



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



What is the water sharing ritual?

In September, the church year starts to fill up again. Everyone is home from summer travelling, kids are back

in school, and we are all settling in to the daily routines of fall. Each year UU churches all over the country invite everyone to bring a small bit of water from a memorable place they have visited.

During the Water Sharing Ritual, everyone has a chance to come up and pour their water into the communal bowl while sharing a memory of where the water came from. The bowl starts with a small amount of water from all our years of communion, symbolizing the sacred community that we have built together.

If you didn't collect any water, it's ok. Bring a small bit of water from home – we won't tell, if you don't tell! The water is a symbol. The memories are what weave us together into a church family.

Please join us on September 8th for our Water Sharing Ritual and Potluck. Bring a small jar of water, a memory, and a dish to share. Come and swirl the waters of our lives together!

Water Sharing Picnic

The Water-Sharing Potluck's theme this year is still the traditional picnic theme. Please bring your favorite picnic items to share. Sign up sheets will be available on the back table to reserve your choices. As usual for potlucks, we will need extra people to help with set-up and take-down on the day of the event.

Remember that warming space in the oven is at a premium. If you have food that needs to be kept warm, we suggest bringing a warmer, heating pad, or other devices. Same goes for cooling space. Coolers or ice buckets are an excellent idea to ensure your delicious food stays safe. If you are bringing a specialty food such as vegan dishes, please mark them well so they go on the special table reserved for those who have special needs.

A Note on Joys and Concerns *from the Worship Committee*

As you know, our congregation is growing. One of the resulting challenges is that the current Joys & Concerns format is increasingly unwieldy.

To improve your worship service, we hope to find paths toward:

- Sharing by those who prefer not to appear/speak before the congregation;
- More inclusive of different personalities and levels of involvement in our community;
- More appropriate sharing;
- More comfortable transitions between different types of sharing;
- Less overall time consumption;
- More predictable time for Teen RE;
- Correct use of microphone so that ALL are audible.

For 6 weeks, beginning October 5, we will be experimenting with new formats. The first two weeks, we will write our J&Cs on paper to be read by the chaplain. The next 2 weeks, we will remain seated and share with cordless mics. For the final 2 weeks, we will share at the close of the service, at the altar.

Lunch Bunch

Wednesday, **September 11th** 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!

Faithful Choices

An Adult Program in Clinical Ethics and Religious Values, written by Wayne B. Arnason 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 September and October from 7 to 9 pm., beginning August 8th. The class size will be held to 16 participants. Contact Beth Christiansen at admin@bbuuc.org to register.

"Love of truth will bless the lover all his days" -
Theodore Parker, Unitarian minister



Fellowship Hosts

Sept 1	Valerie Bouffard
Sept 8	Water Sharing Potluck
Sept 15	Teri Booth, David Kattreh and Bernie Powers
Sept 22	Sandie Brito
Sept 29	BEACON



Greeters/Ushers

Sept 1	Madeline Sims
Sept 8	Craig Stoops
Sept 15	David Kattreh and Bernie Powers
Sept 22	Volunteers Needed
Sept 29	Volunteers Needed



Board Hosts

Sept 1	Erik Slader
Sept 8	Carol Waters
Sept 15	Eileen Morrison
Sept 22	Ron Rothberg
Sept 29	Dale Crawford



BIRTHDAYS

09/03	Beth Christiansen
09/04	Ann Marie Shrader
09/07	Reid Murphy
09/07	Pedro Roiné
09/09	Ingrid Strickland
09/14	David Christenson
09/14	Linda Gillespie-Marina
09/17	Eileen Morrison
09/18	Rich Toupin
09/19	Ella Rothberg
09/19	Bob Wright
09/20	Kory Kines
09/21	Lisa Lynch
09/27	Tye Rothberg
09/27	Myrna Kissinger
09/30	Martha Morgan



Anniversaries

09/05	David & Joyce Johnson
09/07	David & Peg Christenson
09/09	Otto & Melinda Rafuse
09/15	David Dean & Liz Teal
09/28	Debbie Atkins & Rich Toupin



Beloved Member, Lori Pierce

Lori Pierce was born on Vinalhaven, Maine on October 2, 1926. She transitioned from this world on September 20th, 2013.

