

QUEST



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine Newsletter

St. Augustine Beach, Florida

December 2014

Fellowship meetings are held Sundays at 10:30 a.m., September through June

A program for youth, birth through eighteen, is provided at 10:30 a.m.

2487 A1A South, 3/4 miles south of State Road 312

Mail: PO Box 5117, St Augustine, FL, 32085

Refreshments are served after the service so all may socialize.

Audio transcripts of most presentations are available on request.

Board of Trustees

2014 - 2015

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The *Quest* is published monthly from September through July.

Materials for inclusion in the January issue are due by December 19.

Don Brandes, Editor e-mail: donaldbrandes@gmail.com

Thanks to Charlie West for proofreading.

Contributions of content come from many members.

Sunday, December 7, 10:30 a.m.

“The Power of the Ally Voice: Advancing Civil Equality, Changing Hearts and Minds, and Creating Societal Affirmation for LGBTQ and All Human Rights”



Jody M. Huckaby

Jody M. Huckaby has been the Executive Director of PFLAG National since February of 2005 and is one of the longest-tenured leaders of a national LGBT organization. He has served as a nonprofit leader for more than twenty years, first as Executive Director of the Washington Humane Society in Washington, D.C., then for New Mexico AIDS Services in Albuquerque, and at the Bering/Omega Community Foundation in Houston.

Jody travels extensively, both domestically and internationally, to train and speak on the importance of the family and ally voice in advancing acceptance and equality. He has become a visible spokesperson on issues impacting the LGBT community and their

loved ones, appearing on The Oprah Winfrey Show with his siblings, both gay and straight, and being quoted in many national news outlets on PFLAG’s important family and straight ally voice. He brings a unique perspective to the role of Executive Director of PFLAG National, raised in a small Southern town in a large conservative family with a strong faith background. Jody holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology from the University of Dallas and has done graduate work in Theology at the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Chicago.

Human Rights Events to Showcase PLFLAG in St. Augustine

Saturday Dec. 6, 2014:

4:30 p.m. Welcome for Jody Huckaby, Executive Director of PFLAG Meeting with local officers at UU Fellowship

5:00 p.m. Happy hour, dinner and short talk by Jody Huckaby

Sunday December 7, 2014:

10:30 a.m. Church service featuring address by Jody Huckaby; introduction of Dan Sostrom

12 noon - 1:00 p.m. Coffee hour conversation

Back ground:

Sponsors: Local group of Amnesty International; PFLAG, St. Augustine; UU Fellowship

Each year we observe the Amnesty Human Rights Sunday by inviting a speaker of national prominence. We are often able to get a grant for this purpose from Amnesty International USA. This year we will focus on PFLAG and its work. (Human Rights Day marks the signing of the International Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations).

Jo Anne Engelbert submitted the grant proposal on Oct. 30 and I do not now yet whether we will get it. If we do not, I will look for angels to help us do this program. The speaker, Jody Huckaby, is very eager to help launch our chapter and has promised to help if we don't get the grant. If we get the grant we will cover transportation, hotel and meals, and food and wine for the dinner. The UU Fellowship has allocated \$500 for an honorarium.

Jo Anne Engelbert 904-460-1190; engsch@bellsouth.net

Sunday, December 14, 10:30 a.m.

"It's All Connected"

Six members and friends of the congregation completed the 7 week Seeing Systems course. They studied and discussed the complexities of systems which either help or hinder the goals of Peace, Justice, and Sustainability. They considered how we as individuals and as part of groups might become part of a better, more aware, more responsible global society--one that is socially inclusive, environmentally sustainable, and fairly governed--one that delivers wellbeing today and into future generations. They learned to appreciate the interwoven evolutionary continuum that connects Peace, Justice, and Sustainability.

They will present the entire service, including the music, in an effort to give enough information to tantalize, and hopefully encourage your own quests for understanding.



Downstairs Dialogue



“Socially Responsible Investing”

Sunday, December 14, 9:15-10:15, Downstairs

Presented by

Did you know that your management of your personal financial affairs can further the cause of social justice in the world? A disinvestment campaign in the 1980s is credited by some observers as pressuring the racist South African government of that time to embark on negotiations to end the unjust system of Apartheid. Today, there are other opportunities for investment decisions to make a difference.

