



# Unitarian Universalist Church of Augusta

## Uncommon Sense

Volume 15 Number 8

September 2011

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### In the Interim:

## “Return to the Home of Your Soul”

While thinking about what I wanted to write as we begin this 2<sup>nd</sup> year of Interim Ministry together, a tune began to run through my head. As I hummed along – wondering what I was hearing, the words began to surface.

Return again. Return again.  
Return to the home of your soul.

Yes – I am returned, again, to the UU Church of Augusta, and more importantly, as summer officially draws to a close, all of you are returning to UUCA. Whatever your summer has held, travels near or far; as we shift back to those familiar and defining rhythms of the school year there is a pacing and focus that brings us back to this home of the soul.

This second year of Interim Ministry brings a focus on internal organization. The Board will be reviewing policy and the Task Force for Review of the By-Laws is already hard at work. They will be sharing the progress and likely proposals at a State of the Church Meeting on Sunday January 22, 2012. This will be a called meeting so that business can also be transacted. It's not too soon to circle the date on your calendar.

This second year of Interim Ministry also brings:

- The advent of ADULT FAITH DEVELOPMENT instead of ARE (Adult Religious Education). The goal has always been Faith Development and thanks to Andy Reese pointing this out, we are going to keep the focus on the mission of our adult learning opportunities – Faith Development. See the details elsewhere in this newsletter.
- The implementation of the Pastoral Care Team began this summer. Team members are rotating participation in worship services; handling the microphone to receive joys and sorrows. And they made thirty-two pastoral care contacts between July 1<sup>st</sup> and August 24<sup>th</sup>.

The official advent of the Worship Associates program begins this month, though several members have taken active roles in worship through the summer. With support from the Worship Associates our worship services will reflect a monthly theme. The theme for September is Hospitality.

The “Return Again” song that I found myself humming is about hospitality. While we mostly think about hospitality in relation to others, “Return again” is about hospitality to our own selves. The words of the song continue:

Return to who you are      Return to what you are  
Return to where you are      Born and reborn again.

As we all return, again, to this home for our souls – may we be as hospitable to our own self and soul as we are, or want to be, to one another. This is not just for our own benefit but because when we are truly returned to ourselves we can fully welcome, celebrate, nourish and build our relationships with others and strengthen and cherish this beloved community – the home for our souls.

### In this spirit of hospitality – Welcome Back!

See you in church.  
Many Blessings

*Rev. Dacia*

*“Return Again” is #1011 in [Singing the Journey](#)*



# Uncommon Sense

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## Notes from the President

The summer was filled with magic as the final Harry Potter film was released, to my great joy. I was reminded of a comment I once heard in a potluck serving line- "Everything looks so wonderful. How does all this happen? Seems like magic." It would be nice if we had a magic wand and a few well-placed spells. However, we all know that a potluck, a Sunday service, an RE class, any church event does NOT happen by magic. It takes the work of many people. Some do the heavy lifting and carrying, some do a simple phone call.

No matter how big or small, how heavy or light, how public or private, every job or task is important and needed. Where are your interests or talents? Is there an area of church life that you would like to know more about? Have you always thought you'd like to do something in particular? For instance, maybe you don't want to speak on Sunday morning, but would like to help with Sunday services. You could bring flowers one Sunday, coordinate other Sunday flowers, be a greeter at the front door, bring snacks one Sunday or coordinate several Sunday snacks. The list goes on. Maybe you are more the outdoor type and would like to help keep the grounds cleaned and mowed. Maybe you have a talent for organizing pot lucks.

You will have an opportunity to check out various committees during the upcoming Committee Fair. In the meantime, if you would like more information about areas of interest, let me know. There is great joy in working with others in this beloved community. That is truly where you find the magic.

Jan Parsons,  
Board President

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## Members' Milestones

*Chris Palmer, Membership Committee co-chair*

This summer, **Gaye Ortiz** successfully completed the eleven week Clinical Pastoral Education unit required of all aspiring UU ministers. On September 1st, she begins the UUA-required internship. She will be serving the UU congregation in Aiken. For a full description of her summer, read her article: "Summer into Fall: Chaplaincy Ends, Internship Begins". *Congratulations!*  
(copies posted on the Bulletin Board)



Gaye Ortiz

We have the good fortune to have **Gayla Keesee** back with us as she is between positions. We are hoping that she finds a good position close to home.

