



# The Journey

The Newsletter of the  
Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church  
 *A Welcoming Congregation*



MAY 2014

## 2014 Teen Enrichment Trip: Trail of Tears

This June 7-14, the youth from BBUUC will join the youth from the University Unitarian Universalist Society on a Teen Enrichment Trip to examine the history of the Trail of Tears. The trip will include historically significant sites in Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee.

During the trip, participants will learn about the history of racial inequity in US society that led to the persecution of Native Americans, especially in the Southeast. Along the way, they will also learn about the role that Unitarian Universalists have played in standing up for the oppressed.

The trip will include stops at several historically significant landmarks:

- Museum of the Cherokee Nation
- Trail of Tears Photography Exhibit
- The Warriors of Aui Kitukwa
- Oconaluftee Indian Village
- Junalaska Museum and Gravesite
- Old Echota
- The Lost Sea
- Red Clay Visitors' Center
- Ruby Falls
- New Echota
- Chief Vann House State Historic Site
- Chieftains' Museum

For more information about the trip, please contact Dani Slader at [dre@bbuuc.org](mailto:dre@bbuuc.org).

**UUA 2014 General Assembly  
Providence Rhode Island  
June 25-June 29**

Visit <http://www.uua.org/ga/> for more information.  
If you are going to GA, please let us know!

## BBUUC Supports the Earth

The BBUUC Social Action Committee organized the efforts of several volunteers to represent our church's community at Jacksonville's Earth Day activities on April 19 at the Landing. The BBUUC booth was very popular. Besides distributing literature and answering questions about our community, the volunteers distributed 200 bird feeder kits to an estimated 500 visitors in the first three hours.

Even after the bird feeder kits had all been distributed, volunteers reported that several visitors had a lively interest in the emphasis Unitarian Universalism places on protecting the environment. Brochures and bookmarks were provided, and children were invited to draw earth related pictures on the paper tablecloth. Be sure to check out the art work in the RE hallway. See if you can find the drawings from our own BBUUC youth, Leah and Kennedy, who visited the activities in the rain!

Many hands contributed to making the bird feeder kits, registering and staffing the booth. Our thanks to volunteers, including the CUUPS group and Valerie Bouffard, Ken and Karen Christiansen, Lisa and Scott Cromar, Marv Kramer, Rev. Pat Ray, Sarah Ricke, Jeremy Ritzmann, Trish Shephard, Rev. Liz Teal and other assorted supporting hands.

Volunteers:  
Ken, Karen  
and Lisa



BBUUC  
distributed items  
for making a bird  
feeder like the  
one above



Volunteers from CUUPS:  
Trish, Sarah and Lisa

# CHURCHWORKS

We are a caring community. We come together to share our lives and our values. In this sharing, we create a sense of community and within that, we are invited to take an active role in church life. We participate in learning or teaching, we volunteer for a church activity or service need, we try new experiences, share our stories, and hopefully we have some fun and fellowship along the way. This is how we grow individually, as a community, and as a church.

There is much to be proud of at BBUUC, and we will be lifting up and celebrating these gifts in the coming weeks, with meetings, social gatherings, celebrations and recognitions. The success of our church takes many hands. We are most grateful to our members and friends who share their time, expertise, energy, talent and treasure.

Our recent pledge drive has resulted in an upturn of financial support, and our canvass has given us deeper connections and understanding of those who comprise our community—ensuring that all are heard and that we can find a more inclusive sense of direction as work together in the evolution of our vision, our purpose, and our future.

We've come through a stressful time of building and establishing a new church home. We have taken on tremendous fiscal responsibilities, and have experienced the various stages of transition to be expected...letting go of things that we've had in the past (endings)...spending time in that neutral zone which often contains discomfort and disenchantment...and arriving at the "beginnings" stage: discovering and visioning something that we may not have even imagined before. We are on the threshold!

It's a given that there will be conflict in this complex system we call a congregation. But if we hold close to our covenant—our promise to each other to practice loving kindness in the midst of disagreement—we can use that energy to create a stronger community. We can work to find improvements and new ways to be together, while treasuring the past and the progress we've made.

I challenge you all to hold tight to our beloved congregation—through the good times and the less-than-good times. Aren't we fortunate (and blessed) to have one another, and to share this liberal religious sanctuary in a world that can be more than just a challenge, a place that doesn't always make it easy to be our true selves?

Join us for our annual meeting this month and in the work, activities and events of our church in the coming months ahead. We are a sum of the parts...bitter and sweet, light and dark...and all of the shades of grey in between. Let's continue to listen to one another, and to come to know what matters most in the work we do together. Let's collectively light our chalice to assure a bright and successful future.