Ken Kurek, a local investments professional and friend of Jo McIntire, will join us at Downstairs Dialogue to discuss Socially Responsible Investing. Come join us at 9:15am downstairs.



Sunday, December 21, 10:30 a.m.

“Simple Gifts”



Rev. Jack Ford

“Give and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, they will pour into your lap....”
[Luke, New Testament]

Is this the way it is for you? Do the gifts of life just keep pouring into your lap? Are you looking forward to this exciting holiday time to relax and get away from stress? Maybe not so much? Let’s talk about the role of giving and receiving, and how to find balance in the solstice time of year.

The Rev. Jack Ford is a fellowshipped minister with the Unitarian Universalist Ministerial Association. He has been in UU ministry for 21 years serving in the Florida district. He is also a carpenter and a lover of nature.



Sunday, December 28, 10:30 a.m.

“How Jesus Became Christ”



Sharon Scholl

Sharon Scholl take you through the earliest events of the separation of Jesus' followers from those taught by Paul who had a very different idea about what a popular religion needed to be. It turns out Paul was right, but the original religion of Jesus' vision was lost in the process.

Sharon Scholl is professor emerita from Jacksonville University where she taught interdisciplinary Humanities and Non-Western Studies (Africa, Japan). She is mostly educated as a musician and continues work as choral director and composer (www.freeprintmusic.com) giving away original choral music.



Ministerial Search Committee

The slate for the Ministerial Search Committee is.....: Claudia Atkins, Barbara Battelle, Byron Berg, Beverly Cree, Cal Marshall, John Porter, Toni Wallace. Let's give these people a big round of applause for stepping forward in the search for our first minister! They have all worked for our Fellowship in various ways and now are volunteering for a project in uncharted territory. At our Congregational Meeting on Dec. 14. we will vote for 3 to be on the Ministerial Search Committee. Then the Board will vote on Dec. 15 for 2 more. All of these people deserve a huge thank you for offering their time in this important assignment.

From the Nominating Committee

Share the Plate

Sunday, November 16 marked our first Share the Plate Sunday. We raised \$343 for the St. Johns Ecumenical Food Pantry. Thanks to all for your generosity. *And please continue your habit of generous giving when it comes to our own beloved Fellowship!*



Membership Committee

Our fellowship has welcomed many new guests this fall. We are grateful to Megan Porter and Lola Sorenson and the Program Committee for selecting a diverse and captivating group of Sunday speakers. We are especially thankful to Beverly Cree and the Lifelong Learning for Children Committee for developing a program that is attracting young families on Sundays.

We are planning an information meeting on December 7th at noon in the meditation room to provide a brief history of the fellowship and discuss how we work together to build a socially active, spiritual community. Child care will be available.

Care Connection



Our Care Connection group provides short term support and assistance for members of the fellowship during times of difficulty.

We thank everyone for their generous support with transportation to medical appointments, making meals, assistance with errands, visiting and sharing.

The Care Connection includes everyone in our Fellowship willing to receive and give support at times of difficulty.

Contact Elle Barry or Cynthia McAuliffe, co-chairs, if you are in need of assistance or would like to be involved in the Care Connection Group

Great Decisions



“U.S. Trade Policy”

7:00 p.m., Monday, December 1 at the UU

This month Great Decisions, the discussion group on Foreign Policy and International Relations coordinated by the Foreign Policy Association, will meet for a discussion on “U.S trade policy.” This discussion will be led by Stuart Bicknell.

Topics will include:

- The World Trade Organization
- Free Trade Agreements
- US global leadership
- “Fast-track” authority
- Trade adjustment agreements
- and more.

We are eager to expand our membership and would be grateful if you might forward this announcement to your friends.

For more information about Great Decisions see <http://worldoregon.org/programs/great-decisions> and/or contact Jo McIntire (jomcintire@bellsouth.net).

Jo

Lifelong Learning – Youth Program

We are very pleased to be including new families in our youth program. Please get to know these parents and children, they are wonderful additions to our congregation. Also, please encourage other families you know to come be part of our activities.

We hope you have had an opportunity to meet our two teachers, Brittney and Amy. Our youngest children are cared for by Amy in a nurturing and fun program. This is a nice place to spend an hour for those of you who would like to get to know our very young children and their families.

