



UUMAN TIMES

Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North

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March 2015

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IN THE INTERIM: I Want Patience and I Want It Now



The seasons cannot be hurried. Spring comes, the grass grows by itself. Being in a hurry usually doesn't help, and it can create a great deal of suffering—sometimes in us, sometimes in those

who have to be around us. Patience is an ever-present alternative to the mind's endemic restlessness and impatience...From the perspective of patience, things happen because other things happen. Nothing is separate and isolated.

—Jon Kabat-Zinn, *Wherever You Go, There You Are*

My friend Susan is having a bad Maine winter. Her long driveway became so narrowed by heaping snow banks that the heating oil truck couldn't get through. Next a speeding town snowplow obliviously forced Susan and her new car off the road and into a heaping snow bank. Four-wheel drive saved the day, which is why so many rural Mainers have it, but I have a feeling my ordinarily intrepid friend won't be venturing out much again until the middle of March except to walk the dog.

I left the claustrophobic snows of big winter behind when I left Maine, but one of winter's worst effects on my spirit has yet to leave me. By mid-February, I become desperate for spring. The total amount of snow I've seen in the almost eighteen years I've lived in the south would barely reach the height of Maine's last grubby snow bank of April. I don't have a snow problem; I have a patience problem.

Two years ago in Macon, the spring Cherry Blossom Festival that draws tour buses from winter-logged places all the way to Canada, turned into the Cherry Blossom Hunt when a chilly downpour suppressed all but a few hardy pink sprigs. Look, there's one! Oops, no, that's a plastic bag. Naturally, the day after the buses left, the fickle sun returned, whereupon the cherry blossoms wasted no time popping out. In Maine, winter ain't over until it's over, once in a while as late as May, so I wasn't about to be fooled by a surge of pink flowers.

But if we are to learn from nature, not just admire its glories, the lesson of the cherry blossoms that didn't show up in time for the festival couldn't be clearer. The seasons in a year cannot be hurried; likewise, the seasons in a human community.

Winter in the first year of a ministerial interim is also the season of the First Interim Progress Appraisal. That's the online consensus document the UUA requires the board, ICOM and I to file, summarizing our sense of how things are going at UUMAN. Look for a detailed report from ICOM Chair Laurie Wheeler elsewhere in this newsletter. Using the language of the appraisal form, UUMAN is "well on track" in your preparations to seek and welcome the congregation's next settled minister.

Patience is a spiritual discipline with a steep learning curve. To grow in patience requires a measure of pushback from things and people that tempt us to restless impatience, things like a big winter, a peek-a-boo spring, or the unpredictable weather of an interim ministry period.

With deep gratitude for your patience, UUMAN.

- Rev. Cynthia Prescott

Heart's Desire

GOODS & SERVICES AUCTION AT UUMAN

It's always joyous when a community comes together to enjoy each other and fortify what ties it together. UUMAN is abundant with such joy and appreciation for the many, many hands that helped make the Heart's Desire Goods and Services Auction possible. Some of the joy is for the 110+ people who participated in the festivities. And some of the joy is for the \$15,500 contributed for the benefit of UUMAN.

The following photos capture some of the highlights of the evening.



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Stewardship at UUMAN

Every year in March UUMAN members gather to pledge their financial contributions so that our individual and collective journeys may continue and so that we can fulfill UUMAN's mission. This year is no exception, the health of our spiritual community requires contributions from all of its members in order to grow and thrive. Whether we like it or not money is the life blood of our congregation. We cannot accomplish the things we want to do without the generous support and giving of our UUMAN community.

Since you are reading this newsletter article it is most likely because UUMAN is an important part of your life and you want to get more involved in helping to fulfill UUMAN's mission. You probably don't know it but that makes you a "steward" of UUMAN. You are someone who cares about UUMAN and you want to do your part in helping the congregation thrive and you can do that by actively participating in this year's Stewardship Drive starting in March.

The Stewardship team at UUMAN, made up of over 20 Stewards of UUMAN, will be delivering to each pledging household starting on March 22 a pledge form and a brochure explaining in detail our goals for 2015-2016. The Stewards will be asking you to meet with them informally to have a conversation about UUMAN and answer any questions you might have about the 2015-2016 goals or the pledge process. Although the Steward meeting is not mandatory we hope you will take the opportunity to "build our community" and at the same time have some fun and conversation.