—In love and faith, Linda Mowers, President

## TOWN HALL MEETING

**Sunday, May 4, 2014 at Noon**

The purpose of this meeting is to present the stewardship campaign results and have some preliminary discussion before the annual meeting. We will look at our pledge levels, which will drive our budget. We will take a look at the revised budget numbers based on the pledges and see two scenarios—with Rev. Ford on board as a half-time consulting minister, and without the addition of his ministry. We will present a snapshot of the canvass input, and we will open the floor for questions, discussion and input in this process. The Finance Committee and Board will use your input to finalize the proposed budget that will be presented to the congregation for approval at the Annual Meeting.

Regular refreshments will be served during the fellowship time, and we will have additional beverages available. ***Members who stay for the meeting are invited to "brown bag" a lunch if you wish to eat more than the light refreshments served after the service.***

## BBUUC ANNUAL MEETING

**Sunday, May 18, 2014 at Noon**

***Be sure you save the date and plan to attend! This is the time to do the business of our church...***

### ***Agenda Items Will Include:***

- Elections for the Board and Nominating Committee
- Vote on the proposal to hire Rev. Jack Ford as our half-time consulting minister.
- The Budget will be presented and voted upon. Your Board and Finance Committee have worked hard to develop a budget that will work well for the coming year.
- Vote on proposed Bylaw Amendments.

A potluck luncheon will be served after the service with finger foods only to keep it easy to manage with the meeting. See the signup sheet at church!

**Child Care will be provided.**

July 1, 2013 - March 31, 2014					
		A	B	C	D
		Totals using conventional accounting	Without bequest	Without reserved funds	With mortgage principal*
	<b>Income</b>				
	<b>Contributions</b>				
1	<b>Donation General</b>	\$7,125	\$7,125	\$7,125	\$7,125
2	<b>Fund Donation</b>	\$196,950	\$26,234	\$0	\$0
3	<b>Non Cash Donation</b>	\$1,291	\$1,291	\$1,291	\$1,291
4	<b>Plate cash</b>	\$3,608	\$3,608	\$3,608	\$3,608
5	<b>Pledge Paid</b>	\$66,889	\$66,889	\$66,889	\$66,889
6	<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$275,863</b>	<b>\$105,147</b>	<b>\$78,913</b>	<b>\$78,913</b>
7	<b>Fund Balance In</b>	\$8,604	\$8,604	\$0	\$0
8	<b>Interest Income</b>	\$210	\$210	\$210	\$210
9	<b>Other Income</b>	\$11,932	\$11,932	\$11,932	\$11,932
10	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$296,609</b>	<b>\$125,892</b>	<b>\$91,055</b>	<b>\$91,055</b>
11	<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>\$296,609</b>	<b>\$125,892</b>	<b>\$91,055</b>	<b>\$91,055</b>
12	<b>Expenses</b>				
13	<b>Caring Committee</b>	\$471	\$471	\$471	\$471
14	<b>Facilities</b>	\$9,824	\$9,824	\$9,824	\$9,824
15	<b>Finance &amp; Administration</b>	\$14,003	\$14,003	\$14,003	\$14,003
16	<b>Fund Balance Out</b>	\$8,604	\$8,604	\$0	\$0
17	<b>Funds Spent</b>	\$102,309	\$17,909	\$0	\$0
18	<b>Hospitality</b>	\$767	\$767	\$767	\$767
19	<b>Lifespan Religious Education</b>	\$14,314	\$14,314	\$14,314	\$14,314
20	<b>Membership</b>	\$330	\$330	\$330	\$330
21	<b>Mortgage Expense</b>				
22	<b>Mortgage Principal Paid**</b>				<b>\$19,336</b>
23	<b>Mortgage Interest Paid</b>	\$13,097	\$13,097	\$13,097	\$13,097
24	<b>Total Mortgage Expense</b>	<b>\$13,097</b>	<b>\$13,097</b>	<b>\$13,097</b>	<b>\$32,433</b>
25	<b>Public Relations &amp; Communications</b>	\$473	\$473	\$473	\$473
26	<b>Worship</b>	\$6,839	\$6,839	\$6,839	\$6,839
27	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$171,032</b>	<b>\$86,632</b>	<b>\$60,119</b>	<b>\$79,456</b>
28	<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>\$125,577</b>	<b>\$39,260</b>	<b>\$30,935</b>	<b>\$11,599</b>
29	<b>Net cash proceeds from Special Auction</b>	<b>\$11,202</b>	<b>\$11,202</b>	<b>\$11,202</b>	<b>\$11,202</b>
30	<b>Net Operating Income w/o Auction</b>	<b>\$114,375</b>	<b>\$28,058</b>	<b>\$19,733</b>	<b>\$397</b>
	*This step is at variance with standard accounting, but is designed to better represent the church's actual cash expenses				

## From the Desk of the Treasurer

Our fortunate circumstances arising from the windfall of the Shupp bequest have distorted the financial status of BBUUC. In an effort to pare away the distortion for the congregation, I think that it would be useful to share with you the analysis that the Finance Committee uses to have a clear, undistorted picture of the church's finances.