The elementary and middle school youth have continued learning about world religions, including Unitarian Universalism. We have discussed the history of the chalice and why this ritual is done in our services. We are also learning about UU founders, like John Murray, who challenged the ideas of sin and people being born bad, with the church expected to help people be good.

Our teens are continuing the video project about the Seven UU Principles – what these mean and how we live them in our lives. This is a very exciting project, and we hope to share the results with the congregation later in the year. Thank you to David Wright for continuing this project.

The teens have also expressed interest in learning about world religions, and this is being included in their program. The religious traditions and leaders covered by both older classes include St. Francis, Islam, Hinduism, Judaism. We are looking forward to exploring many more ideas as the year continues, and would love to include members of the congregation in our program.



Hospitality



Thank you, thank you, thank you to all our coffee and potluck workers, especially the ubiquitous Palmer, for this past month's generous offerings. We are about to enter the next third of our Fellowship year and have a rather bare sign up. So it's that time again to sign up.

If you have not done coffee duty and are hesitant, please let me know, and I will put you with someone who has had a lot of expertise in this very popular pastime.

If you are thinking about hosting the Christmas dinner, please see Judy Weisberger.

Rita Golts



December Birthdays

- 13 Beth Levenbach
- 19 John Porter
- 20 NickMcAuliffe
- 20 Aubrey (Ozzie) Boutin



December Anniversaries.



- Dec 22 May, Janis & Tom
- Dec 23 Lahey, Eleanor & Richard
- Dec 25 Golts, Rita & Uldis

December Calendar



- 1 – Great Decisions 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 3 – Care Connection Meeting 10:30 a.m. - noon
- 4 – PFLAG meeting 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.
- 5 – Dart Night 7:00 p.m. -
- 6 – Jody Huckaby Human Rights Dinner 5:00 – 10:00 p.m.
- 7 – Dining with Dignity 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 12 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 12 – mUUvie Midnight Cowboy 6:30 p.m. -
- 14 – Downstairs Dialogue 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.
- 15 – Board of Trustees Meeting 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
- 16 – Vespers meeting 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.
- 16 – Afternoon Book Club 1:00 -
- 17 – Program Committee Meeting 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
- 19 – Deadline for Quest contributions
- 19 – Dart Night 7:00 p.m. -
- 26 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 28 – Potluck lunch



SEEING SYSTEMS

Peace Justice and Sustainability

A course presented by the Northwest Earth Institute
(October-November 2014)

Humanity has become a serious threat to its own future wellbeing. Rather than competing for power, seeking self-aggrandizement and heroism – the Northwest Earth Institute urges us to “engage” - and in so doing, seek opportunity for viable solutions via an intentional, mindful, alternative behavior that involves seeing and thinking in terms of systems consisting of often delicate, interacting, interconnected components.

The collection of essays provided in our text book (Seeing Systems) inspired each of us to critically examine our attitudes, habits, and life-styles and conjure the softer, caring, more nurturing parts of ourselves. The exercise was to discover how to become part of a better, more aware, more responsible global society – one that is socially inclusive, environmentally sustainable, and fairly governed - one that delivers wellbeing today and into future generations.

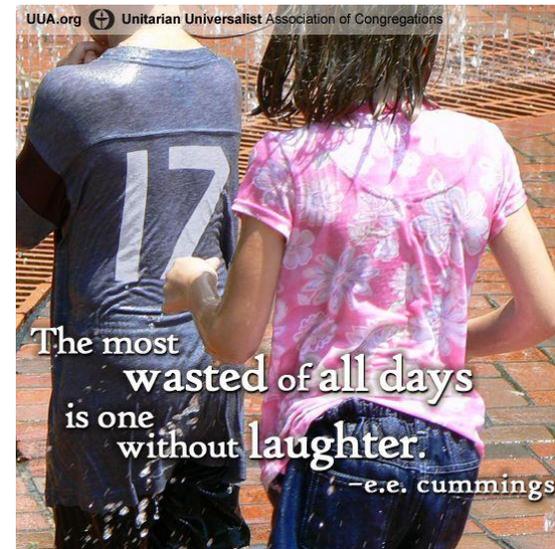
For seven weeks the study group, coordinated by Nana Royer, shared impressions and personal experiences, and challenged traditional chauvinist models, entrenched prejudices, and the patterns of unmindful consumption and indulgences that typically accompany capitalism. And each week we posited alternative perspectives that might help us shed our individual cynicism or despair concerning the future. These perspectives were based on valuing reverence for all forms of life, fairness, cooperation, empathy, compassion, tolerance, constructive communication, conflict resolution and reconciliation, restorative justice, global well-being: embracing the planet nonviolently as a “commons.”

