



Inside this issue

In the Interim...	1
Notes from the President	2
Treasurer's Update	2
R. E. Assistant Begins Work	2
Social Justice Committee Supporting Christmas	2
Traditional Christmas Pageant	2
Full Moon Vespers	2
Thanksgiving at UUCA	3
Change Happens & So Do the Holidays	3
Gifts of Honor	3
The Grumblers Return	4
Adult Faith Development	4
Volunteers Needed	4
Library Donations	4
Fundraising in Your Pajamas	4

In the Interim: Considering Interdependence

Interdependence can be a challenging concept. Despite de Tocqueville's nineteenth century observation that Americans are a very community focused people, Americans tend to be, first and foremost, individualists. Unitarian Universalists also tend toward individualism with our covenant to honor the inherent worth and dignity of each person and our commitment to the individual quest for truth and meaning. Some would find it contradictory that we also value the interconnected web of life. And it is something of a challenge to hold both of these values. Yet that is exactly what UU's attempt and I applaud us for our efforts. This month's theme is Interdependence and I hope that each of us and all of us will give some thought to the beauty and the challenges inherent in the concepts and realities of interdependence. To begin our consideration I'd like to share three reflections that have drawn my attention.

The Rev. David Bumbaugh wrote, "We believe that in this interconnected existence the well-being of one cannot be separated from the well-being of the whole, that ultimately we all spring from the same source and all journey to the same ultimate destiny."

British moral philosopher Mary Midgley wrote, "To find the universe meaningful is not to decode an extra, cryptic message hidden behind it, but simply to find some continuity between its patterns and those of our own lives – enough continuity to confirm that our presence here makes sense. The point is not that this world belongs to us, but that we belong to it. We only need to see it as ordered in a way that makes our presence here intelligible to us."

UU poet Jeanne Lohmann in her poem "Shaking Tree" wrote,
Vine and branch we're connected in this world
of sound and echo, figure and shadow, the leaves
contingent, roots pushing against earth. An apple

belongs to itself, to stem and tree, to air
that claims it, then ground. Connections
balance, each motion changes another. Precarious,

Hanging together, we don't know what our lives
support, and we touch in the least shift of breathing.
Each holy thing is borrowed. Everything depends.

May we become more cognizant of the reality and the benefits of interdependence.
Many Blessings

Rev. Dacia

David Bumbaugh as quoted by Tom Owen-Towle in *Theology Ablaze*, page 104.

Mary Midgley as quoted in *Theology Ablaze* by Tom Owen-Towle, page 113.

"Shaking Tree" by Jeanne Lohmann, as published in *Prayers to Protest: Poems that Center & Bless Us*, edited by Jennifer Bosveld, Pudding House Publications, 1998, page 46.



Uncommon Sense

Notes from the President

Hard to believe, but it's November already-time to think about Thanksgiving. What are you giving thanks for this year? I'm most thankful for this church. As many have said before, if this church were not here, I've have to start one. Thankfully, others started it first and have kept it going all these years- Betty and Don Hostetler and Peggy Kelly, to name just a few. We have a fine tradition to follow. The best way we can offer our thanks is to work hard to carry on this tradition and make this church everything we know it can be. Part of the work of the Board this year is to make sure we are in good shape for our search when we decide to start looking for our settled minister. We have called a group together, led by Lyn Dennison, to update and streamline our bylaws. As you can imagine, this is a big task. You will be hearing more about this in coming months. We are also reviewing our policies and procedures, making sure we are compliant with relevant laws and that the operations of the church are clear. I'm thankful for all the volunteers who are helping make this happen.

I'm also thankful for all the young adults that have found a home here. Joey Traina was in the preschool class when I taught R. E. To see him now with Krystal Webber bringing their young son to the same classroom area thrills my soul. They are part of the LIMBO Group started by April Wilson. This age group may feel they are in "limbo", but I see our hope for the future. They will be the leaders who continue our beloved community.

Over the next few weeks, think about who and what you are thankful for in our church. Send up a UU prayer (whatever that looks like to you) of thanksgiving.

Jan Parsons
Board President

Treasurer's Update

1st Quarter 2011-2012

For the months July – September, we are 26% of the way toward our total annual Pledged amount of \$186,000. The year is off to a good start! Please keep your Pledges coming.

