



# The Voice



**Our New Pastor:** The Rev. Lynne Garner will take over duties in the UUCG pulpit beginning in September.

## Lynne Garner Approved As Coastal Georgia Pastor

**B**y a landslide vote, the congregation agreed to hire the Rev. Lynne Garner of the Third Unitarian Church of Chicago to be our new minister. She will begin her duties in September.

The vote, at a packed house, came following a six-month search and an intense “candidating week” (actually 10 days) during which Ms. Garner gave two sermons and met in small groups with many members of the congregation. A Ministerial Search Team, headed by Sarah McGettrick, recommended the hiring.

To find more about the new minister go to pages 4 and 5, where she tells of her life. Copies of the two sermons she gave here can be found on our web site, <http://www.uuacg.org>.

## *A Message from the Incoming Minister*

**T**hese are exciting times for UUCG and for me. You have called me to be your minister, so some time in August I will be moving to Brunswick to begin my work with you. Of course, I will be continuing a vision and mission that you began long before you met me.

As your minister, I will be mixing my vision and mission for UUCG with yours. I am excited about joining such a friendly, vibrant faith community, and have no doubt that we can make a difference in Brunswick and in the larger world. We have a message of inclusion and social justice that deserves to be more widely heard. What you will receive from me is great energy, enthusiasm, and faith that UUCG will soon grow into an even greater number of people who share our vision and mission.

I look forward to a respectful exchange of ideas for how this will come to pass. I encourage all of you, both long-time members and new, to think about how you can personally enhance our goals. I am excited about getting to know all of you better on a personal basis. Your kind and generous reception during my candidating week is an indication that ours will be a most fruitful ministry together.

See you in September! **Lynne Garner**

## JUNE CALENDAR

## SUNDAY SERVICES

- ◆ **Jun. 5** — *The Rev. Jane Page*, Statesboro, "Let Your Body Learn to Bend"  
—10:30 am, 1710 Gloucester St.  
—First Sunday Forum, 9:30 am,  
Sally Revoile, UUCG landscape tour
- ◆ **Jun. 12** — *Dana Roberts*, "Selden Park"—10:30 am
- ◆ **Jun. 19**—Dr. Leon Spencer, Statesboro —10:30 am  
*Coming Events*

- ◆ **Jun. 1** — *Friends of Selden Park*, 6 pm,
- ◆ **Jun. 8** —*Board of Trustees meeting*, 5 pm
- ◆ **Jun. 12** —*Welcoming Congregation Workshop, "What Now? Individual, Congregation, Community"*
- ◆ **Jun. 18** — *Blueberry picking at Bruce Beard's patch*
- ◆ **Jun. 19**— — *Congregational meeting to vote on by-law changes, Welcoming Congregation application*
- ◆ **Jun. 19** — *All Church picnic at home of Ted and JoAnn Davis*

## Picnic, Voting On June 19

**T**he end is near, as they say. But we won't go out quietly. Our Sunday services take a hiatus starting June 19, resuming Sept. 4.

After the services June 19, a short congregational meeting will be held to vote on some by-law changes and whether to formally apply for Welcoming Congregation status. Then we eat.

Ted and JoAnn Davis, 118 Glenn Eagles, St. Simons Island, will again host. Sign up at church to bring a dish. Main and vegetarian dishes are especially needed. Drinks and dinnerware will be finished. Fishing and swimming will be available for kids. Have questions? Call JoAnn at 399-0436

## President's Report

## Thanks to Many, Many Folks

**W**ow! What a year! Can you believe that at the beginning of THIS church year our congregation was eagerly awaiting Bill Phillips' return from his sabbatical?! Since then, we've started new RE teachers and a musician, created the Team Council, retired a minister, held several fundraisers, created our own Sunday programming, nearly completed our Welcoming Congregation programming, AND completed a ministerial search. WE are small but mighty!

