



Domelight



Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa
Rev. Elizabeth Brown, Minister

January 2007
Katie Templin Culbert, Dir. Religious Education

Interim Inklings

I frequently talk about “congregational health,” but it may not be clear what I mean. The phrase of course implies a metaphor—a religious community is like a body. A church is not a static system as much as an organism—living, growing, and changing.

Unitarian Universalist minister Tom Owen-Towle has written a book entitled *Growing a Beloved Community: Twelve Hallmarks of a Healthy Congregation*. Owen-Towle maintains that for Unitarian Universalists, “the growth of a soul is the work not of an individual but of a community. It charges our independent wills to serve the interdependent web.”

I highly recommend this book to all church members. I’d like to share these twelve hallmarks with you here. I particularly like the way they all begin with verbs, suggesting positive actions that promote congregational health:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Occupy Holy Ground | 7. Look Back, Around, and Ahead |
| 2. Welcome All Souls | 8. Spread Our Good News |
| 3. Care for Your Own | 9. Practice Respect |
| 4. Give Everyone a Voice | 10. Nurture Stewards |
| 5. Encourage Unity Amidst Diversity | 11. Keep Journeying |
| 6. Balance Justice and Joy | 12. Know That You Are Not Alone |

While I cannot explore all of these in my allotted space, I would like to highlight two, beginning with the first. Owen-Towle takes the phrase “holy ground” from Felix Adler, the founder of Ethical Culture, who said, “The place where we meet to seek the highest is holy ground.” Healthy congregations are “holy” because they seek to serve whole human beings – acknowledging that the hallowed is present amid the ordinary and the commonplace.

Microsoft chairman Bill Gates brags that he doesn’t go to church “because it isn’t an efficient use of time,” and he’s right. But many yearn for a renewal beyond efficiency. This, by the way, is why I am opposed to conducting church business on Sundays, except on special occasions such as the Annual Meeting or calling a minister. In the Jewish tradition of the Sabbath, even the oxen were given a day off. Surely our church leaders deserve a chance to nourish their spirits one day a week.

The other hallmark I’d like to spotlight is #9, Practice Respect. Many UU congregations have created Behavioral Covenants, or, as some call them, Covenants of Right Relations. One way to foster healthy relationships in a congregation is to embrace conflict as inevitable, even desirable. As Owen-Towle puts it, “Hearty turmoil elicits new ideas and understandings. It’s the fire in which a vibrant parish is tempered.”

An absence of visible conflict is not necessarily a healthy sign. It may mean that folks are sweeping controversies under the rug, rather than managing or resolving them. Church members need to learn to disagree openly and with love. This congregation has begun creating Covenant. In the coming year I hope the final stage of implementing that covenant will be created. The Committee on Ministry has undertaken to lead this important work.

I wish you all a healthy New Year, both as individuals and as a religious community.

Blessings,
Rev. Liz

**Don’t let this be
your last issue!**

See article page 2

The Prez Says

Diana Stevens

Can you believe it has been another year? What a year the past one has been. There have been several sad passings in our congregation recently. The Reverend Marjorie Bowens-Wheatley passed away December 10, 2006 and beloved Janet Tobin passed away the same week. The memorial service for Janet was in December and the one for Marjorie will be January 7, 2007. Earlier in the year, we lost Susan Miller. But, we can celebrate their lives and what they meant to this community. That is what this congregation seems to do best. We minister to our members and honor each and every person who becomes a part of our church. Welcome to all who come and check us out. Blessed Be to those who come and join us in our celebration of faith.

The congregational meeting was wonderful. We all spoke our piece, discussed ideas, asked questions and then made the decision to adopt the budget. It is a leap of faith that our fund raising efforts will raise enough money to cover the one time expenses of calling a new settled minister and the additional investment in the Religious Education Director and Committee. Thank you all who attended and participated in our democratic process.

Because of the new budget, we are continuing with our commitment to Religious Education. Katie Culbert will now be a half-time employee with benefits. This is important to Katie but also to us as a growing community. We are putting our investments where we believe they will be the most effective for our church and the community. We have increased the amount for the RE Committee which includes the Adult RE program. There are exciting things coming!

