

1961-2011 Fifty Years of Unitarian Universalism in East Alabama



AUUF SERVICES • 10:00 A.M.

November 6

“Wade in the Water”

Connie Goodbread, District Executive, Mid-South District of UUA

For the first six months of 2011, the AUUF focused on the past, on our first 50 years. Now into our 51st year, we'll look to the future by welcoming Mid-South District's new District Executive, Connie Goodbread. Connie has worked with Mid-South District for several years now, alongside Eunice Benton prior to her retirement. Here is Connie's description of her talk: *“Wade in the water. Wade in the water, children. Wade in the water. God's gonna trouble the water... African American Spiritual; Either you decide to stay in the shallow end of the pool or you go out in the ocean. Christopher Reeve; To discover new lands one must lose sight of the shore. Unknown. Change is in the air. We find ourselves at a pivotal point*

in the faith development of Unitarian Universalism. This affects us all: each congregation and each individual member. Our health and vitality depends on our sense of adventure and our flexibility. Why do we exist? What will we become? Come and hear my thoughts and how all of this excites a sense of adventure in me.”

November 13

“Put a Little Love in Your Heart: Angie's Auction Sermon”

Rev. Diana Jordan Allende

Potluck, Food Bank Collection, Giving the Plate: East Ala. Food Bank, Board Meeting

Has this ever happened to you: Someone you're relying on lets you down...your neighbor's unkempt yard becomes a major irritation...you can't figure out why your co-worker is acting so strange all of a sudden. Justifiably annoyed (according to your

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Choir @ 9:00 Service @ 10:00 RE @ 11:15		Diana 1:30-5:00/ by appt. Yoga @ 5	Choir @ 6:30	Diana 1:30-5:00/ by appt.		
↓		↓	↓	↓		
		1	2	3	4 Macho Men @ 7 Sundilla @ 7:30	5 Vipasanna @ 10 yarnhouse studio, 10-12
6	7	8	9	10 PFLAG @ 7:00, Gnu's Room	11	12 New UU 10-2
13 Food Bank Collection Potluck Board Meeting	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 Bread Communion Humanist Dinner @ 6, BC	21	22	23	24	25	26
News Deadline						
27	28	29	30	Invite your friends to the	UU AUCTION!	Please see inside pages for more info about events.

Diana's COLUMN

Gathered in small groups around sheets of newsprint at the LRP service last month, I'm guessing that no one was surprised that "community" surfaced again and again as the primary reason given for why people come to the AUUF. This has always been true for the Fellowship, although "community" would likely emerge as a core value among other religious groups as well. We are social creatures and connection with other people is a universal human need. Congregations are a good place to find it. We may need and benefit from connection with other species and the natural world, too, but there's a reason why Adam rejoiced when finally he had a human companion, according to the creation story in Genesis. Like all myths, this one tells us something essential about our lives, something we repeat every week at the AUUF: We all need companions for the journey.

Growing up in a large family, I took community somewhat for granted. With five siblings, community was guaranteed, albeit, close-knit. It was solitude that was in short supply. Perhaps this explains why, once upon a time, I would not have listed "community" as a reason to come to "church." I came seeking what our UU sources refer to as "*Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder...*" I came in response to the promptings of "*a free and responsible search for truth and meaning.*" I came to affirm and have affirmed "*justice, equity and compassion in human relations.*" Community, I reasoned, was anywhere and everywhere, wasn't it? Well, yes and no.

Another community that was (and is) a part of my life is the recovery community with its teachings based on the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous. One of those twelve steps includes "*seeking a conscious contact with the God of my understanding.*" Whoa! How, exactly, was one to do that? What kind of God allows for "conscious contact" anyhow? Isn't that kind of face-to-face meet-up with the Holy of Holies forbidden unless you're Moses? Perhaps it was the "*God of my understanding*" that needed further study and development.

To tell you the truth, I think I have always known that God (if there is a God) works through other people; some might say is other people. But I favor the whimsical way that poet Mary Oliver puts it, weaving in a little mystery, leavening the loaf: "*The spirit likes to dress up like this: Ten fingers. Ten toes. Shoulders, and all the rest...*" But spirit, we're also told, blows where it will and might just as likely be found in a bar, a barber shop, a gas station or a Waffle House as in a church. More likely in some cases.

