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## TO THE GLORY OF LIFE

<b>Life at UUMAN when I arrived (1999)</b>	<b>Life at UUMAN when I leave (2007)</b>
We had 90 members	We have 168 members
We had 3 paid staff (Karen and I and Elena)	We have eight paid staff
We had a budget of 100 K	We have a budget of 220 K
We had one building	We have three buildings
Worshipped/had coffee in Fellowship Hall	We have a beautiful sanctuary
We had a 12-15 member choir	We have a 25-30 member choir
We had no library	We have a library with its own room
¾ time minister	Full time minister
The minister's package was 28.5 K	The minister's package is 60 K
We were not a welcoming congregation	We are a welcoming congregation
There was no playground	There is a very nice playground
No one rented our facility	Facility rented 100+/days/year
No Daytimers	Daytimers
No Green consciousness	3 visibly green projects
No weekly potluck social	Weekly potluck
12 – 15 groups / committees	20-25 groups / committees
No coordinating council	New program council
No care circles	8 care circles
No worship associates or ushers	Ushers and worship associates
Dirt roads	Pervious pavement
Board members also chair committees	Board members focus on Inst. Manag
Six musical elements in worship liturgy	Eleven musical elements
No cleaning crew	Cleaning crew
Leaky basement	Leaky basement

Although some things change very slowly – or never change – a lot has happened in eight years. It is funny what perspective does. When we look at change directly – or in front of us – there is sometimes a wish for things to remain the same. If it's going to change, we pray it change gracefully. On hindsight, however, we look back and sometimes wish we were part of more change – see that we made more of an impact. But of course, there are a number of things we do to simply hold the community together.

Eight years, 7 trees, 2 buildings, one roof, 3 toilets, one air conditioning system, 3 septic systems, 28 board members and one minister later we are we are a bigger community, with bigger ideas and issues and in search of much bigger dreams. We still have leaky basements and still in search of the beloved community. But we have held together through some tough losses of beloved members, welcomed some pretty awesome beloved babies and new members and even hitched a couple folks together.

Regrets? I have a few. Longtime minister Frank Schulman died recently and when Terry Sweetser did the funeral he said that Frank made sure he included his regret:



## 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!

### YOGA with Lisa @ UUMAN

On-going yoga classes in our beautiful sanctuary. Develop strength, flexibility and balance in mind and body. Learn poses, breathing & relaxation techniques & meditation to reduce stress, calm your mind, strengthen your immune system, and find more joy in life! Beginners & intermediates; men, women & teens.

Newcomers welcome anytime.

Wednesday 10-11:15 a.m.,  
Sunday 4:45-6 p.m. Buy a class card for the number of classes you'd like to take: 10 for \$100; 5 for \$65; 1 for \$15 or 1 month unlimited \$65. Contact [lisa@uuman.org](mailto:lisa@uuman.org) or 770-395-7166

he wished he'd "complained less and helped more."

That was it. And that's true for me too.

And I wished I had supported more people who did some pretty awesome things.

And said I was sorry a few more times. And said "I love you" a lot more often.

I hope you will all know – and learn to take very seriously – what an incredible group of people you are. And challenge yourselves to love the world as much as you are capable. I know you will be life changers. I know you've changed mine. And I will never forget you as I go.

To the Glory of Life.

## Growth at UUMAN

As we wrap up a UUMAN fiscal year and board term, it is natural to look back over the past few years. There are the obvious changes, such as the building of the sanctuary, but UUMAN has grown in a number of less tangible ways.

- We responded to the resignation of our first called minister with increased giving and we successfully completed our search for an interim minister.
- The congregation created a clearly-articulated, well-defined vision for what we want our Ministry with Children and Youth to be, via the successful RE-Visioning effort.
- The creation of the Program Council puts decisions about the content of our programs and ministries in the hands of the committees who deliver them.

If you aren't participating in one or more of our committees, you are missing out on the opportunity to work with some of the most sincere, well-intentioned, and community-centered people in metro Atlanta. These are the places where the real ministry of UUMAN happens. They are increasingly the place where the most important decisions are made, and where the most important issues in our community are addressed. Contact one of the committee chairs listed elsewhere in this newsletter to get plugged in.

Members of the board are also some of the most sincere, well-intentioned, and community-centered people I have ever worked with. Under Marty's leadership, every board vote was unanimous, and every difference of opinion was worked through until all concerns were addressed. Thanks to Marty and the board presidents who came before her, serving on the board is a real pleasure. Thanks to the members of our congregation, UUMAN continues its growth, both organizationally and spiritually.

*Kevin Kleinfelter  
President, 2007-2008*

## Editor's Note

"Burn out not, lest ye burn others."