We learned to appreciate the interwoven evolutionary continuum that connects Peace, Justice, and Sustainability.

We came together as individuals aware and concerned about critical and unprecedented stresses confronting humanity as we know it and the uncertain future of the biosphere at large. We departed as a group with a new degree of hope that our individual and collective awareness of systems could become contagious and spread through the invisible “ideosphere” – and become a synergistic part of what it will take to restore “safe operating conditions” for the planet.

If there is sufficient interest, another course could be offered later in the Fellowship year. Please contact Charlie West if you are interested. westjrcw@gmail.com

Jo McIntire (Yosi).
13/9/2014



Afternoon Book Club



The Afternoon Book Club meets downstairs at the Fellowship on the third Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. If you cannot attend every meeting but are interested in a particular book, please feel welcome to come for just that month. For more information, contact Isobel Siegel, 794-2293.

December 16 *The Round House*, by Louise Erdrich, led by Joyce Peterson

January 20 *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, by Sherman Alexie, led by Pat Moore

February 17 *The Cellist of Sarajevo*, by Steven Galloway, led by Janet Jamel

March 17 *The Submission*, by Amy Waldman, led by Barbara Brenner

April 21 *March*, by Geraldine Brooks, led by Judy Weisberger

May 19 *The Alchemist*, by Paulo Coelho, led by Uldis Golts

June 9 Lunch – place to be determined

Green Team

You are invited to be part of a global, multi-faith prayer vigil on Sunday, December 7, 8:00 to 8:30 p.m.

St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church
37 Lovett Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084

...when people from diverse faith and spiritual communities all around the world will gather for public vigils – lit by candles and solar lamps – to pray for our world leaders as they come together in Lima, Peru. There they will prepare the details of the Climate Treaty to be signed in Paris in December 2015.



Time is running out for our leaders to reach an agreement to save us from devastating climate change.



Our prayers will bring hope. Our lights will guide the way!

St. Johns Food Pantry



FOOD PANTRY AND YOU

THANK YOU to everyone who brought food and donations for the Food Pantry via the UUFSA to date. Your support and volunteering at The Food Pantry continues to make a difference in the lives of those who need assistance in feeding themselves and their families. Every time I help there I meet people who have

no income, no food stamps, and no government assistance. That is scary, folks. In November we distributed 471 (last month was 473) bags of groceries to help feed 638 adults, 306 children, and 408 families. That is almost a dead heat with October. The need continues at about the same pace, with an expected spike in November. What better way to give thanks during this Holiday season for our countless blessings than to give to those who need our help.

And boy did you already answer the call! This past Sunday, the cash collected in the UUFSA plate and earmarked for the Food Pantry was \$343!! I bet Ruth Weber took glee in writing the check to send to the Food Pantry. Thank you for your generosity. You are practicing the Law of Abundance which simply stated is that you get back in spades many times over what you give (Guy's definition so don't look for it elsewhere; just keep practicing it).

Since some of the Food Pantry resources have disappeared, please continue to donate items like canned meat, cereal, pasta/sauce, dried beans, rice, and soup, to help replace donations from Nourishment

Network. And your personal monetary contribution is always welcome. Just write your check to UUFSA with a note that the donation is for the Food Pantry and give it or your cash, or PayPal donation to Ruth Weber. Ruth will make a record of your generosity and then give the Food Pantry a check equal to your donation, less PayPal fees when that method is used.

Our stars this month representing you as volunteers are Cal Marshall, Pat Maguire, Guy Reid, Nana Royer, John Porter, Dave Forrest, and Lee Ann Forrest. Cal Marshall and Pat Maguire continue to be food shoppers for The Pantry whenever there is a fifth week in the month. Thank you Cal and Pat, and a big salute of thanks to all of our volunteers! A special mention that Nana, Dave, Lee Ann, and John are even covering on Black Friday!

