



*In this issue:*

Cover Letter	1
Sabbatical Corner	2
Service Auction	2
Happenings	2-5
Inspirations	3
UUMAN Writes	4
President's Letter	5
Great Strides Walk	5
Youth News	5
Reflections	6
Mountain Events	6
Welcoming	
Congregation	7
Policy Governance	7
Unwritten Rules	8-9
Worship Schedule	10

## TO THE GLORY OF LIFE

Dear Friends,

“Be prepared.” There was something of a sly smile connected to the statement. We had been talking about the sabbatical and I was curious about her meaning. She was not cautioning me to remember to bring a pocket knife or an extra pair of underwear on my travels. “Be prepared,” she said, “because, I have been part of another sabbatical and, although there has been good preparation going into this one, be prepared on your routine for the possibility that people might say, ‘why do we need him?’”

By the time most of you read this, I will be gone. I hope that the sabbatical, for me, will be a time where I can do some real work. Where I can explore and find out a little more about what my unfolding life is all about. I want to re-examine some basic assumptions of who I am, what I love and how I am supposed to be true to that. I expect – and am a little frightened by – the idea that this time will be filled with challenges and growth. I will take some risks and stretch myself. I will do some things (travel, work with family, home improvements, spiritual retreats) that I know will change me. I will come back a different person. Not only do I expect the sabbatical to change me – I expect you would be disappointed if it didn't.

By that I don't mean that the church is sending me away for refinement. But you are graciously, generously, allowing me to have this opportunity so that I can find some renewal, some spiritual growth, maturity and clarity. I accept the expectation that I will use this time to further myself.

I hope – nay, I expect - the sabbatical will be a time that this congregation – and every person in it - changes and grows and furthers themselves. Where you grow deeper in your relationships, your commitments, you plans and your collective capacity to make a difference. I hope you use this time to

stretch, to take some risks, to assume new authority and ownership of this institution and to do things that change who you are and how you think of yourselves. UUMAN is your institution. I hope you claim it, serve it and further it. When I get back, I expect to hear people wondering aloud, ‘why do we need him?’

When I return – AND I WILL RETURN - I don't think I will have changed so much that my ego will be immune to such a statement. After all, no one wants to feel dispensable. But I would be far more hurt and far more disappointed to come back and hear the following:

- ‘We were going to fix that, but we didn't want to do anything until you got back,’
- ‘We we're waiting to join the church (or join a committee or get involved) until you got back,’
- ‘We were hoping you would know what to do.’
- ‘We'd never done that before and we wanted to know what you thought,’
- ‘That's a minister's decision.’

You are all ministers of this institution. When I return – AND I WILL RETURN – I would much rather hear – and see – all the examples about how you have been doing ministry rather than the examples of how you have been waiting for ministry. I will come back ready to do ministry with a church – not for a church. This is OUR time of growth. This is OUR time for change. This is OUR time for ministry.

“Be prepared.” I WILL return. Some people have been worried that I wouldn't. But rest assured, I say it is as much as a threat as it is a promise. I will come back excited to share how far we have each gotten. Excited to share how far we will be able to go.

To the Glory of Life,  
Greg



## Happenings

### Mindful Meditation

How many things can you do at one time? Five? Six? How busy is your life? How full is your calendar? Isn't it time that you slowed down for a few minutes and looked inside? Don't be afraid; what you will find in there will pleasantly surprise you. All it takes is a desire and willingness to sit still and be mindful - - mindful of what's real for you. Let's do it together - - every second and fourth Thursday nights at UUMAN at 7:30 p.m. There's nothing to bring but your willingness to sit quietly for 20 minutes. There are no commitments to make. See you there.

## Happenings

### 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. Sunday 4:45-6 p.m., Wednesday 10-11:30 a.m. 8 classes for \$80. Contact lisa@uuman.org or 770-395-7166

## Sabbatical Corner

We had our first Care Circle get-together on Sunday. A few of the families missed it, but those that came had quite a time. Geography and UUMAN seem to be enough in common to get an interesting conversation going. As we went from person to person seated around the comfy room in the Danielak's home, we shared our interests at UUMAN and our jobs. (Focusing on my church duties, I stayed away from volunteering info about my job, not because I am a CIA operative, but because I am on a first name basis with the dust bunnies that have set up residence under my own big comfy davenport. Domestic Engineer is most definitely an over blown statement of my chores here on the edge of Roswell). It was amazing to see the level of commitment that even this small fraction of our spiritual home had going on. It was confirmed that everyone there was smart and funny and had interesting children. Must be something about our little corner of the universe.

