



# UUMAN TIMES

December

2011



Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North

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

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## **Ministry Musings A Season of Challenge and Joy**

December 2011

Rev. Paul D. Daniel, Minister

Despite the shadows hanging over us, cast by an uncertain economy and political malaise, this holiday season has the potential for joy. I have been given the chance to reflect on life and its meaning. Having been brought face to face with what I have and almost lost, I realize I am a fortunate man. I had a thankfully mild heart attack, which gave me the opportunity to reflect on how lucky we all are to have a community of faith, willing to serve each other in times of need and adversity. We offer each other kindness and compassion, moral support, tangible acts of reaching out with visits, phone calls, offers of rides and food. We do this all the time for anyone in need. That is what a community of faith does, if it is to live its mission.

My son and daughter-in-law are an example of what life is like without a support network. Two days after receiving some medically difficult news, Kathy's father died, leaving them both bereft. They have no church to offer support of any kind. They are isolated and alone to deal with their grief and sadness, with help only from afar. A sense of community and a faith to sustain them is unavailable.

Thankfully, for all of us, that is not the case. We are a community in every sense of the word. We care for each other, and our expressions of support are heartfelt. How fortunate we are in these difficult times to share our lives and to have a place to be safely vulnerable. We work together for the common good and to bring a message of hope to those in need this special holiday season.

We can focus on the challenges which on some level will always be with us, or we can choose to keep them in perspective, balanced with the positives of our lives: family, friends, church, children, all who offer love and comfort. These are the gifts of this season of birth and renewal. May we all be able to open our heart to the joy of this season. It costs nothing - no trips to the mall. Wow, something without cost. Give me some of that.

Blessings, to you and yours.

With deep sincerity and gratitude for life and love,  
— *Rev. Paul*

## **Free Concert Sunday, December 11th, 3:00 PM**

Please join us 3:00 PM Sunday, December 11th in the Sanctuary, in a musical celebration dedicating our new grand piano, so graciously donated by Lois and Larry Curry. The concert will feature many of our own talented musicians and include a diverse repertoire to highlight the potential this newest addition provides.

If you are interested in performing in this event, please contact Huu Mai at:  
770-374-0707 or [HuuTMai@gmail.com](mailto:HuuTMai@gmail.com).

— *Huu Mai*

## **UUMANweave: A New Chapter**

Interweave is a membership organization actively working toward ending oppression based on sexual orientation. The Unitarian Universalist Association and UU principles guide our work. We value and affirm the lives and experience of LGBT (lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgendered) people of faith, regardless of their age, race, ethnicity, income level, and ability. By providing and supporting leadership and working in collaboration with other organizations of similar vision, we strive to connect and nurture all LGBT individuals. We recognize that we will not be free until all oppression is a thing of the past.

Interweave - and UUMAN's new chapter, UUMANweave - is open to the LGBT community and their family and friends. Our purpose is to offer a safe, alternative outlet for social activities and the opportunity to develop new friendships. To join, please contact Gary Uitvlugt at:  
[garyuat@aol.com](mailto:garyuat@aol.com) or (770)380-1758

The meetings are on the first Monday of each month, at the home of one of the members and friends. Our next meeting is December 5. Please join us!

— *Gary Uitvlugt*

## **New Writing Group Forming**

What's the next best thing to having a publisher lined up to publish your work? Having an audience eager to hear what you've done, whether it's been published or not. A group of writers at UUMAN are planning to meet the first and third Mondays of each month to share their work and to give one another feedback.

Our first meeting will be Monday, December 5 in Discovery Hall. It will be an introductory meeting - a chance to get to know one another and to say what we want to get out of the group in the coming year. You don't need to be an experienced writer to come. In fact, even if you've never written anything to share before and have only thought about it, you are welcome. And you certainly don't have to share anything unless you want to. All you need is to like the idea of writing and to want to hear what other writers are doing and help them learn how what they write affects those who read/hear it. For more information, contact Joe Saling at:

770-944-2887 or [joesaling@bellsouth.net](mailto:joesaling@bellsouth.net)

Hope to see you there.

— *Joe Saling*

## **Coming February 4th: Heart's Desire Auction**

The Heart's Desire Auction is a goods and services auction we hold annually to raise money for UUMAN. UUMANs help in many ways – being a planner, a sponsor of goods or services, an event helper, a buyer of goods and services, or someone who brings friends to this fun and community building event.

I have the honor of chairing this year's event, thankfully with the guidance of Elizabeth Rohan, who has chaired successful Heart's Desire Auctions in recent years. Thank you, Elizabeth, for all you've already done to help!

