicating the proposed revisions are available on the back counter in the sanctuary along with a guide that explains the reasons for the proposed changes. Electronic versions of the Bylaws revisions and the guide (in pdf format) are available on the church's website (www.nettally.com/uuct).

The primary Bylaws revisions include the following. For details, please see the guide entitled "Rationale for Proposed Revisions to the UUCT Bylaws."

- 1) Provisions for the annual formulation of church leadership goals by the Executive Board, the minister, and the Committee on the Ministry (COTM) and for an annual performance review of the Board, the COTM, and the minister by the congregation facilitated by the COTM.

The COTM believes that doing so

will establish an explicit, non-threatening, and collaborative process for an annual performance review of the minister in a broader context that addresses the performance of the entire church leadership rather than solely the minister. Such a process can facilitate a clear understanding between the Board, the minister, and the COTM of mutual expectations and a context within which to seek collaborative solutions to concerns or problems that may arise concerning the church's ministry.

- 2) Formal assignment of responsibility to the COTM for resolving conflicts that affect the ministerial-congregation relationship.

These revisions are intended to provide a single, explicit process for raising and addressing concerns and conflicts concerning one or more members of the congregation and the minister.

- 3) Revisions of other COTM responsibilities intended to better define the role of the COTM in concert with contemporary UUA concepts and to differentiate the COTM from the old model of a ministerial relations committee.
- 4) Revision of the procedures for calling a settled minister to (a) remedy conflicts between the current Bylaws and UUA search policies, (b) articulate the confidentiality requirements of a settled minister search conducted pursuant to those policies, and (c) amend the majority and quorum requirements for a call consistent with recommendations of UUA advisors consulted by the COTM, including former Florida District Executive, the Rev. Mary Higgins, and our District Ministerial

Settlement Representative, the Rev. Katy Korb.

The proposed increase in the quorum required for calling a settled minister from 40% to 60% was recommended by Rev. Korb and endorsed by Rev. Higgins and Rev. Bill Murchison. The required four-fifths majority for such a vote is left unchanged despite the fact that UUA guidelines suggest at least a 90% majority and many candidates require 95%. Leaving the Bylaws threshold lower allows flexibility while still allowing the Search Committee and the candidate to request/require a higher majority.

- 5) Specification of a higher threshold for calling a special meeting of the congregation for the purpose of voting on proposed dismissal of the minister.

The proposed changes require the initiative of a larger number of individuals to commence the procedure for voting to dismiss the minister (20% of the Qualified Members) and a quorum of the same size (60%) as that required for voting to call a minister. This reduces the likelihood that a small number of disgruntled members can precipitate a crisis.

- 6) Clarification of policies governing compensation of the minister in the event of resignation or dismissal and conferring flexibility on the Board, subject to affirmation by the congregation, if necessary to accommodate specific circumstances.
- 7) Clarification of policies governing the minimum notice of resignation or retirement by the minister and providing flexibility to the Board to accommodate specific circumstances.

Settled Minister Search Committee (SMSC)

By Mimi Jones, SMSC Committee

Congregational Record Hits Stands!

Your Settled Minister Search Committee (SMSC), comprised of Bob Deyle, chair, Bruce Brandt, Chris Ellrich, Mimi Jones, Hollie Lloyd, Annette Pearce and Sara Reece, has been working diligently on preparing the Congregational Record, which is an important component of the Information Packet (see below). Rough drafts of it have been available since the week of August 13, in written form at the back of the sanctuary and on the web at the UUCT site:

<http://www.nettally.com/uuct/>

Members of the SMSC have been available at the picnic table outside the sanctuary after the service and will be available again Sept. 3. An adult forum was held August 27. The purpose of all this activity is to be sure the

congregation, which as been met with, interviewed and surveyed, agrees that we “got it right” or will suggest to us how to get it right. An after-service meeting is also planned for **Sept. 3 at 12:15 PM in Room L**. Grab your coffee and join us!

Once a prospective minister indicates an interest in UUCT and we an interest in him or her, we go about exchanging what's called an Information Packet. The IP is our “sales tool,” our way of presenting a complete picture of what UUCT is all about. We are issuing a call for a settled minister, and we want to present ourselves in the best possible light. It will include letters from our congregational and denominational leaders, results of our congregational survey, the draft ministerial agreement including the compensation package, pictures of our facility, congregational history, financial information, bylaws,

and information about Tallahassee and the Big Bend region. We are working to make this an attractive document and will be looking for congregational input in the weeks to come. This is a total committee effort that is being coordinated by Sara Reece and Chris Ellrich.

The SMSC continues on track, keeping to its timetable. The Board approved the Fair Compensation Package for the prospective minister presented by the Negotiation Team in August. The congregation will vote on it **Sept. 10**.

On or about **Sept. 18**, our Congregational Record will be “unveiled” at the UUA website (<http://www.uua.org/programs/ministry/settlement/>). Our total Information Packet will be ready by **Oct. 15**. Yes, your SMSC has been busy, but we're managing to enjoy ourselves, too!

Social Justice

TEAM Talk (Tallahassee Equality Action Ministry)

“TEAM Talk,” UUCT's ongoing series of informal discussions about TEAM events and goals, will continue in September. Bill Phelan, a member of the (TEAM) Board of Directors, will speak at UUCT on **September 13, 7:00 PM**, Room L. For more information, contact Brian Lee, TEAM co-rep.

TEAM's fall General Assembly on October 16 provides a chance for voters to engage in public dialogue with political leaders. TEAM leaders and supporters present to policy makers and officials proposals resulting from ongoing research on the

most urgent social issues in Tallahassee and Leon County. But numbers are really important! Political leaders need to know that these concerns are critical. A large attendance from TEAM member faith communities shows our resolve to address social injustice in Tallahassee. Because we want a huge turnout, we will offer carpooling from UUCT on that evening. Specific times and other information will be in the October *Meridian*.