The Finance Committee uses a report that we call the Operating Income and Expense Report, which focuses on our cash income and expense. This report, developed originally by Bonnie McCullar, calculates the amount of operational cash we have gained after all of our operational cash expenses are taken into account. Operational cash is the difference in our operational income--pledge donations, general donations, and non-cash donations that eliminate cash expenses--and our operational expenses--all cash expenses of the church that come from our operational account and not from a special account, such as the Beacon and Teen Travel Funds.

Through reference to nearby Table 1, I will explain how our Operating Income and Expense Report is calculated, and show how it provides a much clearer portrait of the church's finances. The table has four columns A through D. Income items show as lines 1 through 11, and expense items show as lines 12 through 27. Of particular interest in this discussion will be the mortgage-related items on lines 21 through 24, but more on those items below.

Column A shows our books from the perspective of conventional accounting principles. Line 2 of column A shows that most of our income, according to conventional accounting, comes from Fund Donations. These fund donations include donations earmarked for Beacon, Emergency Caring, Teen Travel, UUSC, and from the Shupp Bequest and from a few funds of bookkeeping significance only. To further confound our understanding of our income, the Shupp Bequest gets counted twice in this number, because funds moved from one fund to another via bookkeeping show up as fund income from the receiving fund, offset by a fund expense (line 17) from the sending fund. The Shupp Bequest was moved from a temporary holding fund into the

Capital Repair and Replacement and Endowment funds, so it gets counted twice in conventional accounting, once when initially received, and then again when moved from one fund to the other. One can readily see why a CPA is needed to decipher books kept under conventional accounting principles. Based on Column A alone, the church's income of \$125,577 (line 28) looks very robust. Even removing the net auction proceeds of \$11,202 still leaves the church with income of \$114,375 (line 30). However, some of this income is not cash income, and most of this income is earmarked for other purposes.

In Column B, the effects of the Shupp Bequest are removed from column A. The Shupp Bequest is not operational income. We cannot count on some generous person giving us a large windfall each year, which we could then use to support our on-going operations, so it would be imprudent to count this windfall as operating income. Line 2 and Line 17 show the removal of the Shupp Bequest, reducing Fund Donations (line 2) from \$196,950 to \$26,234, and reducing Funds Spent (line 17) from \$102,309 to \$17,909. Even after removing the Shupp Bequest, we still appear to have a healthy income (line 28) of \$39,260, or ignoring the auction proceeds, a still healthy \$28,058 (line 30).

However, the Shupp Bequest is only the largest amount of funds earmarked as non-operational. There are still other funds -- Beacon, Emergency Caring, Teen Travel, and UUSC -- that have received funds specific to them, in some cases raised by our teens and in other cases specifically donated by others to a special fund. In Column C, all of the earmarked funds are removed from the amounts in Column B. Their removal is reflected on lines 2 and 7 on the income side and lines 16 and 17 on the expense side, which all now are shown as unfunded for the purposes of this discussion. By looking at lines 28 and 30 under Column C, the church still has an income of nearly \$31,000 with the auction proceeds, and nearly \$20,000 without the auction. Such numbers could lead one to the conclusion that the auction was an unnecessary effort. The next step will show how unfounded that conclusion would be.

As is commonly known, mortgage payments consist of a repayment of principal and an interest payment for the use of the mortgage holder's money. In conventional accounting, the interest is shown as an expense to the payer, but the principal repayment is shown as an income to the payer. This confounding result is because

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the principal repayment results in a lower liability or debt amount, which increases the net worth of the property. This increase in net worth is considered an income item under conventional accounting. But I, when I pay my mortgage monthly, spend actual cash out of my checking account on that principal repayment. I may realize the gain in net worth in years to come if and when I sell my house, but until then, it's strictly cash spent out of my checking account, so it sure seems like an expense to me.

Each quarter, the church pays its mortgage holders, and the church writes checks to them that cover both interest and principal. And each quarter, the conventional accounting software that we use adds the principal repayments to the church's book income. So, in column D, we make an unconventional adjustment to reflect this actual cash cost of the mortgage principal repayments. On line 22, we add \$19,336 to our mortgage interest expense, the total amount of principal payments made to our mortgage holders through March 31st in the 2013-2014 fiscal year. All other income and expense items remain unchanged from Column C. Now, by inspecting lines 28 and 30, we find that our income thus far this year drops to about \$11,600 including the auction results, and less than \$400 without the auction. Cash income of \$400 through the first 9 months of our fiscal year constitutes barely breaking even. Our cash flow from normal revenue is almost non-existent. The auction is our principal source of cash income thus far during this fiscal year.

While I am sure that this discussion has been dull and difficult to get through, I hope that it does lead to a better understanding of the church's financial position. We made these changes to the financial report in order to make the financial state of the church clearer to the Board, the Finance Committee, and the membership. Because of our strong interest in transparency and self-governance by the congregation, we believe that it is of the utmost importance to communicate the church's operational financial status in a way that is accurate and easier to understand. If you have questions or comments about this reporting format or any other subject related to our finances, please contact [treasurer@bbuuc.org](mailto:treasurer@bbuuc.org) and I will respond.

