



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

A Letter from our Director of Religious Education

Howdy, friends! As August starts it brings with it all the joys and promises of a new school year. Our teens will be taking a trip to Daytona as a last summer hurrah, our elementary class will be starting a new curriculum that is a hybrid of Spirit Play and collaborative work, our Spirit Play classroom welcomes the next generation of RE children, and Adult RE kicks off a full year of classes starting with Art and Spirituality. August's arrival signals the beginning of what I hope will be an amazing new year for Religious Education.

Parents of our Elementary children will already have noticed that weekly newsletters have started going home on Sunday mornings with summaries and snippets of lessons. Once the new RE year kicks off on August 18th, these letters will include snap shots of the Spirit Play and Teen classes as well. I encourage every parent to take a moment or two on Sunday afternoon and read over the letter- it will include follow up questions about the children's lessons to help facilitate home discussion, and an occasional resource from the UUA. Who knows? Parents might even learn a thing or two too.

Speaking of August 18th, LRE will have its traditional "Meet the Teachers" open house after church that day. We encourage all members of the congregation to find their way to the back of the church and get to know the people who will help to educate this generation of Unitarian Universalists. It's also a great time to come and ask questions about the variety of curricula and resources we will be using in the upcoming year.

I'd like to close this week with a profound thank you to everyone for placing your faith and trust in me. Many in the congregation know that I believe with all of my heart that our children and youth deserve the full dedication of those charged with their religious education. Our youth often say, they are not the future of Unitarian Universalism but the **present**, and the privilege of serving them and the rest of our congregation is a great honor that I will endeavor to be worthy of. If you have questions or comments about our program, or would like to find out how you too may serve, my door is always open. You can snag me before or after service on Sundays, call me, or e-mail me at dre@bbuuc.org. I look forward to our first year together.

With Hope,

Dani Slader

Director of Religious Education

**BBUUC's 2013-2014
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION YEAR
KICKS OFF AUGUST 18TH! COME MEET THE
TEACHERS AND LEARN ABOUT THE COMING
CURRICULA AFTER SERVICE!**

**When educating the minds
of our youth, we must not
forget to educate their
hearts. -Dalai Lama**

Lunch Bunch

Wednesday, **November 14th** 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!



BIRTHDAYS

08/02	Pat Ray
08/10	Michael Bernos
08/16	Marv Kramer
08/17	Patrick Queeney
08/19	Barry Heath
08/21	Candace Gerding
08/25	Kaelyn Kluding
08/25	Judah Ritzmann
08/26	Abby Crisp
08/26	Ava Lopez



October Rummage Sale Date is Set!

It's official! The next BBUUC Rummage Sale will be held this October 12th! Time to start putting away those things you don't want or need for the big day. We will start accepting items two weeks prior to the sale starting Sunday, September 29th. Watch the Journey and Sunday Order of Service for more information as we get closer to October.

Anniversaries

08/07	Cliff & Joani Maskell
08/14	Pete & Martha Morgan
08/17	Gary & Marilyn Smart

“I am here to tell you – people are good. And they will overwhelm you with their willingness to make things better for others.” – Joanna Crawford, UU minister



Fellowship Hosts

Aug 4	PLEASE SIGN
Aug 11	UP AT CHURCH
Aug 18	OR EMAIL THE
Aug 25	OFFICE AT
	ADMIN@BBUUC.ORG



Greeters/Ushers

Aug 4	The Murrey-Settle Family
Aug 11	Staci and Joe Cologero
Aug 18	Valerie Bouffard
Aug 25	Anna Strickland



Board Hosts

Aug 4	Eileen Morrison
Aug 11	Erik Slader
Aug 18	Ron Rothberg
Aug 25	Stephen McCullar

BBUUC CHURCHWORKS

There is a really great book that I purchased years ago at General Assembly and keep on my shelf as a go-to for inspiration and understanding about congregational leadership. It's called "*Churchworks: A Well-Body Book for Congregations*" by Anne Odin Heller. I like the title so much that I want to borrow it for my Journey messages this year! It's a great resource that uses the human body as a metaphor for the congregation. It offers good advice for growing and sustaining a healthy church and covers all of the typical concerns of congregational life and governance. As we move into our new fiscal year that began on July 1st, I remembered that *Churchworks* compared the members of the congregation to the *spine*, or backbone of the church. Members carry out our mission, covenant and goals, supporting the collective vision of the congregation, our culture and community.