Bob Popp

Stewardship Chair

Life Events Gifting Program

SECOND ANNUAL UPDATE

The Life Events Gifting Program at UUMAN was founded in December of 2012 by Carolyn Lee, Linda Etheridge, and McPatti Langston. Margot Bogue created the poster which hangs in the narthex and all of the gifting envelopes, thank you notes and tribute cards. UUMAN is indebted to this group of women for establishing and organizing this important program.

Gifts are made to UUMAN for many reasons including birthdays, graduations, anniversaries, marriages, appreciations, vow renewals, tributes, honorariums and specific UUMAN improvements. The committee makes the person or family being acknowledged aware of the donation and who made it with a thoughtful, handwritten note.

The first year, 2013, donations totaled \$2285 and the second year, 2014, \$2060, for a two year total of \$4345. These gifts have been used to maintain, repair, improve and expand UUMAN's campus.

A big "Thank You" to those making donations in 2014:

- ☺ Alpharetta Garden Club
- ☺ Joe and Ann Creech *
- ☺ Lawton and Linda Etheridge *
- ☺ Carole Herman *
- ☺ Bill and Diantha Horton
- ☺ Dave and Kate Hudson
- ☺ Chuck and Sarah Jones *
- ☺ Beverly and Steve Jordan
- ☺ Bob and Rhonda Mihalik
- ☺ Lois Puzey
- ☺ Patricia Shea
- ☺ Claire Sullivan *
- ☺ UUMAN Choir
- ☺ Jan Wilson and Doug Stump *
- ☺ Susan Wilson
- ☺ Nonmember family and friends of Dale Wilson, Max Tromblee, and Lee May

* Multiple Donations

On behalf of UUMAN, we thank you so much for your support of this program, past and future. If anyone is interested in finding out more about including UUMAN in your will and/or estate planning please let us know. We greatly appreciate it!!

—Jan Wilson

Free Concert at UUMAN

Come to enjoy a concert in our beautiful sanctuary where you will hear music by Bach, Brahms, Schubert, and others performed by the Sopranos, Marielle Mai, and Lara Morris, with pianist Huu Mai.

The date and time of the concert is Saturday, March 14, at 7:00 p.m.

Donations will be accepted.

News from Your UUMAN

Board of Trustees

JOIN US for a special Town Hall Meeting after the service on March 15th... at which we will introduce the Slate for our Search Team Election!

As many of you may remember, we learned last fall that the UUA now recommends that congregants have a voice in choosing the team charged with searching for a new settled minister. Your UUMAN board has taken that advice. Despite by-laws which give the board the authority for selecting the Search Team, we agree wholeheartedly that the congregation should have the opportunity to vote, and thus we have been working on developing a terrific slate of individuals willing to serve UUMAN, from which the membership will choose our Search Team.

Your board put out a request for recommendations for the Search Team slate, and we interviewed all of them to learn who was interested in serving. We also approached individuals whom we thought offered specific skills, perspectives, and interests and who represented varied life stages and experiences within our congregation, along with commitments to essential ministries such as MCY, music, and social justice. We decided at a meeting in January that we wanted to present a slate of nine to eleven individuals, each of whom we feel would ably represent us. We are so excited to announce that we have a slate of ten to introduce to you at a Special Town Hall Meeting on March 15th immediately after the service.

Please join us at the Town Hall. We will be explaining in detail the process we are creating for voting on the candidates. In order to make voting easier for all, we will offer electronic voting for those of us who are comfortable with the Internet. While this process will ask for your name and email, so that we can keep track of who votes, it will guarantee the confidentiality of your vote. And, because we know that not everyone uses the internet, we will offer paper ballots for those who are not comfortable with e-voting. Voting by paper ballot will be available for one half-hour after the service in Fellowship Hall on both March 22nd and 29th.

If you are unable to attend either Sunday and do not use the Internet, please contact me by March 18th, and I will mail you a paper ballot. Electronic voting will open on March 18th and close on March 29th. As with all congregational votes, a quorum will be needed in order for the vote to be valid. We ask that each member take the time necessary to make this important choice for the future of our congregation.

