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The Newsletter of the Buckman Bridge  
Unitarian Universalist Church  
December 2011

## Christmas Eve Service at 6:30pm

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



## *Talent Call for Christmas Eve Service*

If you play a musical instrument, have a poem, reading, or brief holiday memory you'd like to share, or want to sing a solo (duet, trio, etc), contact Linda Mowers or Dani Slader, co-coordinators of the service, ***no later than December 11th.*** (Linda: 536-6003 or [lkmowers@bellsouth.net](mailto:lkmowers@bellsouth.net) – Dani: 254-6605 or [danibee1987@aol.com](mailto:danibee1987@aol.com))



## To all the lovely singers-----

The Choir of the Moment will take part in the Christmas Eve service, as usual. We will have 3 rehearsals before the performance. They are December 4, 11 and 18. We will rehearse after the service at noon, but if the service runs long, we will begin a little later. Contact Marilyn Smart if you have any questions - and THANK YOU for singing!

## JOYS AND CONCERNS



We are all wishing Linda Crawford a speedy recovery following her recent surgery.

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE, EVERYONE!

As you may have already heard, in November the Board voted to accept a new construct of the Social Action Committee. The brainchild of Sandy Goldman, our new Social Action Committee Chair, the structure represents a real departure from business as usual. In the past, the Social Action Committee (SAC) has been responsible for brainstorming, designing and implementing all actions or projects undertaken in the name of BBUUC(S). Members of the committee often found themselves overwhelmed by the weight of that burden and regularly faced burnout. It also seemed that the general membership was dissociated from the efforts of the committee. And, yet at the same time, it was evident that our members have been engaged regularly in social justice issues. The new model was devised targeting those seeming contradictions.

First of all, and most radically, all members of our church community are now members of Social Action. But, with membership come both privileges and responsibilities. Members may now freely suggest projects or join in on those underway. They may also brainstorm, suggest new areas and seek out others to join them. But, in all cases as members they are responsible for designing and implementing their ideas.

Second, SAC has now become an umbrella committee overseeing and supporting projects and ministries that conform to its mission statement including both new proposals and current projects. SAC is charged with reviewing these ideas and making recommendations. In other words, all new social justice projects or subcommittees are to be ap-

proved first by SAC. SAC will play a supportive and advisory role only.

Third, ministries, subcommittees and projects may at any one time be part of our social action fabric. Some of these may be permanent whereas others may be temporary, ad hoc projects and others may be recurrent. Examples of permanent action groups include the Welcoming Congregation Task Force and the Pennies from Heaven donations. The current winter clothing drive is a good example of an ad hoc project and our annual Angel Tree and Dignity You Wear projects are examples of those that are recurrent. It should also be noted that at the time the Board approved the restructuring of SAC, it also approved the formation of the Neighborhood Ministry. More information will be forthcoming on this exciting and challenging new ministry as plans are formulated.

Before closing, I'd like to share a memory I have of Bob Towers, one of our two founding fathers. I had known Bob a number of years when he volunteered to help establish a new UU congregation in the south Jacksonville area. Through the years, Bob and I had shared our spiritual journeys with each other. It seemed that Bob and I were in lock step with each other from deism to pananthesism to pantheism. So it looked as though we had both arrived at our final destination; that is until one day when we had our last conversation on this topic. Bob commented that when it is all said and done, it all seemed irrelevant and maybe it was basically the same anyway. What really mattered is what we do with our time here and now; social action is the core.

So, once again, welcome everyone to our new Social Action Committee.

*Submitted by Pam Edwards-Roine*

## From Your Director of RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Howard Thurman may (or may not) be a name you know. I first learned about him from a UU minister who knew him in theological school, and I later learned more about him through stories and quotes used by other UU ministers. As it turns out, he has a close connection to us here. Thurman was born and raised right down the road in Daytona Beach and went to high school here in Jacksonville. Turns out that was a big deal. It was the early 1900s and Thurman was black. He's one of America's religious heroes and a person we teach our BBUUC kids about.

According to UU minister Kate Lehman, "At the time when Howard Thurman was in school, public education for black children in Daytona ended with the seventh grade. Only those who had completed the eighth grade were eligible to go on to high school. Howard's elementary school principal tutored him, and then applied to have him take the test which would enable him to enter high school. There were only three public high schools for black children in the entire state of Florida, but there were several private church-supported schools. The nearest one to Daytona Beach was the Florida Baptist Academy in Jacksonville. Money was saved and arrangements were made for him to attend that school. He graduated as valedictorian of his class, and then attended Morehouse College in Atlanta. By the end of his junior year he had decided to become a minister.