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

Tolerance & Dialog Group

Mary and Steve Van Sciver have agreed to coordinate activities involving UUCT and the FSU Muslim Student Tolerance and Dialog Group. Bruce Brandt will continue to be involved, and others have expressed interest in becoming more active. Mesut Erdogan is our new contact with FSU TDG. Our former contact, Akif Aydin, graduated and moved to Jacksonville. UUCT's next activity with the group will be the **Woohoo Wednesday potluck and inter-generational program on September 20 at 6:30 PM**. See *Youth RE* for details.

Announcements



UUCT Solar Power Project Soon?

The UUCT Solar Power Project is closer to having sufficient funds to implement stage one, a 5KW system installed on our new building. A donor in early August offered \$5,000 in NEW matching funds. Towards that about \$3,000 has been given or pledged. Your contribution by check or stocks can make this project a reality. Other churches are interested in UUCT's progress. For more information, contact Steve Urse (385-2864) or Elinor Elfner (524-1026).

Nametags Are Important!

UUCTers, wearing our UUCT nametags is important in welcoming visitors! It enables them to immediately know who is sitting next to them and who might be able to answer their questions and tell them more about the congregation. We are all essentially greeters before and after the service! So, please remember your nametag on Sundays if you keep it somewhere besides UUCT.

If you've lost your nametag, you may purchase a new one for \$6.60. (Make your check out to UUCT with nametag in the memo line and put it in Office Administrator Kathie Mackie's mailbox.) If all else fails, make a nametag at the Sunday visitor table, but please don't rely on this as a permanent solution. It's wasteful and an un-necessary expense for the church! Thanks!

Board Meeting Time

The regular Executive Board meeting time for 2006 – 2007 will be the **fourth Sunday** of the month at **5:00 PM** in Rm. L, unless announced otherwise. As always, all interested are welcome to come and listen. To be put on the agenda, contact DeWayne Carver (402-0622, ddcarver@earthlink.net).

Calling All Those Who Love to Sing and Have Fun!

The Ok Chorale is looking for a few good voices! For the month of September, we welcome you to join us with absolutely no long-term commitment pressure. Just come on Wednesday nights at 7:30 PM to join the group, sing some fun and challenging songs, and check out our fellowship. We also rehearse on Sunday mornings at 9:45 AM. If you've ever thought of joining the choir, now is the time to do it. We'd love to welcome you! Call Helen Meacham (556-2533) for more details.

Help Needed on Workdays!

We need more helpers on our all-church workdays; we do not get everything done that needs to be done with so few workers. If you can come by even for an hour or two on the next **Saturday workday, September 9**, it will be a big help. **We start at 9:00 AM and end at 11:00 or 11:30 AM.** This is a good chance to get to know some of the church members and friends better. If you don't feel that you are physically able to do any of the things that need to be done, perhaps you could provide some refreshments and/or say encouraging things to those who are more physically adept!

Some of the things that we didn't get done last workday due to lack of helpers were: repair spray attachment in kitchen, clean inside and outside light fixtures, clean leaves out of gutters on the new building, move blocks to the other side of the church, get rid of red ants in the rear playground tires, remove a few weeds that have grown again in the playground, and repair playground fence where a tree has fallen on it.

Renaissance Module at UUCT!

We are very excited for the opportunity to host a Renaissance Module for Religious Educators in the Florida District and neighboring districts, here at UUCT. Renaissance Modules are education workshops for DREs and other religious educators. This event will occur the weekend of **January 19 – 21, 2007**. To prepare, we are looking for UUCTers who have space available to host a workshop participant in your home. You only need to provide sleeping quarters and bathroom access. Food will be provided at the workshop for participants. Also, we need volunteers to provide a meal or set up a meal for about 10 -15. To volunteer for home hospitality or meal set up, please contact DRE Maggie Geraci.

Volunteer Opportunities in Youth Religious Education

There are many opportunities for volunteering in Youth RE that don't involve teaching! We have many positions available that would contribute so much to our wonderful program. Some positions only require an hour, some a bit more. Please consider using your skills, abilities, and time to help provide an outstanding ministry to our children and our community. We need committee members, nursery volunteers, classroom volunteers, a supply closet organizer, a Fun Day coordinator, a Special Pen Pal coordinator, a Parents' Night Out coordinator, and an RE photographer. If you are interested in helping out or would like a job description, please contact DRE Maggie Geraci.

Announcements (Continued)

Volunteers Needed For Nursery

Love babies? Like reading stories to kids? Consider volunteering for one hour in the nursery! We need a few good volunteers to help out our nursery staff. Contact DRE Maggie.

Sunday Set-Up Help Needed

With 52 weeks of services, we desperately need more people willing to be on the e-mail list to help with Sunday morning chair set-up. It takes 2 or 3 people each week. We're sure there are others who could help from 9:00 - 9:40 AM on Sunday mornings! E-mail Elinor Elfner to indicate your willingness to help (eelfner@comcast.net). THANKS!

Audio-tapes & CDs

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

Kitchen Volunteers Needed

We are still looking for a December kitchen controller. If you can volunteer to be responsible for only 2 or 3 Sundays that month, please let Nancy Harvey (npharv@aol.com) know, and she will look for someone to do the other Sundays. Controllers are also needed for the months beyond Dec.

And each week we need at least one clean-up volunteer strong enough to lift trays full of dishes and glasses into and out of the dishwasher. If this sounds like you, consider volunteering more often! Sign up at the back of the church or contact the month's kitchen controller or Nancy Harvey.

Join The Mountain!

The Mountain, our UUA-affiliated camp and conference center near Highlands, NC, is doing important, cutting-edge peace, interfaith and youth work. It needs the support of all of us! Now you can become a member of The

Mountain for as little as \$50 annually; several annual membership levels are available. Please consider making this investment in important work that is furthering our UU principles in a larger context! Membership pamphlets and information about The Mountain are on the sanctuary back counter, or contact UUCT Mountain Ambassador Elinor Elfner (eelfner@comcast.net, 524-1026).

Evolutionary Edge Newsletter

Evolutionary Edge is a bi-monthly, free, on-line newsletter designed to support a vitally important movement within and beyond the UUA – the emerging movement for “conscious evolution.” The UUA’s “evolutionary evangelists,” Connie Barlow and Michael Dowd, who talked at UUCT several years ago, are involved. To access the newsletter, visit www.evolutionaryedge.org.