So what kind of community is the AUUF that we might be grateful for it during this month of Thanksgiving and beyond? I would say it is a community of *companions* (literally, those we break bread with). It is a community of *seekers* and *celebrators* of mystery and wonder, truth

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own high standards), you wonder what the world is coming to. What happened to the social contract, keeping one's word, doing one's part? The cynic in you comes out (enjoying the company of the judge and the jury, at least for a while). But wait...is this who you want to be? Might there be more than meets the eye? Should you reconsider?

November 20

"By Body, By Spirit: Our Bread Communion"

Rev. Diana Jordan Allende

"Dedication of Loving Hands Comforter"

Think of our bread communion service as a gentle entryway into the festivals of harvest and hearth. Bake or buy a hearty loaf, a pan of muffins, your mother's biscuits, a feast of yeast

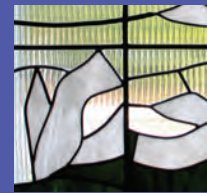
rolls. Bring your bread and their stories to the altar we make together. Close your eyes, breathe in, and see for yourself how breadstuff nurtures the body, feeds the spirit. Join the communion of story, song, sentiment and sustenance. See why Sancho Panza said: "With bread, all sorrows are less" and why thus it stands to reason that all joys are just so magnified.

November 27

"Yes, I'm Thankful."

Member-Led Service

We've been collecting video images for over a month of people's thoughts on gratitude. Come and see our very own UU Movie!



The Auburn Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is a community dedicated to affirming a reverence for life and enriching the spiritual lives of its members. Here we honor the one and the many; here we welcome a diversity of thoughts, beliefs and passions; here we speak without fear and listen with open hearts. We gather to care for one another, share our burdens and joys, and celebrate life's passages. Strengthened by this fellowship, we bring a liberal religious presence to our larger community and work for a safe and just world.

Office Hours—
Tuesdays and
Thursdays
1:30-5:00 p.m.
and by appt.
Time off: Mondays

Diana's office is in the lower level of the Busch Center, most easily reached by walking down the sidewalk and entering through the back door. Do stop by!

A Tip from Tom Westmoreland:



Sunday, November 6, is a free day at Callaway Gardens—saving you \$18 a ticket.



A great way to spend a lovely fall afternoon.

New to UU?

Come to New UU!

For those of you who would like to join AUUF or who want to learn more about it, on **Nov. 12 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** we are hosting New UU in the AUUF sanctuary.

This event is usually held once or twice a year. It's an opportunity to hear more about Unitarian Universalism, learn more about AUUF and its members, gain insight into those sometimes confusing messages that come across your AUUF Connect e-mail, and find out how you can become apart of this unique liberal religious presence in Auburn, Alabama.

Childcare will be provided for those who need it, and, a healthy lunch is included!

Please contact Debbie Bettis, AUUF Membership Chair, if you have questions or to RSVP.

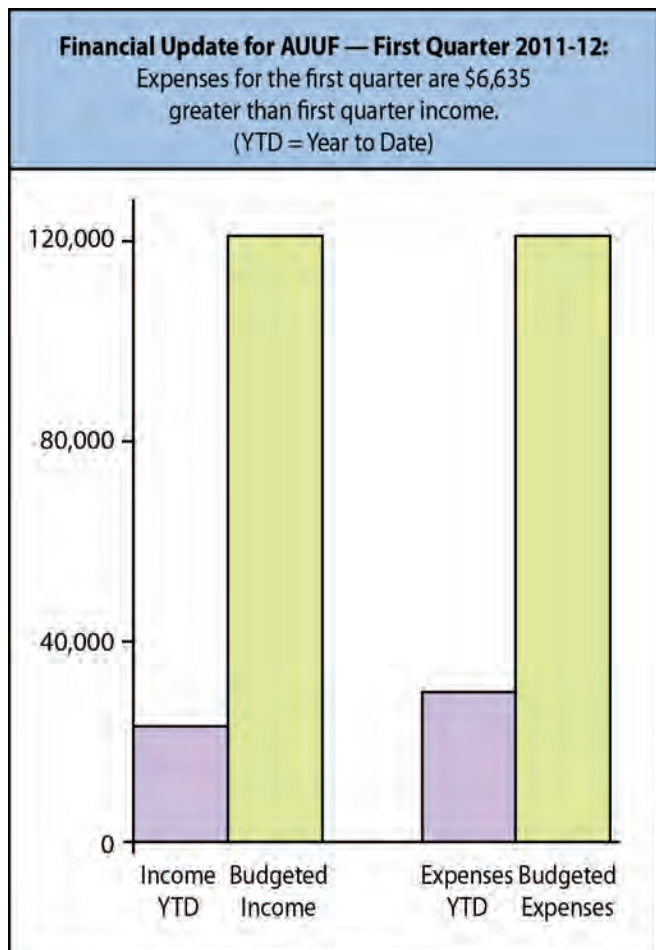
Call or text 334-332-2778 or debbettis@att.net.