It does take a lot of people to make this event so great. Some of you have already offered your help for the planning committee, to offer a new good or service to be auctioned, to offer the same good or auction they provided last year, or to help with the evening. While we get the planning committee more solidly formed, please let me know if you'd like to be a newcomer to the team or someone who participates again.

One way people help is to articulate a good and service they desire, such as help with the lawn, moving debris, babysitting, a day at the spa, a weekend at a cabin...your wish can't come

true unless you say it out loud.

Beginning today this email box is open for accepting your contributions of time, talent and goods and services, and your desires for something that would make life oh just a little more pleasant.

I know I speak for Elizabeth and many of you when I say "let's make this year's event the best ever!"

Hearts and roses to all,

— *Kirk Bogue*

## Highlights from the Membership Committee

### Getting Acquainted

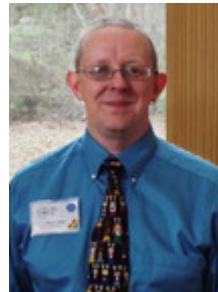
The Membership Committee is pleased to introduce some of our newest UUMAN members. If you happened to have missed the New Member Sunday service, you probably also missed the brief biographies that new members provide. So, we're going to print a few of them in the newsletter each month. The photos will help put faces to the names, and the stories should give us some good conversation-starters. Here are the bios from the Callen family and from Carlton Harrington, who joined earlier this year.



Kelly and Todd Callen

Thirteen years ago in Chicago, Todd Callen's best friend Keith was dating and falling in love with a girl named Carrie. Carrie introduced Todd to her roommate and sister, Kelly. Todd was a freak of nature – a 6'2 Jew with a full head of hair (at the time). Kelly was a flight attendant for Northwest Airlines with a passion for laughter and dirty martinis. Todd was struck by Kelly's beauty. Kelly was struck by how funny Todd was and he clinched boyfriend status when he performed stand-up comedy at the Improv in Chicago shortly after they started dating. They dated for 2 years and, in typical Jewish fashion, not recognizing what a good thing he had, Todd left Chicago and moved to Atlanta in search of greener pastures (namely a new job). Years of dating other people led them right back to each other, when in 2005 they got engaged, subsequently married, moved to Alpharetta and had 2 beautiful children – Dillon, 4 (looking very much Hispanic) and Presley, 1 (with blonde hair and blue eyes despite two parents with all dark features). Todd is still considering a DNA test just to be sure. Todd is currently a VP of Sales for a software company and Kelly is an Executive

Assistant for Atlanta Architect and Developer John Portman. Todd still dabbles in humor (stand-up at the Punch Line and currently working through Improv workshops at Dad's Garage), and Kelly still has the good graces to pretend he is funny. Todd and Kelly are excited to join UUMAN and looking forward to making new friends and meeting new babysitters (not necessarily in that order). And in case you were following our lengthy story, yes, Todd's best friend is now his brother-in-law as they married sisters.



Carlton Harrington

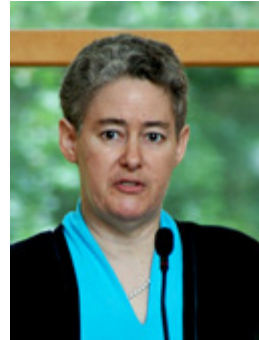
I am C...Carlton...son, brother, friend, neighbor, minister, administrator, animal lover, seeker. I was born in Kingstree, a small SC town. My family has lived here 300 years - since before the USA. I am a descendant of small-time planters who gradually turned into industrial workers & small farmers. I have a BA in Political Science and Visual Art. I traveled half way around the world, completed my MDIV and eventually decided Atlanta was the place for me. I was a Southern Baptist minister, but I gave it up to reconcile my faith and sexuality. I am gay...yes, happy, too...well, most of the time! I have worked out my faith and sexuality and am now seeking to re-enter the ministry in some form.

Thanks so much to these new members for sharing their stories and for being part of our UUMAN community.

— *Sue Holden*

### Update: Pursuing the Ministry

Since September, UUMAN has enjoyed a stroke of serendipity. Kim Palmer, whom many of you may know as a long-time



member of the congregation, is serving here in a part-time ministerial position. We learned this summer (please see the [August newsletter's article](#)) about Kim's plans to come on board as part of her Masters of Divinity program at Emory's Candler School of Theology. Three months into the job, it's time to check in.

