

# INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Newest Chaplain: Karen Christiansen Mardi Gras Thanks	1
Artists Corner A Big Thank You from Worship BBUUBF	2
Joys & Concerns Chalice Camp Greeters/Hosts	3
Faith in Action District Assembly Reminder	4
Religious Education	5
Important Notes from the Board Birthdays & Anniversaries Atoms & Eden Bylaws Discussion CUUPS	6
Choir Easter Potluck Circle Suppers Lunch Bunch	7
Schedule of Services	8
Calendar of Events	9
Great Decisions BUUYA	10



The Newsletter of the  
Buckman Bridge Unitarian  
Universalist Church

March 2012

## Welcome BBUUC's Newest Pastoral Care Team Chaplain: Karen Christiansen

On January 22<sup>nd</sup> BBUUC welcomed Karen Christiansen in covenant together as our new chaplain. As a "snow bird" Karen C. will be available to us during the Fall and Winter months. We've asked Karen to share a bit about her journey with pastoral care.

My past experience as a chaplain at the University of Chicago Medical Center was very positive. People facing a difficult time in their life left me feeling honored to be invited to listen and be present with them. There was so much love displayed in the families and friends I met in the hospital setting. People have listened to and supported me at times in my life when I needed them, and chaplaincy is an opportunity to open my ears and simply be with fellow members of this congregation who may at times desire someone with them or to be listened to in confidence.

At our home here in Florida, we have a wall hanging with Reinhold Niebuhr's words on it which say "grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference." As your chaplain I will seek serenity from many sources and endeavor to be there for you if and when you call.

— *Karen Christiansen*

## Mardi Gras, Merci Beaucoup!

Thanks to everyone who came to the Mardi Gras Party on Feb. 25! Special thanks to our hosts, Drew and Jen Glassman, and to our special musicians of the evening, Michael Bernos and Paul Marquardt. All of the money donated for the party goes to help our teens pay for their summer trip to do social action in New Orleans in June.





## Kate Smart

Kate Smart graduated with a degree in studio art from Mount Holyoke College in 2009. She works primarily with oil and acrylic to create vibrant, colorful, painterly landscapes and portraits.

**Stop by The Artists' Corner and enjoy Kate's paintings**

## A Big “Thank You” To All Who Have Participated In Our Sunday Services:

Our 10:30 services are the heart of our church, and they could not occur without your enthusiasm, talents and hard work. We thank, in particular, our:

**Lay Leaders:** Your responsibilities are many. You produce, write, direct and present the service. You spend hours of preparation, and you provide on the spot adjustments to keep things running smoothly. In a lay led church, you are the lynch-pin of our Sunday mornings.

**Accompanists:** Your talent and passion are a gift to our church. We are a music-loving congregation, and your contribution, performed faithfully month after month, provides the emotional heart of our services.

**In-house Speakers:** We are so lucky to have an accomplished, varied and thoughtful group of speakers within our congregation. We thank you for sharing your values and convictions with us. Without you, there would be no service.

**In-house musicians:** Like our accompanists, you give generously of your talents. You provide us with moments of quiet meditation, and moments of joy. You add richness and depth to our services.

**Participants in collaborative and RE services:** Your participation has allowed us to get to know you better, and has provided excitement and variety to our services. Many of you generally avoid speaking in public, and yet you have overcome that fear to share something of value with your fellow congregants: a bit of yourselves.

— Gratefully, the Worship Committee

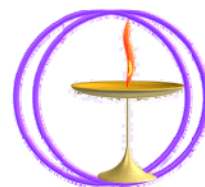
## Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Buddhist Fellowship

*"Learn to listen to the voice within yourself. Your body and mind will become one, and you will realize the unity of all things." - Dogen Zenji.*

The BBUUBF was formed to provide a space for BBUUC and members of the community to practice silent sitting meditation. Our lives are busy and filled with activity and commotion. As a result, our meetings are mostly silent and dedicated to practice. However, we're very happy to provide meditation instruction if anyone

wants! The BBUUBF meets on Sunday mornings biweekly at 8:30AM. Our usual schedule consists of 20 minutes of silent sitting meditation, 10 minutes of walking meditation followed by another 20 or so minutes of sitting, but we are open to change. All are welcome. On another note, if anyone's interested, we could do a meditation class at a more user-friendly time than 8:30AM, maybe after a service on a designated day.