She graduated from art school in Boston in 1944 and was a professional artist and de-

signer ever since -- although it took many forms, including a detour back to school to become a librarian. (She helped set up the first children’s branch library on Beacon Hill in Boston and later became the Librarian for the Vinalhaven Public Library.) She attended Harvard and Georgia Tech but never put these credits into a degree, as she always considered the knowledge and its applications as more important than the piece of paper. (Her daughter once watched her mother tear up that Boston art school diploma!) She did, however, go on to write one of the first manuals for utilizing clay and ceramics in a therapeutic setting, and worked as an occupational therapist (and an art therapist, before that was a category of employment).

As a little girl, her earliest memories were of digging clay from Carver's Harbor in Vinalhaven, making things with it and baking them in her grandmother's wood stove. Her love was always dimensional art. Her work includes such varied projects as being present at the first organ transplants as an artistic documentarian and creator of instructional materials, to sculpting tiles to enhance buildings from Florida to California. It took her to wonderful, wonderful experiences in wondrous exciting places. Lori is survived by her daughter, The Reverend Elizabeth Teal; her grandson, Joshua Patrick Dean; her siblings, Patricia Nick, Robin Adair and Linda Pierce; her nieces, Tiffany Concholo and Autumn Adair- Huang; her nephews, Hiram, Ian and Owen Adair; and many, many friends.

She was a member of the Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church in Jacksonville, Florida.

There will be a **Celebratory Tea in Memory of the Life of Lori Pierce** On **Saturday, September 14 from 2:30 to 5 PM**. It will be a **finger food Pot Luck** and there will be **word games and clay** at every table.

A Story of Two Children and a Wishing Star

By Emily (Ringgold) Swopes

A few years ago, I tucked my children into bed and retreated to the living room, where I overheard a conversation between them that broke my heart. Little 3 year old Bella asked her big brother, “Allen, when will my wish come true?” Taking the matter of wish-making very seriously, 5 year old Allen peered out the window. “Well, that *is* a wishing star,” he confirmed. “What did you ask for?” Bella replied, “A puppy...and a Dad.”

Shortly thereafter, I came to work for Florida Blue and met the man who would quickly become my best friend and eventually my husband. On June 18th, the final judgment was issued approving our petition for Stepparent Adoption and big sister Glori’s adoption is in the works, too.

Please join me in wishing a Happy Belated Father’s Day to my amazing husband, Ronnie – the man of my dreams and my baby girl’s innocent wish-upon-a-star come true.

PS – No word regarding the puppy as yet, but I heard a rumor that the Star forwarded Bella’s request to Santa for consideration. ;-)



Please join us also in wishing congratulations to Emily and Ronnie Swopes ! They celebrated their wedding here at BBUUC on August 3rd—the first wedding BBUUC has been privileged to host!

BBUUC balance sheet comparison of the last two fiscal years

	30-Jun-12	30-Jun-13	Difference
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Checking/Savings	\$ 35,229.78	\$ 41,584.00	\$ 6,354.22
Accounts Receivable	\$ -	\$ (100.00)	\$ (100.00)
Other current assets	\$ 50,012.52	\$ 52,328.62	\$ 2,316.10
Total current assets	\$ 85,242.30	\$ 93,812.62	\$ 8,570.32
Total Fixed assets	\$1,009,574.17	\$1,009,225.47	\$ 348.70
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,094,467.77	\$1,103,386.79	\$ 8,919.02
LIABILITIES & EQUITY			
Total liabilities	\$359,403.08	\$320,953.70	\$(38,449.38)
Equity			
Retained earnings	\$703,010.43	\$735,064.69	\$32,054.26
Net income	\$ 32,054.26	\$ 47,368.40	\$15,314.14
Total Equity	\$735,064.69	\$782,433.09	\$47,368.40
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$1,094,467.77	\$1,103,386.79	\$8,919.02

Treasurer's Column

As your treasurer, I have a number of jobs. Two of the most important of these duties are to watch over our church's financial health and to communicate the details of our financial health to our congregation and leadership, and to do so in as transparent a manner as possible. My goal with this and future communications is to report the financial facts to you, and to offer to be your resource if you have any questions concerning the financial operations of our church. By sharing a common understanding of this information, BBUUC can become stronger and we will all share in the partnership of a fiscally strong organization.

