



# The Voice

## New Year, New Minister, New Enthusiasm

**A**re you ready for Lynne? She's ready for you (read her remarks below.) The excitement around 1710 Gloucester St. mounts as the UUs of Coastal Georgia prepare for what all hope will be a long love affair with Lynne Garner.

The Rev. Ms Garner will give her first sermon as our new minister this Sunday, Sept. 4. Her topic, "Why Water as a Symbol," ties in with the Water Communion that precedes it. Miguel Carbone will again be at the keyboard.

The Rev. Ms. Garner comes to us from Chicago, where she was affiliated with the Third Unitarian Church. She was voted in as the new pastor at a congregational meeting in May after an extensive six-month search. She replaces the Rev. Bill Phillips, who retired at the end of 2010.

It promises to be a busy year in many respects. Our Social Justice Team plans even bigger chal-

### Water Communion, Then a Picnic

What did you do on your summer vacation? You can let us all know Sunday as we continue our tradition of a Water Communion on the first service of the Fall. Bring a vial of water and tell us where you got it as you pour it into our Communion Bowl.

Also, plan on attending the First Sunday Forum at 9:30 am. Bob Ingram will speak on our church becoming a Green Sanctuary.

After the service, we'll have a picnic right there at church. Food and beverages will be furnished.

lenges this year (see page 2). And after several workshops and a positive vote on becoming a Welcoming Congregation last year, this year we will be looking at becoming a Green Sanctuary.

### Ministerial Musings

**T**he best laid plans of mice and men... I had planned to be down in Georgia getting settled in amongst all of you a couple of weeks ago, but there were housing complications on both ends, so here I sit in Chicago typing this on my way out of Dodge. The Fates willing, I will be down in Brunswick before you read this. As stressful as my move has been, I'm excited to finally start out as your minister, and to get to know you and the community better.

It occurs to me that this is a good space to talk about the virtue of patience. I have had setbacks, but I am lifted up over and over by the extraordinary kindness and generosity of the UUCG members, who have offered up to Jerry and me their homes, their time, and their expertise during these weeks of transition. On bad days when I have started to wonder how I can get everything done, I think of all of you, and am grateful I chose you and that you have called me.

As we get to know one another, patience will no doubt come in handy for all of us. I know that I have my quirks, and no doubt, at least a handful of you will have yours. It will take time to get used to new boundaries and responsibilities with a new minister, as the dynamics change with every new person in the job, and every person has their own way of doing things.

I view my first few months as a time to get to know you and to learn the things that are most important to you that I get to first. I will then be better able to assess priorities for myself beyond



The Rev. Lynne Garner

my first impressions. I will be figuring out the most effective hours I can be available each week for you to stop by, whether for pastoral care, or just to chat.

Already, I have seen that UUCG puts the sparkle in Unitarian Universalism, and together, we can make it shine.

Lynne

### SEPTEMBER CALENDAR SUNDAY SERVICES

♦ **Sept. 4** — *The Rev. Lynne Garner*, "Why Water as a Symbol?"  
—also Water Communion  
—10:30 am, 1710 Gloucester St.

—First Sunday Forum,  
**Bob Ingram**, on becoming a 'Green Sanctuary'  
—9:30 am

♦ **Sept. 11** — **Bob Ingram**, An energy audit for our church?—  
10:30 am

♦ **Sept. 18** — *The Rev. Lynne Garner*  
—10:30 am

### Coming Events

♦ **Each Tuesday** —  
*Deliver food on Wolfe Street*, —meet at 1 pm at O and Amherst Sts.

♦ **Sept. 7** — *Board of Trustees meeting, 4:30 pm*

♦ **Sept. 7**, *Friends of Selden Park, 6 pm*

♦ **Sept. 8** — *Social Justice Team, 5:30 pm*

♦ **Oct. 2** — *Association Sunday, Celebrating 50 years as an association.*

♦ **Oct. 9** — *Southern Cluster meeting, Charleston, SC*

### Directories In the Works

The finishing touches on a new church directory are being applied by church administrator Elaine Deaver. The directories will be distributed soon.

If you would like any changes in your biographies or desire a new picture, let Elaine know by Sept. 7.



**What a whopper:** Lyell Ingram got the award for biggest fish at he church's annual picnic. Ted Davis (at left) and his wife JoAnn hosted the well-attended picnic and provided fishing poles and bait for the youngj ones who were interested.

### Religious Education Report

**W**elcome back from summer vacation, kids! Your UU RE class teacherS are excited for your return on September 4th! [yes, "teacherS", plural.] Thanks to an anonymous donor, it looks like we'll be expanding to two children's classes-- a Junior Youth (preschooler and elementary school aged to be taught by Nancy Stewart ) and Senior Youth (middle school and high school aged to be taught by Kristin Samples)-- at least , until the end of this calendar year.

