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## TO THE GLORY OF LIFE

“The value of man resides in what he gives and not in what he is capable of receiving”—Albert Einstein

“To the generous mind the heaviest debt is that of gratitude, when it is not in our power to repay it.”—Benjamin Franklin

“Money is like manure; it’s not worth a thing unless it’s spread around encouraging young things to grow.”—Thornton Wilder

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.”

Dear Friends,

There is a common truth in our culture that we’ve all come across. We probably heard it when we were kids in school. It probably came up again when we get an allowance. Or after we got our first paycheck. It is prevalent in the working world. It is also prevalent in the world of love and relationships.

I’m talking about the truth that says we should be careful about what we give away, because if we give away too much there might not be enough left over when we need it. It is a truth we learn at a very early age. It is responsible for more fights in the sandbox than any other truth. But it is something we carry with us for a long time. It can be responsible for a lot of fights in the bedroom as well.

Being “care-full” of what we give away to others is important. It is what tells people how much we care and it deserves great consideration. It is often based in love. And it often has the power to expand our lives and values by connecting us with people and things beyond ourselves. But being careful – as in, reticent – about what we give away is often based in fear. It has a way of shrinking our lives, our values and

limiting the connection we share with things around us.

It’s not very popular to talk about money and giving in church, but it is one of the most reliable spiritual indicators that I use in my own life. I was once told that what I give away says a lot about my faith and values – both religious tenants. I try to make sure that people who don’t know me would be able to look at my budget and decipher what it is that I value. And that the amount I give away would tell them a lot about my faith.

When I was in Berkeley in 1991, there was a big fire. In that fire a lot of people lost everything they had. Many people had good reason to be devastated. All their furniture, pictures, keepsakes, memories were all gone. Ironically, the people who tended to fare better were the people who had held a practice of giving things away.

There was a support group for the survivors of the fire. One night the topic of giving things away was brought up. It was ironic that ‘giving things away’ would come up among people who had everything taken from them.

One member of the group described having given a precious object away as a gift to a friend right before the fire. It was a porcelain statuette she treasured. She almost didn’t give it away. After the fire her friend, realizing she needed some connection to her past, returned it. Another member of the group said she had always given things away that she didn’t like. And after the fire, she mentioned these were the same things that returned to her.

Religion – binding together with others and with our better self – is what helps us to give “care-full-ly.” It is what helps us to give what is right, instead of what is left. It is a practice of giving which prepares us to value others well-being and have faith in our own.



**Happenings**

**Potluck Dinners**

Every Thursday evening at around 6-6:30 people arrive at UUMAN’s Fellowship Hall for a weekly pot luck, fun and fellowship.. Come and indulge!

**Emerson UU Congregation Celebrates 25 Year Anniversary**

The Emerson Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Marietta, Georgia has an upcoming 25th Anniversary Celebration April 21 and 22, 2007 (Saturday and Sunday)

They are planning a moving and memorable weekend of special events, including keynote speaker, Eunice M. Benton, Mid-South District Executive.

The Emerson Unitarian Universalist Congregation is at 2799 Holly Springs Road, Marietta, GA 30062. Call 770-578-1533 or visit [www.emersonuu.org](http://www.emersonuu.org)

This year, the canvass is designed to help us all give generously, but also have fun while we are doing it. It is designed to give us a chance to connect with others while we give so that we will know what we are giving to: one another’s well being. And it is designed to help us in our faith in what we believe to be true and right and good.

Come to the canvass dinner on March 24<sup>th</sup> at UUMAN. And help us build our faith on a larger Truth. A truth that says we have enough for our values to be realized in the south.

To the Glory of Life.



**Calling on all Communications People**

Have you ever thought about the ways we communicate here at UUMAN?

Conversation	Phone	Email
List serves	Newsletter	Public advertisements
Wayside Pulpit Quotes	Meeting notes	Bulletin boards
Flyers	Calendar postings	Sticky-notes
Website	Banners	Brochures
Pulpit announcements	Order of Service	

As this congregation has grown, so have many of its needs for communication. And so has its need to *coordinate* all these means of communication. We have been blessed with many gifted people who have, individually, taken on many of these tasks. But our organization and ability to coordinate will vastly improve when we get those people to meet together.

