

# NEWSLETTER

## SHARING OUR ABUNDANCE

Thank you for sharing so generously during the holiday season.

For Service Sunday in November we collected \$216 for The Freeman Project. In December our gifts for SAFE Shelter totaled \$238 plus household products and items from the Angel Tree.

On Christmas Eve we followed our tradition of dedicating the offering to the Minister's Discretionary Fund. Combined with checks mailed to the office, our minister received \$1394 to use at her discretion when she encounters need in our church community.

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

### Guest Sermon from Rev. Dick Hood Sunday, January 22



Rev. Richard Hood was born and raised in the Boston area and attended a UU church as a child. He graduated from Tufts University and received his Master's of Divinity from Colgate Rochester Divinity School in Rochester NY, where he met his wife Molly. While in divinity school he developed an interest in working with the elderly. He was a part owner and

administrator of an assisted living facility for 30 years. He also served as a part time minister for 35 years to a small UU church in Albion, NY. He was made Minister Emeritus in 2011.

The Hoods have two sons and two grandchildren. In 2008 Molly and Dick moved from Rochester to Sun City Hilton Head. In the summer they reside at their cottage in Maine. They joined the UU Church of Savannah 3 years ago.

### *Sundays in January*

#### **January 1, 2012 New Beginnings for a New Year**

We will greet the new year with a ceremony helping us to let go of the past, welcome the future and be content with living in the "now." Larry Carlile, Worship Associate. Jake Kawatski is the storyteller. RE classes will be in session.

#### **January 8, 2011 Art and Spiritual Well-Being**

Countless individuals in cultures across the world are inclined to make things. Some people are biologically "wired" to construct items while others are prompted by circumstance to create. Where does the inclination to make art arrive and how does the drive influence humanity's need to make meaning in the world?

#### **January 15, 2011 Imagery of the Other**

On the one hand, contemporary media reveals and celebrates people who fought against racist attitudes throughout history. On the other hand, Sunday mornings continue to be the most segregated time of the week. Why does fear and mistrust of the "other" persist? Perhaps it's because we continue to be surrounded by imagery that promotes cultural and racial divide. (Visuals will be incorporated in the service.)

#### **January 22, 2012 Can 40,000 people be wrong 100% of the time?**

Seldom in our UU history has our message of hope and optimism been more important and needed. Rev. Hood asks us to consider: What UU beliefs give us the foundation to be hopeful? Are we getting our message across? Do we need to rethink and retool that message? Led by Rev. Richard (Dick) Hood.

#### **January 29, 2012 Sacred Space and Architecture**

In some religious traditions, spiritual architecture is comprised of magnificent towers and spires thrusting upward in order to emphasize a connection to the heavens. In others, spiral paths in cave-like structures draw the believer into a deeper relationship with the mystical unknown. How does space influence the "feel" of a gathering place? What elements of architecture support a journey of faith and what does a UU building say about what we believe?

## Reflections from the Minister

Community is not something we can “make” happen. Community emerges as we participate in life with those around us. – Anne Wilson Schaef

This quote resonates with truth as I reflect on the the many happenings that have occurred during the past five months at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Savannah. From the jovial coffee hours after Sunday services to the crowded fund-raising event in early December, the gatherings have been significant.

Week after week, people have actually set aside concerns for a time in order to listen, to converse with one another and to share a hearty giggle or two. When the occasional mournful word arose, hugs poured forth like a queen-size comforter on a twin-size bed. People know how to care for one another in this community.

Although a church should provide a haven of comfort, it should also provoke comfortable people to develop a desire to DO something, to make change in the world. I’ve witnessed individuals bringing meals to feed others who don’t come through our doors, shoes for a foundation that provides for people who don’t have access to clean water, and toiletry items for a local women’s shelter.

With open hearts, the community has welcomed creativity in the worship space. Saint Lucia marched down the aisle with a gaggle of star children, pomegranate seeds and figs appeared on a table near the altar at Thanksgiving and individuals raised their hands and sang praises heartily when asked to participate.

