



Ministry Musings

What's Happening at UUMAN

UUMAN is a place where things happen in multiples. We engage each other through many shared activities. (Just try and find a spare room to meet on most nights!) You can choose from a list of fun activities, potlucks, Canvas dinners, committee meetings, spirituality groups, social action with local, state, national and international impact.

We are a busy and committed group of special people. I think we sometimes forget that we do quite a lot that serves to build this community of faith.

At times we are a little inconsistent in following through on our dreams. I mean by that, we are human with a vision that sometimes exceeds our individual grasp. That's not a bad thing, for we always have something to strive for and accomplish.

Such is the real world where we have busy personal lives raising our children, working to keep a roof over our heads and leading a church. When do we breathe?

In the last month we have finally begun to create a new social justice committee. We recently held our second meeting and gathered together at least 7 people to work on creating a broader and more effective presence in the broader community. There is still room for you to participate and share your ideas on how we can bring our values to bear to heal a hurting world. (The next meeting will be April 22 at 7PM in Discovery Hall.)

The committee has begun to select facilitators and create a matrix of the all the present and potential social action we currently engage in. It is an impressive list.

We talked of working on one potential all-church social action project around the issue of water rights, the new "oil" of this century. Right now Nabisco and Coke, to name just two, are buying up fresh water rights and selling them back to indigenous people in plastic bottles. The people are then left with dirty and poisonous water in the public domain for consumption. I believe water should be a human right and not a commercial product. What do you think?

We may want to look at this issue as it impacts a UU congregation in India or the Philippines. Your participation and ideas are welcome.

When I was a candidate to be your minister, your packet indicated a desire to impact the wider world—to do the work of justice. While you clearly told me that was your

goal, your lack of a social action committee presented a mixed message. For several years there has been no social action committee to focus and coordinate your activities to bring your hopes and dreams to life. You now have the opportunity to bring that goal to life. It's up to you.

In a UU congregation it always comes back to you. We are the captains of our own ship. We democratically unite to move our faith from words into action. That is why your pledge in this current canvas is so important.

Our existence depends on your support in all ways, including your time and efforts. UUMAN is worthy of your support, for it gives you a place to share your joys and sorrows that are to be supported in times of need. We offer a spiritual environment to enrich your soul and come to terms with whatever you have held holy, or to find it for the first time.

It is through this community that so much of what you hold important and holy can come become a reality.

Thank you for your support during this canvas period. The results will soon be known. If you are moved to increase your pledge you won't be discouraged.

Yours in our shared faith,
Rev. Paul D. Daniel

(note: Rev. Paul's official Installation and Reception will be held at UUMAN on Sunday, May 9 at 3pm; details follow on the mailer we've reproduced for the UUMANTimes, on Page 2.)

The UUMAN Library—Our Church-History Custodians

New to UUMAN? At one time, we were *all* new and on occasion lost, when events and people of the past were being discussed by older members. One excellent source of our UUMAN history is the 3 inch binder assembled by the Settled Minister Search Committee. This not only gives an updated history, but also includes the results of surveys that reflect the opinions and comprehensive needs of the congregation. There are three copies in the UUMAN library which can be checked out.

Note: As always, if you have borrowed a book and are through with it, we'd love to have it back.

—Lois Curry

The Sustainability Committee's Tip of

the Month



Step Up to the Plate! (and buy UUMAN some more, as well.)

As members of UUMAN we have often found ourselves performing odd jobs

around the campus: washing dishes, folding up tables, emptying trash and a host of other necessary tasks. Well there is one new member at UUMAN who is doing more than his share of the work and he knows how to handle himself in hot water.

I call him Insy, but his full name is Ininger RL30. I am speaking of course, of our new commercial dishwasher.

The Sustainability Committee first conceived the idea of applying for a chalice lighter grant in 2009 after acknowledging that it was in our best interest to replace key pieces of equipment and refurbish where needed in order to create a kitchen which met our environmental goals, and would make our Fellowship Hall more usable by renters. Our primary concern was our residential style dishwasher, and although not an older model, it was not designed to accommodate the demands placed on it. We proposed to install a commercial, under counter dishwasher. The environmental difference is not only in water usage, but in energy needed to create hot water for sanitizing.