How does all of this get accomplished? With the talents and time of our amazing members and friends, of course. Some people wonder why we choose to not hold services over the summer, but this year it is obvious - we are taking off because we need to rest! The people attending UUCG are such a dynamic bunch it seems we can't stop planning and plotting the next best thing unless forced to relax. Not uncommon in a small organization, many have to pitch in to make it work, in our case, everyone does. The Board and Search Team have been deservedly celebrated for all of the time they have given the church, but unfortunately praises of the behind-the-scene workers often go unrecognized. I want to take this moment to recognize some of the unsung heroes of our organization, and hope everyone will join me in lauding these people the next time you see them.

Thank you\*.....

**Ron Yost** - for keeping our building in working order and maintaining it so it remains something to be proud of, plus helping with set up.

**Jerry Hegstrom** - for all of his legal prowess, both in negotiating Lynne's contract and keeping our bylaws up to date, plus leading the Team Council.

**Barbara Sprouse** - for organizing our services and beating the bushes to find Sunday speakers.

**Diane Knight** - for connecting UUCG to the Brunswick community and creating our Second Sunday services.

**Mary Freeman** - for creating and leading us through UUCG's Welcoming Congregation process, plus putting an ad in the paper each week.

**DeLeon Peacock** - for helping with set up, and acting as our fearless music leader.

**Sally Revoile** - for leading our membership team in warmly receiving each and every person to walk in UUCG's door, plus

designing and maintaining the landscaping so we look as good on the outside as we do on the inside.

Hospitality Team (**Tia Van Loan, Beth Sutton, and Mary Ann Harbaugh**) - for providing fabulous food and cleaning up meals for our fundraisers, plus keeping us flush in coffee and treats after church.

**Bill Van Loan** - for leading our marketing team, and spearheading the Love Letters fundraiser.

**Ron Willnow** - our fearless newsletter and web page editor.

**Ken Trobaugh** - for keeping our financial house in order, and working to get our new audio system in place.

**Sandy Bonilla** - for organizing our silent auction at the Chili Supper.

**Jamie Wendt** - for helping the Set Up Team keep the audio system in working order.

**Elaine Deaver** - for designing our Sunday programs and keeping our congregation in-the-know via email.

**Karla Trobaugh** - for keeping the service moving as worship leader.

**Patty O'Brien** - for acting as marketeer for Love Letters, and helping with hospitality.

**Herb Frederick** - for guarding and championing the Building Fund.

**Wendy McNair** - for taking over as Caring Committee leader.  
**Ellie Legg, Toni Tennent** - for acting as greeters to help make guests feel welcome.

Landscapers (**Bill Smith, Bruce Beard, Van Dee VanDeusen, Peg Shorey, Mary Gibson, Mary Ann Harbaugh, Bill Freeling, Carolyn Hayes, Mike Iacomini, Susan Van Parreren** and many others) - for weeding, planting, etc.

**Starling Sutton** - for acting as the contact person for groups renting our building.

\*This list is FAR from complete and in no particular order - all omissions should be immediately reported to the Board President.

Let's take the last month of our church year to celebrate each other, and the fruits of our labor. Use the time off to visit other UU churches, check something off your bucket list, or eat bonbons while sitting on the beach. The coming months will restore our energy and pump up our creative juices. Next year is a new adventure.

It has been a whirlwind and a joy,

— **Catherine Squire**



**RE Corner**

**Only One RE Class in June**

The FINAL Religious Education class for this season will be held on Sun., June 5th.

Our children will be selling their Origami creations to raise money for their chosen Japan Tsunami Relief service project. So, bring your checkbook or cash and help our kids help others.

**This and That at UUCG**

**Hospitality Volunteers Sought**

The Hospitality Team is looking for two volunteers to join the Hospitality Team next year. Duties include helping with the Sunday coffee hour as well as helping with some of our social get-togethers. If interested please contact Team Leader Tia Van Loan. Telephone 912-638-9502 or email [Vanloan-tia@bellsouth.net](mailto:Vanloan-tia@bellsouth.net)

**Tia Van Loan Back on Stage**

C.A.P.E. Theater will present encore performances of Steel Magnolias on Sat. June 4, at 8 pm and Sun., June 5 at 3 pm. The performances will be held at Brunswick Actors Theater/Art Downtown on Newcastle Street. Tickets are \$15 each and can be obtained at Art-Downtown/BAT or at Salon 16 on Saint Simons Island.