Kim is now about half-way through the three-year Masters of Divinity program at Emory's Candler School of Theology. She hopes, ultimately, to pursue a vocation as a chaplain in a hospital or end-of-life setting. Above and beyond the classes and field work that are part of the degree program, Kim also is following UUA's steps for preparing for ministerial fellowship. After starting as an

"Aspirant", which is the initial stage, Kim has recently been accepted into "Candidate" status by the UUA's Regional Sub-Committee on Candidacy. It's a great milestone; congratulations, Kim!

First, let's get some semantics out of the way. Is Kim doing an internship at UUMAN? No; technically, this is contextual education in an ecclesial setting, 8 hours a week, from September till May. However, as shorthand, "internship" will suffice.

When asked about what she hopes to learn by doing this work at UUMAN, Kim explained:

"My primary goals are: First, to gain exposure to the work of ministry in a congregational setting to ensure that a decision to go into chaplaincy instead of parish ministry was an informed one. Second, to develop pastoral skills that I could draw on, in the event that I did decide to pursue parish ministry." Kim has an array of activities planned or underway at UUMAN, to learn about and contribute to several diverse areas:

In administration, Kim hopes to attend a staff meeting to learn about the types of issues that arise and how they are handled. To gain a better understanding of church finances, for example, how the budget is developed, she plans to speak with the finance committee.

Kim also is working to develop deeper skills in the area of liturgy, i.e. putting together the whole Sunday service – invocation, meditation, benediction, and so on – as well as preaching the sermon. Those of us who have heard Kim speak on past Sundays, offering us her own deeply felt experiences as well as her unique sense of humor, are looking forward to the four services she is preparing this year. One is coming up on December 18th (see the Month of Sundays list below). Rev. Paul is providing her with opportunities to learn about planning other types of services – funerals, weddings – as well.

Pastoral care is another aspect of parish ministry. Kim has visited UUMAN members in the hospital, and will do more of that if it is needed.

Outreach is particularly valued by UUMAN, and Kim has made a significant contribution already. She explained that, at this year's Pride festival, she interviewed representatives from religions organizations that had booths there, seeking opportunities or ideas for UUMAN's own outreach to the LGBT community. The report she prepared was provided to UUMANweave, UUMAN's LGBT and allies group.

In the religious education area, Kim is currently leading a Bible study class based on John Buehren's book, "The Bible: An Introduction for Skeptics, Seekers, and Religious Liberals."

Kim talked about the best, and the most surprising, experiences she has had so far:

"I think the best thing so far was being available to step in and deliver Paul's sermon when he was hospitalized unexpectedly. Paul's sermon was already prepared,

and it was an honor to be able to fill in during his absence.

"The most surprising thing has been the huge response to the Bible class. By the time it occurred to me to limit the class size, I had 16 people signed up, and I probably turned away another 12. People in the class have been very engaged with the texts, and the issues raised in small group discussions have been insightful."

In a future newsletter, we will talk more with Kim about her journey. We'll go further into how an independent, skeptical youngster from rural New Jersey went from a successful career as an engineer to pursue the ministry, and why, in particular, a calling as a chaplain.

— *Carole Herman*

### **Kroger Fundraiser**

Remember the announcements we sent out a couple of months ago about a fundraiser involving Kroger Supermarkets? Well, we got bogged down in the details of getting the program started and would like to begin again.

Kroger is willing to sell gift cards to UUMAN at a 5% discount. When members purchase the cards at face value, that 5% becomes a donation. If, for example, 20 families purchase \$200 worth of cards a month, the donation to UUMAN will be \$2,400 a year. This is a generous offer. Some of our sister congregations, most notably UUCA, have been happily involved in this program for years.

At one point we thought that once a card had been purchased, it could be recharged at your local Kroger. This, unfortunately, is not the case – it will be necessary to purchase new cards periodically.

We hope to have a procedure that you will find convenient for purchasing cards monthly. Once the busy holiday season is past we will start again in earnest and will have the first Kroger gift cards available in January. If enough of us are willing to do even a part of our normal shopping at Kroger it will be a nice bonus for UUMAN.

— *Bob Mihalik*

## **Notes from the Board of Trustees**

### **Congregational Meeting 11.20.11**

### **Secretary's Note**

This Congregational Meeting was special for all of us because Rev. Paul attended after being in the hospital for several days. It was great to see him and hear directly from him that he is recovering nicely from a very mild heart attack. We look forward to having him back in the pulpit in a few weeks.

