



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

## Board Notes

Greetings fellow BBUUC members and friends! We are gearing up for the Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 19 and look forward to seeing you there. One of the exciting topics that will be up for a vote is a proposed Mission statement for our church.

Our existing mission statement has been around for a long time and has served us well, but it is good to revisit where we stand from time to time.

Earlier this year, the Board held two Mission/Vision workshops to begin shaping a new mission statement using the voices of our church community. (Thanks again to those who joined us!) Based on comments from those discussions, the Board carefully crafted two mission statements for your consideration:

- 1) BBUUC exists to provide a welcoming community and to enable spiritual growth for all.
- 2) BBUUC exists to offer a warm, diverse, and welcoming community that embraces intellectual and spiritual growth and sharing for all ages.

Also from the Mission/Vision workshops came some great fodder about the future goals for BBUUC. These visions will be shared with the new board and the

Council of Committees to help determine where our congregation wants to go and what's important to us as a community.

We look forward to seeing which mission statement you select on May 19!

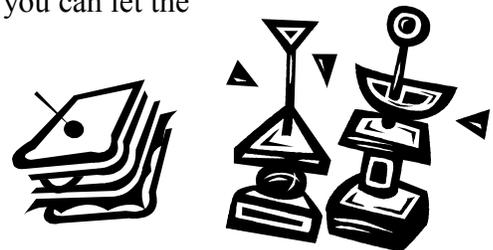
In peace,

*Melinda Kluding*

Board Secretary

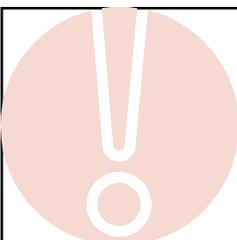
## Annual Meeting Potluck

The Hospitality Committee will be hosting a Potluck on May 19, immediately following the service. This is meant to be a quick snack before the Annual Meeting, so please bring finger foods such as cookies, sandwiches or chips to share. Please do not bring foods which require utensils in order to eat—this includes cakes and pies. There is a sign up sheet on the table by the front doors of the church where you can let the committee know what you are planning to bring.



## Attention: Annual Meeting Alert!

The BBUUC Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 19 at 12 noon. All members and friends are welcome to attend, but only members can vote. Members should check in with Melinda Kluding, Board Secretary, to receive their voting card and Annual Meeting packet.



# Lunch Bunch

Wednesday, **May 8th** at 11:30am

The BBUUC Lunch Bunch meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 11:30am, 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](mailto: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. Turn left at the light on Plainfield and then turn into the parking lot. You are there!

## Calling all Elementary and Spirit Play Children

A special outing just for you!

Blueberry picking! Dinner! Sleep over! Games & movies! Please keep June 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> open for a super fun time!



The RE committee will be hosting a sleepover with special fun events to do and be part of. Chaperones will be Joani Maskell and Wendy Deck, more are welcomed. Please RSVP to Joani at [jomaskell@comcast.net](mailto:jomaskell@comcast.net) to reserve your child's spot or to ask any questions.



# BIRTHDAYS

05/08	Christine Rothberg
05/08	David Strickland
05/11	Gina Norstedt
05/12	Lucy Warner
05/15	Sydney Lynch
05/17	Ariel Patterson
05/17	Sherry Shafer
05/19	Karen Walsh
05/21	Helen Strickland
05/23	Kris Kines
05/31	Dale Crawford
05/31	Emily (Ringgold) Swopes



# Anniversaries

05/15	Ann Marie & Carl Shrader
05/24	Brenda & John Patterson
05/27	Carlos & Linda Marina
05/27	David & Anna Strickland
05/28	Pam Edwards-Roiné & Pedro Roiné



## Fellowship Hosts

May 5	Karen Nolan and Peggy Mullins
May 12	Anna Strickland
May 19	Hospitality Cmte
May 26	Mary Anne Andrews



## Greeters/Ushers

May 5	Nancy and Steve Murray-Settle
May 12	The Cromars
May 19	Sandie Brito and Meg O'Brien
May 26	Karen Nolan



## Board Hosts

May 5	Melinda Kluding
May 12	Annabelle Gallois-Bernos
May 19	Stephen McCullar
May 26	Annabelle Gallois-Bernos

## Letter from the acting DRE

Happy May Day! April saw some changes for our Lifespan Religious Education program and our congregation. On April 1<sup>st</sup>, the LRE committee with the approval of the board appointed an acting DRE to fill the position until the search committee hires a new permanent Director of Religious Education. I would like to say “Thank you” for the honor of serving our congregation in this capacity. That being said, your LRE committee is forging ahead. If I had to come up with one word to describe the teachers, chairs and committee members of LRE it would be Commitment. We have the most incredible group of people who facilitate religious education for the children, youth, and adults. No matter what obstacles they encounter they adapt and consistently keep our program growing and moving forward.