Before I became treasurer, I believed that BBUUC, while not flush, was in sound financial health. After all, we had just built a building and had what I understood to be cash left over and an adequate revenue stream. However, I have been quite surprised to find out our financial health is a good bit short of sound. Let me try to explain how I came to this conclusion.

First, let's look at our current fiscal year. Our pledge drive for fiscal year 2013-2014 resulted in pledges that were \$10,712 short of our overall requested pledges for the current year – short of the amount of money that we assumed would be pledged as the basis of the new fiscal year's budget. Unless we collect about \$11,000 more than we expect to collect, or we spend about \$11,000 less than we have planned to, or some combination thereof, **we won't break even this next year**. This shortfall could be met by a donation of an additional \$77 per adult member, or about \$3 per week per adult attendee for the remaining Sundays in this fiscal year. I know that BBUUC has tread very lightly in the past about asking for money, but the church needs more funds **just to break even**, not to mention to acquire **additional parking, better chairs**, and any number of other things that would improve our experience here at BBUUC.

(Continued from page 4)

A second perspective can be gained through a comparison of the balance sheets of the previous two fiscal years. Referring to Table 1 below, you will see that our assets only increased by about \$9,000 over the last fiscal year. Our “net income” of about \$47,000 for last fiscal year is almost entirely due to the about \$38,000 decrease in liabilities. This decrease in liabilities also contains a windfall of about \$14,000, from one very generous mortgage holder who forgave our debt. This decrease in liabilities appears as an increase in income due to the magic of double entry bookkeeping.

While our financial health does not put us in intensive care, it falls short of promising us the sound health needed for a healthy, active future. Should you wish further information, please contact me.

As Mary Chapin Carpenter said, “the stars may lie but the numbers never do”.

Dale M Crawford, treasurer@bbuuc.org
904-291-2708

Understanding the Bible

*Wednesday evenings, 7-9 PM, Sept. 18 –
Oct. 16, 2013*

Led by Dr. Kenneth Christiansen

The discussions of this group will be based on the book *Understanding the Bible: An Introduction for Skeptics, Seekers, and Religious Liberals*, by John Buehrens. John Buehrens is a former president of the Unitarian Universalist Association (1993-2001). The book is readily available from the UUA Bookstore or Amazon.com. Anyone is welcome to attend. Please sign up with the church administrator or on a sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary so we will know how many copies of handouts to prepare.

The five sessions this fall will cover the topics and pages in the book listed below. In addition, the introductory chapters, pp. 3-38, on Reasons, Traditions, Versions and Interpretations, will provide a helpful orientation to the approach of the book and our discussions. In four sessions last spring we covered additional themes in the Hebrew Bible.

Standing assignment for EVERY SESSION (IN ADDITION TO SUGGESTED READINGS): Notice references to the Bible in what you read, hear, or see (TV, movies, newspapers, novels) during the week before each session. Share your observations with the group.

September 18: FROM THE HEBREW BIBLE: EXALTATIONS AND FRUSTRATIONS—PSALMS, THE WISDOM LITERATURE, AND JOB. Suggested Homework for Session One: Read the chapters

on “Exaltations” and “Frustrations” in *Understanding the Bible: An Introduction for Skeptics, Seekers, and Religious Liberals*, by John H. Buehrens, pp 84-107. Optional: Choose one psalm that you find particularly meaningful. Be ready to share that psalm with the group (part or all of it) and tell why you selected it.

September 25: FROM THE CHRISTIAN BIBLE: PROCLAMATIONS AND PASSIONS (PART ONE)—THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS. Suggested Homework for Session Two: Read “Proclamations” and “Passions” in *Understanding the Bible*, pp 141-159.

October 2: PASSIONS (PART TWO) AND RESURRECTIONS—THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS. Suggested Homework for Session Three: Review pp. 156–59 about “Passions” and read “Resurrections” pp. 160-168 in *Understanding the Bible*.

October 9: INCARNATIONS AND SALVATIONS—THE GOSPEL OF JOHN AND THE LETTERS OF PAUL. Suggested Homework for Session Four: Read pp. 169-186, “Incarnations” and “Salvations,” in *Understanding the Bible*. If you have time, read the entire letter to the Galatians (it is short).

October 16: REVELATIONS—THE JOURNEY CONTINUES . . . Suggested Homework for Session Five: Read pp. 187-196, “Revelations,” in *Understanding the Bible*.

