



**The Newsletter of the
Buckman Bridge
Unitarian Universalist Church
March 2013**

Raise your Voice!

Looking for a night of music, games and fun? Well, look no further! We have what you're looking for right here at BBUUC March 6th from 7:00-9:00 pm. Bring your favorite karaoke track or sing along with one of the many songs we have to choose from. You are also welcome to bring along your guitar, ukulele, harmonica, or any other instrument of your choice and serenade us with your favorite tunes. The piano will be available as well. There will be plenty of board games available for your entertainment and coffee and snacks to keep your tummy happy!

If you would like to help with refreshments or have any questions, please contact Amber Rodriguez at queenofcaffeine@gmail.com or by text at 904-401-1801.

Understanding the Bible— A Basic Introduction for Religious Liberals

There will be a new Adult RE opportunity in March called "Understanding the Bible - A Basic Introduction for Religious Liberals". The group, facilitated by Mike Alexander, our DRE, will explore the bible's history, structure, and our diverse interpretations of its content. While we will be highlighting the book of Genesis, the old testament prophets and the Gospels, we will also be exploring ways to grapple with our biblical heritage as UU's by applying critical thought to the scriptures. Class starts on Wed. March 13th and will run for 4 weeks. 7pm-8pm in the Middle school classroom. A sign up sheet will be available on the table this coming Sunday.

Easter Potluck



Easter brings another potluck and the opportunity to share favorite spring time dishes with our BBUUC family. The annual Easter Potluck will be Sunday, March 31st, after services. There will be a sign up sheet on the back table for attendees to indicate what dishes they would like to contribute to the meal.

GA Registration and Housing Reservations are Now Open

General Assembly (GA) registration and housing reservations are now open. GA is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association and will take place June 19-23, 2013 in Louisville, KY. This year, GA workshops and worship will explore the kinds of promises our religious communities are called to make as we seek to live out our Unitarian Universalist values; how we make them, with whom, and how we hold ourselves and each other accountable. Apply for financial aid by March 31. <http://www.uua.org/ga>

"A closed mind is like a closed book, just a block of wood" -

Chinese proverb

Lunch Bunch

Wednesday, **March 13th** at 11:30am

The BBUUC Lunch Bunch meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 11:30, at Pengree's Restaurant in Orange Park (556 Kingsley Avenue) for food and fellowship. All are welcomed to join us! Please contact Frances Kennicutt or Beth Christiansen, the office administrator, at admin@bbuuc.org if you plan to join us, so that a table can be reserved at the restaurant.

Directions to Pengrees: From the exit at 295 and 17 (Park Ave) just west of the Buckman Bridge, you will turn off into 17/Park Ave) south past Wells Road and proceed towards Kingsley. Turn right onto Kingsley and get into the left hand lane as early as possible as you will turn in just three short blocks on Kingsley. Turns left at the light on Plainfield and then turn into the parking lot. You are there!

BBUUC T-SHIRTS STILL AVAILABLE!

There are a few remaining shirts available from last year's shirt sale:

Royal blue custom silk screened t-shirts:

Adult size XL: 1 shirts (\$15 each)

Ladies size M: 1 shirt (\$14)

Youth sizes (all youth sizes are \$12 each):

Small (6-8): 1 shirt

Medium (10-12): 4 shirts

Large (14-18): 4 shirts

Proceeds will help the Board address needs that are not currently in the budget. Checks should be made out to BBUUC with the words 'Shirt Sale' in the Memo.



BIRTHDAYS

03/07	Arnie Kluding
03/08	Cliff Maskell
03/09	Amber Rodriguez
03/09	Ron Rothberg
03/12	Nikki Bak
03/12	Tara Crisp
03/21	Drew Bak
03/21	Gloriana Garvey
03/28	Kirby Kines



Anniversaries

03/11	Bill & Kris Kines
03/11	Mark & Gina Norstedt
03/15	Chris & Nikki Bak
03/16	Topher & Beth Christiansen
03/17	Paul & Melinda Kluding
03/17	Paul & Ruxandra Marquardt
03/27	John & Leslie Sheffield
03/29	Donald & Myrna Kissinger

Cooperation is the thorough conviction that no one cant get there unless everybody gets there.

Virginia Burden



Fellowship Hosts

Mar 3	Amber Rodriguez And Lee Plumb
Mar 10	Billie-Anne and James Lester
Mar 17	
Mar 24	
Mar 31	
Please sign up at church!	