**Dale Crawford**  
Treasurer

<b>BBUUC Operating Profit and Loss</b> <b>July1, 2013-April 19, 2014</b>	
	Total \$
Income	
Contributions	
Donation General	10,783
Plate Cash	3,861
Pledge Paid	69,302
Other Income	12,254
Total Income	\$96,200
Total Expenses	\$82,787
Net Operating Income	\$13,413



## Lifetime Religious Education Committee

The Lifetime Religious Education committee is responsible for continuing the education of the entire community in the values, history and practices of Unitarian Universalism. LRE provides access to classes for all age groups, from infants to children to youth to adults.

If you look at the calendar any given month, you will see a number of interesting and challenging classes presented during the week, as well as the Sunday classes presented for the children and youth. The LRE department also presents a Montessori-type UU curriculum for the youngest members of our community in the Spirit Play Class. And Sunday Morning before services, you can find an active and interesting discussion happening in Coffee Conversation.

BBUUC has made a conscious decision to focus attention on Religious Education by hiring a professional Director of Religious Education. Dani Slader is our current DRE, and the entire community has benefited from the energy and organization she brings to her job.

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It takes a lot of volunteer effort to make all these pieces come together. Some of the things that require volunteer effort are:

- Serve on the LRE Committee.
- Teach Religious Education classes for children or youth.
- Create Spirit Play baskets.
- Facilitate Tapestry of Faith adult Religious Education classes.
- Chaperone or drive youth to conferences.
- Organize and facilitate a Coffee Conversation.
- Coordinate or assist with a fundraising activity (such as a pancake breakfast).

If you have interest in helping with any of these, please contact Dani at [dre@bbuuc.org](mailto:dre@bbuuc.org) or Chris Jarman, the LRE Chair, at [lre@bbuuc.org](mailto:lre@bbuuc.org).

For all those walking by faith, my hand is outstretched. Should you fall behind or stumble, grab a hold and I will do the same in return.  
— Tony Lorenzen, UU minister

## Introducing Tina Nomura



Tina Nomura, a long time non-church-goer, found herself looking for community and interaction after retirement. This she found in the BBUUC community, after encouragement from her mother, a UU of six years in North Carolina. Tina says that, once she found the community, she appreciated the welcoming people and the “free exchange of ideas and interesting ideas and topics”.

Tina retired two years ago, and currently lives in Jacksonville with one of her two sons. Her other son teaches music in Hawaii and plays there at the Hard Rock Café. Prior to moving to Jacksonville post-retirement, Tina had not lived in the continental US since graduating college, spending several years in Hawaii, several in Japan, and several in Okinawa, the latter being the location she names as her favorite place to be.

Okinawa, Tina says, is where she would love to end up, though she adds that BBUUC only adds to her son’s presence here in Jacksonville as reasons to remain here, for a while at least.

## From the Director of Religious Education Howdy Folks,

We have a saying at the Y for when things get hectic—“It must be May!” For the Y, May is the last full month before summer, and there isn’t a department in any branch that doesn’t begin to gear up for summer, our busiest season. At church, it’s the time when things are starting to wind down for the year. Religious Education begins to wrap up the school year’s curricula, various committees evaluate if there’s any work to be done before people start taking off for summer vacation, and the board and council try to cram a year’s worth of information into the annual meeting. The winding down process can really wind us up with all there is to be done.

It is easy to let the stress of all that needs to be done shield us from the joy of doing it. For many, the time they spend serving our church community is the way they connect to the heart of it. For others, serving as an R.E. teacher or fellowship host, brings enjoyment that is purely selfish. I bring this up, not because as the year wraps up we’re looking to fill volunteer positions for the next year (though we are looking for R.E. teachers if you’re interested—wink, wink, nudge, nudge), but because I want to promote the joy of joining together to serve something larger than ourselves alone.

We speak often about our 7<sup>th</sup> principle and the interconnected web of life, and when I look at our congregation, I see that we too are a web. Each of us spins and adds to the fibers holding us together and makes us a beautiful creation. It’s the beauty that we should hold onto when the work gets weary. The pure and beautiful goals that we share: caring for those who need us, raising children who will work to make the world better, fulfilling the spiritual needs of each other, and striving to be together more than we are alone.

Our goals are lofty, but they are worth the work that we put into them.

Religious Education recently reviewed its goals, and put together a plan to help achieve them. On page 6, you will find an outline of where R.E. will be traveling over the next few years. We invite you to join us and share in the joy.