About our September 22nd speaker

Lee Weaver is a retired United Methodist clergyman whose thoughts and beliefs have necessarily changed over the many years since his ordination. "Paul", he says, "taught that we should put aside our childish ways and strive for a more mature understanding of the salvation journey". He describes himself as an RCA, which he will explain on Sept. 22.

Reverend Weaver speaks at about 30 churches a year. He says it is a tightrope kind of presentation, not offending the traditional church attenders, while at the same time trying to reach the more theologically adventurous who are "reading between the lines".

Lee is also a playwright and an actor. He has just recently completed a play about homelessness entitled "The Box." It is now in production for a November premier. His most recently performed work is *The Secret - The Spanish Inquisition in Old St. Augustine*, a play about religious intolerance. You may also have seen him as Don Quixote in *Man of La Mancha* at The Limelight Theatre in St. Augustine, or in his original One Person Shows, *Piercing the Darkness* (The St. Augustine Story as told by three Lighthouse Keepers. He plays all three!) and *Three Men of the Bible* (2000 performances). He resides in St. Augustine with his wife, Nanette.

The Mountain for SUUFI – Southern Unitarian Universalist Fall Institute – October 7-11.

The morning workshops will be led by Michael Dowd and Connie Barlow, international presenters who have created stimulating workshops about the "Connection between the Sacred and Science." Other activities include workshops on photography and healing touch, exploration of local falls or the Bascom Arts Center, evening entertainment, talent shows or singing around the campfire. In addition, there are opportunities to walk the outdoor labyrinth, check out the organic farm (large garden and chickens), hike in the mountains, relax on the deck or climb the tower, and much more.

For this five-day multi-faceted programming, four nights lodging, great meals, stimulating fellowship, and breathtaking views of fall colors in the mountains, the cost is \$440.

For more information, check out the SUUFI website at www.suufi.org or The Mountain website at www.mountaincenters.org. The program info would be in The Mountain Calendar webpage.

For more information about this special event or possible transportation, please contact Beverly Cree. Beth, our office administrator has her contact information available.

From The Director of Religious Education

Howdy Church Folks,

The new Religious Education year kicked off on the 18th with a group of amazing children and dedicated teachers. The 18th also kicked off the implementation of our new child protection policy. Part of this policy requires that all children in Religious Education be registered by filling out the registration form (located on Yahoo Groups, and Facebook under files). We are asking that parents return these forms by the Water Sharing Service on September the 8th. We have copies available in the office at church if you would like to fill one out the next time you are in the building.

In other R. E. related news our church has partnered with the Gainesville Fellowship to offer OWL (Our Whole Lives) to the middle and high school age groups. Classes will be held one as one weekend lock in a month from January to May, and the location will alternate between Jacksonville and Gainesville. We will be having a parents meeting in October where parents will be able to ask questions and meet the teachers from both churches.

I would like to close this month by asking you to consider with me the fourth principle- "A Free and Responsible Search for Truth and Meaning." In our children's classes we explain this as "We promise to Grow by Exploring what is true and right in life." Earlier this year I was asked by someone unfamiliar with the Unitarian Universalist church what the point of R.E. was in our faith. I pointed to this promise. In our lives and especially in our Religious Education classes we endeavor together to find what is true and right. It is the exploration of these questions: "What is good, what is true, what is right?" that drives many of us on our journey throughout our Unitarian Universalist lives. As DRE I look forward to exploring the many paths of our congregation's children, and I'm privileged to be traveling the journey with all of you.

With Hope,

Dani Slader

"Each of us is meant to have a character all our own, to be what no other can exactly be, and to do what no other can exactly do."

William Ellery Channing, Unitarian minister

“Getting to Know UU”

Welcome to our second month of Getting to Know You! We are honored to introduce our first new and long-standing members, Lee Plumb and Ron Ferster.

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 helping us out, please speak with Gina Norstedt or Amber Rodriguez or email us at membership@bbuuc.org.



**Lee Plumb,
New Member**

Where are you originally from?

Don't tag me or study my habitat, but I'm a native of Jacksonville.

