



UUMAN TIMES

Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North

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December 2017

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The Work of the UUMAN Board

Although there will be an official Congregational Meeting in the near future, I thought that it would be a good time to give everyone an update as to what UUMAN's

Board has been doing in recent months.

As I mentioned in an earlier newsletter article, the Board held it's goal-setting retreat in August. It developed the following ministry goals for the congregation:

- A community where every member is connected and engaged
- A community whose numbers and influence are growing
- A vehicle of service to our community and the world
- Radically multigenerational in all we do

Also, the Board developed some initiatives to undertake in the coming year:

- Volunteer Recognition
- Action Plan for World Crisis
- Bylaws Revision
- Create/Enhance Service Culture Within UUMAN
- Oversight of Program Council's Progress Toward Overarching Goals
- Reclaim our Humanity from Racism and Oppression

Each month, your President Randy Blasch assigns "Homework" which must be completed in the coming month. Homework for the past few months has focused on our Bylaws. Many have expressed concern that our Bylaws are out of date and often don't provide the flexibility for UUMAN to move forward in constructive ways.

As for being out of date, our current Bylaws refer to a "Nominating Committee" as a Standing Committee of the Board. Over the past few years this committee has been subsumed by our new Leadership Development Committee (LDC). It is hoped that, among oth-

er things, the now LDC can bring a more organic and holistic process towards developing those who will lead UUMAN into the future.

Because last years Board chose to create an endowment with Rev. Cynthia Prescott's most generous gift to UUMAN, a new Endowment Committee has been created. It is not yet mentioned in the Bylaws so this update will be necessary.

There are eight paragraphs of Bylaws pertaining to UUMAN's Committee on Ministry (COM) however UUMAN hasn't had a functioning COM for the past several years. UUMAN's past COMs have essentially worked under the older model where the COM was a de-facto "protect the minister" committee. We are now reforming the COM to be a "protect UUMAN's Mission" committee. This is a significant and important difference. (There will be more details about this in the coming months.) The Bylaws need to be updated to more effectively communicate this shift.

The Board is also looking for new ways to engage in dialogue with the congregation in order to discuss mission, vision, and ministry goals. At our last Food Truck Friday event in November, your Treasurer and I engaged in a dialogue with a few intrepid members. The conversation was engaging, insightful...and most enjoyable.

The Board will be looking for different ways to engage in the near future. (Also, if you haven't experienced Food Truck Fridays, you'll not want to miss them when they return in the Spring. Thanks to Sally Mullikin for bringing them to us!)

Although it has been slow going, your Board is doing a great job of staying focused and on track.

Board meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month at 7PM in Fellowship Hall. All members are invited and welcome to attend.

Take care,

Dave



UUMAN Sharing the Plate—50/50

The third Sunday of month UUMAN designates ½ of the undesignated plate collection to a non-profit organization chosen by UUMAN's Social Justice Committee.

Our next 50/50 Sunday is December 17. The recipient will be Eli Project.

Eli Project is a 501c3 non-profit that provides love and acceptance to families with special needs by hosting events in safe environments where they can come together and connect with others—because Every Life Is Important. They serve over 2,000 families, annually host over 40 events, and sponsor monthly connect groups and social outings.

—Michelle Liebergesell



UUMAN Earth Ministry WINTER SOLSTICE CEREMONY & POTLUCK

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21 AT 6:00 PM

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST METRO ATLANTA NORTH
11420 CRABAPPLE ROAD ROSWELL, GA 30075

We will gather at dusk and the ceremony begins at dark. A potluck follows—bring what ever you like. We'll eat cake for dinner if that's what we all bring! :)

Please bring jingle bells for the ceremony if you have them.

Childcare available.

Please register here:

<http://evite.me/ZYyjPcdf1t>



Mountain in the distance? And because it was so beautiful, it set me longing, always longing. Somewhere else there must be more of it... The sweetest thing in all my life has been the longing – to reach the Mountain, to find the place where all the beauty came from – my country, the place where I ought to have been born. Do you think it all meant nothing, all the longing? The longing for home?

- C.S. Lewis, *Till We Have Faces*

*I hear the ancient footsteps like the motion of the sea;
Sometimes I turn, there's Someone there; other times, it's only me.*

-Bob Dylan

I remember staring at the distant horizon, and being overcome with... something. And then reading C.S. Lewis, saying that he experienced God—deeply, personally—while looking at the distant horizon. I remember the sensation of comfort and peace that washed over me, while praying sincerely for help or guidance. I remember the conviction that the people I was among were the people I was supposed to meet; the place I inhabited was where I had been led. That there really was a purpose within all things.

But against all that, there is the reality of suffering and injustice. As William Styron wrote, "At Auschwitz, where was God?" Where was God at Sandy Hook or Charleston or Las Vegas, et al? Where was God on that dreadful day of November 8, 2016, when the country that once stood for freedom and justice and inclusiveness took an all-right turn towards madness?

I miss God. I'm a little ashamed to admit that here, in front of all you scientists and free thinkers. But I do. He was a comfort. On a good day, He provided meaning and a higher purpose. And I sometimes wonder: If it is necessary to invent God, what does that say? If we hunger and thirst for justice, administered by a caring God, where does that come from? If it's true that we cannot prove God, isn't it equally true that we cannot disprove Him?