If you would like to be part of a group that helps Communications and IT (information technology) come together, please come to a gathering of excited communication folks.

**Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m.**

Call Greg Ward or Marty Harvey if you have any questions.



## A Message from Toniann

I have been thinking a lot lately about how we might share our concerns with one another as a part of our Ministry with Children and Youth at UUMAN.

As “Justice Seeking People”, we UUs care deeply about making things right for and among ourselves, our community and our world. We are passionate about the things and people we care about. We are also smart and insightful! So, it stands to reason that we would notice when things aren’t quite right within, among or around us.

As a community guided by principles of compassion and “Right Relationship” the question then becomes how we share our concerns with one another when something doesn’t seem quite right? When things don’t seem right to me, I usually find myself feeling pretty irritated...grrrr!

I am learning how precious that feeling moment can be. An important signal to STOP and pay attention! An opportunity lies in wait. I don’t need to act on the feeling, but I do get to notice it. I don’t need to share it or pass it off onto someone else. I find that if I am gentle with myself, I can listen to my irritable inner voice, patiently, deeply.

When something is not right, we want to make it so and we can. We don’t want to settle and we don’t have to. There are treasures of insight to be found beyond the feelings if we can be gentle enough with ourselves (*and others*) and listen. If we understand the unmet needs lying beyond the feelings we can really make a difference and move towards the deeper connections that will support us in this ministry that we care so much about.

I believe that we all care and that there is no inherent conflict of interests or needs between us. What you see matters to me. What you care about matters to me. So, bring me your concerns and I promise to try to hear them as if you were handing me the Sun, the Moon and the Stars!

There is nothing I want more than to work in this ministry, with you, to make things right within, among and around us as we go forward together.

One Love...

—Toniann Read

### MCY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

MARCH 2007

**Mar 4** – MCY Committee Meeting (6.30-8.30pm) DH

**Mar 9-11** – MSD YAC Jr Youth Con (NW)

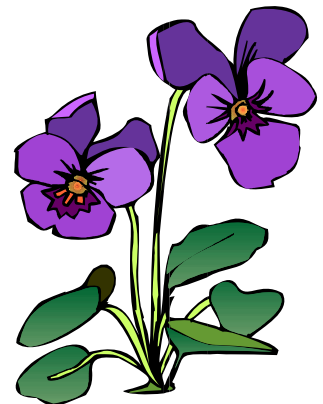
**Mar 10** – Spring Clean Up Day! (10am-2pm)

**Mar 16** – Jr Youth “Open Door” (7-10pm) DH

**Mar 18** – UUMAN YAC Meeting (12.30-2.30pm) DH

**Mar 23** – Sr Youth ‘Spring Fling’ (7-10pm) DH

**Mar 25** - RE Council Meeting (12.30-2.30pm) DH



## Introducing UUMAN’s MCY SUPERHEROES aka, the R.E. COUNCIL

**Susan Kleinfelter** (*Chair*)

**Kim Palmer** (*Secretary*)

**Patty Lynn Webb** (*RE Associate Coordinator*)

**Dee Ruff** (*‘Family Ministry Team’ & Special Events Coordinator*)

**Dave Hudson** (*Worship Coordinator*)

**Laurie Wheeler** (*Curriculum Team Coordinator*)

**Melissa Estes** (*Social Action Coordinator*)

***We thank you for your leadership & service!***

### CONTACT TONIANN

Office Hours:

**Wednesday** 11.30am-3.30pm

**Friday** 10.00am-2.00pm

**Sunday** 9.30am-2.30pm

(770) 992-3949

dtzjread@comcast.net





2 Adult RE Associates to volunteer at the MCY Table on Sunday mornings before and after Service. See *Patty Lynn Webb* coordinator

3 Adults to assist with a 'KIDS TOGETHER DAY' on Sunday April 1st. See *Melissa Estes* coordinator

Thank you for volunteering!