I did hear an interesting rumor. No, it had nothing to do with the unsurprised Golden Globe winners or with the oddly affectionate break up of Jen and Brad. Someone had heard that Greg was not returning after his Sabbatical. I think I can say with as much assurance that we are allowed in this world, that he will be back in July: well rested, well traveled, and ready to WOW us from the pulpit on Sundays. If you missed his sermon just before Martin Luther King Day, it was barnburner. Hallelujah and Amen. There IS more of that to follow. You just have to wait for it.

Back to our Care Circle. The thing that I really liked about that group was the level of enthusiasm. Not a naysayer in the bunch. You should have seen their eyes light up when one of the activities suggested had to do with Whirly Ball. Apparently, a better sport has not been devised by man since the invention of batting cages (my personal favorite...I can really wail on those yellow, spongy softballs that are lobbed by a surprisingly inaccurate machine). Yeah... Whirly Ball, Kudzu Playhouse, a work day at UUMAN, all these were met with enthusiasm and good will. And along with the promise of fun, came the promise of care. There were many pledges of being there for each other.

However, these promises did not surprise me.

I have become used to the idea that UUMAN cares.

## UUMAN Annual Service Auction

Plan to attend UUMAN's Annual Service Auction

**February 12th at 7:00 p.m.**

What's not to like?

No admission....

Free, and yes I said free, finger food buffet....

Useful services from UUMAN's own treasure trove of talented people.....

Silent auction...

Fast paced highest bidder auction....

Money raised benefits UUMAN

And...it's in the middle of February....What else can you possibly be doing???



## Inspirations

We asked what you loved about UUMAN, what you found worthwhile here..and you answered:

UUmankind

Some families mark their children's growth on the molding of a door, each year a new mark placed just above the child's head, the name and date then recorded. I however, note my children's growth in how they compare in size to moving trucks. One year barely able to reach to the top of the tire, another year, their head striking midway between the words "United Van Lines". My children's growth will soon be measured against a moving truck again as we prepare to move to Chicago, but this time their growth is not just physical.

This time their spirit has grown, tended to lovingly by each of you in your own way...whether through hugs or handshakes, as a friend or advisor, a classmate or teacher...you were there...forming this incredible community that my children could embrace and benefit from and make them whole. They will walk away from this place much stronger and self-assured, very much cared for and loved. I feel a deep sense of gratitude for what they have been given while in your company. Thank you all so very much for making us welcome in your community and in your hearts.

With love and appreciation,  
-Darcy Costello

For me, UUMAN is all about truth. The search for it, the ability to speak freely of it (even if it does not agree with other members' versions), and the strength to look upon it within myself. It is a place filled with people who I can turn to for support, care, and belief in me when I doubt I myself. These amazing, caring individuals have a will to try to do what's right and have helped me trust in humanity again and myself. They've shared their hearts with me in covenant groups, spiritual autobiography class, and in spirited conversation. UUMAN has helped me look for strengths

and goodness within myself and outside my life. I've tapped into some of my abilities and been given a glimpse at those on the horizon. I've grown in ways I cannot truly express in my year and 1/2 here. I've learned to reclaim some of things I loved about Christianity and make peace with those who abused it throughout my life. I've also learned to cherish other world religions, such as Buddhism. While UUMAN is my spiritual sanctuary, I have realized I cannot hide between its walls. So, I take forth the lessons I learn here into the world. I take the warmth and smiles I receive at UUMAN and disperse them throughout my daily life. I've learned to live with more compassion, honesty and mindfulness. Most importantly, I've learned to embrace my humanity. I do not look upon UUMAN as some divine Utopia. I look upon it as a good start...  
-Patty Odom

As a brand new member here's my initial reflections on where UUMAN fits for me. I live in a subdivision of some 1300 homes with its own clubhouse and all the attendant social activity. There is an absolute presumption throughout the community that, if you live there, you are a "Christian," a conservative and a Republican. After a few tentative attempts at civil discourse I gave up. I found that their core beliefs, including political, are acts of faith with these folks; not a reasoned point of view based on inspiration or facts or logic. Therefore, if you disagree with them, there is really nothing to discuss. You're either "wid em" or "agin em." There are a lot of day-to-day pleasantries, of course, but I found myself descending into spiritual and intellectual atrophy. When I discovered UUMAN it was like reaching a refreshing oasis in a spiritual and intellectual desert. In fact, with the discussion group, there's such a flood of refreshing ideas that it sometimes feel its like an idea tsunami! UUMAN is a community where I feel that I can be me without fear of being judged or stigmatized. That's freedom. Thanks a bunch for the welcome I've already received.  
-Don Rizzo