**Anniversaries Noted**

The membership team says Happy Anniversary to those who joined the church in June: Marjorie Farley, 2001; E. J. Shumway, 2007; Meg Musselman, 2009; Patti Duffett and Carolyn Hayes, 2010.

**New Directory Coming Soon**

Watch for an email about this and PLEASE respond promptly if we ask you for information or confirmation that all of your current information is correct.

**New Plants in Our Landscape**

THANK YOU to Mary Ann and Bill Freeling for their contribution of plants. You can learn more about these and other plants in our 1710 landscape at the next Sunday Forum -- "Enhancing the interconnected web at UUCG" -- June 5, 9:30.

**Final Welcoming Congregation Workshop to Be June 12**

"What's Next?" is the title of the Welcoming Congregation Workshop to be held at 1 pm June 12 in the sanctuary. Delfin Bautista, coordinator of UUA's LGBT Ministries Program based in Washington, will lead the discussion.

The following week, the congregation will vote on whether to officially submit our application to becoming a Welcoming Congregation.

The workshop will be the sixth put together by a committee led by Mary Freeman and Sandy Bonilla.

**Let's Pick Some Blueberries**

Everyone had such a good time last year in Bruce Beard's blueberry patch. So he's invited everyone back. We'll pick the berries, then buy all that we want. And the church gets all the revenue. Any berries not sold on the day of picking will be brought to church the following day for others to purchase.

The details: The date is Saturday, June 18, with picking from 7 am till noon. Wear long pants and sun glasses and bring bug spray and water. The blueberries are in Waynesville. Take 82 west to Waynesville. Turn right on to Browntown Road. Go two miles. The blueberries are on the left at corner of Tuckerville Road and Browntown Road.

**Two More Sign Membership Book**



Robert Pinson signs

Robert Pinson of Brunswick is our newest member, signing the book with minister-designate Lynne Garner witnessing. Robert is a cook. He moved to Brunswick a year ago after growing up in Massachusetts and living in several states.

Patti Rankin of Brunswick moved here 14 years ago from Atlanta. She works in



Patti Rankin

computers in Jacksonville.

**Selden Park, Unity in Diversity Highlight Current Actions**

We urge everyone to attend the next meeting of the Genoa Martin Friends of Selden Park meeting on Wed., June 1 at 6 pm at UUCG. We really need the involvement of more people to make the progress we would like. Some of us will continue to meet with the Selden Park Advisory Board and try to gain their trust so that we can work together on shared goals. We will pursue seeking a place for Selden on the National Register of Historic Places, forming a conservancy to support the work the Park needs, and collaborating with the Coastal Georgia Historical Society

Dana Roberts will speak on The History of Selden Park at the June 12 services. That day, we will have our ethnic lunch at "Fancy Q" in Redfern Village.

The Steering Committee of the Robert S. Abbott Unity in Diversity Group (Bruce Whitmore, Barbara Sprouse, Phil Morrison, Joan Shinnick and Diane Knight -- Dana Roberts could not make it.) met before the last

luncheon on May 14. It was decided that The Robert S. Abbott Institute will sponsor, in the Fall of 2012, a multi-ethnic fair/festival/conference, over several days or weeks, in selected venues (such as Historic Selden Park, the YWCA, UUCG, the college). It will celebrate the diverse cultures in our community through foods, music, art, and other types of presentations and participation. It is going to be a lot of work, and we'll need a lot of help, but the benefits could be HUGE.

