

# NEWSLETTER

## SHARING OUR ABUNDANCE

Thanks to your generosity on Service Sunday, we collected \$289 for the Martin Luther King Association Scholarship Fund.

You gifts will be deeply appreciated by all who benefit. Thank you!

### Sundays in February

Sunday, Feb. 5

11:00 a.m.

#### A Taste of Local Black History

Mayor Otis Johnson

Mayor Johnson was born and raised in Savannah. He was educated in public schools, graduating from Beach High in 1960. Johnson went on to attend Savannah State College before transferring to Armstrong Jr. College. He was the first black student to attend Armstrong, and the first black student from Savannah to earn a degree from the University of Georgia. He later received his MSW from Clark Atlantic University and his PhD from Brandeis University.



Mayor Johnson worked for the Economic Opportunity Authority and for the Model Cities Program in Savannah, and became the executive director of the Youth Futures Authority. He has served as alderman

on the city council for two terms and on the school board for one term, and has just completed eight years as the mayor of Savannah.

Sunday, Feb. 12

11:00 a.m.

#### Agape' and Amore'

The Rev. Amy Kindred

Eric Fromme wrote, " The revolution of our hearts does not require new wisdom – but new seriousness and dedication." (From The Sane Society) Regardless of whether we are concerned about love for humanity, for family, or love for an intimate other, we are always in need of reflection and re dedication.

Sunday, Feb. 19

11:00 a.m.

The Rev. Amy Kindred

#### Endurance Happens

In a cynical world, religion appears to hold little value. In fact, people tend to dismiss the contribution of people with a mission to make positive change. Unitarian Universalists profess faith in the future. Let's fiercely hang onto hope for a better tomorrow.

Sunday, Feb. 26

11:00 a.m.

The Rev. Amy Kindred

#### On the Poetry of Dante'

Throughout Dante's incredible epic work, The Divine Comedy, Dante' uses his imagination to engage the heart, mind and the senses in order to make known what had been obscure and hidden in society during the later period of the medieval times. Dante' coaxes the reader to pay more attention to what is missing regarding the realm of divine love.

## Reflections from the Minister

I heard the voice of ONE whom I knew not say, 'I freed your shoulder from burden and your hands from the heavy baskets. At your cry of distress, I answered you in the secret place of thunder.' Psalm 81:5-7

I came across this scripture on a painting in a local restaurant. I find it hopeful. Regardless of whether we seek a god who understands our trials or a human being who knows our suffering, we have an inherent need for a witness to our experiences.

When we feel we can handle no more, often there arrives some kind of relief even if it's slight. It may be found especially in the roughest moments, the "secret place of thunder." Within the congregation and the community at large, there are many who are struggling. Challenges include loneliness, grief, joblessness, illness, worry and anxiety. Let's you and I covenant to lend a hand when we can and to genuinely listen with a loving heart. May it be so.

*Rev. Amy Kindred*

## Ministerial Search Committee Monthly Update

If you have been watching the Ministerial Search Committee's progress poster in Rahn Hall, you know that we have checked off "Search Committee begins considering potential candidates." Well, that is where we are and we couldn't be more excited. After months of organizing and publicizing our church's "resume," available on-line, we have been recently immersed in examining, discussing and wrestling with decisions concerning potential candidates and now, after Skyping and talking with pre-candidates, we have selected those we wish to see in person. Consequently, in the next six weeks or so, if you don't see Martha Weaver, Will Bellais, Jerry Silverman, Margaret Hall and Robert Pawlicki in church, we are likely off to a neutral pulpit as part of a weekend spent with each of our pre-candidates. Believe us when we say we are energized and excited to be at this stage of our ministerial search process. We very much like the options in front of us and are optimistic that in the near future we will be presenting an outstanding candidate for your consideration as our next settled minister.

## Splinters from the Board

The Board met twice in January. In our first meeting we approved \$1200 to bring in UUA financial consultant Larry Wheeler to conduct stewardship training. This is in keeping with attempts at changing the financial culture of our church.

We approved changes in the Bylaws that affect the role of the President-Elect.