Moving forward, the New York City Enrichment trip is on! Our travel dates are June 22-26. Our chaperones are David Christenson, Scott Cromar and myself, Chris Jarman. The *approximate* cost of the trip is \$750 per person. Our trip will include touring the UUA offices within the United Nations as well as the UN itself, attending services at All Souls Church, visiting Community UU and 4<sup>th</sup> UU churches, visiting the 9/11 Memorial, and many other activities. This trip supports our life-span religious education goals while building community and spirituality within our teen group. The trip is funded by parental and congregational donations and by fundraising by the youth.

With all of our transitions this year, the youth have not been able to fundraise as they have in past years. If you would like to support our Teen trip, we have made it easy by setting up a Go Fund Me account at <http://www.gofundme.com/BBUUC-NYC-Teen-Trip>. The Teens will also have small fundraisers in the weeks leading up to our departure. Because of our congregation’s Commitment to our youth, we have *never* turned a teen away because of lack of funding. Please

consider supporting this trip. Every donation, no matter the size moves us forward.

This month Adult Religious Education continues to offer *Cakes for the Queen of Heaven*, a look at feminist theology, through May 9<sup>th</sup>. This class is open to all and drop-ins are welcome.

Beginning Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> and running through June 18<sup>th</sup> join Reverend Pat Ray and Sarah Ritzman for Reproductive Justice. “Unitarian Universalists are called to answer the chilling political debate on reproductive rights with calls for reproductive ‘justice’ and respect for the fullness of every person’s reproductive and sexual life. The election of the 2012-2016 Congregational Study/Action Issue, ‘Reproductive Justice: Expanding our Social Justice Calling,’ is a milestone opportunity for Unitarian Universalists to live into this call. Rooted in our religious history and theological callings, this six-week curriculum outlines the distinctions between reproductive ‘health,’ ‘rights,’ and ‘justice’; opens awareness of reproductive oppressions; offers opportunities to learn about ourselves and each other as sexual and reproductive beings; and equips us to move forward, out into the world, with integrity and vision”.

In Sunday morning RE, our classes will be busy planning for Religious Education Sunday, a special service in which our children and youth present for you, a taste of what happens in our classrooms on Sunday mornings.

If you questions, concerns or requests, please feel free to contact me directly [jarmancd@gmail.com](mailto:jarmancd@gmail.com)  
See you on Sunday!

Chris Jarman

Acting Director of Religious Education

“Engaging in conversation is an act of love.”

– Jeanne Harrison Nieuwejaar, UU minister



## The Artist’s Corner: Announcing Suzanne Buckley!

Suzanne Buckley was always interested in art and has been sketching since grade school. When she retired in 1980 from teaching French, she studied art seriously, taking courses at FCCJ and UNF. She also took workshops with nationally known artists. She works in oil, watercolor and collage and she finds her inspiration in nature.

May 2nd and 9<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm

Join Us For

Cakes for the Queen of Heaven

The Female as Divine

Facilitators: Karen Christiansen, Chris Jarman,  
And Rev Liz Teal



In 1977 the UUA General Assembly unanimously passed the Women & Religion Resolution, calling on all individual UUs and UU organizations to examine and put aside sexist assumptions, attitudes, and language; to explore and eliminate religious roots of sexism in myths, traditions and beliefs.

The impact of this resolution has been profound; ranging from the establishment of women's spiritual retreats, to the rapid increase in the number of female UU ministers. It has prompted incorporation of more ritual, such as chalice lighting and "Joys and Sorrows" into our services, as well as the review and revision of our Principles and Purposes. Curricula celebrating the female as divine have been developed, including Cakes for the Queen of Heaven.

"Cakes for the Queen of Heaven" is a woman honoring adult RE curriculum by Rev. Shirley Ranck. It examines pre-Judeo Christian cultures that may have worshiped the female as divine. The concepts of equality and reverence for the female in a religious setting are eye-opening to many participants.