Do you have any kids? If so, how many? *I have 3 Daughters and 6 grandchildren. Tuesday is the eldest and my informal adoptee.*

Merri is my "middle" and she's the one who brought Tuesday home like a little girl with a lost puppy trailing behind her. They've been

inseparable. Susan is my youngest. Only Tuesday lives in the area. Merri is in Denver and Susan is in San Diego. Each has a boy and girl for me to spoil.

Education: *Some college, licensed realtor, cosmetologist, and minister*

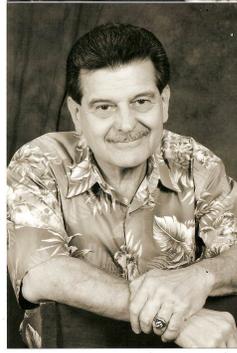
Favorite Season? Why? *I don't have a favorite. I love them all in their turn and for their own special properties.*

Celebrity you would like to have coffee with? *Ellen DeGeneres.*

Historical figure you would like to meet? *Hatshepsut, the most successful female Pharaoh. Now that they finally found her mummy and know how she died, I'd like to ask her what happened after she renounced the throne in favor of her stepson and disappeared from history. Did she have that love affair with Senenmut, the brilliant architect/poet/priest? Was she really a member of the secret society of The God's Wives, as Zahi Hawaas speculates?*

How long have you been a member of BBUUC? *Less than a year.*

Tell us one thing about yourself that would surprise us: *Many people know this, but I'm a published author. That's not a surprise. What does surprise people is what I write--erotic paranormal romance. My pseudonym is Lena Austin.*



**Ron Ferster, Long
Standing Member**

Where are you originally from? *Originally from Buffalo, New York, been a Mandarin, Jacksonville Floridian for past 18+ years.*

What do you want to be when you grow up? *Still growing wiser, more compassionate, understanding and more cautious.*

Education: *I was educated in advertising design at the University of Buffalo, served in the US Navy as an illustrator on the Admiral's staff*

and Public Information Office; served as a Petty Officer in the Navy and, simultaneously, as a commissioned Second Lieutenant in the Rhode Island, Newport Artillery Company historical command of the US Army (this caused quite a stir with my USN Commanding officer, LoL). Upon USN honorable discharge, I completed my education at Rochester Institute of Technology.

Occupation: *After working as a technical illustrator, design artist, copywriter, and art Director at ad agencies, I opened my own agency in Western New York and Toronto, Canada, specializing in Business to Business, Industrial, Technical Advertising and Marketing for North American, European, and Asian firms. I developed and coined the phrase, "Visual Protocol," meaning the perception and interpretation of visual message by cultures other than our own. There is a series of articles, titled "As they see it," which I published as a political cartoonish and satirist.*

Historical figure you would like to meet? *If he were alive today..Mark Twain. I did meet then President Kennedy when I was in the Navy.*

How long have you been a member of BBUUC? *13 years.*

Tell us one thing about yourself that would surprise us: *In 1983 had an audience with the King of Thailand in his Bangkok, Palace.*

Calling all Writers!

Almost everyone has a story to tell. Self publishing has become so easy and so reasonably priced that you can get your book in front of the reading public quickly and with a minimum of fuss. We will be holding four monthly sessions, the next one on September 11, to explore how to take advantage of reasonably priced self-publishing options and make your book available to a global audience. Along the way, we will discuss some of the pitfalls and opportunities that you might see during the self-publishing process.

CHURCHWORKS

— Linda Mowers, BBUUC President

Our new church year is getting into full swing with our Religious Education program kicking off on the 18th of August, our new Council and Board completing their second meeting(s), and activities blossoming. I want to make sure that all of our members, friends and newcomers are aware of the various committees and ministries that do the work of the church and help us to achieve our mission. Here is a summary of each of those parts that make up the “skeleton” of our congregation. Won’t you consider serving as a member of one of these important groups? If you are unable to make a commitment to serve as a member of a committee or ministry, then DO consider volunteering your services for a special task or project that they coordinate or sponsor! Speak to the appropriate chair about either level of service!

COMMITTEES

Caring

Frances Kennicutt and Myrna Kissinger, Co-Chairs
caring@bbuuc.org

Provides supportive services to members of BBUUC as needed . . . fosters a greater sense of community through shared ministry, encourages and facilitates caring for each other through times of crisis as well as celebration.

