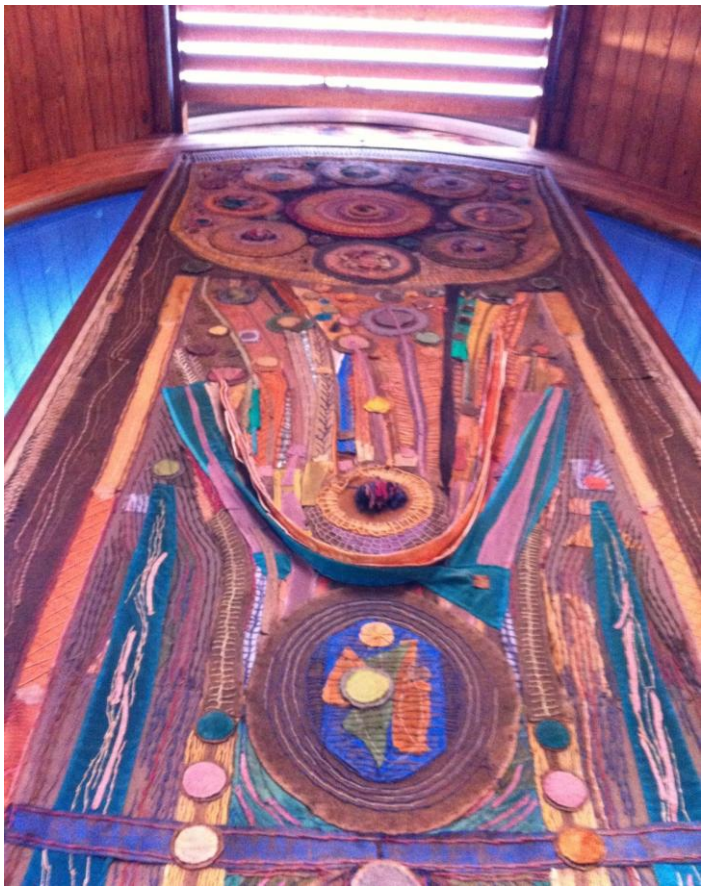
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH OF JACKSONVILLE



Sanctuary Tapestry by Memphis Wood

Roots to *Wings*

Our History, Our Mission in Northeast Florida

1906-2026 +

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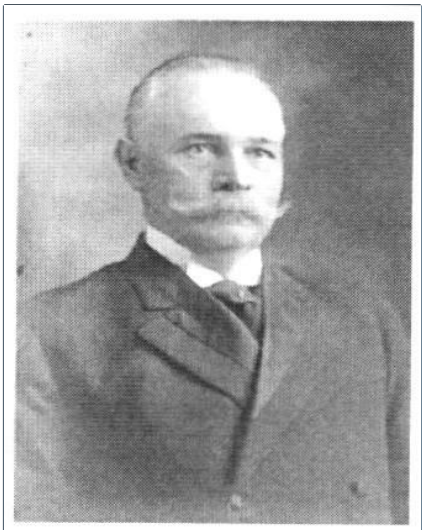
Retracing our Roots

Beginnings (1906 - 1930)



Duncan Upshaw Fletcher

Duncan Upshaw Fletcher could well be called the founder of Unitarianism in Jacksonville. The son of a slave-owning Georgia cotton farmer, Fletcher studied law at Vanderbilt University and moved to Jacksonville in 1881. He was a civic activist, serving on the city council, the state legislature, as chairman of the school board and library association, and mayor of Jacksonville twice. Just after the turn-of-the-century and the Jacksonville fire of 1901, Fletcher led the effort to rebuild the city. Advised to slow down in his later years, he responded "I'd rather wear out than rust out." In 1908 he was elected to the United States Senate, where he served until his death from heart attack in 1936.

Fletcher's biographer Wayne Flynt dubbed him "Dixie's Progressive." Fletcher feared the tyranny and power of the federal government and advocated the rights of oppressed people. He championed the cause of James Weldon Johnson (author of the Negro national anthem) as he sought to be admitted as the first Negro to the Jacksonville Bar Association after Reconstruction. In the era of demagoguery and intolerance, Fletcher consistently appealed to reason. He rejected individualism as expressed in the "survival of the fittest" for a more altruistic, congenial and cooperative view of humanity. Fletcher recognized the interdependence of individuals and nations and believed that everyone should feel responsibility for their neighbors. On the other hand, although he supported female political activity in Florida and endorsed women's suffrage by state enactment, he steadfastly resisted all congressional attempts to franchise women.

Fletcher's wife, Anna Louise Payne, was the daughter of a prominent New York family. She led him away from the Episcopal faith to Unitarianism. Her rather strong unconventional views and later flirtation with spiritualism occasionally caused her husband embarrassment in a culture devoted to Orthodox religious views. Nevertheless, Fletcher, no doubt with encouragement and support from his wife, organized the first meeting of Unitarians in 1906 at their home on 23 West Adams Street. With considerable financial assistance from Fletcher, a cement building with copper trimming of Roman Ionic architecture was constructed on the southeast corner of Hogan and Union Streets in 1908, aided by a grant of $6,500 from the American Unitarian Association. The church was named the United Liberal First Unitarian Congregational Society and the Rev. A. J. Coleman served as the first minister.

Our First Church in 1908

In his race for the U.S. Senate, Fletcher was called "irreligious and an infidel." A later political opponent, Gov. Sidney Catts, charged that Fletcher adhered to the Unitarian faith "which denied the divinity of Christ and considered Him a bastard." Fletcher, however, maintained that religion was a personal matter and throughout his life deplored the attempts of religious fanatics to force their views on the public.

When Fletcher moved from Jacksonville to Washington, DC, a leadership vacuum was created in the Unitarian Church. Church records from those days are virtually nonexistent. Fletcher's biographer notes that Unitarians were prominently involved in the Formation of Associated Charities, a forerunner of the United Way concept, along with the Woman's Club and other churches. Jacksonville Unitarians

honored Fletcher's open-mindedness in 1926 by forming a Fletcher Club to discuss contemporary social and political issues.

In the years that followed, Jacksonville became far less progressive than at the turn of the century. By 1920 membership in the Unitarian church declined. Universalists entered the scene in the 1920s. Despite this addition, the minister was unable to stimulate the necessary growth of Unitarianism in an extremely conservative city. The flame of liberal religion grew fainter until only 19 families remained in 1930. In 1931 the property was leased to the Jacksonville Unity Center and the parsonage was rented. In 1943 the building was sold to the Church of the Nazarene for $12,000. After the depression Rev. Lon Ray Call of the American Unitarian Association assessed the situation. He wrote: “The sale has been so recent, the city so sectionalized, and the possible meeting places so limited, there is no apparent hope for the effort.” For the next two decades Unitarianism did not have a presence in Jacksonville.