# JOYS AND CONCERNS



Eileen Morrison would like to thank everyone for their cards, hugs, conversations, thoughts and prayers following her brother, Bob Atkinsons's death at Thanksgiving. he support was very appreciated.

Best wishes to Kris Kines' father who is continuing to recover from hip surgery.

Our love and condolences to the Christenson family at the recent loss of Peg's father, Edward J. Mulcahy. Cards may be sent to: 9182 Starpass Dr. Jacksonville, FL 32256



Our congratulations to Jillian Christiansen! She is headed to the State Science Fair competition in April! We're very proud of her and her achievements!

We are excited to welcome Barbara Bujak, who has volunteered to Chair the Welcoming Congregation Ministry here at BBUUC!



## BBUUC TO HOLD SUMMER CHALICE CAMP FOR KIDS

***Parents, mark your calendars now for July 9-13 for BBUUC's first ever summer camp!***

Called, "Chalice Camp", the program will be for children who will be entering 5K through children entering 5<sup>th</sup> grade. The camp will be a half-day (9-12) and will feature music, art, physical activity, and drama. Experienced YMCA camp director Dani Slader will be the Chalice Camp Director.

More details will be announced soon, but with your summer schedule filling up, make sure you save a place for Chalice Camp! A maximum of 40 children will be able to attend, so watch for the registration information which will be available through Religious Education.

Greeters/Usher Volunteers	
March 4	Gina and Mark Norstedt
March 11	Karen Nolan Peggy Mullins
March 18	Linda and Dale Crawford
March 25	Frances Kennicutt

Fellowship Host	
March 4	Karen Nolan Peggy Mullins
March 11	Valerie Bouffard
March 18	Cassidy Hopson/Lauren
March 25	<i>Open — volunteer needed!</i>

## Faith in Action: Social Action in Tallahassee



Ready, get set...lobbying with UU Legislative Ministry Feb 21-22 2012



Barbara Bujak, Sandy Goldman and David Johnson meeting with Senator Audrey Gibson in Tallahassee.



David, Barbara and Sandy organizing lobbying strategy in Capitol Bldg.



Barbara being congratulated for speaking out in opposition to SB 98 at the House Judiciary Committee



The deadline for registering for the **Florida District Assembly is March 16th!** The District Assembly is being hosted by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Jacksonville from March 23-25 this year. The theme this year is **Crossing Boundaries — A Ministry of Inclusion**. Go to the Florida District UUA Website [www.floridadistrict.org](http://www.floridadistrict.org) for more information and registrations, or see the information table at BBUUC for copies! If you register, let Beth Christiansen, our Office Administrator, know so that we can keep track of who will be there.

## From Your Director of RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Ten years ago this month, John and I decided to move to Florida after living in Wisconsin for 23 years. Florida was home, and with aging parents, it was time to be closer than 1,200 miles away. It was hard to leave our friends and the Wisconsin we loved, but it seemed the right thing to do. Jacksonville was our place of choice.

Before moving we checked to see if there were UU churches in Jacksonville – a criterion for relocation. After three decades of being a UU in different parts of the country - chairing boards and committees, working as a UU church administrator, helping create Lake Country UU Church from scratch, and serving on the Central Midwest District's Growth Committee - I had come to consider myself a UU evangelist in many ways. Maybe that's a reflection of my Southern Baptist upbringing, but I knew that involvement in a UU church would be an important part of my new life in Jacksonville. As it turned out, BBUUC was just beginning a search for its first Director of Religious Education. I applied for the job, the church decided to take a chance on me, and the rest, I guess, is history.