Communications/Public Relations

Jeremy Ritzmann, Chair
Pr_communications@bbuuc.org

Assists the congregation in the creation of PR materials, such as branded items, brochures, etc; develops and maintains technologies such as email, web, social media, etc; prepares and releases public communications; and grows healthy and effective communication strategies.

Facilities

David Christenson, Chair
facilities@bbuuc.org

Provides care and maintenance of our building and grounds. This includes oversight of building modifications, improvements, aesthetics, safety and security, and audio/video setup and operations. The committee strives for good stewardship of utility use and promotes “green” practices.

Finance

Tophor Christiansen, Chair
finance@bbuuc.org

Enhances and preserves the financial health of the congregation. Provides a system of checks and balances with the Treasurer, and has a role in establishing controls, managing investments, budgeting, and accounting for actual expenditures. The Finance Committee manages the annual Pledge Drive or Canvass, and they also oversee fund-raising activities and capital campaigns.

Hospitality

Peg Christenson and Lee Plumb, Co-Chairs
hospitality@bbuuc.org

Fosters and encourages a warm, open community through fellowship and celebration. They are responsible for operating and supplying the kitchen and providing support for BBUUC events and celebrations. The Sunday morning post-service fellowship hour is organized by this committee, who utilizes volunteers as hosts.

Lifespan Religious Education

Chris Jarman, Chair and Dani Slader, Director of R.E.
Religious_ed@bbuuc.org

Provides children, youth, and adults with meaningful non-doctrinal religious education that makes a positive difference in their lives and encourages them to:

- focus on and acknowledge the spiritual part of life
- develop a foundation of knowledge of spirituality, ethics, and reasoning
- develop their own religious and spiritual paths

Membership

Gina Norstedt and Amber Rodriguez, Co-Chairs
membership@bbuuc.org

Promotes membership in our congregation by fostering relationships and building community through hospitality and spreading knowledge of our church and Unitarian Universalism. To be welcoming and inclusive to friends of the community, we foster a sense of belonging to create an ever-expanding, healthy congregation with an open and inviting path to membership.

Program

Kris Kines, Chair
programs@bbuuc.org

Coordinates extended programming (beyond Sunday Worship) and building use. Reviews current and new applications for programming and sets the schedule in accordance with our program policies. The committee works closely with the Office Administrator and also coordinates arrangements with Facilities, Hospitality and Lifespan Religious Education. They also receive input from the Board and Council when needed. The committee strives for a well-rounded schedule of programs/classes that serves the needs of the congregation.

Social Action

Nancy Murrey-Settle, Chair
social_action@bbuuc.org

Serves as a coordinating committee that selects and actively supports social justice projects, while encouraging participation by all church members, as we jointly serve as a beacon for social justice and activism in our community, state and nation.

Worship

Linda Crawford and Sarah Ritzmann, Co-Chairs
worship@bbuuc.org

Schedules and develops the content for Sunday morning worship services. Selects and schedules speakers, as well as the team of worship leaders. Coordinates accompanists and musicians, and provides regular training for worship leaders.

(continued from page 8)

MINISTRIES

A Ministry at BBUUC is created as a special outreach needed in order to fulfill the spiritual needs and support a specific identity group who may not have their needs met by our conventional programs and services. Ministries create a space and provide resources for building a community of spiritual depth, encouragement, and inclusion.

Beacon

William Cromar and Jillian Christiansen, Co-Chairs
Joshua Dean, Council Rep.

beacon@bbuuc.org

A Youth Community within the Florida District which offers ages 12-20 the elements of community building, spirituality, learning, social action, youth empowerment, leadership and good youth-adult relations. This ministry meets weekly at the church and also attends a schedule of conferences (called CONS) around the district with Beacon groups from other congregations. They are self-governed and are represented on the Council by an elected representative, in addition to their elected co-chairs.

Young Adults (BBUUYA)

Staci Cologero & Ariel Cook, Co-Chairs

bbuuya@bbuuc.org

Young adults between the ages of 18 and 35 who meet to help each other move through transitions and articulate their hopes and needs. Young adults represent a tremendous opportunity to expand our faith's ministry through new approaches, forms and identities. BBUUYA holds regular meetings and Sunday lunch gatherings. They also schedule social gatherings and denominational activities. Campus Ministry is also under the Young Adult umbrella, and BBUUC is recognized as an Anchor Congregation by the UUA for its commitment to Young Adult Ministry.