## Happenings

**Hands Heal Group** of UUMAN offers free healing to anyone in need at 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM each Sunday in the sanctuary following the second service. Any donations made will benefit UUMAN. Members of the group are available to help you move through any physical, emotional, spiritual or mental concerns by providing loving supportive energy to you. The group also meets the last Monday of each month in the sanctuary at 7 PM. At this time, there is a guest speaker, healing sharing among members of the group and loving energy sent to all those who have been brought to Joys and Concerns during the month. People with all levels of healing experience are welcome to participate at these meetings. For information contact: Fredrika Tambasco at 770-649-0337 or fredricka@uuman.org Carole Ann Marra at 770-592-6533 or carolm@uuman.org

## Happenings

**The Hungry Ear Coffee House** at Northwest UU will be on Saturday, Feb. 5th. This month's performers will be: Jonathan Kele, Thomas Vinton, and feature Ethan Daniel. Admission is a \$5 donation. For more info or directions, call 770-955-1408



## Happenings

### Especially for Care Circle Facilitators,

but all interested are welcome:

Thursday Feb. 17th from 7:30 to 9:30 Toniann Read from Friends on the Journey will lead us in: Exploring Who we are, Where we are and Where we are going. A look at how to care and what to say.

There will also be time to answer questions and address concerns that have come up in your circle. It is our plan to meet once a month to help support you as you support UUMAN. If you can not attend, you may want to see if someone from your care circle can.

To RSVP or more info, contact Fredrika at 770-649-0337 or [fredricka@uuman.org](mailto:fredricka@uuman.org)

## Contribute!

If you are interested in submitting a piece for UUMAN Writes (creative writing, letter to the editor, etc.), please contact **Patty Odom** or send and email to [newsletter@uuman.org](mailto:newsletter@uuman.org).

## Send Yourself a Valentine

Every Valentine's Day, I am reminded of rituals from my youth. In elementary school, Valentine's was fairly harmless, since you had well-intentioned teachers and parents who forced you to pass out store bought slips of colored paper with characters on them to everyone-lest anyone's feelings get hurt or feel left out. By middle school-all bets were off. By that phase of adolescent, hormone peaking, Valentine's Day was either one of those events that you looked forward to with anticipatory glee (if you were popular, a jock or a prom queen) or if like the rest of us, the outcasts and geeks; it was the kind of day that you feigned a sore throat and begged your mother to let you stay home. At my middle school, the administration sold plastic roses every Feb. 14th for \$1 to help sponsor the purchase of encyclopedias and media. (In retrospect, it seems like they could have found a better way to buy reference material than by denigrating the already fragile self esteem of their students.) Receiving a red rose meant you & your sweetie were a bona fide hot item-like J Lo and P Diddy, or J lo & Ben , or J lo & Marc Anthony.. well, you get the picture. A pink rose meant you had a crush or secret admirer. These were used by many a cruel in- crowder to taunt the lowliest girl or boy of the school. The worst part was the agonizing few moments of joy that would pass upon the mark's face, before they realized it was just a joke and laughter broke out all round them. Then there were the mercy roses-yellow for friendship. These were the ones that you and your friends sent each other so you didn't seem so pathetic and empty handed. If you were truly daring you'd attach some made up name to it and pretend you had a significant other from another school; though this ruse was usually easily uncovered and often backfired. These cheap, crappy plastic roses marked your station in the social hierarchy of adolescence. The absence of them could make your life a living hell.

Even though I'm well past those gawky years, there is something deep within me that still shudders at the holiday. Perhaps it is the residual scarring of those adolescent days. I always wonder why this "holiday" is such a brutal one when it is supposed to be about passion and love. My cynical self knows that it is really conjured up by the card companies, jewelry stores and florists. But the concept of celebrating love is not a bad one-just why such exclusionary love? Why are only red hot lovers and devoted couples celebrated? Why not have a holiday that celebrates a love of self?

So, still possessing some seed of that Gothic rebel (which made me such an outcast in school); I propose we hijack the holiday back. Make it one where everyone celebrates themselves and treats themselves to an ounce of the love and forgiveness they so willingly dole out to others. A celebration of self love. A recognition that we do not necessarily need another half to make us whole; that within ourselves lies the power and wonder of a magnificent creature. Love yourself. Do something nice for yourself. Look in the mirror and focus on the beauty instead of the flaws. Tell yourself how truly wonderful you are & list the attributes that make you special. Forgive yourself for your failures and mistakes-acknowledge that they make you stronger and wiser. Proudly buy yourself a white rose of self worth. No one can laugh at the person who has learned to love themselves.