A huge **thank you** to each person who attended the meeting

(38), and to all of you filled out proxy forms (53). The quorum necessary to do business in our By-Laws is 50% + 1. The total number of eligible voting members is now at 176 (a beautiful expanding number!). As you can see, we just squeaked past the quorum by 2 eligible members. Hopefully that will lead all of us to recognize the importance of each person's attending, or proxy being assigned. That also keeps us from having to tackle one or two members as they leave the building in order for us to conduct business!

Congregational meetings are held twice a year (usually in May and November), according to the Bylaws, "to elect Trustees and a Committee on Ministry (COM) representative, receive reports from the Board and Program Council, including financial reports, and to transact such other business as may come before the meeting." Today, **we elected Linda Johnston to the COM**. She will join the two other COM members (Margot Bogue, Chair and Bruce Langston) serving the congregation to "oversee and support the vision of the Church," continually staying in touch with all aspects of UUMAN's ministries including professional leadership, music, social justice, religious education, pastoral care, all small group ministries, etc., and by doing periodic evaluations of same. One of those evaluations is being completed at the present time, after two cottage meetings were held earlier this month to gather our ideas and opinions on the effectiveness of UUMAN's Ministries.

After an interesting presentation about the UU Church Partnership Program (UUCPP) and our possible partner churches in India, **we also voted to approve UUMAN's participation in the UUCPP**. Once approved by the UUCPP, they will partner us with a specific church and we can begin what will surely be an exciting adventure for us all.

The State of UUMAN is busy and growing, with many new, energetic, committed members joining long-time members who continue to step up to meet the needs of us all – cleaning, working with MCY, the Program Council, and so many other committees; giving their time, talents, money, and pianos (!) in order to "keep UUMAN a vibrant and meaningful church. We thank you." (Chuck Jones, President, Board of Trustees)

— Beverly Jordan

## Treasurer's Note

We have had a significant un-budgeted expense this month. We had anticipated a \$1500 septic tank service. It turned out that there were severe plumbing issues involved that had to be addressed. The total cost for the pumping and the repairs came to \$5000. We are asking those who can afford it, to make a special donation to cover this unanticipated expense. Just put "Septic Repair Fund" in the memo of the check.

We are behind in our pledge payments. If you can, please bring your pledge payments up to date. We are currently depleting our reserve. I know many of us are facing dire financial difficulties in these times. If you can afford to increase your pledge, let Kirk Bogue or Carolyn Lee know. Mark Sexton still

has Miracle Shares available in increments of \$250. Remember, all payments made by the end of the year can be claimed on tax day.

The Hearts Desire Auction Committee is raising the bar and has set a goal of \$20,000. We budgeted \$12,000. To reach this goal they need your help. Please consider being a "Patron Saint of the Hearts" and volunteer your time. Sign up with Kirk Bogue.

— Mark Sexton

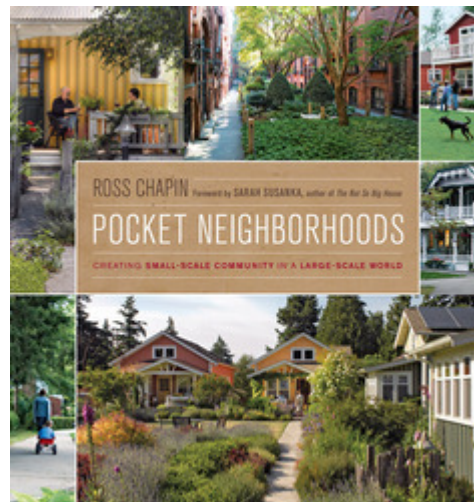


## Notes from the Sustainability Committee

### Coming to a Neighborhood near you... a Sustainable UU Community!

**What:** A talk by Denise Donahue and Simone du Boise of Cadmus Environmental Design

**When:** Sunday, 29 January, noon (after coffee hour), in Fellowship Hall



There is a small group of people at UUMAN that is actively talking about building our own community of small homes in Roswell. The homes would be build around a common green area and would have a Community Center where we could get together. This type of neighborhood is called a "pocket neighborhood" because it is a small community within a larger community. Although this type of neighborhood has developed randomly in many places over the years, people are now seeing the advantages of these kinds of living arrangements and are starting to build them intentionally.

Ross Chapin, an architect in the Seattle area, who identified and named this design approach, has written a book on the subject. This concept has gotten a lot of attention nationally, and there are several pocket communities now being built. These neighborhoods are examples of the new urbanism trend.

Our group has been talking to Cadmus Environmental Design, a local architect/builder who has built homes here in Roswell that are energy and water efficient and are the first certified LEED platinum homes built in Georgia. They are willing to be the developers of this project and work with us to define the price range and square footage of the homes. (Usually there are several floor plans with a range of square footage offered and a maximum of twelve to fifteen homes in a community.) The U.S. Green Building Council explains LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, an internationally-recognized green building certification system. The Natural Resources Defense Council has more information about what it means to have LEED certification.