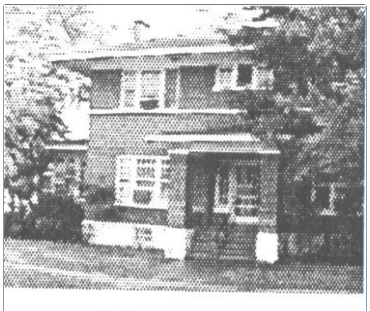
The Fellowship Years (1950 - 1958)

The revival of Unitarianism in Jacksonville was due in large part to a little girl named Sue. She was the daughter of Francis and Dorcas Alberti, newcomers to Jacksonville from New England. Anxious to see their young daughter happily established in the church school, they searched for a Unitarian Church in Jacksonville. Seven years later, a minister at large, Lon Ray Call again came to Jacksonville to assist in the beginning of a new fellowship. An organizational meeting was held in the Roosevelt Hotel on April 27, 1950. Coincidentally, the hotel on W. Adams St. was located next door to the former home of Duncan Fletcher, where the first Jacksonville Unitarian meeting was held. Ten of the 18 persons present signed a membership book forming the Unitarian Fellowship of Jacksonville. At first they met in members’ homes, next moving to Seminole Hotel on Forsyth and Hogan Streets where they could meet without charge twice a week. The Alberti's complete devotion, including the publishing of the newsletter *Unitopics,* kept the group together. The Albertis began a tradition of inviting all new members to their home for dinner, including placing their signature on the bathroom walls!

In May 1952, the fellowship began meeting at the Jewish Temple on Mallory Street. A student minister, Ed Erickson, assisted the group for the summer, boarding in the homes of members. His humanistic views, however, shocked some of the members, still not far from their orthodox roots. When the Unitarian meetings conflicted with temple activities, the fellowship moved to the Southside Nursery School at 1235 Naldo Avenue. From there, they moved to the downtown YWCA. Another student minister, Robert Wheatley, served the group the following summer and helped them set goals and organize. However, after a University of Florida professor gave a talk one Sunday morning on the Kinsey Report, the group was forced to leave the YWCA and find another home.

Will Hoskins

The next stopping place was the College of Music at 2004 Herschel St. in Riverside where a Unitarian, Will Hoskins, served as president. Here the group made a significant purchase of a coffee urn and even had an organ available. All went well until some youths who were Filipino were observed playing on the steps of the building. The neighbors believed that they were black and a part of the Unitarian group. Although neither assumption was true, it was true that a black man had been attending services. When asked to segregate or leave, the congregation voted unanimously to move rather than reject its black friend and sacrifice Unitarian principles. Finally they found a home in the rumpus room of the Peninsular Life Insurance building. Here, too, the neighbors and members of United Daughters of the

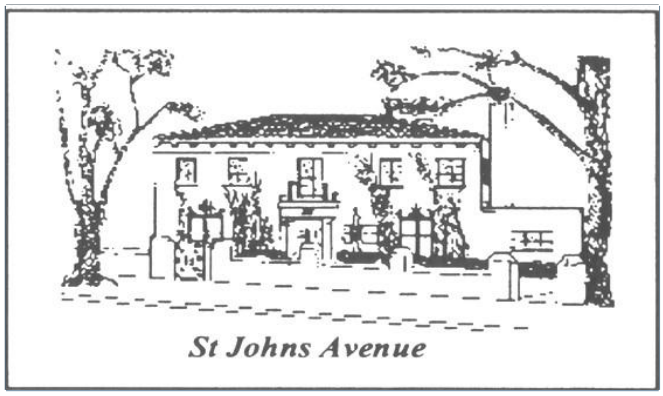


College of Music

Confederacy (UDC) and the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) mounted a telephone campaign in opposition to an integrated church.

The group saw the need to find a permanent home, call a minister-at-large and become a full-grown church. They started a building fund, and in 1955 a lot was purchased in Arlington, prophetically near the present church site. A picnic was held on the site after a church service in October 1956. Only then did the group discover that the new Arlington Expressway was going to go through the site. Finally, good fortune struck. One of the members found the property at 3116 St. Johns Avenue. All were entranced with a Spanish style two-story residence and the formal garden in the back. Although the building was 34 years old, it was in good condition.

The house was designed by Addison Mizner and originally owned by the widow of J.R. Parrots, one of the leaders of the Flagler Empire. When Mrs. Parrott died, the house was purchased by Murray McQuaid, president of Barnett Bank. The exterior stucco walls were 8 inches thick. To make the house look old from its inception, Mr. Mizner had sprayed the walls with buttermilk so it would mold and turn green for instant aging. All of the interior woodwork was cypress, and the room doors weighed about 150 pounds each.



On December 15, 1957, the fellowship voted to purchase the property. The Arlington lot was sold, the denomination provided a $6,000 loan, and 13 members signed the $32,000 mortgage. The 5 bedrooms upstairs were converted to 10 church school rooms as the congregation worked hard to adapt the building to its new uses. Full church status came in 1958.

The fellowship years were filled with amazing energy, commitment of time and resources and camaraderie by this small group of people to whom we owe so much. Some still familiar names were in the membership book at the time—Dorothy Meister, Marjorie and John Wood, Will and Helen Hoskins, Norman Howard, Barbara Nelson and Harry and Catherine Gibbs.

The Golden Years (1959 - 1976)

In 1959, the Rev. Grant Butler and his wife Calla came to Jacksonville to assist the group in selecting a permanent minister. The Rev. Charles White McGehee was selected as the first minister in February 1960. His stimulating sermons and poetry, dedication to Unitarianism and our church, and strong commitment to the civil rights movement will always be remembered. The years that followed under his leadership have often been referred to as the golden years of our church. To this day, he is remembered and respected by many Jacksonville leaders.

A native southerner, Mr. McGehee had served as editor of a weekly newspaper in Summit, Mississippi and had been program director of the radio station in Birmingham, Alabama prior to entering the ministry in the Unitarian Church of Upton, Massachusetts. Charles, his wife Jean and their two sons, McGregor and Stewart, arrived in Jacksonville in April.

Rev. Charles W. McGee

Jean taught English at the Bolles School and gave support in full measure to Charles' ministry.

The Unitarian denomination merged nationally with the Universalists in 1961, and the church name changed to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Jacksonville. From the beginning, our church was known for its impressive music. In the early years, we were fortunate to have Helen Hoskins as music director. Her husband, Will, a composer at Jacksonville University, composed special pieces for church services.

In the early 60s, when active members Dave and Alice Phillips left, they said: "We would never have believed this when we came to Duval County. This church has been a source of learning where we could continue to learn how little we know, a tower of strength in some trying times, and our growing place."

The 60s were filled with Unitarian Universalist action in the civil rights movement. Charles McGehee became a widely respected figure in the community, mediating and working behind the scenes on behalf of justice and equity, and providing a visible presence when needed. He participated locally as the only white clergyman in a march for jobs and freedom and also marched in Selma in 1965. His life was repeatedly threatened, and members of the church offered to guard his home. Although a few members objected to this civic activism, many Unitarian Universalists joined in and were filled with pride at the church's commitment to Unitarian Universalist principles.

Unitarian Universalist women created a thrift shop known as the Barter House, located on Post Street. The profits helped the church treasury at a critical time. The women also organized the Dorcas Group in honor of Dorcas Alberti.