It will appear in my Editor's Gospel when I get around to submitting it to the illuminated manuscripter's. In the meantime, this maxim applies splendidly to this latest issue, which has taken far longer and yet contains far less content than any other I've edited so far. The only real explanation is a temporary burnout, brought on perhaps by the dog days of summer, plus, perhaps, knowing that this would be the last "To the Glory of Life" message I'd ever publish from Greg and thinking that the longer I could put it off, the less real that would become.

But as deadlines lapse, others, who've patiently submitted time-sensitive items to be included in a newsletter, get burned, and are twice shy to submit again. Mr. Ed will not let this happen again.

--Mister Ed.



## Coming soon: a Back to School Party!



Remember the excitement of starting the new school year? New book bags, new shoes, the smell of new erasers, notebooks and pencils?

Once again UUMAN is working with our friends at Homestretch to provide school supplies for families in Transitional Housing in North Fulton.

### Get that great Back-to-School feeling

Look for a large poster in Fellowship Hall this Sunday and sign up for the supplies you want to donate. You can donate all the supplies for one child or just a few supplies.

We also have options to purchase gift cards for some new families that will be moving in before the school year starts. Donations will be due Sunday, July 22nd.

We hope to provide a backpack and all supplies needed for each child. Backpacks will be presented to the children at a **Back to School Party on August 5th**, and we hope all our UUMAN children and youth will come celebrate with our friends from 'Homestretch'. Join us in helping to make the beginning of this new school year extra special for UUMAN & our Friends! We are in need of volunteers for packing up supplies and to help at the party. Look for sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall.

Call Karen Wilkins (770) 495-1898 or Margie Jacobs (678)-467-6471) with any questions.



## Labor Day Congregational Picnic

Mark your calendar right now for an All-UUMAN picnic at Wills Park in Alpharetta on Monday, September 3, from 2-6PM.

We have reserved the large shelter near the baseball fields, tennis courts, Wacky World playground, bathrooms and swimming pool. Grills and electrical outlets are available, and the facility is handicapped-accessible.

This informal event is sponsored by our Care Circles. For more information contact Karen LoBracco (770-642-7252).



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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 Committees & Chairs

### *Care Circles*

Karen LoBracco - [klobracco@mindspring.com](mailto:klobracco@mindspring.com) - (770) 642-7252

### *Committee on Ministry*

John Tangney - [jrtangney@bellsouth.net](mailto:jrtangney@bellsouth.net) - (770) 993-6498

### *Fellowship*

Dave Hudson - [dkhudson@bellsouth.net](mailto:dkhudson@bellsouth.net) - (770) 578-1425

### *Finance*

Stephen Shanahan - [stephen.shanahan@gmail.com](mailto:stephen.shanahan@gmail.com) - (770) 645-6430

### *Fundraising*

Cliff Brown - [cliff.brown@tec-trac.com](mailto:cliff.brown@tec-trac.com) - (770) 667-1575

### *MCY Council*

Karen Wilkins - [gkcddwilkins@yahoo.com](mailto:gkcddwilkins@yahoo.com) - (770) 495-1898

### *Membership*

Elizabeth Rohan - [elizabeth.rohan@gmail.com](mailto:elizabeth.rohan@gmail.com) - (770) 645-6430

### *Music*

Margot Harding - [Margot\\_harding@bellsouth.net](mailto:Margot_harding@bellsouth.net) - (770) 777-9245

Ken Lyon [k2lyon@mindspring.com](mailto:k2lyon@mindspring.com) - (770) 971-5720

### *Operations*

Don Groce - [bangroce@hotmail.com](mailto:bangroce@hotmail.com) - (678) 977-1005

### *RE Council*

Susan Kleinfelter - [sue@kleinfelter.com](mailto:sue@kleinfelter.com) - (770) 455-0616

### *Reconciliations*

Kara Sweeney - [kara\\_sweeney@hotmail.com](mailto:kara_sweeney@hotmail.com) - (770) 650-5993

### *Social Action*

Jennifer Tangney - [venjenn@bellsouth.net](mailto:venjenn@bellsouth.net) - (770) 993-6498

### *Visioning*

Pat Shea - [patshea000@aol.com](mailto:patshea000@aol.com) - (770) 993-7528

### *Worship*

Suzanne Rezelman - [suzanne@rezelman.org](mailto:suzanne@rezelman.org) - (770) 518-6381

## UUMAN TIMES

### **Editor:**

Dirk Bender

### **Contributors:**

Greg Ward, Kevin Kleinfelter, Margie Jacobs, Karen LoBracco and others

### **Submissions:**

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