You can explore the universe looking for somebody who is more deserving of your love and affection than you are yourself, and you will not find that person anywhere.

- Buddhist quote

Happy Valentine's Day to the beauty in each of us! [pattyto@uuman.org](mailto:pattyto@uuman.org)



## Presidential Musings

Last Saturday the Board got together with some wonderful facilitators and worked more on our new governance structure. As boring as that sounds, it was truly an exciting day of turning the structure of UUMAN inside out and recreating it to align with our Mission. We named a large category of functional area "Living Our Covenant," to include the care we give one another and the educational opportunities and resources we provide. We had written in our ends statements that we are "agents for positive change in our society," and so we named another area the "Agency for Positive Change," to include social action and environmental responsibility.

Later the same day 175 or so guests from UUMAN and beyond, came together to live our covenant and to act as agents for change in the world, at the Tsunami Relief Talent Show Spectacular. With barely three weeks' planning, a team

of energized members who just wanted to do something, created one of the most exciting intergenerational celebrations of spirit and generosity seen at UUMAN. The talent was amazing, the food and drink delicious and plentiful, and the fun unparalleled. The generosity of those who came (and some who didn't), was astounding. By early count (the day after), UUMAN had raised **more than \$2,800 to be sent to Direct Relief International**. And the group who planned the show committed themselves to Tsunami relief efforts for every month of the coming year, lest we forget the victims as the headlines fade.

We are all ages, we are agents for positive change, and we live our covenant. We should feel very proud to be a part of this institution. I know I do. -DeeAnne Clowes

## Great Strides Walk

Many of you know Jon, Pam, Gavin, and Jake Baker. They became members of UUMAN this fall. What many of you may not know is that Gavin and Jake have Cystic Fibrosis. This is a fatal disease that attacks the lungs and digestive system. The life expectancy of a male with CF is now 36 (which is greatly improved over past years but still not long enough for those of us who love them). On May 21, 2005 the Atlanta Chapter of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation will be hosting Great Strides at Zoo Atlanta. This is a 5k walk that goes around the perimeter of the zoo and Grant Park and culminates in a party at the zoo. I am trying to get together a team from UUMAN to walk with the Baker Boys Battalion. If anyone is interested in becoming a team leader, joining an existing team, or helping in the fundraising effort, please contact Jessica Baker at [jessicab@uuman.org](mailto:jessicab@uuman.org) or ask me at church on Sunday.

## Youth News

I am sure that February is a quiet month in some corner of the Universe, but we are as busy as ever over in Discovery Hall! We will be attending a Mid South District Youth Adult Committee (MSD YAC) sponsored "Spirituality Development Con" in Macon, Ga. (Feb 11-13th). We are looking forward to bringing back LOTS of great ideas to share as we prepare for the Annual Youth Service coming to a Sanctuary near you in March. Our Youth are coming up with some creative and innovative themes to share with our congregation as we worship together. We especially want to thank Martina Queeneth for taking the reigns from Janet Lacey as Youth Service 'Angel & Mentor'. We love you both! Your support and guidance mean so much!

We are also busy preparing for our Annual Valentine's Dance that will be held on Saturday Feb 26th this year. Watch out for fliers and invitations in your mailboxes SOON! There will be a 'Lock-in' for Sr Youth following the dance. Sr Youth Advisors will have more info at the Sr Youth Group Meeting on Feb 13th. Jr Youth 'OWL' participants will have their 2nd Retreat Feb 4&5th at UUMAN.

The Jr Youth Group will have an outing to play LAZER TAG on Sunday Feb 27th. We will leave after 2nd service and return in time for 'OWL'. Details are still being worked on ...look for info in your mailbox!

Work continues this month on our 2006 Mission Trip to Jamaica. Youth and Adults are getting together in small working groups to do research and prepare for a big 'Kick-off' Party that is being planned for Sunday April 10th. Everyone is welcome to participate in working on this project. Please see Casey Clowes or Toniann for details on how YOU can be involved.

Finally we want to thank everyone who has supported the Youth 'Bottled Water Fundraiser'. We hope that you are enjoying this service and we certainly appreciate your support & patronage!!! The money we are raising will go towards our Mission Trip to Jamaica in addition to a scholarship fund for our youth to attend trainings and conferences throughout the year.

