



The Journey

The Newsletter of the
Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church



 A Welcoming Congregation

June 2015



Universalist Convocation 2015

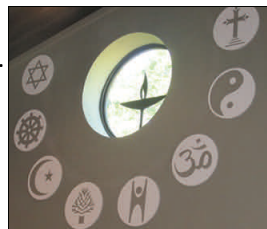
We are very excited to host the Universalist Convocation on May 29-31. Rev Pat Ray and her team have pulled together a really exciting program of keynoters and

workshops, including two of the recognized world experts on Unitarian and Universalist history.

We will need volunteers to help with a number of tasks, and we look forward to working together to make this event a success. For more information about the Convocation, please speak with Rev. Pat Ray or go to the Convocation web site at www.BBUUC.org/uc2015.

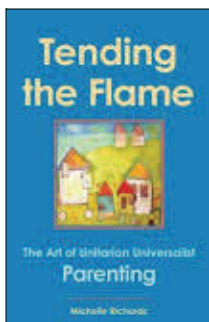
Newcomer Class

The next round of Newcomer classes run Sundays June 7, 14 and 21 at noon. The Newcomer classes are a great way to learn about the history of BBUUC and UUism. If you are interested in becoming a member of BBUUC, please plan on attending the Newcomer classes. Contact membership@bbuuc.org for more information.



Parent Group

Lifespan Religious Education facilitates a bi-weekly parenting group on Sundays at 11:45. (Check the church calendar.) We bring finger foods to share during our discussion time, as able. Childcare is provided and parents should provide a bag lunch for their children. Discussions are varied. Currently we are discussing ideas from "Tending the Flame: The Art of Unitarian Universalist Parenting." Reading the book is optional. Join us as we share ideas and discuss parenting as a spiritual practice. No Sign-up required. Contact religious_ed@bbuuc.org for more information.



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Spirit Play & Spirit Explorers: Blueberry Picking and Sleepover on June 13-14



Our adventures include: blueberry picking, visiting a small farm, swimming, pizza, games and movies.

We spend the night at the church and in the morning have our parents join us for a Blueberry Pancake Breakfast. Yum!

Please sign-up in order to help us make our plans. Contact religious_ed@bbuuc.org for more information.

CUUPS Schedule

The Covenant of UU Pagans (CUUPS) will meet at 7pm on Wednesday, June 3 and 17.



CUUPS provides a safe space within the BBUUC community where interested people can learn about and practice paganism. Contact cuups@bbuuc.org for more information.

Animals as Partners, Healers, Teachers, and Guides



Rev. Elizabeth Teal of the Ministry of Animals will be continuing her 4-part series on the varied ways of including animals into our faith. Rev. Teal and the CUUPS group will delve into animals as partners, healers, teachers, and friends.

What do they give us, and how do we care for them in return? This series of talks will investigate the many ways we can work in tandem and share our spiritual lives with other species.

CUUPS continues this series on May 20, June 17, and Aug 19.

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Friday, June 19th from 7-9pm, BBUUC invites you to join us for a delicious dinner and festivities! Help us celebrate and show our grateful appreciation to our wonderful volunteers for another fabulous year of hard work and dedication.

Child care is available upon request. Attendees MUST R.S.V.P. by Sunday, June 7th! Dinner will be provided to all guests, so your response will assist us with advance planning. Please use the following link to R.S.V.P: <http://bit.ly/1doxOSF>

Contact Linda Mowers at president@bbuuc.org or 904-536-6003 if you have any questions!



Reiki

The next Reiki session will be at noon on June 14 at BBUUC. Reiki is a spiritual practice which seeks to balance energy and promote self-healing.

There is no need to undress. Just kick back and relax. Watch for the sign-up sheets at the rear of the sanctuary, and contact Rev. Pat Ray if you have any questions.



Reiki Training, Level 1 - Fundraiser

Rev. Pat Ray and Rev. Liz Teal will be providing a Reiki Level 1 training on Saturday, June 27th, 10am-5pm.

Cost is \$35 for BBUUC members, \$75 for non-members. Fee includes class, workbook and light lunch.

All proceeds will be donated to the Emergency Caring Fund.

Note: Advance enrollment is required due to the limited class size. Registration log is on the back table.



Medieval Art: a Personal View

LRE hosts an interactive series every Wednesday at 7 PM in June, moderated by Linda Crawford (MA and PhD Candidacy in Gothic and Northern Renaissance Art History)

June 3rd: How Jesus' image changed: We will see how portrayals of Jesus changed in both style and meaning from late classical to late Gothic art, and how these changes reflected societal changes. (This will be an expanded version of the Universalist Convocation Workshop)

June 10th: 500-1000-Early Medieval Art: We will observe the influences on, and styles of, the first 500 years of medieval art, from the exuberant "animal style" of Germanic and Celtic imagery to the grandeur of Romanesque cathedrals.

June 17th: High Gothic Art: We will study the stained-glass, sculpture, architecture and illuminated manuscripts of this brilliant period of medieval art.

June 24th: Late Gothic/Northern Renaissance Art: We will view the revolutionary realist style of this northern European counterpart to the Italian Renaissance, from Jan Van Eyck to Hieronymous Bosch

There will be an additional class July 1st if requested.

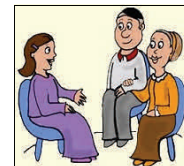
Lunch Bunch



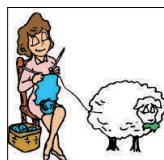
The Lunch Bunch will meet on Wednesday, June 10 at 11:30am at Pengree's Restaurant in Orange Park (556 Kingsley Ave). This group meets the second Wednesday of each month for food and fellowship. All are welcome! Please contact Frances Kennicutt or admin@bbuuc.org if you plan to join us, so that we can reserve a table at the restaurant.

Coffee Conversations

Each Sunday morning at 9:30, the Coffee Conversations group gathers for a friendly discussion of the issues of the day. All are welcome.



Prayer Shawl Affinity Group



The Prayer Shawl affinity group creates shawls and lap blankets to comfort community members in need. The group will meet on the first Monday of each month, 10am-noon, at the Mandarin Panera (11111 San Jose Blvd). The next meeting will be June 1.

