

The Newsletter of the
Buckman Bridge
Unitarian Universalist Church
December 2012

Christmas Eve Service at 6:30pm



Talent Call for Christmas Eve Service

If you play a musical instrument, have a poem, reading, or brief holiday memory you'd like to share, or want to sing a solo (duet, trio, etc), contact Linda Mowers, co-coordinator of the service, **no later than December 9th.** (536-6003 lkowers@bellsouth.net)

BBUUC Choir of the Moment is BACK!

The BBUUC Choir of the Moment will be singing for the Christmas Eve service. We will rehearse Wed, the 12th at 7pm, Sunday the 16th at noon, and Wed the 19th at 7pm, with a possible rehearsal after church on Sunday the 23rd. Any and all interested singers, please get in touch with Marilyn Smart at mssmart@bellsouth.net, or catch me at church. We always have a good time and so will you!

Come, bring your family and friends to our annual *Christmas Eve Service* coordinated by the Worship Committee and led by Linda Mowers with our fabulous musicians and presenters from our congregation. Our service will be a woven tapestry of music, carols, words and inspiration for this special season, for all ages—followed by a time of fellowship and holiday refreshments (furnished by volunteers organized by the Hospitality Committee). We start early, to allow everyone time to share Christmas Eve at home with their friends and families. Don't miss this special evening! Bring your family and friends...all are welcome!

Christmas, my child, is love in action. Every time we love, every time we give, it's Christmas.

Dale Evans

Lunch Bunch

Wednesday, December 12th 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!

RE Teens and the Millennium Development Goals

The teen group of our LRE has sent a check for \$600 to Rev. Renee Waun at the East Suburban UU Church of Pittsburgh, PA. This check represents money raised in the past years by our teens as part of their work for the Millennium Development Goals, sponsored by the UN: "to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger". Their choice of how to spend it was to send it to her to use in support of the African Rural Schools she sponsors in Uganda. These schools serve children in Uganda who have been orphaned by AIDS. Check out the website:

<http://www.africanruralschools.org/>



BIRTHDAYS

12/01	Topher Christiansen
12/06	Diane Williamson
12/07	Chris Bak
12/12	Meghan Murphy
12/13	Frances Kennicutt
12/14	Sara Heath
12/14	Carlos Marina
12/15	Alice McKinney
12/19	Brendan Shrader
12/19	Gary Smart
12/22	Ron Nowack
12/24	Sandy Goldman
12/24	Taylor Murphy
12/25	Mark Yount
12/26	Mikhail McKinney
12/27	Connor Shrader
12/30	Anna Strickland
12/30	Andrew Toupin
12/30	Bob Williamson



Anniversaries

12/22	Frances & Ken Kennicutt
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Fellowship Hosts

Dec 2	Alice McKinney, Shea Pearson and family
Dec 9	C.J. Griggs
Dec 16	Valerie Bouffard and Ellen Miceli
Dec 23	
Dec 30	



Greeters/Ushers

Dec 2	Staci and Joe Cologero
Dec 9	Sandie Brito
Dec 16	Vanessa Birchell
Dec 23	Luann Booms
Dec 30	



Board Hosts

Dec 2	Gina Norstedt
Dec 9	Stephen McCullar
Dec 16	Chris Bak
Dec 23	Melinda Kluding
Dec 30	Annabelle Gallois- Bernos

2013 BBUUC ALL-CHURCH RETREAT

“Compassionate Hearts”



**Saturday, January 19 (10am) through
Sunday, January 20 (1pm)**

**At the Montgomery Presbyterian Retreat
Center in Starke, FL**

www.montgomerycenter.org

Come for a weekend of community building, exploration and FUN with your church family! The theme of the weekend will be “Compassion,” with workshops, activities and spiritual practices available for all. This retreat is for all ages, with programming for adults, children and youth – as well as intergenerational activities. Rev. Jack Ford will lead the keynote workshop for adults and our Sunday group worship. Our Director of Religious Education, Mike Alexander, will organize the workshops and activities that are geared toward children and youth. The tentative schedule is outlined below, with a final agenda and signup for specific workshops to be sent to all registered participants prior to the Retreat. Professional child care will be provided for babies and toddlers from 12-5pm on Saturday.

