



*In this issue:*

[Ministry with Children and Youth News](#) 2

[Service Schedule](#) 4

## What is *your* Heart's Desire?

Is it an elegant evening out with dear friends, a nice glass of wine and fun entertainment? Or perhaps you enjoy the thrill of an auction - silently competing with somebody for just the right piece of jewelry, or maybe you would rather watch the excitement of a live bidding war while people get worked up over a massage package, a B&B weekend, an oil painting, or web design. Or maybe you just want to be witness to UUMAN's biggest fundraiser of the year.

If so, have we got the evening for you! Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 23rd. It is time for UUMAN's annual Hearts' Desire Auction. This year's event will bring you top notch entertainment, great deals on valuable items and services, and an opportunity to dress up and hob-nob with your church community. It is also a great opportunity to introduce your non-UUMAN friends to our community by inviting them to come along. There will be great deals on party packs of tickets to the event - stay tuned!

In the meantime, your contributions are needed. What is it you do that people might pay for? Are you an artist?

*continued on page 4*

## Notes from the Interim

### Appreciatively Inquiring minds want to know...

This past four months we've been getting to know each other. I've heard many stories about the accomplishments and disappointments you've had at UUMAN recently and in the past. I've heard your grief and hopes for the future. We will continue to have these conversations. However, now we will be initiating a new conversation as well. A Transition Team will soon be in place and will begin a process of Appreciative Inquiry at UUMAN. This process will focus on what you each want for yourselves, what gifts you bring, and what you envision for UUMAN's future. This is a chance for each of you to participate in formulating a description of UUMAN in terms of who you really are and what you really want to do together.

Appreciative Inquiry has four parts: 1) Appreciate what is and what gives life to you, 2) Imagine what might be, 3) Determine what the ideal would be, and 4) Create what will be. The Transition Team will take you through the first three of these steps as far as possible between January and June. This will begin with a series of interviews where you have the chance to answer 3 or 4 questions in depth. These interviews alone will effect change at UUMAN, because when you begin to identify what gives you life, what you have to give, and what you envision is possible for UUMAN, you will begin to gravitate toward those very ideals. You will begin to get ideas about how to make clear plans forward that will achieve your vision.

This Appreciative Inquiry process is based on 10 assumptions:

1. In every organization, some things work well.
2. What we focus on becomes our reality.
3. Asking questions influences the group.
4. People have more confidence in the journey to the future when they carry forward parts of the past.
5. If we carry parts of the past into the future, they should be what is best about the past.
6. It is important to value differences.
7. The language we use creates our reality.
8. Organizations are heliotropes (a botanical term about a plant's orientation—plants lean toward the sun. Similarly, organizations lean toward the source of energy—whether that energy is healthy or not.)
9. Outcomes should be useful.
10. All steps are collaborative.

*Adapted from Memories, Hopes, and Conversations: Appreciative Inquiry and Congregational Change, copyright © 2004 by the Alban Institute.*

I look forward to this process with you. You'll be hearing from the Transition Team in February's newsletter if not before.

Happy New Year to all of you and yours!

—Frieda Gillespie  
Interim minister, UUMAN



## Your MCY Council wants YOU!

### *What is the MCY Curriculum Team?*

This team consists of a coordinator & 3 team members who work together to

- Represent & serve as advocates for the various, diverse *learning & teaching* needs of our Young People, Families, Volunteers & Staff
- Along with the DMCY, serve as consultants & advisors to the MCY Council around the Learning component of our MCY.
- Along with the DMCY, make recommendations to the MCY Council for general & specific curricula that can be used as part of the Sunday Morning experience at UUMAN.

&

### 3 Vision Team members

### *What is the MCY Curriculum Team?*

This team consists of a coordinator & 3 team members who work together to;

- Represent & serve as advocates for the various & diverse needs of our Young People, Families, Volunteers & Staff as we work together to fulfill our *MCY Vision & Mission*.
- Offer accountability for our shared ministry by tracking our performance against our Vision & Mission
- Along with the DMCY, serve as consultants & advisors to the MCY Council around the creation & implementation of MCY policies, procedures & best practices.
- Along with the UUMAN community & DMCY, make recommendations to the MCY Council for general & specific short, mid & long range plans for our MCY

Please see **Toniann** or **Susan Kleinfelter** (*MCY Council Chair*) for more details...

