



Unitarian Universalist Church of Augusta

UUCA Newsletter

Volume 16 Number 2

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President's Overview

Let me start with a big, "thank you!" to all the participants in the January 22nd **Congregation Meeting**. There were 55 members present and offering input. We heard about the progress of the Bylaws Working Group. We heard an update on the state of our budget. There were great questions, suggestions, ideas. Yes, we do love our details, don't we? That's ok. Thank you to everyone who was willing to be a part of the process. Look for the full report on the Bulletin Board.

Thank you to Alice Reese, April Wilson and Krystal Webber for agreeing to serve on the initial Right Relations Team. The three will be participating in a training opportunity provided by our District leaders March 9th and 10th. This training for right relations is open to anyone in the congregation who has a desire to understand the process and gain some skills. Look for details on the training in the E-nouncements. As the host congregation, we will be providing snacks and lunch. If you're willing to help with food or set up/clean up, let me know.

The major item on the agenda concerned our future in ministry- where should we go from here- settled, interim, lay-lead or some combination? After discussion, we agreed that we needed to continue with Rev. Dacia as Interim Minister for at least another year. Making that decision is a good start, but now the work begins. Who are we as a congregation, a faith community? Where do we see ourselves over the next few years and on into the future? How do we get there and how do we pay for it? We still have a deficit to address for this year. Continuing our Interim Ministry and looking forward to a future search for a settled minister will be challenging. The annual stewardship campaign will focus on our future. Pat Lynch-Hayes, Tony Urry, Jan Parsons, Rev. Dacia with input from Andy and Alice Reese are planning this year's drive. Commitment Sunday, the day we traditionally offer our pledges for the coming fiscal year will be March 25th. Mark your calendar; save the date. In the weeks leading up to Commitment Sunday, you will have the opportunity to meet in small stewardship circles to share your thoughts about our future. What keeps us all coming back to this community? Why is this place so important? What do we do really well and how does that happen? What programs/initiatives/groups are we willing and able to support?

We have a rich history that will soon be more visible, thanks to the Endowment Fund. We honor that, but know that we must continue to look to the future as we enjoy the present. There is much work to do. We need your ideas, your energy, your special talents and yes, we need your money.

Together we can do amazing things in this church and in our wider community. And, as the old commercial said "thank you for your support".

Jan Parsons,
Congregation President

Summary of the January 22nd Congregational Meeting begins on page 3

UUCA Receives MLK Jr. Drum Major for Justice Award

Our church was honored by the MLK, Jr Memorial Committee at the First Baptist Church MLK, Jr Memorial Celebration on January 16, 2012



UUCA Newsletter

Programming Changes for the Senior High Youth

by Pam Harris, Senior High Youth Advisor

We have decided to change things up a bit to tailor programming to fit the youth's unique needs and interests. We are going to move away from Sunday morning programming and encourage our senior high youth to become more active within the congregation, finding a niche that will engage them more fully, such as singing in the choir or helping out in the R.E. wing during class.

In addition, we will begin having a movie day once a month. Our first movie day will be on Sunday, February 19th at 2pm. We will have snacks for the viewing and will conclude with a discussion after the film. Our first film will be "Saved". Former members of the youth group have been invited to attend and we are extending the invitation to all members of the church.

We also plan to include activities such as helping with the soup kitchen and other social action projects to further bring us all together to help build a better community. We will work with the Social Justice Committee to find projects that engage our youth.

If you have any questions just let me know!

Membership Memos

by Chris Palmer, Membership Committee co-chair

The Membership Committee has been busy welcoming visitors. We would like to invite our members to join us in making folks who enter into our church feel welcome. The committee is looking for volunteers to be greeters one Sunday a month. This is a great way to meet new people and get to know other members and friends. We have our committee meetings once a month if you are interested in joining the committee.

We are now planning for the next **UU 101** and 102 (Sunday, **February 26th** & March 11th). Look for the details in the E-announcements and Signup Sheet in the Hallway. We hope that you will come and join us.

Endowment Fund News

by Bob Linsenmayer, Endowment Committee chair

Good News! The UUCA Endowment Fund had earnings of approximately \$9,500 in 2012. Who said you can't make money on your investments these days? In accordance with the Endowment Fund by-laws, half of this amount will be transferred to the church for one or more designated purposes, which do not include covering the church's general operating expenses.

The Endowment Fund committee recommends that a portion of this contribution be used to fund what Rev. Dacia calls, the UUCA Visible History Project. The committee also recommends that the balance of the contribution go into the UUCA Scholarship Fund, which is used to send children, teens and adults to UU events from Cons, to Regional Workshops, to Leadership Experience, to GA and to camp.

Full Moon Vespers

Sunday, **February 5th** - 7:00pm
Sanctuary

This full moon we're celebrating Imbolc, one of the sacred Celtic fire festivals, also known as Candlemas. This service honors Bride, the Irish triple goddess of healing, poetry and smithcraft, who became Christianized as St. Bridget.