Before long, the church at St. Johns became too small, especially for the church school. For one year, adult services were held at the Riverside Lions Club on McDuff. The beauty, tradition and memories associated with the house on St. Johns made it difficult to leave. The decision to move evolved from many discussions in a process called "Blueprint for a Democratic Structure." Many members were reluctant to take on the monumental debt which would be required to construct a new building. Charles McGehee, however, had a vision of growth and was able to motivate the congregation to pursue that vision.

Bob Broward

The group selected a 5 acre tract, almost in the center of Duval County's population at the time. Alongside the Arlington Expressway, it included a pond fed by Strawberry Creek, our Walden II. Old live oaks covered with Spanish moss and the slope of the lot towards the pond, made it very attractive. The lot cost $40,000, with construction costs of $120,000. Robert C. Broward, a member of the church and student of Frank Lloyd Wright, was chosen in open competition as the architect.

Bob Broward camped out on the property to fully appreciate the natural environment before designing the building as an integral part of the environment. Before his work began, he was severely injured in an automobile accident. Undaunted, he sketched the preliminary design of the church in his hospital bed using his left hand. A variety of committees

inundated the architect with their dreams and notions of what the building should be, including a committee that insisted on a steeple.

The new church was conceived as a hilltop grouping of individual buildings all tied together by covered decks, walls, bridges and stairs carefully sited and woven together among large old live oak trees. The design and construction were carried out as free as possible of architectural clichés and current vogues, but with the use of current techniques of construction in the simple and honest materials of wood and concrete block. Intent on respecting and preserving the natural environment, Bob insisted that no trees be removed from the site.

`The cedar shingle roof and the floating bell tower provided a further visual and symbolic anchoring of the chapel into the hillside. All spaces involving large groups of persons for daily work were created with a view of the small lake at the base of the hill. The education wing was oriented toward a future inner court with blank walls to the busy expressway. The chapel was kept neutral with rough, unpainted walls and unfinished wood arches above so that the burst of color in Memphis Wood's stitched wall-hanging would be central, without visual competition. Broward aimed to inspire a feeling of being suspended in space over the lake. All in all, the building was meant to celebrate life, nature and the poetry of being.

The completed building far exceeded Unitarian Universalist expectations. It has been featured in national and state magazines. Broward won an Award of Merit from the Florida Association of Architects in 1967; a Merit Award from the Jacksonville Chapter, American Institute of Architects (AIA) in 1976; and an award for Excellence in Architecture (The Test of Time Award), the first ever given from the Jacksonville chapter, AIA in 1991.

Renowned local artist Memphis Wood created her first major stitchery for the chapel after five months of reflection and patient labor. She explained her work as follows:

Memphis Wood

"After considering the long history in deep significance of the wheel or sun shape, I chose this configuration as the principle motif for the chancel hanging of the Unitarian Universalist Church. Sun wheels appear in rock engravings that date back to the Neolithic Epoch before the wheel was invented. They have continued to be used to this present time. The circle may mean a symbol of totality. Carl Jung used the Hindu word Mandala, a magic circle which he calls the symbolic representation of the nuclear atom of the human psyche 'whose essence we do not know' to designate structures of this order. To some, circles are projections of the archetype of wholeness; the circle, being without beginning or end, can be taken as a symbol of the idea of God. The square and rectangle I have used as a subordinate motive. This shape may symbolize the earth, the body, and reality. As no two people are alike, no two circles in my work are exactly alike, symbolizing that the inner core of each individual is unlike any other. There are times for the human being to be earthbound and times for his spirit to soar above mundane affairs. So the squares and circles counterbalance each other for equilibrium.

Wide and narrow bands of color strike sharp cords of harmony. The blues, greens, and reds in juxtaposition set up a vibration in the upper section. The more subdued tones in the lower section

are intended to be subordinate to the minister's presence and his spoken word. The colors and shapes are designed to mount in intensity and brilliance with a strong upward thrust going from low key colors toward the bottom gathering strength and vibrancy and exploding into a paean of joy in a burst of harmony in the arch. The goal is to dazzle, but not to blind, to intrigue, but not to dismay. The aim is to present a work in keeping with dignity and beauty of architecture and with the tenets of this church."

On February 13, 1966, Charles White McGehee spoke these words at the ground breaking ceremony:

Here on this spot,
Beside these still waters,
Under the canopy of these sturdy oaks,
We are gathered to collectively share
And to celebrate in common That
which we shall build.

Here on this spot,
We shall sink our roots
Into the firmament of the future,
And celebrate through the years the sacraments
Of both our ecstasy and our despair.

This soil,
This spot of earth which we have broken
In order that we might plant the seed
Of our religious outreach,
And our spiritual indwelling;
This ground, this one niche of infinity
In the broad, majestic span of existence,

We now dedicate
To new adventure of the spirit,
To broadened vistas of challenge,
To new relationships, one with another, And one
with the community of man.

This soil,
This spot we shall consecrate
By our new beginnings,
By our unfolding sense of creativity,
By our pride in the religious heritage
Of which we are a part.
May the beauty that unfolds here
Sink its roots deeply
Into the firmament of reality, Bequeathing
its heritage
To the unfolding generations.

The new building was dedicated on September 18, 1966 with a Saturday evening lecture by Dr. T.J. Altizer, a young radical theologian, and a Sunday sermon by Dr. Dana McLean Greeley, president of the

Unitarian Universalist Association. William Hoskins set to music an anthem entitled “Man will Prevail,” adapted by Rev. McGehee from William Faulkner’s Nobel Prize Acceptance Address.

In the 60s, Friday night programs were very popular. Programs devoted to issues of social action, creative enrichment and psychology created great interest. The social room was filled each week. Before the advent of Florida Community College at Jacksonville, the University of North Florida and Channel 7, the Unitarian Universalist Church played an important role in public education.

The late 60s also brought the human potential movement to the church. They held adult education programs several evenings a week, including yoga, creative stitchery, etc. as well as programs on interpersonal relations. The program chair noted in an annual report that out of 170 participants, only 25% were Unitarian Universalists. They also held monthly coffee house gatherings with folk music.

By 1970 church school registration reached 220 children. A gift of $40,000 in 1968 by an anonymous donor made it possible to complete the North wing. At that time, the church secured the Head Start project. Although federal funds made the program possible, our church provided the building and necessary hospitality to give so many children a “head
start.”

The church established Earth Day services as an annual ritual. And in a more immediate way, the church dedicated itself to environmental action. Unitarian Universalists worked actively with others in town to put together the nature preserve now known as Tree Hill. Located directly behind our parking lot, Tree Hill has provided environmental education and pleasures to hundreds of students and adults. The Unitarian Universalist Church leased a part of its acreage to the preserve.

In 1972, an unusually active social action group formed a new corporation, *Unicity*. This vehicle was used to raise funds for the benefit of a poor and neglected section of town, District Six. Jane Staley, Alan Ozell, Jean Fitzgerald and others worked with a black church in the area. They arranged for the purchase of property and erected a building, the Joseph E. Lee day care and community activity center. This center was then turned over to the citizens of District Six.