To:

- **Isabel Sheridan, Randall Gann, Peggy Lentz, Nancy Harvey, Ron Oldenburg, Chris Ellrich and Abbe Justus, Susan Snyder and Frank Deasy, Barbara Sterling, Annette Pearce, Carolyn DuBard, Christine Boczarska, and Michele Hope** for greeting Sundays 7/23 - 8/27.
- **Maria Mena** for serving as July kitchen controller and those who helped with kitchen cleanup and coffee service: **John McDevitt, Nancy Harvey, Kandy and Ron Crowe, Linda Logan, Sally Andersen, Lorin Pratt, Will Adkins and Bruce Brandt.**
- **Charlotte Dudley** for helping to reorganize the kitchen drawers and shelves this month.
- **Amy Hall, Claudia Joyner, Zachary Thomas, Sam Munoz, and Nina Cline** for helping in the nursery in August.
- **Earl and Eleanor Enge, Woody Dudley, Joe Lama, Michele Hope, Randall Gann, John Whitton and Elinor Elfner, and Kim Ross, Brian Lee, and Julia and George Frichter** for Sunday set-up.
- **Amy Hall, Mary Braunagel, Linda McConnell, Emily Leventhal, Susan Snyder and Frank Deasy, and University UUs Brian Lee, Christina Ward, Erin Carter, C.B. Smith, and Charles Starr** for doing the August Shelter meal.
- **Elinor Elfner and John Whitton** for hosting a dinner for 8.
- **Don Berger, Bill Brubaker and Mimi Jones, Tori Cohen, Eliza and Sean Coyne, Iata Hankins, Joe Lama, Evan MacLeod, and Ella and Susan Sallie**, all of whom were not recognized in the August *Meridian* for helping with Harmony Camp.
- **Mimi Jones** for helping with the congregational mailing for our Sept. 10 meeting and **Mimi and Barbara Sterling** for helping with order of service folding.
- **Steve Urse, Chris Ellrich, Mitch McDermott, Don Berger, Doug Martin, George Knight, and Maurice from Louisiana** for a job done well at the August 12 workday.

Caring Network and Membership News

Caring Ministries Network

It is a great joy to have **Reverend Lyn Plumb** in our midst as our new interim minister. She has quickly endeared herself to many of us because of her warm and caring ministry.

We are holding **Lorin Pratt** and her daughters, **Chelsea and Claudia**, in our hearts and minds as they cope with the loss of **Tom**, a beloved husband and father. Please let them know we are thinking of them by offering any assistance they may desire. It may be cards, phone calls, meals, or some type of family entertainment.

And we express our great appreciation to **all of our members and friends who so graciously provided food and drink** for the reception following the memorial service for Tom.

Our hearts are also with the **Lloyd family** as they cope with the death of **Hollie's** father in late August. (Rev. Lyn will be doing the graveside service in Valdosta on September 1.)

New UU Sessions

Fall sessions: **Tuesdays, 9/19 and 9/26, or Wednesdays, 11/8 and 11/15.** Sign up at back of 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.

Offered on a regular basis for those new to Unitarian Universalism and UUs new to UUCT, usually two weeknights from 7:00 – 9:00 PM, but occasionally in one 3-hour Sunday afternoon session. Participants share some about themselves, including their spiritual journeys, and learn a little about the church and the greater UU movement. There's time for some discussion. Rev. Lyn will co-facilitate the second night of each set of sessions.

On-going Opportunities

- **Buildings & Grounds 2nd Saturday Workdays:** Contact Don Berger (422-2847, berger-don@comcast.net).
- **Nursery Help:** Contact DRE Maggie Geraci (877-6301, dremaggie@earthlink.net).
- **2nd Monday Shelter Meal:** Contact Susan Snyder and Frank Deasy (907-1740, deasyf@comcast.net).
- **Sunday Hospitality and Clean Up:** Contact September kitchen controller Isabel Sheridan (668-0785, iasheridan@nettally.com).

Current UUCT Stats

- **Certified Membership (as of 1/06) -174**
- **Current Membership - 174**
- **Current Number Friends - 56**
- **Average Sunday Service Attendance - Adults**
 - **July 2006: 90.4**
 - **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)**
 - **04-05: 61**
 - **05-06: 52**
- **Average RE Attendance (not including Fun Days)**
 - **9/04 - 5/05: 33.8**
 - **9/05 - 5/06: 27**
- **Sunday Service Greeter:** Contact Debbie Holt (553-3231, holt0119@earthlink.net).
- **Sunday Service Set-up:** Contact Elinor Elfner (524-1026, eelfner@comcast.net).

Memorial Garden Update

By DeLos DeTar, Memorial Garden Committee Chair

Proposed plans for the memorial garden were submitted to UUCT by landscape architect Frank Douglas and have been available for inspection for several months. The plans will be on display in the sanctuary prior to and after a presentation to the congregation on Sept. 10. The members of the committee thought it

would be nice to show off the plans a bit more and see if people had comments, concerns, etc.

The committee is very pleased with the overall concept and has learned from several individuals with experience in landscaping that the proposed choice of plants is excellent in terms of appearance, suitability to the soil and

amount of sunlight, and in terms of ease of maintenance. There will be a masonry bench, a masonry wall to accept bronze plaques, and an attractive path. The purpose is to provide a setting that will honor the memories of members (and perhaps of some others) and that will encourage meditation.

Lifespan Religious Education

Youth Religious Education (RE)

Youth RE Committee Meeting, Sun., Sept. 3, 9:30 AM, Rm. K

YOUTH RE CONTACTS:

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

We're Back from our Summer Travels!

The Summer RE program took us on a whirlwind tour of the globe. We learned about many different cultures! We sampled wonderful world cuisine and saw marvelous photos of faraway places. We learned games and songs, how to say hello and goodbye, and what it's like to grow up in a different country. We're "back" now, and we'd like to thank all of our helpful and interesting tour guides, who made our trip extra special!

Elinor Elnor (Transylvania/Romania)
Richard Dempsey (Egypt)
Alrutz/Stowe Family (Japan)
Eliza Coyne (Israel)
Pauline Masterton (Spain)
Bruce Brandt (Turkey)
Isabel Sheridan (Greece/Crete)
Kim Ross (Russia)
Kathie Mackie (Germany/Switzerland)
Lloyd Family (Canada)

Calling ALL RE Teachers!