Happy Thanksgiving

Guy Reid

Food Pantry Coordinator for UUFSA

Dining With Dignity



Claudia Atkins

Our next opportunity to provide a nourishing meal for the homeless will be December 7, 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

For more information, contact a member of the Dining With Dignity Team: Mary Kellough, Nana Royer &



MUUVies

Second Friday of the Month at 6:30 p.m.



12/12/14 - Midnight Cowboy (1969) 113 minutes - drama - Rotten Tomatoes/89% - winner of three Academy Awards, including Best Picture A recent review states “ John Schlesinger won the best director Oscar for this tawdry, strident yet deeply affecting tale of a naive Texas stud striking up a relationship with a tubercular conman. Schlesinger was the perfect director to cast an alien eye on Manhattan's sexual permissiveness and Warhol weirdness, and exposes the jaundiced stratum beneath the hip surface with scalpel-sharp precision. Jon Voight and Dustin Hoffman are a perfectly matched odd couple adrift on the sea of amorality in a warped buddy picture that cleverly walks a fine line between warmth and cruelty. The film also won Oscars for best film and best screenplay.” (reviewed by Alan Jones)

Winter and Spring 2015

1/9/15 - Walkabout (1971) 100 minutes - adventure/drama - Rotten Tomatoes/93% - Two young siblings are stranded in the Australian Outback and are forced to cope on their own. They meet an Australian boy on "walkabout": a ritual separation from his tribe.

2/13/15 - Groundhog Day (1993) 101 minutes - comedy/drama/fantasy - Rotten Tomato-97% Smart, sweet, and inventive, Groundhog Day highlights Bill Murray's dramatic gifts while still leaving plenty of room for laughs.

3/13/15 - The Quiet Man (1952) 129 minutes - comedy/drama/romance - Rotten Tomato-89% - Director John Ford and star, John Wayne, depart the Western for the Irish countryside, and the result is a beautifully photographed, often comedic romance.

4/10/15 - The Innocents (1961) 100 minutes - horror - Rotten Tomatoes-97%. Creepily atmospheric, The Innocents is a stylishly crafted, chilling British ghost tale with Deborah Kerr at her finest

5/8/15 - Cedar Rapids (2011) 87 minutes - comedy - Rotten Tomato-85%. It's as conventional as its Midwestern setting, but Cedar Rapids boasts a terrific cast and a script that deftly blends R-rated raunch and endearing sweetness.

6/12/15 - Lone Star (1996) 135 minutes - drama/mystery/romance - Rotten Tomato-93% When the skeleton of his murdered predecessor is found, Sheriff Sam Deeds unearths many other long-buried secrets in his Texas border town.



Beyond Our Congregation

Buckman Bridge December Events



Faith Like a River classes continue. Faith Like a River explores the dynamic course of Unitarian, Universalist, and Unitarian Universalist (UU) history—the people, ideas, and movements that have shaped our faith heritage. It invites participants to place themselves into our history and consider its legacies. The schedule for the next three classes is:

December 3: Shall We Gather at the River? – Religious Tolerance
January 7: We're All Swimming in the Stream Together – Covenant
January 14: Gently Down the Stream – Polity

Please contact Scott Cromar at pr_communications@bbuuc.org if you will be attending so that we can send you the discussion materials.

The **Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS)** meets two Wednesdays per month at 7:00 p.m.

December 3: The Holly King and the Oak King
December 17: Yule Ritual and Social

On Thursday, January 8 at 7pm, the **Religious Texts and Society group** will be discussing **Saving Paradise by Rebecca Ann Parker**. Religious Texts and Society meets on a semi-monthly basis to discuss the origins of the Bible, the Koran, and other religious texts. We work to understand how these documents reflect the societies from which they emerged, and how their influence has shaped the world we live in today. All are welcome. If you would like more information, please contact Dale Crawford or Scott Cromar.

Florida

March 21, Social Justice Empowerment Workshop: "Unleash the Giant Within", **First Unitarian Church of Orlando**

March 20-22, 5th Annual Florida UU Women's Retreat at Cedarkirk Conference Center in Lithia.

May 2, Social Justice Empowerment Workshop: "Unleash the Giant Within", **First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Palm Beaches**

May 29-31, 2015 **Universalist Convocation** at **Buckman Bridge UU Church**.