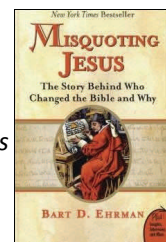
If you would like to attend, please contact Lisa Cromar at prayershawls@bbuuc.org no later than the day before the meeting. If there are no RSVPs, the meeting will be cancelled.

Religious Texts and Society

On Thursday, July 9 at 7pm, the Religious Texts and Society group will discuss *Misquoting Jesus* by Bart Ehrman.

"For almost 1,500 years, the New Testament manuscripts were copied by hand—and mistakes and intentional changes abound...many of our widely held beliefs concerning the divinity of Jesus, the Trinity, and the divine origins of the Bible itself are the results of both intentional and accidental alterations by scribes."

All are welcome. If you would like more information, please contact Dale Crawford or Scott Cromar.



mUUVies at UUFSA

On some Fridays at 6:30pm, UUFSA hosts a night at the mUUVies. There is a \$5 suggested donation.

June 12 - Lone Star "When the skeleton of his murdered predecessor is found, Sheriff Sam Deeds unearths many other long-buried secrets in his Texas border town."



Christian Fellowship



On Sunday, June 28 at 9:00am, BBUUC's Christian Fellowship will meet to discuss "Social Justice: Realizing God's Vision." Please contact Rev Pat Ray if you are interested in participating.



**Rev. Jack Ford
Wolf Tracks**

(This month's column is excerpted from the President's Report to the congregation in the 2015 BBUUC Annual Report. The full Annual Report is available in the "Communications to Members" section of the web site.)

The past year has been chock full of challenges, community and relationship building, celebrations and milestones. Major decisions have been made that will affect the direction of our congregation, and we continue to create and maintain a solid organizational foundation that allows us to responsibly evolve.

I thank you for the opportunity to serve our church in the capacity of President these past two years. It is with mixed feelings that I end my last term on the Board, realizing what a truly great team we have become, but knowing that changes are good—both for me and for the congregation. Your Board this year has been harmonious, highly functional and passionate about our congregation. I have left each meeting feeling blessed to be surrounded by such wonderful, intelligent and committed colleagues, and have looked forward to each of our gatherings.

I believe that our most important accomplishment this year has been building a foundation and facilitating the process for the congregation to make a decision to hire The Reverend Jack Ford as our minister. As most of you know, this was a very significant milestone for BBUUC that was reached only after a long process of financial management, fundraising, discussion and evaluation. We were so fortunate to have a very generous donor to jump-start the funding that has been growing this past year with more generous contributions that have been matched and have been able to support the addition of professional ministry to our growing congregation.

We were able to bring Rev. Jack into the position the first of March to give him a bit of jump-start toward establishing his ministry. I believe that these past weeks have been instrumental in laying the groundwork for a successful first year of ministry for Rev. Jack. Next year, we will begin to see the wider effects of this shared ministry, and I am excited about the possibilities.

Thanks to all of the members and staff of our congregation, and to my leadership colleagues, for making my experience as President these past two years a wonderful one. Finally, special thanks to my wonderful and loving husband, Barry—as well as the rest of my fantastic family—for all of their love, support and understanding, taking a back seat so often to allow me to serve my congregation and our faith.

In love and faith,
Linda Mowers
President, BBUUC

(Rev Jack Ford worked with Jay Gardner from the PR Committee to write a ministerial introduction for the web site. This is the letter they composed.)

I recall being about twelve years old when I felt the call to ministry. After completing high school, I was fortunate to be given a scholarship to attend Stetson University.

Something unforeseen happened along the way to becoming a representative of God. I lost my faith, not only in God's word, but also in God (at least the Judeo-Christian God).

I finished my studies, which I enjoyed immensely, but I knew I was not going to be a minister, at least not a Southern Baptist minister. For about ten years after my faith crumbled I wandered...wandered from job to job in social work, town to town and eventually returned to Jacksonville. I began attending the Unitarian Universalist Church (UU) in the Arlington area and have been a UU since 1987. Eventually, I did become a minister.

So why am I sharing this anecdote from my life? My reason for wanting to share this was that after wandering for ten years, I realized how much I missed church. Yes, even as an atheist I still missed church for the reason that church had been such a big part of my life growing up. I loved, and still love, the aspect of community that church offered. It is also the reason I went on to become a UU minister thus fulfilling the calling that I mentioned earlier when I was just a boy of twelve.

Chances are, if you are reading this, you are spiritually wandering, and church has been a part of your life in one way or another. You may be at the beginning of your spiritual journey or well down the path. In any event, we invite you come and be a part of our community while you travel this journey. After all we are all travelers on a spiritual journey. The purpose of BBUUC and my mission as the minister of this congregation is to offer compassion and community to all those who wander whether they are theist, deist or atheist, believer or agnostics, hetro or homosexual, young or old, black or white, etc, etc, etc...

So the only question I have for you is "would you like a companion as you wander?" As traveling writer Tim Cahill once said, "A journey is best measured in friends rather than miles."

In Love and Hope,
Rev Jack (Wolf)
Minister



**DIRECTOR OF
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
DWELLINGS**

As I approach my two year anniversary of accepting the position of DRE, I am filled with

gratitude. Gratitude for the children I get to work with, and the role I get to play in their lives, gratitude for the community which is trusted me, but most of all gratitude for the volunteers that I work with every day.

Summertime is a time of joy, we spread our wings and flutter out all over the country on vacation, knowing that when we return our church home will be there. It is something we take for granted almost, but it is precious. Our church home is maintained by those who give of themselves so that the church is a gift to others. The people who open the building on Sunday morning, the worship assistants and worship leaders who makes the service happen, the different board members who have made sound choices that keep our doors open, and the LRE teachers who serve to make sure the children of our faith understand the power of our faith.

There are more volunteers than I can think to list in a simple paragraph, but as this Church year wraps up, I want to say thank you. Thank you for your time, thank you for your talent, and thank you for giving us a spiritual home.