All Teachers who have volunteered to teach RE during the 2006-2007 year are invited to a **Teacher Ingathering on Sat., Sept. 9 from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM** in the sanctuary. This is a special time for teachers to come together to discuss the important ministry we offer to our children and

our community. Breakfast will be provided! Teachers will have the opportunity to discuss policies and procedures, schedules, curricula, and other important topics, in preparation for the start of fall RE. Questions? Contact DRE Maggie.

Our Whole Lives (OWL) Parent Orientations

The Youth RE Committee is pleased to again offer the *Our Whole Lives* curriculum for grades K/1, 4/5 and Middle School. *Our Whole Lives* is a progressive approach to sexuality education that deals with the totality of human sexuality in an age-appropriate manner. It helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior. It equips participants with accurate, age-appropriate information in six subject areas: human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behavior, sexual health, and society and culture. Grounded in a holistic view of sexuality, *Our Whole Lives* provides not only facts about anatomy and human development, but helps participants to clarify their values, build interpersonal skills, and understand the spiritual, emotional, and social aspects of sexuality.

Parent Orientations will provide parents with an overview of the program, its underlying values and ways that parents can support their children's participation, as well as provide support for parents in their role as sexuality educators of their children. At least one parent of every child must attend the orientation in order for the child to be enrolled in the program. There will be light refreshments. Childcare available upon advanced request.

A **Parent Orientation for the Middle School *Our Whole Lives*** program will be done in two sessions. The first session will be held on **Sunday,**

September 10 from 2:00 to 4:00 PM in Room L. The second session will be held on **Sunday, September 17 from 12:30 to 1:30 PM** in Room 3. The second session is an opportunity for parents to view the slides that will be shown during the course of the program. For more information on Middle School OWL, contact the teachers: Scott Geraci (877-6301, sgeraci68@yahoo.com) or Chelsea Fox (339-9103, chelsuu@yahoo.com).

A **Parent Orientation for the K/1 *Our Whole Lives*** program will be held on **Sunday, September 17 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM** in Room K. For more information regarding Elementary School OWL, please contact Ed Oaksford (etoaksford@earthlink.net, 422-0240) or Eliza Coyne (877-5415, krelcoyne@gmail.com).

***Our Whole Lives* for Grades 4/5** will be offered in the early part of 2007. Please watch the *Meridian* for details.

September Woohoo Wednesday!

Please join us on **Wednesday, September 20 at 6:30 PM** in the sanctuary for a very special Woohoo Wednesday. We'll be joined by members of the FSU Muslim Student Tolerance and Dialogue Group for an evening of learning about different cultures and making new friends! Bring a dish to share for the potluck. We'll start off with dinner together, while listening to Turkish music and perhaps viewing slides of Turkey. After dinner, we'll move on to Room L where we will learn about each other, comparing family issues such as family life, holidays, religious days, typical meals, raising children, and how children play. All ages are welcome! Questions? Contact DRE Maggie.

Lifespan Religious Education (Continued)

Registration for 2006 - 2007

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

UU Youth Group

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**. Details about events will be provided to the youth on Sundays and through the youth e-mail list. For more information about the group, contact advisors Scott Geraci (877-6301; sgeraci68@yahoo.com) and Jennifer & DeWayne Carver (jzcarver@earthlink.net; ddcarver@earthlink.net; 402-0622).

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 is:

9/15-17	Trans-In CON (place tbd)
10/13-15	All-Age CON, Sarasota
11/10-12	All-Age CON, River of Grass
12/1-3	Social Action Con (place tbd)

Adult Enrichment

ADULT ENRICHMENT CONTACTS:

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

We're looking for a new Adult Enrichment Coordinator. With all of the interest in Adult Enrichment, we are sure there is someone out there for whom this is a passion! It's a fun position, that doesn't involve too much time. If you are able or want to find out more about what is involved, contact the current coordinator or DRE.

In addition, the **Adult Enrichment Team** will meet on **Sun., Sept. 10 at 7:30 PM** in Rm. K to solidify our plans for the 06-07 year.

Interpreting the 'intergenerational coding' in the Adult Enrichment listings

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

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

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

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

Current Classes & Opportunities

Summer Camp for Parents. Summer Camp for Parents is a time for parents to come together and enjoy learning in a group setting. The camp focus is on *Being a UU Parent*, a UUA curriculum that offers 5 sessions on theology and real-life child rearing.

Camp will finish up at 5:30 PM on the following Sunday nights: **September 17 and 24**. In the future, follow-up curricula will be offered, including *Parents as Resident Theologians*, which helps parents and kids explore together their beliefs about God, prayer and other religious issues, and *Parents as Social Justice Educators*, which provides sessions on values clarification and how to talk about social issues. Childcare provided.

Transitions: Making Sense of Life's Changes. What is the difference between a change and a transition? A change is an external event; a transition is the process people go through to assimilate a change. The basis for the keynote speech at this year's UUA National Conference for Midsize Congregations, the book *Transitions: Making Sense of Life's Changes* by William Bridges deals with transitions at every phase of one's life. Classes centered on the book will meet from 7:00 to 9:00 PM on a Tuesday, **September 5, and three Thursdays: September 28 and November 2 and 16**. Please read the preface and first chapter for the first class. The book (2nd edition) is available online and in book stores. The ISBN is 0-7382-0904-X. Contact: Isabel Sheridan (668-0785, iasheridan@nettally.com).

Future Classes and Opportunities

UUCT is also planning for other future classes, with the following classes being considered. Decisions regarding what classes will be offered and when will be made in September. Visit the Lifespan RE table on Sundays for the latest information, and to express an interest in classes.

UU Parent Support Group: Several parents have expressed an interest in forming a parent support group. Participants will play a role in planning

Lifespan Religious Education (Continued)

the format and topics discussed. If interested, sign up at the RE table, or contact Cathy Briggs (219-3637, cbriggs@nettally.com).