We also developed a new streamlined Mission Statement and four goals which are to be reviewed by June 2013. The new mission simply stated, is to be a beacon of liberal religion in Savannah. The goals some of which we are working on, will help our new minister understand our priorities so that he/she can begin leading us in developing a new strategic plan.

The bylaws, mission and goals will all be presented for approval by the congregation in our next congregational meeting scheduled for February 26.

Our second meeting was devoted to discussion of establishing an Endowment Fund and various Reserve Funds to help insure the future financial strength of the church.

We approved additions to the Bylaws that will address the establishment of these funds and the election of Fund Trustees to oversee them. These will be brought before the congregation for approval at our next congregational meeting.

The Board also approved for First City Network to rent all of Building #3 pending clearance from our insurance company. First City plans to open the space up for all LBGT groups in Savannah. The amount we will ask for in rent will be decided at our February meeting.

So as you can see, we are working very hard to strengthen this community of faith and show our next settled minister that we are ready to meet the challenges ahead.

See you in church,

*Judy Dinehart*

We recently submitted our membership to the UUA. Our present membership is 143.
We will pay a total of \$80 in dues for each member. \$58 to the UUA and \$22 to the Southeast District.

# I ♥ UU Savannah

The theme of this year's Annual Budget Drive will be "I ♥ UU Savannah" and will begin, very appropriately, on Valentine's weekend. This is an exciting time as we get ready to welcome our settled minister next year. Showing how much we love UU Savannah with our financial commitments will help ensure that we have fully funded programs for this new ministry.

This year we will have individual meetings with donors rather than the house parties from last year. Some of you may moan, but we promise that it won't be painful! We suggest that you meet over lunch, a cup of coffee or any place that is comfortable for you and your Steward. The best part of these meetings is that we get to know each other better and most of your time will be spent doing just that - talking about your lives and what brought you to this church. Obtaining your financial commitment is one small part of the conversation.

Did you notice the change in terminology? It's not a Pledge Campaign; it's an Annual Budget Drive. Your Steward (formerly canvasser) will obtain your Financial Commitment (formerly known as your pledge) and, my personal favorite; you are no longer a Pledging Unit and are now a Donor who makes a Gift.

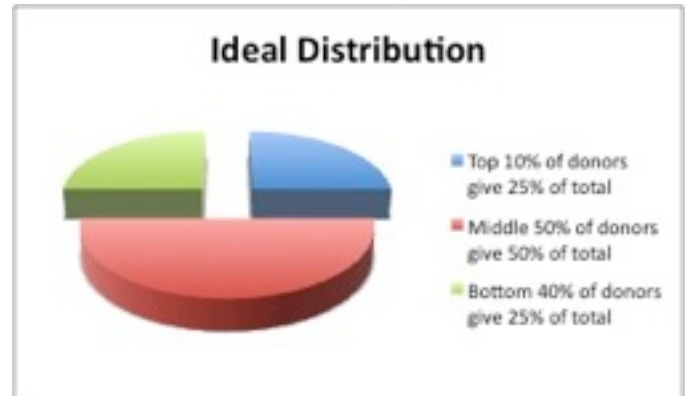
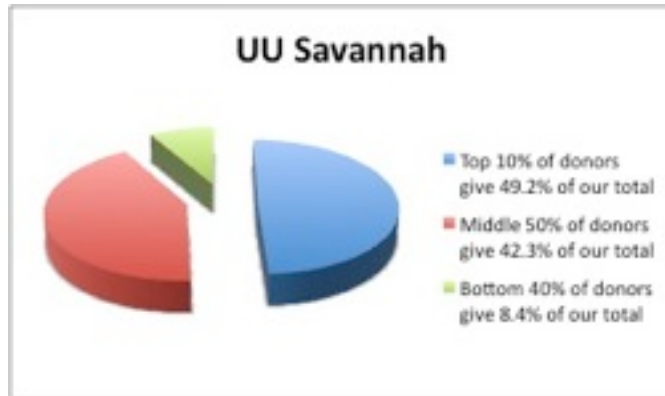
These changes in words are subtle but were recommended by the UUA consultant who met with the Board and Finance Committee in our September retreat. He also recommended a budget drive with individual meetings as the best way to both have a successful drive and strengthen our church community.