With Hope

**Dani**

Director of Religious Education

## **Age Appropriate Religious Education Courses offered that will develop Unitarian Universalist**

**Adult** - Evenings R.E.: 1-2 per month

Articulating, and Building your own theology  
offered yearly

Coffee Conversations- Sunday Morning

**High School (9th-12th)**- 1 hot topic per month, 1 day in service per month, 2 Curricula days

2014-2015: Articulating Your Faith

2015-16: A Chorus of Faith

2016-17: A Place of Wholeness

2017-18: Building Bridges

**Middle School (6th-8th)**- 1 hot topic per month, 1 day in service per month, 2 Curricula days

2014-2015: Amazing Grace: Exploring Right and Wrong

2015-16: Heeding the Call: Qualities Of A Justice Maker

2016-17: Families

**Elementary (2nd-5th)**

Wonder and Awe (including Beginnings and Endings) 2013-14

World Religions and UU Figures 2014-15

Earth and Science 2015-16

Promises 2016-2017

**Spirit Play (4 years-1st)**

Promises 2013-14

Wheel of the Year 2014-15

Sources 2015-16

## **Explore Ways to Integrate Children and Adults**

Parents Group\*- monthly

Multigenerational Services\*- 1 per trimester

Children's Choir\*

Bridging Process

Caring Practices\*

## **Facilitate Fun Activities and Social Action for Children and Families\***

**Elementary and Spirit Play**- 1 per quarter

Snow Ball Sleep Over

Cookies and Caroling

Blueberry picking

Tillie Fowler Park

Movie and Care package night

## **Middle and High school-**

Teen Enrichment Trip (TET)- every other year alternating with TONT\*

2014-Trail of Tears

2016- Social Justice Project

2018- Boston

2020- Social Justice Project

2022- Chicago

## **Teen Over Night Teambuilding Trips (TONT)- every other year alternating with TET\***

Low Ropes Courses

City Scavenger Hunts

Sculpture Challenges

R.E. Outings- twice a year alternating quarters with Social Action

Social Action Days\*- twice a year alternating quarters with R.E. Outings

## **Owl**

1&2nd -2014, 2016, 2018, 2020

4-6th - 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021

7-9th -2014, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021

10-12th-2014, 2016, 2018, 2020

Adult- every other year\*\*

\* Pending Approval and Collaboration with other committees

\*\*Pending Funding or Approval of the Board



R.E. Shout Out: This month, Religious Education would like to thank Marilyn Smart, Joanie Maskell, and David Christenson for their hard

work adding some colors to the our R.E. spaces. Marilyn and Joanie worked diligently to select colors that were a good fit for our rooms, and still matched the original idea of using our Promise Colors. David had dedicated his time and effort to painting each of the classrooms in addition to the numerous things he already does for facilities. We thank each other them of their wonderful contributions of self!

## Keeping UU in the Know

You might notice the Social Action table in the back of the sanctuary. Important things are happening every day, and Social Action wants to help keep BBUUC informed.

As information, letter writing requests, and petitions of interest for the congregation become available, Social Action will have these available during coffee hour. Watch for important sharing from our UU interfaith community here in Duval, Clay, Nassau and St. John's counties.

Note: Have items you want to share? Please submit them to Social Action for consideration as far in advance as possible. SA will review the items to verify that they support our UU Principles and Purposes, and do not violate separation of church and state guidelines.

***Our love and condolences*** to Suzanne Buckley whose partner Case Poelma passed away on the morning of May 1. Case was a long time friend of our church and will be deeply missed.

Support and condolences can be sent to:  
Suzanne Buckley  
10120 Courtyards Place Way  
Jacksonville, Florida 32256

***Congratulations to Rev. Jack Ford!*** In a tie vote, he was awarded the Clarence R. Skinner Award for Best Sermon in the 2014 Florida District Assembly Awards.

## Religious Texts and Society

On May 15 at 7pm, the Religious Texts and Society Affinity Group will be continuing our discussion of Karen Armstrong's book "The Great Transformation." Mark Yount will be leading a discussion of the Axial Age in Greek culture.

This month we'll discuss the religious aspects of ancient Greek culture, especially from the 6th to 4th centuries BCE when Solon and Pericles, Aeschylus and Sophocles, Herodotus and Thucydides, Socrates and Plato lived. We'll pay particular attention to Arm-

strong's analysis of how rational and irrational elements intertwined to shape that amazing Athenian society that saw the inventions of history, tragedy, philosophy, and democratic government. The same citizens who argued philosophy or debated laws also wept together at tragedies and allowed themselves the transports of orgiastic mystery cults. What would it have been like to be one of them? And what might we learn about the social and psychological factors that religion involves in other cultures and times, including our own?

We anticipate a lively discussion. If you can join us, these are the pages to read: 49-61, 101-114, 138-146, 183-190, 220-232, 248-265, 313-330, 348-356. All are welcome.

## The Journey's Future

Formatting, producing, printing, and distributing a physical newsletter is an expensive proposition. The Journey has been an important tool in coordinating and communicating the activities of the community, but we are finding that a paper-based newsletter is not as efficient and useful a tool as it was in the past.