We couldn't turn our dreams into reality without YOU! And so the dreams that are hatching over the way in the Youth Room become the shared reality of a community dedicated to Youth Empowerment and wide world change!



## Reflections

January 22, is the anniversary of the landmark Supreme Court decision, Roe v. Wade, which established a woman's right to reproductive choice. I write this on Friday, January 21st which is the date this year when the anniversary is acknowledged at the Capitol. Reproductive Rights and Reproductive Healthcare is an issue which I've long supported as an educator, advocate and activist. Many years ago as a UU trainer of the "About Your Sexuality" sex education program which was the predecessor of OWL ("Our Whole Lives") I was asked for the first time to do some public speaking outside of my church. I was asked to speak at a press conference sponsored by the Reproductive Rights Coalition, Georgians for Choice, on the anniversary of Roe v. Wade. This year I was asked to speak at that press conference once again.

The press conference ended and it was shortly after ten when I left the Capitol this morning. "Georgia Right to Life" and other anti-choice organizations were already preparing for their rally. Soaring "inspirational" music was blaring from the Capitol steps and the banners were hung. In another hour, if like previous years, the huge gruesome posters with aborted fetuses would be on display and the plastic fetuses would be hawked on the street corners. Already the buses were arriving. Filing out of those buses will be hundreds of children most of them from parochial schools from all over the state.

I dislike this day at the Capitol. It is usually bitter cold. Tattooed in-your-face activists face off against moms with strollers, both waving signs. The carnival atmosphere is

disturbing. I left thinking about children and values and how we introduce our children to public life.

First off, I think that we need to be able to identify our own core values and faith positions and then articulate them. And I've said this many times in teacher training sessions. "Tell the children what you believe. You can tell them that you used to believe differently and at some point you might change your mind again, because, you're growing too.". If we don't honestly share with our children and young people what we believe they will see right through us. We both deserve better than that.

I think its good to expose our children to civic life, but I think it's important to bring civic life down to size. My own children were very young when they canvassed the neighborhood with a petition for street lights – we lived one block outside of the city limits. Meetings and marches are good, but I would start with city hall and the county commissioners first. In Smyrna, where I've lived for over thirty years, those city and county officials have gone on to serve in the state house, the governors office and the U.S. Congress as well.

Conservative Evangelicals have a much better track record of involving their children in public life than progressives do. We're big on the global issues – environmentalism and racism, for instance – but don't place as much value on local issues and local participation. We could do better.

## Coming Events at The Mountain

### Summer Camp

It may be chilly outside, but now is the time to start thinking about MountainCamp! There's no better summer experience for a kid. From rising first graders through high school students, there's a safe, enriching, terrific adventure in store for everyone at this UU-affiliated Retreat & Learning Center near Highlands, North Carolina. For more information For more information and registration forms go to <http://www.mountaincenters.org/mountaincamp.html>.

### Youth CONferences at The Mountain

February 4-6: Senior High Con  
February 18-20: Elementary Con  
March 11-13: Junior High Con  
For more information go to

[http://www.mountaincenters.org/youth\\_cons.html](http://www.mountaincenters.org/youth_cons.html)

### Adult Programs

February 24-27: Self Leadership A time to retreat and reflect in the quiet beauty of The Mountain

March 18 – 20: UUMAN Singles Retreat

April 15-17: Healthy Relationship Supporting Intimacy Using Nonviolent Communication"

May 11-15: Women Spirit Institute and Gathering

August 2-6: Interfaith Visions for Peace

August 6-11: Nonviolence as a Personal Creed and Public Mission - The Ways, Whens, Whos and Wheres of Peacemaking"

For more information go to

[http://www.mountaincenters.org/adult\\_pgms.html](http://www.mountaincenters.org/adult_pgms.html)

### Family Programs

March 4-7: Humanity's Team

May 27-29: Memorial Weekend: War and Memory "Creating a Legacy of Peace"

July 1-3: Fun Family 4th of July (Family camp)

July 15-17: Family Mini-Vacation Camp

For more information go to

[http://www.mountaincenters.org/fam\\_pgms.html](http://www.mountaincenters.org/fam_pgms.html).



## Welcoming Congregation Update

The Welcoming Congregation Program is a volunteer program for congregations to be more inclusive towards bisexual, gay, lesbian, and/or transgender people. It consists of a series of workshops developed by the UUA. The goal of the workshops is to reduce prejudice by increasing understanding and acceptance among people of different sexual orientations.