UU Committed Couples Enrichment

Program: This is a new 20-hour enrichment program designed for married/partnered adults. It may be offered as a series of short workshops, or as a more intensive retreat-type program. With creative activities and conversation starters, workshops help partners nurture intimacy, spiritual connection, and emotional fulfillment in their long-term committed relationships, gay and straight alike. This Unitarian Universalist principles- and values-based program helps couples grow in faith together.

Program Topics include: intention/covenant, trust, dignity, generosity, connection, play, collaboration, commitment, love, and celebration. **We are also currently seeking volunteer couples to facilitate some or all of the course.** If you are interested, please let us know. Contact Kim Ross (877-1972; kim@cennexus.com).

Choices for Sustainable Living:

Each of us makes choices that have an impact on the earth. We can choose options that are more sustainable than others. Participants consider steps toward ecologically sustainable lifestyles, communities, and organizations. Topics covered include: a call to sustainability, ecological principles, sustainable communities, sustainable business and economy, sustainable food, sustainable buying, home/health/leisure, and visions of sustainability. Planned to be offered after the holiday season. Limited seats, so please express your interest now. Contact: Elinor Elfner (524-1026, eelfner@comcast.net).

On-Going Opportunities

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

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.

September 12: *Snow Falling on Cedars.* On the surface, *Snow Falling on Cedars*, by David Guterson, is about the murder trial of Kabuo Miyamoto, an American of Japanese descent charged with murdering Carl Heine, a fellow salmon fisherman. However, the trial really provides a framework for an analysis of the effect that the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II had on the people of San Pedro Island, a small island in the Pacific Northwest. The novel explores the effects of war, the difficulties of race, and the mystery of human motivation. The text taken as a whole is a meditation on prejudice and justice and the effect that one has on the other.

We will also be choosing books for the next 5 or 6 months at our September meeting. Come prepared to make recommendations. Bring your lists, synopses and books, if you have them. Depending on the number of people and recommendations, we will choose our books through February or March 2007! All are welcomed.

Freethinkers' Forum. We are an adult education group that meets weekly to study and discuss issues of philosophy and religion. Among our areas of interest are the contributions to civilization of freethinkers across the ages, from the ancients to modern times, including Socrates, Omar

Khayyam, Michael Servetus, Giordano Bruno, Voltaire, Thomas Paine, Robert Green Ingersoll, etc. We are also interested in the history and evolution of religious mythology, as well as the positive and negative effects of organized religion, especially fundamentalism, both on our democracy and the world's civilizations.

For September, we'll begin with Joan Patterson presenting the book *Rational Mysticism*. The remainder of the month will probably be spent on Voltaire, from the Great Studies course and with Harold Hawkins as primary moderator. Meets Thursdays, 7:00 PM to about 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. Temporary contact: Joanne Taylor (taylorjoanne@earthlink.net, 893-9024).

Campus Ministry Corner

By Brian Lee, Campus Ministry Coordinator

I have just completed my first year as Campus Ministry Coordinator here at UUCT and have been reflecting on the successes and failures, and lessons learned. The experience has been very good for me, and I hope that I have made a positive difference for UUCT in my role. The rewards continue to outweigh the frustrations, and I am stepping into my second year with excitement and anticipation!

The best part of campus ministry so far has been the opportunity to help students become involved in social justice and service projects. The fine young adults and college students in

the UUU have contributed their time and effort to the Shelter Meal every single month! They walked in the CROP Walk as the largest group representing UUCT, showed up for TEAM events to help get the health care referendum on this year's ballot and to push TEAM towards increasing focus on energy concerns, and rocked at the Riley House Rock-a-thon and at this spring's Campus Ministry Sunday service. So, thank you to the UUUs for your commitment and for giving me the chance to help do some good work!

UUU's Monday **meetings** will resume on **Mondays at 5:00 PM** at the

International Center on FSU's campus, kicking off on Sept. 11 with our first Shelter meal of the semester. **Coffee hour** will continue at **6:30 PM on Fridays** at All Saints Café, located at 903 Railroad Ave., one block south of Gaines St.

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

Trustee Tidbits: Youth Ministry Survey

By Joan Lund, FL District UUA Trustee

In June, the Task Force on Ministry to and with Youth published their summary report on the Youth Ministry Survey conducted last year. 1,399 surveys were analyzed, with the average age of respondents being 15.2 years old. The results of the survey are important for our association as we make certain that the spiritual development needs of our youth are being met.

The vast majority of the youth felt welcomed and respected on all levels of youth ministry (local, district, regional, and continental). Most also said that youth ministry programs

provide them with opportunities to learn new things, get involved in their communities, and develop leadership. However, only about half of the respondents said that adults in their congregation or their congregation's board members (other than advisors, RE directors, ministers and RE teachers) support youth ministry.

Also, on all levels of youth ministry and across all ages and identities, the youth felt that their spiritual needs were not being met. Only 53% of respondents considered their congregation their spiritual home, and similarly, only 53% said their youth

groups met their spiritual needs. The question is how can our ministry with youth help them to determine their spiritual needs, articulate their faith, and feel spiritually fulfilled? Other survey findings suggest that youth group or religious education did not meet the needs or engage the interest of a number of the youth, and so they did not make it a priority in their lives.

For more information, contact me (jblund@uaa.org), or visit www.uaa.org and its link for the Task Force on Ministry to and with Youth.

Green Corner

By Michele Hope, Green Sanctuary Committee Chair

The Green Sanctuary potluck/kickoff meeting was held at UUCT, Saturday, August 19. Attending were: **Dick Leinberry, Sara Reece, Elspeth Stowell, Norene Chase, Rev. Lyn Plumb, Joanne Taylor, Rosa Morgan, Steve Urse, Linda Logan, and Michele Hope.** The group talked about the many activities Green Sanctuary has worked on during the past year, including activities we will continue to support. We are now a Green Sanctuary congregation. What do we want to happen next?

The issue on our minds is still global warming/climate change. As a group, we support personal, congregational and community change to reduce CO2 emissions. Using the UUA's recently-adopted Statement of Conscience on the Threat of Global Warming/Climate Change as a guide, we looked at personal practices and congregational actions which might move us toward positive behavioral changes and support the SOC in tangible ways.