Up until now, the Journey's format has been driven by the desire to produce a clean, nicely formatted physical newsletter. But, due to changes in the way our community reads the Journey, we have reached a point where the emphasis needs to change. Over the coming months, we will be working to produce an electronically-distributed newsletter that is more user-friendly for the majority of the congregation that reads the newsletter electronically, on computers, tablets, e-readers and phones. If you would like to be part of the development and evaluation process for the new format, please contact Scott Cromar at [pr\\_communications@bbuuc.org](mailto:pr_communications@bbuuc.org).

Physical printouts of the Journey will continue to be available at the Membership Table in the Sanctuary, and we will mail copies of the Journey to pledging members of the community who let us know that they are not physically able to come to the church, or do not have home Internet access. (A mailed printout can be requested from [admin@bbuuc.org](mailto:admin@bbuuc.org), or by contacting the church administrator at 904-276-3739.)



## Help Wanted: Greeters and Fellowship Hosts

Greeters and Fellowship hosts are an important part of what makes BBUUC such a welcoming environ-

ment. Greeters meet each person entering the door with a smile, a program, and a warm welcome. Then, during the service, the Greeters collect the week's offering.

Fellowship Hosts arrive before 10am on Sunday to prepare the refreshments for after the services. The volunteers make sure there is hot water for tea, coffee in the urns, and cookies on a few trays. The Fellowship Hosts are asked to bring a few containers of juice; the cookies and crackers are supplied by the Hospitality Committee.

The Hospitality Committee has posted detailed instructions for each week's volunteers to follow, and they assist people who are not familiar with the church kitchen facilities. This is a great opportunity to literally serve fellow members of our community.

To volunteer, sign up on the clipboards near the bulletin board. Greeters and Fellowship Hosts have a great opportunity to meet other people, and to give back a little bit as part of the community.

If you have questions, you can contact Lee Plumb or Ken Weintraub at [hospitality@bbuuc.org](mailto:hospitality@bbuuc.org).

**“We belong because we choose to belong. We belong because others have chosen to welcome us, and include us, and make space for us.**

**We belong, because inherent to this faith, is a belief that there is room for all who come in friendship, in freedom, and in peace.” –**

**Julie Stoneberg, UU minister**



The Beacon Youth Group at BBUUC is a strong community and although BBUUC's Beacon Group is one of the largest such youth communities in the district, it is not well understood within BBUUC.

Beacon is a youth group with a very strong emphasis on youth empowerment. The Beacon groups attend monthly CONs hosted by the multiple Beacon groups throughout the state of Florida. (A CON is a two night event (from Friday evening to Sunday morning) held at the host group's church.) The hosting youth plan activities and workshops to span the CON. Activities at CONs vary by theme, which is unique to each CON, but always include a Coffee House (where youth can share talents such as poetry, music, comedy, etc), and Worship (where youth volunteers will plan a short worship service for the rest of the community). CONs can also include Social Action projects, or guest speakers on specialized topics relating to the CON theme. Advisors are part of the Beacon community and do not control or run Beacon functions. Beacon, however, runs deeper than just what we do.

Beacon is much more than a youth group; it is a community. Beacon often becomes our closest group of friends, especially in the BBUUC group. We value our activities of community building and getting to know one another better. In our meetings at BBUUC we have a half hour set aside each meeting for games and other community building activities, as compiled by our Community Organizer, a position created and currently held by Joshua Dean. Community sentiment is also strengthened incredibly at CONs. Even outside of activities aimed at community building, youth at CONs spend the weekend in an environment where “community breaking activities” (i.e., phones, headphones, etc) are discouraged so we interact more with each other. Also an important and meaningful CON activity is Worship. CON worships are designed to create sacred space for the duration of the worship, and often invite much participation outside of those who planned it. This atmosphere lends itself to deeper sharing and stronger bonds between those involved.

The friendships we make in the Beacon community contribute to the importance the CONs and youth empowerment atmosphere hold for the members. For this reason, it can be found that Beacon is a valued part of the involved youths' lives.



## Joshua Dean

Joshua Dean is a familiar presence in our community. For years, he has been an active presence in the church's youth community. Now, as a 20 year old, he is growing into a respected voice in the adult community as well.

Given his family's strong background in the arts, it should come as no surprise that Josh describes himself as seeing the world from a design-centric point of view. He sees almost everything he does in terms of design, from taking part in organizing a Beacon event to creating a T-shirt for that event. Each element of the design needs to be selected and placed in relation to the other elements.

Like most artists, he enjoys other peoples' appreciation of his art. Members of the church may recall his recent exhibit in our Artists' Corner. His style is influenced by Japanese anime, as is apparent in his work "Story Time."

Outside of the church community, Josh is especially proud of his achievements in the martial arts. He recently achieved a Provisional Black Belt in Five Ancestor Fist Kung Fu. He also feels that Taiji has played an important part in his development as a young man, since it focuses on a strong foundation describing how we should live our life.