I'm speaking now to NEW MEMBERS and VISITORS who have not yet found their niche. We welcome you and encourage you to use your talents on one of the committees that do so much of the ministering at the church. There are small tasks and large – depending on your time and talent. This would not only benefit the church but it will integrate you with the members. Get to know us and let us get to know you. Step up and say what you are interested in. Just join a group and participate. Come to a Friendship Dinner. Speak to a Board Member or any of the committee members or chairs. Remember, you get out of something as much as you put into it.



Ensure you keep receiving the Domelight!

As recommended by the board and approved at the Congregational meeting on December 17th, 2006, the Domelight will no longer be mailed effective with the February issue (next month). This change is to help trim the associated costs from the budget. However, the Domelight is still an important part of this congregation and will continue to exist on the website at www.uutampa.org.

Notification that the Domelight has been posted on the website will be sent to the UUCT e-group. If you do not subscribe to the e-list and would like to, go to the Yahoo group, <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/UUTampa/> and follow the instructions to join the group.

An email distribution is being created for anyone who does not want to subscribe to the e-list; however, many of the emails on the current list are not correct. To ensure we have your correct email information in the Membership directory, please email the church office at info@uutampa.org with the subject line "Email address update" -- and be sure to **include your name** in the message. If you have recently moved or have a new phone number, now's a good time to update that information too by including it in your email message!

For those in our congregation that do not have access to the Internet, paper copies of the Domelight will be available at the church. Also, for a \$15.00 donation, the Domelight will be mailed to you. PLEASE NOTE: the donation is for a 1-year Domelight subscription. **Please make sure you advise the office by January 15, 2007 to ensure you don't miss a copy of the Domelight.**

Domelight is published monthly by:

Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa
11400 Morris Bridge Rd
Tampa, FL 33637-1902
(813)988-8188

Free to members and contributing friends: others are requested to make a \$15 donation for a one-year subscription.

Domelight deadline is generally the Sunday closest to the 15th of each month. Deadline for the next issue is January 14th. Articles may be submitted by e-mail to Domelight@chrisandjamie.net

Submissions should include a contact name and phone number.

Editor: Chris Hendrickx

Membership Team Re-orientation

Tuesday, Jan. 9, 7:00 PM

The Membership Team needs a few good UUs! Anyone interested in becoming part of this vital program of our church is invited. Judy Lehman will share some exciting new initiatives from the Florida District and the UUA toward enabling congregations to become more welcoming and to retaining both new and longtime members.

For more information, contact Judy at (813) 866-0591, or Rev. Liz at (727) 599-6132.



Evensong Class (Sample Covenant Group)

Co-facilitators Joan Lund and Rev. Liz Brown
Feb. 6 – March 27, 7:00-9:00 PM (consecutive Tuesdays)

Evensong is an eight-week series of gatherings focused on earnest listening and sharing of thoughts, beliefs, and journeys in spirituality and religious life. It will be presented in the Covenant Group format—group size will be limited to twelve, advance sign-up is required, and the group will be closed after the second session. If you are interested in being a part of this group, please contact Joan at (813) 931-9727 or Rev. Liz at (727) 599-6132.



New UU Class, January 6

Rev. Liz and the Membership Team will offer a condensed, comprehensive orientation class for new and prospective UUs, as well as for current members who'd like to refresh their understanding of our movement and our church. Topics to be covered include personal faith journeys, UU history, liberal religious theology and values, and the operations of the UUCT. The class will run 9AM – 6PM.

A light lunch will be served. Childcare will be provided if the request is made by December 28th. If you plan to attend, R.S.V.P. to Rev Liz at 727-599-6132.



UU Can Make a Difference! Religious Education for Children and Youth

Katie Culbert,
Director of Religious Education
DRE@uutampa.org; 813-988-8188

Happy New Year! I hope that y'all had a wonderful holiday

season full of family and friends. I hope that your Unitarian Universalist Service Committee "guest" was made to feel welcome in your home! In case you do not know what "guest" I am speaking of, let me remind you. One of our current social justice projects is *Guest at Your Table* - the annual fundraiser for the **Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)**. The UUSC, founded in 1939 to rescue victims of Nazi persecution, is an independent human rights organization whose work is grounded in UU principles and made possible by the activism and generosity of more than 47,000 members and supporters. For more than 30 years, UU communities nationwide have participated in *Guest at Your Table*. They have come together for this special tradition to give thanks, celebrate UU values, and partner with UUSC to change the world. This year *Guest at Your Table* participants are supporting the work of UUSC and its program partners to strengthen workers' rights, protect the right to safe, affordable water, defend civil liberties and democratic processes, and preserve the rights of vulnerable people after disasters. *Guest at Your Table* is a UU tradition that educates our communities about human needs and human rights while sharing our blessings.