I'd like to say a special thank you to Christine Jarman, our outgoing LRE chair, for her tireless efforts on behalf of the children of this Church. There have been months when Chris has given 80 hours of her time in service to this community. She has been the quiet backbone of LRE, and a huge support to me for the last 2 years. For her, and all our other teachers I can only say:

THANK YOU

With Hope,

Dani Slader, Director of Religious Education

Social Action: What We Accomplished at the Nehemiah Assembly

Forty-Five!

The final count of BBUUC members and friends who attended the annual ICARE Nehemiah Assembly on April 20 is 45. That is exactly the goal we set last September! We have had a very positive first year.



Four BBUUC members worked actively on the city-wide committees that researched the problems and possible solutions that resulted in the accomplishments described in the article in the BBUUC News section. All fourteen BBUUC ICARE Justice Ministry Network members invited others to the Nehemiah Assembly and helped make that event a success!

ICARE will continue to be active during the summer and into next year, just as the pressing problems addressed by ICARE will also continue. If you are not presently active with ICARE and would like to become active, please email me at social_action@bbuuc.org.

Thanks to all for your support for this very needed effort.

Ken Christiansen, Social Action Chair

Letter from the Editor: What's Happening?



BBUUC uses a number of channels to communicate with members of the community.

If you have difficulty accessing the web site or the social media sites, you can contact the Web team at webmaster@bbuuc.org or the PR chairs at pr_communications@bbuuc.org.

The Journey

The Journey is the church newsletter. The articles in the Journey cover recent church activities, announcements of upcoming activities, and introductions to members of our community. We also distribute a weekly summary from the Journey, "This Week at BBUUC."

We distribute the Journey electronically as a web link; we can provide printouts to pledging members who do not have good access to computer resources.

The Journey is linked from the church web site and sent to a dedicated email list. To subscribe, click the "Subscribe" link in any issue of the Journey.

If you would like to publicize an activity or recognize someone's accomplishment in the Journey, please contact publishing@bbuuc.org.

Web Site

The official BBUUC web site is www.bbuuc.org. There are several sections of the web site that are open to the general public. A few sections have access restricted to members of the church.

Once you have become a member, you can use the "Registration" link at the top right of the home page to request a login to the "Members Only" section of the web site. Registering sends a notification to the webmaster team, and one of them will activate your account. Members with active accounts can use the "Login" link at the top right of the home page, then click on the "Members Only" link to get access to several resources on the church web site:

Facebook Pages

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/bbuuc/> is a group that members can join to see announcements and communications about church governance and events. <https://www.facebook.com/BBUUC> is a public page that is available to everyone, member or not.

Yahoo! Group

BBUUC sponsors a list on Yahoo! Groups for BBUUC members and friends at <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/bbuuc>. You will need to request access to this list, either from the web link, or by requesting an invitation from admin@bbuuc.org.

Twitter Feed

We have a Twitter feed (BBUUC) that helps publicize events and publications from the church.

Scott Cromar
PR/Communications co-chair

Treasurer's Corner: Treasurer's Report to the Congregation: FY 2014-2015



Summary: *Our finances as of 31 March 2015 are in good shape, and we expect to end the fiscal year on a positive note. The increased giving among our congregants has strengthened the church's finances and allow us to undertake new activities and programs. Since February, 2011, when we moved into our current building, our finances have never been*

stronger. Major changes in our reporting of financial information have been made since our 2014 Annual Meeting. These changes have significantly improved the transparency of our finances and the clarity of our reporting.

The Statement of Financial Position as of 31 March 2015 is presented in the reports available in the "Finance Reports" section of the web site. We have about \$39,000 of unrestricted cash on hand, in addition to the amount in restricted funds discussed in the next section. This amount of cash on hand represents a significant strengthening of the church's financial position, which will allow us to explore some urgent needs such as parking expansion. Our current assets have increased by about \$43,000, and our debt has decreased by about \$35,000. Details of the equity fund balances as of the end of March can be found in the report discussed in the next section.

The Statement of Financial Position by Restrictions is presented on the next two pages of the reports on the web site. Our money is classified into one of four categories: Unrestricted, Board Designated Reserves, Temporarily Restricted, and Permanently Restricted. Only unrestricted money can be spent on any expense that the church may incur. Board Designated Reserve Funds contain unrestricted money that has been set aside by the Board for various contingencies, and are consistent with sound financial management practices. The money in restricted funds can be spent only for the purposes of the particular restricted fund. For instance, money in the Beacon Fund can only be spent on Beacon activities and needs. Money that is in Temporarily Restricted Funds is expected to be spent within a defined time. Money in Permanently Restricted Funds is not expected to be spent, although any earnings from a permanently restricted fund may be spent in accordance with the policy of the particular fund.

Our current cash situation is very good. As stated earlier, we have about \$39,000 in unrestricted cash as of 31 March 2015. We have about \$88,000 in Board-designated reserved funds. In temporarily restricted funds, we have about \$108,000, mostly in our Mortgage Loan Contingency Fund, Ministerial Support Fund, and Challenge Fund. We have a little over \$10,000 in our Endowment funds, which are permanently restricted.

The Statement of Financial Activities as of 31 March 2015 is shown on the fourth page of the following reports. Our income from pledges is up by about \$17,000 compared with the same period of the previous fiscal year. Overall income so far this fiscal year is about \$93,000 in pledges paid and other donations, and about \$4,000 in income from rentals. We have

so far written off about \$2,300 as uncollectible pledges. This total income of about \$97,000 has improved from the same period last fiscal year by nearly \$18,000. This \$97,000 in revenues exceeds our committee expenses of about \$65,000, giving us a book operating income of about \$32,000 through March of this year. In addition to this operating income, we have non-operating income of about \$5,000, most of which is not cash income. Our mortgage principal repayments further reduce the operating income by about \$20,000, giving us an effective cash income of about \$17,000 through the end of March.