We are in the initial stages of this project and there is a lot of work and organization necessary just to get it off the ground. Some of the things we have discussed: We want our houses to be sustainability built and to be energy and water efficient, and we want to live near the Canton Street Historic Area of Roswell. From start to finish, the project will take about two years--so we are anxious to begin!

If think you might like to be part of this community--or just learn more about it, the Sustainability Committee is sponsoring a talk by Cadmus Environmental Design. They will explain the concept of Pocket Neighborhoods, what their firm has to offer, and how the process of co-designing our own neighborhood will work.

**Please note that this venture is in no way connected to or endorsed by UUMAN.**

For more information: See Chapin's book, *Pocket Neighborhoods*, or some of the following websites:  
<http://rosschapin.com/Projects/PocketNeighborhoods/PocketNeighborhoodsOpener.html>  
<http://www.pocket-neighborhoods.net/>  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UwJgEzMzJ4I>  
<http://www.builderonline.com/land/pocket-edition.aspx>

— Susan Wilson  
susan.ste.marie@gmail.com

## Sustainable Holiday Treats

Ah, Christmas! The kids think of presents under the tree, twinkling lights strung throughout the neighborhood .... and who can forget about the Christmas cookies? Not me! A fabulous array of cookies become magically available during this time of year. But how on earth can we live up to our values and start thinking in terms of sustainable cookie baking??

Well, it's the ingredients we use, that's what makes the

cookies, or anything else we might prepare this holiday season, sustainable. If you're like me, I think I'm doing awesomely well just to prepare dinner for 12, but doing it sustainably ... that might take a complete mental reboot.

But is it really that hard to make the change? Do we have to know everything about sustainability in order to abide by its guidelines? No doubt you want to provide healthful foods for your family and would like that to mean sustainable choices for our world. Sustainable growing means nutritious and nurturing foods for us as consumers, produced by farmers who are able to provide for their own families by raising crops and animals in a way that protects our natural resources for generations to come. What we really need is a way to identify these wonderful people.

And that's where technology comes in. It's ironic to think that digital technology has helped to jog our memory of real food and our agrarian heritage, but it has given the movement to sustainability real legs. People and organizations can connect now as never before, linking their knowledge and research and networking to a great and useful extent. [eatwellguide.org](http://www.eatwellguide.org) is one example of such a website:

<http://www.eatwellguide.org/i.php?pd=Home>

This website is simple and easy-to-use, providing names, addresses and phone numbers of restaurants, grocers, caterers, and other organizations that specialize in organic, local, and sustainable goods and services. For instance, doing a search on Roswell's 30076 zip code, I discovered there are 5 bakers, 21 farmers markets, 24 community gardens, 2 butchers, 65 restaurants, and many other organizations that meet this sustainability criteria within a 20-mile radius of me. Following any of the other links that pop up will generate a wealth of other sites too.

There are brick-and-mortar options we are probably all familiar with, such as Trader Joe's and Whole Foods Market. Trader Joe's has dedicated itself to a best practice and best price type of motto; for example, the chain has committed to all seafood products being from 100% sustainable sources by December 2012. Whole Foods Market has established sustainability as one of the company's core values, and was the first winner of a "Green Building" award in 1998, which was listed by the EPA as a record setter in reducing waste.

And I think that's the first step; committing ourselves to shopping at stores and websites who make sustainability a central stake in their business model.

Now that we have some ideas where to find our local and organic ingredients .... how about some cookies??

### Banana Coconut Chocolate Chip Cookies

Ingredients:  
2 bananas, mashed  
1/4 c. grapeseed oil  
1/4 c. maple syrup  
1/2 tsp. vanilla extract

2/3 c. flax meal  
2/3 c. brown rice flour  
1/4 tsp. baking soda  
1/2 c. shredded unsweetened dried coconut  
pinch of sea salt  
1/4 c. dark chocolate chips

**Directions:**

Combine bananas, oil, syrup and vanilla in a medium bowl (I used a blender).

In a separate bowl, combine flax, flour, soda, coconut & salt.

Add banana mixture to the dry ingredients and blend until just combined. Fold in chocolate chips.

Drop batter by teaspoonful onto a cookie sheet. No need to roll or flatten. Bake 14 min. at 350 or until lightly browned.

Makes 1 1/2 dozen cookies.