In November, you took a *Guest at Your Table* box home to keep on your table during the holiday season. At each meal, you contributed money to the box, imagining that you were hosting a guest at your table. **The money will be collected during the January 14th worship service. Count the money you have collected and write a check to UUSC in that amount.** Please remember, all donations of \$75.00 or more will be matched by the congregation at Shelter Rock. Also, don't forget to fill out the information form located on the bottom of the box and turn that in as well.

This year's RE theme, **UU Can Make a Difference**, focuses on how we, as Unitarian Universalists, are called to make the world a fair, free, and peaceful place where all people are treated with dignity and respect. Through activities, lessons, invited guests and outreach projects, the children and youth are learning the importance of living our UU values. **On December 3rd we hit the neighborhood streets of Temple Terrace gathering food and donations for Metropolitan Ministries**, a local organization that has served poor and homeless men, women, and children year-round for 33 years in the Tampa Bay region. We had a small but mighty group and collected more than 350 pounds of food and \$40.00!

Thank you Sophi, Elio, and Kelli Lopardo, Kaden, Kyle, Kevin, Arielle, and Tiffany Click, Robyn and Dawn Bergeron, Mattie Hayes, Lynn Parrish, Judy Lehman, Joan Lund, Russell Patterson, and JD and Desmond Culbert for your hard work!

(Continued, page 4)

RE – UU Can Make a Difference, from page 3

We will be participating in the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade on Monday, January 15th. The first two weeks of RE in January will be spent exploring racial justice and preparing for the parade. If you would like to help please contact Kelli Lopardo at 831-7830 or mslopardo@yahoo.com.

YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists) is a group of middle and high school youth who meet each Sunday in the youth room (small dome) at 11:00AM. All youth are invited to attend. This great opportunity for fellowship with other UU youth strengthens youth leadership and encourages community. The next district-wide, all-ages conference is January 12th – 14th in Gainesville. Check the bulletin board for more information.

On February 9th and 10th, our church is hosting a district wide **Consultation on Youth Ministry: An Opportunity for Visioning and Growth.** Ministry with youth is about listening, empowerment, and spiritual guidance. It is instrumental to the vitality and growth of Unitarian Universalist communities. The Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations is embarking on a two-year process to revitalize and strengthen youth ministry. Congregational engagement in the process is essential to its success. This event is not just for youth and parents: **All UU's are encouraged to attend and contribute to the discussion regarding the future of youth programming in the Florida District.** It is very exciting that our church is hosting this event because we have a vibrant and strong youth group that is involved on a district level and is committed to youth empowerment and UU youth leadership. You will be called on not only to participate in this event, but also to help. We will need folks who can offer home hospitality and help with meal preparation and clean up. If you can help, please contact RE Committee member Kaarla McKenzie at kaarla@sourceexecutive.com or 813.909.4434.

Parents and Guardians: We have a great year of justice oriented activities planned for RE each Sunday and much work is being put into the program. We encourage you to bring your children on a regular basis – doing so connects them more deeply to their UU community, strengthens their friendships with other UU children and adults, and improves their understanding of Unitarian Universalism and the lessons being taught throughout the year. We welcome your input on the program and urge you to contact Katie to volunteer during the year.

Teachers Needed!!!

Teachers are needed to help with our upcoming Gay/Lesbian family equality rotation. This is a commitment of 4 Sundays. Please contact Katie or an RE Committee member to sign up.