Josh frequently finds himself in a bridge role in our community, trying to help different sides of an issue understand each other. Members of both the Beacon Ministry and the Worship Committee have



Story Time, by Joshua Dean

commented about his leadership qualities. Linda Crawford, the current chair of the Worship Committee, described Josh as "thoughtful, and his comments are always heart-felt."



## Need an Energy Boost? Try Reiki!

BBUUC is blessed to have Reiki Practitioners in our congregation. Reiki is a wonderful complementary healing support treatment.

Reiki is supported from both spiritual and scientific fields as it channels energy. Reiki supports other healing modalities, is non-invasive, and can be done anywhere since you do not have to disrobe.

Some of the areas Reiki can help with include relief of pain, calming nausea, improving rest state, and adding energy to the support the body's healing process.

If you would like to know more, or are interested in receiving a treatment, see Rev. Pat or contact her at [pray105@comcast.net](mailto:pray105@comcast.net).

## About Our May 18th Speaker:

Daniel J. Adams is an American who has spent most of his adult life in Asia. He is a graduate of Seattle Pacific University (B.A.), the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary (M.Div.), and the



Aquinas Institute of Theology (Ph.D.). He also holds an M.A. in Chinese studies from Soochow University in Taiwan. He has taught at Taiwan Theological College in Taipei, Taiwan and Hanil University in Chonbuk, Korea. He is currently professor of theology emeritus of Hanil University and continues teach Asian studies in the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of North Florida. Dr. Adams is the author of over 200 articles in academic journals and has authored or edited twenty books, the most recent of which is Korean Theology in Historical Perspective published in 2012. An avid international traveler, he and his wife have visited 87 countries. He is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA).



I stand with my arms to my side and my eyes closed. I feel the wind noticeably press against my face with enough force to send a sub-

tle chill over my entire body. The wind moves down from my face to my chest and outwards towards my arms and then continues to my lower legs. I hear a voice asking me to turn 180 degrees which I do and then the wind continues to press against my back. The voice then instructs me to join the circle. I am about to participate in my first Pagan ritual of inviting the gods that rule over the elements to join us as the group performs a full moon ritual to bring in a balance of energies between the sun being in Aries and the moon in Libra. Words such as love, joy, protection were spoken as well as a blessing that a person may never hunger or thirst.

The ritual I participated in was performed by BBUUC's own earth-centered group known as CUUPS. The acronym stands for the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist PaganS. The BBUUC's group is co-chaired by Sarah Ricke and Trish Shepherd. Sarah and Trish have been practicing pagans for several years. As someone who has never learned much about Paganism, I was curious why CUUPS exists. Both Sarah and Trish answered that the main reason was to "provide a community and safe place for those who are Pagan." The website CUUPS.org echoes these feelings by stating on its homepage that:

"CUUPS is an organization dedicated to networking Pagan-identified Unitarian Universalists (UUs), educating people about Paganism, promoting interfaith dialogue, developing Pagan liturgies and theologies, and supporting Pagan-identified UU religious professionals" For this year, in between CUUPS solar and lunar celebrations, Sarah and Trish have chosen Using The Sevenfold Path as a focus for discussion. The book "provides a step-by-step approach to healing and balancing one's life using contemporary psychotherapeutic techniques, yoga, bioenergetics, journal exercises, meditation, dance, and ritual."

The night ended with Tarot card readings. After Trish had a reading done for her by one of the other participants I spoke with her about it. Tarot is less about telling the future than about providing insight and enlightenment. Trish described it as giving a person a different point of view from which to see their circumstances. She went on further to say that to her it was really about starting a dialogue with the person about that person's current life situations.

In all I had a great time and I thank Sarah and Trish for allowing me to participate. If you are interested in learning more about CUUPS or know someone who is either Pagan or would like to learn more, CUUPS meets every second Wednesday at 7pm. Additionally, the group has a Facebook page called Jacksonville CUUPS as well as calendar on Meetup.com (<http://www.meetup.com/Jacksonville-CUUPS>). To contact Sarah or Trish, directly email them at CUUPS@bbuuc.org.

***Buckman Bridge  
Unitarian Universalist  
Church  
offers a warm, diverse,  
and welcoming  
community that  
embraces intellectual  
and spiritual growth  
for all ages.***

*- BBUUC Mission Statement*

## **Buckman Bridge UU Christian Fellowship**

The Buckman Bridge UU Christian Fellowship gathers on the fourth Sunday each month at 9am.

This year we are viewing Living the Questions 2.0 - Journey. LTQ2 brings over thirty acclaimed scholars, theologians and other experts in a video exploration of an open, inclusive, broad-minded Christianity.

In May we will be viewing the 4th video segment "Stories of Creation". The twenty minute video segment is followed by lively exchange of thoughts and ideas. You do not need be Christian to join us. All are welcome to explore and discuss what it means to be Christian today in a Unitarian Universalist environment.