— Jan Kent

## Immigration Study Group



On November 14, the Social Justice Action committee sponsored the fifth (of six) study sessions from the Immigration Study Guide, entitled "Who benefits from a broken system?" The discussion, led by Rosie Popp, focused on the effects of globalization on the labor force in the

U.S. and its implications for immigration policies. We talked about how a scaled-back welfare state in the U.S., the attrition of unions, and policies demonize undocumented workers from the Global South. Additionally, we discussed the moral implications of hiring low-waged immigrants in order to benefit from inexpensive food, labor and other products. Finally, we theorized a further erosion of the U. S. middle class due to a heightening outsourcing of "knowledge work" in fields such as accounting, technology, and engineering.

Our final session, on November 28 at 7 PM in the Discovery Hall kitchen, covered possible solutions to the immigration crisis. Our objectives were to:

- Gain a broader understanding of immigration from a faith-based perspective, and from our UU tradition
- Consider ways in which we can achieve a policy on immigration that is in keeping with Unitarian Universalist principles

All views are welcome. Our immigration study guide is on the UUA web site under social justice  
<http://www.uua.org/immigration/re/moral/guide/index.shtml>.

— Pat Carter

## WhaleCoast Alaska 2012

Have you always dreamed of visiting Alaska? Are you curious about the lifestyles of Alaskan UUs? Do you enjoy getting to know your fellow travelers? If so, WhaleCoast Alaska 2012 is for you! Four Alaskan UU fellowships invite you to experience our eco-cultural and spiritual program this summer as we celebrate our 15th year! See Alaska through the eyes of local UUs in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, and Sitka with friendly homestays and unique tour activities. See wildlife, including moose, bear, whales, bald eagles, seals, and caribou. Visit Denali National Park. Experience Native Alaskan culture. Enjoy all that our beautiful state has to offer. Programs led by Dave Frey, member of the farthest north UU congregation. To find out more about your Alaskan trip of a lifetime, visit [www.WhaleCoastAK.org](http://www.WhaleCoastAK.org),

email [dfrey@whalecoastak.org](mailto:dfrey@whalecoastak.org) or 907-322-4966. We would love to share our Alaska with you!

— Dave Frey, Co-director

WhaleCoast Alaska

675 Gold Vein Rd. Fairbanks, AK 99712

<http://www.whalecoastak.org>

## Mid-South District News

### Faith Development Summit, Jan. 28th

The Faith Development Summit will be on Saturday, January 28th at FUUN, the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashville. Beginning with breakfast at 8:30 AM, workshops will include:

- Adult Youth Advisor Training
- Still Learning - Adult Faith Development
- What's the Buzz - Changes in the Growth of our Association
- Starting From Scratch - A Simple Program for Children
- Worship is for Everyone - How to Make Worship a Full Community Experience
- Unitarian Universalist Values - Our Life Saving Message

Then stay for worship on Sunday and experience Youth Sunday in Music City. The cost is \$50.00 per person, which includes a light breakfast and lunch on Saturday. Children are free and childcare will be available. Online registration will open soon at <http://www.msduua.org/>.

— Mid-South District - UUA

On the web at [www.msduua.org](http://www.msduua.org)

# Sharing the Plate



## 50-50 Sundays

Once a month, UUMAN shares the non-designated donations from our Sunday offering with a local organization selected by the **Social Justice and Action Committee**. Representatives from the organizations are invited to visit and answer questions, sign up volunteers, etc. on their Sunday. Not only money, but also time can be donated. The SJAC carefully selects organizations with whom we can build ongoing and

active relationships. Together, we form partnerships where our shared resources can make a difference as we affirm and promote our UU Principles.

This month's 50-50 Sunday will be **December 18th**. We will be sharing the plate with our India partner. As Bev mentioned in the Board of Trustees minutes, above, our congregation approved participating in the UU Church Partnership Program (UUCPP), for partnering with a congregation in India. You can read more details about the program in our October newsletter.