Registration fees are inclusive of Room and Meals. Meals will be served in the center’s dining hall, and snacks will be provided during workshops. Everyone will be asked to bring snacks to share during our social gathering on Saturday evening, along with any personal beverages. The Inn features hotel-style lodging with two queen beds offered at a double or single rate. The cabins sleep a total of 9 people, and have two bedroom areas separated by double locking doors. One side contains 4 single beds and a bathroom, and the other side contains 3 single beds, a bunk bed, and a bathroom. Also each cabin has an outside deck and a lake view.

We will make all efforts to accommodate special requests. If you wish to share a room in the inn or bunk near family or friends in the cabins, please let us know your wishes at the time of registration.

Registration Fees*

Adult/Youth (12+) in a Cabin: \$110

Adult/Youth Double in the Inn: \$130

Adult/Youth Single in the Inn: \$150

Children 6-11: \$85

No cost for children under 6

To register, please complete a registration form, along with your non-refundable deposit, or the full registration fee, and *turn it in to the BBUUC Office Administrator*. **Registration deadline is Sunday, December 9, 2012, with a minimum deposit of 50% of your fee. The balance of registration fees is due by January 6, 2013.**

Scholarships are available on a limited basis, and if you want to donate to the scholarship fund, you are most welcomed to make a contribution by simply adding a few extra dollars to your deposit to help some of our folks with financial challenges, or you can donate the cost of a full registration.

Flyers (with a tentative schedule) and Registration Forms have been distributed to members and friends via yahoo groups, and are also available on the church information table and the church office. ***For questions about rooms, registration, meals, etc., please contact Linda Mowers (llkmowers@bellsouth.net or 272-3862) or Nancy Murrey (artfulfun@gmail.com or 891-5995).***

All major religious traditions carry basically the same message, that is love, **compassion** and forgiveness: the important thing is they should be part of our daily lives.

Dalai Lama

Joys and ...

Congratulations to Debbie Atkins who brings us national recognition. She will be developing online Spirit Play training curriculum for Nita Penford, who is the creator of the Spirit Play curriculum we use in our church LRE program and many other churches around the country. With luck, she will also be an official trainer for this program nation-

Concerns

Our sympathies to Karen and Ken Christiansen on the losses of their mothers, Valeria McDonald and Florence Christiansen, in November. The whole family has felt the two losses, as well: Topher and his wife, Beth, and their children Jillian and Xavier.

Comfort to Kris and Bill Kines and their family on the loss of Kris's mother Louise L. Wilson due to cancer recently.

“No act of kindness is too small. The gift of kindness may start as a small ripple that over time can turn into a tidal wave affecting the lives of many.”

Kevin Heath



Welcoming Congregation Ministry at
River City Pride Parade 2012

BBUUC.ORG WILL BE WEARING A NEW LOOK IN EARLY DECEMBER!

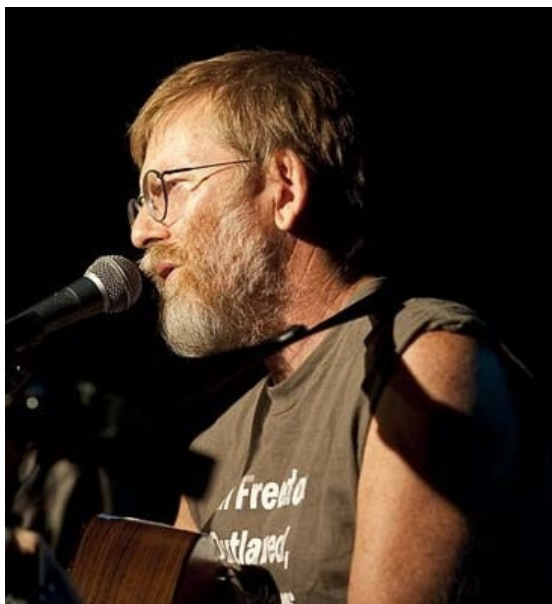
Think of what she looks like as her clothes. These clothes have served us well for many years, but these clothes are outdated – our website has been wearing styles from the 1990's! So, with careful preparation and planning, the Public Relations and Communications committee has spent the past year fitting new clothes for our website, clothes that are updated for this new decade.