He spent the summer of 1922 studying philosophy in residence at Columbia University, where he attended classes with white students for the first time and then went to Rochester Theological Seminary, where he was one of two black students accepted into the school.

As a young minister, Thurman began a lifelong process by which creeds became far less important to him than the felt-experience of faith, which unifies rather than divides. He began his journey towards a philosophy that stressed an activism rooted in faith, guided by spirit, and maintained in peace. In 1935, he and his wife were invited to go to India and meet with Gandhi. It was there, surrounded for the first time by people of many different faiths, that Thurman began to see what is common to all religion, and how awareness of and respect for those common elements can help people both to transcend and to respect their particular differences of belief. For the rest of his life Thurman's religious beliefs and actions for social change were influenced by Gandhi's position on nonviolent resistance. Thurman passed on his thinking to James Farmer, founder of the Congress of Racial Equality and to Martin Luther King, Jr. It is said that King carried Thurman's book 'Jesus and the Disinherited' with him wherever he went

Howard Thurman taught by word and deed that everything any one person does – for good or ill –

matters. Through the actions of any one person, even the simplest action, the hearts and minds of people can be changed. Thurman also taught by word and deed that people matter, that everyone is precious. For these and many more reasons, Howard Thurman was a man who changed history, who made the world a better place, and who inspired others to make the world a better place."

At this season of the year when we acknowledge our thankfulness, celebrate new life in the depth of winter, and reflect on the passing of another year, Howard Thurman's words seem to say it best.

**When the song of the angels  
is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is  
gone,  
When the kings and princes  
are home,  
When the shepherds are  
back with their flocks,  
The work of Christmas be-  
gins:  
To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among the  
brothers [and sisters]  
To make music in the heart.**

See you in church,  
*Brenda*

Join us on Sunday, New Year's Day 2012  
For our Annual

## BBUUC "Potlatch" Service and Potluck Luncheon

Potlatches have been a long standing Native American tradition. It is a ritual about letting go of something and getting something new in return. Instead of making a New Year's resolution, come to this service! Bring an item you are ready to let go of and share your reason with the congregation. At the end of the service, everyone takes home a "new" item. And if that wasn't enough, a potluck will also be held after the service. Please bring a dish to share for this community meal! Beverages will be furnished. So start 2011 off right - come, give, receive, and be in community with the ones you love!

## Child Dedication Ceremony To Parents of BBUUC Children:

Our annual Christmas intergenerational service on will be held this year on Sunday, December 18, and will once again include a Child Dedication Ceremony as part of the program—a tradition we have established to be held the Sunday before Christmas. Over the last few years, many of our children have been dedicated in these services. This year, we hope to include anyone who was unable to participate last year, along with any new children who have joined our church in the past year.

**If you are a member of BBUUC and have a child who also attends our church who has not yet been "Dedicated," we invite you to take part in the ceremony!**

The service will be in the UU tradition, with readings and affirmations, blessings and presentations to the children of dedication certificates, chalice pins, and flowers. It is similar in length to our New Member Welcoming Ceremony. Unlike a christening service, child welcoming is our opportunity to formally introduce your child by name, and welcome him or her individually into the "guardian fellowship of our congregation." Children do not have to be infants to participate; in fact, there is usually a wide diversity of ages of children who are welcomed during the ceremony and it's fine to have more than one of your children welcomed at the same service. The ceremony is simple and only requires that you and your children come forward, along with other participating parents and children, at the appropriate time. You will not be asked to speak except to say "we do" when asked, with other parents, if you will "promise, to the best of your ability, by your example, your

love, and your wisdom, to lead this child in the way of goodness, beauty, justice and truth."

**Please contact Linda Mowers, Membership Chair, at 272-3862 or [lmowers@bellsouth.net](mailto:lmowers@bellsouth.net), and let her know if you and your child(ren) wish to participate by December 4th. If you participate, please send her the following information:**

**Child's complete name(s)**

**Date of Birth**

**Parent's Names**

If you are unable to attend this dedication service, then you are welcome to participate next December!