The Social Justice Team will be allocating funds on behalf of UUCG to the following organizations in June:

- Glynn Environmental Coalition
  - Habitat for Humanity
  - HeartStrong
  - STAR Foundation
  - Coastal Coalition for Children
  - Golden Isles Arts & Humanities Assn.
  - Genoa Martin Friends of Selden Park Assn.
- Diane Knight

**Social Justice Report**

**June Helpers**

**Lay Reader:** Ellie Legg  
**Ushers:** Judy Frederick, Bill Van Loan, Bill Smith

**Jane Page's Ministerial Musings got squeezed out this month. You can read her June column by going to our web page., [www.uuacg.org](http://www.uuacg.org).**

## Lynne Garner in Her Own Words

*Who is this Lynne Garner that we just hired to lead our congregation? Well, let's let her tell us in her own words. The Ministerial Search Team perused an extensive packet of material that the Rev. Ms. Garner put together outlining where she comes from and what she stands for. The committee was very impressed. We think you will be, too. So, on this page and the following, are some of the reasons the committee recommended her — in her own words:*

I grew up in the 1950s and 1960s in a suburb of Syracuse, New York with my parents and my brother, who is two years younger, and always cats. We would usually visit each set of grandparents on alternate weekends, and if it was Sunday night, we had to either leave in time to get home to watch Lassie or wait at Grandma's until it was over.

I began taking piano lessons at the age of six, as soon as my parents could afford to buy one. My father taught high school math, then became an administrator, and my mother was a school librarian. In the summers, my father and another brother who was also a teacher, would work for their youngest brother, my Uncle Bob, who was a building contractor and expert cabinet maker. When I was nine, my Uncle Bob, my favorite uncle, died of cancer, and I was not allowed to go to the funeral. This has shaped my beliefs about handling grief with children. I believe that difficult issues should be handled on an individual basis (as is often the case with adults, as well).

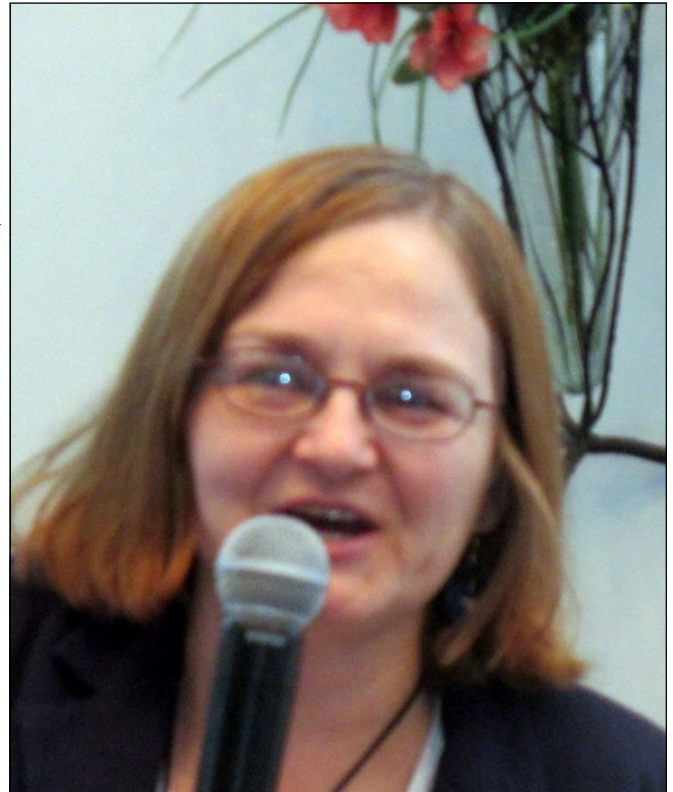
That same year, we left the Protestant community church in the neighborhood (my parents had been Methodists) and started going to the Unitarian church, and I felt at home. Another important childhood memory is frequent Sunday afternoon drives, either to look at houses, or to ride south of Syracuse where there were hills.

Sometimes we would drive through the lands of the Navajo Nation, and I began to see that not all people were treated fairly.

The summer before I began high school, we moved to the Hudson Valley, where my father, who is 86, still lives. I didn't want to move, but I did appreciate the proximity of New York City, where I would often go on school field trips and occasionally with my family to visit my father's aunts and uncles.