In the LOOP

If you are a regular follower of the In the Loop column, you know that last month I had this long list with some things checked and many items still needing continued energy and time. The Board met after the second Sunday potluck and followed up on those items and will continue to focus on many of them. In upcoming meetings, the Board will consider what information will be needed when we provide hospitality at the Busch Center, work on the changes to the By-laws, examine options for digital storing of our records, address potential use of a wheelchair lift for accessibility into the RE Building, explore annual assessment of our lay and professional leadership, and consider a Board approved History of the AUUF.

Of course, our Committees and other volunteers help keep AUUF the great "community family" that so many of us treasure. A big thank you to all for your support.

Yours in Fellowship,
Connie Salts, President



Friday, Dec. 2, 2011 6 until 9 p.m.

How to have a successful auction:
• Donate great stuff. • Prepare delicious food.
• Invite your friends to come. • Be there!

IT TAKES A VILLAGE: the We in RE

FROM OUR DRE

Fall is the air, it has finally cooled down, and the parade of holidays and events are coming. By the time this is published, we'll have had a great Halloween Festival coordinated by Debbie Bettis. November 6 will bring a visit from Connie Goodbread, MSD Acting District Executive, a speaker not to be missed. Starting the first day of Advent, each RE class will be presenting the children's story: HOPE on Nov. 27, PEACE on Dec. 4, JOY on Dec. 11, and LOVE on Dec. 18.

I will be away from the Fellowship November 15 through Dec 10. I am blessed to know that Amy Kaiser, RE Chair, will be here to make sure all is well while I am needed elsewhere. My sister, Stephanie, needs support while she is undergoing surgery as she fights cancer. I will be in charge of my niece, Erin. She has Rett's Syndrome and needs help with daily personal care. I am grateful for all the support and understanding this Fellowship gives me.

---Rebecca Brushek

SEEING, DESCRIBING NATURE

The 4-6 grade class, joined by members of the 1-3 grade class, visited the Arboretum on Sunday, Oct. 2 to have fun in nature and to use our powers of observation. We practiced describing things, like leaves and rocks and seeds, accurately when we played a guessing game with things we had picked up. For



example, instead of saying "a big leaf", we were more descriptive by saying "a leaf that is bigger than my hand." Each of the kids was blindfolded and taken to a particular tree. They had to use their other senses to discover things about the tree so that they could find "their" tree later without the blindfold. Everyone enjoyed this activity, even though one of the kids explored a tree that had a Poison Ivy vine on it!



We talked about how observing carefully in nature can be good practice for making observations when we communicate with others.

---Terry Rodriguez

SHARING HOLIDAY BOUNTY

Coming soon...Guest at Your Table boxes!

Please keep an eye out for the arrival of our annual GAYT boxes, the fundraiser for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC), which promotes human rights here at home and around the world. We will launch our GAYT fundraiser November 20th. All families are encouraged to take a box home with them and to share some of their holiday bounty by filling the box with money--some families put coins into the box each time they sit down at the table for a meal. Boxes will be collected January 8th. Let's show our support for the important work of the UUSC!



---Amy Phillips

RE CLASSROOM COVENANTS

All the RE classes are being encouraged to create classroom covenants that are generated and mutually agreed upon by those in the classes and state the ways everyone should be treated while in that space. This month we are featuring the covenants made by the Pre-school and 1st-3rd Grade classes.

1st-3rd grade class:

*We take turns talking using the talking stick
We listen quietly.
We say nice things to each other
We keep our hands to ourselves
We play nice.
We share.
We take turns.*

Preschool class:

*This will be a place we want to come to because we are treated the way we like to be treated. When we are here we will:
Play together,
Share with each other,
Help other people and ourselves,
Listen to each other,
Hug to show we are friends,
Leave friends alone if they want to be left alone,
Ask how friends are doing by saying, "How do you feel?"
Say a **real** "I'm sorry" if we do a mean thing, then be friends again,
Put away things we use so other people can use them again later,
Not hit, punch, kick, or throw things at someone because it makes us all sad.*



LOOKING BACK AS WE LOOK FORWARD



As the observations and celebrations of AUUF's first 50 years draw to a close, there is one more ceremonial

way we might both honor the past and anticipate the future of our Fellowship. Although still in the planning stages, RE will work with other committees to



coordinate burying a time capsule before year's end since the children and youth of our "village" will be the adult leaders of AUUF in 2061 during the celebration of our 100-year

anniversary. You will be hearing more about this project soon, and we are hoping that the idea of a time capsule will spark the imaginations of our young people and encourage them to dream about the future of AUUF.