The Budget vs Actuals Report for the current fiscal year is shown on the fifth page of the following reports. Our general donations lag last year, but this circumstance is probably because of our increased pledge and plate cash (anonymous) donations and our reclassification of some donations from general donations to pledgers' additional donations (the amount given by pledgers after meeting their stated pledge). We are running ahead of schedule on our pledge revenue, but it is unlikely that this trend will hold up until the end of the fiscal year. We are running ahead of schedule on all of our other operating income, a trend that is likely to hold up until the end of the fiscal year. As usual, our committees continue to do an excellent job of managing expenses.

The church is in the process of moving most of its banking from VyStar Credit Union to American Enterprise Bank. Over the past several years, there have been a series of shortcomings in VyStar's customer service and banking practices. The Finance Committee and the Board believe that our church will be better served at this new bank.

Dale Crawford
Treasurer

Operating Income & Expenses	
July 1, 2014 - April 30, 2015	
	Total \$
Income - unrestricted	
Contributions	\$104,288
Other Income	\$4,824
Total Income	\$109,112
Released from Restricted Funds	\$5,750
Expenditures	
Operating Expenses	\$78,061
Mortgage Principal	\$26,865
Total Expenditures	\$104,926
Net Operating Income	\$9,935

Jun 2015 (Eastern Time)

Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church, Pete Seeger Room Meetings, Off Site Events, Forrest Church Room Meetings, Olympia Brown Room Meetings, Office Meetings, Sanctuary Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
	10am - Prayer, Shawl	7pm - PR Committee	7am - Art of the 7pm - Beacon @ 7pm - CUUPS	6:30pm - Tai Chi		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:30am - Coffee 10:30am - Sunday 12pm - Facilities 12pm - Newcomer	7pm - Worship Team	7pm - Council	7am - Art of the 11:30am - Lunch 7pm - Beacon @	6:30pm - Tai Chi		Blueberry Sleepover
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Blueberry Sleepover 9:30am - Coffee 10:30am - Sunday 12pm - Caring 12pm - Newcomer 12pm - Reiki	6:30pm - Freethoug	7pm - Finance	7am - Art of the 7pm - Beacon @ 7pm - CUUPS	6:30pm - Tai Chi	7pm - Volunteer	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:30am - Coffee 10:30am - Sunday 12pm - Newcomer		7pm - Board 7pm - Program	7am - Art of the 7pm - Beacon @	1pm - GA Ilive 6:30pm - Tai Chi	4pm - GA Ilive	10am - Reiki 4pm - GA Ilive
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
9am - UUCF 9:30am - Coffee 10:30am - Sunday						

Joys and Concerns

Joys:

- Congratulations and best wishes to Kenny Maskell who recently graduated from medical school! Congratulations also to his parents, Joanie and Cliff Maskell.
- Congratulations and best wishes to the graduating members of our Beacon class, Paul Christenson, Will Cromar, Anna Glassman, and Braydon Shepherd, as they go forward with the next phase of their lives.

Concerns:

- Please keep Pedro Roiné in your thoughts as he continues to recover in the rehab center.
- Best wishes to Dale Crawford for a speedy recovery from recent surgery.
- Best wishes to Colleen Goodwin for speedy recovery from recent foot surgery!
- Please keep Robert Lopez in your thoughts as he deals with illness.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- Grace & Don Repass (June 23)
- Sandy Goldman & Nina Hemmelgarn (June 25)



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| • Scott Cromar (June 2) | • Ken Christiansen (June 13) |
| • Rev Elizabeth Teal (June 4) | • Joyce Johnson (June 15) |
| • Lisa Cromar (June 7) | • Leslie Sheffield (June 18) |
| • Steve Settle (June 8) | • Grace Repass (June 24) |
| • David Kattreh (June 9) | • Lee Plumb (June 25) |
| • Jennifer Stokes (June 11) | |

BBUUC Membership Anniversaries

Rev Jack Ford (1995)
 Valerie Bouffard (2004)
 Ron Ferster (2004)
 David Rulison (2004)
 Sandy Goldman (2008)
 Nina Hemmelgarn (2008)
 Marvin Kramer (2013)
 Brenda Patterson (2013)



FY 2015-16 Board Members

Eileen Morrison, President



Eileen has previously served on the Board as Trustee, Secretary, and most recently, Vice President, where she oversaw all Council meetings.

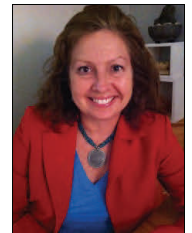
She grew up in New Jersey and graduated from Gordon College in Wenham, MA with a BA in English. She

transferred with Ryder/PIE from Boston, MA to Jacksonville, FL in 1983 from field sales to National Account administration.

Eileen is married to Brantley Morrison. Her step-daughter, Valerie, teaches kindergarten in Fayetteville, NC. She became a member of BBUUC in 2011. The church community has been a great comfort to her.

Her husband started a trucking business in 1990 (Core Carriers) and sold the 500 employee corporation in 2002. She worked there in sales, collections, billing, payroll, rating, and accounts payable during the growth of the company, retiring as VP. Eileen enjoys playing the piano, singing, traveling, photography, reading, cooking and gardening.

Candace Gerding-Barone, Vice President



Candace is an Orlando native and is newly married to Ben Barone. She has a 16-year-old daughter, Cassidy Hopson, and an 8-year-old step-daughter, Emily. Her family also includes two rescued dogs, Tanner and Penni.

Candace served active duty in the U.S. Navy from 1988-1992 in Pearl Harbor, followed by 2 years of Naval Reserve service. She is a graduate of Florida State University (but a lifelong Florida Gator—don't ask...).

She worked for the state of Florida as a Law Enforcement Instructor and a Certified Correctional Probation officer, where she recently retired as Senior Supervisor. Prior to her law enforcement career, she worked as a wedding/event planner and floral designer – and has continued to do both as a sideline, and more so now that that she has retired. Candace joined BBUUC in May of 2006, and has been active as a worship leader, Co-Chair of the Social Action Committee, Teen Travel Fundraiser Coordinator, Safety Task Force member, R.E. parent, ICare Team Leader, Memorial Garden Task Force Coordinator, and is completing a term as Board Trustee. She enjoys yoga, swimming, painting, and gardening.