I began college at Oberlin, but did not get along with my piano teacher, and the dean would not let me change teachers, so I transferred to Syracuse, where half of my relatives had gone, and which has a small but efficient music program. My early peripheral experience with the Onondagas deepened my interest in Native

American issues, and I read many books on the subject during my days at Syracuse, and was able to take two courses from Onondaga chief Lloyd Elm, who was teaching in the anthropology department at the time. I decided to apply to teach with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and was called to go to Arizona in 1974. The nearest city was Gallup, New Mexico, 100 miles away, and the nearest hospital was 60 miles, but it wasn't supposed to treat non-Indians. My students were from the most rural areas of a very rural reservation, those who lived more than 15 miles



from a paved road. They were, with one exception, first language speakers of Navajo. The songs they most liked to play in band were a drumming piece and the Scottish tune Land of the Brave. Many of the girls had a contagious laugh that I can still hear. I often wonder what has become of them. I was 21 when I went there, and most of them were not much younger than I was. Even then, the unemployment rate would make Detroit seem like Beverly Hills.

In 1976, I moved to Chicago to study linguistics, planning on staying a year and returning to Arizona. Life has a way of getting in the way of the best of intentions. While my time on the reservation was one of the great adventures of my life, I have only been back once since I left. I had only seen Chicago from the Skyway before moving here, and was shocked to learn, as someone accustomed to the dirty Hudson River (pre-Pete Seeger cleanup days), that you could actually swim in Lake Michigan. In short, I found that I liked it here better than I expected, and the people

were friendly and had much the same accent as the one I had acquired in Central New York.

On a dare from a male friend at the University, I took a summer job at the Chicago Transit Authority, and when the teachers went on strike the next year, and then teaching jobs were scarce, I applied for a permanent job there, and ended up getting a 15-year education of the streets. My passengers included the wealthy matrons on the lakefront and the homeless who would ride my bus all night. On one trip on one bus route, I counted eight-

**Continued to next page...**

**W**e may not have a creed, but we stand for many things, and as such we often are out there on the front lines because we can't stand for those things that are affronts to our principles and purposes.

~

**I** believe that meditation is a helpful way to connect with our inner strengths and to commune with others in worship. My meditative practice has been for some time to play Bach and read poetry, and to write.

— The Rev. Lynne Garner

**Continued from previous page**

languages that I was able to identify, and a couple that I couldn't. As an undergraduate, I studied in Rome, and as a graduate student, I studied in Mexico.

I eventually moved out of my apartment and into the house where I now live on the West Side because I wanted a big old house where I could have space for my dog to run around and the price was right, although many of my friends thought I was crazy to move into such a dangerous neighborhood. However, I believe that everyone should be able to choose where they live, and besides, I'm stubborn. As they say, bloom where you're planted, and I eventually bought the lot next to my house, cleared the garbage and debris, and started a garden. I began to attend Third Unitarian Church, which is just a few blocks from my house, and once I had Sundays off from the buses, started attending regularly. I met Jerry Jaecks, who has been my companion now for 11 years, at the church. He is retired from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and very active in community issues and political campaigns for progressive candidates. We maintain separate households, and he lives on the North Side, where he spends a lot of time in the warm weather working in his school garden.

Throughout my bus driving years, I often did substitute teaching on my days off, and since I missed it, I eventually left the buses and returned to teaching, actually taking a pay cut. My involvement in Third Church eventually led me to consider ministry.

Today I am working as a substitute teacher and doing pulpit supply preaching. Since graduating from seminary, I have taken one course a semester at Northeastern, in order to be qualified to buy health insurance at a much lower rate than I would otherwise be qualified for. I have lived for almost 23 years in a mostly poor, mostly African American neighborhood on Chicago's West Side. I take my dog Bear on long walks in the neighborhood, and we have made many friends (although I must admit that he is probably more popular than I am). I am the recycling block captain and have been involved in several neighborhood organizations. Over the years, I attended the funerals of three of my neighbors who died from gun violence, as well as many community meetings with public servants and the police on this issue. I have witnessed first-hand the effects of poverty, racism, and alienation.