---Amy Kaiser

RE HAPPENINGS AT A GLANCE

Sunday, November 6: Connie Goodbread, MSD Acting District Executive, speaks at service

RE after service

Sunday, November 13: Potluck Sunday, children/youth bring up canned goods for the Food Bank during Children's Story

No RE, children and youth stay for Potluck

Sunday, November 20: RE after service

Sunday, November 27: RE after service

Living Green, Living Well

The Green Raven

(o o)

\ / **Where Did Global Warming GO?**

“Where Did Global Warming Go? Even as other countries take action, the issue is fading from the American agenda.”

Those are the headlines of a New York Times "Week in Review" article recently. And there is an Onion article, "Report: Global warming issue from 2 or 3 years ago may still be problem.

"Fading from the American agenda?" "May" still be a problem?" What is happening in this country? Where is everybody?

I guess they are in dreamland. Somewhere over the rainbow.... Trouble is, when that song became popular we were kids who needed to be comforted; it was war time and we were losing friends and family to the hounds of war; we knew that. Today we seem to believe that out of sight and out of mind means not to worry, no problem. We need to grow up.

Real problems are headed at us.

There are three kinds of problems actually and really coming down the track toward us. 1) The globe IS warming because of our burnings and that is going to make Eearth* a difficult place to sustain life, especially civilized life. 2) Resources ARE running out. Not only are we close to the point of "peak" oil (the point where half the total available oil has been extracted) but we are closing on peak gas, coal, soil, fresh water, phosphorus, and many other minerals as well as life forms like fish and general diversity. Meanwhile our usage increases as do our numbers. We are running out at an ever increasing rate. 3) We have a complete mess in our political economy so we have less capital and income, and less willingness and leadership to cope with these human problems, the rapidly expanding human population, and the physical problems we have created.

Great time to put your head in the sand.

But how much better than the bulk of the American people are YOU doing? Have you at least grown a few veggies and started a compost pile? Are you recycling faithfully and have you changed all your

light bulbs (or all but the fridge and the oven light) to efficient ones? Have you put on a solar water heater? Do you carpool and make good shopping lists so you don't run to the store every day? Do you turn off the lights when you leave a room? Do you know your neighbors and know how can help each other when the need arises? And do you think that is enough?

Neither do I.

*Eearth is the title of a book by Bill McKibbin who believes that our planet has already changed so much that it must be renamed.

-Chip Busch



Just Food Event for November

Having kicked off "Just Food" with our first seasonal Circle dinner (thanks to Michael Klein for hosting), we're changing up the schedule a bit to add a field trip for November.

We have a farm visit to Pecan Point Farms set for Saturday November 12th. You may already know George and Becky Rogers as these wonderful folks sell their fancy pecans and homemade granolas and pancake mixes at the AU Farmer's Market every summer. Through the years I've gotten to know them pretty well (I am very fond of their maple pecan granola) and we've talked about their efforts to live sustainably on their land just outside of Hurtsboro.

the land with pecan wanted to that restored time they



restore nitrogen to manage the clover, chickens to break up the cattle manure and bees to pollinate the trees. They are always looking for new ideas and well, if you've had their granola, you know they have some very good ideas.

When they bought its neglected orchard they work in a manner the land and over added clover to

the soil, cattle to

We'll drive down to Hurtsboro for a tour to start about 2:30 in the afternoon. It's only about 45 minutes away. Becky and George enjoy sharing their ideas and letting visitors see their progress.

I can't think of a better way to spend a fall day in November. If you are interested in going please let me know so we can make plans to carpool and perhaps even picnic together before we head to Hurtsboro.

-Sharon Roberts

AROUND THE HODGEDEROSA

It seems that the old adage of "only two seasons in the South" is ringing especially true this year. I certainly do not recall the threat of frost in mid-October, do you? The date that we have always associated with the season's first frost has been November 10 or thereabouts, meaning, we usually plant seeds of the main Fall crops in September so the transplants will be vigorous when set out in the garden. But this year has seen me doing the headless chicken harvesting in a hurry and gathering potted herbs for sleepovers in the garage sooner than we anticipated. As for bringing herbs indoors during the cold months, we haven't had a lot of success. However, we always try every now and then.