1. **The Solar Power Fund** to place solar panel(s) on the roof of our new RE building: Money and pledges are pouring in. We will continue supporting this effort in an information blitz within coming weeks. Elinor Elfner, Ed Oaksford, and Steve Urse, working with the Big Bend Climate Action Team and the Finance and Building and Grounds committees, will look closely at the possibilities for our realizing this project very soon. Linda Logan will investigate grant opportunities.

2. **Promoting carpooling** to and from UUCT: Joanne Taylor and Peggy Lentz will organize this effort, not only for the purpose of members saving fuel and freeing up parking spaces in our parking lot, but also for creating care circles for UUCT members who live near one another.

3. Dick Leinberry agreed to transport the **recycled batteries** we are collecting at rapid speed to the hazardous waste drop-off site, as needed. He will enlist support from UUCT youth in helping families increase recycling efforts. We will continue **collecting used printer cartridges and used fluorescent light bulbs** at the Green Sanctuary table.

4. After the tasty potluck luncheon, the group became enthusiastic about helping our congregation learn about and move toward consuming more **energy-efficient foods**, locally produced and low on the food chain. Sara Reece, Rosa Morgan, and Ed Oaksford will work together and have some bold ideas, not only for our congregation, but in outreach to others in our community. Stay tuned!

5. Sara Reece, Ed Oaksford, and Steve Urse will consider ways to inform and support members and the congregation in **reducing our carbon footprints.** (Let's examine those monthly utility bills!)

6. Michele Hope will assume responsibility for coordinating ideas

and people for the **Green Sanctuary table** on Sundays. This venue will continue promoting fluorescent light bulbs and the 1-2-3 Global Warming Pledge, and inform members concerning lifestyle changes designed to reduce the threat of global warming/climate change. Michele will also lead seasonal Sunday afternoon adventures in the woods.

7. The group shared with Norene Chase new ideas for environmental **Adult Forums** in coming weeks and months on subjects listed above.

8. **Intergenerational services and activities in support of the 7th Principle** were encouraged by our new interim minister, Rev. Lyn Plumb. She's on a fast learning curve regarding UUCT's shared ministry for Earth. We welcomed her experience, input and participation.

9. Advocacy goals such as supporting BBCAT's **Energy Plan for Tallahassee** are on our minds. We will immediately promote a **letter-writing campaign** to influence the city commission in choosing energy efficiencies and new technology for Tallahassee's energy needs.

10. There will undoubtedly be new opportunities for **personal practices, congregational actions and advocacy goals** for our **Green Sanctuary congregation** to address in coming months. Stay tuned!

Board Actions: July 30, 2006

By Molly Schmid, Executive Board Secretary

Approved a request by the Buildings and Grounds Committee to contract with Gibbs Tree Service to remove four distressed and dying trees from UUCT grounds using an estimated \$4,800 from the Reserve Fund.

Approved the issuing of Home Depot and Lowes credit cards per VP for Management recommendations.

Accepted VP reports as presented.

Scheduled a congregational discussion meeting 8/27/06 and a voting meeting 9/10/06 regarding By-laws revisions proposed by the Committee on the Ministry (COTM) and approved the proposed revisions being sent to the congregation.

Approved the request by the Negotiation Team to place approving the compensation package to be offered to a settled minister on the agendas for the 8/27/06 congregational discussion meeting and the 9/10/06 voting meeting, and approved proposing the following to the congregation, as recommended by the Negotiation Team: a salary and housing compensation of \$57,628.57, with the understanding that pursuant to the UUA's fair compensation guidelines, the total cost to UUCT will be \$80,000 for the church year 2007-2008. Approved making copies of the proposal available to the congregation in advance of the meetings.

Approved requesting that the Nominating Committee provide a candidate or candidates for the vacant position of Vice President for Social Justice in time for the next congregational meeting.

Approved the following regarding the Policies and Procedures Manual:

- COTM-proposed modifications,*
- Changes numbered 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9,*

- Updating the list of committee and task oversight responsibilities of the VP for Worship to: Program Comm., Music Comm., UU Buddhist Fellowship, sanctuary and sound system set up, Freethinkers Forum.

- Updating the list of committee and task oversight responsibilities of the VP for Social Justice to: Social Justice Committee, Racial and Cultural Diversity Committee (RCDC - currently inactive), Partnership Church, The Shelter meal coordination, Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual-Transgender (LGBT) Welcoming Congregation Committee (currently inactive), Green Sanctuary Committee, Adult Forum, Multicultural Families Support Group (currently inactive), Tallahassee Equality Action Ministry (TEAM) coordination, Muslim Student Group liaison.

- Updating the list of committee and task oversight responsibilities of the VP for Management: removed Kitchen Improvement Committee; changed Aesthetics Committee to Aesthetics, Archives and Library coordination; added Memorial Garden oversight.
- Designated Spiral Scouts program under Youth RE Committee.

- Left Board Secretary responsible for the Manual of Policy and Procedures and removed it as a responsibility of the Past President.

- Omitted proposed attendance requirements for all Board members.

Accepted the preliminary Treasurer's report for FY 2005-2006 and the Endowment Summary as of 6/30/2006.

Approved increasing the FY 2006-2007 operating budget using additional pledge money totaling \$7,240 to:

- Increase the hourly wage rate of the Director for Religious Education to \$13.76, per UUA recommendations for the position, and increase the hours for the position from 16.5 to 17.5 per week (\$1,262.73 total increase),

- Increase the budget for the Program Committee to the FY 2005-2006 level of \$1500 (\$1400 increase),
- Increase the budget for both the UUA and FL District fair shares with remaining additional pledges (73% allotted to the UUA and 27% for the district).

Requested a proposal from the Membership Committee outlining specific requirements for membership.

*Note - Details on first two Policies and Procedures Manual revisions listed:

COTM-proposed modifications -

Revises description of the responsibilities of the Committee on the Ministry to be more in keeping with the leadership model of shared ministry, and formalizes the COTM's responsibility for periodic assessment of the congregation's ministry.

Changes numbered 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

#3 – Revises policy on Minister's Discretionary Fund to bring it into compliance with IRS regulations.