We have held the first half of the series of Workshops with great success! We had over 30 people participate, and more than half of those participated in a majority of the Workshops.

First Session Topics Include:

- Introductions and Expectations
- What We Know and How We Learned It
- The Common Elements of Oppression
- Gender Socialization and Homophobia
- Religion and Homosexuality
- Experiences of GLBT People

We will be repeating the first session topics in a two Saturday Workshop Series.  
Saturday February 19th and Saturday March 5th 9am-3pm Lunch provided!

Whether you feel like you are very accepting of other sexual orientations, or you feel like you have some unresolved issues with those of other sexual orientations, (or your own), we hope you will attend as we explore in a safe environment how UUMAN can be a Welcoming place of worship for all people. These Workshops are for people of all sexual orientations. Please join us to help make UUMAN a Welcoming Congregation of Excellence. For questions or to sign up please contact **Janet Lacey** JLacey@uuman.org (770) 587-3279 or **Marty Harvey** marty@uuman.org or **Kim Palmer** kimp@uuman.org(770) 667-0347.

## PG – PROGRESS!

Last month's article explained what Policy Governance (PG) is, and it provided a brief plan of action. Well, action has been taken!

The Board worked diligently during the month of January to put together a thoughtful, invigorating set of goals for the Congregation known as End Statements. These End Statements were derived from UUMAN's Mission Statement. The entire Congregation was invited to participate in several of these meetings, and a few people did join us. This is an incredible accomplishment as most organizations take at least 6 months to complete such a task. We will share these End Statements with the entire congregation on Saturday, February 5th from 1:00 – 4:30 pm, so please plan to join us.

Next on the agenda is developing a new operating structure, establishing the Board/Management Team Connection and setting operational parameters for the Management Team.

**ORGANIZATION/STRUCTURE** – The Board of Trustees is charged with looking to the future and monitoring the present. The Management Team is responsible for meeting the goals. How should these groups be organized? How do the pieces of our church puzzle fit together?

**CONNECTIONS** – How do we see the Board getting input from the Congregation, the Board and Management Team interacting, and where can a member go with a problem?

**OPERATIONAL PARAMETERS** – What limits will the Board place upon the Management Team in meeting the goals?

What are the answers to these questions? Well, you can find out – and in fact, we request, invite, plead for you to attend our congregation-wide meeting to learn more about all these things and to provide your thoughts and input. We want to hear from you! **(This date had not been set at press time – please watch your email and Order of Worship for announcements)**

Childcare will be provided with a reservation. For a reservation, contact DeeAnne Clowes at president@uuman.org.

For more information, contact any member of the Policy Governance Committee:  
Robyn Henry, Lisa Haynsworth, Karen LoBracco, and Dave Lakly.



## UUMAN's Unwritten Rules

Everywhere you go there are rules of conduct and code. Sometimes they are simple and visibly posted (like “no shirt, no shoes, no service”). But sometimes the rules are a bit more complicated and not as visible. We’ve compiled a list of the rules you probably never knew about here at UUMAN to make your life easier.

### UUMAN's Unwritten Rules

#### Written down for your convenience

#### Our Environment – Inside and Out

- We use reusable coffee mugs whenever possible, so as not to add to the landfills.
- We use biodegradable plates and cups for potlucks, for the same reason.
- We do not use pesticides inside our buildings. In fact, many of our members subscribe to the “catch and release” school of thought as far as insects are concerned. Others secretly squish.
- Recycling bins are located under the counter in the kitchen in Fellowship Hall. We do not throw away recyclable items.
- The use of chemicals is frowned upon by our landscaping gurus.
- The “interdependent web of existence” referred to in the seventh principal is the environment. “7th principle” and “green sanctuary” are other UU terms for environmental concerns.
- UUMAN does not use the city’s sewage system; we are on a septic system. So we are very careful about what we put down our drains.
- Our parking lot is paved with pervious pavement, to aide in preventing run-off into local streams and lakes. This means that we have to be a bit more careful about making sharp turns in the parking lot, because the pervious pavement mars easily.
- Trash cans are located behind Fellowship Hall; please put trash bags inside cans to keep hungry critters from making a mess.
- We refrain from eating and drinking in the sanctuary during services, to minimize spills.
- We ask that people clean up after themselves and return rooms to their original state after use.
- If you leave something in the refrigerator, please make sure you throw it away or take it home before it starts to smell ripe.
- We do not store alcoholic beverages at UUMAN. If you bring an alcoholic beverage for an event, please dispose of what is not consumed, rather than leaving it behind. Let’s not tempt our children.
- The room in the sanctuary behind where the choir sits is not a storage room.
- Greg’s office should not be treated like a communal

space; it is his private office.