In contrast, we are slightly under our goal for Plate collection. As of September 30th, we collected 78% of our 1st Quarter goal.

A big THANK YOU to everyone for your generous Plate and Pledge donations! Believe me, *every little bit helps!* And remember, if your circumstances have changed and your Pledge needs to be adjusted, please let Reverend Dacia or me know. All information is held in confidence.

Yours in service,
Stacy Heath
Board Treasurer

R.E. Assistant Begins Work

Abby Zylla has been hired to fill the R.E. Assistant position for three hours per week. To make this hire possible the Board passed the following temporary exemption to the UUCA Personnel Policy. "The Board of Trustees of the UU Church of Augusta, for the purpose of better understanding the value of (and need for) an R.E. Assistant authorizes, pending successful interview, the temporary hiring of Abby Zylla as the R.E. Assistant (for 3 hours per week) from October 27, 2011 through June 30, 2012. While the R.E. Assistant position may continue, Abby Zylla cannot continue in the position beyond June 30, 2012 because of family relationship with the current DRE." (October 25, 2011)

Welcome Abby!

Social Justice Committee Supporting Christmas

by Chris Palmer, Social Justice Committee

Again this year the Social Justice Committee will be inviting UUCA to help make Christmas a happy time for local families. We are particularly concerned about families in this congregation who may be in need of some Christmas support this holiday season. Last year, thanks to generous donations from the congregation, we were able to give new warm clothing, a few toys and groceries to three families. Please let Rev. Dacia or Chris Palmer know if your family or a family you are aware of within the church could use our support.

Traditional Christmas Pageant Sunday, December 18th

Interested adults and children who wish to participate in this year's Christmas Pageant; "Would You Like to Hold the Baby?", please plan on attending church for preparations on November 20th, 27th and December 4th and 11th. See upcoming E-announcements for details.

Contact Ruth Garrison, DRE for more information at:
dre@uuaugusta.org

Full Moon Vespers

Sunday, November 13th
7pm - Sanctuary



This month's vespers will be a Greek-themed ritual celebrating the gifts of Dionysus, the god of the grape harvest, revelry and theatre.

All are welcome to attend.
Bring drums and noisemakers.

For more information, contact Jezibell Anat
kyriapangia@yahoo.com.



**Please join us
Thursday, November 24th
for our UUCA Thanksgiving Celebration!**

Arrive in time to break bread at **12 noon**. It's a potluck, so pull out your favorite recipes and create a delightful dish to share (the potluck sign-up sheet is posted in the Common Area outside the Common Room).

We will also be playing games after dinner.
We hope to see you there!

Sundays in November

Sunday November 6th - Guest speaker, Loyd Dillon will be talking about Joseph Priestly: Priestly or Beastly. He will be reading his book, Hippo-crits for the Children's Story. Rev. Dacia will be meeting with our children after the leave the sanctuary for a conversation focused on what the grown-ups do after the kids leave the sanctuary.

Sunday November 13th - "Global View: Thinking Like a Planet or a Congregation"

Sunday November 20th - "Ingredients for Gratitude" - With the arrival of Thanksgiving we know that gratitude is expected even if that's not our current experience. No matter our current circumstances, at least some of the ingredients are available.

Sunday November 27th - Guest speaker, David Crockett will be returning to our pulpit; "So, What's Your Stocking Stuffed With?".

Change Happens & So Do the Holidays!

If you are experiencing transition of one sort or another you could find the coming Holidays challenging and might want to consider participating in our Holiday Support Group.

The group will meet weekly on **Thursdays - 6:30 to 8:00pm**

Beginning November 10th through January 12th

The group will be facilitated by Betty Frank, LCSW and Rev. Dacia Reid.

Sign up no later than Sunday November 6th.

Regular attendance is requested.

Want to sign up?