The ten years since have gone by quickly. I've worked with ten different Boards of Trustees and RE Committees. The RE Committee Chairs with whom I've worked closely during these years have been particularly supportive, responsible, generous, and skilled; several of them served multiple terms. I'm happy with what we've accomplished together in those years working with kids and adults - particularly establishing Enrichment on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights for adults, implementing Spirit Play, building our Teen group and broadening their UU experience through summer trips, teaching OWL to 1<sup>st</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grades, "Transitioning" BBUUC kids at life's milestones, holding the first annual all-church retreat, and planning a church summer day camp which hopefully will begin this summer. I appreciated the Board's confidence when it asked me to facilitate the development of our congregation's Covenant of Right Relations years ago and was so grateful to everyone at BBUUC who was involved in my selection in 2008 as Florida District's Religious Educator of the Year.

The years have been full ones. I've watched children grow up, been gifted with many hugs, made wonderful friends, and been supported in my work for the faith I value so much. However, just like ten years ago, it seems this is the right time for a change. After much thought, I've decided to retire as BBUUC's DRE at the end of this fiscal year, June 30, 2012. I look forward to being a lay UU once again.

My contract requires a three-month notice. However, since I consented to a 3-year salary freeze to help BBUUC project expenses expected with the building, I'm aware that the salary for the next DRE might need to be higher. And since this is the time when next year's budget is being planned, it seems like the best time to let the Board know of my decision. During these last four months, I will continue my normal DRE activities, of course, and intend to spend some additional time getting materials and curricula ready for this transition.

My thanks to the loving community of BBUUC that provided support, encouragement, and assistance over these years.

Sincerely, and with great affection,

*Brenda*



## Notes from the Board

As a congregation we have been privileged to have Brenda Patterson as our Director of Religious Education for 10 years. We have benefited from her experience, knowledge, vision & passion. In no small part thanks to her effort we have a vibrant & healthy Lifetime Religious Education program. We are grateful to her for all that she has brought to our LRE program and to the congregation as a whole.

Brenda has notified the Board that she will be retiring from her position as Director of Religious Education at the end of this fiscal year. I think I speak for everyone when I say that we are very saddened to hear this & will miss her in this position. We have all been truly blessed to have Brenda as our DRE over this last decade. The Board is truly grateful for everything she has done to help build our church home. She has committed to making this difficult transition as easy as possible. Even with her assistance, this will be a challenging time for our congregation.

Brenda will leave some very big shoes to fill. But the Board believes that we indeed must fill them. We will be convening a Search Committee for another DRE. If you are interested in assisting with that search, please see myself or any other Board member.

I urge you not to think about this as losing a DRE in Brenda, but gaining in her a new passionate lay member of our Church family.

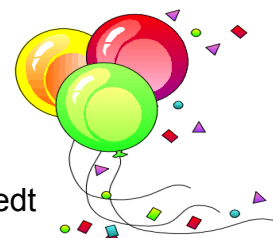
## Birthdays

03/07 Arnie Kluding  
03/08 Cliff Maskell  
03/09 Ron Rothberg  
03/12 Nikki Bak  
03/12 Tara Crisp  
03/21 Drew Bak  
03/21 Gloriana Garvey  
03/28 Kirby Kines



## Anniversaries

03/11 Bill & Kris Kines  
03/11 Mark & Gina Norstedt  
03/15 Chris & Nikki Bak  
03/16 Topher & Beth Christiansen  
03/17 Paul & Melinda Kluding  
03/17 Paul & Ruxandra Marquardt  
03/27 John & Leslie Sheffield  
03/29 Donald & Myrna Kissinger



## Bylaw Discussion: 3/6 @ 7pm

Come learn about our congregation's bylaws, and a discussion of whether the language in our bylaws continues to be appropriate for our growing congregation.

## CUUPS—Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans:

The BBUUC CUUPS group meets on the second Wednesday and last Thursday of the month. They also conducts rituals and celebrations throughout the year, so watch the calendar for scheduled events. If you are interested in connecting with others who follow earth-centered or nature religions, please join us!

## “ATOMS AND EDEN” SCIENCE & RELIGION CLASS TO MEET

Should we see the “ceaseless creativity of nature as sacred”? Has religion given us a “fickle deity”? “Are the laws of physics fine-tuned to support life?”