The annual canoe trips down the Suwanee River began under the leadership of Ralph and Donna Harris, and continued in the 90s. Mary Lou and Aaron Krosnick, with their artistry on the piano and violin, brought beauty to our services. Their mini-concerts provided music of an incomparable quality.

In 1974, Leslie Westbrook Cronin joined us as Associate Minister, but lack of funding made this a short relationship of only a year and half.

In 1976, after a ministry of 16 years, Charles White McGehee resigned, and moved with Jean to their beloved Mentone, Alabama. Before retiring he spent several years ministering to the nearby Chattanooga church. In 1977, by a unanimous vote, the Jacksonville congregation honored him with the title of Minister Emeritus.

Years Of Conflict And Division (1976-1981)

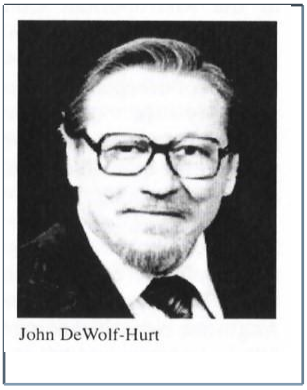
A ministerial search committee selected Dick Weston-Jones. A younger man and highly creative, he was expected to attract more young people to the congregation. Expectations were high. The growing number of divorces led to the formation of Discover Thursday, a program for singles. This filled a growing community need. At that time, few churches were prepared to accept a divorced person, much less create special programming for them.

Although an annual family seminar began in the early 70s, it was not until 1976 that Mike and Linda Berger organized O’Leno One, a weekend intergenerational retreat at O’Leno State Park. All participants at O’Leno assume a part of the necessary chores, making the weekend a truly communal effort. A variety

of activities for all ages and the beauty of nature seem to cement friendships as well as provide fun for all. Joe and Marie Varon were principle movers in nurturing this tradition for many years.

Unfortunately, the Weston-Jones years culminated in a divided, hostile church and the departure of the minister in 1980. The church remained a divided state and membership declined. After a year of no minister, Howard Shelley served as interim minister.

Healing And Rebuilding (1982-1987)


John DeWolf-Hurt

The search committee to select the next minister was a highly professional group that methodically and thoroughly evaluated all candidates. Near the end of their deliberations they were asked to consider John DeWolf-Hurt, from whom they had not received the usual packet of materials. After hearing him preach and four more hours of interviews, they were unanimous in their selection.

DeWolf-Hurt was a man of warmth and humor, the ideal person to facilitate the healing process and rebuild the church community. John's wife, Mary Louise, was a long-time Unitarian Universalist whose practical judgment and excellent organization skills added an extra bonus to John's ministry. John had a wonderful talent for making people laugh and feel good about themselves. The good feelings that flowed from his services began to recreate that lost feeling of community. Besides that, John had the unusual talent of playing a harmonica - through his nose!

Sunday morning discussion groups replaced the former Friday night programs. The congregation developed a long-range plan and committees set goals. Mary Claire Van Der Horst reorganized the social action committee and Unitarian Universalists became a part of the peace movement and a host of other concerns. Jeanne Huebner became Music Director and has given generously of her talent ever since.

The church leased its sanctuary to Metropolitan Church, which had difficulty finding a temporary home because of the lack of acceptance of homosexuality in Jacksonville. Perhaps we remembered what it was like to be evicted because of discrimination!

Most notably, the congregation devoted itself to a cause greater than itself—the expansion of Unitarian Universalism into neighboring counties.

Jay and Jeanne Huebner

Ted Karam, a member of our church who lived in St. Augustine requested some help from Rev. DeWolf-Hurt in forming a fellowship there. Although the Unitarian Universalist Association felt that St. Augustine was too small to support such a group, John agreed to attend a meeting arranged by Ted Karam at his home in late 1985. About 26 people attended, and several indicated that they were thinking of actually leaving St. Augustine unless a Unitarian Universalist congregation could be formed.

Jay and Jeanne Huebner, pillars of our church, served for several years as mentors for the new St Augustine fellowship, driving south for Sunday night services each week. The efforts paid off, and in 1991 St. Augustine was recognized as Florida's fastest growing fellowship. In 2005 the membership numbered 70 with a dozen more friends. Their building is located on Anastasia Island within a few blocks of the Atlantic Ocean and Anastasia State Park.

In 1988 with sponsorship of the Unitarian Universalist Association and encouragement from Rev. DeWolf-Hurt, Bob Towers attended training in Boston regarding the development of new congregations. Although he initially had considerable doubts, he returned to Jacksonville sold on the concept. A committee gathered demographic material, which led them to select the Orange Park-Mandarin areas. The

Jacksonville Church made a commitment of financial support, while recognizing that the new congregation would likely siphon away some of its members.

Completing the century (1988-1999)

When John and Mary Louise DeWolf-Hurt left Jacksonville to become co-executives for the Florida District, another search committee was formed. Janet Newman served ably as interim minister. In 1989, the Rev. Ed Brock, brand new to Unitarian Universalism, came to our service.

Ed previously had been a stockbroker and a Methodist minister. When he discovered Unitarian Universalism, he and his wife Alphise made considerable sacrifices in order to meet the requirements of our denomination. Ed's enthusiasm and obvious sincerity sold the search committee. Soon his thought- provoking services and amiable ways won the appreciation of the congregation. Ed quickly involved himself in the larger community and became an effective leader of the peace movement. When racial hatred flared up in 1992, Rev. Brock became the only white minister to take a leadership role. Before long he was elected president of Florida's Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association. In a very short time, he became a well-known presence in our community and brought recognition to our church.

Rev. Ed Brock

In February 1990, the Buckman Bridge Society, nurtured by the hard work of Bob Towers and Doug Knight, held its first meeting. They met in a beautiful sylvan setting at the Mandarin Community Club - the site of Harriet Beecher Stowe's home. In June 1992, the group became truly independent and their membership continued to grow, reaching 82 members in 2006. Our church can be very proud of its courage and persistence in facilitating the start-up of two new congregations within a five year period!

Bob Towers

In 1991, the church received a grant from the Jacksonville Community Foundation for a program to build interracial cooperation and harmony. Project Interact, directed by Robb Trippsmith, was endorsed by the Mayor's Council on Reconciliation, a group formed in the wake of racial unrest generated by the insensitive remarks of the chief judge. Each pair of churches held periodic interracial potluck dinners to build trust and confront stereotypes. A program to visit people with AIDS broadened the growing participation in social action issues.

During Rev. Brock's tenure, several fund-raising projects became prominent events. The Service Auction, in which members offer goods and services with proceeds benefitting the church, began in 1992 and is still the church's largest fundraiser. Our most elegant event, the Krosnick Musicale, was a delightful evening of chamber music provided by Aaron and Mary Lou Krosnick, which was held in their home with a lavish champagne reception. The service auction continues, but unfortunately, the Krosnick Musicale ended its run. Engraved bricks to line our entry walk also began as a fundraiser during this time. These activities, among others, helped produce funds and increase community, foster teamwork and provide services and entertainment for our members. Friends of Folk concerts, organized by member Lynn Wadley, and performances by the Unitarian Players added another level of spirit to the church during the 90s.