Who wouldn’t want to be part of a group that has so much fun and finds so much joy at church? As the New Year begins, let’s remember that countless people are longing for a community filled with human connection and meaning-filled moments. Talking with others, including friends and family members outside our community of faith, about what goes on at UU Savannah is one way to open the door a little wider so they might “Enter, rejoice, and come in.” I wish for you Happy New Experiences in the coming days!

*Rev. Amy Kindred*

# Hunger for Hope Workshop

Instructor: Rev. Amy Kindred \*  
No fee to attend, Fellowship Hall  
March 24, Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

*Save the Date*

Vincent Van Gogh (from Holland) and Frida Kahlo (from Mexico) were artists raised in households with differing theological backgrounds. How did those influences shape their lives in adulthood and how did the arts assist the two in their quests for healing? Lots of paintings will be discussed in the course of the workshop.

Childcare available upon request.

To register to attend, email: [minister@uusavannah.org](mailto:minister@uusavannah.org)

\*Interim Minister, Rev. Amy Kindred, has a Master of Theology degree with research in Art and Religion, as well as a Master of Divinity degree.

## 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.

## Splinters from the Board

The December Board meeting was devoted entirely to beginning the process of setting up an Endowment Fund. We listened to Jim Jackson present an overview of the things that we need to consider. Jim has had a great deal of experience in helping other organizations set up endowments and has agreed to lead us through this process.

Basically, it involves setting up funds with policies regarding how monies can be spent. We decided that we would have a total of five fund trustees overseeing the funds; two from the board and the other three elected by the congregation.

Our goal is to have everything in place by the Annual Meeting where we will have the congregation vote on the fund trustees and any necessary changes to the Bylaws.

The Board also recently reached an agreement with the Beach Institute regarding the proceeds from the sale of the painting Little Caesar.

Beach had contended that the loan of the painting had morphed into ownership. After months of negotiations, they backed down from their claims of ownership and we agreed to give them 25% of the profit we make from the sale. We are grateful that this agreement was reached amicably.

In January, the Board will meet twice. Our first meeting will be devoted to Mission and Vision. In our second meeting we will again be visiting endowments and making the decisions that will allow Jim Jackson to craft the policies that will form the framework of this program.

When you see one of the Board trustees in church, please take a moment to thank them for all their hard work.

See you in church,

*Judy*

## Results of Congregational Meeting

A congregational meeting was held on December 18, 2011 which resulted in changes being made to two of our bylaws.

The congregation voted to eliminate the reference to Committee on Ministry, since the Board had been advised by the UUA to remove the option to have this committee from our ministerial contract.

We approved a change in our fiscal year which will go into effect July 1, 2013. Our next fiscal year will encompass 13 months. It will commence on June 1, 2012 and end June 30, 2013, after which, our fiscal years will be from July 1, to June 30.

The congregation voted to rename our fellowship hall the Milton H. Rahn Hall in memory of a long time member and visionary. This was approved in preparation for major renovations which we anticipate will begin next year.

Martha Weaver, Chair of the Ministerial Search Committee, announced that our congregational record was now on the church's search website and that potential candidates were being considered.

Finally, Rev. Amy Kindred pointed out that we had quickly moved from a family church to a program size church (current membership is 151). She feels very good about the progress we have made this year to cope with this growth through the establishment of a Program Council and in the initiatives that the Board is working on re: endowments and strategic planning. She thinks we are definitely on the right track.