At the retreat he pointed out some important things about our church's financial health. Ideally, half of a church's members contribute half of total gifts. About 10% of donors are able to make larger gifts which constitute another 25% of the total and 40% of donors make smaller gifts which total the other 25% of gifts. This would not be a surprise to anyone who has taken a statistics course.

What is a surprise is our current distribution of gifts. Nearly one half (49%) of our total gifts are contributed by the top 10% of donors. These are incredibly generous members and we very grateful to them, but it isn't solid footing that our financial wellbeing is carried by so few.

The middle half of donors contribute 42% of gifts with the bottom 40% of donors contributing a total of 8% of gifts. (See graphs on page 5 for a visual representation of this information)

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I pass these observations on to you, not in an effort to chide anyone, but to provide the transparency that is often requested. All members of the church should be privy to the recommendations and goals provided by UUA consultants. To our consultant, it was clear that donors in the mid to low range should increase their financial commitments if at all possible.

All of us have different abilities to support the church at various points in our lives. Some of us have suffered abrupt and unwelcome changes in our jobs and income. Others have had smoother paths but still go through the usual financial stressors of putting children through college, assisting aging parents, etc.

During the “I ♥ UU Savannah” drive, we ask that you examine what this church means in your life and what goals you have for it. We invite you to give to the best of your ability with gratitude for all that has been given to us.

*Gail Scarbrough*

Chair of Annual Budget Drive

## REMINDER

Do we have your current contact information? Please log in to the church website at [www.uusavannah.org](http://www.uusavannah.org) to verify that your contact information is up-to-date. Having trouble logging in? Please contact [Webmaster@uusavannah.org](mailto:Webmaster@uusavannah.org) for assistance.

## PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE

The Pastoral Care Committee mission is: To facilitate healthy community with expressions of care.

Committee Care Teams provide care and support for members and friends in times of transition, need or crisis. If you are unable to leave your house and would like a visit from the church; if you are laid up due to illness or injury and could use a meal or someone to pick up groceries; or if you know of anyone in the congregation that you feel would welcome a check-in phone call, please let Rev. Amy or another committee member know. The committee responds to issues raised in Joys and Concerns during Sunday services as well.

Have time for a two-hour lunch on a Friday afternoon? Join us for the Daytimers' gatherings. These get-togethers alternate between a social gathering with wide-ranging conversation, and a discussion of the spiritual and philosophical issues. We're currently working with the book: Aging to Saging. This month's discussion will be held Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 11:00 AM to 1:00PM in Rahn Hall. Please bring a bagged lunch. For a ride or more information, call [912-349-2476](tel:912-349-2476).

Don't forget to check out the community bulletin board in Rahn Hall. It's a great place for friends and members to share various Opportunities Desired and/or Opportunities Available with one another.

The Care Team has openings for folks who would like to occasionally provide a ride for a member unable to drive. If you want to learn more about this opportunity, please contact Rev. Amy, [amy.kindred@gmail.com](mailto:amy.kindred@gmail.com), Judy Gautier, 843-422-4319, Jean Iaderosa, (912) 727-3118 or Vicki Weeks, [divervicki@aol.com](mailto:divervicki@aol.com). It's a great way to make connections.

The next committee meeting will be held on Saturday, February 4, from 10-11:30AM, in Rahn Hall. All are welcome.

In warm fellowship,  
Your Pastoral Care Committee

## MUSIC NEWS

It's official: The music ministry has an office! I am so grateful to Rev. Amy, the Music Committee and the Board for making this a reality. Thanks also to Frank DeBolt, who is steadily working on getting a Comcast connection and computer. I am gradually moving items into the office to make it a workable and welcoming space. I anticipate that by the beginning of Fall 2012, I will be able to keep some regular hours there. The music ministry is "all grown up!"

The Music Committee is planning a spring fundraiser: UU's Got Talent. The event is scheduled for Sunday, May 6 at 7pm in the sanctuary. We'll have a couple of familiar guests but will mostly show off the many folks in our congregation who have musical talents – performers and composers alike. This does not have to be choir members, only, so, if you are an adult, age 18 or older, please let me know if you have any interest in auditioning or submitting a composition to be performed for this event. The first half will feature classical music, the second half will include jazz, show, folk and pop music.