Greeters/Ushers

Mar 3	The Crawfords
Mar 10	The Cromars
Mar 17	Me O'Brien and Sandie Brito
Mar 24	Leilani and Amber Rodriguez
Mar 31	



Board Hosts

Mar 3	Chris Bak
Mar 10	Annabelle Gallois- Bernos
Mar 17	Melinda Kluding
Mar 24	Gina Norstedt
Mar 31	Annabelle Gallois- Bernos

Congratulations!

Nikki Bak has been nominated as Teacher of the Year from Creekside High in St. John's County. The criteria for selection is tough, including: Superior ability to foster excellence in education • Utilizes original and/or innovative instructional materials and methods • Demonstrated leadership in educational activities at the school, district, and/or state and national level • Evidences dedication to her community through active participation in service-oriented projects, volunteer work, etc.

We congratulate you on this award and honor you for your hard work and dedication, Nikki!

Concerns

Our condolences to the family of Lucienne Kirk. She passed away on Saturday 2/2/13, just 6 days before her 92nd birthday. Lucienne was a Unitarian minister who was very active in our church several years ago, until her health began failing. Our condolences go to her family with the loss of this lovely lady.

Our thoughts also to the family of Doug Knight on the sudden loss of his son. Doug Knight was a vital part of founding our church.

We're happy to report that Karen Roberts is home from the hospital after a fall. She continues to recuperate.

A UUA Blog to check out:

<http://vitalleaders.blogs.uua.org/>

Growing Vital Leaders:

Growing Vital Leaders is a forum for sharing ideas, tips and tools for leadership formation in our congregations. The blog features regular commentary from UUA field staff and occasional guest bloggers, links to resources, and creative engagement with issues around faithful leadership. It offers posts in the spirit of faithful curiosity, discovery, discourse and shared learning.

Memory Piece—

By Devon Norris

When I was a kid church was a punishment. If I was bad during the week, it was almost guaranteed that I'd be going to Sunday school at our local small town Catholic Church. We were pretty poor when I was a kid, and so I did not exactly have a 'Sunday Best.' Mom would just throw me in to whatever outfit she found first, and usher me off quickly, so she could get back to bed with whatever flavor of the week she had brought home the night before. I was just a kid, sure, but I was hip to what was going on. Dad was long gone, and she had to find some way to fill her time. So off I would go to Sunday school, where my classmates from elementary school would be waiting, only on Sunday they were not my friends. On Sunday they would make fun of me for not being dressed nice, and for always being late, and for not knowing anything about the bible. I was ten when I announced to my family that I had decided on Atheism. It would stick for seventeen years, and then I would experience a new kind of church and my entire life would change. This past August I visited a Unitarian Universalist church. I was amazed to find a group of intellectual people, gathering on a Sunday morning, not to sing psalms and read the bible, but rather to discuss relevant, important topics, and share in one another's life experiences. My first service featured a discussion about the United States' role in weapons proliferation in third world countries supporting torture and terrorism. I loved it. This past Sunday, six months later, I was officially inducted as a member of the church, in a special ceremony. It filled me with overwhelming peace and pride to know that I have not only found such a loving, intelligent community to be a part of, but that I have also been welcomed in with open arms. I may still carry an Atheistic view, but I happily call myself a Unitarian Universalist.

Have it your way - Christianity, that is

The Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Christian Fellowship (BBUUCF) meets on the fourth Sunday of the month at 12noon at Buckman Bridge UU Church (www.bbuuc.org). Join on March 24th to watch the second video in the collection on *Saving Jesus: From the Christian Right and Secular Left*, a DVD from progressive Christians featuring contemporary biblical scholars and pastors, followed by discussion. All are welcome - hope to see you there. Feel free to bring a brown bag lunch if you need to.

Note: *The UUCF does not require common theological beliefs or spiritual practices. We welcome all who seek to be partners and participants in our tradition's "Great Conversation" about God, Jesus, the Bible, and spiritual disciplines.*

Healthy Habits

No matter your age, size, shape, or gender, being healthy is important. That's why we hope you'll take time out of your busy week to join us in developing Healthy Habits. This group will focus on weight loss, exercise (otherwise known as the "E" word), and healthy daily habits without the need for fad diets, gym memberships, or giving up everything you love. Numbers are not the focus here so you won't be asked to step on a scale or even speak of your weight or clothing size. Instead, we will discuss ways to live a healthy and happy life.