Other happenings in the 1990s included the establishment of the First Coast Covenant of the UU Pagans (CUUPS) in July 1992 and the official recognition of Rev. Dr. Zenrin Lewis as our "philosopher in residence." Zenrin, a Zen monk of the Dai Bosatsu Monastery in New York, began leading meditations at the church in 1993.

In September 1996, John DeWolf-Hurt was named Minister Emeritus of the church. Also in that year, a catechism for Unitarian Universalists written by Rev. Charles McGehee was printed and made available, an endeavor made possible by members Marianna Van Hyning, Mindy Hawkins and Buck Plaster.

In December 1997, Ed Brock resigned as Minister after eight years of service. The church called Rev. George Kimmich Beach (Kim) as our interim minister in March 1998. Rev. Beach's strength and wise guidance during the next one and a half years were warmly and gratefully received by the congregation. He predicted that the church would be known as a "center for spiritual development, cultural creativity, and community action."

During Rev. Beach's ministry and Kathy Converse's church presidency the church adopted a mission statement:

> *"We are a religious and spiritual community celebrating our Unitarian Universalist principles. We are committed to caring for each other with acceptance and respect. We pledge to sustain a sacred space where together we seek personal growth, life's meaning and justice. We serve as a catalyst for social change through our actions."*

One very pivotal event in the history of our church happened in March 1999 with the loss of the Head Start program which had been housed at UUCJ for 25 years. Although we had to search for ways to replace the lost income, it also made us focus on new and exciting ways to use our south wing classrooms.

On May 23, 1999, the church membership voted to call Rev. Dr. John Lester Y Rev. Dr. John Lester Young as our new minister to begin in August of that year. Dr. Young grew up in Kansas and received a master's degree from Washington University in 1967. He received his PhD from Meadville/Lombard Seminary in 1971 and served at three churches before coming to Jacksonville: Bloomington, Indiana; Paramus, New Jersey; and Sacramento, California. He brought a wealth of experience and a spirit of social activism to the church. His wife Kathleen Moran's quiet enthusiasm and fine writing talent were two of her many assets that complemented Dr. Young's ministry.

Rev. Dr. John Lester Young

Into The New Millennium (2000 - 2006)

The music program continued to thrive and grow in the 90s and early 2000s. Longtime member Jeanne Huebner led the music program until 1994. Before and after Jeanne, Will and Helen Hoskins, also very talented musicians, kept our music alive and strong. Joe Williams was the first paid music director from 1998 to 2000. Henson Markham became our music director in 2003, and Sharon Scholl, retired Jacksonville University professor, became our volunteer choir director in 2004. Both members added to our musical programs. In 2006, the church replaced the piano with a splendid 1907 Mason Hamlin grand piano after a successful fund drive lead by Jeanne.

William C. Fleming Nature Walk

Two significant additions to our church grounds were made in 1999: the William C. Fleming Nature Walk, underwritten and maintained by Phyllis Fleming, and the Charles McGehee Memorial Garden dedicated in the spring of 2001

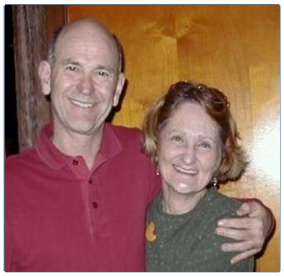
The lovely nature walk extends over the wetlands on the Western section of the campus, and offers a beautiful view of the church.

The Memorial Garden was a gift of member Edward Danzinger and is located next to the walkway between the sanctuary and the south wing. It provides a special place for meditation and memorializing life's end.

Charles McGehee Memorial Garden

Religious education has always been an integral part of Unitarian Universalism. Over the years, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Jacksonville (UUCJ) has provided regular classes to all ages from toddlers to adults. Curricula provided through the Unitarian Universalist Association, such as OWL (Our Whole Lives) for young teens, and Wednesday night classes on subjects ranging from world religions to organic foods have been offered as well as the traditional Sunday morning classes. Also Rev. Young consistently worked with a group of Religious Service Associates (RSA) who participate in services and with high school students through a Coming of Age program.

Throughout our church history, social action projects have continued with enthusiastic support from many in our congregation. Activities such as feeding the homeless at Sulzbacher Center, creating and maintaining an AIDS task force, supporting Crop Walk and the food bank, working with the Alternatives to Violence Project in the Florida Coalition of Peace and Justice, keeping a city roadside clean and marching in the Martin Luther King Jr. Parade keep members aware and involved in community efforts. Several of our church members were instrumental in the formation of Wage Peace Inc., which began in 2002 in reaction to the growing buildup for war in Iraq. Rev. Young and church members Mary Claire Van der Horst, David Henderson and Doris Marlin were deeply involved in this action. Rev. Young began teaching classes at the University of North Florida in 2000 and through his co-teaching with the South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu, UUCJ was able to host Archbishop Tutu as ***John & Kathleen*** a guest speaker in 2003. He spoke on "Justice and Forgiveness" with over 350 people attending his lecture.



UUCJ has always been a community leader in gay/gender issues and in racial and cultural awareness. In 2002, after a lengthy group process study, UUCJ was officially recognized as a Welcoming Congregation, a concept developed by the Unitarian Universalist Association to reduce prejudice. We were already involved in "Journey toward Wholeness" in 2001, which promotes awareness and understanding of multicultural issues.

The O'Leno Spring retreat continued into the 21st Century as strongly as ever, and the Varons ceded responsibility to others after many years of dedicated leadership. Carlos Fraticelli and Barbara Robinson and Jay and Jenny Mooney assumed leadership roles to keep this tradition alive.

The church made a giant leap forward when Ann Marie Alderman became our Associate Minister.

Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

On July 1, 2002. Ann Marie had been religious education director since August 2000 and was ordained in our church on October 28, 2001. With the help of a three-year grant from the Unitarian Universalist Association, the next step was to invite Rev. Alderman to be the Associate Minister with religious education responsibilities. During the next three years, Rev. Alderman provided the congregation with new perspectives, excellent administration skills and insightful assistance to the senior minister Rev. Young. In July 2005, Ann Marie resigned to become the Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Athens and Sheshequin in Pennsylvania.

In 2003 our church began giving an annual Distinguished Service Award to members who have demonstrated remarkable dedication and service to UUCJ and its members. The first award was given to George Maddox who has spent many years serving the church most notably in the financial area. In 2004 Mary Claire Van der Horst was the recipient of this award in honor of her long and admirable service especially in social action.

Church membership grew during Rev. Young's leadership. In 2006, as we celebrated our 100 Year Anniversary in Jacksonville, UUCJ had 293 adult members (up from 180 in 1999) and 80 participants in the youth program. To foster deeper friendship and support among our members, Rev. Young initiated periodic meetings throughout our geographic area and systems of continuing care and help for our members. Both of these actions strengthened the health of our congregation.