The Children's Choir will perform an anthem 3 times between now and the end of the fiscal year. Here are the dates and times of rehearsals/services.

Jan 29	Rehearsal	12:45 – 1:15
Feb 5	Rehearsal	12:45 – 1:15

**Feb 12 Perform in 11am Service 10:45 warm up**

Mar 4	Rehearsal	12:45 – 1:15
Mar 11	Rehearsal	12:45 – 1:15
Mar 18	Perform in 11am Service	10:45 Warm-up

Apr 29	Rehearsal	12:45 – 1:15
May 6	Rehearsal	12:45 – 1:15
May 13	Rehearsal	12:45 – 1:15
May 20	Perform in 11am Service	10:45 Warm up

**Kelly**

## FEBRUARY RE NEWS

### SPIRIT PLAY FOR HOLIDAYS AND HOLYDAYS (Pre k- grade 5)

Thanks to all of our wonderful teachers for making this experience so special for the children. Our veteran teachers have been complemented nicely by assistants who have offered to become more involved by accepting the new role of **Storytellers** in the weeks ahead. **Yazmeine Shemdin, Danyael Garcia, and Denise German** will be very much appreciated by children and parents as well as our seasoned teachers with their dedicated and cheerful enthusiasm!

In **January** our children were offered the opportunity to learn about **Japanese Children's Day, Chinese New Year, and Chinese Dragon Celebration**. February's lessons will include a story and celebration of **Maulid-Al-Nabi, (The Birthday of Mohammed)**, a **Martin Luther King** observance and celebration, as well as a story on the significance of **Mardi Gras! Party Party!!**

### NEON GREEN (Middle School Group)

**Neon Green Rocks party** in December was a fantastic success! Our middle school class and their friends attended the party which was replete with music thanks to the deejay talents of **Denise and Bob Boehner**. The group discussed possible service projects, an integral component of the two-year **Traditions with a Wink** curriculum. Great refreshments, games, and scary stories ably delivered by our youth were enjoyed by all.

Focus of the curriculum in the past month has been on learning about **Chanukah**, the significance of the holiday and the theme of freedom and oppression; discussing how we acknowledge grief in our congregations and mourn our losses; and celebrating **Martin Luther King, Jr.** and the fight for equality among all people through listening to protest songs and discussing the effect that oppression has on people's lives. **Bob Paddison**, our invaluable assistant, shared some special family stories about living through desegregation here in Savannah back in the 1960's.

After conclusion of the service January 22<sup>nd</sup>, teachers discussed with the group possible service project(s) with focus on helping the **Purple group with bake/book sale scheduled in March**.

### PURPLE GROUP (High School)

In January, the Youth studied units on Unitarianism, Humanism, and the Quakers. Group leader Brandon Eason walked with the group to a "**Friends**" meeting at **Trinity Church**. Youth were able to observe the diversity of Neighboring Faiths and share their personal experiences! **Excellent leadership John and Brandon!**

## RE NEWS Continued

**A Book and Bake** sale has been scheduled for March 31<sup>st</sup>, any donations should be directed to the DRE, Larry Whiteside or to the Senior Youth leaders, John Iaderosa and Brandon Eason. Last year the Senior Youth made over \$700 and provided a **Summer Camp scholarship** to one of our children. We are hoping to match or exceed the success of last year! Our Middle School group has offered to work this event as a service project and will gain rich experience from this opportunity!

In addition, **Senior Youth** are planning on attending a **YouthCon** at the **Mountain Retreat Center** from **March 16-18. Cost will be 100\$ for each Youth and 25\$ for advisors!** Here's hoping all are able to attend this weekend retreat, always rewarding in so many ways, and that the weather cooperates this year!

Blessings,

*Larry Whiteside*

## Drumming Ensemble

We are looking for drummers, instrument players and dancers. Have you ever been in a drum circle? Are you interested in percussion? Would you like to try something new, different and exciting? This is your lucky day!!!! We are starting a drumming ensemble here at UU Savannah. Our musical focus will be on a local music style called, "Ogeechee," which is a combination of Native, slave and Appalachian music. Besides the drums we are looking for people who play banjo, penny whistle/flute, dobra, triangle, tambourine and any other percussion instrument (even homemade ones).