*Thank you for volunteering!*

### MSD RE SUMMIT (Mobile, Alabama)

**January 26th 2008**

*Karen LoBracco, RE Trustee, MSD Board*

Mid-South District's annual **Religious Education Summit** is a one-day event about religious education for all ages. This year we will explore '*Tapestry of Faith*', the new UUA curricula.

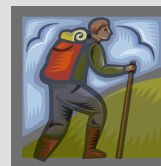
**Join a fine crowd & discover ways to create religious education for 2 or 200 children, for youth & for adults!** Find out how to use easily available resources to grow & nurture UUs of all ages. Best of all, spend time with other UUs from congregations like yours!

**The RE Summit is FREE to ministers, seminarians and BOT presidents.** The rest of us pay only \$15 advance registration or \$20 for walk-in registration. The fee covers lunch, materials & handouts.

**The Summit's keynote speaker is Jessica York** – '*Tapestry of Faith*' curriculum writer, UUA Youth Programs Director, and former DRE at the UU Church of Birmingham.

Contact Toniann for more information

**See you in Mobile on the 26th!**  
(Bring the family for Mardi Gras fun & festivities)



**Let's go to the  
mountain!**

**Jr Youth (gr 6 thru'8)  
REGISTER NOW for this year's**

**SPRING CON  
February 8-10<sup>th</sup>  
The Mountain Retreat & Learning  
Center in Highlands, NC.**

*Please return your complete  
registration packet & fee to Toniann  
(registration deadline Jan 20th 2008)*



## Ministry with Children & Youth

### MCY Volunteer REjuvenation!

**SATURDAY JANUARY 12th (9.00am-1.00pm)**

*Breakfast will be available at 8.30am*

Your MCY Council warmly invites YOU to join us for a morning of connecting, sharing, learning and fun!

This ministry that we create together is important and challenging. We will gather to learn from one another, sharing ideas & resources whilst deepening these relationships that support & sustain us.

Our focus will be preparing for developmentally meaningful experiences with Children & Youth.

Having YOU there makes all the difference!

## Calling all "Secret Friends" ...

Time again for this Intergenerational program, matching younger members with adults for the purpose of getting better acquainted. All are invited to join the fun!

***This is the way it works...*** Starting Dec 9th, adults, children & youth will sign up to participate in the "Secret Friends" program. Next (early January), each participant will receive a confirmation letter that includes information & aliases for themselves and their "Secret Friend" (say, a famous UU like Dorothea Dix).

Then the fun begins! Each week (Jan 20 - Feb 17th) 'Friends' will write letters to each other using their alias. You will SNEAK your letter into the bag which has your friend's alias written on it.

You will find the bags hanging on a wall in Fellowship Hall.

Finally there will be a **Secret Friends Celebration Party** on **Sunday, February 17th**, after the service, at which time everyone's secret friend will be revealed and small, token gifts can be exchanged.

**Look for the display in Fellowship Hall, sign up and be a part of the fun!**

### CONTACT TONIANN

Office Hours: Wed. 11.30a-3.30p, Fri. 10-2pm, Sun. 9.30a-2.30p

Office Telephone: (770) 992-3949

Email: [dtzjread@comcast.net](mailto:dtzjread@comcast.net)

For more information about Secret Friends, please contact

Naomi Braff [bnaomi@bellsouth.net](mailto:bnaomi@bellsouth.net)

Kirsten Moore [kirstenM@comcast.net](mailto:kirstenM@comcast.net)

Annelies Woesten [awoesten@bellsouth.net](mailto:awoesten@bellsouth.net)

Toniann Read [dtzjread@comcast.net](mailto:dtzjread@comcast.net)