Contact Jezibell kyriapanagia@yahoo.com



Adult Faith Development

by Andy Reese, A. F. D. chair

Based on the responses to the survey on Adult Faith Development, the next class will be *The Heart and Soul of Money*. There will be five sessions beginning Sunday, **February 12th** from **1-2:30pm** and continuing on the second Sunday of each month through June. It is based on a series of one-hour lectures given by John Dominic Crossan and Joerg Rieger at Chautauqua Institute last summer. We will listen to the lecture then discuss it, perhaps bringing in information from other sources. Alice and I found them fascinating and provocative. Capitalism as currently practiced in the US is bringing results that are not fully consistent with some of our values as UUs. Crossan and Rieger are beginning to explore ideas about how it could be repaired or altered.

Sign up on the sheets that will be available after church on Sundays. We will make arrangements for sandwiches or other lunch things to be delivered (Dutch treat) or some other arrangement.

January Attendance

January 1st
79

January 8th
126

January 15th
118

January 22nd
113

January 29th
111

Summary of Congregational Meeting

Unitarian Universalist Church of Augusta

January 22, 2012 – 12:45pm - Sanctuary

- The meeting was called to order by congregation President, Jan Parsons. Secretary, Saralyn Ingram certified that the 55 members in attendance constituted a quorum. Sandy Hochel was designated as the parliamentarian for the meeting.
- Rev. Dacia presented the Gift of Honor Certificate to Don Hostetler in celebration of his 50+ years of collecting data for the congregation.
- The By Laws Committee presented a report of their activities to date and will invite congregational comment in the near future.
- The meeting approved a few revisions to the Covenant of Right Relations. The revised and approved version is below.
- It was decided that the remaining portions of the Right Relations information in the packet constitute policy and suggestions for changes could be directed to the Board.

UUCA Covenant of Right Relations - *As approved January 22, 2012*

Preamble: In our church community, we strive to interact with each other in positive and supportive ways. This begins with honoring our first principle, respect for the inherent worth and dignity of all people, in all of our interpersonal interactions. We recognize that there will be times when we misunderstand each other and need to clarify our communications, our intentions and or our interactions.

Covenant

To honor our commitment to each other and this congregation, we covenant (promise) to treat each other with respect and dignity. We will build on this foundation to

- Communicate with kindness and support
- Accept responsibility for our individual acts
- Serve the congregation with compassion and commitment
- Freely explore our values and those of others
- Honor our diversity as a source of communal strength
- Be open to having others call us back to “being in covenant” when we fail to live up to these standards

Introduction of Right Relations Team: Rev. Dacia Reid introduced the members of the initial Right Relations Team: Alice Reese, April Wilson, and Krystal Webber. The team will be active after their training is completed. The UU region is sponsoring Right Relations Training on March 9-10, 2012 at UUCA. Anyone in the church can attend the training at no charge.

State of the Budget

At the halfway point in our Fiscal Year, nine of our 97 pledge units have been paid their pledges in full. Fifty-two of our pledge units have paid at least half of their pledge. Thirty-six of our pledge units have paid less than half of their pledge. Statements have been made available to all pledging members and friends and reminder notes have been sent to thirty-four of the pledge units that have paid less than half asking that the minister or church office be notified if there is a change in circumstances that will prevent full payment of the pledge. Until we have those responses it is difficult to project whether we will come in at or under the \$7,000 (3%) deficit projected at the Annual meeting in June of 2011.

Next Steps in Ministry

Working with the "Next Steps in Ministry" portion of the Meeting Packet, Jan Parsons led a discussion of the six options outlined, including costs related to each of the options. Rev. Dacia answered questions and stressed that the congregation could create their own variation on the options listed.

Jan reported the Board recommendation that the church decide to continue Rev. Dacia's interim ministry for a 3rd year, until June 31, 2013, as described in Option 3.

Option - 3- Continue Interim Ministry for 3rd year –

- a. working with Rev. Dacia or working with another Interim Minister
- b. focus on development of congregational goals – based on model described in More Than Numbers (minimum of four to six months)
 - i. Loren Mead in the book, More Than Numbers: The Ways Churches Grow clearly spells out the need for maturational, organic and incarnational growth before any growth in numbers will be sustainable.
 - ii. perhaps as soon as March – June of 2012
- c. Then, based on the goals developed, make decision regarding Search or Developmental Ministry.
- d. Continue Focus on the five tasks of Interim ministry (see above).

Amendment to Option 3: add a working group that will address the necessary steps for the future ministry.

Approved Option 3, as amended – to continue a 3rd year of Interim Ministry with Rev. Dacia Reid in the role of Interim Minister

Rev. Dacia observes that the Congregation's decision to implement Option 3 is a first step. Now comes the stewardship challenge of raising the necessary funds to make the decision operational.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30pm

The Draft Minutes of the meeting and the notated meeting packet are posted on the Bulletin Board in the Hallway.

Gift to Church Library

Many thanks to **Mary Ann Horne** for the books she donated to our Church Library. The books belonged to her father who was a minister.