For further information feel free to contact:

Larry Whiteside DRE, or

Bob Boehner and Denise Boehner at [dlboehner@samobile.net](mailto:dlboehner@samobile.net) or by phone at

912-398-3459

## Plan to Attend the Next Circle Supper – Saturday February 25

**What are Circle Suppers?** Circle Suppers are opportunities for fellowship, for getting to know each other better, for laughter and mutual enjoyment of each other's company.

**Who can attend Circle Suppers? Circle Suppers are for Everyone!** Anyone with a connection to our UU congregation is welcome! Whether you are a long time member, or a newcomer who is still exploring our liberal religion and hasn't decided yet if it is right for you, or someone in between, you are welcome at one of our tables. Families with children are welcome, singles are welcome, even those unable to bring anything to contribute are welcome. If you attend a Circle Supper, you are NOT obligated to host a Circle Supper. Only host if you are willing and able.

**Where and How are Circle Suppers held?** Circle Suppers are held in private homes of members and friends, and involve 8 to 12 people. Each guest contributes something to the dinner by coordination with the host/ess.

**When is the Next Circle Supper?** Saturday February 25, at 6 or 6:30 pm (host/ess choice). Signup deadline is Sunday February 19 after church. On Sunday evening hosts will be notified of their assignments, and in turn will notify their assigned guests.

**How Do I Sign Up for a Circle Supper? Two Ways:**

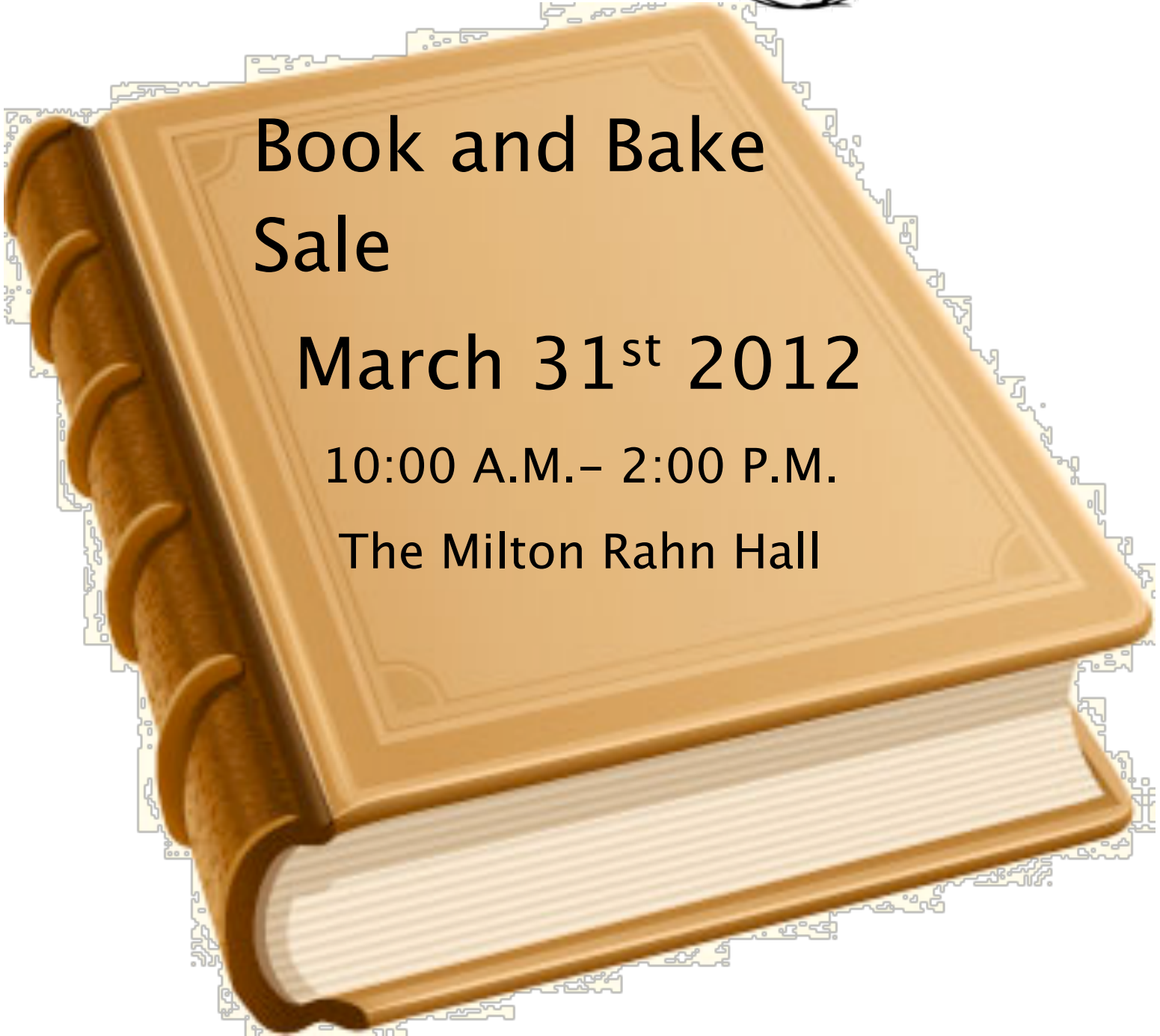
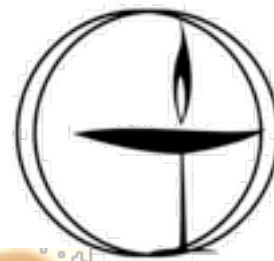
1. Fill out the signup sheet in Rahn Hall at the UU Church; or
2. Send an email to [CircleSuppers@uusavannah.org](mailto:CircleSuppers@uusavannah.org).