We now have 16 UU children who attend regularly, 4 of whom brought a friend for at least 1 session last year. We had two visiting guests. Classroom attendance reached 13 on one occasion, but was more commonly in the 8 to 10 range. Due to the continuing expansion of numbers of very young children, the age-span of our children now ranges from 3- to 14 years.

Sustainable growth is a prerequisite for the possible continuation of the trial hiring of our 2nd teacher. Therefore, attendance will be even more important than ever! Thanks to the parents and congratulations to the children who attained the following attendance scores last year: 90%, 80%, 80%, 75%, 75%, 70%, 70%, 70%, 65%... Yippee!!

We look forward to having you welcome our new pastor, Rev. Lynne Garner, at 10:30am on Sunday, Sept. 4. Henceforth, all children will accompany their parents in the main room for the beginning segment of every congregational gathering on the 1st, 2nd & 3rd Sunday of each month and will withdraw with their teachers to the two RE classrooms 15 minutes or so later during the Children's Recessional portion of the service.

Sunday, Sept. 4 has been deemed "Water Communion" Sunday. In keeping with the theme, there will be special outdoor "water games" for our children, so bring a towel or two and perhaps a change of clothing for your kids if you expect them to be dry on their ride home!

LOVE, PEACE, HAPPINESS and GOOD HEALTH,  
—Nancy Stewart



### Social Justice Report

#### Two New Programs Invite Your Participation This Year

**T**he Janet M. Wennik Social Justice Team continues this church year with the "less talk, more action" philosophy we've adopted in recent times. Most of our initiatives will continue, and we'll add two major ones that we urge everyone to participate in. All this will be addressed at our first monthly Social Justice meeting on Thursday, Sept. 8 at 5:30 at UUCG. We hope many more will join us as we gain visibility for our work in the community. Someone said recently that they didn't understand mission trips to other countries when there's plenty to do right in our own back yard. Well put.

Our next ethnic lunch will be held at Fancy Q in Redfern Village after the Sept. 11 service. Everyone who went last time seemed to really enjoy it; we had our own room, and the service was good as well as timely.

**Team Meeting  
Sept. 8, 5:30 pm**

Bob Ingram will conduct the Sept. 11 service as UUCG moves to achieve Green Sanctuary status from UUA. You will learn, among other things, about the energy audit that our building is scheduled to undergo. Even though most of us try to "live green," I think we can learn ways that we can do better at church and at home.

One of the ambitious projects we're undertaking is a joint effort with the Robert S. Abbott Institute, the YWCA, and other community sponsors that we will seek. In the fall of 2012, we plan to hold a CultureFest that will celebrate, through food, the arts, and other means, the

#### Don't forget to bring Sparrow's Nest donations to the Sept. 11 service.

(You can bring donations anytime, but children will collect them on second Sundays.)

ethnic diversity in our community. Just as the successful CoastFest is held each fall to highlight our local natural wonders and ways to preserve them, the CultureFest will highlight the contributions of the diverse cultures among us, and how this diversity can be

viewed as one of our greatest strengths.

Because of the confluence of certain factors, including the current makeup of, and plans being made by, the Glynn Co. Board of Commissioners, we have reason to believe that the CultureFest, as well as efforts of the Genoa Martin Friends of Historic Selden Park Association, can be pieces of an overall, newly re-imagined Brunswick, Georgia -- part of the "re-knitting" process that Starling Sutton speaks of. It's all about highlighting our assets and building on them.

We hope that many UUs will join us at the next meeting of the Genoa Martin Friends of Historic Selden Park Assn., to be held at 6:00 on Wednesday, September 7 at 1710. We plan to hold future meetings in the gymnasium at Historic Selden Park, beginning in October. More to come on this.

Also remember that every Tuesday we deliver food to the needy on Wolfe St. Meet at 1 pm at O and Amherst Sts.

— Diane Knight

## June Vote Seeks Official ‘Welcoming Congregation’ Status From UUA

**O**ur congregation voted overwhelmingly at a June meeting to apply to the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) for official recognition as a Welcoming Congregation. The Welcoming Congregation Team was grateful for the strong positive support.

The action followed six required workshops, which were held throughout the year. The WC Team will meet Sept. 6 at

5:30 pm to begin organizing material for the required report to accompany the formal request to UUA.

Efforts by our congregation in seeking official Welcoming Congregation status are expected to appear in two stories by Mary Freeman in *The Universalist Herald*. Editor Rich Koster, who has attended our services and followed our efforts in “The Voice,” said our work

fits into his magazine’s theme of inclusiveness.. The first part, “Understanding Inclusiveness Matters, Part I,” covers the period preceding the WC workshops and will appear in the fall issue. Part 2 will bring UUCG’s WC process up to date in the winter issue.