Be a part of the conversation as we look at how religion and science may – or may not – cross paths. The two-session class, “Atoms & Eden” will meet on Sunday March 18 and March 25 from 12-1pm. Based on Steve Paulson’s book by the same name, the class will feature contemporary voices on this ancient topic.

# Announcements

**Our Choir of the Moment will be singing on Easter Sunday, April 8.**

Rehearsals will be:

- after the service (approximately 12:15) in the sanctuary on March 25,
- before the service (approx. 9:45am) in the sanctuary on April 1,
- and before the service on the 8th.

**All enthusiastic singers are welcome! If you have questions, please contact Marilyn Smart.**



**The Hospitality Committee will host the potluck after Easter Services** this year. Please bring your favorite spring/Easter dishes to share with our BBUUC family. Remember to bring your dishes already to serve in it's serving dish. We can keep some things warm in the oven but we will not do complete preparation. We do not have a stove top, and we only have one small microwave oven.

## CIRCLE SUPPERS: WINTER 2011

As we near the conclusion of our first round of "Circle Suppers" for 2012, all reports are of "a good time had by all." One originally reluctant co-host was reported as offering to "do it again"! A nice post script was added that the guests even helped to clean up...

We are currently getting ready to do another round targeting the months April, May and June. Our first step is to seek out hosts. Hosting is open to any member or friend of the congregation. And, it's all quite simple. You establish a date and time, chose either a "Family Supper" or an "Adults Only" gathering, and decide on the type of supper you'd like to host and maybe even have a tentative menu in mind; you provide the entrée and the guests each bring a complementary dish.

Supper types can vary widely, and we hope they will. For example, do you wish to have a "kitchen table" supper, or maybe a barbeque that includes outdoor seating, or possibly a more formal dinner in that underused dining room? When we have a full complement of guests, you will receive your list and then you're free to contact each guest to extend your personal invitation. For those who've not hosted a supper before, it's probably good to talk it over with Pam before plunging in.

If you are interested, please contact Pam Edwards-Roiné at pamedro.com or at 358-9535. (And isn't it great that we can even just say, "See our directory"? Thanks Linda, Lynn and Beth!) In the meantime, we hope everyone will also give consideration to attending a circle supper during this next round whether you've attended one before or not.

**Note: Those who previously offered to host, please reconfirm and offer two or three possible dates.**

— Pam Edwards-Roiné

**Lunch Bunch March 14th:** 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 (272-2151) or Beth Christiansen, the office administrator, at [admin@bbuuc.org](mailto:admin@bbuuc.org) if you plan to join us, for directions, and so that a table can be reserved at the restaurant.

# 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.

## **March 4: Rev. Billy Thomas** will present “*Love and Wisdom*”

Billy will examine the Psalms, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes as literature.

*About our speaker:* Rev. Thomas has delivered many sermons for our congregation. He holds an MA in Christian Education from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has been a practicing Buddhist since 1997.

Led by **Sarah Ritzmann** with accompaniment by **Marilyn Smart**

## **March 11: Rev. Jack Ford** will present “*Justice Is the Human Right to Water*”

On Sunday, we will stand up with UU congregations nationwide to celebrate and support the human right to water. Working with the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, we help make the right to water a reality. This special worship service celebrates what we have done together so far, and reminds us that Justice Sunday calls us to reflect, understand, and act.

Led by **Ann Marie Shrader**

**This service will include a new member recognition ceremony.**

## **March 18: Dr. Mark Yount** will present “*Get the Picture: Photographic Values for Life*”

In photography as in painting, light and color take different 'values' the artist arranges to creative effect. As I process these digital images, my hobby calls me to the craft of my life. What can I learn from the values of composition, focus, balance... of shadow, highlight and contrast... sensitivity, speed and openness? What *is* that aesthetic 'rightness' I'm trying to find through my digital alchemy? And what might it look like if I could bring that to *life*?

