



### Inside this issue

In the Interim...	1
Notes from the President	2
December Worship Services	2
Meet Our New Members	3
Winter Solstice Vespers	3
Coming in January	3
Gifts Of Honor	3
Making Christmas	4
Share the Plate	4
MLK Observences	4
Joe Patchen's Holiday Music	4

### In the Interim: Surprised by Prejudice

One can't live in Massachusetts for as long as I had (37 years) and not soak up a certain amount of Kennedy lore, gossip and politics. Thus, when I saw that Caroline Kennedy had published a new book, A Family Christmas, I snatched it up. The book is a collection of stories, poetry and songs, not unusual for this sort of book. If you'd asked me about how the Kennedy family celebrated Christmas I would not have had any specific knowledge.

But as I read Caroline's introduction to the book I discovered that while I had no actual knowledge I had a whole raft of ideas about how such rich and famous people would spend their Christmas. As I read her description of her family Christmas' I was forced to recognize that my assumptions and expectations were quite prejudiced.

Caroline shares that the family tradition was focused on faith (which didn't surprise me) and gifts of the heart (which did surprise me). Preferred gifts were poetry copied out of a favorite book or composed by the writer, original drawings, songs and simple homemade gifts like pomander balls.

The book was published in October of 2007 so I've had a few years to contemplate this approach to Christmas. And this year my contemplation is bearing fruit in two ways.

First – our worship service on December 25<sup>th</sup> will be what I'd call, "A Kennedy Christmas" meaning that everyone who is in town and not otherwise engaged is invited to bring a favorite poem, very short story or song to share. I plan to share my very favorite childhood Christmas story, "Granny Glittens and Her Amazing Mittens." I have treasured this story since it first came to my attention at the age of five.

Second – I am going to use the rest of this column to share, "Christmas in Two Parts" a whimsical reflection on the Christmas season, blending the common place with the themes of Christmas. The author is Roscoe Trueblood who was my mentor's mentor.

May we each discover some new blessing, recognize, respond to and learn from a hidden prejudice and avoid at least one challenge this holiday season. Do feel free to enjoy multiple blessings and avoid several challenges.

Many, year-round, Blessings -- **Rev. Dacia**

### Christmas in Two Parts

by the Rev. Roscoe E. Trueblood  
As published in I was Alive – And Glad, First Parish Cohasset, MA, 1971, page 37.

O Christmas; made of two great parts  
Plans and work -- and happy hearts  
O time of joy -- and sanctity  
And cooking, relative -- and Tree!

O holy child so long ago!  
(Where Junior is, I'd like to know.)

Brings gifts of frankincense and myrrh  
(Put in two tablespoons and stir)

They found a place for Mary's sake  
(Could I get by with just one cake?)

The carrots stewing in the broth  
(So Herod stewed when he was wroth)

The Wise Men coming from afar  
(Where *is* our cardboard silver star?)

Glory to God and peace on high  
All stirred up in mincemeat pie

Glory to mincemeat; God on high  
And peace with a piece of mincemeat pie

O pie and peace; O piece of pie  
And mincemeat glory to God on high

Stir up the pie while angels sing  
For Christmas is made of everything.



**UUCA Book Fair  
December 4 & 11**

# Uncommon Sense

---

## Notes from the President

We are entering one of my favorite times of the year. I admit it- I love Christmas- the music, smells, food, decorations, and yes, even Christmas sweaters. I love it all. My childhood memories are good ones-family, presents, decorating the tree, cookies, church and a big dinner at my grandparents' house.

I can still remember participating in Christmas pageants at my small Southern Baptist Church. We always did the biblical story with robes, sheets, cardboard crowns and cotton beards for costumes. We sang the standard carols. We lit candles to sing Silent Night. Every year, brown paper bags with candy and fruit were handed out to the kids as we were leaving church. To this day, the smell of oranges reminds me of Christmas bags and pageants.

This is not an easy season, however, for many people, for many reasons-memories that are not positive, the economy, families divided geographically and emotionally, loneliness, illness- so many reasons. As a community, we extend our love and support to all of you who may have a difficult time this year.

Maybe this is the year for starting new, happy memories. I'm looking forward to our own Christmas pageant on December 18th. Thank you, Ruth and CRE, for planning this. I don't know about the costumes- any robes or cotton beards?

If you're in town on Christmas Eve, attend the Moravian Love Feast. Since being introduced to this service many years ago here at UUCA, it has become one of my favorites. I love the background story- conflict and resolution, celebrated by the breaking of bread together. There's music, candles, food, and Silent Night.