Our meetings are scheduled for Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:30 pm with the first meeting on March 7th. We hope that you will join us in making 2013 a healthy, happy year!

If you are interested in attending or have any questions, please speak with Amber Rodriguez or contact her at queenofcaffeine@gmail.com.

I know there is strength in the differences between us. I know there is comfort, where we overlap.

Ani DeFranco

Covenant of UU Pagans Update

The Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS) will be meeting periodically through the coming months to celebrate the major Pagan holidays, most often called Sabbats, and Full Moons, which are known as Esbats. These small rituals will be from 8:00 PM to 8:45 PM. The Rituals will be on the following dates in March: 19th and the 26th. To accompany this, C.J. Griggs, the Ritual Coordinator for CUUPS, will open his home for a Ritual Troupe meeting the first of every month to plan out the month's ritual activities. Light refreshments will be provided, and attendants are encouraged to bring a treat to share as well. C.J.'s address is 3601 Kernan Blvd. South, Apt. 437, Jacksonville, Fl. For more information please call (334)425-4527, or email charles.joseph.griggs@gmail.com

In addition, CUUPS will meet on the second Wednesday of the month for its regularly scheduled meeting.

JOIN US FOR LEGISLATIVE DAY MARCH 18-19

Join Unitarian Universalists from all over the state for Legislative Day at the State Capitol March 18-19. Our day starts with a wine and cheese reception Monday at 5:30 PM and dinner at the UU Church of Tallahassee. Guest speaker Monday night is Ben Wilcox, Legislative Lobbyist for the Florida League of Women Voters. There will be lobby training and handouts on issues and strategies. Tuesday morning and early afternoon we press our case with our state legislators at the Capitol, and see our state government at work. This is an educational experience for all ages. Carpooling makes it fun. The Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Florida pays for your refreshments and dinner at the church Monday the 18th and overnight stay at the Days Inn, which includes free wifi and Tuesday morning continental breakfast. Contact Steve Segner, spsegner1@aol.com, 386-788-3039 for registration forms and further information. Registration deadline March 11.

Other Affinity Groups which BBUUC sponsors:

BBUUBF—Buckman Bridge UU Buddhist Fellowship meets every other week on Sundays for meditation. 9 am in the middle school room. Contact CJ Griggs for more information.

Afternoon Tea—Meets regularly in members' homes for tea, goodies and conversation. Please see Linda Crawford for more information.

BBUUYA—Buckman Bridge UU Young Adults meets every fourth Tuesday at the church at 7pm. This group is aimed at the 18-35 age group. They meet for discussion and fellowship, social action and support. They also meet at various times through month for other activities. Please see Erik Slader for more information

Comfort Crafts—This group meets every third Wednesday from 6:30-8:30pm. Their purpose is to create items of comfort for members of the church in need. If you are a crafter, or would like to learn a craft, this group is a good place for you! This group is affiliated with the Caring Committee. Please see Lisa Cromar for more information

Affinity groups can form over any topic or unifying idea. A group needs about 5 people to join and about 25% of the group needs to be members of the church. If you want to form a group, please see Beth in the office. She will help you through the steps you need to take to form the group.

The Third UU Principle says: Acceptance of One Another and Encouragement to Spiritual Growth in our Congregations

In other words: *We're free to learn together.*

We live in community, and in community, we support one another as we learn and grow. This is a lifelong process—many of us have moved from one belief to another, as we learn about new and different things. This is the advantage of the Unitarian Universalist church: that we are able to learn about so many topics and beliefs through the worship services, religious education and interaction with other congregants.

We may not receive the same learning opportunities in other parts of our life, making this spiritual community that much more important. It is safe here to say, "Well, I grew up Catholic, but then I was Pagan, and now I'm not sure what I believe, but I KNOW I'm Unitarian Universalist." It's not just safe, but there is bound to be someone with a similar story to tell.

In this community, we're free to tell our stories, to learn from each other's stories, and to encourage each other to learn from the stories of theologies from around the world. We are free to disagree about our personal theologies, while still staying in covenant and support each other. We are free to grow and change while still calling ourselves Unitarian Universalist.

Schedule of Services

Services are held Sundays at 10:30 a.m. at
8447 Manresa Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32244
Church Phone: (904) 276-3739 • Website: www.BBUUC.org
Check Calendar for information on other programming.