### SCHEDULING OF CHILDCARE

Childcare is always available on Sunday mornings for children too young for RE classes, but it is scheduled for other events only if it is requested.

We want parents to be able to attend all church functions including choir practice and Sunday morning classes or groups, but we don't want to schedule childcare workers if they aren't needed. We're counting on you to help us be good stewards of the church's resources by letting us know when to schedule.

When you need childcare, please contact the office at [admin@uusavannah.org](mailto:admin@uusavannah.org) at least 3 days before the event.



# Book and Bake Sale

March 31<sup>st</sup> 2012

10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

The Milton Rahn Hall

## Staff Names and Contacts

Rev. Amy Kindred	Interim Minister	<a href="mailto:minister@uusavannah.org">minister@uusavannah.org</a>
Kelly Blackmarr Carlile	Director of Music	<a href="mailto:music@uusavannah.org">music@uusavannah.org</a>
Larry Whiteside	Director of Religious Education	<a href="mailto:re@uusavannah.org">re@uusavannah.org</a>
Anne Butler	Office Administrator	<a href="mailto:admin@uusavannah.org">admin@uusavannah.org</a>
Anne Butler	Wedding Coordinator	<a href="mailto:weddings@uusavannah.org">weddings@uusavannah.org</a>

## Board Names and Contacts

President	Judy Dinehart	<a href="mailto:president@uusavannah.org">president@uusavannah.org</a>
Vice President/President Elect	Gail Scarbrough	
Treasurer	Courtney Lane	
Secretary of the Board	Pam Terekhova	
At Large	Kirsten Asta	
At Large	Louise Frazier	
At Large	Jake Kawatski	

## Office Hours and Deadlines

**Church Office Hours** Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 2:30 to 6:30 pm  
Office Administrator will be working two hours on Mondays and Fridays but times will vary.

### **Order of Service and Weekly Bulletin**

All information to [admin@uusavannah.org](mailto:admin@uusavannah.org) No later than WEDNESDAY AT NOON

### **Monthly Newsletter**

March Articles Due FEBRUARY 22, WEDNESDAY AT NOON

Send articles to [uusavnews@gmail.com](mailto:uusavnews@gmail.com). The editor will receive them at that address.

**Church Calendar** is being updated weekly. **Calendar Requests** Please use the new Calendar Request Form found in the Members Only section on the website [uusavannah.org](http://uusavannah.org). If you do not have access to the web calendar, call the church office and talk to the Office Administrator or email [admin@uusavannah.org](mailto:admin@uusavannah.org).

**Website:** [uusavannah.org](http://uusavannah.org)

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