— Michelle Liebergesell and Toniann Read

## A Month of Sundays

Rev. Paul D. Daniel, Minister

Sunday Services: 10:30 AM

**Except:**

**December 24<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 PM**

**December 25<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 AM**

**Adult RE: 9:15 AM**

**Children's RE: 10:15 AM**

*Please join us for coffee and conversation in Fellowship Hall right after the service.*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
12/4/11	<b>The Roots of Evil</b> Greed and a lack of fairness lie at the heart of our national dysfunction. I will discuss the great divide that exists in our country.	Rev. Paul
12/11/11	<b>The Challenge of Family</b> Our families can be a source of great joy, but also sadness. How we deal with them goes to the heart of who we are as individual people. I will discuss some of those dynamics.	Rev. Paul
12/18/11	<b>Hanukkah: Festival of Light and Hope</b> Come hear why Hanukkah was so important to the ancient Israelites, why it remains relevant to us today, and how it can still move our hearts and lead us toward better living.  <b>This is also our December 50-50 Sunday.</b>	Kim Palmer
Saturday, 12/24/11	<b>A Traditional Christmas Eve</b>  <b>4:30 PM:</b> Family Christmas Pageant We will have our family service at 4:30 PM. This will be a children- and youth-centered festival. Come and enjoy our service, sponsored by the MCY.  <b>7:30 PM:</b> Candlelight Service Join us for a traditional evening service at 7:30 with Gospel readings and lots of holiday music and singing. All are welcome and encouraged to join us.	Rev. Paul
12/25/11	<b>A Morning of Stories and Reflection</b> It is important for us to gather as a community, for there are many who need the comfort of UUMAN in what can be a sometimes lonely season. We will gather to share our own sacred story. Please come prepared to share a meaningful story to	Rev. Paul

**Note: The 12/25 service starts at 11:00 AM**

bring comfort and love to those who gather.

This will be a more informal service with coffee and treats that I hope you will bring to share. Come in your PJs or tux—your choice. Let's share this special day of stories and remembrances of a favorite Christmas.

— Rev. Paul

## More December Events

Friday,  
12/2                    **Parents' Night Out** — 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM, sponsored by MCY Youth. Please see the article below for more information.

Sunday,  
12/4                    **Bring a Gift For Santa** — before or after the service. You are invited to bring a new, unwrapped, toy for Santa and our "Coming of Age" Youth will deliver them to North Fulton Community Charities.

Sunday,  
12/4                    **Deck the Halls Holiday Party** — after the service, in Fellowship Hall. Stay after service on for coffee, apple cider and cookies, and to help decorate the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall.

Monday,  
12/5                    **Writing Class** — 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM, in Discovery Hall. This will be the first meeting of the new Writing Class, led by Joe Saling. Please see the article above for more information.

Monday,  
12/5                    **UUMANweave** — 7:00 PM, member's home. Snacks will be provided, but please bring the drink of your choice. Please see the article above for more information.

Sunday,  
12/11                    **21st Century Humanism** — after the service, at 11:45 AM in the Sanctuary. The topic will be: "A Fissure in the Sandstone? The Significance of the Arab League's Imposition of Sanctions on Syria." Everyone is invited. For more information, please email John Peltier, [peltier.john@gmail.com](mailto:peltier.john@gmail.com)

Sunday,  
12/11                    **Free Concert** — 3:00 PM in the Sanctuary. Please see the article above for more information.

Saturday,  
12/17                    **Parents' Morning Out** — 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, sponsored by MCY Youth. Please see the article below for more information.

### Looking ahead:

Sunday,  
1/8                    **Guest At Your Table** concludes. Please bring your GAYT boxes or personal checks so we can send your contributions on to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

Sunday,  
2/12                    **New Member Sunday**

**Please see our online calendar for more.  
More events in the MCY section!**

## About the UUMANTimes

**UUMANTimes** is the newsletter of Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North (UUMAN), located at 11420 Crabapple Road, Roswell, GA 30075, on the web at [www.uuman.org](http://www.uuman.org). We welcome almost all imaginable newsletter submissions, and publish as many as possible. We go live with each issue by the first Sunday of the month. The deadline for submissions is close of business on the 20th of the month preceding the issue date. Please email your poetry, prose and pictures to [c.news:newsletter@uuman.org](mailto:c.news:newsletter@uuman.org)

# MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN & YOUTH



During this busy time of the year why not take some time for yourself while the young ones are safe & having fun with friends at UUMAN. UUMAN Youth want to take care of & play with their younger UUMAN friends (infants and children, 6 mos - 10 years).

Have your young ones join us for Holiday (*Solstice, Christmas, Hanukkah & Kwanzaa*)  
Crafts, Stories, Games, Movies, Dancing & More!

Meals & healthy snacks provided!