Upcoming Religious Education Classes

January 7 – Racial Justice activity: parade preparation
 January 14 – Racial Justice activity: parade preparation
 January 21 – Racial Justice activity
 January 28 – Racial Justice activity
 February 4 – Lesbian and Gay Family Equality
 February 11 – Lesbian and Gay Family Equality
 February 18 – Lesbian and Gay Family Equality
 February 25 – Lesbian and Gay Family Equality



Adult Religious Education

Welcome to Adult RE for Winter/Spring 2007! Be on the lookout for our new flyer that will feature new and exciting classes to take, books to read, and movies to see.

CLASSES: On the first and third Mondays in January, February, and March, Wicca 101 returns. Details regarding this class can be found under CUUPS.

On the second Monday of each month, facilitated discussions of issues raised by the Commission on Appraisal's report entitled, *Engaging Our Theological Diversity* will be offered. For anyone who wants to know more about UU, and anyone who wants to discuss current issues, this course is for you. It will be a year-long program that focuses on the heart of Unitarian Universalism. It will provide an excellent opportunity for UUs not only to learn more about UUism, but to better understand its role in our lives and our society. Discussions will be facilitated by different people throughout the year and the topic *du jour* will be publicized in advance.

MOVIES: This month, our *Popcorn and Opinions* series showcases the acclaimed movie, *What the Bleep*, which will be hosted and facilitated by Mary Francis and Ollis Hughes on Friday, January 19th, at 7:00PM. This movie will propel you into a space "where quantum uncertainty is demonstrated - where neurological processes, and perceptual shifts are engaged and lived by its protagonist - where everything is alive, and reality is changed by every thought." (DVD cover) Definitely a must see.

The movie "Who's Counting" will be facilitated by Suzie Siegel and hosted by Liz Taylor on Sunday, January 21st at 6:30PM. This 94 minute, award-winning documentary, is used in a course approved by the UUA. The narrator, Marilyn Waring, was elected to the New Zealand parliament at age 22. She had planned to return to her first love, classical music, but instead overturned her government's policy on nuclear power. The video is described as an entertaining primer for anyone who suffers from economic anxiety. The video is marketed to those interested in feminism, economics, social justice, the environment or global issues. It holds appeal for young people who wonder how they can make a difference. Please contact Liz (Continued, Page 5)

Adult RE, From Page 4

Taylor at 813-237-8497 or liztaylorfl@gmail.com for directions.

BOOK: The book of the month for January will be *Night*, by Elie Wiesel, a noted Holocaust survivor. *Night* has maintained a phenomenally long-time appearance on the New York Times Bestseller list for nonfiction. Curt Leviant, of the *Saturday Review*, writes, "Wiesel has taken his own anguish and imaginatively metamorphosed it into art." Ralph Lehman will be the facilitator of the discussion of *Night* on Sunday, January 14th after the service. (Bring a bag lunch or snack, so you won't be too hungry to miss out on this.)

Don't miss the additional offerings for adults from other groups such as CUUPS, RUUGS, SHAAG, Current Affairs, Choir, A Walk in the Park, and Interweave. Have a Happy, Educational New Year!



Welcoming Congregation

Tempie Taudte & Jay Hall

In 1993, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa became a *Welcoming Congregation*. What does that mean? That we're friendly to visitors? Yes, of course. But *Welcoming Congregation* has a more specific meaning for UU's.

The *Welcoming Congregation Program* is a special program for congregations that seek to become more inclusive towards bisexual, gay, lesbian, and/or transgender people. It includes a series of workshops developed by the UUA. The goal of the workshops is to reduce prejudice by increasing understanding and acceptance among people of different sexual orientations.

In 1993, our congregation held a series of discussion groups in which we discussed "How Homophobia Hurts Heterosexuals," "Connections to Other Forms of Oppression," "Gender Socialization and Homophobia," and "Biblical Perspectives on Homosexuality." We read articles in preparation for the meetings and held thoughtful discussions, which included both gay and straight members.

The workshop was particularly relevant to us as parents of a lesbian daughter. We gained a better understanding of her world and insight into our feelings. This experience was invaluable to us as parents, UU's, and members of the larger community.

After our congregation completed the program, we received a plaque from the UUA, which officially recognized us as a *Welcoming Congregation*. We are proud to be members of a *Welcoming Congregation* and hope that we will continue to earn that designation as we interact in community.

To learn more about the *Welcoming Congregation Program*, go to www.uua.org and search for "Welcoming Congregation."