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions. (272-3862 or [lmowers@bellsouth.net](mailto:lmowers@bellsouth.net))

In love and faith,

**Linda Mowers**

## RIDDLES FROM MEMBERSHIP

**Riddle #1:** How many UU's can fit in a circle? **Answer:** It all depends.

**#2:** But, what if they are BBUUCUU's? **Answer:** "Beaucoups" of UU's (ouch!).

**#3:** What will happen if you place the BBUUCUU's in a virtual circle? **Answer:** Facebook will go berserk.

**#4.** What will happen if you place the aforementioned BBUUCUU's in a real circle? A. Spontaneous discussions B. Wine, cheese and other Mediterranean treats and eats C. Spontaneous discussions D. Great meal from great cooks E. Much laughter (okay, beaucoups of laughter)\* F. Spontaneous discussions and general revelry G. All the above are probable

**#5.** Why are you wasting my time on this fantasy and lousy puns? **Answer:** I'm not.

**#6.** So, are these a reality in this universe? **Answer:** Have been and can be.

**#7.** Huh? Space-time continuum? **Answer:** Guess it could be, but more to the point let's just resurrect the joy and camaraderie of the old-timey "Circle Suppers" with about 6 to 8 BBUUCCUU's at each.

**#8.** When do you see this happening? **Answer:** Starting in late January or early February.

**#9.** And, how will this happen? **Answer:** In three or four easy steps.

**#10.** Which are? A. Sign up to attend.\* B. Select either "Family-rated" or "Adults-Only" version. C. Wait to hear back about location and date offerings. D. Give serious consideration to serving as a host in your home.\*

*\*Sign-up sheets, as usual, will be "in the back" on the table in the reception area or contact Pam by email [pamedro@yahoo.com](mailto:pamedro@yahoo.com) (Please enter "Circle Dinners" on the subject line.)*

*For hosting, please speak to Pam. Hosts are a critical part of this equation and the good part is it is fairly easy. It's a matter of designing an overall meal and making a few phone calls. And, oh yes, maybe running the vacuum cleaner and dust clothe quickly around the dining area. You can usually catch Pam on Sundays or call her at 358-9535.*

**Saturday, December 24, 6:30 pm:**  
**Annual Christmas Eve Service**  
**presented by**  
***the Worship Committee***



***Members and Friends of BBUUC.***

Join us for fabulous music and words to celebrate Christmas Eve, followed by refreshments and fellowship. Bring your family and friends! Festivities will begin and end early in the evening so that everyone still has time for family traditions at home.

Led by **Linda Mowers and Dani Slader.**

## **Buddhist Meditation Group**

The upcoming schedule for the Buddhist Meditation Group is as follows: **December 11<sup>th</sup>**, (NO meeting on 12/25), January 8<sup>th</sup> and January 22<sup>nd</sup> from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

## **Plan Now to Attend the January Coffee House!**

**Join us the first Wednesday of January (the 4th) at 7pm.**

***A night of live music, games and snacks in a family-friendly environment.***

Our first coffee house in October was a great success! Come to perform, or just enjoy the music, the poetry, and the fellowship of the evening. All are welcomed! Come solo, bring a friend, or family. Board games are also encouraged. Tables will be set up for snacks and games, as well as your listening pleasure.

We are looking for musicians, poets, hosts and people to bring food. Performances are scheduled in advance – this is not an open mike night

like the Music Circle events, so if you want to participate as a performer, contact David to schedule your spot. If you want to volunteer to help with hospitality, or to bring food for the evening, let him know as well! Contact David Murphy at [murphy52@gmail.com](mailto:murphy52@gmail.com).





## Drop and Shop

**On December 10 from 1-5**, the Teens are offering a Drop and Shop at the Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church for parents who want to buy for those they love, but those they love can't be there to watch! It's a party for kids while their parents party at the Orange Park Mall (or somewhere else...).

Seriously, Dani Slater will be at church with her elves during these hours, creating a play place full of games and fun. This is a fund-raiser for the Teens for their service project in New Orleans this summer, and we suggest a \$10 donation fee. Please sign up on the sheet at the back of the church or email Dani so we know how many to plan for, and also bring your own snack.

**The Drop and Shop at church:** a fun and safe place for kids while their parents shop, and a Teen fund-raiser too. It's win-win!



## Ballroom Basics with James Bell

### December 4 • 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. at BBUUC

Come join us on December 4th from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. for a demonstration of dance with professional dance instructor, James Bell, from The Performers Academy. Congregant and dance student, Deb. Hansen, will perform with James. Those in attendance will have the opportunity to participate in a free group dance lesson and hear about programs offered at the Academy and here at BBUUC, depending on interest.

An introductory dance package will be raffled off at the conclusion of the demonstration: 3 private lessons with James, along with 2 group lessons.

See the information table in the foyer for a sign-up sheet and a flyer with more information about the class, and about the instructor!