The change will be seamless for most users, although it will take some getting used to. The same basic content will be there – you'll still be able to find information about our church services, you'll be able to find current events and our calendar. Guests will be able to find directions to our church and learn about BBUUC and the UUA. The main difference, and the biggest reason for the update, is to be found in the maintenance of the website. The new “outfit”, a Wordpress installation, allows for easier updating by our staff and volunteers. It also has features which the old “outfit” did not have, which we will take advantage of as we continue to build and update the website in the months to come.

The website you will see in December will be an ever-changing view of our congregation. In fact, the PR committee will continue to work with council members and committee chairs to maintain accurate content. There will be photos, graphics, and other features added as time goes on.

The ‘outfit’ our website will be wearing in early December will be basic and dynamic, all at once; the palette on which we will fashion a stunning representation of our congregation in the coming months.

TOM NEILSON
Music for Social Change
<http://www.tomneilsonmusic.com/>



Sunday, Dec. 9
Concert 6:45 PM
UU Church of
Jacksonville

7405 Arlington Expy

Refreshments will be served before and
after the concert beginning at 6:00 PM

\$15 Donation

UU Church of Jacksonville
904-725-8133

<http://www.uujax.org/>

Co-sponsored by Wage Peace

<http://www.wagepeace.net>



Welcoming Congregation Ministry Booth at
River City Pride Festival 2012

“Let the beauty we love be
what we do. There are hun-
dreds of ways to kneel and
kiss the ground.”

Rumi

Is It Too Early to Think of General Assembly 2013?

At General Assembly 2013 in Louisville, KY, the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) will be holding elections for many positions including UUA President and Moderator. Our elections of people to serve the members and congregations of the Association are at the heart of the fifth principle of our faith and our trust in the democratic process. Please take the opportunity to learn more about the positions available and the process for running by petition. More details and application forms are available on UUA.org at <http://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/elections/281126.shtml>.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Nancy Lawrence in UUA Administration by emailing administration@uua.org or Tom Loughrey, Secretary of the UUA, by emailing secretary@uua.org.

Cookies and Caroling

Do you like to hear the sound of children singing Christmas Carols? Do you like to smell Christmas cookies baking?

It's the time of the year where both of these will fill your heart with cheer! And you can be part of it! Come join us on Friday, December 14th, at 6:30 pm at Annabelle and Michaels home, for our annual Gala Christmas party for all! There will be people singing around a piano or strumming their guitars while the kitchen will be filled with all our little helpers making Christmas Cookies. If you have never been to this, we send to you a warm invitation. Children can help make and decorate the cookies. All the ingredients will be provided. As the evening progresses, a robust group (from little to big) will head out the door with candles in hand, singing to the neighborhood. Please bring some cheer to share with all. Christmas will soon be here, let's get in the Christmas Spirit!



Tea Time!

The afternoon tea affinity group will be holding its upcoming tea on Wednesday, December fifth, from 4 to 6, at the home of Lynn Wadley. This is a time for relaxation and treat-tasting among old and new friends. Everyone is welcome. For information, please contact Linda Crawford at 291-2708.

Join the BBUUC CUUPS group on Wednesday, December 12th at 7pm for a Yule Ritual to celebrate the Winter Solstice. At the Winter Solstice the returning sun is celebrated as the days begin to gradually grow longer. Everyone is invited to attend the ritual and stay afterwards to celebrate with a potluck dinner, hot cider and cookies. Please contact Nikki Bak or Tom Townsend if you have any questions.