The church Board is compared to the *shoulders*, carrying the weight of responsibility. It does (and should do) a lot of work! As trustees of the church, we are "entrusted" by you to carry our vision, see that our mission is developed and carried out effectively. Your Board manages and evaluates the work of the congregation, provides policy direction and oversight, and ensures that BBUUC meets our financial and legal responsibilities. So you see, we have our work cut out for us!

Your Council, which consists of all committee and ministry chairs, has had their first meeting of the new fiscal year (always the second Tuesday evening). Your Board had their first meeting on the 4th Tuesday. Committee reports and notes as well as approved Board minutes will be posted on the member's portion of our website this year, and Board minutes will be distributed to the Council before their final approval.

If you are a member and have not yet logged on to that section of our updated website, please do so! It will not only contain recordings of our services, but also important information about policies, governance, and assorted documents that every member should have access to. We will be enriching this portion of the website in the coming weeks and months. If you have any questions about the registration process for log-in, please see Beth Christiansen, our Office Administrator.

In this, my first message as your President, I want to call each of you to consider your involvement and support of BBUUC. The Reverend Kenn Hurto, our Lead Executive of the Southern Region, has asked "*Does the faith of our free church have a claim on our lives?*" I think that's a great question for us to ask ourselves as members! I like to think that we are all here working together to make our community happen because our free church DOES have a claim on our lives. What would your life be like if there were no BBUUC? How can we make our community as healthy and strong as it can be, and assure that it will be here for generations to come? We have a shared commitment to work together, a need to have high expectations of one another, and to invest in our church!

There are many ways to support your church. Obviously, financial support is crucial to our existence, but your engagement in the operations and works of the church is also essential. There are tasks such as providing hospitality on Sunday mornings...greeting and hosting refreshments, maintaining our building and grounds, supporting the work of our committees (whether as a member of a committee, or a volunteer for a committee project or event), teaching in our religious education program, and finally PARTICIPATING by *attending* services, events and activities. Getting to know the individuals in our community truly makes you feel more connected and invested in BBUUC.

In the September Journey, we will outline the various committees and ministries that carry out the Mission of BBUUC. That Mission is to offer "***a warm, diverse, and welcoming community that embraces intellectual and spiritual growth for all ages.***" One of my favorite young adults in our congregation (who shall remain anonymous) who was raised in the UU faith once told me in reference to making "church" happen, (paraphrased) "This 'stuff' ain't magic!" She's right... it's a combination of challenging but rewarding work, commitment, consistency, communication, community, spirituality, and most importantly LOVE. Making church happen might not be magic...but the results can be purely magical!

In love and faith,
Linda Mowers
BBUUC President

“Getting to Know You”

Welcome to our first month of Getting to Know You! We are honored to introduce our first new and long-standing members, Jay Rodriguez and Linda Mowers.

We are looking for new and long-standing members to interview for next month’s Getting to Know You column. If you are interested in participating, please speak with Gina Norstedt or Amber Rodriguez or email us at membership@bbuuc.org.



Jay W. Rodriguez,
New Member

Where are you originally from? *I was born in San Diego California but being a Navy kid I moved around a lot. Most of my youth was spent on the island of Oahu, Hawaii and La*

Madellena, Italy.

Do you have any kids? If so, how many? *I have one daughter, Leilani Kai, and two wonderful step-daughters, whom I consider mine, Courtney and Veronica. I also have a son from a previous marriage, Jay II.*

Celebrity you would like to have coffee with? *Currently it would be a toss-up between Kevin Smith and Jonathan Davis of Korn.*

Historical figure you would like to meet? *Also, a toss-up between Alexander the Great and Sun Tzu.*

Education: *I earned my G.E.D and am moving toward an A.S. in Criminal Justice.*

How long have you been a member of BBUUC? *About a week.*

Tell us one thing about yourself that would surprise us: *I enjoy studying serial killers and have recently started writing my own book about a serial killer.*

Linda Mowers,
Long-standing Member



Where are you originally from? *I was born at a US Marine Corps base in China Lake, California, but was only there and at Twenty-nine Palms until about 3 years old, then spent the rest of my childhood at Marine Bases in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina and Albany, Georgia. (I’m a Southern girl.) Whenever my father was at duty stations overseas, we lived with my Grandparents in eastern North Carolina, and when he retired in 1969, we moved to Atlanta, where I lived until coming to Jacksonville in 1979.*

Do you have any children? If so, how many? *I have one daughter, Sarah Johnson Ritzmann who is also a member of our church. Barry and I were married when she was 8 years old. Barry has five children from his first marriage, and they were already adults when we married...but we have four grandchildren by his daughters and one by Sarah – Judah, who also attends BBUUC.*