March 3: Sarah and Jeremy Ritzmann will present “***Reclaiming our Shared Voice***”

As liberal religious people, we crave to bring the good news of Unitarian Universalism - a faith of love and compassion - to a world that is in dire need of just that. To do that, however, we must speak with a unified message that is lifted up by a unified voice. We must ask ourselves: What does it mean to be UU? How do our principles serve as a unified theology? How do we challenge one another to live in a way that honors our shared UU identity?

Led by **Linda Crawford** • Accompanied by **Gary Smart**

March 10: Reverend Jack Ford will present: “***Faith***”

Faith can move mountains.' Really? It seems far-fetched. Improbable. What is faith, anyway? Is it belief? In what? The word is freely sprinkled throughout our religious heritage and writings. We often talk about our 'faith communities'. I myself am fond of speaking of my Unitarian Universalist faith. What does it mean?

Led by **Sarah Clarke-Stuart** • Accompanied by **Gary Smart**

March 17: Rev. Elizabeth Teal will present “***The Upanishads***”

What can the oldest known scriptures teach us today about our modern experiential faith.

Led by: **Lisa Lynch** • Accompanied by **Amber Rodriguez**

March 24: Rev. Pat Ray will present: “***Prayer***”

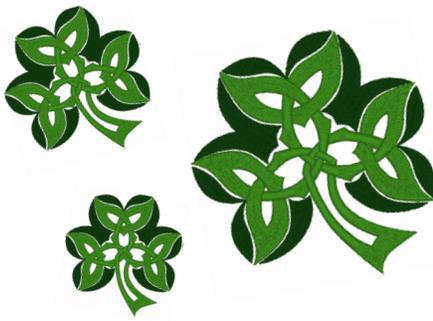
Many times we share together a moment for prayer or meditation. What does prayer mean for a Unitarian Universalist? And who/what do we pray to? Must we cling to the old ideas or is there a way for us to create our own path to the power of prayer? For Unitarian Universalists the answer is to question.

Led by: **Linda Mowers** • Accompanied by **Eileen Morrison**

March 31: The Worship Committee will present: “***Easter Sunday Service and Flower Communion***”

We will celebrate the season with an intergenerational service that honors the interwoven meanings of Passover, Easter and Spring. We will also conduct our annual **Flower Communion** during the service. This is a tradition and ritual that is unique to Unitarian Universalism, celebrating the beauty of nature and the sacredness of our community.

Led by: **Dani Slader** • Music by **Gary and Marilyn Smart**



March 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 7pm Evensong	2 BBUUYA First Saturday Fun
3 9am BBUUBF 9am Membership 12pm OWL	4	5 7pm Public Relations	6 7pm BEA- CON	7 7pm Welcoming Congregation Ministry 7pm Healthy Habits Group	8 7pm Evensong	9 1pm Canvass Training
10 12pm BBUUYA Sunday lunch 12pm Caring 12pm Facilities	11	12 7pm Council	13 11:30am Lunch Bunch 7pm BEACON 7pm CUUPS	14	15 7pm Evensong	16
17 9am BBUUBF 9am LRE 12pm OWL	18	19 8pm CUUPS 7pm Worship	20 6:30pm Com- fort Crafts 7pm BEACON	21	22	23
24 12pm Hospi- tality 12pm UUCF	25	26 7pm Board 7pm BBUUYA 8pm CUUPS	27 7pm BEA- CON 7pm CUUPS	28	29	30
31						



Handicapped parking is full almost every Sunday. If you have a need for handicapped parking but all spaces are already taken, please let Dale Crawford know so we can keep track of the degree to which we have a problem.

Spring shows what God can do with a drab and dirty world.

~Virgil A. Kraft

What is a Flower Communion?



The Flower Communion ceremony is usually held in spring, involves members of the congregation bringing a flower to Sunday worship service and placing it on an altar or in a shared vase. The flowers are blessed by the minister or congregation and the sermon usually reflects upon the flowers' symbolism. At the end of the service, each person brings home a flower other than the one that he or she brought.

The Flower Communion is intended to symbolize the way in which, just as no two flowers are alike, so no two people are alike, yet each has a contribution to make to the community. This is a wonderful way to affirm and celebrate our Unitarian Universalist faith and the spiritual community we create when we join together in our congregations.

Flower Communion was originally created in 1923 by Unitarian minister Norbert Capek, who founded the Unitarian Church in Czechoslovakia. The service was later brought to the United States by his wife, Maya.

(Information from uua.org/beliefs/congregationallife)

The Journey

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