#4 – Revises policy on supervision of staff, designating the minister as chief of staff and responsible for daily supervision of staff, in consultation with the Board and Personnel Committee as needed and with the support of supervisory support teams for each staff person as needed.

#5 – New policy regarding The Meridian, authorizing periodic publication and right of Meridian Editor to establish guidelines.

#6 – Revises policy on childcare, designating the DRE responsible for obtaining childcare when needed for congregational meetings and other events, using the Nursery Worker for such childcare when possible and within budget. Also provides that

Board Actions: July 30, 2006 (Continued)

overtime pay for childcare, when needed for special events, shall be paid by the committee or program sponsoring the event.

#7 – New policy stating that all scheduling of events on the church calendar shall be made through the Office Administrator. Also, new policy on room usage, designating Office Administrator responsible for assigning and changing rooms for events.

#8 – New policy regarding set-up of chairs in the sanctuary in preparation for Sunday services, with general description of duties of coordinator, including the establishment of guidelines.

#9 – New policy establishing a Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) Plan for part-time staff working 16 hours or more per week, providing for reimbursement of certain medical

expenses upon submission of receipts and within annual budgeted amount.

FL District News

Greetings from New DE

Note: Excerpted from a letter from Rev. Kenn Hurto to the district, posted at the back of the sanctuary.

It is with a deep sense of honor and humility that I begin this month serving as your executive for the Florida District of the UUA. I am excited by the challenges and the opportunities that lay ahead....The District Executive's role is to be a consultant to congregations, especially to their leadership. My job is to work with lay volunteers and called clergy to support your ministries, to guide you in the ways of healthy congregational life, and to cultivate cooperative work among and between congregations....

Today Unitarian Universalists need to provide a vibrant witness to the values of human dignity, peace and justice (in so many ways). As we have for so long, we are called still to promote and defend personal and social freedom and to ensure the democratic process among ourselves and in the larger society. Ever more urgently, we are challenged to become activists in ensuring a healthy relationship with our natural world. We must also do a better job of ministering to the spiritual yearnings of our members and those seeking a genuine religious alternative in American life.

Congregations do this work in our tradition. Yet, no one congregation can do it all. Thus, we must join our hearts and hands to extend our reach and to improve our practice. That's where your district affiliation comes in — to be the vehicle for this more broadly shared engagement. I hope you will consider ways you can offer your skills to the shared effort.

My priorities this first year include getting to know you on a first-name basis while learning your concerns and hopes. Along the way, I will bring to you the learnings of over thirty years of UU ministry in congregations small and large. I hope my work among you will focus on healthy practices and the establishment of right relationships, with a particular desire to join forces between congregations whenever possible....

Acting Program Consultant

Note: Excerpted from a letter from FL District President Steve Helle to the district.

We are delighted to announce that Connie Goodbread has accepted our offer to serve as the Acting Lifespan Program Consultant for Religious Education for the Florida and Mid-South districts beginning immediately. She will serve 20 hours a week, split approximately evenly

between the two districts. It is anticipated that this acting position will exist until June, 2008 at which time a decision will be made about future staffing for RE in the districts. Connie has served in this position for the FL District since November 2005.

Connie is a credentialed religious educator with over twenty years of experience and has served UU congregations in many different capacities: youth advisor, religious education committee chair, member of the board of trustees and director of religious education. Connie has been a FL District consultant for eight years. With Rev. Susan Smith, she co-created The Chrysalis Way, an innovative emerging-congregation process. She has had eight years of training with Dr. Peter Steinke in healthy congregations and is a trainer of healthy congregation consultants. She is also a Bridge-builder consultant, a process that helps to identify and cope with conflict.

Events: UUCT Upcoming, District, The Mountain

Upcoming UUCT Events

Peace Dances, September 2, 7:00

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

SMSC Discussion, Sunday,

September 3, 12:15 PM. In Rm. L, an opportunity to comment on and discuss the draft Congregational Record for our settled minister search. Copies of the draft are at the back of the sanctuary or visit the UUCT website. See SMSC article for details. Contact: Bob Deyle (422-1057, rdeyle@fsu.edu).

All-Church Workday, Saturday, September 9, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM.

Enjoy fellowship working on chores and projects to keep our buildings and grounds in shape. Contact: Don Berger (422-2847, berger-don@comcast.net).

Congregational Voting Meeting, Sunday, September 10, 12:30 PM.

To vote on the proposed compensation package to be offered to the settled minister, proposed Bylaws revisions, and a proposed revision to the FY 2006-2007 operating budget. Contact: DeWayne Carver (402-0622, ddcarver@earthlink.net).

TEAM Talk, Wednesday, September 13, 7:00 PM.

The second of a series of informal discussions this year to inform UUCTers about TEAM events and goals, in Rm. L. See *Social Justice* for details. Contact: Brian Lee (877-1972, brianlee@hscmail.com).

Third Sunday Potluck, September 17, 12:30 PM.

Bring your favorite dish to share. ***The potluck will return to the 2nd Sunday in October.***

Movie Discussion Group,

September 17. See a movie chosen by consensus, then go to a restaurant for discussion. Contact: Dave Harvey (daveharv@mac.com, 668-9096).

Church Council Meeting, Sunday, September 17, 12:45 PM.

Are you a committee chair or an activity or group coordinator? Wondering what's going on with other committees, groups and activities at UUCT? Come to this bi-monthly meeting in Rm. L to share and coordinate plans. Contact: Steve Urse (385-2864, surse2@earthlink.net).

Wooahoo Wednesday with Muslim

Students, September 20, 6:30 PM. A communal meal in the sanctuary followed by an interfaith conversation about our daily lives, in Rm. L. See *Youth RE* for details. All welcome! Contact: DRE Maggie Geraci (877-6301, dremaggie@earthlink.net).

The New DE is Coming!

We have a new District Executive in our Florida District, **Rev. Kenn Hurto**. Most recently the minister of the Ft. Myers church, Kenn has many years experience both with parish ministry and with the UUA in congregational services. We are fortunate to have him in this new capacity.