Please help us keep our records up to date. If you see birthday, anniversary, or membership anniversary information that needs to be corrected or added to our list, send it to membership@bbuuc.org.

Dale Crawford, Treasurer



Dale has been a member of BBUUC since August 2008. He joined because his dear spouse, Linda, wanted him to but found that he actually enjoyed the church and its people very much. He has since served as Treasurer the past two years, has been on the Facilities and the Finance committees, and is a co-founder of the Religious Texts and Society

affinity group.

He is a very happily retired engineer, born and raised in Jacksonville, who spent most of his working career elsewhere—principally Louisiana and Arkansas. On his retirement in 2003, Linda and Dale returned to Jacksonville in order to care for Dale’s mother. Linda and Dale have two grown sons, both married and residing in Tallahassee and Arlington, Virginia. Dale has Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in engineering and an MBA.

Madeline Sims, Secretary

Madeline has been a member of BBUUC since February 2013. Since she became a member, she has been a part of the young adults group (BBUUYA) and participated in various activities with them, including leading a pancake breakfast last summer.



In 2014, she joined the PR Committee and has assisted the committee in various ways: soliciting and writing member spotlight features, creating a PDF format of the monthly Journey newsletter and contributing to social media duties as needed. Madeline has also been a part of the Stewardship Task Force for the past year, helping with this year’s canvass drive and providing reports on various topics.

Madeline has lived in Jacksonville for over six years. She works as a librarian at The Art Institute of Jacksonville. She also is Vice President of the Jax Bama Club, a local alumni chapter of the University of Alabama. In her new role at BBUUC, Madeline hopes to support the church and the Board by providing timely and accurate minutes from meetings as well as an up-to-date and correct roster of members and their contact information. She later hopes to use her education and experience as a librarian to assist building a library collection for the church.

Ellen Miceli, Trustee



Ellen has been a member of BBUUC since 1993. She has been married to Patrick Miceli since 1995 and is the proud mother of two sons and two stepsons. She has seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Ellen retired in 2013 from a nursing career that spanned over 30 years, most recently at Mayo in Jacksonville.

She has served as an accompanist for our worship services since 1994 and has volunteered in many capacities throughout the years: greeter, fundraisers, hospitality and choir, to name a few. She enjoys being a member of the Prayer Shawl Affinity Group and has served for many years on the Caring Committee, most recently as its Co-Chair and Council member.

Christine Rothberg, Trustee

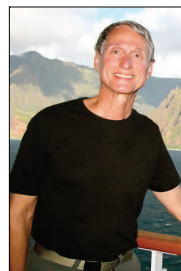
Christine, along with her husband, Ron, and their two teenage children, Tye and Ella, have been members of BBUUC since 2005, after moving to Jacksonville from Orlando, Florida.



Throughout her nine years of membership, she has been a Spirit Play teacher, chaired the Social Action Committee for three years establishing the holiday tradition of The Giving Tree in coordination with the First Coast Haitian American Church of Jacksonville and served on the Board’s Nominating Committee. Christine was raised Catholic and her husband Jewish but turned to UUism once they began their family hoping for an open minded forum to help their children make their own religious choices. She is an avid yogi and practices meditation. Her hobbies include cooking, photography, paddle boarding and gardening. She is functionally fluent in Spanish having spent a gap year in Spain after college.

Professionally, Christine is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker graduating from the University of Florida with a Bachelors of Arts in Sociology with special interest in Women Studies. She received a Master’s degree in Clinical Social Work (MSW) from Florida State University and specializes in refugee mental health with training from the Harvard Program for Refugee Trauma. Christine is the developer and treating clinician of The Healing Project, LLC, a mental wellness clinic treating refugee, asylee and survivors of trauma and torture.

Don DeStephano, Trustee



Don has been a member of BBUUC since 2011, when he joined a short time after attending the inaugural service of the new church. He grew up in south Georgia as a Baptist, but became disillusioned as a teen and was not actively religious. He had heard of Unitarianism but knew almost nothing about it until taking an internet quiz on “What Religion Are You” and UU came up on top. He loves our church due to its culture, as well as its location near his home in Ortega Forest.

Don attended the University of Georgia and Medical College of Georgia, and trained to be a pathologist at the University of Michigan. He has lived in Jacksonville for the past 26 years. He practices at a local hospital system and also manages the business affairs of his group. Don and his wife Patty have been married for 35 years. They have three children, the last of which is leaving for college this year. When Don is not at church on Sunday, he is usually travelling with Patty (her passion, not his) or spending time at his “country estate” near Keystone Heights (a double wide on a few acres with a tractor and a shooting range), where he feels more at home than anywhere.



ICARE: Homelessness Research Committee Update

City Council gave their unanimous approval on the \$45,000 needed to fund the Jacksonville Day Resource Center (JDRC) until October 1st! Karen and Ken Christiansen sat through three City Council Committee meetings and 4 hours of the May 12 City Council meeting before the ordinance was approved.

Next is the follow-up meeting with the Mayor's Office on June 4. We have been asked to supply names of possible persons to sit on a new advisory committee for the JDRC which is being formed. We need these names by 5 PM on June 1. Call Karen Christiansen if you have any suggestions.

Results from ICARE Nehemiah Assembly

The final count from the Nehemiah Assembly organizers shows 45 members of the BBUUC community attended the event. The annual Nehemiah assembly seeks to hold community leaders responsible for commitments in specific areas that increase social justice in the Jacksonville area.

ICARE reported some significant accomplishments at this year's assembly. From the ICARE report:

"Mental Health: ... On April 20th, it was announced that Lutheran Services of Florida got four area service agencies to implement Open Access Model to reduce the 500 person waiting list for mental health services...

"Education: Principal Kimberly Brown of Martin Luther King Elementary shared her school's success in implementing Reading Mastery. This is a Direct Instruction curriculum that teaches decoding words and comprehension skills. Kindergarten students in her school are outperforming their peers by 116%.