An idea I have been curious about is expanding on what is called vertical gardening. We already stake tomatoes and trellis cukes and legumes, for example, but what

about freeing up more bed spaces for greens and spinach, too? Transplant those plants you wish to grow indoors or outdoors into small pots, then either construct or purchase some sort of hanging devices for support. Commercial choices abound, of course, but may not be of interest to the creative-minded. The best idea I saw was a hanging shoe basket, you know, the ones with rows and columns of little pockets. Poke drain holes in the bottom, add soil and plants, and hang. Using more rigid pots, you can get hold of a vertical rack that holds multiple pots, too. The possibilities are endless. If you are bitten by the creative bug, try your hand at kokedama, or "moss balls" (aka, Japanese string garden). A jaw-dropping site of photos of kokedama is <http://www.cohabitaire.com/2011/01/string-me-along-baby/>. Try basil, sage, thyme, chives and mint. Outdoors, you can liven up a boring, south-facing wall by hanging reclaimed plastic or metal

gutters with slight inclines (for proper drainage), fill with soil and plant lettuce and other seeds. In a few weeks, you will have a "green wall" of fresh, healthy and nutritious salad greens. You are only limited by your imagination. Good candidates include, lettuce, spinach, chard and green onions. Traditional hanging planters never go out of style, and they keep crops out of the way. Though not technically vertical gardens, tried-and-true window boxes make great mini-farms for kale, spinach, bok choy, Brussels sprouts and cabbage. Water as needed and fertilize organically occasionally, and enjoy your produce in the winter. Soups and extremely fresh salads make for wonderful holiday fare. If you're savvy, and if you start early, you can have fresh garden goodness ready for Thanksgiving dinner!

-Thomas Hodges

Vertical garden image from <http://www.gatheringhome.com/gardening/>

Equal Exchange Chocolates have returned!

It's always a tough call just how much of the Equal Exchange candy bars to buy to make it through a long hot Southern summer, but this year I cut it just too close and oh, my, we've been without Sea Salt and Caramel for over a month.

Ah, but with the return of cooler weather, they are shipping chocolates again. Yea! Another reason to love Fall. So, come by the table and treat your taste buds to all of your favorite candy bars.



Oh, and as Tom has reminded us, it's already been chilly, so we are also well stocked with hot cocoa and baking cocoa. In fact, we've got two types of hot cocoa. Just in case **hot** cocoa isn't sufficient, we've got **spicy hot** cocoa too! Pick up a tin and give it a go.

-Sharon Roberts

In their innocence and wisdom, in their connection to the earth and its most ancient rhythms, animals show us a way back to a home they have never left.

-Susan Chernak McElroy

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Reminder: The deadline for newsletter items is the 20th of the month.

SCHEDULES

PLAYGROUND VOLUNTEERS

November 6	Michael and Nina Brewer-Davis
November 13	Rebecca Bruscek, Lisa Nathan
November 20	Laura Kloberg, Judy Lechner
November 27	Rebecca Bruscek, Emily Livant

STORYTELLERS

November 6	Amy Kaiser
November 13	Debbie Bettis
November 20	Susan McCallister
November 27	Leigh Jacobson

GREETERS

November 6	Matt Malczyk and Judy Lechner
November 13	Terry Rodriguez, Ken Walters
November 20	Peter and Emily Livant
November 27	Susan McCallister, Leigh Jacobson

ANGELS

November 6	Kitty Frey and Michael Hein
November 13	Jack and Suzanne Walker, Pat Hartzog, Debbie Bettis
November 20	Jerry McCreary, Judy Lechner
November 27	? & ?

*Let us join in thanks
for all that is our
life at the annual
Bread Communion
on Sunday,
November 20.
Bring your bread
and your story
to share.*



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and meaning, justice and compassion. It is a community of diverse *faith* perspectives, where faith is an action verb, always stretching and deepening its own self-understanding. It is inclusive community, caring community, committed community. It is a community learning to honor the earth as part of a radiant interdependent web.

Walt Whitman wrote, “*I have learned that to be with those I like is enough.*” Real community means being with those we like for reasons that transcend mere familiarity, a shared social class and common interests. In true community, sometimes we like people because they are different from us, *because* they offer a fresh perspective, help us grow beyond our own biases, or challenge us to live with more humility or authenticity. When that happens, we have the best of both worlds: Contentment *and* challenge. Belonging and becoming. Receiving and giving back.

Love, Diana