Church Council meeting January 28

All Church committee chairs and other interested parties will be gathering after service on the 28th of January to eat pizza and discuss what the various committees are doing and how we can help one another get things done. The meeting will start about 12:30PM and will either be in the small dome or the large one - to be determined. Committee chairs will be getting reminder emails in the middle of January. Call Bill Blymiller (813 988-6551) with questions. Mark your calendars; it will be fun!



From the Search Committee

Thanks to our congregation for selecting our committee in a timely manner; we are right on track with the search. Our packet was completed at the end of November, and we exchanged packets with ministers in December. Please keep us in your thoughts as we go through this very interesting and important process in early 2007. We will keep you posted as to our progress. Thank you for your continued trust and support!

Pat Benedict, Fran Davin, Ollis Hughes, Mike Lloyd, Barbara Nelson and Suzie Siegel



Concerts in the Dome

Gloria Holloway

Happy Musical New Year, One & All!

Folk music is impossible to define. If you think, "Oh, ho hum, it's folk music," let me encourage you to think again. With our concerts, we use the word "folk" in a very broad sense. Try it. You might like it!

I hope you saw the December 12th *Tampa Tribune* feature article by Susan Hemmingway about Tom Paley who did a concert for us in November.

The article can be found on the *Tampa Tribune's* website. If Tom returns to Florida this summer, we'll try to arrange an encore.

Saturday, January 20th at 2:00PM, we will co-host a free folk music mini-fest with Friends of Florida Folk (FOFF), a non-profit organization celebrating its 25th year in 2007. Donations will be appreciated. FOFF will conduct a business meeting at 10:00AM before mini-fest. Special guest speakers include Elaine McGrath, who coordinates the Florida Folk Festival, and (Continued, Page 6)

Concerts, From Page 5

national touring artists Steve Gillette & Cindy Mangsen. At 1:00PM, there will be lunchtime pizza and birthday cake, followed by the folk mini-fest at 2:00PM. Featured performers include Art Crummer & Friends (acoustic blues), Dale Webber & Linda Fackeldey (old-time), Steve Gillette & Cindy Mangsen (folk), and Ray Belanger & Lloyd Goldstein (classical folk). Mike Jurgensen, Jack Williams and Robin Leach will close with a musical tribute to Steve Blackwell, a beloved Florida musician who died in 2006. An open circle acoustic jam will follow. Tuesday January 23rd at 7:30PM we will welcome Eric Taylor to the dome. Cost is a mere \$12. "To say that Eric Taylor is one of the finest writers of our time would be an understatement. He is the William Faulkner of songwriting," says Nanci Griffith. I have a special place in my heart for him because when he was on Austin City Limits, he remarked how much he enjoyed performing at the Tampa UU Church concert series. That was a few years ago. Eric says it's still true, and we still like having him. Please be here to welcome him back.

www.bluerubymusic.com

All events are open to the public. For information see www.foff.org or contact Gloria.



Friendship Dinners

Martha Robinson

The December Friendship Dinner was held December 9th at Martha Robinson and Bud Clough's in Temple Terrace with 23 folks attending. The weather held and we were able to enjoy the out-of-doors with the help of a fire-pit...no mosquitos!

The sign-up sheet for the January dinner, which will be held at Joan Lund and Gene Pizzo's home, is posted in the foyer of the church, or call Martha Robinson (985-4777) to register. Also, if anyone else would like to host a January dinner please call Martha Robinson (985-4777) as soon as possible so a sign up sheet can be posted for your dinner too.

(Continued, Page 10)

Friendship Dinners, From Page 9

We are also looking for a host for a February dinner.

For those of you new to UUCT and the Friendship Dinner scene, it works like this: the host usually supplies the entrée and the guests bring the rest of the meal, but that is not carved in stone. Your host will contact you to find out what you would like to bring. These dinners are a great way to get to know other UUCTers in a less formal setting, with good food, good company and good conversation.



SHAAG / SHAAFT

Bill Blymiller

The Secularists, Humanists, Atheists, Agnostics, and Free Thinkers Group meets on the first and third Wednesdays of each month to discuss topics of interest. The meeting is at 7:00PM and is in the nursery or the small dome depending on the turnout. In January the schedule is:

Wednesday, January 3rd, *The New York Times* article titled, "A Free-for-All on Science and Religion."