Closing our history in 2006, we reflected "As we look back over the rich tradition and heritage which we share, we are proud of the courage, achievements and dedication of so many Unitarian Universalists. But we must look to the future, a future where Unitarian Universalism must flourish in Jacksonville. We must continue to grow so that we can continue to be a safe place where people can express their doubts, fears, concerns and hopes without worry of rejection or ridicule. It must continue to be the safe place where democratic principles are actually practiced. It must bring new ideas and perspectives to our community. It must continue to provide a religious home for kindred spirits. Our task as a congregation is to stimulate and ensure the growth necessary to achieve these goals." We will see how in the following years we practice this admonition.

Growing & Evolving (2007-2016)

Rev. Young retired as minister in 2009 and was named Minister Emeritus. Interim minister Rev. Gary Gallum joined us while a search committee was formed to select and invite a new minister to serve our congregants. In 2010, Rev. Ronald A. Hersom, a graduate of Starr King School of Ministry, was selected and installed as minister and Phillip Baber was hired as the new Lifespan Religious Director in 2012. Rev. Ron enthusiastically ministered, entertained and sang his way through services for three years before resigning due to health concerns. Our Caring Committee continues to support Ron through his illness.

Rev. Ronald A. Hersom

LRD Phillip Baber

Phillip Baber stepped in for the interim Sundays and was later contracted as minister in 2014. Baber brings a law degree, his passion and electric guitar to our Sunday services. He connects with our younger as well as older members. Phillip and his wife Sunnie, who is involved in UUCJ youth ministry, have two daughters, Saige and Adia.

In 1990, 22 charter members met to form the Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Society. The Society continued to grow as the 20-year goal came to when in 2011 the new permanent church was built on the westside of Jacksonville. Likewise, the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine, chartered in 1986, built a church where it continues to serve members of St. Johns County.

Besides seeding the St. Augustine and Buckman Bridge congregations, a group of our members wished to create a satellite of UUCJ in Fernandina. Founders Dion, McPhillips, Kaiser, Prager and the Silverios found a location where they could simulcast the Sunday service in Nassau. They join us each Sunday during the regular church season and often have their own summer program. This satellite congregation has grown to a 25-member congregation. Fernandina's contribution of time, talent and treasure, along with the Buckman Bridge and St Augustine churches are invaluable resources to Northeast Florida.

UUCJ Fernandina members

The Annual Assembly of Congregations for the Florida District met at UUCJ in March 2012. Rev. Hersom, the Board and the congregation hosted the gathering of ministers. It was the first time that we hosted an annual assembly, and much was done in preparation to make our guests comfortable at our beautiful campus.

A task force, appointed by the Board and chaired by Tom Larson, met in 2011— 2012 to update the strategic plan. From a congregational survey, they identified 6 priorities for the future: 1) emphasize social justice; 2) strengthen UUCJ community; 3) ground our theology and spirituality; 4) expand UUCJ presence in Jacksonville; 5) stay in our current location; and 6) strengthen finances.

With this directive, a Campus Renewal Task Force under the leadership of David Laffitte published a detailed Condition Survey Report of our UUCJ campus in May 2015 listing the necessary repairs to maintain a vibrant campus. As money became available, Chris Lippincott oversaw the daily upgrading of the building to more efficient lighting, low water use toilets and drought resistant landscape, along with the continued restoration of our building and adapting the building to be ADA compliant. Other completed improvements were the installation of handicap access and security lighting, upgrading the custodian apartment, and managed the much-needed renovation of the roof over the sanctuary and North Wing.

Architect Catherine Duncan, student of Bob Broward, was hired to create an overall plan for updating and renewing our campus facilities. Priorities were decided using gifted funds from Phyllis Fleming's estate. The South Wing roof, upgraded bathrooms and having a renovated Social Hall became top priorities.

Board President, Lois Hoeft, knowing previous and current Board's' commitment to the preservation of our campus, established a Capital Campaign Task Force (CCTF), co-chaired by Kathleen McKenzie and Peter Racine, and charged it with organizing the project to seek financial support from donors. The funds were to be earmarked for campus repairs, building and ground rehabilitation, preserving the historical significance of our church, and renovating the Social Hall.

In 2009, Interim Minister Gary Gallum challenged us to consider our church governance model, which considers size and mission. We concluded that UUCJ was a pastoral congregation, on the verge of becoming a program congregation. As a result, the Board was reduced in size and changed in composition.

In 2014 a Governance Task Force, co-chaired by Tessie Bond and Tom Larson, was appointed to revise the UUCJ Bylaws and reassess the church's self-governance structure. The Bylaws were updated and adopted by the congregation in 2015; several UU churches within the five UUA regions were studied; the committees' functions were reviewed by Robert Prager; and a new organizational structure was proposed.

In 2016, following governance models for other congregations, the Board, under the leadership of Lois Hoeft, restructured its governance organization and established a portfolios-based system: Inreach Portfolio (to manage internal church affairs); Portfolio Operations (to manage the physical campus); Outreach Portfolio (to establish partnerships with local communities), and Stewardship Portfolio (to be financial custodians). Under the new governance model UUCJ became a program Church and the Board became the governing body composed of four officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary) and four Portfolio Leaders as the liaison with correlating chartered committees and working groups to improve communication, mission goals, programming and overall function.

Our association with the Partner Church program began in 1995, spearheaded by Bob Towers. The program was initiated to facilitate exchanges at the parish level between North American UUs and UUs in other countries. Since the beginning, our partner has been the Unitarian Church in Bozod, Romania, which is over 200 years old.

Our involvement with the UU church in Bozod was renewed in 2007, when partnership resumed under the leadership of Marta Zsemberovszky and Donna Janesky. Marta and Tom Dumas, a church member, made trips to Bozod in 2008. Marta, a native of Hungary, was made our official Ambassador to Bozod in 2009, when she moved to the village after retiring.

In 2009, nine church members and two friends of the church traveled to Transylvania and spent three days in Bozod as guests of the villagers. In 2010, Marta was nominated for a *Sustaining Steward Award,* which she received at the UUA General Assembly. In 2012, Rev. Ron Hersom, and several other church members made a pilgrimage to Bozod and visited with minister Levente Fazekas and his wife. The Fazekas were brought to Jacksonville in 2017.

How we promote all forms of justice

We are intimately involved with The Interfaith Coalition for Action Reconciliation and Empowerment (ICARE) which is comprised of 39+ congregations that represent more than 30,000 residents from a broad cross-section of the Jacksonville community. Dedicated to social justice and positive action, UUCJ has been a member congregation of ICARE since its early years. ICARE uses its collective people power to press our elected officials and other city leaders to implement specific solutions to the problems that plague our community. Led by Lois Hoeft, at the 2015 citywide Nehemiah Action Assembly, 131 members and friends of UUCJ attended the assembly and won the Pacesetters Award. Our minister, Phillip Baber, was asked to serve as Co-President of ICARE for a three year term. In 2016, we boasted a turnout of 161 from UUCJ at the Nehemiah Action Assembly.

UUCJ has always focused on social justice and action in support of civil rights and has had visits by Desmond Tutu and Cesar Chavez. UUCJ continues to be visible in the city for its participation in the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast and Parade as well as the River City Pride Parade in support of our LGBTQ community. In addition, we have partnered with Jacksonville Coalition for Equality and UU Florida Justice. Efforts were focused on successfully passing a Jacksonville Human Rights Ordinance by the City Council.