For more information contact Toniann (770) 558-4476 or [dmcy@uuman.org](mailto:dmcy@uuman.org)

## MCY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

### DECEMBER 2011

- Dec 2 – Parents Night Out
- Dec 4 – Winter Holiday Party!
- Dec 17 – Parents Morning Out
- Dec 22 – Potluck & Pageant Dress Rehearsal
- Dec 24 – Holiday Pageant



## CONTACT TONIANN

### Office Hours

- Tuesday 9.30am-3.30pm
- Wednesday 9.30am-3.30pm
- Friday 9.30am-3.30pm
- Sunday 9.30am-2.30pm

Office Telephone: (770) 992-3949  
Email: [dmcy@uuman.org](mailto:dmcy@uuman.org)



For more information about 'Mystery Friends' contact;

**Toniann Read**  
[dmcy@uuman.org](mailto:dmcy@uuman.org)

## **Calling all 'Mystery Friends'...**

'Mystery Friends' is a fun, multi-generational event at UUMAN. This program matches younger members with adults for the purpose of building community among people of all ages.

**YOU** are invited to join **FUN!**

***This is how it works...***In early January, adults, children & youth will sign up to participate in the 'Mystery Friends' program. Each participant is then matched up, given an alias (*say, a famous UU like Christopher Reeve*) and...***the fun begins!***

After 4 weeks of mysteriously exchanging notes, there will be a '**Mystery Friends Celebration Party**'. That is when everyone's mystery friend will finally be revealed.

***Look for the display at the MCY Table & sign up to be a part of the fun!***

# MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN & YOUTH

## Holiday 'Faith In Action'

This project will contribute to the **North Fulton Charities Holiday Program**. We will be collecting toys for the NFCC 'Santa Shop' and then helping out with gift distribution on December 11 & 18th. You can learn more about the NFCC Holiday program at this link - <http://nfcchelp.org/holiday/>

Here are the dates and times for the different elements of the project;

- **Sunday Dec 4** – Collecting toy donations at the UUMAN **Winter Holiday Party** (11.30 am-1.00 pm).
- **Sunday Dec 11** – **Final day for bringing toy donations to UUMAN.**
  - **(10.30 am-12.00 pm)** – 'Coming of Age' Mentors/Mentees to bring a **Potluck Brunch** to be shared by the group before departing for the NFCC distribution site at noon.
  - **(1.00-3.00 pm)** – The group will assist with distribution of holiday gifts to NFCC sponsored families at the distribution site in Roswell.
- **Sunday Dec 18**
  - **(10.30 am)** – Pageant Rehearsal followed by a quick lunch (TBD)
  - **(1.00-3.00 pm)** – The group will assist NFCC clients in choosing holiday gifts for their families from the 'Santa Shop' at the distribution site in Roswell.

***There are a few spots available for additional volunteers for Dec 11 & 18th...please see Toniann if you would like to participate***

## What the Holiday 'Faith In Action' Project Means to Me

*A Personal Reflection by Sophie Davis*

I'm really looking forward to helping out at the NFCC toy drive and distribution. It's a great opportunity for me to be more involved in the Community and have a chance to help others. I think it will be a new and interesting experience. This year I'm in 'Coming of Age'. That's been great - we talk about all these good ideas, but it's great to actually get out there and take some action!

I can relate to this service project, since just a few years ago, I was a kid that would wake up so excited on Christmas morning, looking forward to all the fun and toys. It's a part of most people's childhoods in America to eagerly open presents during winter holidays. I don't think children whose families do not have the money to buy toys should miss out on this part of childhood and the wonderful family memories they could be making. I would feel very happy to make a difference to these kids by helping to give them a cheerful holiday!



“Would You Like to Hold The Baby?”

## **Holiday Pageant 2011**

It's not too late to join the fun...  
We want YOU to participate!

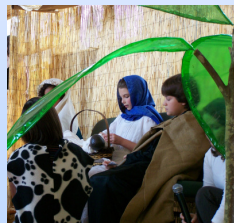
ALL UUMAN's (*adults, children & youth*) are invited & encouraged to join in the festive fun.

**Pageant Groups meet on Sunday December 18th**  
(10.30-11.30 am)

**Pot Luck Supper & Dress Rehearsal**  
Thursday Dec 22nd (6.00 pm)

And be sure to join us for the

**Christmas Eve Family Service**  
**Saturday December 24th**



## **Deck The Halls**

Join your UUMAN friends and family for our annual

## **Winter Holiday Party**

**Sunday December 4th**  
Bring a snack to share, a camera, and a toy for...

**Santa!**



**Happy Holidays!**



## **Santa is coming!**

**Sunday December 4th**

This Holiday Season, we are collecting **One Hundred Toys** for **North Fulton Community Charities (NFCC)**. You are invited to bring a new, unwrapped, toy for Santa and our 'Coming of Age' Youth will deliver them to NFCC where your kindness and generosity will bring joy to our neighbors!