Nevertheless, with each passing year, He slips farther and farther away. Most likely, I've lost Him forever. Lost Him to reason; to science; to cold, hard reality. Can I help it if, during the dark times, these seem like poor replacements?

I still pray, sometimes. I feel self-conscious about it, and I'm a little embarrassed to admit it. Who or what am I praying to? Is it just me? Will there ever be an answer? All the while, a little voice taunts me: "A braver person wouldn't need to pray." Some other voice counters: "A wiser person would pray more." Such is the crucible of agnosticism.

Do you remember? The colour and the smell, and looking at the Grey —Mike Chambers

FROM THE GARDEN

—photos by Claire Sullivan



A Gift from Premo School



Mums



Pink Camellias



Azalea



Baby Hydrangea in Autumn



Daisy Mums



Newly planted Camellias—FH Entrance



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 newsletter@uuman.org

Date	Celebration
12/9	Presley C. of the MCY program is celebrating a birthday
12/12	Ryan Vidal is celebrating a birthday
12/13	Dominic Read is celebrating a birthday
12.15	Carole Herman is celebrating a birthday
	Duco van der Beek is celebrating a birthday
12/17	Joaquin F. of the MCY program is celebrating a birthday
	Joaquin F. of the MCY program is celebrating a birthday
12/18	Karen S. of the MCY program is celebrating a birthday
12/19	Nick G. of the MCY program is celebrating a birthday
12/20	Adam Fajardo is celebrating a birthday
12/23	McPatti Langston is celebrating a birthday
12/24	Paul Gellerstedt is celebrating a birthday
12/28	Lachlan K. of the MCY program is celebrating a birthday
12/29	Sue Greenspon is celebrating a big birthday!
12/31	Marty Harvey is celebrating a birthday

A Month of Sundays

Date	Topic	Service Leaders
12/3	<p>Let's Make Optimism Cool Again</p> <p>Pessimism and negativity are all the rage. Political candidates deploy fear-mongering as a weapon to divide and blame. Their opponents counterattack in kind. (Which is not very kind!) Is there another way? Can an optimistic vision for a future together break the cycle of negativity and hopelessness?</p>	Rev. Dave Dunn
12/10	<p>The Stranger and I</p> <p>Sola fide is Latin for "faith alone" – justification or salvation by faith alone. This Protestant doctrine is held by many Christians. But what about those who are not Christian or theists? Faith in what? Among many answers might "the stranger" be the answer that provides the most meaning?</p>	Rev. Dave Dunn
12/17	<p>Multigenerational Service</p>	Multigenerational Team
12/24	<p>Christmas Caroling Outside Our Walls (10:30AM)</p> <p>Instead of our customary Sunday service, we will provide Christmas caroling cheer to the residents of a local assisted living facility. (We will meet at UUMAN and carpool to our destination.)</p> <p>Multigenerational Christmas Pageant (4PM)</p> <p>Come one and all this year's production of "Can I Hold the Baby?".</p> <p>Candlelight Christmas Eve Service (7PM)</p> <p>Service Leader: Dave Dunn Service Description: Please join us for our annual Christmas Eve candlelight</p>	<p>Rev. Dave Dunn</p> <p>Randy Blasch</p> <p>Rev. Dave Dunn</p>
12/31	<p>The winter holiday season is a time when many people tend to go overboard and burn the candle at both ends. This New Year's Eve, join us for an exploration of the complicated and often contradictory meanings of excess. We will range from lyrical poetry to Jimi Hendrix and from social psychology to Epicurus in search of wisdom in these contradictions.</p>	Adam Fajardo Service Leader

December Connections

Date	Event
<p>Wednesdays</p> <p>Fall Session from 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.</p> <p>Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>UUMAN's Painting Group</p> <p>Learn to paint in a relaxed atmosphere (with a glass of red wine if desired). We have easels and tray tables; just bring your paints and a canvas. A portion of the fee goes to UUMAN. Contact: Annette Pate painting@uuman.org</p>
<p>Weekly on</p> <p>Wednesdays at 12:15</p>	<p>Daytimers</p> <p>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. dan@uuman.org</p>
<p>Fourth Saturday of the month at 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>The Common Grounds Coffee House</p> <p>Connecting people who love to play music with those who love to listen! Doors open at 7:00 pm and the show starts at 7:30 pm. Live music and delicious refreshments, \$5 suggested donation, held in the Sanctuary.</p>
<p>Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. In the Sanctuary</p>	<p>Centering at UUMAN</p> <p>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 at 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 campoften@aol.com</p>
<p>2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 in Discovery Hall</p>	<p>Circle of Women</p> <p>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 lletheridge1@gmail.com</p>
<p>Saturdays , 1-2:30 in the Sanctuary, or Discovery Hall if the Sanctuary is not available. Childcare is available .</p>	<p>Mindfulness Meditation</p> <p>Whether you have been meditating for years or are curious about possibly starting a practice, we offer a peaceful space to sit as well as a time to share and learn in a community of fellow meditators. Contact J. Kevin King at (470) 723-4070 jkevinking@yahoo.com</p>

For more information about other offerings at UUMAN, go to www.uuman.org.



Happy Holidays

ABOUT THE UUMANTimes: The UUMANTimes is the newsletter of Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North (UUMAN). We go live with each issue by the first Sunday of the month; deadline for submissions is typically on the 22nd of the month preceding the issue date. Please email your news articles and artwork to Becky at newsletter@uuman.org