Led by **Linda Crawford**

**This service will include a hymnal dedication**

## **March 25: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray** will present “*Beyond These Walls*”

Evangelism is a term being embraced by some Unitarian Universalist, particularly young people in our movement who want to see us share our liberal message more openly. How do we move from being congregations people stumble upon to ones that people talk about and invite their friends? How do we learn to share what we have found in our congregations beyond the walls of our sanctuaries?

*About our speaker:* The Reverend Susan Frederick-Gray is Lead Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix. This year she is also leading the newly formed Arizona Immigration Ministry. In addition, she plays an integral part in planning the “Justice General Assembly,” to be held in Phoenix in June 2012.

Led by **Linda Mowers** with accompaniment by **Gary Smart**

# MARCH 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7pm Member- ship Cmte Mtg	2 7pm Coffee House	3
4 9:15 Great Deci- sions 9:30 Facilities Cmte 10:30 OWL 12pm DRE Assess- ment Guest at your Table ends	5	6 7pm Bylaw Dis- cussion Group	7 7pm Beacon 7pm Layleader/ Accompanist Ap- preciation Dinner	8	9	10 Circle Sup- per
11 8:30am BBUUBF 12pm BBUUYA bag lunch 12pm Caring Cmte	12	13 7pm Council Mtg	14 11:30am Lunch Bunch 7pm CUUPS 7pm Beacon 7pm Spirit in	15	16 Deadline for FLD Assem- bly Registra- tion	17
18 9:15 Atom and Eden (Science and Religion) 10:30 OWL 12pm Social Action Cmte	19	20 7pm CUUPS Ostara Ritual 7pm Hospitality Cmte 7pm Worship Cmte	21 7pm Beacon 7pm Spirit in Practice <b>Journey Deadline</b>	22	23 FLA District Assembly begins 4pm registration, 7:30pm opening ceremonies	24 FLA District Assembly continues (ends Sun- day)
25 8:30am BBUUBF 9:15 Atom and Eve	26	27 7pm Board Mtg 7pm BBUUYA	28 7pm Beacon 7pm Spirit in Practice	29	30	31

**Please Note:** Scheduled events are subject to change. Please confirm events by checking the calendar at [www.bbuuc.org](http://www.bbuuc.org).

## Guest Speaker to Lead BBUUC's First "Great Decisions" Class

Ethan Domkowski, history teacher and experienced Great Decisions leader, will lead BBUUC's initial Great Decisions program on Thursday, March 15, at 7 pm. Through four once-a-month sessions we will examine world issues via an in-depth discussion format within the framework of our UU purposes and principles. From the eight topics set for Great Decisions discussions in 2012, we will focus on four. The first topic will be "Middle East Realignment."

Great Decisions, a national, non-partisan, grass-roots discussion program, has been around since 1954 and is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. Great Decisions groups meet all over the country, including here in Jacksonville. This will offer our congregation a chance to more deeply explore issues that confront us as people committed to the democratic process and to the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.

The resource used for this series of discussions is the Great Decisions Briefing book which can be purchased online at [fpa.org/great\\_decisions/](http://fpa.org/great_decisions/) for those who want their own copy, however, advance reading is not required for these discussion groups. We will have a limited number of Briefing books available to check out at church. There will be free childcare at each program. Please sign the sign-up sheet at church if you know you'll be attending, but walk-ins are very welcome!

The dates for the other programs in this series are April 19, May 17, and June 14.

## Our Young Adult Ministry: BBUUYA

Our Young Adult group gives members and friends of our church, that are between the ages of **18-35**, an opportunity to connect with one another outside of the normal Sunday service and participate in a broad range of activities such as: worship, focused discussion, social action, lunches, outings, and many other community-building activities. BBUUYA meets regularly on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7pm, and also gathers for lunch on the 2nd Sunday after the service. They utilize social media, and are in the process of supporting local campus ministries as well as becoming an Anchor Young Adult ministry with the UUA. If you would like to find out more, contact Jeremy or Sarah Ritzmann at [jeremyritzmann@gmail.com](mailto:jeremyritzmann@gmail.com) or [sarahritzmann@gmail.com](mailto:sarahritzmann@gmail.com).

### The Journey

*Newsletter of*

Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church

P.O. Box 844

Orange Park, FL 32067