"Homelessness: The Jacksonville Day Resource Center is open and has served over 25,000 people since its ribbon cutting in October of 2013. On April 20th, we urged City Council to prioritize a line item in the budget that will continue to fund staff position(s) for the center. Council members Reggie Brown, Kimberly Daniels, etc... were present.

"Jobs: In 2014, Mayor Brown committed to convene a Taskforce that would adopt a Community Wealth Building Model similar to that of Cleveland, OH. He followed through with his commitment. Members of the Task force, including the Chair Darnell Smith (Market President of Florida Blue), were present. In 2014, Mayor Brown also committed to contract a study that would identify what employee owned businesses would be viable in Northwest Jacksonville...On April 20th, he announced that he has already issued a request for proposal (RFP) for an agency to do the study and will sign a contract before June 30th...

"Youth Crime: Superintendent Vitti spoke at our Nehemiah Assembly to announce the progress of the 87 schools implementing restorative justice. He told the audience that out of school suspensions have decreased by 12,000 students in one year because of the increased use of restorative justice. Two high school seniors at Frank Peterson High School spoke about their experience with restorative justice and urged the administration to continue supporting the program. Restorative Justice has also been implemented in the three neighborhoods because of the ICARE's people power. The only way to access this program is through the civil citation program which is being underutilized by the Sheriff's office. Candidate Ken Jefferson was present and told the audience how he would expand the program if he was elected. We invited Candidate Mike Williams to attend. He confirmed he would be present, but backed out hours before the event.

"State Collaborative: Pastor Darryl Edwards updated the audience on Senate Bill 378/ House Bill 99. He announced that our original bill which made civil citations the default throughout the State of Florida had been amended and would go to the floor with weaker language. We are disappointed in this amendment, but support aspects of the Bill. Audience members were asked to sign letters to their legislators about the issue. On April 22nd, the Bill was passed in the Senate and we are confident it will pass through the House."

(BBUUC's membership in ICARE is funded in part by the Congregation-Based Community Organizing Matching Grants Program of the Fund for Unitarian Universalist Social Responsibility. Please contact social_action@bbuuc.org if you would like to become involved.)

Introduce Yourself!

If you are a recent member and we have not run an introduction article about you for the Journey yet, please feel free to contact publishing@bbuuc.org. We're interested in how you found BBUUC, what you like here, and what you would like other members of the BBUUC community to know about you.

We can help you write the article, or you can write a 400 word article about yourself. We would also like a photo so that people know who you are and can introduce themselves to you during Fellowship Time after the service.

Office Assistant Job Listing

BBUUC has posted a job listing for an office assistant. The full posting is linked from the www.bbuuc.org home page. Please contact president@bbuuc.org if you have interest in this position.



BBUUC Annual Meeting

On May 17, members of BBUUC gathered to receive reports about the past fiscal year, approve a budget for the coming fiscal year, deal with several issues related to congregational governance, and vote for officers for the coming year. The 2015 Annual Report is posted in the "Communications to Members" section of the web site.

The 2016 officers approved at the annual meeting are: Eileen Morrison (President), Candace Gerding-Barone (Vice President), Dale Crawford (Treasurer), Madeline Sims (Secretary), Ellen Miceli (Trustee), Christine Rothberg (Trustee), and Don DeStephano (Trustee). The 2016 Nominating Committee will consist of Linda Crawford, Pam Edwards-Roiné, and Linda Mowers.

In the Treasurer's report, Dale Crawford reported that the finances of the church have strengthened significantly over the past year. Due to wise fiscal management and an outstanding pledge drive managed by the Stewardship Task Force, the church's improved financial position allows it to look towards resolving several long-term problems. The full report is available in the "Finance Reports" section of the web site.

Finance Chair Peg Christenson described a healthy budget for 2016, based on responsible projections for both revenue and expenditures. The 2016 Budget is available in the "Finance Reports" section of the web site.

In addition to the usual business activities associated with the annual meeting, the congregation approved an update to the Bylaws to retire the office of Finance Assistant. Recent changes in technology and processes have allowed much of the work of the Finance Assistant to be automated or shared by other Finance Committee members. To thank our former Finance Assistants for their service, Treasurer Dale Crawford, Finance Chair Peg Christenson and Finance Committee member Bonnie McCullar presented plaques to Barry Mowers and Robert Lopez, who have served as Finance Assistants to BBUUC.

The congregation also approved the purchase of two lots adjoining the church property. Current plans are to generate proposals to increase available parking for the church location. Since lots adjoining the church property do not come up for sale very often, the congregation approved the expenditure of up to \$25,000 to secure the property for further use.



"Move to Amend" Resolution

(Approved at the BBUUC Annual Meeting, May 17, 2015.)

WHEREAS Unitarian Universalists affirm and promote the Seven Principles, and live our faith by living our principles, and
WHEREAS the Fifth Principle is "the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large,"

BE IT RESOLVED that the Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church of Jacksonville, Florida, stands with the Move to Amend campaign and communities across the country to defend democracy from the corrupting effects of undue corporate power by amending the United States Constitution to establish that:

Only human beings, not corporations, are endowed with Constitutional rights, and
Money is not speech, and therefore regulating political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting political speech.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church of Jacksonville, Florida, hereby joins with other organizations statewide to instruct our state and federal representatives to enact resolutions and legislation to advance this effort.



Amazon Affiliates Fundraiser

As you purchase Father's Day and Graduation presents, remember that purchases made through this link pay a referral fee to BBUUC:
<http://amzn.to/1LcEwFZ>

You don't have to use a special login or enter a special code. All you need to do is enter Amazon using the above link (which is also posted on the "Fundraising" section of the church web site). This is probably the easiest fundraiser BBUUC will do over the course of the year.

BBUUC gets a 6% referral fee on most items, and more for some. (This fee is much larger than is available through other programs, such as Amazon's Smile program.)



General Assembly is streaming a number of their workshops over the Internet on June 25, 26, and 27. Depending on the level of interest, we can open a room at the church for one or several of these workshops so that people can participate live without making a trip to Portland.