Education: *I was an art major at Clayton State College near Atlanta. I dropped out after two years to work full time and focus on getting my (then) husband through college. I continued my graphics training in corporate technical programs while working at two printing companies, my own graphic art business, and the corporate marketing department of a national trucking company before landing my current job.*

How long have you been a member of BBUUC? *I have been a member of BBUUC for 23+ years! I am one of the charter members who participated in the early preliminary meetings and the startup of our congregation.*

Tell us one thing about yourself that would surprise us: *Probably not too much about me that is a surprise, since I’m pretty open about myself and a bit of an extrovert. I am, however, a Whovian – and I’m not alone at BBUUC! (That’s a fan of Doctor Who, for all of you non-Whovians.)*

A New Affinity Group is Forming: Religious Texts and Society

Religious Texts and Society is for those of you who have an interest in the religious texts of the World's major religions, and how these texts have shaped societies and the modern world. We will pursue these topics on a bi-monthly basis, with each meeting being led by one or more group members on a topic announced in advance, so that members can prepare by reading on the topic. Initial emphasis will be on the **Bible**, but other texts, including but not limited to the **Koran**, will be addressed according to the interests of group members. The initial topic for the first meeting on Thursday, August 15th, at 7 p m at BBUUC will be "What Western Civilization owes the Jews". Suggested reading is **The Gifts of the Jews**, by Thomas Cahill. Participants may also suggest other readings for people to review prior to the first meeting. All interested parties within BBUUC are invited and welcome. Please address any questions to Dale Crawford or Scott Cromar.

About our August 4th speaker: Rev. Carmen Emerson is an ordained UU minister serving the UU Church of Meadville, Pennsylvania, a 188 year old Congregation nestled in the northwest corner of Pennsylvania. She believes Unitarian Universalism is a life-affirming, life-saving religion of heart and mind, and that we -- together -- are called to respond to the religious, spiritual and social needs of the 21st Century. She received her M.Div. from Andover Newton Theological School and served as associate minister at First Unitarian Church of Albuquerque, New Mexico following her ministerial internship there. She also served a ministerial intern at the UU Service Committee. Prior to entering ministry she managed the Orlando office of a bonds and securities law firm; collaborating with the support staff and her Haitian mentor there eventually led her to answer her call to ministry. Rev. Emerson writes, "I have a special fondness for this Buckman Bridge congregation and I am honored to worship with you again."

Faithful Choices in Healthcare

Faithful Choices is An Adult Program in Clinical Ethics and Religious Values, written by Wayne B. Arason for the UUA. "The goal of *Faithful Choices* is to enable participants to be more knowledgeable, responsible, assertive, and faithful health-care decision-makers." The eight sessions include discussions on privacy, treatment, end-of-life decision-making, and other topics. They will be facilitated by Ellen Miceli and Jack Ford on Thursday evenings in August and September from 7 to 9 pm., beginning August 8th. The class size will be held to 16 participants. Contact admin@bbuuc.org to register.



**Do you enjoy a hot
drink and a
good conversation?**

Coffee Conversations are coming this August! As a joint venture between the Lifespan Religious Education and Membership Committees, Coffee Conversations are meant to build community and educate our congregation simultaneously. Topics can, and will, range from items integral to being a UU, to current events, families, hot topics, and more. Coffee conversations will start at 9:45 and go about 30 minutes. ***Childcare and coffee will be provided!***

WWW.BBUUC.ORG

**I will meet the world
with open heart, open
mind, and open arms
and, in so doing, the
singular "I" shall be-
come "We".**

— Lee Richards, Universalist pastor

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.

August 4 Rev. Carmen Emerson will present "Living Together in the Gaze of Blessing"

Description: A reflection on six blessings of imperfection: empathy, sympathy, gratitude, creativity, grace and wisdom.

Led by Linda Mowers. Accompanied by Eileen Morrison.

This service will include an OWL Recognition.

Also, please note that there will be **NO PENNIES FROM HEAVEN** this Sunday 8/4.

August 11 Rev. Jack Ford will present "Getting Over It"? Trauma and Spiritual Growth

Description: "Every life has at least one crisis," I read recently. Certainly each of us knows someone who has been changed forever by some traumatic event. Our culture in recent years is dominated by fears of terror, murder, wars and destruction. No one is immune from the effects. Neurologist Robert Scaer even suggests that "all chronic ailments and most mental illness can be traced to trauma." How can we find spiritual growth and renewal amid life's suffering, angst, and ugliness?

Led by Debbie Jones. Accompanied by Amber Rodriguez

This service will include a Pennies From Heaven Collection to benefit Meals on Wheels.