Call Betty, or e-mail Rev. Dacia or call the church office at 706-733-7939

Questions: Contact Betty Frank or Rev. Dacia

Gifts of Honor Received

**To celebrate the October 16th Workday Crew at UUCA—anonymous donor
and**

**To commemorate the newly painted green kitchen—anonymous donor
and**

**In honor of Ann Sutherland for the pew cushions in the Common Area
from Jan parsons**

Our Gifts of Honor program is organized by the Financial Affairs Committee. Gifts of Honor are suitable for every occasion and can be made in any amount of \$10 or more. All Gifts of Honor will support the General Fund. Envelopes are available in the pew pockets.

October Attendance

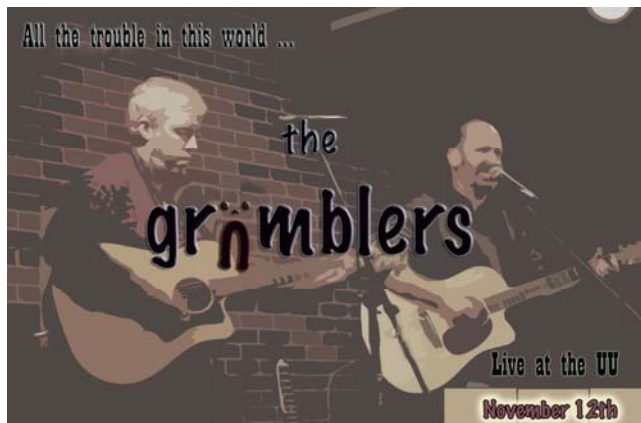
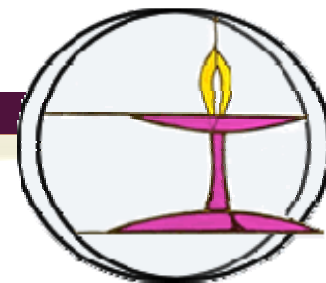
October 2nd
106

October 9th
94

October 16th
133

October 23rd
109

October 30th
114



Bill Keogh and Jim Bentley

The Grumblers, will be playing a return engagement at UUCA on **Saturday, November 12 at 6:30pm.** If you've seen them, you know the drill. If you haven't, they play an acoustic mix of originals, old blues tunes, and other various *things*.

Childcare will be available

Adult Faith Development: A Lifelong Adventure

Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life
First Sunday Conversation: Sunday November 6th

We will continue our exploration of this Karen Armstrong Book gathering in the Common Room at **9:30am**. This month we will be discussing The Second Step-“Look at Your Own World”. Rev. Dacia will be filling in for Andy Reese. Please do remember that this is a time change Sunday – and **adjust your clocks on Saturday night**.

Exploring Spiritual Paths
Sunday, November 20th at 5pm

This month, Chris Palmer will be exploring: “Praying in Color”. Please join us in the Common Room

We welcome stories, news and pictures sent in for our monthly Newsletter.

e-mail directly to the church office:
officeadmin@uuaugusta.org

**Unitarian Universalist
Church of Augusta**

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Volunteers Needed

HELP!! We are in urgent need of volunteers for Sunday coffee/tea set-up and clean-up. This is your opportunity to contribute a valued service to the church, yet it requires only about 45 minutes of your time once a month. You can volunteer for either set-up or clean-up one Sunday per month; however, if for any reason you can't be here on your assigned Sunday, it's easy to swap Sundays with another member on the team. Call Jack Zylla (706-868-5885) and volunteer today before your choice of spots is taken!

Library Donations

Thank you to Anita Bell for donating two new books to our church library.

Congregational Leadership in Anxious Times by Peter Steinke and

Healthy Congregations: A Systems Approach also by Peter Steinke

Fundraising in Your Pajamas

by Jan Parsons

I found another site we can use to make our shopping dollars help the church. The website is **iGive.com**. From the site- “**SHOPPING**: It's all automatic! You don't need to enter any codes, notify the store, or iGive. When iGive members shop via our special links (starting at the **iGive.com** web site, enter: *Unitarian Universalist Church of Augusta* in 'select your cause'), tracking enables us to identify the purchases of each individual iGive member with a member ID number. Causes always receive 100% of the donation amount which is advertised on our web site (iGive.com receives fees separately from the amounts that go to the cause).” Check it out. If it looks like something you're comfortable with, sign up. Several iGive checks have been received here at UUCA and we thank all who have participated. Every penny counts. If you find other pj fundraising ideas, pass them on.