More than Goddess 101, this workshop series examines important elements of today's women's lives; personal, interpersonal and societal. It examines how our culture has been influenced by Judeo Christian values. The primary question raised is: How would your life have been different if, when growing up, the divine had been imaged as female? Participants are encouraged to share their own experiences and beliefs,

**gofundme**

Please support our Teen Enrichment trip at

<http://www.gofundme.com/BBUUC-NYC-Teen-Trip>

May 14 through June 18th

Join Us For

Reproductive Justice: Expanding Our Social Justice Calling  
Congregational Study/Action Issue

Facilitators: Rev Pat Ray and Sarah Ritzman

As Unitarian Universalists, we are the inheritors of a 50-year history of reproductive rights advocacy of which we



should be very proud. We also share a strong commitment to racial and social justice that is fundamental to our theology and modern identity. At the convergence of these interests, UUs are called to answer the chilling political debate on reproductive rights with calls for reproductive 'justice' and respect for the fullness of every person's reproductive and sexual life. The election of the 2012-2016 Congregational Study/Action Issue, "Reproductive Justice:

Expanding our Social Justice Calling," is a milestone opportunity for Unitarian Universalists to live into this call. This curriculum was written to help prepare Unitarian Universalists to take on this call to action.

If we are to succeed as reproductive justice advocates in our communities and in the larger world, Unitarian Universalists must be comfortable with our individual and collective identities, and know ourselves as partners with other organizations in the reproductive justice movement. Thus, this curriculum prioritizes the development of our theological understanding and conversational capacity rather than the provision of facts. The 2012 election and concurrent 'war on women', etc., is not as much a political argument over information and misinformation as it is a conflict of values about life, sexuality, and religious freedom. We must be prepared to respond to this conflict as progressive people of faith.

Week 1: Introduction: What is Reproductive Justice?

Week 2: Sacred Sexuality

Week 3: Inherent Worth and Dignity

Week 4: Reverence for Life

Week 5: Right of Conscience

Week 6: Conclusion: Moving Forward

Rooting us in our religious history and theological callings, this six-week curriculum outlines the distinctions between reproductive "health," "rights," and "justice"; opens awareness of reproductive oppressions; offers opportunities to learn about ourselves and each other as sexual and reproductive beings; and equips us to move forward, out into the world, with integrity and vision.

**May 5-26, 2013**  
**Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church**  
**Spring Food Drive to Benefit**



Hunger is not isolated to one event, one day or one season. Hunger does not discriminate by race, faith, or age; it exists throughout our community, affecting people of all types: employed and unemployed, men, women, and children, families and singles. Each year the Feeding America network of member food banks distributes over three billion pounds of food and grocery products to hungry and needy Americans in communities across the country.

**Someone YOU know may be hungry...**

- Your Friend
- Your Elderly Neighbor
- Your Child's Classmate
- Your Co-Worker
- Your Waitress
- Your Mechanic

**Food Poverty in North Florida:**

- 1 in 6 adults and 1 in 4 children are hungry in our community
- 342,000 people in the 17 North Florida counties are food insecure
- More than 117,000 children do not know when they will eat again
- More than 100,000 people live in poverty in Duval County

You can begin collecting now for our May Food Drive. Beginning May 5<sup>th</sup> you will find a donation box in our Sanctuary in which to place your items. Or if you prefer you can make a monetary donation in lieu of a food donation. In fact, for every \$1 donated, Second Harvest is able to generate seven meals for people in need.

**WHAT TYPES OF FOOD SHOULD BE DONATED?**

- |                        |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Meals in a can         | Peanut Butter   |
| Canned meat/poultry    | Evaporated milk |
| Canned Tuna            | Canned Fruit    |
| Dry beans              | Canned Soup     |
| Boxes of past/macaroni | Canned veggies  |
| Rice                   | Diapers         |
| Nonfat dry milk        | Baby Food       |

*BBUUC First Semi-Annual Rummage Sale*

The BBUUC teens are proud to announce the success of their first annual Teen Travel Fund Rummage Sale! They finished the day with \$1,350.00 in sales but that's not the end of the sale. Several members volunteered to take some of the collectibles to local antique shops and book stores to get the best price possible. This means, the funds are still coming in and it's all thanks to our amazing community. We couldn't have done it without you. Thank you to everyone who donated their time and items to the Teen Travel Fund Rummage Sale!

# 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](http://www.BBUUC.org)  
Check Calendar for information on other programming.