The WC Team plans to focus now on religious education classes, utilizing a curriculum guide entitled “It’s Elemen-

tary: Talking about Gay Issues in Schools.”

Another topic of interest is the transgender experience. Amy Pankiewicz, the daughter of a transgender parent, and Dr. Jean Cardin, physician to several transgender patients, have volunteered to work together on a fall transgender program, perhaps in November.

— **Mary Freeman.**

### The Year Ahead at UUCG

**I**t’s not all religion and social justice for members of Unitarian Universalists of Coastal Georgia. There are eating and partying as well.

President Catherine Squire and a group of church leaders met during the summer to review what was in store for the coming year.

Among activities on the drawing board are:

- ◆ A Stewardship Kickoff lunch after Sunday service on Oct. 16;
  - ◆ A member mixer lunch called Stew Sunday on Nov. 6;
  - ◆ A new member dinner on Dec. 2,
  - ◆ A family game night on Jan. 20,
  - ◆ Chili supper/auction Feb. 18,
  - ◆ Member mixer lunch, this one Salad Sunday, on March 4,
  - ◆ Organic wine and beer tasting fundraiser on April 20
  - ◆ End of year picnic on June 17.
- Stay tuned for other activities.

### Let Golfers Pick up Own Trash

Last year the McGladrey Golf Classic held on St. Simons Island donated \$3,000 to our church for the work of many volunteers in picking up trash.

The tournament elected to go another route this year, so members are advised to pick up trash in their own yards instead.

### Anniversaries Noted

The Membership Team, headed by Sally Revoile, says congratulations to those who joined the church in August (Ted and JoAnn Davis, 2002, and Bob, Barbara, Corla and Lyell Ingram, 2008) and in September (VanDee VanDeusen, 2008)

### President’s Report

#### A Healthy, Vibrant Church Awaits Its New Minister

**I** feel a tingle in the air. A new and exciting church year is just around the corner and there’s a new minister in town! Some of us met over the summer to plan out the year, but we know we need to be flexible and many of us welcome a new perspective. The truth is, Reverend Lynne Garner is walking into a healthy, vibrant church - a beautiful building, a functioning board, and an enthusiastic congregation. Last year we saw strong growth in our RE program, music, Welcoming Congregation, and Social Justice. On my review of Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs, the only level we have left to attain is Self-Actualization.

So what does this mean for Reverend Garner? Well, the expectations are high. But...I want her to know that after a summer of stagnant heat, our congregation is eager for a breath of fresh air. We are not afraid of change, or a challenge. Yes, there are times we do want/need to sit back and have our souls tended to, but we also want to be a draw for lost souls looking for an inclusive, thought provoking place to search for their own truths. There will be some effort involved, but it will leave everyone with a sense of belonging and pride. Together we can grow and explore. Many hands make light work.

Our first Sunday will be a great time to reunite and fellowship. Bob Ingram will kick off our First Sunday Forum series with an introduction to our Green Sanctuary Program. Through the Water Communion we will symbolically join together, but also get a glimpse of where everyone has been since we last parted. The water collected will be used to nourish our gardens. Reverend Garner will then do her first sermon as our minister - the first of many, we hope. After the service there will be a picnic, because coffee hour just didn’t seem like enough time to talk with all of the people we’ve missed. At the picnic there will be water games for the kids, plus a Team Fair, so everyone can learn about and sign up to join some of the great programs that are alive and well in our congregation.

September 4th can’t get here soon enough!  
Fondly, **Catherine Squire**



**Church president Catherine Squire (left) announces the acceptance of Lynne Garner as the new minister.**

### September Helpers

**Lay Reader:** Catherine Squire  
**Music:** Miguel Carbone  
**RE:** Nancy Stewart, Kristin Samples



### Association Sunday Oct. 2

UUCG will join other UUA congregations will be Oct. 2 and entitled ‘*Celebrating 50 Years and the Future of Our Faith.*’

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### **Visit Our Website**

*Our website, [www.uuacg.org](http://www.uuacg.org), offers all sorts of information on the UUs of Coastal Georgia and Unitarianism in general. Visit it often. You'll find a Calendar with up-to-date information on church events, old Newsletters, many pictures and lots more.*



**Blueberries benefit UUCG:** Bruce Beard (right) reports that UUs picked 105 boxes of blueberries in June at Bruce's farm, raising \$630 for the church coffers. Most of the boxes were sold. Thirty boxes were donated to the Methodist food pantry in St. Mary's. All money raised went to the church. Above, Beth Sutton buys a container of blueberries.