Wednesday, January 17th, A discussion of the UU World Winter 2006 article titled, "Reason and Reverence."

By next month, we will have a web link for you to visit to preview the material. If you are interested in the group or the topics, email Bill Blymiller at bill@blymiller.com for more info. Keep checking the SHAAG link on the Church Website as we add more material. Our quote for the month is from James Morrow, "'There are no atheists in foxholes' isn't an argument against atheism, it's an argument against foxholes."



Book Fair

Sunday, January 28th after church
(last month incorrect date listed)

The **Big Book Fair** is this month! Now is the time to start bringing your books to the Church. Katie has consented to letting us store books in the RE Dome so bring them there. A sign in the RE Dome will direct you to where they are being stored.

This is a fund raiser and a great opportunity to get that book you have always been looking for at far less than you would pay elsewhere, and an opportunity to clean out your book cases for the New Year. For more information see or call Lynn Parrish 813-949-1334 or Joan Lund 813-931-9727.



UUA Trustee Tidbits

Joan Lund

May I be among the first to wish you and your congregation a fine 2007. May you prosper and grow in a manner amenable to your aspirations and goals. One of the frequently addressed topics in our UUA is governance. As you know, our District Board was one of the first to adopt policy governance and many others have followed their lead. Church boards across our UUA are also

(Continued, Page 7)

Trustee Tidbits, From Page 6

studying and adapting their boards to follow this model. Although not an expert in policy governance, I believe one of the questions needing to be asked when considering policy governance is, "What is the difference between management and leadership"?

Management is what is done to make an organization run smoothly. Sometimes leaders are satisfied by doing management things and are too often satisfied with, and rewarded by keeping the congregation and certain individuals happy. While management-type leaders often ask if they are doing things right, leadership involves continually asking if right things are being done. According to Rev. Dr. Gilbert Rendle, Alban Institute, studies show there are two types of church members: those who have been in the congregation over 20 years and those who have been there 10 years or less. Each group has different values: long-term members value a "team" approach to fixing wrongs, deferred gratification, and saving money; short-term members are more individual-centered. As individuals they want to spend money because its worth today is more than it will be tomorrow. For various reasons long-term members may become the leaders at church. Leaders, whether long or short term members, need ways to work with both groups, because leadership trumps management.

I offer from Dr. Rendle the following suggestions for making leadership work: keep your congregation focused and informed (surprised people don't behave well); remember change comes from the "edges" of your congregation, not the center; be models of civility so that expressing oneself occurs at a meeting rather than the parking lot; keep folks in the conversation by using descriptive rather than evaluative language, i.e. describing, rather than evaluating what was wrong with it; and when necessary, leaders need to get nurturing by a colleague or someone else outside the church because leaders cannot be nurtured by the congregation they are trying to serve.

Please know your UUA Board of Trustees is always asking if the right things are being done. Our Board profits when we hear from you through me. I do take your concerns seriously and they are brought to the Board. Thanks for your continued support. I can be reached at jlund@uua.org and/or 813-931-9727. I wish the best to you all in 2007.



HOPE

Carol Partington

The HOPE Research and Issue Development Session was a great success. Our Rev. Liz gave a rousing opening prayer which ended in song. Wayne Taylor and Carol Partington were also in

attendance. The research strategy was explained. Homelessness is our new issue and we are continuing to work on transportation.

Rev. Warren Clark gave an overview of a report by the Homeless Coalition and the City of Tampa. Much work has already been done which we can use as a springboard. The research and committee work will extend through February of 2007. Then in early March we will formulate our strategy and the decision maker who can make it happen. On March 26, we will have our Rally where we vote on recommendations and prepare for action. On April 23, we will hold our Nehemiah Action, where hundreds of HOPE members meet with decision makers who can commit to proposed solutions.

Much help is needed along the way. The Research Team can use additional workers. And the rest of us need to put the above dates on our calendars. Begin to see yourself as part of a Justice Ministry Network. Think of three others (UUs, friends, neighbors) who will join you at the Nehemiah Action. In order to make a difference we must have power. As HOPE members, our power is in people, hundreds of people to face the decision makers.