**May 5: Reverend Bill Ringgold** will present: ***“Paul’s Weird Theology : Blame it on Philip II”***

350 years before Christ, an earthshaking change in military hardware set the stage for major parts of Christian belief. As a result, the world, and the development of western culture, were fundamentally changed. While there is no ideological or theological causality leading from this weapon to Paul’s Christology, had it not been developed, the churches we know today would likely be very different.

Led by **Ken Christiansen** • Accompanied by **Eileen Morrison**

**May 12: Reverend Jack Ford** will present: ***“Love”***

In the famous "Love" chapter in I Corinthians, the Apostle Paul presents an eloquent definition which ends with this: "And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greater of these is love." This is the third and final sermon in my trilogy of topics on these subjects.

Led by **Carol Waters** • Accompanied by **Gary Smart**

**May 19: Religious Education** will present ***“Growing Together in Community”***

Religious Education supports our “free and responsible search for truth and meaning,” and our congregation has always highly valued and strongly supported our R.E. program. Today, we will lift up and celebrate Lifespan Religious Education at BBUUC, with the children, the youth, the teachers and the R.E. leadership who nurture and are nurtured through lifespan faith development.

Led by: **Our Teens** • Accompanied by **Marilyn Smart**

**May 26: Mark Yount** will present: ***“Philosophical Thoughts on Spirituality”***

As a legally recognized religion not based on creed, Unitarian Universalism invites as many perspectives on spirituality as it has members, friends, and perhaps even enemies. More (I think) than most congregations, BBUUC has not only tolerated but long celebrated the diverse spiritualities we bring. How about this, then: let us explore the spiritual *friction* we can generate by coming together - not as a problem to be solved, but as a source of *energy*.

Led by: **Jeremy Ritzmann** • Accompanied by **Gary Smart**



# May 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7pm BEACON	2 7pm Cakes for the Queen of Heaven	3	4
5 9am Member- ship 12pm Social Action 12pm OWL 12pm Facili- ties	6	7 7pm Public Relations	8 11:30am Lunch Bunch 7pm BEACON 7pm CUUPS	9 7pm Cakes for the Queen of Heaven	10	11
12 12pm BBUUYA Lunch 12pm Caring	13	14 7pm Repro- ductive Jus- tice 7pm Council Meeting	15 6:30pm Com- fort Crafts 7pm BEACON	16	17 BEACON Con	18 BEACON Con
19 12pm Annual Meeting 12pm OWL	20	21 7pm Finance 7pm Worship 7pm Repro- ductive Jus- tice	22 7pm BEACON 7pm CUUPS	23 6pm Worship Appreciation Dinner	24	25
26 9am Steer- ing	27	28 7pm Board Meeting 7pm BBUUYA 7pm Reproduc- tive Justice	29 7pm BEACON	30	31	

## Report From the Florida District Assembly

As we drove home from our first UU Florida District Assembly my head was buzzing. What an amazing experience? What a lot of information to take in? I am so grateful for the opportunity to be a delegate from the Buckman Bridge UU Church.

We arrived Friday night just in time to register and for me to take part in the FL District UUA Business Meeting. Reports were given, the FY2013-14 budget was approved, and, among other things, I had the pleasure of voting for our own Sarah Ritzmann as Trustee at Large.

Saturday began with a worship service which was followed by a two part presentation by Dr. Mark Hicks. Dr. Hicks spoke to us about creating Beloved Communities in our congregations. This was a highly interactive experience where we discussed the necessity of creating environments that are safe for everyone in ways big and small.

After lunch, we had to decide which of several workshops we wanted continue with. It was a close thing,

but in the end, I decided to continue with Dr. Hicks. Much of the two afternoon sessions focused on the concept of micro-aggressions, those “little” ways that we can, often unintentionally, hurt one another. This was a fascinating exploration of multicultural interactions where we were encouraged to discuss the ways in which we can think outside of our preconceived notions about particular groups (race, ethnicity, gender, etc.).

Once the workshops ended, we all gathered in the sanctuary for a Beacon led worship service. What can I say? Our kids are wonderful. It was a delight to see the kids present a message we all believe in (change begins with each of us), in their own unique way.

Sunday morning, before we attended the Fort Myers congregation worship service, we gathered one last time to discuss how each of us would bring the things we learned back to our congregations. I think I will begin by writing an article for the Journey.

*Lisa Cromar*

# The Journey

*Newsletter of*  
Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church  
P.O. Box 844  
Orange Park, FL 32067