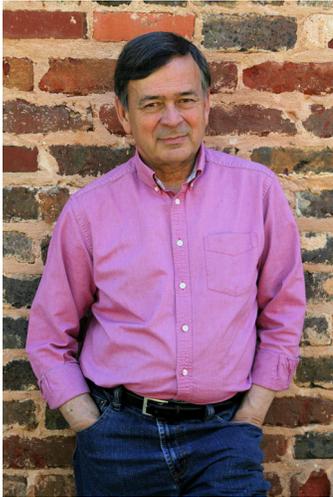
The process that the UUA recommends and which the board has enthusiastically endorsed includes a congregational vote that will select five of the individuals who will serve on the team, with the board rounding out the team with two more. The purpose of this process is to help ensure that the team is balanced in many ways, taking into account life experience, interests, perspectives, duration of membership and affiliation with UUism, commitment, and involvement with various aspects of church life. The slate we offer has both theists and humanists, representing various theological perspectives as well as experiences. We believe that each of these individuals will ably serve UUMAN if selected by the congregation. Now YOUR VOICE IS NEEDED. Please be watching for more information about the election, the slate of candidates, and please attend our Town Hall Meeting on March 15th.

~Kate Hudson
Secretary to the UUMAN Board
770-367-8604



COMMON GROUNDS COFFEE HOUSE

The March Common Grounds Coffee House performance will be March 28th at 7:30 pm, doors open at 7pm. Our performers will be Louis Robinson and Blackfoot Daisy.



Louis Robinson is a talented British singer/songwriter. In a long career he has played at every major folk venue in England, including folk clubs and festivals around the British Isles and Europe. He has performed on BBC radio and TV and his songs have been recorded by artists in the UK and the USA. Louis also teaches and produces shows in and around the Atlanta area.

Blackfoot Daisy consists of talented musicians Wendy DuMond and Don Sechelski and on occasion Don's son Adam. Don has been performing in the Atlanta area for 30 years, including the inaugural year of Lena's and the Hungry Ear, as well as the Dogwood Festival in Midtown. Wendy DuMond is also an award winning musician and songwriter. Adam is a talented musician and has performed in theaters up and down the east coast from Boston to Florida and taught drama at Southern Mississippi University and Perimeter College.



Life Celebrations

We want to commemorate the happy occasions in the lives of our UUMAN members and other friends of UUMAN. We are looking for Naming Ceremonies, Graduations, Marriages, Anniversaries, Retirements, and Birthdays.

Please submit the information about your special day, in the month prior to the event, to Claire Sullivan at cbsullivan@bellsouth.net

Date	Celebration
3/6	Fiona K. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
3/7	Marty Harvey and Kim Palmer are celebrating 21 years together on this, the first Saturday of March. As Marty said, "We always get to celebrate on a weekend!"
3/7	Bailey S. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
3/10	Lauren B. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
3/11	Channing C. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
3/16	Liz Garcia is celebrating a BIG birthday
3/18	Maya H. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
3/20	Marc Lee is celebrating a birthday
3/24	Seph R. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
3/26	Dirk Bender is celebrating a birthday
3/26	Ian C. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
3/27	Lucas B. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
3/29	Danielle B. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
3/31	Guillermo Kuhl is celebrating a birthday
3/31	Janet Lacey is celebrating a birthday
3/31	Stephen S. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday

FROM THE GARDEN

Dear Fellow Gardeners:

We'll be beginning our work again in the garden on March 23, the 4th Monday in March. The day before, we will be at the UUMAN Program Fair, excited about the possibility of enticing some new members. Hope to see you there!

It's been a tough winter, but I found a couple of lone survivors in the garden and some inklings of Spring.

— Claire Sullivan

cbsullivan@bellsouth.net

Front Garden



Butterfly Garden



Lois Garden



Memorial Garden



A Month of Sundays

Date	Topic	Speaker
3/1/15	Wild Women of the Liberal Religious Frontier Between 1880 and 1930 a courageous group of women served congregations in the frontier of liberal religion, the Midwest. Their imprint on the way contemporary Unitarian Universalists "do church" is their legacy to us. Yet because they were women, they were denied denominational acceptance in their day.	Rev. Cynthia Prescott
3/8/15	Music Service	
3/15/15	Youth Service	The UUMAN Youth
3/22/15	Caught By a Good Vision Stewardship Sunday and start of the annual canvass. Time, talent and treasure. What's it all about?	Rev. Cynthia Prescott
3/29/15	Disruption and Sacrifice Exploring the history of nonviolence and addressing a some misunderstandings.	Rev. Cynthia Prescott