The Board is pleased to announce that Ron Rothberg has agreed to step into the open Vice Presidency. We look forward to working with Ron in the coming months.

Hanukah at BBUUC!



Please come to a Unitarian Universalist Celebration of the Festival of Light.

Our faith comes from many sources, just as we come from many places and cultures.

"Unitarian Universalism draws from many sources" among

them:

"Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life; & Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;"

For many of us growing up, Hanukah was a favorite family holiday, it is not a high holy day – but a festival steeped in family and community. A celebration of the idea that we all are candles and we can help keep the flames of love and care alive – and by doing so, Sources greater than us, both named and un-nameable join us and light the way and give us hope. Please join us on:

Saturday, December 8th at 5pm for a Festival of thanks, fellowship and light.

We will light the lights, sing our songs of love, share a story or two and of course, eat!

This is a light pot-luck – so please bring:
small latkes (potato pancakes)
sufganiot(berliners/biehnnet/donuts)
or your favorite appetizers or hors d'oeuvres!

Coffee, tea and juice will be served.

An interview with our DLRE:

In November we quizzed Mike Alexander, our LRE Director, to find out a little bit more about him. Here's a few of the questions we asked:

Tell us about your spiritual journey, and how it led to UUism. How does this reflect in your teaching religion to our children?

Well, I come from a long line of liberal United Methodists and served the church professionally for over a decade. About five years ago, I started to realize that my theology was becoming incompatible with mainline protestant faith and that I needed to find a place where folks have freedom to pursue alternate spiritual trails, if you will. I found a UU church in Fort Worth, TX, which was my first UU experience, and enjoyed the services and the people.

It certainly has an impact on teaching religion to our children as well as my own 5 kids. My hope is that our children can learn to be tolerant of other religious groups, develop a lifelong pursuit of truth, and become passionate about the UU way.

What BBUUC LRE programs are you concentrating on the most this month?

This month's focus is on our LRE service, which is coming up on the 16th, and getting to know our awesome volunteers, who are really passionate about RE and generous with their time.

How can members of the congregation help you in your efforts as Director of Lifetime Religious Education?

I would say continue to be vocal about your hopes and dreams for the RE program at BBUUC. This church has had such a strong and robust program - run by some very talented people. I just want to keep it going and find new avenues for growth and engagement.

What can you tell us about the LRE service on Sunday December 16, or do you want to keep that a secret?

Nothing secret. The entire service will be led by our children, teens, and adult volunteers. We will be performing a skit/play that our teens wrote called, "Stranded at Gate 25". It's about a teenage girl who is stranded at the airport during the holidays and has encounters with folks who are observing Kwanzaa, Winter Solstice, Hanukkah, and a German Christmas.



BBUUC's Giving Tree Tradition

As part of BBUUC's commitment to social action, we invite you to make the holiday season a little brighter for the children of First Haitian-American Community Church of Jacksonville. This social action has become a tradition – and an honor – for our church.

You can contribute with just four easy steps!

1. *Please take an angel from the tree.*
2. *Write your name on the list so we know which child you've selected.*
3. *Shop – this is the fun part! J*
4. *Attach the angel to the new, unwrapped gift and bring back to church **no later than Sunday, Dec. 8.***

December 2012 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

December 2: Mark Yount will present "*Liberty, Liberation and Liberal Religion*"

Amidst vocal religious fundamentalists, Unitarian Universalists proudly carry the banner of liberal religion in our communities, our nation and our world. But what does that *mean* - and to what do those "liberal" values commit us? Tea party patriots seek to restore the "liberty" pivotal to 18th century liberalism, while those marginalized politically or economically have demanded "liberation." How do we strike a balance by which we accept one another's diverse views on social issues while joining as one voice our UU call for peace, liberty and justice for all?

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

December 9: Reverend Jack Ford will present: "*Spirituality*"

I live between two worlds. One of them is often referred to as 'Spiritual'. The other could be possibly defined as 'carnal'. I love both of them. My life consists of an exercise in balancing between the two, neither of which i can entirely define or understand. My life is dialogue. Thoreau said that he found in himself "an instinct toward a higher, spiritual life, and another toward a primitive and savage one, and i reverence them both. I love the wild not less than the good." What is the connection between the spiritual and other aspects of our lives; emotional, physical, psychological? What does it mean to be 'spiritual'?