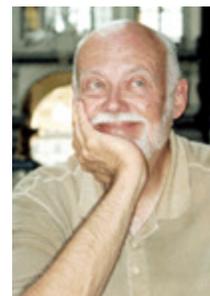
Welcoming Congregation Ministry (LGBTQ Concerns)

David Kattreh, Chair

Lgbtq_welcoming@bbuuc.org

A ministry with a mission to be welcoming and inclusive of people with marginalized sexual orientations and gender identities. This ministry developed from the Welcoming Congregation Program that was launched in the 1990's by the UUA out of an understanding that widespread prejudices and ignorance about lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) people existed within Unitarian Universalism. BBUUC participated in the program, and was officially designated as a Welcoming Congregation in 2009. This ministry nurtures the ongoing efforts of BBUUC to remain inclusive.

Committees and Ministries are the vehicles for us to accomplish our mission, both within the congregation and in the community that we aim to serve. Committees engage you in the work of the congregation, and are great ways to channel your individual talents and qualities into our church's common work. Committees and ministries are also a great way to make personal connections, and to develop leaders! I encourage you to visit a meeting of the committee or ministry that may interest you, and speak to its chair(s) for more details. It's important to find the right match for a more nourishing and fulfilling experience.



**Buckman Bridge Unitarian
Universalist Church**

**Cordially invites you to attend
Two Solo Piano Programs**

With Commentary

Presented by

Dr. Gary Smart

Sunday, September 15

from 2-3 p.m.

Featuring works by

Bach-Busoni and

Beethoven

and

Sunday, September 22

from 2-3 p.m.

Featuring works by

Chopin, Ravel and

Kreisler-Rachmaninoff

***A Reception will immediately
follow each program.***

***Thinking about becoming a Member of BBUUC
or just want to know more about us? Then Join us
for our Newcomer's Class in September!***

The Newcomer's class will be held on three consecutive Wednesdays from 7-9 PM on September 11th, 18th & 25th. In this 3 week class we'll explore our own personal journeys, Unitarian & Universalist history as well as our own church's history & governance.

A babysitter will be available upon request. There are sign-up sheets on the Welcome Ambassador's table or you can e-mail us at membership@bbuuc.org.

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.

September 1: Reverend Pat Ray will present: *“Unitarian Universalism: Salvation To Damnation?”*

Unitarian Universalists are not Christian in the sense of requiring creedal belief for salvation. While congregations vary widely, all UUA member congregations covenant to affirm and promote an agreed set of seven principles. None of these principles speak to salvation though in the common understanding.

Led by: **Linda Mowers** • Accompanied by: **Marilyn Smart**

9:45am Coffee Conversations: Chris Jarman will facilitate *“How We Labor”*

September 8: Reverend Jack Ford will present *“Water Under the Bridge: How our benign neglect for water may be drowning us. ”*

Jack says: “I grew up in the springs and sink holes, lakes and rivers, ‘borrow pits’ and puddles of Florida. Twenty years ago my brother and I could drive across a lonely pasture in central Florida, strap on a tank, and dive into the deep, clear waters of our amazing aquifer. And Silver Springs was the crown jewel among those mystical waters, a first-magnitude spring discharging more than 550 million gallons of water a day! As a child I enjoyed our family trips to ride glass-bottomed boats and watch pyramids of water skiers.

Today, our misguided illusion of endless cascades of pure, clean water is costing us dearly. Florida’s finest gift of life is drying up: polluted, choked and smothering in a sea of mistakes and abuse. Let not this water flow under our Buckman Bridge unnoticed.”

Led by: **Amber Rodriguez** • Accompanied by: **Gary Smart**

This service will include our annual ingathering/water sharing.

9:45am Coffee Conversations: Sarah Ritzmann will facilitate *“How We Worship”*

September 15: Reverend Lee Weaver will present *“How to get to Heaven(?)”*

Lee will speak about "crossing over to the other side," suggesting the process is like that of a child crossing at a busy intersection.

Led by: **David Dean** • Accompanied by: **Eileen Morrison**

9:45 Coffee Conversations: Karen Christiansen will facilitate *“Strategies for Resilience: setting meaningful goals”*

September 22: Ron Rothberg will present *“Music and Meaning”*

“Artists - musicians, painters, writers, poets, always seem to have had the most accurate perception of what is really going on around them, not the official version or the popular perception of contemporary life.” -[Billy Joel](#)

Back by popular demand, Ron Rothberg and members of the congregation will share their stories about music and the power it has to transform our lives. Join us to hear music and stories about the songs that bring meaning to our lives.

