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## Notes from the Interim

Hello UUMAN!

I will be arriving on September 6<sup>th</sup> and am eager to meet all of you on Sunday the 9<sup>th</sup>. As I write this, I am finishing my last week at the UU Congregation of Greenville, NC. Parting is sweet sorrow, as Shakespeare wrote. Sweet in recognizing the love that's developed between us and the good work we did together and sorrowful as we have to say goodbye. From here, I drive to Roswell briefly to move my things into my new apartment there. Then I'm off to Los Angeles where I will attend my father's memorial service. He died unexpectedly but gently from a stroke on July 3<sup>rd</sup> at the age of 79. "A feast of losses" as the poet says. It is a feast of remembrances and reconciliations of memories with facts, and feelings with realities. Sweet and sorrowful.

When I return from Los Angeles, my partner Jennifer and I will be taking five children (three little girls and two teenage boys) and Jennifer's mother camping in Western Massachusetts near the Berkshires over Labor Day weekend. Three of the children, Julia (7), Tim (12) and Ben (16) are Jennifer's children and the other two girls are her nieces. This is our idea of a vacation! I'll let you know how it goes....and will hopefully have pictures.

After all of the losses, I am truly looking forward to the new life and energy working with you will bring. I have already met some of your members via email and phone and love the intelligence and enthusiasm I've encountered so far. I know you have many things you'd like to work on this year and some big challenges to face. I am ready to do that with you. I know we'll do good work together.

—*Frieda Gillespie*  
Interim minister, UUMAN



## 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!

## Yom Kippur: A Very Special Service

Please join us for UUMAN's yearly Yom Kippur service at 6pm in the UUMAN Sanctuary, on Saturday, September 22nd.

For those of you that have never attended a UUMAN Yom Kippur service in the past, it is one of the more emotional services you will ever attend.

If you were brought up Jewish, you may be equating Yom Kippur with asking God for forgiveness for your "sins" throughout the year. But we always inject our own flavor into other religions' traditions.

Thus we do not run a traditional Yom Kippur service. Yes, there will be homilies on Forgiveness and Atonement, but also on Grief. These homilies deal with the topics in a broader sense that incorporates the outside world, as well as what has happened in your daily lives in the last year or so.

This service also gives you a chance to remember your loved ones that have passed. Part of the service is a memorial and honors the deceased. Feel free to bring pictures of your loved ones to place on the altar during this time. This service is designed to help us all come to terms with feelings and emotions one might have during tough times, whether on a very personal or on a broader scale.

Please join us on this very special evening and we can all help to *heal* together.

Members of our choir (led by our choir director Randy Wilbur) will be singing "Yahweh" as well as other songs appropriate for the service. Dan Ben David will be accompanying the singing on his guitar.

If you would like to be a reader (you just show up 15 minutes or so early and will be assigned the short reading right before the service) please email Randy Blasch (rblasch@responsemedia.com) and let him know at your earliest convenience.

We will follow the service with a potluck in Fellowship Hall immediately after. Bring what you are famous for!

Any questions? Email carolynlee@comcast.net .

## Let's get ready to RUMMAGE!

UUMAN's annual rummage sale is right around the corner! We will be starting to accept donations right after service on Sunday, October 21. We will be sorting and pricing throughout the following week.

The sale is held **Friday, October 26 and Sat. October 27 from 8am to 3pm.**

Please start rummaging through your closets, cabinets and storage units for the best quality items you are willing to part with!

The sign up poster for sorting, pricing, and selling volunteers, as well as food donors, and truck drivers, will be up in Fellowship Hall at the beginning of October.

This is our LARGEST fundraiser each year so we hope to have the whole UUMAN community to help out in some capacity. It's not work, it's actually alot of fun and you get to know others at UUMAN.

Reminder: All groups that normally meet in Fellowship Hall or the Sanctuary will need to meet elsewhere during that week.

Any questions? Contact: Carolyn Lee at carolynlee@comcast.net



# Ministry with Children & Youth

## Coming of Age RE Program

2007-2008

We are excited to be offering the Coming of Age Program this church year as a component of our Sunday morning RE program for eighth and ninth graders. We were off to a heart-warming initiation with the Opening Coming of Age Ceremony that several UUMANS shared with us after service on Sunday, August 26<sup>th</sup>.

### What is a “Coming of Age” program?

“Coming of Age” is a term that many UU churches have used to describe the transition that young people make as they move from childhood into adolescence. Other religious groups such as Catholics and Christians acknowledge this Rite of Passage with the sacrament of Confirmation while the Jewish Faith celebrate Bar and Bat Mitzvah during this time in a young person’s life. “Growing up” can be a long and complicated, as well as exciting journey and so, we have created a program that we intend will provide our youth with a community of friends and particular experiences that will enable them to make choices about how THEY want to “grow up”. It is an opportunity for them to find out more about themselves, their gifts, their strengths and their challenges.

Some of our hopes for this program are:

- Increasing self-confidence in our youth, knowing that their feelings are valid and that both they and their opinions matter.
- Know that each youth has a unique purpose that can only be defined by them.
- Understand that they have an important role in their family, at UUMAN, and in the larger community.
- Understand the changes that they are moving through as they are growing up.
- Know that they are not alone and that there are others who can support, help them and learn from them along the way.
- Take responsibility for them selves and accept the consequences of their decisions.
- Develop a personal value system and over the course of this year evolve their own dynamic Faith Statement.

In addition, each youth will be paired with a mentor from our church family to travel with them on this journey. The mentors will sometimes join us in class and will work together with the youth to talk about the “big questions” in life, design a service project, write faith statements, get to know each other and have a lot of fun.

**All of this will end with a final celebration and community recognition in May.**



We still have openings for men mentors who are feeling called to share their own unique gifts, life experiences and faith journeys with our youth. The feedback we have gotten from past mentors has been one of gratitude for the gifts and experience of working and learning together with our young church family members.

We are also still in need of one female facilitator to travel with us on this journey. The current dedicated facilitators also engaging in this adventure with our youth and me are Bruce Langston and Arnie Barnes Schwartz.



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at:

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



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## UUMAN TIMES

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### Contributors:

Carolyn Lee, Frieda Gillespie,  
Karen Wilkens, Chuck Jones  
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)

## September Service Schedule

September 9th - *Remember to Evolve*

An introduction to this year of Interim Ministry together.

September 16th - *What Is Your Problem?!*

We are so wedded to our own perceptions of events and values that we often miss each other's point entirely and don't know it. How do we intentionally give time and space to connect with each other?

September 23rd - *Making Amends*

In the old film, *Love Story*, the dying wife says to her husband, "Love means never having to say you're sorry." If not sorry, then what? How and for what should we make amends? We will have a New Member Ceremony today.

## UUMAN Committees & Chairs

### Care Circles

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