- The church office (room next to the nursery) is for communal use, but every courtesy should be afforded our Office Administrator, and every effort made not to interfere with her work areas.
- Brooms, mops and vacuum cleaners are located in the storage area beside the kitchen in Fellowship Hall. Cleaning supplies are under the sink in the kitchen. Tissue, towels, and lightbulbs are in the hall closet across from Greg’s office. Feel free to replenish kitchen/baths as necessary.
- In general, we park our cars in the back of the church so as to leave the parking spaces in front for visitors, recent friends and new members. Also, if members sit in the front and on the side of the sanctuary farthest from the doors, there will be more room for latecomers (usually new people) to sit comfortably near the door.
- The light switch for classrooms 3&4 is in the hallway and doesn’t look like a normal light switch.

#### Who do I contact for what?

- Check [www.uuman.org](http://www.uuman.org) and click on “contacts” for contact information on trustees and committee chairs.
- If you want to schedule an event, send an e-mail to [office@uuman.org](mailto:office@uuman.org) or [calendar@uuman.org](mailto:calendar@uuman.org) and give Robbie the relevant information, including the space you want, the date you are interested in, whether it is a recurring event, and how long your event is expected to last.
- If you want to confirm that your event has been placed on the UUMAN calendar, or check a date/location for an upcoming event, go to [www.uuman.org](http://www.uuman.org) and click on “calendar”.
- If you have an item you would like included in the monthly newsletter, submit it to [newsletter@uuman.org](mailto:newsletter@uuman.org) by the 20th of the preceding month. The newsletter editor has the right to edit your submission for content.
- If you would like to have an issue put on the monthly Board meeting agenda, send your request to [secretary@uuman.org](mailto:secretary@uuman.org). You will be informed as to whether your item will be considered by the board, or whether you should bring it up with a particular committee chair.
- If you have an announcement you would like placed in the Order of Worship for a particular Sunday service, send your request to [oow@uuman.org](mailto:oow@uuman.org). Please include in your note how many weeks you would like your announcement to run.
- If you need pastoral care, send your request to [minister@uuman.org](mailto:minister@uuman.org).
- If you would like to donate an item to UUMAN, send your request to [president@uuman.org](mailto:president@uuman.org).



## UUMAN's Unwritten Rules cont'd

- If you would like to discuss your financial situation, or talk about your pledge, send a note to [treasurer@uuman.org](mailto:treasurer@uuman.org).
- If you would like to sing in the choir, or have other musical talent to contribute, contact [musicdirector@uuman.org](mailto:musicdirector@uuman.org), or show up for choir practice Sunday evening at 6:30
- If you notice a problem with the physical building (a toilet it stopped up, a bulb is burnt out...), notify [operations@uuman.org](mailto:operations@uuman.org).
- If you have a topic you'd like considered for a Sunday service, send your request to [worship@uuman.org](mailto:worship@uuman.org).
- If you'd like to talk confidentially with somebody about UUMAN's ministry, go to [www.uuman.org](http://www.uuman.org) and click on "contacts" to find the e-mail addresses for the three members of the Committee on Ministry.
- If you'd like to talk confidentially with somebody about an unpleasant experience you've had teaching in the religious education program, contact our Director of Religious Education at [dre@uuman.org](mailto:dre@uuman.org). It is the goal of UUMAN's Religious Education department to ensure a rewarding and enriching experience for both the students and teachers. If a particular child is disruptive of that goal, it is imperative that you bring that information to the attention of the DRE.
- If you are interested in participating in the youth program at UUMAN, or if you have a concern about the youth program at UUMAN, contact our Youth Director at [yruu@uuman.org](mailto:yruu@uuman.org).
- If you would like to send a note to the UUMAN e-mail announcement list and you are not sure whether it is appropriate, please send it to [communications@uuman.org](mailto:communications@uuman.org) for confirmation and assistance.
- If you are surfing the UUMAN website and find an error, please make sure that you let your Communications Trustee know about that by sending that information to [communications@uuman.org](mailto:communications@uuman.org).
- If you have a general concern and you are not sure whom to address, send your concern to [president@uuman.org](mailto:president@uuman.org).
- To find out who is actually in charge of something, see Contacts on the website, and your membership directory for their phone number.
- There are boxes in the Office Administrator's office for each Board member, staff person, and committee chair.