Our residential dishwasher used 12 gallons of water per cycle, where the commercial unit uses .79 gallons. Because the commercial machine is set up to accept one rack per cycle, it may take up to 2 cycles to wash what would be a full load in the residential machine. If we just considered dishwashing on Sunday and at our weekly potluck, this would give us an estimated **water savings of 1083.68 gallons per year**. Also, the commercial model has a 70 degree rise booster heater to achieve a 180 degree rinse temperature for sanitizing.

When I learned that running my dishwasher at home used less water than hand-washing dishes, I realized I didn't have enough plates to run a full load. So I bought more. This is what we are hoping to accomplish here at UUMAN – to be able to feed all of us at one of our legendary potlucks, or all the guests at a wedding, or all the invitees to a new minister's installation without using disposable or even compostable plates, utensils and drinking vessels.

To that end, in the month of April, the Sustainability Committee will be hosting a fundraiser called "Step up to the Plate". We are asking you purchase a place setting of commercial grade dishes, ideally one set for each member of your family. If that is too rich for your blood, then buy one place setting or one plate or bowl. Every dish brings us closer to our goal of having a completely sustainable kitchen which will save us money and make us more marketable to renters.

Look for our display place setting on the Sustainability Committee table in Fellowship Hall and we look forward to adding your dish to our cabinet.

—Margie Jacobs

For more information about the valuable Chalice Lighter Grant program, go to:

<http://www.pcd-uua.org/chalice-lighters/lighters.htm>

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST METRO ATLANTA NORTH CONGREGATION
TAKES GREAT PRIDE IN INVITING YOU TO THE INSTALLATION OF

The Reverend Paul D. Daniel
AS OUR SETTLED MINISTER

SUNDAY, MAY 9, 2010, AT 3:00 P.M.
WITH RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

CLERGY AND SEMINARIANS ARE INVITED TO ROBE AND PROCESS
AND ARE ASKED TO ARRIVE NO LATER THAN 2:00 P.M.

CHILDREN OF ALL AGES ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THIS CELEBRATION.
CHILDCARE FOR THOSE THREE YEARS AND YOUNGER
IS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.

Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North
11420 CRABAPPLE ROAD, ROSWELL, GEORGIA 30075
770-992-3949 • WWW.UUMAN.ORG

New Social Justice Committee

A new committee at UUMAN has formed to take up the national Unitarian Universalist (UU) charge to inspire faith through effective action. In our first meeting we contemplated finding an overarching theme on which we might focus our energies for a long period (maybe 3 years). Within this theme we would carry out activities in conjunction with the UU matrix of Service, Education, Witnessing, Advocacy/Lobbying, Community Organizing that would have local, state, national, and world impacts. Among the themes we discussed were prison reform and water access/conservation, although no theme has yet been adopted. If you would like to participate in the committee or have suggestions, you can attend the next meeting on April 22, from 7-9 pm, or contact one of the initial committee members: Kate Hudson, Michelle Liebergesell, Guillermo Kuhl, Susan Wilson, Marjorie Pomper, and Pat Carter. Rev. Paul and Joe Creech are ex-officio members as well.

For more information on Social Justice activity planning, the UUA has developed a handbook to help congregations organize their activities. You can find it at: <http://www.uua.org/documents/washingtonoffice/ifea.pdf>

Our congregation is already carrying out a variety of good social justice activities. For instance the Ministry with Children & Youth (MCY) is doing work with Homestretch, MUST Ministries, Dogwood Forest Assisted Living, Global Village Retreat, Trick or Treat for UNICEF, and Chalice Circle Sundays. If any of these activities sound intriguing contact Toniann Read (Director with Ministry for Children & Youth) dmcyc@uuman.org or 770-992-3949.