On Friday night, September 29, Kenn will pay us a visit. There will be a **Potluck Reception at 6:00 PM, followed by a Presentation & Discussion at 7:00 PM.** Kenn will discuss what constitutes a healthy congregation.

Let us give him a hearty welcome! If you come for the potluck, please bring a dish to share. Let us come prepared to gain some insights for the health and well-being of our congregation.

Congregation-wide Forum, Saturday, October 7, 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM.

Mark your calendar now and plan to attend this forum facilitated by Rev. Lyn using the Appreciative Inquiry process. Details in Rev. Lyn's article. Continental breakfast provided. In the sanctuary. Contact: Rev. Lyn (385-5115, LynPlumb@aol.com).

Freethinkers' Lecture, Sunday,

October 15, 2:00 PM. In partnership with the Center for Inquiry – Tallahassee, a lecture by Bob Stevenson of the Secular Organization for Sobriety about his organization, a secular alternative to Alcoholics Anonymous. Contact: Ron Crowe (997-5307, rongcro2@juno.com).

TEAM Fall General Assembly,

Monday, October 16, Evening. TEAM presents proposals on urgent, local social issues to policy makers and officials. Large turn-out needed—car-pooling from the church. See *Social Justice* for details. Contact: Pam Crosby (385-3292, pcc02d@fsu.edu).

Non-UUCT Events

- Every Sunday, 7:00 PM, Gentle Shepherd Metropolitan Community Church (Sanctuary)
- Every Tuesday, 7:00 PM, Zen Meditation (Sanctuary)

FL District Events

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

Soul of a Citizen: Living with Conviction in a Cynical Time. Sun. 9/24, in Orlando at First Church with Paul Loeb.

Fall Leadership Conference, Sat. 11/11, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Oviedo. DE Rev. Kenn Hurto will give a workshop on systems theory as it relates to churches.

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

Programs at The Mountain

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.

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

September 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 6:30pm University UUs, Off-site	2 7:00pm Universal Dances of Peace, Sanctuary
3 No Choir Practice 9:30am Youth RE Committee, Rm K 9:45am Adult Forum, Rm L 12:15pm SMSC Discussion, Rm L	4 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00pm Bldgs. & Grnds. Comm., Rm C	5 7:00pm Transitions, Rm K	6 7:30pm Choir Practice, Sanctuary	7 7:00pm Knitting for All, Rm 3/6 7:00pm Freethinkers' Forum, Rm L	8 6:30pm University UUs, Off-site	9 8:00am Teacher Workshop, Sanctuary 9:00am All Church Workday
10 9:45am Adult Forum, Rm L 12:30pm Congregational Voting Meeting, Sanctuary 2:00pm OWL Orientation M-S, Rm L 7:30pm Adult RE Meeting, Rm K	11 3:00pm Memorial Garden Committee, Sanctuary 5:00pm University UUs, off-site 7:15pm The Shelter Meal, Off-site 8:00pm Campus Ministry Committee Meeting, Rm K	12 7:00pm UUCT Book Club, Rm C	13 7:00pm TEAM Talk, Rm L 7:30pm Choir Practice, Sanctuary	14 7:00pm Knitting for All, Rm 3/6 7:00pm Freethinkers' Forum, Rm L	15 12:30pm Meridian Deadline 6:30pm University UUs, Off-site	16
17 Afternoon Movie Discussion Group, Off-site 9:45am Adult Forum, Rm L 12:30pm Potluck, Sanctuary 12:30pm OWL Orientation M-S, Rm 3/6 12:45pm Church Council, Rm L 1:00pm OWL Orientation K/1, Rm K 5:30pm Being a UU Parent, Rm K	18 3:00pm Finance Committee, Rm K 5:00pm University UUs, Off-site 7:15pm Program Committee, Rm L	19 6:30pm Committee on Ministry, Rm C 7:00pm New UU, Rm L	20 6:30pm Woohoo Wednesday w/Muslim Students, Sanctuary (Rm L, 7:30 PM) 7:30pm Choir Practice, Sanctuary	21 Meridian Workday 7:00pm Knitting for All, Rm 3/6 7:00pm Freethinkers' Forum, Rm L 7:15pm Personnel Committee, Rm K	22 Meridian Workday 6:30pm University UUs, Off-site	23
24 9:45am Adult Forum, Rm L 5:00pm Board Meeting, Rm L 5:30pm Being a UU Parent, Rm K	25 Meridian Workday 5:00pm University UUs, Off-site	26 Meridian Workday 7:00pm New UU, Rm L 7:30pm Publicity Meeting, Rm C	27 Meridian Workday 7:30pm Choir Practice, Sanctuary	28 7:00pm Freethinkers' Forum, Rm L 7:00pm Transitions, Rm K 7:00pm Knitting for All, Rm 3/6	29 6:00pm Rev. Kenn Hurto Visit, Potluck Recept., 7PM Presentation/Dis, Sanct. 6:30pm University UUs, Off-site	30 9:00am Board Retreat, Location, place TBA

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

**Place Stamps
Here**

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

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

<p>Our Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* DeWayne Carver, President* Christine Boczarska, Past President* Steve Urse, President Elect* Molly Schmid, Secretary* Dave Harvey, VP for Management* Charlotte Dudley, VP for Worship* VP for Social Justice, Vacant* Jim Dawson, VP for Finance* Kelley Turnage, VP for Religious Education* Dick Leinberry, VP for Church Community	<p>Non-Voting Members are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Ellen Dempsey, Treasurer* Joan Patterson, Asst. Treasurer* Tom Chase, Collecting Treasurer <p>The Committee on Ministry</p> <p>Bob Deyle, chair Maria Mena Tony Lloyd</p> <p>Directory Changes</p> <p>If your mailing address, phone number or e-mail address changes, please let the office know. Unless you direct us otherwise, changes will be published in updates.</p>	<p>Membership Notes</p> <p>To explore becoming a member or supporting friend, contact Rev. Lyn Plumb, Membership chair Trudy Deyle or president DeWayne Carver.</p> <p>Help our visitors by wearing your nametag on Sundays. New members and friends receive name tags. Contact church office for replacements (\$6.60).</p> <p>Next new member recognition: Sun. 9/10.</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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