



Ministry Musings

As we bid adieu to 2009 it seems appropriate to review and take stock of my first four months as your minister. Much has happened. We have had a good year for worship and membership growth and there is a new "can do" spirit of optimism and hope in the air. We continue to face financial challenges, but thanks to your generosity, we have fared better than many local congregations.

I believe that the quality of our worship services have been strong and well received, thanks in part to a professional great music program lead by Randy Wilbur and accompanied by Margi Pietsch. Our religious education program under Toniann Read provides a first class religious education for our children and youth. This program attracts and helps to retain families who often become new members. The depth of our spiritual lives has also been enriched by our Small Group Ministries and the committee work people can become involved in.

I would encourage all of you to consider sharing your gifts with the worship committee and throughout the entire committee system. As a volunteer organization we can not successfully function without each of you sharing your talents. For those of you who serve this community, I offer my heartfelt THANK YOU for a job well done.

We are blessed in many ways. We have the wisdom of the ages at our fingertips, we have people experienced in building religious communities, and our life experience has afforded us a broader vision for what is possible. We have families that enrich our communal life and bring a vibrancy that makes this congregation into a "happening place". We celebrate our multi-generation community that bring many gifts to the table and when combined weaves the fabric of a blessed community.

Our differences and diversity challenges us to be patient with each other and ourselves, to treat each other with a more generous heart, and to assume that each of us are acting with our better angels. Our covenant of right relations that we just adapted will help to guide us into healthier interpersonal relationships. We should all feel proud that we have taken this important step. We are the better for it.

The national economy has impacted us to the point where we have insufficient reserves to do all that we would like: move the minister to full time; restore cuts in staff hours and compensation, maintain our building and grounds. Yes, there is more to do if we are to have a strong community, but I believe we will get there because the

congregation has a broader vision and new mission (in the works) and we believe in ourselves.

The Board, membership committee, myself and others are actively looking for ways to grow this congregation. Our goal must be to create a spiritual environment that will attract generous souls that can enrich our lives in all ways. Together we can build a community of which we can be proud to call our own.



We also need to share our good news in the same way other faith do. We need to have the same conviction about our faith as the religious right has about theirs. We need to invite guest and friends to worship with us.

We have good news for all times and all people.

For the New Year and decade will you pledge along with me to share our values with those who need a different message of hope and inclusion? Let that be your resolution for 2010.

May you be blessed this coming year.

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

From the President of the Board of Trustees

The old year ends, the New Year begins. It is a time of reflection and renewal. As I look back at 2009 I am grateful for the opportunity to serve on the Board of Trustees of the UU Metro Atlanta North Congregation. I feel fortunate to work with so many talented leaders among our trustees and members of the Program Council.

I am thankful that UUMAN has been able to continue to serve and grow this community by providing the resources to attract Reverend Paul Daniel to be our minister; by investing in renovating and maintaining our facilities; by developing and endorsing a covenant on how we will live together in this community; by beginning to reexamine our mission; by helping our children and youth understand and appreciate UU principles and values.

I am inspired by the performances of our choir and the variety of our worship experiences. I am grateful to those
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President's message continued

volunteers who chair our committees, lead our adult enrichment and children and youth programs, and clean and maintain our buildings and grounds.

I am delighted by the renewed spirit that new and old members are bringing to the congregation, the success of the rummage sale, the initiatives of the sustainability committee, and the performance of adults and youth in the Christmas pageant.

I appreciate the generosity of the members of this congregation whose financial contributions support the work of this community. Our community is indebted to many members and friends who have made UUMAN a priority for their charitable giving. I am thankful that this financial support provides an environment where we can share an open exploration for truth and insight, the freedom to express our convictions, and the opportunity to live our UU principles and values and work for the common good.

As you reflect on the good, the unexpected and the unfortunate events that occurred in your lives during 2009, I hope you can remember a time or times that one or more members of the UUMAN community were there to support you in both your joys and your sorrows. As we enter 2010, may each of us have the courage to face our own challenges and the will to help our friends and neighbors who need assistance in facing their challenges.

UUMAN will continue to face the challenges of providing a safe and supportive environment for a growing community. Among the challenges that growth presents are the strains placed on our facilities (parking, meeting space for a growing number of groups, costs of maintenance and basic operations), our needs for a full-time minister and increased administrative support, and our obligation to restore at least some of the reductions that were made in the budget for this current year.

The Board of Trustees will continue to address these challenges and needs at its first regular meeting of 2010 on January 9. The agenda will include a review and assessment of our financial status, a discussion of budget priorities for the remainder of the church year (January – July), the budget process for 2010-11 and the stewardship campaign. All are welcome to attend.

Joe Creech, President, Board of Trustees

Our Newest Members

Please join our committee in welcoming our newest members to UUMAN:

Kathy & Michael Adkins
Dot & John Daly
Ken Fry & Marjorie Pomper
Liz Garcia
Carole & Henry Herman
Kimberly Ecker Keeley and Andy Keeley
Vicki Magis
Kirsten & Devon Moore (returning from a year in California)
Minni Scott
Sue & Max Tromblee
Adriaan Vanderbeek & Margriet VandeSteeg.