## **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 4: Dr. Mark Yount will present “Faith without Reason and Life without Faith”**

How can someone hold religious beliefs that have no rational basis? On the other hand, how can someone live without believing there's a greater purpose, some "meaning" to it all? Perhaps one of these questions has nagged at you, maybe even as the person sitting next to you wondered the other question in our delightfully creedless congregation. Let's see if there's a way to consider both questions that could help us better accept each other - and better question ourselves.

**Led by Linda Mowers**

### **May 11: Rev. Jack Ford will present “I Know You Are But What Am I? Part 5: Earth-Centered Traditions”**

Unitarian Universalists draw spiritual inspiration from many sources. One of them is “earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life.” We know that the earliest societies and religious practices were matriarchal. Mothers’ Day seems an appropriate time to talk about sacred circles and centeredness as we cover part five of our six-part series on the sources of our faith.

**Led by Jeremy Ritzmann**

### **May 18: Rev Daniel Adams will present : "The Life and Thought of Hui Neng, the Sixth Patriarch of Zen Buddhism"**

Hui Neng (638-713), according to tradition, led a colorful life which became even more intriguing following his death. The founder of the "sudden enlightenment" school of Zen Buddhism has been considered one of the most significant thinkers in the Buddhist tradition. His focus upon the mind continues to influence contemporary Buddhist thought and practice. Several interesting parallels can be seen between Hui Neng's life and thought and the western Christian tradition.

**Led by Carol Waters**

### **May 25: Rabbi Joshua B. Lief will present “Reform Judaism: Principles That We Can Use In Our Daily Lives”**

Rabbi Lief will present lessons on everyday living from the progressive Jewish tradition.

**Led by Joann Carollo**

# May 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 9:45a Coffee Conversations 12pm Town Hall Meeting	5	6	7 7pm BEACON 7pm Four Pioneering Painters	8 7pm Let it Begin With Me 7pm PR Cmte (phone conference)	9	10
11 9:45a Coffee Conversations 10:30a OWL 12p Sunday "Sundaes" 12p Caring Cmte	12	13 7p Council Meeting	14 11:30a Lunch Bunch 7p BEACON 7p Four Painters 7p Parents' Group	15 7p Let it Begin With Me 7p Religious Texts and Society	16 BEACON Con (Orlando)	17
18 9:45a Coffee Conversations 12p Annual Meeting	19 6:30p Free-thought Society meets at BBUUC	20 7p Finance Cmte 7p Welcoming Congregation Ministry 7p Worship Cmte	21 7p BEACON 7p Four Painters	22 7p Let it Begin With Me	23 OWL Lock In	24
25 9a BBUUCF 9:30a Fundraising Subcmte 9:45a Coffee Conversations 10:30a OWL 12p Membership Cmte	26	27 7p Board Meeting 7p Program Cmte	28 7p BBUUYA 7p BEACON 7p CUUPS 7p Four Painters	29 7p Let It Begin With Me	30	31



## Circle Suppers

Circle Suppers are small relaxed gatherings, held at members' homes. Typically the host provides the main dish and the six or more attendees bring dishes to complement it, as agreed upon in advance. We try to include newer members with more seasoned members, and everyone simply enjoys time together informally without a program or planned activities. Usually for adults, Circle Suppers can be intergenerational as well.

In the last year or so, 69 different members have enjoyed our Circle Suppers – many more than once. We have room for YOU at an upcoming supper!

Lynn Wadley is the coordinator and aims to schedule a Circle Supper each month. To become involved, just sign the sheet at the entrance table, talk to Lynn at church or email [LWadley@comcast.net](mailto:LWadley@comcast.net).

**True happiness, deep happiness, can be  
found in choosing to exist within the  
complexities of community.**

– Julie Stoneberg, UU minister

The Journey is the official newsletter of the Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church. It is distributed monthly by electronic means to members and friends of the BBUUC community. If you would like to subscribe, please send an email to [admin@bbuuc.org](mailto:admin@bbuuc.org).

Physical printouts of the Journey are also available at the Membership Table in the Sanctuary. (If a pledging member of the community does not have home Internet or computer access, a mailed printout can be requested from [admin@bbuuc.org](mailto:admin@bbuuc.org), or by contacting the church administrator at 904-276-3739.)

## Amazon Associates Fundraiser

BBUUC is participating in the Amazon Associates program as a fundraising opportunity. If you make purchases from Amazon using our Associates link, the church will receive a commission for every sale.

Please bookmark and use the following link for your Amazon purchases to participate in this fundraiser:

<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/redirect-home/b0fa6-20>

If you have a web site or blog and would like a widget to help advertise this fundraiser, you can send a note to [pr\\_communications@bbuuc.org](mailto:pr_communications@bbuuc.org) to provide one.

Note: Please feel free to pass the link to family and friends as well, but Amazon has a strict anti-spamming policy that could result in our being suspended from the program if we are found to have abused it. If you pass along the link, please make sure only to pass it to people you know personally.

# The Journey

*Newsletter of*

**Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church**

P.O. Box 844

Orange Park, FL 32067