If you'd like to be actively involved in this project, please contact Carol Partington, 813-985-9109.



Interweave

The mission statement of Interweave Continental, Inc.: "Interweave Continental is a membership organization actively working to end oppression based on sexual orientation and gender identity, recognizing that we will not be free until all oppression is a thing of the past. We are an affiliate organization of the Unitarian Universalist Association. We value and affirm the lives and experience of Queer people of faith of all ages, races, ethnicities, income levels, and abilities. By providing and supporting leadership, and working in collaboration with other organizations of similar vision, we strive to connect and nurture all Queer individuals, communities, groups, and their allies."

The local UUCT Chapter of Interweave will announce their next meeting during Sunday services. Please see the Order of Service for details or questions can be directed to Jonathan Roudabush.



In Memory

Hymnbooks have been donated to the church in memory of the following beloved members:

- Susan Miller by Janet Tobin
- Hazel Peterson by Bill & Harriet Blymiller

(Continued, Page 8)

In Memory, From Page 7

- Rev. Marjorie Bowens-Wheatly by Bill & Harriet Blymiller
- Janet Tobin by Bill & Harriet Blymiller



A Drink from CUUPS

Chris Hendrickx

Circles in the Woods CUUPS (Convent of Unitarian Universalist Pagans) is a committee within the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa.

Full Moon Celebrations

We host Full Moon Celebrations on the Saturday closest to the Full Moon. Ritual begins at 7:30PM followed by shared feasting.

This is an open family

(Continued, Page 13)

CUUPS, From Page 13

event, so yes, children are welcome! However, childcare is **not** provided so parents **are** responsible for the care of their children. Donations to help pay for the upkeep of the property are welcome!

Upcoming Rituals:

Jan 6th 7:30PM: Join Sacred Woods Coven as Auraine leads an animal totem ritual.

Circles in the Woods CUUPS Meetings

Circles in the Woods CUUPS holds a monthly business meeting the first Monday of each month at 7:00PM.

Wicca 101

The first quarter of 2007 brings the return of our Wicca 101 series. Classes will be on the first and third Mondays of January, February and March at 7:00PM.



Your help is needed!

Just a reminder, please help to clean the church. This is not only needed on Building & Grounds day, but also whenever you're there. We're not talking about anything difficult, but when you've had an event at the church, make sure all food is picked up and put away. Clean up all of your dishes. Take the garbage and recycle out and make sure to put lids on those cans to keep the critters from making a mess. Just these few simple tips can help make sure that we have a sanctuary that's ready to use when we want to use it, and helps keep the critters in the woods instead of in our kitchen.



Migrant Workers Program

The Charity Committee would like to remind you that there is a basket for food offerings at the church entrance. The basket is for nonperishable food and personal items, no clothing. Please try to remember to bring something to share with those less fortunate.



Minister's Hours

Rev. Liz will be in the UUCT Office on Mondays and Thursdays from 1:00PM to 7:00PM.

She is available for consultation in her home office on Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays between 9:00AM and 5:00PM at 727-599-6132.

She tries to observe a Sabbath (i.e., a total day off) on Wednesdays and her monthly Sunday off. However, like most ministers, she is available 24/7 for emergencies.



Care

Joyce Formica

If you need or know someone in need of a helping hand, the CARE committee is just a phone call away. Call any of the individuals listed on our bulletin board located in the hallway next to the kitchen door. If the person you called is unable to help you, they will arrange for someone else to respond to your needs. Or let the minister know and she will pass the information along. To volunteer, please call CARE committee chairperson Joyce Formica (813) 988-1907.



Walk in the Park

A group of UUs meet at Lettuce Lake Park Thursday mornings at 8:30AM for a brisk walk on the paved path and good conversation. To find the parking area and meeting place, take the Lettuce Lake Parkway to the end. Turn left and then immediately turn right into the parking lot. We will gather there and begin the walk at 8:30AM. You are welcome to join us. For more information, contact Patricia McCracken at 813-988-6453.



Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa
One Place: All Faiths
Creating a caring, justice-seeking community

Perpetual Gift

Consider giving a gift to the church by purchasing a hymnal in memory of a loved one or to honor a special person. Our hymnbook *Singing The Living Tradition* is available for \$32.00 a copy which includes shipping and handling fees and a personalized bookplate. When we receive five requests, we will place an order. Mail your check for \$32.00 made payable to UUCT, attention Hymn Book. Or place the check in the Sunday collection plate with a note. You will be notified before the book is placed in the sanctuary.



Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa Covenant

(Approved at May 4th, 2003 Congregational Meeting)

We, the members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa, covenant with one another:

- To be responsive to our church community while following our own spiritual paths.
- To honor diversity as a source of communal strength.

Because our acts and words weave the web that connects us to one another:

- We accept responsibility for what we do and say.
- We communicate with one another in kindness, support and respect for the democratic process.
- We strive to be a welcoming community.
- We support this church with our money and time.
- We make our contributions with compassion and commitment.
- We work together to build a joyful community that affirms peace, justice and spiritual fulfillment.



Calendar of weekly events

SUNDAY

10AM (Grades 1-12) Youth R.E. (Small Dome)
 10AM Meditation in the Meadow (follow Signs)
 10AM Current Affairs (Small Dome)
 11AM Sunday Service
 11AM Child Care for babies in the Nursery

WEDNESDAY

7:00PM Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY

8:30AM Nature Walk in the Park
 (info: 813-988-6453)

Calendar of January Events

Jan 1 Wicca 101 - Herstory 7:00PM
Jan 3 Choir Rehearsal 7:00PM
Jan 4 Walk in the Park 8:30AM
 RE Committee Meeting 6:30PM
Jan 6 New UU Class 9:00AM-6:00PM
 Full Moon Celebration 7:30PM
Jan 7 RE MLK Jr. Parade preparation
Jan 10 Choir Rehearsal 7:00PM
Jan 11 Walk in the Park 8:30AM
 Worship Committee 12:00PM
Jan 13 Buildings and Grounds Day
Jan 14 RE MLK Jr. Parade Preparation
 Adult RE: *Night* (after service)
Jan 15 MLK Jr. Parade
 Wicca 101 – Goddess & God 7:00PM
Jan 17 Choir Rehearsal 7:00PM
Jan 18 Walk in the Park 8:30AM
 UUCT Board Meeting 7:00PM
Jan 19 Adult RE: *What The Bleep* 7:00PM
Jan 20 Friends of Florida Folk Gathering
Jan 21 RE Racial Justice Activity
 Adult RE: *Who's Counting* 6:30PM
Jan 24 Choir Rehearsal 7:00PM
Jan 25 Walk in the Park 8:30AM
Jan 28 RE Racial Justice Activity
Jan 31 Choir Rehearsal 7:00PM

**Be sure you continue to get The Domelight!!
 See article page 2, don't let this be your last
 issue!**

Contents:

Board President's Column	Page 2
Care Committee	Page 8
Charity Committee	Page 8
Church Council	Page 5
Communications / Domelight	Page 2
Concerts	Page 5
District News	Pages 6-7
Friendship Dinners	Page 6
HOPE	Page 7
Interim Ministry	Page 1
Interweave	Page 7
Membership	Page 3
RE: Adult	Page 4
RE: Youth	Page 3
SHAAG / SHAAFT	Page 6
Small Ministry / Covenant Groups	Page 3
Search Committee	Page 5

Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa
11400 Morris Bridge Rd
Tampa, FL 33637-1902

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

A Month of Sundays at The Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa

Jan. 7 Rev. Liz Brown & Joan Lund
 Small Group Ministry

In preparation for the series of sessions called “Evensong” that begins next month, Rev. Liz and Joan will present a Sunday service to reintroduce the concept of small group ministry, sometimes also called Covenant Groups. Find out how this concept can contribute to congregational health as well as a sense of intimacy as a church grows numerically.

Jan. 14 Rev. Liz Brown
 Martin Luther King Sunday

We will honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in words and song.

Jan. 21 Rev. Liz Brown
 Engaged Buddhism

Rev. Liz will speak about a form of Buddhism – a mixture of spirituality and social activism – that is attracting many Unitarian Universalists.

Jan. 28 Rev. Liz Brown and the Committee on Ministry Communication
The COM will illustrate healthy forms of communication, and Rev. Liz will present a homily on the subject.