### MCY & MUSIC PROGRAM SPRING CLEAN UP DAY!

Saturday March 10th (10am-2pm) DH  
*Lunch & childcare provided!*

All members of UUMAN's RE Council, MCY & Music Committees are invited to get together for a day of

### GOOD CLEAN FUN!

We hope that you will join us for some singing, sorting & scouring as we organize & beautify our space at UUMAN...

*RSVP by Wednesday March 7th*

Contact Toniann Read - dtzjread@comcast.net  
or Randy Wilbur - musicdirector@uuman.org



Sr Youth Advisors  
Warmly invite all Sr Youth & their Parents to a

### 'Spring Fling'!

Friday March 23rd (7-10pm)

Join us to celebrate the coming of Spring with Food, Fun, and Fellowship!

Along with getting to know each other better & having lots of fun, there will also be an opportunity to share information about current Sr Youth Program offerings

*Childcare provided by request  
RSVP by Sunday March 18th*



SUNDAY MARCH 11th!



## Social Action: Green Grows our Alliance

These have been busy months for many of us active in Social Justice issues. We've been playing around with many ideas and wanted to let y'all in on our progress, since we represent you, for better or for worse. More on this later in this article.

But first, let's start with the exciting news that we have created an alliance with St. David's Episcopal church in Roswell on a project we're dubbing, for now, our "CFL campaign." In April, we'll replace CFLs (compact-fluorescent lightbulbs) free-of-charge in all the apartments of the Mary Drake House. This new relationship came about from attending a Green Church workshop hosted by GiPL (the Georgia Interfaith Power and Light). They're the folks that provided *An Inconvenient Truth*, which we viewed late last year.

Just last week we attended a luncheon and panel discussion at the Trinity Presbyterian church in Buckhead. We had a chance to hear the Rev. Sally Bingham (she's the environmental minister that started the Interfaith Power and Light non-profits), along with other professionals concerned with this "hot" topic. From that meeting we've had the idea of forming a Sustainability sub-committee, members of which will provide direction for the rest of us. But, I have to say that it felt good to see that big church, with deep pockets, mirror some of the same actions we've recently adopted ourselves, like fair-trade coffee. We have started a dialog so we can learn from their successes and we'll keep you posted. We are also making progress on our own, in large part thanks to the tireless Kate Hudson. Specifically, the coffee switch and the compost bins, but also a few other projects that you'll hear about later. We're planning a few activities in April in honor of Earth Day (April 21st) that we hope you'll enjoy: a service on our relationship with all things green (except maybe mucus), a plant sale fundraiser and plotting a vegetable garden right here at UUMAN.

This is a time for many of us to look at our relationships with others, to explore our interdependence. I invite you to join us down this path, as we find ways to live more in Sacred Balance with our planet and our neighbors. If you have a concern that we're not addressing or if you feel I've misrepresented any one of you, please see me, Jennifer Tangney. If you feel the call, wish to witness or want to get your fingers dirty or green, please see any of the members of the Social Action Committee: Mary Danielak, Margie Jacobs, Rhonda Mihalik or Jennifer Tangney.

*In service,  
—Jennifer Tangney*

### UUMAN TIMES

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Greg Ward, Jennifer Tangney, Toniann Read, and others

**Submissions:**  
We welcome all types of newsletter submissions. Please send us your articles, editorials, announcements, poetry, creative writing, or anything else! Please send an email to our newsletter editor, at [newsletter@uuman.org](mailto:newsletter@uuman.org)

*Time to really recycle that cast-off computer of yours*

## GROWING PAINS.....So many books and a sick computer

Four score and seven months ago, the UUMAN congregation was able to huddle in what is now Fellowship Hall for all of its services, programs and functions. It was a tight fit, but the fellowship that it inspired has led us to what we are today. At that time, there was no "recognized UUMAN library". Various books used in the RE program were stored downstairs in the classrooms and upstairs in the minister's office. There was no organization and we didn't know what we had.