I wish you all peace and joy,

**Jan Parsons**

---

## December Worship Services

**Sunday December 4<sup>th</sup>** – "Women Hold Up Half the Sky". Guest speaker, Rev. Tina Cansler Clark – Rev. Dacia will act as worship leader for this service. Rev. Cansler Clark will participate in a "time to talk" conversation back in the sanctuary at 12:30. Bio for Rev. Clark is below.

**Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup>** – Blue Christmas – Rev. Dacia Reid

Sometimes all that red and green turns to brown and brings on the blues, this service will explore the challenges of the season.

**Sunday December 18<sup>th</sup>** - "Would You Like to Hold the Baby" Intergenerational Christmas Pageant. Wonderful music brings the message of this seasonal pageant to life. Great for all ages and points of view.

Winter Solstice Service at 7pm

**Saturday December 24<sup>th</sup>** – Christmas Eve Service – Time will be determined by your responses to the worship committee survey.

**Sunday December 25<sup>th</sup>** – Christmas Favorites – This service will be an opportunity to sing your favorite carols and share a favorite Christmas poem or story. Rev. Dacia will share one of her very favorite Christmas stories.

### Best Time for Christmas Eve Service? The Worship Committee Want To Know

If you are thinking about or plan to attend the Christmas Eve service please follow the link below to respond to our brief 2 question survey.

Thanks for your help!

<http://svy.mk/christmas-eve-survey>

### Chinese Buffet on Christmas???

Planning to attend worship on Sunday December 25<sup>th</sup>?  
Would you like to enjoy a post-worship Chinese buffet?  
Anticipate the cost will be under \$10 per person.

Advanced sign-up essential

Use the sign-up sheet in the hallway or call the office.  
Deadline for Sign-up is December 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Rev. Tina Cansler Clark** lives in Macon, GA. She earned her undergraduate and M.Ed in Special Education from The University of West Georgia and her M.Div in Pastoral Care from Mercer University's McAfee School of Theology in Atlanta.

Rev. Cansler Clark was the first female ever ordained at the historical First Baptist Church of Forsyth, GA, where she served as Minister of Education for 5 years. She is a member at High Street UU Church in Macon, GA and serves on the Board as Secretary, as well as on the Worship Committee.

She left the Baptist Church and her Baptist roots after working with hospice patients of all faiths, feeling that her spirit needed a "bigger box" than the Baptist Church could provide. She has begun the process of seeking dual ministerial credentialing in the UU Church and is officially an "Aspirant" in the process.

## Meet Our New Members

### Abby Zylla

I spent many years (since about age 10) at UUCA before going off to school - this community was very instrumental in my youth, and it only makes sense for me to finally “sign the book” as an adult returning to the community. I have been shaped by all the major components of my life (my family, UU, undergraduate studies, and my research experience in Fiji). After high school I studied Anthropology at the University of Georgia (along with Cultural Geography, Women’s Studies, Religion, Environmental Ethics, and Global Studies). I spent the last year in Fiji working on a Fulbright-funded research project in a small rural village with a community-based marine conservation and ecotourism program. My research was ethnographic and focused on local politics and social interactions, cultural change, worldviews and concepts of The Self (on individual and community levels), and perceptions and experiences of “conservation” and “sustainability”. I am now back in Augusta, taking a permaculture course and applying to graduate programs... I am passionate about environmental and social justice work, and am steering my future in that direction through anthropology and political ecology. I am glad to be back “home” in this UU community, even if only for a short time!



### Brad Carter



I’m a native of Kansas City, MO brought here by my job as a History Professor. Even while a student at an Episcopal Seminary, and later Dean at a United Methodist Seminary, I found myself aligned with Unitarian-Universalism in belief if not practice. I am thankful to the UUCA for providing a supportive community in which to make that official now. I’m interested personally and professionally in culture, history and travel and hope to be involved here with teaching, worship and community involvement. In addition to the preceding I enjoy fishing and taking care of my Jack Russell terrier. My extended family remain in Missouri, and I have a significant other in the New York City area, whom I visit as often as possible.

### Library Donations

Anita Bell donated a copy of *A Short History of Myth* by Karen Armstrong to the church library. Thank you Anita!

### Winter Solstice Vespers

Sunday, **December 18**  
**7:00pm**  
 Sanctuary

Join us for a Norse-themed celebration of the Winter Solstice, the darkest time of the year and welcome the return of Sunna the Sun Goddess to bring back the light.