More March Events

Date	Event
Humanism 2nd Sunday of each month, after the service, in the sanctuary.	21st Century Humanism focuses on the philosophy of mankind as the center of all things, informs members of Humanism's nature and history, and emphasizes free and frank discussion of the effect on humanity of past and present events, safe from the influence of contravening public opinion. For more information, contact John Peltier at peltier.john@gmail.com
Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 in Discovery Hall	Circle of Women We aim to develop a warm nurturing circle of trust where we can share ourselves and our lives. Contact Kate Hudson hudsonkd@bellsouth.net or Linda Etheridge l etheridge1@gmail.com
Wednesdays from 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.	UUMAN's Painting Group Come paint with us in a relaxed atmosphere with a glass of wine. All are welcome. There is a fee but half is donated to UUMAN.
Weekly on Wednesdays at 12:15	Daytimers The Daytimers group discusses contemporary, thought-provoking topics such as current political issues or social trends that may affect everyone at some level. All are invited to attend. For information, contact Dan Ben-David at dan@uuman.org

March Events

Fourth Saturday of the month at 7:30 p.m.	The Common Grounds Coffee House <i>Connecting people who love to play music with those who love to listen!</i> Doors open at 7 pm (except April this year it is the 3rd Saturday). Live music and delicious refreshments, \$5 suggested donation, held in the Sanctuary.
Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary	Centering at UUMAN Silent meditation Saturday mornings at UUMAN. Please come at 9:10 for some basic instruction if it is your first time. The meditation itself begins promptly 9:30. Please be in your seats on time. Those who wish to may stay after for 30 to 45 minutes of discussion about our experiences. For more information, contact Carolyn Bommarito at campofthen@aol.com

For more information about events, see the UUMAN Events Calendar at www.uuman.org

ABOUT THE UUMANTimes: The UUMANTimes is the newsletter of Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North (UUMAN), located at 11420 Crabapple Road, Roswell, GA 30075. We welcome nearly all imaginable newsletter submissions, and publish as many as possible. We go live with each issue by the first Sunday of the month; deadline for submissions is typically close of business on the 20th of the month preceding the issue date, although we have been known to accept submissions within a reasonable time before publishing. Please email your news articles and artwork to Becky at newsletter@uuman.org

The Mountain's Annual Work Weekend

April 3-5 2015

Join us for fellowship, fun
& projects to renew
The Mountain

Projects may include:

Trail & view maintenance, painting, gardening, indoor & outdoor cleaning,
sewing, chopping wood, inventory, Storage & library organization, Help with
Kendall's Eagle project, preparing for summer camp

Individuals with carpentry or other specific skills please contact Ted to plan
additional projects



**Two nights' accommodation & all meals
Friday dinner – Sunday lunch
Adults \$64 • Youth 13-17 \$64**

To register
Call (828) 526-5838
Or register online at
www.mountaincenters.org

The Mountain Retreat & Learning Center, P.O. Box 1299, Highlands, NC 28741

Easter

in the Oaks

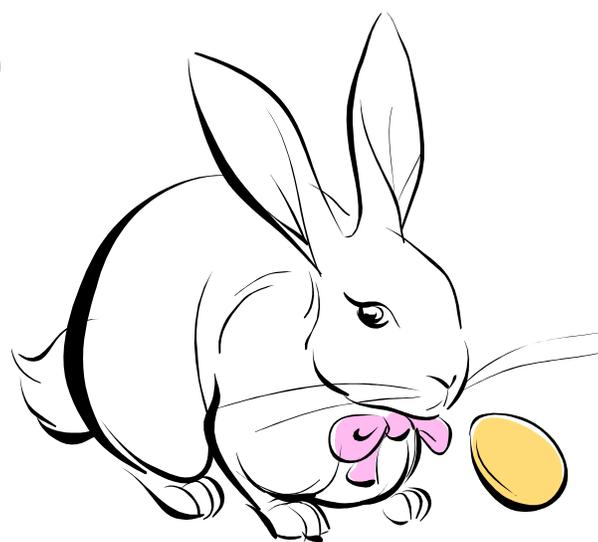
Online registration available or call 828 526-5838

April 3-5, 2015

Adults \$190.00

Youth 11-17 \$64.00

Children 4-11 \$40



Eggcellent activities will include a coloring and decorating workshop, building the baskets, and a traditional Easter Egg Hunt. Friends and family can share a special worship service, perhaps at sunrise, and end the weekend at noon with a fabulous Easter Feast.