**About James Bell:** James subscribes to the philosophy that "Dancing is the loftiest, the most moving, the most beautiful of the arts, because it is no mere translation or abstraction; it is life itself." This attitude is demonstrated in James' approach to teaching all levels of dancers, from beginners to those more experienced dancers who need to polish their technique.

He has been teaching for 13 years and is a Dance Specialist who has expertise in all the most popular social dances. He is a D.V.I.D.A. Certified Teacher, with six years of competitive dance experience to his credit, reaching the finals in four of six years.

A Jacksonville native, James demonstrates his sophisticated style and love for dance every time he takes a student onto the dance floor.



## This Day in Unitarian Universalist History

by Dr. Frank Schulman

[http://www.harvardsquarelibrary.org/365\\_this\\_day/?month=10&day=25](http://www.harvardsquarelibrary.org/365_this_day/?month=10&day=25)



### 2 December 1778

1778 Nathaniel Stacy was born in New Salem, Massachusetts. At age 14, Stacy was apprenticed to a blacksmith. He went on to teach school, distribute newspapers, and work for a clockmaker. Stacy's personal study of the Bible convinced him of universal salvation. Inspired to preach by Hosea Ballou, he was ordained in 1803. Stacy's preaching circuit expanded to two dozen towns in central New York, and he is



### 21 December 1563

1563 The anti-Trinitarian Bernardino Ochino was expelled from Zurich, Switzerland, at age 76 and in the middle of winter, for publication of Dialogues (1531). He had become a Unitarian late in life, and had spent 1547 to 1553 in exile in England under Edward VI. A translation of his book A dialogue on the unjustly usurped primacy of the Bishop of Rome is known to have influenced King Edward VI in his struggle to organize English Protestantism.



### 28 December 1548

1548 The priest John Assheton was summoned before Archbishop Thomas Cranmer at Lambeth Palace to answer charges of Unitarianism. Although Assheton subsequently recanted and survived, he was the first Englishman convicted for Unitarian ideas.



## 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.

### **Dec 4th: Pat Ray** will present ***Bless All Who Serve***

In a historic move the first military worship service was held at this years General Assembly in Charlotte, NC. Today's service will present a combination of that service with insight I gained studying Unitarian Universalism's involvement and preceptions with the military with an introduction to the *UU Peace Advocacy Congregation* initiative.

Led by **Jennifer Stokes • Martha Morgan**, Accompanist

### **Dec. 11: Rev. Jack Ford** will present ***Who Do You Say That I Am?***

What do we know about Jesus the man? What do we care? It might be fair to say that, for most Unitarian Universalists, Jesus is an important historic figure, a significant religious leader of the past. Beyond that, for practical purposes (or spiritual ones), what can we say?

Led by **Ron Rothberg • Gary Smart**, Accompanist

### **Dec 18: Religious Education** will present the ***BBUUC Annual Intergenerational Christmas Service and Child Dedication Ceremony***

This annual service for all ages celebrates the spirit of the holidays. Our child dedication ceremony will be held for the newest children of our congregation as well as those children who have not yet been dedicated. At this, our first Christmas season in our new building, we will again honor an old BBUUC tradition of asking all who attend to bring canned food items wrapped in plain white paper to be collected by our children as gifts for the food pantry.

Led by **Ann Marie Shrader • Marilyn Smart**, Accompanist

### **Dec 24, at 6:30 PM: The Worship Committee, Members and Friends of BBUUC** will present our ***Annual Christmas Eve Service***

Come, bring your family and friends to our annual Christmas Eve Service. Our program will be a woven tapestry of music, carols, words and inspiration for this holiday season, for all ages—followed by a time of fellowship and holiday refreshments furnished by volunteer bakers, organized by the Hospitality Committee. We start early, to allow everyone time to share Christmas Eve at home with their friends and families. Don't miss this special evening!

### **Dec 25 Christmas Day: Pat Ray** will present ***What Happened To The Gifts?***

It is so rare that Christmas falls on a Sunday, and so divine that it does so our first year in our new home. We will have a traditional service this day with readings, stories, music and messages on the gifts we bring to the season. In this vein I invite you to bring a small treat to share after the service at coffee hour - donut, danish, fruit, etc. We will have coffee, tea, instant cider and hot cocoa available.

**Please note:** There will be no RE classes or child care on Christmas Day but we do have the gift of our viewing room with rocking chair if you need it.