Led by **Ron Rothberg** • Accompanied by **Gary Smart**

December 16: Religious Education will present "*A Christmas Service and Child Dedication*"

Religious education will perform "*Stuck at Gate 25*", written by our very own teens. This play will tell the story of a UU teen stuck in the airport waiting for her flight. As she wanders around gate 25, she sees the different holidays of December being celebrated, and learns about the faith traditions behind the celebrations.

Led by: **R.E. Teens** • Accompanied by **TBA**

December 23: Dani Slader and Ariel Cook will present: "*The Red letters and Unitarian Universalism*"

Ariel and Dani will discuss how the red letters of the Bible inform their personal. Unitarian Universalist faith

Led by: **Ariel Cook and Dani Slader** • Accompanied by **Eileen Morrison**

December 24: 6:30 PM: The Worship Committee, Members and Friends of BBUUC will present our *Annual Christmas Eve Service* (see page 1 for details)

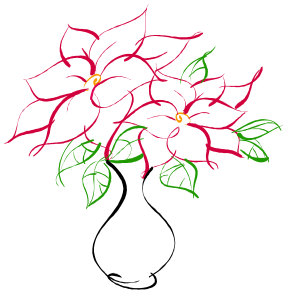
Led by: **Linda Mowers** • Accompanied by **Gary Smart** • Choir directed by **Marilyn Smart**

December 30: Sarah Clarke-Stuart will present:

"Composting: How Endings Fuel Beginnings"

Thomas More has said "we must be careful not to split ending from beginning, and beginning from ending...the pain of ending is of a piece with the exhilaration of beginning." This talk will address the significance of embracing death and decomposition in order to initiate the self into a phase of new growth. I will explore how the natural world and gardening can help us visualize the rhythm of our emotional lives.

Led by: **Jennifer Stokes** • Accompanied by **Eileen Morrison**



December 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9am Membership 12pm Facilities 12pm Hospitality	3	4	5 7pm BEACON 7pm Steering 7pm Music Circle	6 7pm PR	7	8 5pm Hanakuh Service
9 12pm BBUUYA Lunch 12pm Caring	10	11 7pm Council Meeting	12 11:30am Lunch Bunch 7pm BEACON 7pm CUUPS Yule Ritual	13	14 6:30pm Cookies and Caroling at Annabelle and Michael's	15
16	17	18 7pm Worship	19 6:30pm Comfort Shawl Group 7pm BEACON	20	21	22
23	24 6:30pm Christmas Eve Service	25	26	27	28	29
30 12pm Hospitality	31					

A Message From the Board

Dear BBUUC Members and Friends,

It has been a number of years since the BBUUC Mission and Vision statements were developed. Since that time, we have built our church home, added many new members and are bursting with “UUnique” children!

As time marches on, so do our needs. It is time to update our mission and vision to pave the way for our future!

What can you do to help? You can join us for one of the upcoming “Building Our Mission and Vision” meetings. We will spend 30 minutes formulating our goals; then 30 minutes writing a draft of our mission and vision statement.

Building Our Mission and Vision Meetings

Sunday, Jan. 13 – 12-1 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 23 – 7-8 p.m.

What are the next steps? At the February BBUUC Board Meeting, the Board will review the proposed mission and vision statements. Then, in March or April, the congregation will be invited to a Town Hall-style meeting to review and provide feedback on the proposed statements.

When will the mission and vision statement be finalized? The BBUUC members will cast their vote for the final statement at the 2013 Annual Meeting.

On behalf of the Board, we’d like to thank you all for your time and dedication to our church. We look forward to your contributions, defining the mission and vision of BBUUC!

-Melinda Klading,

BBUUC Secretary

The Journey

Newsletter of
Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church
P.O. Box 844
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