**Owen Zylla** is recovering well from his burns and thanks everyone for their thoughts and cards.

**Kathy Crow** is recovering from her surgery and is looking forward to returning to Church.

The Membership Committee welcomes anyone interested in joining us in welcoming newcomers and guests. Please let one of the greeters know if you are interested.

## Freethinkers Look at First Amendment

*Frank Carl, Humanist/Freethought Group chair*

The Freethinkers group that meets at the church is beginning the process of applying for a chapter charter of Americans United for Separation of Church and State. We will be the Central Savannah River Chapter of Americans United assuming that our application is accepted. Americans United Chapters are expected to identify in their communities instances of unacceptable influence either by the church on the state or the state on the church and to act accordingly to return the relationship to one of complete neutrality. While the state has been pretty good about respecting religious freedom over the years, the same cannot be said for the church. Some instances of undue influence might be the teaching of "Creation Science" in public schools, the reading exclusively of biblical passages over the intercom in the public schools, the initiation of a meeting of public servants with an explicitly Christian prayer, or the introduction of religious dogma into local governance.

If you are interested in helping with the application or if you know of instances of the violation of church state separation or if you are simply interested in membership, contact Frank Carl [frankcarl@knology.net](mailto:frankcarl@knology.net).

## July Attendance

July 3rd 94	July 10th 82	July 17th 93	July 24th 81	July 31st 93
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*Announcing an important community panel discussion*

**A Post - 9/11 World:  
Enduring Triumph & Tragedy**

**Thursday, September 8, 7:00 PM**  
At Augusta State University  
Student Center Ballroom

Moderated by Laurie Ott

Participants will include:

- Sherry Barnes (Past Republican Chair – Richmond County)
- Dr. Hossam Fadel (Member at Large, Islamic Society of Augusta)
- Rev. Dr. Ellen Francis (Episcopal Priest)
- Dr. Lowell Greenbaum, (Democratic Chair – Richmond County)
- Omar Neal (Mayor of Tuskegee)
- Dr. Sudha Ratain (ASU Political Science Chair)
- Austin Rhodes (Local Radio/TV Host)

**Sponsored by the ASU Political Science Club  
And the Progressive Religious Coalition**

**Southern Cluster Meeting**

by Andy Reese

On Saturday, **October 8th**, UUs in our area will be enlightened, invigorated and mainly just have a good time in Charleston. The theme of the meeting is *Practical Ideas for Common Problems*. Featured speakers are Jim Key, President of the Southeast District and John Buehrens, past President of the UUA. Jim will be talking about the future of our faith and the changes in the works that will make us a more powerful and relevant force for shaping more just solutions to the problems that face our country and world. John will be talking about how the merger of Universalists and Unitarians played out at the local level and will lead a workshop on *How we got to be who we are* based on his new book *Universalists and Unitarians in America: A People's History*.

There will also be workshops on a variety of topics that should provide something for everyone. (see the agenda at southernclusteruaa.org)

There will be snacks, lunch and child care available. It is set up so you can drive over and back in a day.

Everyone who has attended one of these meetings will tell you how much fun it is. You can register (\$30/adult, \$25/child until Oct. 1) at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/5DR2FLX>

**Fall Equinox Vespers**

Sunday, September 18th - 7pm  
In the Sanctuary

Within many earth-centered traditions, the Fall Equinox is a celebration of the harvest, the balance of day and night after which the dark begins to increase. Our celebration will focus on Inanna, Queen of Heaven and Earth, the most prominent Goddess of ancient Mesopotamia. Bring drums and noisemakers.