August 18 BBUUC's General Assembly Delegates will present "We Could Be One"

Description: "This year at General Assembly in Louisville, Kentucky we were challenged to explore what exactly covenant is, and how it can help us live into our principles. We were asked how we could lean into our covenant and with our whole heart, while leaving room for the growing pains that come with covenanting with one another. Join us for our celebration of the larger faith, where we will explore how this years theme of covenant fits into our lives, both with one another inside of our congregation and with those outside of our congregational walls.

What is General Assembly? General Assembly is the largest annual gathering of Unitarian-Universalists. It is not just physical proof that we are not alone, but an affirming connection to the denomination at large, and a source of spiritual rejuvenation, and expansion.

Led by our Delegates. (Jeremy Ritzmann, Erik Slader, Joyce Johnson) Accompanied by Gary Smart.

This service will include the installation ceremony for our new Director of Religious Education, Dani Slader.

August 25 Rev. Billy Thomas will present "Attachment"

Description: Attachment or clinging is, in the teaching of the Buddha, the cause of our suffering. We cling to, or grasp and hold on to people, places and things, much of the time in order to preserve our selves. In this talk I would like to explore the difference between attachment and detachment, and attachment and genuine love. We could end our suffering and experience happiness and only the causes of happiness, by learning how to better appreciate and or love in ways that are unconditional.

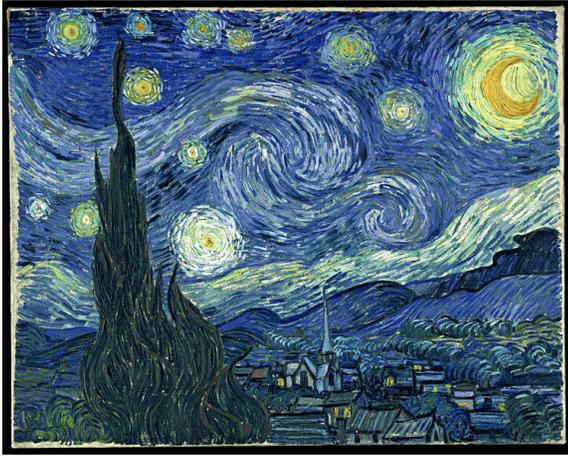
Led by Carol Waters. Accompanied by Marilyn Smart.

Reminder:
Every Sunday at
9:45am, Coffee
Conversations



August 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 9am Mem- bership Cmte 11:45am Social Action Cmte 12pm Teacher Training 12pm Facilities Cmte	5	6 7pm Public Relations Cmte	7 7pm BEACON 7pm CUUPS 7pm Visual Art and Spiritual- ity	8	9	10
11 12pm Caring Cmte 12pm RE- FUNdraising Mtg	12	13 7pm Council Meeting	14 11:30am Lunch Bunch 7pm BEACON 7pm CUUPS 7pm Visual Art and Spirituality 7pm How to Self Publish	15	16	17
18 Beginning of RE Year 12pm "Meet the Teach- ers"	19	20 7pm Worship Cmte 7pm Finance Cmte	21 6:30pm Com- fort Crafts 7pm BEACON 7pm Visual Art and Spiritual- ity	22	23 BEACON CON	24 BEACON CON
25 9am BBUUCF 9am Member- ship Cmte 12pm Parent FUNdraising Mtg	26	27 7pm Program Cmte 7pm Board Mtg	28 7pm BEACON 7pm Visual Art and Spiritual- ity	29	30	31



Can great art enrich your spiritual life?

Find out during our August series:

“**Spirituality and Visual Art**”.

We will explore great works of painting, drawing, and sculpture, from ancient Assyria to the late 20th century. These interactive sessions, led by Linda Crawford, will ask questions like : How can we experience a spiritual “moment “from a work of art ? What makes a work spiritual? Do the artist's intentions have anything to do with it?

The sessions will take place every Wednesday evening in August, from 7 ‘till 9 PM:

August 7: **Introduction:** What defines spirituality in terms of visual art?

August 14: **Compassion in art:** How does an artist demonstrate compassion?

August 21: **Vincent Van Gogh:** How did the artist manifest his spiritual beliefs in his paintings, and why do they elicit such a powerful response in many of us?

August 28: **The Natural World:** How do landscapes and intimate nature studies invoke a spiritual response in us? (This last session will be led with Nikki Bak, who teaches both art and art history)

Your discussion leader: Linda Crawford holds advanced degrees in Art History, and is a watercolorist.

Please sign up at church if you plan to attend this workshop, or contact admin@bbuuc.org.

The Journey

Newsletter of

Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church

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