We warmly welcome you to your new church home, and look forward to getting to know you all as members of our faith community.

Gentle reminder to all: **Please wear your nametags every week**- it is very helpful to be able to put a name with a face, especially for our newer members.

Thank you!
Laurie Wheeler, Membership Committee

A Month of Sundays (January Worship Services)

January 3 350

A looming crisis is the topic of Rev. Paul's first sermon of the New Year. Find out what 350 means to you. (Worship associate: Dave Hudson.)

January 10 Moral and Imperative

We examine what we owe each other if we are to maintain our society and the values that hold us together. (Worship associate: Jennifer Elliott.)

January 17 Values in Alignment

We celebrate the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King and how his values are our values. (Worship associate: Suzy Rezelman.)

January 24 UU History

Lay Service: Dave Hudson (worship associate Miriam Bellamy).

January 31 The Five People You Admire Most

Who do you admire most? If you were to make a list of all those people you really admire – those people who display characteristics you feel a deep resonance with - who would be on your list? Don't limit your list to five. People on the list may be alive or dead, real or fictional (from your favorite movie or novel), family or non-family. This service will include a guided meditation followed by a homily, by lay speaker Miriam Bellamy. Please come having thought about your list to be prepared for an enlightening experience.

Heart's Desire Auction Seeking Heart's Desires

UUMAN's biggest fund raiser is the Heart's Desire Auction to be held on February 27. (I am still not looking forward to winter's most brutal month even if it means I can finally break out my cowboy boots. By reason of explanation...I can only wear them in Febru-ugly because I bought them one size too big and I have to wear two pairs of woolly, woolly socks to make them fit. That makes them too hot to wear unless it is brutal outside.) Anyway, in order to make the event the great success that it has historically been we obviously need things to auction.

This is where you, Dear Readers, come in. (If I might blatantly steal a phrase from the late Dear Abbey.) **We**

need donations!

Now, be creative. Or be useful. Or be thoughtful.

Do you have a skill that you can, with some patience, teach to others?

Knitting, cooking, computer nonsense, faux painting, piano

playing? Do you have a service that would make someone's life easier?

Organization, tutoring, house painting, yard work, baby sitting?

Can you host a delicious, delicious dinner or movie night or wine tasting or boating afternoon?

Do you have a lovely crystal decanter or a charming necklace or a Hummel figurine of a cherub cheeked boy in lederhosen sitting on a fence tootling on a flute?

Use your creativity, generosity and talent to provide auction items for both the silent auction and the live auction.

If you have any items or services to donate or are willing to host an event in your home, please contact Margot Bogue at msbogue@gmail.com. If you have any questions ask Margot, or Elizabeth Rohan (elizabeth.rohan@gmail.com).

Look for more information starting in January in UUMAN Announcements and the Order of Worship on Sunday.

In the meantime, mark your calendars for an evening of festive fun, hors d'oeuvres (I had to look this one up.), wine, and the best auction in Roswell....except maybe for the Junior League, and those ladies are very well connected, fairly rich and dress with way too many sequins.

(Did I just have a meow moment? I don't think so.)
Martina Queenth

The Sustainability Committee's Tip of the Month

O Tannenbaum O Tannenbaum, How Troubling in a Landfill

The guests have all departed. The stockings are put away. The candles have burned down. The wassail and eggnog are gone. All that's left of the cookies are a few crumbs. The needles have turned brown and are dropping off the tree. One by one the ornaments have been lovingly removed and carefully wrapped for storage.

What to do with the now forsaken tree? Recycle it! Home Depot is partnering with local environmental groups to turn old trees into mulch. Instead of going to landfills, the trees are returned to the earth, beautifying community gardens and restoring nutrients to the soil.

Go to

http://www.keepgeorgiabeautiful.org/bring_one_for_chipper.asp to find the recycling center closest to you.

Reminder: We will have a red recycling bin available in Fellowship Hall near the Sustainability Corner for collecting the old incandescent string lights. We'll keep it there at least until January 10th for when you take down this year's decorations. Then we'll send them off to be recycled.

Rev. Daniel's Schedule

My initial schedule will be somewhat tentative until I find a routine that works for myself and the congregation. I will be in the pulpit the first three Sundays of each month with some variation depending on when holidays fall. My Sabbath day of rest will be on Mondays; on Fridays I will often work at my home office writing my sermons.

As to office hours, I will always be available by appointment and will be in the office all Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10am – 2pm and one evening a week yet to be determined.

You can always reach me by phone: (770) 992-3949 at the church office, or at reverendpaul@uuman.org. Please feel free to ask if you have questions.

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About the UUMANTimes

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Ed.: newsletter@uuman.org