### When does it happen?

- UUMAN's Board of Trustees meets monthly on the 2nd Sunday at 6:00 p.m. All UUMAN members are

cordially invited to attend the meetings as observers.

- Choir practice takes place at 6:30 p.m. on Sundays.
- Services take place at 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. on Sundays.
- The doors to the sanctuary close at the time the services start, and re-open after the announcements have taken place, out of respect for the worship environment. Speakers are provided in the foyer.
- Religious Education teachers are asked to arrive and be prepared for early students 15 minutes before service starts.
- Parents are asked to pick up their children promptly after service so that teachers may enjoy coffee hour.
- Our two major fundraisers are a goods-and-services auction in February and a rummage sale in June.
- Our church operating year is July – June.

### Other helpful information

- The last person leaving any of UUMAN's buildings after an event should ensure the buildings are properly locked and secured.
- If you would like to receive a key to any of UUMAN's buildings, please send a note explaining your need for to [president@uuman.org](mailto:president@uuman.org).
- Fellowship time is a communal experience; so is making coffee at UUMAN. There are directions posted near the coffee maker – feel free to read and do.
- UUMAN is a spiritual home for religious liberals engaged in a responsible search for truth and meaning. We recognize that we sometimes have difficulty opening our hearts to religious liberals who are politically conservative. We are learning to open ourselves to this very real possibility.
- On a similar note, UUMAN members recognize that we struggle with our openness to Unitarian Universalist Christians in our midst (and with mainline Christians in our community), but we are anxious to learn how to practice tolerance even when it challenges our prejudices.
- UUMAN generally has finger food potlucks, because there is not room in Fellowship Hall for our entire congregation to sit down. So please bring food to potlucks which can be eaten without forks and knives.
- UUMAN's library is lovingly cared for by a group committed to providing members and friends with reading material, both spiritual and otherwise. Please stop in, peruse, borrow, and return.
- UUMAN's facilities are available to rent for special events such as weddings and meetings by outside groups and to members of the congregation at a reduced rate. Contact the Office Administrator.



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

### Ministers 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 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).

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

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

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## Worship Schedule

### February 6th – “Cupid’s Conundrum: A Valentine’s Day Sermon”

Speaker – Rev. Dr. Paula R. Gable; Service Leader – Randy Blasch

Ever wonder why some people seem to pick the "wrong person" for romance all the time? More importantly, do you want to learn what it takes to have a truly joyful covenanted relationship? After more than a decade of doing it wrong, Dr. Gable trained to become a certified Marriage and Family Therapist and learned the answers to these questions -- sometimes the hard way. She will share with us insights borne of personal as well as clinical experience and through performing hundreds of weddings to put herself through seminary. This is sure to be a light-hearted, uplifting look at the transforming power of faith, hope and love. (Dr. Gable currently serves as Associate Ministers and Head of Staff of the UU Congregation of Atlanta.) *Children and Youth begin in the sanctuary.*

### February 13th – “Born Just Fine the First Time’ and Other Songs and Stories”

Speaker – Rev. Meg Barnhouse, UU Church of Spartanburg; Service Leader – Cliff Brown

Meg will read from her books “The Best of Radio Free Bubba” and “Waking up the Karma Fairy” and she’ll sing original songs like “Mango thoughts in a meatloaf town” and “The ADD Blues.” People who hear her say it makes them feel good about being UUs.

*Children and Youth begin in the sanctuary.*

### February 20th - How To Be Effective In The Georgia Legislature In Changing Political Times

Speaker – Mary Margaret Oliver, State Representative; Service Leader: Jim Saunders

Mary Margaret Oliver has served in the State Legislator for 16 years as a State Representative and State Senator. She is liberal and has a reputation of disturbing the right with her knowledge, determination, and accomplishments. Come hear her practical advice for our social justice activities in State Government. (She is a childhood friend of Jim Saunders.)

*Children and Youth begin in the sanctuary.*

### February 27th – “Community, Spirituality and Ethics; The Teaching Ministry of the Church”.

Speaker- Rev. Joan H. Armstrong ; Service Leader – Merri Beth Stephens

Rev. Armstrong, UUMAN’s Director of Religious Education, will remind us how transformation happens when we least expect it, and words of wisdom often flow out of the mouths of those with cookie crumbs on their lips. Those who volunteered in UUMAN’s R.E. Program will be recognized for their hard work and dedication to our program.

*Children and Youth begin and end in the sanctuary.*



UUMAN  
11420 Crabapple Road  
Roswell, GA 30075

Get up-to-date information!  
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