Led by: **Ron Rothberg** • Accompanied by: **Sydney Crisp**

9:45am Coffee Conversations: Rev. Liz Teal will facilitate *“Conversation on Ethical Eating, a UUA Social Action Issue*

September 29: Linda Crawford will present: *“The Wisdom of Age”*

What can we learn from the older members of our congregation? How has their upbringing, their life experiences, and their spirit influenced who they are? Linda has woven together interviews with many of her BBUUC friends to present life lessons for all of us.

Led by: **Ann Marie Shrader** • Accompanied by: **Gary Smart**

9:45am Coffee Conversations: Rev. Pat Ray will facilitate *“Hot Topics”*



September 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 9:45am Coffee Conversations 11:45am Social Action Cmte</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 7pm PR Cmte</p>	<p>4 7pm BEACON</p>	<p>5 7pm Faithful Choices</p>	<p>6 Beacon Con (@ BBUUC)</p>	<p>7 Beacon Con (@ BBUUC)</p>
<p>8 9:45am Coffee Conversations 12pm Caring Cmte 12pm Water-sharing Potluck</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 7pm Council</p>	<p>11 11:30 Lunch Bunch 7pm BEACON 7pm CUUPS 7pm Newcomer Class 7pm How to Self Publish</p>	<p>12 7pm Faithful Choices</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 2:30pm Celebratory Tea in honor of Lori Pierce's life</p>
<p>15 9:45am Coffee Conversations 12pm Auction and Services Meeting 2pm Gary Smart in concert</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 7pm Worship Cmte 7pm Finance Cmte</p>	<p>18 6:30pm Comfort Crafts 7pm BEACON 7pm Newcomer Class 7pm Understanding the Bible II</p>	<p>19 7pm Faithful Choices</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 9am Membership Cmte 9am BBUUCF 9:45am Coffee Conversations 2pm Gary Smart In concert</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 7pm Program Cmte 7pm Board</p>	<p>25 7pm BEACON 7pm Newcomer Class 7pm Understanding the Bible II 7pm CUUPS 7pm BBUUYA</p>	<p>26 7pm Faithful Choices</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 9am FUNd-raiser Meeting 9:45am Coffee Conversations 12pm Sunday Sundaes 12pm Facilities</p>	<p>30</p>					

BBUUC Goods and Service Auction Event Planners Needed!

Goods and service auctions are popular fundraising and FUN-raising events among many UU churches in our denomination. They are often the biggest fundraiser of the year, in addition to the annual pledge drive, generating lots of cash and sociability. They can be casual gatherings or big, festive events, including dinner and other kinds of entertainment. The auction itself is great entertainment, as bidding wars often ensue, and many surprises are in store with the items that are offered for auction. We have had very successful goods and service auctions at BBUUC, some of which helped us get into our building – but it's been a few years since we've taken on this kind of project and there is no better time to resurrect such an event! We have a current budget deficit as well as the need to fund our future needs and ministries.

A Goods and Service Auction includes quality items and services that are donated by members and friends of the congregation, and also by local business that donate services and items as well. Services of value are offered such as child care, vacation get-aways, dinner parties, outings, exclusive tours, wellness services, home improvement services, pet care, music lessons, swimming lessons, yoga lessons, etc. People can get very creative with their dona-

tions! Quality items are donated which might include art objects, jewelry, antiques, tickets, wines, etc.

To get the ball rolling, I would like to invite those of you who would be interested in working on the auction planning team to meet with me for an exploratory meeting on Sunday, September 15 at noon in the middle school room.

I will be looking for volunteers to head up the team, and for workers to help with all of the phases of the Auction. It takes a good team of enthusiastic folks to put together a successful auction. It's a lot of work, but also a lot of fun and quite rewarding and helpful in getting our resources back in the black and moving toward making our community financially healthy one.

Don't hesitate to email or call me with any questions, or a heads-up that you wish to join the planning team. I'm predicting that we'll all have some great bidding fun in 2014!

In love and faith,

Linda Mowers

BBUUC Board President

The Journey

Newsletter of
Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church
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