One Saturday after participating in a Crabapple Road clean-up, a few of us got together and discussed the need to "corral all of the books" at UUMAN and establish an official library. A Library Committee was formed, a mission statement developed, a software program purchased to catalog the collection and a space was designated to house the collection. The committee got to work, cataloged and labeled the collection and the UUMAN Library became a reality. The original library was rather small. The collection was just over 100 books and we were able to house the entire collection in the upper cabinets by the fireplace. And the congregation and the library grew and grew and grew.

*(continued on Page 6)*



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

### Minister's Office Hours

Greg wants a chance to speak with everyone at UUMAN. Although he doesn't have specific office hours, he is available to meet with people every day of the week, except Mondays and Fridays, at a wide variety of times. You are welcome to call him between 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. at 770.754.5848 to make an appointment. (In case of emergency, you are encouraged to call 678.849.4844 any time of day or night).

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).

## Worship Schedule

**March 4<sup>th</sup>** Rev. Greg Ward; Cliff Brown

### **"The Fight Against Terror and the Goal of Religious Pluralism"**

The work of religion comes down to the choice of Love vs. Fear and the struggle to choose well and then act boldly on behalf of that choice. If religion prevails it will be because it has learned how to build bridges where only chasms of misunderstanding existed. This morning we will address the struggle of how religions come together.

**March 11<sup>th</sup>** Suzanne Rezelman, WA: Don Rizzo

### **"Mysticism for Skeptics"**

What does "mysticism" mean to UUs? What might a mystic look like -- and would we be able to recognize one? This service will explore these questions from the perspective of one UU who has struggled with keeping an open mind as she investigates what exactly "direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder" means.

**March 18<sup>th</sup>** Rev. Greg Ward; Jennifer Tangney and Shelley Serdahely

### **"Turn the World Around – Heifer International"**

How is it that we take our love for the world and invest that love into the creation of positive change? How is it that we take gratitude on one continent and change the lives of another continent far away? The true test of religion is whether we can 'turn the world around.' Heifer International is a role model agency for helping us to see how this is possible.

**March 25<sup>th</sup>** - Rev. Greg Ward and Cliff Brown

### **"Is Unitarian Universalism Worth It?"**

Our religion should inform us a lot about our values. Worship, which means, 'worth-shaping' is the practice of honoring what is worthy and giving it shape. But of course, our religion, like all others, requires sacrifices. It requires time, attention, sweat, muscle and money. The question of what this religion is capable of doing is only limited by what it is worth to us.

### *Sick PC - continued from pg 5*

People started to donate books, the congregation purchased others and the library expanded to include all of the cabinets plus a couple of bookcases. However, the collection continued to grow and with the building of the new sanctuary, the board of directors gave us permission to rehab the space where the old bathroom was located. Thanks to some hard work and donation of materials by members of the congregation, especially Marlon Banerian, the current UUMAN library space was built out and the library collection was relocated.

Today, the collection has grown to more than 1200 books. During this time, we have gone through two computers and the original software program we used to catalog the collection has now been replaced with a newer, updated one.

The UUMAN library continues to be an excellent resource for the RE program and many visitors and new members have found the library to be of assistance as they deepen their understanding of the UU mission. The collection continues to grow as more books are donated to UUMAN.

However, if this UUMAN resource is to continue to serve our needs, we need to update our current computer. **If anyone has an older working computer that they have replaced, with at least 512K of memory and a Pentium IV or higher processor**, the library committee would love to have it. If you can help us out, please contact Larry & Lois Curry at 770-998-4717 or [lecurry22@yahoo.com](mailto:lecurry22@yahoo.com)

*The UUMAN Library Committee*

*PS: An eye-opening story on troubling computer-industry recycling practices was aired on the PBS NewsHour last month. A recap is available online:*

[http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/jan-june07/e-waste\\_2-26.html](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/jan-june07/e-waste_2-26.html)