*Judy Dinehart*  
President

# 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.

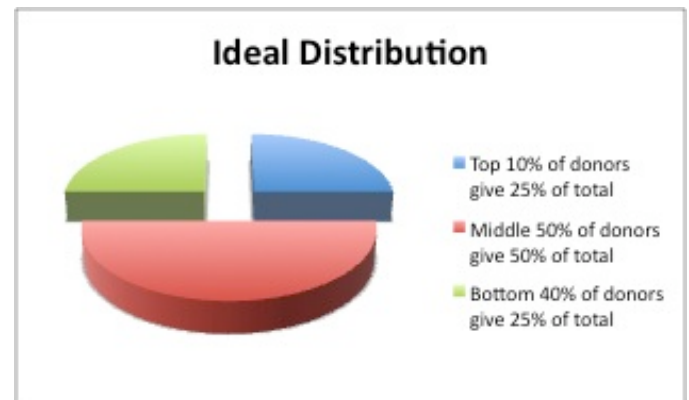
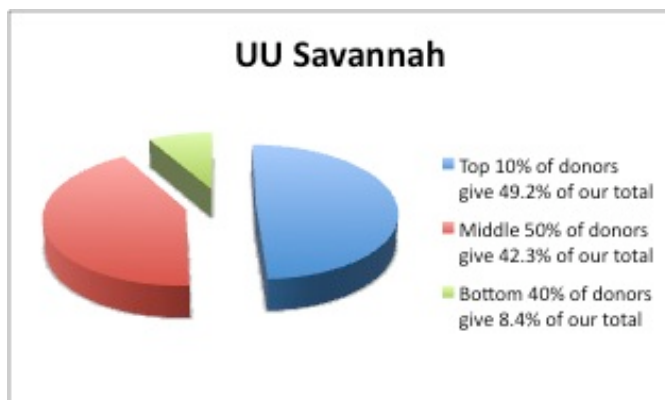
The middle half of donors contribute 42% of gifts with the bottom 40% of donors contributing a total of 8% of gifts. (See graphs on page 7 for a visual representation of this information)

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

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.



## You're Invited: MLK Day Brunch

What: Brunch on Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Monday Jan 16th) from 11:30a.m. to 3 p.m., open house.

Where: home of Caroline Hopkinson, 129 E 52nd Street (between Abercorn & Habersham)

Even if you didn't "win" this event in the recent Service Auction fundraiser, for a \$10 donation to the Church, collected at the event, all are invited to a post-parade brunch and fellowship in honor of MLK Day. If convenient please RSVP to [carohopkinson@gmail.com](mailto:carohopkinson@gmail.com) or 236.3117 (\$5 per school-age child, Tots and babes free)

## MUSIC NEWS

The Music Committee invites you to a lovely afternoon of piano classics, performed by Sanford Jones in our sanctuary on Sunday, Jan 8 at 3pm. We have all grown to love Sanford, who substituted for Kelly on piano this summer, as well as the Sunday after Thanksgiving and Christmas. Sanford is a bonafide piano virtuoso, who plays with great musical sensitivity and nuance. This is an event you don't want to miss!! Invitation is extended to all ages 9 and above. Sanford has generously agreed to split the house proceeds from this event with our church. \$8 Love Offering per person suggested.

Kelly



**SANFORD JONES**, pianist in concert

**“MUSIC of the MASTERS”**

Sunday, January 8th at 3:00 p.m.  
Unitarian Universalist Church of Savannah  
313 E. Harris Street, Savannah, GA 31401

Sunday, January 15th at 3:00 p.m.  
Lutheran Church of the Ascension  
120 Bull Street, Savannah, GA 31401

Saturday, January 21st at 7:00 p.m.  
New Wappetaw Presbyterian Church  
635 Pinckney Street, McClellanville, SC 29458

Music by Bach, Bartok, Beethoven, Brahms, Chopin,  
Debussy, Moussorgsky, LaMontaine and Ravel

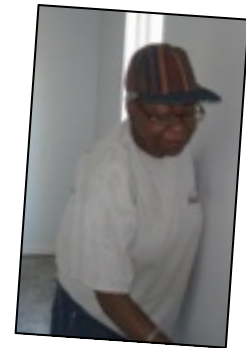
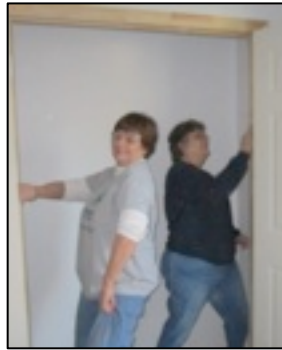
Admission by donation. Proceeds to benefit church programs.