The Sustainability Committee is working with the North Fulton Charities on an Eco-Justice project, doing education on ethical eating, Green Sanctuary, Fair Trade coffee, Fair Trade Festival, Interfaith Power and Light, and supporting a Land of A Thousand Hills coffee ministry. For more information on these activities contact Kate Hudson at hudsonkd@bellsouth.net. Other activities at UUMAN that fall under the social justice umbrella include: collecting food & supplies for the North Fulton Food Bank, participating in the annual M. L. King Parade, the booth and parade at the Pride festival, Crabapple Road clean up, Welcoming Congregation activities, and developing education and fund-raising for Haiti and Katrina and other national/international disasters. For more information on these activities check [the UUMAN homepage calendar](#) for upcoming meetings and activities and/or join the UUMAN Announcements to get regular email messages.

UUMAN should be applauded for its commitment to Social Justice and more members are certainly encouraged to participate in any effort they find personally rewarding.

—Patricia A. Carter

News from the Safety and Security Committee

The UUMAN board decided last fall that a Safety and Security Committee should be formed. Sue Bell took over the task of forming a committee; now we are in full swing.

It is the committee's responsibility to draft policy regarding safety and security as it pertains to UUMAN grounds, buildings, adults and children. We are in the process of developing policies on fire prevention measures, fire evacuation plans, tornado evacuation plans, and how to look for and handle human threats to the congregation. We also drafted a plan for placement of two way radios in strategic locations around UUMAN to be used for communications between MCY classes in case of an emergency, and teacher training on how to use the two way radios. We've also written policy regarding background checks stating that all staff members, volunteers, and facilitators who will have an ongoing relationship with young people will have local and national criminal background checks performed (including child/sexual abuse).

Safety and security is a community effort. We will work best if everyone in the congregation becomes more aware and diligent regarding fire prevention, suspicious behavior, and our children's safety.

We need to be aware of possible fire hazards, building and grounds safety hazards, actions or threats against children, youth, and adults and building security issues. Any of these should be brought to the attention of the committee.

The committee members are Marc Lee, Bob Popp, Don Groce, and Bob Mihalik. You can approach us at UUMAN with your concerns, or email me: marclee@bellsouth.net.

If you would be interested in being on the committee or have any experience in dealing with any of these areas of safety and security, and would have input or suggestions, then please let me know.

There will be a once a year fire drill for the congregation (at the end of the service). We will also be developing a program to train the MCY teachers and key church personnel in what to do in case of an emergency and what to be looking for and how to handle suspicious behavior.

—Marc Lee

A Month of Sundays (April Worship Services)

April 4—*Easter Flower Service*

Spring is a time of renewal and renewed hope. Flowers bloom and hope symbolized by the Easter story is brought to new life. Bring a flower with you to create a bouquet of color and then at the end of our intergenerational service plan on taking home a different flower than you brought.

April 11—*We Are Not Animals*

Today we honor those who have been killed in the all too many holocausts perpetrated by our beastly uncivilized behavior across this century. I will share what I think we Unitarian Universalist are call to do in the face of such evil behavior.

April 18—*Sustainable Living*

Today we celebrate earth day with a service on how we might eat to save this planet and our resources. Your comments will be invited in a polylog following my sermon.

April 25—*Youth Service*

Our children will make us proud once again as they create and offer a service that will also honor our Coming of Age teenagers.

Can you believe she wrote this?

Can you believe she said that? I was shocked!

Who does she think she is? She does not own this church, I don't care how much money she has... someone needs to put her in her place! It's just not fair how everyone thinks she is so nice and does so much for all of us and she is really a domineering mad woman with a need for medication!

Does this dialogue sound familiar?

What do you do when someone says something negative about a person? How do you react when a friend echoes your negative feelings about someone? How do you feel when you hear a rumor about yourself that is not true?

How often do you say things that you wish you could retract?

How many people have you shared with, a judgment of someone? Are you feeling guilty yet? That is certainly NOT the intent of this article.

The intent is to help us all think about how we speak, how we act and how our actions align with our beliefs.