The new-to-us titles are:

Hegemony or Survival: America's Quest for Global Dominion by Noam Chomsky

Being Liberal in an Illiberal Age by Jack Mendelsohn

On Death & Dying by Elizabeth Kübler Ross

Praying the Psalms by Walter Brueggemann

Night by Elie Wiesel

Pax Romana and the Peace of Jesus Christ by Klaus Wengst

The Art of Loving by Erick Fromm

Now We Can Speak: A Journey through the New Nicaragua by Frances Moore Lappé & Joseph Collins

Man's Search for Meaning by Viktor E. Frankl

World Winds: Meditations from the Blessed of the Earth by Earl & Pat Hostetter Martin

Nametags – Where's Yours? Wear Yours!

Despite the occasional complaint that nametags are “too formal” they are the best way to broadly support getting acquainted. A name tag is a great way to connect names and faces and lets newcomers and long-time members meet on an equal footing.

If your name tag has gone missing, do ask for a replacement. You can sign-up on a blue Information Card in the welcome area outside the sanctuary or call the church office.

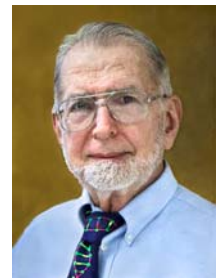
Gift of Honor – Don Hostetler

One thousand dollars was received during January in recognition of Don Hostetler's 57 years of congregational data collection.

Thank you, again, Don!

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-announcements and the Newsletter



Decoding UUCA

UUCA = Unitarian Universalist Church of Augusta

UUA = Unitarian Universalist Association (of Congregations)

SED = Southeast District (our region of the UUA)

Southern Cluster = our area of the South East District which includes the congregations in Augusta, Statesboro, Savannah and Brunswick, GA and Aiken, Beaufort, Bluffton, Columbia and Charleston, SC.

GA = General Assembly – the annual (late June) continental gathering of Unitarian Universalists. The 2012 GA will be in Phoenix, AZ

CSAIs = Congregational Study-Action Issues— topics of concern selected at GA to be the focus of study and action for UU congregations across the country over the course of a four year period.

SSL = Standing on the Side of Love (pronounced Sizzle), SSL is a “campaign to harness love's power to challenge exclusion, oppression and violence based on sexual orientation, gender identity, immigration status, race, religion, or any other identity.” SSL was created and is encouraged by the UUA to foster action at the congregational level.

UUSC = Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

GAYT = Guest At Your Table – a UUAC program that helps congregations encourage individual and family focus on the various programs of the UUSC. GAYT programs generally include a small cardboard box (on one's kitchen table) into which one is encouraged to deposit spare change over the course of four to six weeks. UUCA will be distributing GAYT boxes on Sunday March 4th.

M.L.K. Parade - 2012

The Social Justice Committee extends a huge THANKS to all who participated in the MLK Parade this year.

There were a mighty 24 of us making a respectful and visible statement of our faith's commitment to honoring Dr. King's message of love and non-violence.

The donations of a microphone, candy, truck and trailer were greatly appreciated and we couldn't have asked for a more beautiful day.

The Augusta community displayed its appreciation of our presence and we look forward to more of our congregation joining us next year.



Workday Success

by Frank Carl, Building and Grounds chair

In spite of the rain last Saturday we had a very productive workday at the church. But even before Saturday Hans Nitsch showed up to work on the window frames facing Walton Way and to flush the downspouts from the roof, and Dick Donnelly mulched leaves in the playground.

While most of the workers chose to work inside on a rainy Saturday, Liz Goodson, our chocolate chip cookie supplier, braved the weather and picked up deadfall around the church in the rain.



Liz Goodson

Herb Neumann spackled the wall in R.E. Room 6 and saved the day with his identification of our leak problem in the rebuilt faucet in that room.



Greg Sutherland

Greg Sutherland with an assist from Stephen Heyl corrected ceiling tiles, replaced lights in R.E. and the Common Room and replaced electrical switches.



Frank Carl, Herb Neumann, Stephen Heyl

Stephen Heyl and Shawn Burke also braved the weather temporarily to plan an R.E. porch ramp for the disabled and a crawspace door replacement, respectively.



Claire and Bob Shannon

But the triumph of the day was when the team of Greg, Shawn, Stephen, Herb, and Ann finally installed a faucet in room 6 that did not leak.

While Richard Dillenbeck tightened the bolts in the ceiling rafters in the sanctuary and cleaned the aerial spaces, Pat Lynch-Hayes organized the music files in the store room and Claire and Bob Shannon and Jan Parsons created order in the store room and fixed the Worship Committee's storage cabinet.



Richard Dillenbeck

While all of that drama was occurring, Andrea Burke was cleaning up and organizing the toddlers' room and her daughters, Piper and Fiona, were entertaining and inspiring the workers.



Andrea and Piper Burke

Thank you all!



Ann Sutherland

Jan Parsons also acted as the official recorder of the event on film.

Ann Sutherland, with an assist from Shawn Burke, acted as our liaison with Home Depot bringing back essential supplies to the team.

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

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

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Church of Augusta**

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