For more information about events beyond our Fellowship, check the UUA Southern Region event calendar at:
<http://www.uuasouthernregion.org/home.html>



Marching in the Arc of Justice, Re-Visiting Selma: A Conference Honoring the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Selma Voting Rights Campaign

March 5 - 8, 2015

Join the Living Legacy Project, and answer the call to return to Selma to commemorate the 50th Anniversary Bridge Crossing. Join the Living Legacy Project as we invite Unitarian Universalists to Selma to honor our martyrs, the Rev. James Reeb and Viola Liuzzo, and reflect with one another about what their courage and the courage of countless others require of us in 2015.

<http://www.uuasouthernregion.org/selma2015.html>



In early 1965, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference appealed to people across the United States to join in the struggle for voting rights in Selma. Many Unitarian Universalists answered the call, including President Dana Greeley and members of the UUA Board of Trustees. Fifty years later, March 5-8, 2015, UUs are gathering with others in Alabama, for a significant civic, political, and interfaith celebration.

Thousands of people from around the world will be converging on Selma, Alabama, March 2015, to commemorate the 50th Anniversary Bridge Crossing. Join the Living Legacy Project as the UUA invites Unitarian Universalists to Selma to honor our martyrs, the Rev. James Reeb and Viola Liuzzo, and reflect with one another about what their courage and the courage of countless others require of us in 2015.

- March 5 & 7 - Gather in Birmingham for a dynamic program
- March 6 - Visit historic sites in and near Selma. Return to Birmingham along the route of the Selma-Montgomery march
- March 8 - Travel to Selma to attend local church services and participate in the re-enactment of the crossing of the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

District Annual Assemblies

April 17 - 19, 2015

Please plan to join us from April 17-19, 2015, in Orlando (FLD), Montgomery (MSD), Greensboro (SED), or New Orleans (SWUUC). Our theme is "We Are Building a New Way." The 2015 joint Annual Assemblies will feature:

- an important vote which will help to define our relationships as UU congregations, clusters, elders, and staff in the Southern Region
- a keynote address by the Rev. Jeanne Pupke, broadcast to all of the district sites
- programming, fellowship, singing, and fun!



A Peace of Mind

From The President



A successful Game Day netted the Fellowship \$358.00 in October. A BIG thank you to Mary Kellough, Jane Mahoney and Janis May for organizing this successful FUNdraising effort. Reports from attendees were that of good fun and good food!

A Congregational meeting was held on November 2nd. Kudos to Ruth Weber, who chaired the meeting in my absence. Lola Sorensen presented a proposal from the Beautification Committee, which calls for the replacement of the windows in the Sanctuary, as well as adding stained glass panels which can be moved if we relocate at some point. This motion passed.

A proposal from the Board, presented by Nana Royer also passed. Every third Sunday the collection plate will go to a local charity, to be determined by the Board. You will be apprised of the charity on a monthly basis. Contributors should make out checks to UUFSA and put the name of the charity in the memo line. Cash is always accepted. □ This practice will be reviewed toward the end of our fiscal year.

A wonderful Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, held at the Grace United Methodist Church, took place on November 20th. Members of the Interfaith Colleague Group, comprised of religious institutions in St. Augustine, which Nana Royer and I have been attending, planned this year's service. Lola Sorensen did us proud reading an inspiring UU Thanksgiving prayer. Jane Mahoney, also a polished presenter, read Buddhist verses.

On Sunday, December 14th, there will be a brief Congregational meeting at 12:15 pm, to elect three members of the Ministerial Search Committee. The Nominating Committee will present a slate of seven candidates and each Member of the Fellowship can vote for three candidates. This will be done by paper ballot and only the top three vote getter's names will be announced. The Board will elect the two remaining members of the Search Committee.

I want to extend a special thank you to Ray Adman and Don Brandes who have met with Nick McAuliffe and are making a special effort to pick up some of the tasks he handled as our Webmaster. They are making sure that the Quest will continue to be available on our website and that we can access current services if we want to hear them, as well as archived services. Barbara Battelle and Jerome Fosaaen, in other words the entire Sound Team, will be involved.

Joyful wishes to ALL of you during the month of December. Let us strive for peace and hope on many levels this holiday season, starting right at our Fellowship.

In merry Fellowship,

Cherie Dolgin