Reflect for a moment on a rough day you experienced... what do you remember most easily about that day? Do

you remember the amazing sunset you took in on your way home? How about the lady at the grocery store who smiled at you, even though *you* had a devastating scowl on your face? No, you probably remember the fender bender you had, the bill collector calling, the nasty memo from the boss and the couch that was destroyed by your new puppy. Why do we replay the negative in our lives so easily yet find it hard to hold onto the positive? This is a challenge to all of us (including me), to live daily in integrity, even when we are faced with destructive words and actions by others.

We are surrounded by negative images in the media, pounded by thoughtless comments by co-workers and egocentric plots by neighbors. This spiritual community *needs* to be a haven of peace. A place that we can all escape to as we grow into the people of integrity we are intended to be!

SELF-CHECK:

Are you thinking of the woman down the road who needs to read this article?

How about the guy at the end of your church pew? He needs to see this FOR SURE!

Are you ready to hand it to him next Sunday?

That's exactly what this little tidbit of literature is about. It's *not* about the woman down the road; it's *not* about sharing these thoughts with the guy at the end of the pew. It's all about you!

If you can look inward *instead of outside* of yourself, you are half way there!

How can you change yourself? In my many years of trying anxiously to improve my karma, and myself, I have learned that when I see others faults that it's a sign of a mirror reflecting my own needed improvements.

We need to lessen the harmful and promote the encouraging. Sounds easy, right? No, it's actually very challenging to stand your ground, promoting your own growth when faced with friends who are not meeting your upright actions with honorable actions of their own. It's hard to respond to an energy draining comment with positivism. The reason it's hard is because we are out of practice with doing the "right thing."

When faced with a shared rumor we usually gasp, sit on the edge of our seats with wide eyes and dramatic hand gestures poised and ready for their stage entry. Instead of joining the cast of the critical, be courageous and step out to join the few change agents that we are now forming! We really can be in healthy & honest relationship with each other.

Wouldn't it be great to have a community that has no cliques, no divides, no elite small groups that are exclusive and unwelcoming?

We all have ideas of what UUMAN *was*, what UUMAN *is*, what UUMAN *should be*. I personally detest the word "should." In several African languages there is no word for "should." You either do, or you don't! So what will it

be for us? Will we make this change or will we just stay in our little rut and not move, grow, change and blossom into a mighty force for this community?

There are some visions that have been put together for great expectations of UUMAN. Are we a people of ethics? Do we have moral fiber? There are a few who have a vision for change, they are the HCT = Healthy Congregations Team. We want you to join us in making our vision a reality. Want to come along for the ride?

Can you believe I wrote this? What kind of nerve do I have anyway? Who do I think I am?

Who am I to speak with such ardor and passion? I do my part, but gees! I have not invested years of community service here; how arrogant of me! Yep, it might be passionate of me to be so outspoken. As of today, I am changing my actions of what I will be openly verbal about. I am passionate about a community of togetherness and harmony. I will no longer be verbal regarding negative comments about others. I want to promote change not only in this community but in my corner of the world. Gandhi tells us that we need to be the change we wish to see in the world. Can we make that happen and if so, how far can that change reach?

We are all aware, or should be, of our Seven Principles.

I am going to live them daily. I expect that if you are reading this, if you see that I can improve my actions, you will call me on it! Hold me accountable; I can handle it because I really believe in this need for growth and change. How can you make changes in your behavior and integrity in 2010? Want to find out? Let's do it together; I'm in!

—*Leah Iverson*
Healthy Congregations Team

About the UUMANTimes

UUMANTimes is the newsletter of Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North (UUMAN), located at 11420 Crabapple Road, Roswell, GA 30075. We welcome nearly all imaginable newsletter submissions, and manage to publish most of them as well. We go live with each issue by the first Sunday of the month; deadline for submissions is typically close of business on the 20th of the month preceding the issue date, unless forgiveness is begged sincerely or creatively. Please email your articles, announcements, musings, artwork, rants and poetry to Mister Ed.: newsletter@uuman.org