## Clean-up and Catch-up Crews for December



### December 4, 2011

Leader: Joani Maskell with Callie Beesley, Paul Marquardt, Ruxandra Marquardt, Cliff Maskell, Bonnie McCullar, Stephen McCullar, Ellen Miceli

### December 11, 2011

Leader: Ariel Patterson with Alice McKinney, Peggy Mullins, Gina Norstedt, Mark Norstedt, Ron Nowack, Shea Pearson

### December 18, 2011

Leader: Bob Williamson with David Dean, Chyna Rafuse, Melinda Rafuse, Otto Rafuse, Christine Rothberg, Ron Rothberg, Diane Williamson

### December 25, 2011

No assigned clean-up crew. Any needed clean up should be done by volunteers.

## Linda Crawford Exhibit

For the month of December, The Artists' Corner is pleased to present the watercolors of **Linda Crawford**. As described in her own words:

"I have painted in watercolor since childhood. The medium is so challenging that I have never been tempted to take up oil or pastels. I strive for a fluid, spontaneous effect, which combines beautiful color with sensitivity to the landscape I portray. For this exhibit, I have concentrated on my love of trees and variations on the color green. In 1996, I had surgery which resulted in partial paralysis of my right arm and hand. I have not



painted since then; my right hand trembles and is hard to control. That is the reason that none of these paintings is for sale. However, I keep telling myself that my impressionistic style lends itself to imprecise brushstrokes, and that I will start again. So stay tuned!"

Be sure to read each of Linda's wonderful descriptions as you view her paintings.



## Birthdays

12/01	Topher Christiansen
12/06	Diane Williamson
12/07	Chris Bak
12/10/98	Allison Murphy
12/13	Frances Kennicutt
12/14	Sara Heath
12/14	Carlos Marina
12/15	Alice McKinney
12/19/02	Brendan Shrader
12/19	Gary Smart
12/22	Ron Nowack
12/24	Sandy Goldman
12/24/96	Taylor Murphy
12/25	Mark Yount
12/26/96	Mikhail McKinney
12/27/00	Connor Shrader
12.28	Deborah Hansen
12/30	Anna Strickland
12/30	Andrew Toupin
12/30	Bob Williamson



## Anniversaries

12/22	Frances & Ken Kennicutt
12/28	Eric & Beth Cravey

## Second Wednesday Lunch Bunch

The BBUUC Lunch Bunch will meet on December 14th for food and fellowship at Pengrees Restaurant in Orange Park (556 Kingsley Avenue). All are welcomed to join us! Please contact Frances Kennicutt at 272-2151 to R.S.V.P. by Monday, December 12th 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.

## ANOTHER GREAT BBUUC MUSIC CIRCLE WEDNESDAY December 7 at 7 pm

Come Play – Sing along – or just Enjoy!

All ability and experience levels are welcome! We'll be at the front of the hall so that pianists will find it easy to participate too.

Come early or late, but come to enjoy the music and fellowship!

Questions? Email Lynn - [Lwadley@comcast.net](mailto:Lwadley@comcast.net)

***Friday, December 9 at 6:00 p.m.***

## Annual Cookies and Caroling Party



**At the Gallois-Bernos home**

**1553 Azalea Terrace in Riverside**

Come for a delightful intergenerational party featuring cookie making and consuming, and caroling. Lift your voices together to celebrate the season as you stroll through the lovely Christmas lights of Riverside. The fun begins at 6:00pm.

# DECEMBER 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> 7pm Member- ship Com.	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 3pm BEACON Lock In
<b>4</b> 12pm Choir Re- hearsal 12pm Ballroom/ Latin Dance	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 7pm Steering Com.	<b>7</b> 7pm BEACON 7pm Music Circle	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 6pm Cookies and Caroling at Ber- nos'	<b>10</b> 1pm Drop and Shop
<b>11</b> 8:30 BBUUBF 12pm BBUUYA Lunch 12pm Choir Re-	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 7pm Board Meet- ing	<b>14</b> 11:30am Lunch Bunch 7pm BEACON 7pm CUUPS	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 12pm Soc. Action Com. 12pm Caring C. 12pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 7pm Worship Cmte	<b>21</b> 7pm BEACON	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 6:30pm Christ- mas Eve Service
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 7pm BBUUYA	<b>28</b> 7pm BEACON 7pm CUUPS	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

**The Journey** is published monthly by the Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church and is distributed electronically in PDF format, or by mail to members with no computer access. Subscription: \$20 per year for non-members for a paper copy to be mailed monthly. Electronic Journey sent at no cost. Submissions are required by the deadline shown above, and may be sent to BBUUC Journey at P. O. Box 844, Orange Park, FL 32067; [journey@bbuuc.org](mailto:journey@bbuuc.org).

# The Journey

*Newsletter of*

Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church

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