For further information, please call 912.231.0243

## SOCIAL JUSTICE/ACTION COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Social Justice /ActionCommittee happily delivered to Safe Shelter, containers of household supplies, paper goods, toys, clothing and other useful items donated by members of our congregation. A hearty thank you to all of those who contributed to the bounty. Participants in the Safe Shelter community are a bit more comfortable and experience a Happier New Year through your generosity. Our work continues!

On Saturday, December 17, 2010 seven members of our UU congregation met in Garden City and worked preparing a new home. We worked with Aretha on her home, under the auspices of the Empire Coastal Habitat for Humanity. With brushes and some paint flying, we completed painting most of the trim and interior doors of the house. Beyond tired backs, and aching knees we shared good fun, gained some new skills and grew closer in friendship.



## JANUARY RE NEWS

2011 has been an exciting year for children and adults alike! New curricula, special events and dedicated teachers and assistants to make the learning experience come alive! As our children and youth venture out into the world around them to experience different faiths and cultures, the possibilities for growth and enrichment seem to abound! Our Senior Youth Group will plan on attending a YouthCon in 2012, and our Middle School Group will be planning field trips to various churches and social venues to enrich their faith experience and gain an expanded sense of service to others. Our Pre-K- Elementary children will continue to experience other cultures and faith traditions with stories and activities based on our Holidays and Holydays curriculum that is enhanced with Spirit Play curriculum and adapted to specific age groups. Our amazing teachers are doing a fantastic job in their efforts to provide our children with the best possible experience on Sunday's and throughout the calendar year! Many thanks to all our teachers, parents, members, and the RE committee for making 2011 a huge success!!

### CORAL GROUP (pre k and kindergarten) and YELLOW/AQUA GROUP (elementary)

Our teachers will develop age specific activities to enhance children's learning related to our UU New Year. Children will explore traditions related to the Roman god Janus, closing the door on the old year and looking ahead to the next. Children will wonder about why we celebrate New Year, how we feel about change, and how we might develop positive aspects in our character. Learners will also look at traditions related to **Japanese Children's Day** this month to gain a sense of how boys and girls develop courage as well as gentleness to combat stereotypes related to gender. The month will be capped off with a celebration of Chinese New Year traditions! We would love to see more parents get involve in teaching an assisting in these classes in the coming weeks and months of 2012. **We have a need for 2 teachers and 2 assistants to alternate with volunteers who are now committed to work with our children on Sunday. Please see me or Nancy Jilk if you would be willing to commit to 1 or 2 Sundays per month. Teaching is a wonderful way to learn and to express gratitude for the programs we have in place!**

### NEON GREEN GROUP (middle school)

Thanks to our Neon Green group, teachers and youth alike for organizing a Party, bringing friends, and planning service projects for the coming year! Our Neon Green group will begin preparations for Coming of Age classes and activities and will welcome mentors who will assist in guiding this process. More information to come, as classes are tentatively scheduled to begin in April 2012! Our Neon group is engaged in our **Traditions with a Wink** curriculum, learning about remembrance and loss, views on life and death, and how these life events may be approached with

reason and compassion. Our teachers will be planning possible field trips to explore how other church traditions approach worship, music, and fellowship together. Our UU history as it relates to heresy will convey a message of sacrifice and service to the traditions we value. Please take an opportunity to thank our teachers and assistants for making this dynamic experience so exciting for our Youth!

PURPLE GROUP (high school)

This group is engaged in activities related to our **Neighboring Faiths** curriculum. Purple group will explore various religious traditions, seeking to learn about the faith journey of others in the context of a reasoned approach to spiritual development. Purple group is also planning a YouthCon experience in the coming weeks and months, to experience fellowship with other teens either in Charlotte or at the Mountain Retreat Center. Please see John Iadepuro and Brandon Eason to make sure your Youth is registered for this outstanding opportunity to travel and learn!

Have a blessed and glowing New Year!

*Larry Whiteside*

Innovate your experience and remain wide open like the sky.

Expand your mindfulness and remain pervasive like the Earth.

Steady your intention and remain unshakeable like a mountain.

Brighten your awareness and remain shining like a star.

Clear your thoughts and remain lucid like a crystal.

16<sup>th</sup> century Buddhist Master

## 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**

February Articles Due JANUARY 25, 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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