Please notify pr_communications@bbuuc.org if you are interested in participating, and let us know which particular workshops are of interest. (If nobody has any interest in some of the workshops, there is no reason to open the building at those times.) Since we need to do some advance planning and scheduling, please reply back earlier rather than later.

Talk the Walk: Speaking Justice in the Language of Our Faith

Thursday, June 25 | 1:45-3PM US/Eastern (10:45-12pm PDT)
UU College of Social Justice

Historical movements for justice have often been inspired and sustained by religious faith and practice. Ours is an activist faith, yet when we take action in the public sphere our religion is often invisible. How might we bring our own justice commitments into deeper conversation with our spiritual lives, and learn to speak our convictions in the language of our faith?

Rev. Kathleen McTigue | Rev. Lindi Ramsden

GA Talks: Multigenerational Worship and Community Ministry

Thursday, June 25 | 4:15pm-5:30pm US/Eastern
Young Adults @ GA

Come and participate in GA Talks! GA Talks, TED-style presentation designed to entertain, educate and inform, provide an opportunity to listen to stories and wisdom from fellow Unitarian Universalists. Today's speakers are Rev. Christina Leone Tracy and Lincoln Statler. Hosted by Kenny Wiley and the Young Adults @GA community.

Rev. Christina Leone Tracy | Lincoln W. Statler | Kenny Wiley

Choosing, Telling, and Bringing Stories to Life in Worship

Thursday, June 25 | 6pm-7:15pm US/Eastern

Stories are a powerful tool in worship — especially multigenerational worship. Laden with images, metaphors, playfulness, and truth, story provides a common language and shared experience across different generations and theologies. More than just teaching story-telling skills, our workshop will focus specifically on how to integrate meaningful stories into worship.

Rev. Erika Hewitt | Becky Brooks

Commit2Respond: Growing Young Adult Leadership for Climate Justice

Thursday, June 25 | 7:45pm-9pm US/Eastern
UU Young Adults for Climate Justice

Join visioning conversations about how to empower or embody young adult leadership in climate justice organizing in our faith communities and at large. Leaders of the UU Young Adults for Climate Justice network, who are putting faith into action to address the intersecting social and environmental struggles of our time, will facilitate the conversation. All ages welcome!

Aly Tharp | Tim DeChristopher |
Benjamin Franklin Craft-Rendon | Elizabeth Mount

Accessibility & Inclusion Ministry: The AIM Program Experience

Friday, June 26 | 4:15pm-5:30pm US/Eastern
EqUUal Access

"We cannot transform the world and fulfill our call without drawing on the abilities of all in our midst." The UUA and EqUUal Access have a new congregational certification program that helps! Hear from the pilot congregations and try some of the exercises. Imagine bringing this experience to your congregation!

Mark Bernstein | Suzanne Fast | Barbara Ceconi |
Michael Sallwasser

From iChurch to Beloved Communities

Friday, June 26 | 6pm-7:15pm US/Eastern

Join the conversation as a group of ten leaders address issues and challenges facing our faith communities in this time of uncertainty, scarcity and changing cultural identities. The panel/workshop will describe tipping points and turning points in the UU journey by sharing stories and ministries that are reshaping and sustaining our beloved faith for future generations.

Rev. Fredric Muir | Rev. Carlton Smith |
Rev. Rebekah Montgomery | Rev. Terasa Cooley

Class Diversity: Exploring our Past, Building our Theologies

Friday, June 26 | 7:45pm-9pm US/Eastern
Harvard Divinity School and UU Collegium

Join us as we explore class issues in Unitarian Universalist congregations. What insights and tools does our history offer as we seek to honor class diversity and work toward economic justice? What about our various theologies? What can class-inclusive theologies look like? Come share your experiences and ideas with this panel of historians and theologians.

Rev. Myriam Renaud | Rev. Sheri Prud'homme |
Dr. Daniel McKanan | Rev. Mark Harris

Congregational Polity and the Myth of Congregational Autonomy

Saturday, June 27 | 4:15pm-5:30pm US/Eastern
New England Region

Congregational polity is not fundamentally about autonomy or protecting individuals from spiritual coercion. This misunderstanding repels healthy people, weakens connections among churches, and perpetuates widespread suspicion about leadership. This workshop lays groundwork for a movement-wide re-covenanting process that could reunite the community of UU congregations.

Rev. Sue Phillips

E-Giving: Contributions for the 21st Century

Saturday, June 27 | 6pm-7:15pm US/Eastern

The Stewardship For Us Team and UUA Congregational Life

Relying on old ways to collect donations inhibits giving, doesn't fit with how we actually handle money in 2015, and it really doesn't work for Congregations and Beyond. You have a wide array of options! Come explore them, with costs and practical start-up information, for electronic giving.

Bill Clontz | Mark Ewert

UUA Statement on Baltimore

The Rev. Peter Morales, president of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), issued this statement following recent events in Baltimore, MD following the death of Freddie Carlos Gray, Jr.:



Today the Baltimore Police Department handed over to prosecutors the results of its investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death of Freddie Gray while in police custody. Inexcusably, prosecutors say they will not make public these findings. People in Baltimore and around the country want answers about this case: Why was Freddie Gray targeted and arrested by police? How could he sustain a spinal cord injury while in police custody? Why did he not get the medical treatment he desperately needed? What systems broke down that allowed this to happen and how can we make sure this never happens again?

We also want answers to much larger questions: Why are so many black individuals dying at the hands of police? How many more must die before people start paying attention? How do we dismantle institutional racism and create lasting peace?

And we want change—not tomorrow, not next month, not next year. Now.

I join with other groups, including the Unitarian Universalist (UU) religious professionals of color, in offering support and solidarity with 'those who have been marginalized, brutalized and systematically oppressed by the government agencies of Baltimore, MD.' Together we 'firmly denounce the institutionalized systems of racial and economic violence—including police torture and mass incarceration—that have targeted black and poor communities in Baltimore for decades.'

The UUA's first concern is always to support our congregations and their communities. I spoke directly with the Rev. David Carl Olson, our minister in Baltimore, early on Tuesday following the

violence of Monday night. Other members of the UUA staff have been in frequent communication with Rev. Olson and are supporting the on the ground organizing. Rev. Dr. Terasa Cooley, UUA's Program and Strategy Officer will be traveling to Baltimore this weekend to participate in UU events there.