Contact: Jezibell [kyriapanagia@yahoo.com](mailto:kyriapanagia@yahoo.com)

### Coming in January

- Rev. Dacia will be launching a blog that will welcome your thoughts as well as her own.
- The Food For Thought portion of E-nnouncements will include a comment from Rev. Dacia and a link for you to share your response to the quotation.
- Adult Faith Development (ADF) programs – we have many ideas and will unveil the calendar soon. One of the offerings from Rev. Dacia, in honor of an election year will be a non-partisan exploration of commercial and political communications called *The Propaganda Game*. This will program will have at least 6 sessions. Meeting time is still TBA.

### Gifts of Honor Received

Gift of Honor to Celebrate the Worship Committee, Claire Shannon, Frank Carl, Pat Lynch Hayes, Jezibell Anat, and Lyn Bonner.  
 Gift of Honor in Praise of the Thanksgiving Potluck with special thanks to the organizers, Sam Booher, Ann and Greg Sutherland and others, as well as all who attended. A delicious time was enjoyed by all!

A Gift of Honor is a monetary contribution made to the UU Church of Augusta to celebrate a special occasion, recognize an accomplishment, appreciate a kindness, honor service or in memory of a loved one. Gifts of Honor are suitable every occasion and can be made in any amount of \$10 or more.

This program organized by the Financial Affairs Committee. A check or cash-in-an-envelope should be clearly marked – Gift of Honor – and be sure to tell us who or what you are honoring. All Gifts of Honor will support the General Fund. Gifts of Honor may be placed in the offering on Sunday mornings or sent to or dropped off in the church office. Gifts of Honor will be announced in E-nnouncements and the Newsletter.



## Making Christmas Special Offering on Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup>

This is an opportunity to support UUCA's annual drive to help provide anonymous Christmas support to families in need organized by the Social Justice Council. This year, for a variety of reasons we will welcome your cash (or check) donations for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Special Offering on Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>.

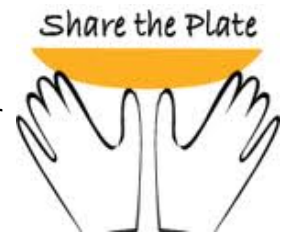
Early donations may be made and placed in the offering plates on Sunday Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> or sent to the church office.



## Share the Plate

What, you may ask, is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Special Offering Share the Plate (STP) program? The typical plan is for a church to share non-pledge donations on a designated Sunday each month with a service organization. The Social Justice Council and the Board share responsibility for selecting the organization or activities that receive our support on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month. Generally, we attempt to support local recipients for six months of the year, and UUA-related recipients the other six months.

If you would like to recommend a service organization or a UUA related program contact any member of the Social Justice Council; Congregation President: Jan Parsons or Rev. Dacia.



## MLK Day Observances



### Sunday Worship at UUCA January 15, 2012

The Worship Committee is thrilled to announce that our guest speaker on Martin Luther King Sunday (1/15/2012) is **Dr. Leon Spencer** recipient of the UUA's Distinguished Service Award in 2007.

### Augusta Progressive Coalition MLK Observance

**January 12, 2012** 7:00pm  
Reid Memorial Presbyterian Church  
2261 Walton Way  
Keynote Speaker: **The Rev. Raphael Gamaliel Warnock**, Ph.D., Senior Pastor, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta, Georgia  
Contact: Rev. Dacia or Andy Reese

### MLK Parade—Augusta January 14, 2012

Contact: Jezibell Anat  
We have a chance to make Martin Luther King's dream a reality as we walk hand in hand with our brothers and sisters. Join us in affirmation of our UU Principles. We have a great time!  
The Parade usually starts at 1:00pm, but we try to line up around 11:00am. More specific info will be published in the E-announcements.

## Holiday Music "A Season For Dreaming"

Josef Patchen's CD is available for \$10.00 a copy through the holiday season.

Contact Josef Patchen at 706-825-0328, or [jcpatchen111@knology.net](mailto:jcpatchen111@knology.net).

His music is also available at CDBaby, Amazon, and iTunes. Josef's CD "Phantasmagoria Bohemiana", of classical piano, is available online only.

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

e-mail directly to the church office:  
[officeadmin@uuaugusta.org](mailto:officeadmin@uuaugusta.org)

*Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Augusta*

3501 Walton Way Ext  
Augusta, GA 30909  
Phone 706 .733 .7939

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

## November Attendance

November 6th  
106

November 13th  
112

November 20th  
110

November 27th  
102