The Green Sanctuary Program, part of the Unitarian Universalist Association Ministry for Earth provides opportunities to learn and practice environmental stewardship by increasing awareness of ways to live a more sustainable life. Through its educational and outreach programs, it serves as a catalyst for positive environmental change both within the congregation and in the outside community. In 2006, Lynne Paradise, Brian Paradise, and Rick Kirkwood initiated an Environmental Projects Group. The group decided to apply to the UUA to become a "Green Sanctuary," which would raise the bar and add new green practices for UUCJ. A program was designed to address 12 action projects in four focus areas: worship and celebration, religious education, environmental justice and sustainable living. The congregation applied for Green Sanctuary candidacy in May 2008 and on July 28, 2009 UUCJ was accredited as a Green Sanctuary. Since then we have continued to implement our original action steps and added several new projects with the creation of a labyrinth and an organic vegetable garden to serve the Arlington community.

The Arlington Community Garden was created at Tree Hill Nature Center in August 2010 with funds from the "Champion Zone Project" and is managed by our church's Green Committee. The purpose of the project was to improve the resiliency of the Arlington area. With a number of volunteers led by Lynne Paradise, they grow fresh, organic produce and work with Tree Hill to educate visitors and students about sound environmental practices and the importance of healthy eating. By May 2015, with 37 raised beds in production, over 3,000 pounds of organic produce were grown for Arlington Community Services food pantry. In addition, equal amounts of canned and dry goods are added monthly to the food pantry by members—a resounding success!

Nancy and Bill Devereux had a dream to create a labyrinth at our church. A site was determined and the classic seven-fold design was approved. The Devereuxs led the effort, which included the congregation's time, talent and treasure, and the labyrinth was dedicated in fall of 2012. Labyrinth walks are held quarterly during the solstice and equinox, and the labyrinth is available for public use throughout the day. It is listed with the World-wide Locator of The Labyrinth Society. In addition to the labyrinth, a fire pit was installed on the north side for drum circles and other earth-based rituals. In 2016, Nancy's efforts were commemorated by naming the labyrinth in her honor.

Although the Head Start program left our campus, in 2014 we contracted with a home school group—Free Range Learning Coop—to use our campus for weekly classes. The Duval County Health Department has used our facilities for weekly HIV testing. Girls Rock Jax also held their summer camp at UUCJ. Weekly groups who use or have used our facilities have included the Zen Meditation group, Free Thought Society, Wage Peace, AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) and NA (Narcotic Anonymous), *The Nancy Devereux Labyrinth* groups and the NAB (Neighborhood Accountability Board). UUCJ continues to offer a meeting place for many organizations in concert with its principles.

In 2014, the Board and minister led the congregation in a Unitarian Universalist Association participatory process to create a new mission statement for our 21st Century Church. Over 50 members met in small groups to brainstorm key elements for an updated mission. Agreed upon phrases were given to a few members to wordsmith into three one-sentence choices. The congregation voted in 2015 and a new mission statement was born: **"By serving compassionately and connecting authentically, we change the world."**

Our new logo was designed by member Sarah Crooks-Flaire and creates a unique design of an open circle that invites people in while letting the light shine out.

The new image reflects the elements of our church: spirit, stability, flexibility, unity, balance and energy.

Social times

Celebrating its 40th anniversary, the tradition of intergenerational fun continued at the annual spring O'Leno Retreat. Families gather to share community with dancing, tubing, cooking, hiking, celebrating and hanging out. Adults and children gather in May to enjoy nature and community. Organizers Barbara Robinson and Carlos Fraticelli have retired, but the retreat continues into the future.

More good clean fun included the Blue Boat Home celebrations, parades, service auction activities, most that have been captured on the UUCJ Facebook page. We entered the 21st century with an updated website at www.uucj.org and a group Facebook page where over 325 people are members. Whereas the ***Beacon*** comes out once per month, and our e-blasts arrive once per week, the UUCJ Facebook page and group provide an immediate place to organize, socialize and share the everyday happenings in our lives.

Our website has a viewing library of previous Sunday services that can be accessed at any time, and You Tube houses sermons as well. We also have a twitter presence at www.twitter.com/uucj. In September 2016, we celebrated a half century landmark - the 50th Anniversary of the Dedication of the UUCJ sanctuary and campus. Unfortunately, Bob Broward, our church's architect, died a year short of or half-century celebration. A wonderful memorial service was held for him at our church.

Development, Conflict, Isolation and Recovery (2017-2024)

Beginning in 2016 and up through 2018, under Phillip Baber's ministry, the Director of Religious Education (DRE), Tyler Burley, and the Director of Communications, Tina Ramey, were hired. Two teams were approved by the Board: the children and youth religious exploration team (CYRET), established with age-specific programs and activities, and the Adult Religious Education Team (ARET) focused on UUA and UUCJ histories and UU identity development. Tina designed the communications program that included the UUCJ website; weekly electronic information distribution of church-related information; maintenance and management of the website; and creation and management of a membership database.

In 2017, both the children and youth religious exploration and the adult religious education programs were revised to include faith development, and multi-faith/multi-cultural literacy education. A second course, UU 201- Articulating your Faith (AYF), was added to the on-going adult religious education program to provide the opportunity for adults to experience a focused, in-depth examination of their own spiritual journey. Also added to the religious education program were the Chalice Circles; Covenant Groups; classes on faith beliefs other than UU's; workshops on the seven principles; discussions on spiritual themes led by David Keel, David Seiken, Sharon Scholl and other group members; and UU historical roots led by Peter Racine.

Unfortunately, 2018 brought about some serious disagreements about how the Board should be organized, the kind of Board the church should be, and who should serve on the Board. Attempting to resolve these Board-related issues, the Board was reconfigured as an experiment. The portfolio structure was revamped and assigned to one single Board member tasked with managing it. The changes resulted in appointed Board members being overwhelmed with too many responsibilities so the Board voted to discontinue the experimental structure and to revert to its prior configuration.

Critical disagreements among Board members arose when Phillip Baber's proposed three-year contract renewal discussions began. Disputes were over how the contract negotiations had been conducted; the failure to present the negotiated contract to the full Board for evaluation and vote; the dissatisfaction over Baber's lack of completion of the Master of Divinity degree (M.Div.) prior to contract renewal as previously agreed; and other proposed contract terms. There being no desire to terminate Phillip, the majority of the Board agreed to extend his contract into 2019 until a new contract could be re-negotiated. Phillip tentatively agreed to the extension, but a few weeks later he decided that it was in his and his family's best interest to leave the church, so he resigned. The congregation split and over 20 members left the church. Phillip's leaving halted many planned religious education programs for 2019 and thereafter, including children and youth activities, UU 101 classes, the Chalice Circles, and the Articulating Your Faith class to mention a few.