We all must do the work necessary to change institutions that systematically harm and degrade people of color. And we must do that work together in faith. Now is the time for action. #BlackLivesMatter"

Rev Peter Morales

UUA President



Unitarian Universalist Justice Florida (UUJF) invites you to join our Action Network <http://www.uujusticefl.org/action-network/sign-up> to add your voice to others to bring a needed

religious and moral perspective to our legislators on such issues as Medicaid Expansion, and to take action in other ways, such as gathering petitions for three amendments to go on the November, 2016 ballot: voting rights restoration, enhancing access to solar electricity, and medical marijuana. See <http://www.uujusticefl.org/action-network/take-action> for copies of the petitions.

Kindra Muntz

Unitarian Universalist Justice Florida

Thank you for bending Florida toward justice!



Upcoming Programs at The Mountain

Fun and Adventure Week: June 29-July 5

This is a great week for youngsters to bring their parents and/or grandparents to The Mountain for fun together. Options include a Great Smokey Mountain Train ride, guided rafting on local rivers, zip lines...and hiking, of course. Campfire and s'mores, constellation lessons, and evening trips to the local ice cream shoppe! Enjoy July 4th in the cool of the NC mountains! Register at www.mountaincenters.org.

SUUF1 2015 @ The Mountain: October 4-9.

SUUF1 blends personal growth and fun, inspiration and relaxation, community and space! Come test your mind and gain experiential skills, yet leave with new options and commitment. Color and coolness of Fall in the NC mountains! UUs and those of diverse thinking gather for a week of "being", learning, and connecting. Board SpaceShip SUUF1 with 2 talented navigators: A UU storyteller (currently performing in Poland) versed in UU Buckminster Fuller's constructs of the earth/universe, and a senior UU minister to help us "soar within" ourselves, learning the "ins and outs" of our world. www.mountaincenters.org.

WORSHIP SERVICES SCHEDULE

Services are held Sundays at 10:30 a.m. at
8447 Manresa Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32244

June 7 Speaker: Dr Mark Yount "Free Will, and How to Use It"

Worship Leader: David Austin
Accompanied By: Ellen Miceli



First, a defense of free will in reply to Linda Crawford's May 17 argument. But that's the easy part for our speaker. To be free "philosophically" is one thing; to feel free psychologically, even spiritually, is tougher. In real life, what am I able to do with my free will? Do I really have the power to change the course of my life???

Dr. Mark Yount

Dr. Mark Yount joined BBUUC in 1997 and has served as Youth Advisor, committee chair and Board member. Mark taught philosophy at Trinity College (Hartford), St. Joseph's (Philadelphia), and Jacksonville University. He has degrees in Philosophy from William and Mary (BA), Villanova (MA), and University of Colorado at Boulder. Mark currently serves as Executive Director at Empowerment First.

Pennies from Heaven is June 7

Please bring your extra change for a special collection to benefit our local Meals on Wheels program.



June 14 Speaker: Rev. Jack Ford "I Pledge Allegiance"

Worship Associate: Vanessa Birchell
Accompanied By: Gary Smart

Where does our allegiance lie?

When I was a child in school, we pledged allegiance "to the flag, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all...." One of the Principles affirmed by Unitarian Universalist churches is "the goal of world community, with peace, liberty and justice for all."

Recently, Presidential candidate Rand Paul spoke 10 hours on the Senate floor on his objection to the Patriot Act and its threats to liberty for American citizens. In his book on communitarianism, Professor Amitai Etzioni spoke on the need for a balance between social order and autonomy. And he asked the question: "Can a society gain both more order and more liberty?"

Ministerial Support Fund Sunday

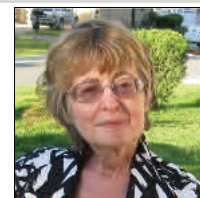
June 14 is Ministerial Support Fund Sunday. On MSF Sundays, undirected donations are added to the Ministerial Support Fund.

The amount collected for the Ministerial Support Fund since mid-2014 is over \$40,000. (Donations to the Ministerial Support Fund are doubled thanks to a matching grant by an anonymous donor.)

If you are current on your 2014/15 pledge, you can contribute to the Ministerial Support Fund by specifying "MSF" on the memo field of your check or on a donation envelope.

June 21 Speaker: Linda Crawford "Do 'Evil' People Exist?"

Worship Leader: Jennifer Stokes
Accompanied By: Gary Smart



Our first UU principle affirms the inherent worth and dignity of every person. But what about those who break our society's strongest taboos? What about Hitler, and Charles Manson, and the leaders of ISIS? Linda will walk us through the pros and cons of designating a portion of humanity "evil."

Linda Crawford

Linda Crawford and her husband Dale have been members of BBUUC for about seven years. Linda's academic background is in art history, and she loves sharing this passion with others. The Florida District Unitarian Universalist Association awarded Linda the 2015 Clarence R. Skinner Award for "UUs In The Bible Belt: What Do We Do With Our Anger?" as the sermon best exemplifying Unitarian Universalist principles.



June 28 Speaker: Dr Sarah Mattice "Daoism and You" (Our Sources Series)

Worship Leader: Joann Carollo
Accompanied By: Gary Smart

In this the fourth of the eight part "Our Sources Series," Dr. Mattice will explain how Americans in general and Unitarian Universalists in particular, honor and draw upon Daoist wisdom traditions.

Dr Sarah Mattice

Dr. Sarah Mattice is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies at the University of North Florida. Her specializations are in Comparative Philosophy and Aesthetics. She teaches courses including Chinese Philosophy, Japanese Philosophy, Buddhism, Aesthetics, and Ethics East and West. Sarah holds a PhD in Philosophy from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa.



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.

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, or by contacting the church administrator at 904-276-3739.)

If you have comments or suggestions about the format or content of the Journey, please contact the editorial team at publishing@bbuuc.org.

The Journey

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