I have lobbied in Springfield, our state capital, for union pension obligations, single-payer health care, and the civil union bill. I am one of the founding members of the Chicago Single Payer Action Network. Over the years, I have also attended numerous peace marches, beginning in my senior year in high school, in Washington, Chicago, and elsewhere.

I have learned that social justice work requires a lot of energy, passion, planning, and patience. It contains moments of great disappointment, but also of great triumph and elation. Wherever my ministry leads me, I know there is work to be done, and I look forward to leading a congregation in that effort.

The religious right has co-opted many of the important moral issues of our time. We need others to know that we are out there, and we also need to know who our allies are. We as individuals need to know that we are not alone. It is uplifting to realize that Unitarian Universalists always come out for

**Curriculum Vitae: Lynne Garner****Job Experience:**

- **Substitute teacher**, Warwick, New York, 1974
  - **Teacher of band , piano, and Spanish**, U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, Many Farms High School and Middle School, Many Farms, Arizona, 1974-1976
  - **Substitute teacher**, Chicago Public Schools, Chicago, Illinois, 1978-1992, 2004-2011
  - **Bus operator**, Chicago Transit Authority, Chicago, Illinois, summer 1979, 1980-1995
  - **High school teacher of Spanish and English as a second language**, Chicago Public Schools, Chicago, Illinois, 1995-1997, 2000-2004
  - **Adult English as a second language teacher**, Alliance for Lifelong Learning, Oakton Community College, Skokie, Illinois, 1996-1998
  - **Spanish and bilingual music teacher**, Waukegan Public Schools, Waukegan, Illinois, 1998-2000
  - **University ESL instructor**, American Cultural Exchange Language Institute at Benedictine University, Lisle, IL, 1998 and Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL, 2000; Dominican University, River Forest, IL, 1998-2000
  - **Adjunct music instructor**, St. Augustine College, Chicago, Illinois, 1998-2004
  - **Office clerk, field enumerator**, U.S. Census Bureau, Chicago, Illinois, 2010
  - **Private piano instructor**, as time allowed for many years
- Education:**
- **B.Mus. in music education, instrumental concentration, and piano**, Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York, 1974
  - **M.A. in linguistics/ESL**, Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, Illinois, 1993
  - **M.Div. in ministry**, Meadville Lombard Theological School, Chicago, Illinois, 2009
  - I am certified in Illinois to teach music, Spanish, French, and English as a second language

*"Don't ever let anyone tell you that we don't believe in anything."*

such efforts. This solidarity also serves another purpose. U-Us I think often tend to be impatient people, impatient for the change we want to happen in the world to just happen, right now. Knowing that we have come out in force can help to teach us patience. Knowing that this work can become religious practice also assures that we always act with the utmost integrity and diligence, one well-planned step at a time.

**I** believe that in order for the church to be a successful community, it needs to develop a culture of mutual respect. That means accepting as part of our covenant a commitment to walking together in right relationship. It means respectfully dealing directly with people, even if that means having frank conversations, rather than triangulating and thus exacerbating tough situations. The Beloved Community starts in our own hearts..

# Unitarian Universalists of Coastal Georgia

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## *Unitarian Universalists of Coastal Georgia*

### *Reaching Us*

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On the Web: [www.uuacg.org](http://www.uuacg.org).

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### **Website Has Sermons, More**

*Find sermons from our new minister, back copies of Newsletters, a community Resources Guide and much, much more on our revamped website, [www.uuacg.org](http://www.uuacg.org).*

*You'll also find a comprehensive Calendar with information on church events.*



**Let There Be Music:** Nancy Stewart (right), lead Religious Education teacher, had her students in good voice on a recent Sunday.

**Mark Your Calendar:** Dana Roberts on Selden Park, June 12; Welcoming Congregation Workshop, June 12; Blueberry picking with Bruce Beard, June 18; Congregational Meeting, June 19, All Church Picnic at the Davises, June 19, Details in the Voice.