

## **Recycled** CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST MUSINGS

(The year is 2011; we are now in our 24th year.)

A UU minister in New England says in part: This is very close to what Unitarian Universalism means to me. This is what a Unitarian Universalist does with Christmas, does at Christmas. We sing. We light candles. We hope for a better world. *"If we cannot believe in God as a noun,"* Frederick Buechner says, *"maybe we can still believe in God as a verb."*

Many UU's are ambivalent about Christmas - "it's not my faith tradition...my family was always stressed out at the holidays...it's too commercial...all that peace and hope and then it's a big letdown in January..." Whatever your reason, you may find that the approaching holidays are a mixed bag of high expectations, small wonders, stress and ambivalence.

Six years ago a group of UU women were brainstorming over many cups of tea and a plate of cookies: How could we as UU's make a difference to Burlington's holiday scene? It seemed like such a big agenda but we each left thinking about what small thing we could each pull off. And thus was born the UU annual Christmas breakfast.

And so on Christmas morning FUUSB throws open its doors and our Community Room is filled with the sounds of Christmas as a verb. Of UU's offering their neighbors and themselves radical hospitality. This event is not only a gift we give to folks living alone, to our Meeting House neighbors, to people with no housing... It is a gift we give ourselves, the chance to gather together, to eat a simple breakfast, have coffee with someone we've never talked to before (even someone from our own Society). As a pagan and a UU, you would not classify our home as Christian; but as a pagan and the mother of two - who can resist the hope of a mother and child, the brightness of a star and the chance to honor and live the interdependence of all existence and compassion in human relations?

Please join us; the Breakfast is like a family meal, plenty to do but many UUs make for light work, so come and eat, pour coffee, try making a strata, live in the moment. Try Christmas as a verb!