Although the congregation wanted the Board to hire a full-time minister, either by contract or calling, the church was not in a financial position to do so. Instead, the Board contracted two part-time co-ministers, Rev. Roberta Finkelstein and Rev. Marti Keller, to serve as interims focused on sharing ministerial responsibilities, and addressing congregational healing and hurt feelings. Both ministers considered remaining beyond the two years at the Board's request, but decided to leave at the end of the second year - the healing process was interrupted.

In 2020 Covid 19 struck and introduced congregational isolation. The congregation, however, wanted to continue the pursuit of healing and reunification, so the Board established a New Normal Task Force chaired by Vince Ober to monitor levels of infections in Jacksonville, and recommend solutions. It became obvious that if the congregation were to continue worshipping together and continue participating in church programs and activities, the church needed to move to a virtual ministry and hire a Director of Technology. Krystalle Voecks, became our Technology Director who soon launched UUCJ's Zoom ministry.

Also, in 2020, recognizing that the pandemic was creating feelings of isolation among congregants and deep-seated needs for contact even if not in person, the Board contracted with Rev. Paul Johnson to be our part-time Zoom minister for a year.

Zoom church worship services, book clubs, spiritual studies class, playing with ideas groups, and other activities went online. A phone tree was used by the Caring Network to call or text congregants to determine how they were doing; especially members who had no electronic access. Eventually in 2021 congregants had the option to mask and come back to campus and/or continue on Zoom.

The need to restore physical relationships and friendships became a dominant expression by many in the congregation. Many of the programs, including physical restoration of the campus, had been interrupted by Covid. The committees and teams became active again, and the promise of a restored social hall took center stage. Kathleen McKenzie and Peter Racine answered the call – the Capital Campaign Task Force was resurrected.

Once again, in 2022, the congregation expressed the wish to have a full-time minister and the Board agreed. A ministerial search committee was created and recommended we hire a contract minister for two years and include in the contract the option for the minister to be called by the congregation. The two-year contract with the calling option was accepted by Rev. Lee Anne Washington who successfully served through July 2023. She left our congregation for personal and family issues and expressed with teary eyes how sad she felt that she could not accept the congregation's calling.

While our Minister, she reintroduced the Governance Committee and charged it with reviewing our governance structure, By-Laws, and organizational chart. She further ensured a renewed commitment to our covenant, revitalized relationships, reawakened our desire to stay connected, restored friendships, and reasserted our responsibility to be engaged with fulfilling our mission.

A Touch of Normalcy (Late 2023 – Present)

On the road to recovery! From upheaval, turmoil and isolation, our Beloved Community began to experience a resurgence fueled by commitment to our shared vision, allegiance to our principles, and our covenant with one another. We welcomed Peter Racine's decision to continue as our Minister, even if only part-time; looked forward to joyful gatherings in our new Social Hall; and became eager to renewing our historical legacy of challenging injustices.

Among the many accomplishments and ongoing pursuits are:

- A congregational re-commitment to honor and live by our Seven Principles
- Re-Incorporation of our church with the State of Florida as a 501 (c)(3) organization dedicated to ensuring successful self-governance grounded in a thriving ministry, religious and spiritual opportunities, living in harmony with the divine, ethical living, and seeking justice, equity, and compassion in human relations.
- A dedicated Ministry Portfolio added to our governing structure, managed by the Ministry Portfolio Leader, Peter Racine, and composed of four teams: Ministerial Services: Children and Youth RE; Ministerial Services: Adult RE; Ministerial Services: Music: and Ministerial Services: Worship
- Amended Bylaws to safeguard UUCJ's assets by allowing asset distribution by majority vote of the congregation to other local 501 (c)(3) organizations in case of UUCJ dissolution
- Reestablished children and youth religious exploration program
- Reimagined and rebuilt safe children's playground
- Completed and adopted Rental Policy to augment UUCJ's financial status
- Congregational participation in a successful Hugathon Pot Luck Lunch fun activity that united the Jacksonville and Nassau members
- Rented facilities to Catholic Charities and Lutheran Services for their scheduled classes dedicated to helping immigrants; and to the Thrive Communities Home School Program which offers interactive educational opportunities to local homeschoolers
- Review and update of the UUCJ website
- Participation in the MLK, Jr. Breakfast; LGBTQA+ parade; food distribution; and assistance to immigrants
- Partnership with One Jax, Inc. which works to foster respect and understanding among people and seeks to connect diverse communities through interfaith programs and community engagement
- Continuing engagement with the Interfaith Coalition for Action, Reconciliation and Empowerment (ICARE) which connects with faith groups to further social justice in Jacksonville and Florida
- Ongoing commitment from the Board and congregation to use Capital Campaign funds to ensure the rehabilitation and preservation of our physical campus, and
- Hallelujah! the completion, 10 years in the making, of the Social Hall, expected to provide opportunities for enhancing the connections in our congregation.

WHEW!!!

Marching On - What Awaits Us?

As we look back over the rich tradition and heritage that we share, we expect to be propelled into a future where Unitarian Universalists will flourish in Jacksonville. We will continue to grow and provide a place where people can safely explore their spiritual journey, live by their ethical and moral values, fearlessly engage in justice work, and are able to search for their own free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

As a Beloved Community, we continue to commit to our
Congregational Covenant

As members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Jacksonville, in order to nurture and enhance our lives together in this sacred space where we seek personal growth, discern life's meaning, and build relationships of fairness and love, we intend to:

Offer our unique gifts, talents, time, energy, and financial support

Respect the views and needs of others, practicing tolerance, understanding, and acceptance even in disagreement

Allowing loving relationship to transcend issues.

Celebrate the diversity within our midst even when it is difficult or uncomfortable

Invite and welcome others in the quest for spiritual and ethical growth, recognizing each other and guests in fellowship.

Share the ministry of our church, caring for each other through times of joy and sorrow.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
OF JACKSONVILLE

PAST PRESIDENTS

Theo Hamilton
Donald Scott
Charles Smith
William Adams III
Francis Alberti
William Richards
Persis Penningroth
Nancy Avera
Homer Still
Joseph Griffin
David Philips
Richard Miller
Ralph Patton
Jerry Ellis
Del Francis
Frank Maris
Robert Towers, Jr.
Ernest Larsen
Don Bolling
Bud Schutzman
Virginia Cathey
Edyth Anderson
James Olson
Mike Berger
Marie Varon
Gyll Rowan Alan Ozell
T.L. Larsen
Joe Varon
Susanne McKelvey
Donna Franzino
Tom Larson
Marian Chambers
Dee Powers

Jay Huebner
Barbara Robinson
Susanne McKelvey
Chuck Spence
Joe Adiutori
Mary Claire Van der Horst
Jeff Funderburk
Clarence Baker
Kathy Converse
Jim Niss
Lynn Shad
Afesa Adams
Sharon Henderson
Candace Tschirki
Cindy Stroud
Frank Dancy
Darwin Bromley
David Shacter
Peter Racine
Jorge Navarro
Gregg Miles
Joe Adiutori
Jeff Funderburk
Lois Hoeft
Samantha Ledyard
Mark Dickens
Tom Larson
Penny Reid
Vince Ober
Teri Mitchell
Meg Rohal

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Members' recollections over the years.