### MCY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

#### JANUARY 2008

**Jan 6** – Winter/Spring RE begins!

**Jan 12** – MCY 'Volunteer REjuvenation' (9am-1pm) FH

**Jan 20** – Secret Friends begins...

**Jan 20** – MCY Council Meeting (12-2pm) DH

**Jan 25-27** – MSD RE Summit (Mobile, AL)



**UUMANTIMES** is the monthly newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North Congregation.

We're online!

at:

[www.uuman.org](http://www.uuman.org)



**UUMAN**  
11420 Crabapple Road  
Roswell, GA 30075

Get up-to-date information!  
Sign up now and  
join UUMAN  
@ [www.uuman.org](http://www.uuman.org).

## UUMAN TIMES

**Editor:** Dirk Bender  
**Contributors:** Carolyn Lee, Toniann Read, and others  
**Submissions:** We welcome all types of newsletter submissions. Please send us your articles, editorials, & announcements, to [newsletter@uuman.org](mailto:newsletter@uuman.org)

### Calling all Gwinnetians (and others): A Jan 12 7:30pm Earth and Spirit Songfest

Lend your voice to an extemporaneous vocal celebration of earth and peace. Renew your spirit and celebrate our UU ideals in song. Drawing on his own music and other songs of ecology, diversity, community and peace from classical to jazz to world folk music, Jim Scott turns the audience into a choir, taught by ear and with an invitation to all to join in.

Contact UUCG's Rev. Dana Reynolds (770-361-6877) for more information.

## January Service Schedule

January 6th - "**What Gender Gap?**" Do women have equal access to health care, wealth, education and political power? Is the answer to that question different in America than Europe, Asia or Africa? You bet it is, but you may be surprised at what the differences are!

January 13th - Jim Scott, UU composer, song writer and troubadour will lead this service **celebrating the Earth and our interconnectedness.**

January 20th - "**What Is a Marriage?**" In celebration of Martin Luther King's birthday, we'll look at an area of discrimination and fear that keeps many from feeling that they are first class citizens.

### Heart's Desire *(continued from page 1)*

Do you bake cakes? Do you knit? Do you teach piano lessons? Do you babysit? Do you pet sit? Do you paint? Do you organize well? Can you donate a valuable service? A meal? A special sermon? A song? Musical accompaniment? Flower arrangements? Can you get your business to offer a gift certificate for bid? Do you know somebody who might donate a gift certificate? What creative thing can you offer? Ann Creech is ready to make a list of your donations. E-mail her at [annhreech@aol.com](mailto:annhreech@aol.com) with the good(s) or service you would like to donate. Please be very clear with how many donations you want to make; for instance, if you are donating hand crafted jewelry, how many pieces. If you are offering landscaping services, how many hours will you give and how many different people you will do work for. And if you have a bottom line on what bid you will accept, let her know that as well.

Get creative with it. Ann wants to hear from you. She has sharpened her pencil and is ready to make a list!

Don't let her down...This exciting event depends on you!

### Leadership Circle Meeting – Jan. 19, 10-11:30am

The committee on Ministry is sponsoring a bi-monthly Leadership Circle in an effort to increase communication, support and mentoring among the congregation's leadership.

At next meeting, Eunice Benton, Midsouth District Executive will be joining us! The Committee on Ministry will provide coffee and bagels which will be available at 9:30. The role of the Committee on Ministry is to support the ministries of the congregation. We decided that supporting leadership is a good way to start. Without leadership, ministries falter or dissolve.

We came up with the name Leadership Circle because it is to support and strengthen Leadership, Circle was chosen as it is defined as "a number of people bound together by similar interests" and also "every point being equidistant from the center" with a connotation of equality. A circle is closed, but we can always add more chairs to make it larger!

What Leadership Circle is **not**:

1. It is not exclusive, if you are interested in Leadership, or just curious about what is going on, you are welcome and encouraged to attend!
2. It is not a place where you will be asked to do more work, this is a place to be rejuvenated, helped and supported, not asked to do more!

—Janet Lacey