For information, email Jezibell: [kyriapanagia@yahoo.com](mailto:kyriapanagia@yahoo.com)



**August Attendance**

August 7th  
81

August 14th  
99

August 21st  
94

August 28th  
120

# Uncommon Sense

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## Unitarian-Universalist Church of Augusta Children's Religious Education

### ..... What We Want for Our Children and Youth

*by Ruth Garrison, Director of Religious Education*

#### **A Sense of Place:**

- a safe place to be themselves and a sanctuary from the larger community, to feel a source of strength from the church
  - a loving community where they can experience enjoyment of each other's company, have friends they can identify with, and feel accepted
  - a place where they can experience consistency, set patterns, routines and rituals
  - a place to have fun
- .....

#### **Opportunities:**

- for exploration – seeking an inner identity that endures
  - for learning critical thinking and questioning in terms of our religious beliefs/paths
  - for creating Faith identity
  - for studying UU History, the depth of knowledge in our principals and our sources, other religions and our relation (as UUs) to them (exposing even our youngest children to different beliefs), life issues, social justice, and our place in the interdependent web of existence
  - for regular participation of the larger congregation in children's programming
  - for integration of children into the congregation, and for experiencing UU worship though:
    - intergenerational services
    - children's chapel once a month with minister sometimes leading it
    - attending the first part of church service most Sundays
  - for learning from good role models who are accessible at church
  - for mixing age groups of children and/or children and adults occasionally for activities
  - for community service and social justice activities
- .....

#### **Collaboration between Church and Family:**

- by re-visiting what we believe though discussions with peers and families
- by taking group outings outside of class and following Sunday worship, fostered by sharing contact information (text, email, phone numbers) of families of children in the classes
- by participating in family games and activities at church
- by being able to work through life issues through tools learned in lessons at church
- by having occasional lunches with the minister (for each of the classrooms)

**In collaboration with the congregation, individual families, the Children Religious Education Committee, and the many wonderful volunteers and the staff, we can support each other in our attempts to meet these needs and desires with effective and truly meaningful experiences for our children; our future.**



## Faith Development: A Lifelong Adventure

Faith Development plans for adults and interested teens here at UUCA will begin on Wednesday September 7<sup>th</sup>. Formerly known as Adult RE, Faith Development is the real goal and why not have the goal and the program name coincide?-) Andy Reese has generously agreed to coordinate our AFD (Adult Faith Development) programs for this year.

**1<sup>st</sup> Wednesdays – 7 pm** - beginning September 7<sup>th</sup>  
UU History & Theology: Explorations beyond UU101.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Mornings – 9:30 am** – beginning Sunday September 11<sup>th</sup>  
Compassionate Living – An on-going exploration of Karen Armstrong's new book, Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Afternoons – 5 pm** - Beginning September 18<sup>th</sup>  
Spiritual Pathways – An experiential introduction to a number of spiritual practices.  
Singing Meditation with Joe Patchen on September 18<sup>th</sup>  
Poetry on October 16th  
Praying in Color with Chris Palmer on November 20<sup>th</sup>  
Journaling on December 18<sup>th</sup>

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## Fundraising in Your Pajamas

*by Jan Parsons*

Do you order books online? Are you in the market for a new computer, lighting fixtures, clothes? Check out <http://www.goodsearch.com/goodshop>. A percentage of the sale price is returned to your charity of choice. In this case, it's Unitarian Universalist Church of Augusta- UUCA. Even if you follow a life of simplicity, there are times when you need to shop for something. While the amounts may not seem like a lot, every penny counts. The site will walk you through the process. It's easy. You don't have to get dressed, start the car, or face the traffic. Give it a try!

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## Piano Instruction

Josef Patchen is offering piano lessons taught at the church at \$25 per 45 minute session.  
Contact Joe: [jcpatchen@knology.net](mailto:jcpatchen@knology.net)

We welcome stories, news and pictures sent in for our monthly Newsletter. Guidelines can be found at: [UUAugusta.org](http://UUAugusta.org) or e-mailed directly to the church office [officead-](mailto:officead-)

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## UUs and Homeschooling

If you are homeschooling or are interested in homeschooling and would like ideas, support and fun with other UUs please contact Andrea McPherson at [andrea@auroralux.net](mailto:andrea@auroralux.net)

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