

Sunday Services –10 am

July 30 -David Hicks MacPherson:

"God is in Trouble – Again. Periodically, God gets hijacked by the haters and killers. What can we do about it? Let's see."

August 6—Sara Mackey

Radio Free Bubba, Cakes for the Queen of Heaven, Eating the Bhagavad Gita

What do these have in common? They were all encountered at the Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly in St. Louis in June. Sara Mackey, Director of Religious Education and member of UU Community Church in Glen Allen, will share observations, reflections, and speculations following the high-energy plunge into this year's GA.

August 13 – Rev. Preston Moore

Imagine!

What is at stake spiritually when imagination collapses? How should we compose ourselves in a culture that jeopardizes this vital capacity?

August 20 – Rev. Jennifer Ryu

Teaching Mars to Dance

What's happening to the men? Is it possible for a woman of faith to know what it's like to be a man in today's world?

August 27—Hogwarts graduation



Where We Stand on Marriage Equality

Last summer, the United Church of Christ passed a resolution to endorse same-sex marriage. With over one million members, they were the largest Christian denomination to do so. The story was widely reported in the press. When the Unitarian Universalist Association passed a similar resolution, we received barely a mention in the Boston papers. But that was 1996. Ten years ago, the issue of equal marriage wasn't on the front burner. But for UU's, it had been a major justice issue since the 1970's, when our ministers started performing same-sex unions.

Today, we still lead the nation's faith communities in taking a stand for loving unions and strong families, irrespective of gender.

While Williamsburg UU's are focusing on the crucial vote this fall in Virginia, equal dignity for same-sex couples is also a live issue in many other states. UU's are the most consistent religious voices demanding that *all* families be honored and respected.

At the national level, UUA President Bill Sinkford continues to speak for the denomination on this issue—urging the

Senate and the House to defeat the Federal Marriage Amendment.

This is the movement you are part of. And in a movement with a membership of just over 200,000 people, every congregational and every individual voice matters.

Preston & I intend to stand with you in the months leading to the November election. We will also work closely with our UU colleagues throughout the state, as well as other progressive ministers in our local community, to defeat the Marriage Amendment.

UU's have the courage to be on the leading edge, and we have the capacity to be influential all out of proportion to our numbers. Describing the principle of leverage, the ancient Greek mathematician Archimedes said, "Give me but a place to stand, and I will move the world." It's our move.

--Jennifer

GETTING HERE

One of religion's most important metaphors is "the journey." And what a long, strange, and wonderful trip ours has been. A trip from business careers to seminary; from Baltimore to Korea and back; from membership to ministry. Neither of us planned on falling in love, marrying, and creating a life partnership that still amazes us. We didn't plan on doing fieldwork, ministerial credentialing, and church search back-to-back. And we certainly didn't plan on finding THE right match in the first church to interview us. But there you were.

And now the geographical "getting here" – a coast to coast drive with our

elderly cat. We didn't figure on a breakdown in the desert. The tow truck pulled up at "Ed's Place," a repair shop in Elko, Nevada. We wondered if they had ever seen a Saab. Oh we of little faith. We had stumbled upon an automotive shaman. A mechanic came in on his day off and had our car purring by the next day. We pulled into Boulder, Colorado a day behind schedule for a short visit with friends. Our delay caused us to miss all the big excitement there the day before: the city's biggest hailstorm ever, which damaged cars all over the area.

When we finally pulled up at our new house off Greensprings Road, we walked into the yard. Across the fence stood a white horse from neighboring Carlton Farms, looking like she'd been sent from central casting to be in a movie. A feeling swept through us like a warm Tidewater rain – about the rightness of traveling so long and far to get here, literally and metaphorically.

All these things have sharpened our conviction that another profound journey is starting -- shared with a community of seekers whose aspirations fire our own, as ours do theirs (that is, yours). Another long, strange, and wonderful trip, blessed with astounding grace.

Preston

Chalice Gazing: Notes from the DRE

When four thousand Unitarian Universalists descend all at one time on one city—this year St. Louis, MO—the earth trembles. Well, maybe not...but it does become difficult to get a cup of coffee anywhere downtown without a 10-minute wait. The UUA General Assembly brings us together from all over the country and offers us a chance to learn more about our faith,

and about each other, than we can possibly learn in our own congregations, or even in our district. Beyond that, when we gather in one place, people in that city learn about *us* in ways that simply don't happen in the normal course of the way UUs do things.

In the St. Louis airport, there was a large banner saying WELCOME UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION. Not only did it make me (and surely many other UUs) smile when I saw it, it also presented our name to people who have never heard of us before. Even if that banner did nothing more than prompt the question, "What is the Unitarian Universalist Association?" people who didn't know we exist have now been exposed to our name. In downtown St. Louis, there were more welcome banners. We wore our name tags wherever we went, all day long, identifying ourselves as Unitarian Universalists. Once in a while, someone in a restaurant or a hotel would ask, "Who *are* you all?" We have to have our elevator speeches carefully thought out by the time we get to GA.

Imagine a week, or even a day, in Williamsburg when everyone from WUU would wear name tags identifying ourselves as Unitarian Universalists, all day long. At work, at the grocery store, at music lessons, at the park ...around our necks would be the proud statement that we are Unitarian Universalists. Who would ask us what that means? How would we respond? What kind of invitation would result? What kind of social action?

We are Unitarian Universalists everywhere we go, every day of the week. We are UUs at work, at school, at the polls, in line for the rides at Busch Gardens. Imagine the transformative power of sharing

with other people the good news of what it means to be a UU, not just with thoughtful elevator speeches, but with actions. There is so much good that we can do.

*Blessings,
Sara*

Vote to Call; Vote to Ordain

August 6, 2006

Didn't we just vote to call the ministers? Why another vote?

By the March 19th vote, the congregation called Preston & Jennifer to be our settled ministers. They come to us new to the professional ministry, having recently completed their seminary education, fieldwork, and credentialing by the national association (UUA).

In our Free Church tradition, the local congregation, and only the local congregation has the privilege and right to ordain a person as minister. Until that happens, Preston & Jennifer cannot perform marriage ceremonies in the state of Virginia.

On August 6th, you will be asked first to vote to ordain, and then to witness a very brief ordination ritual. Some of you have attended ordinations in the past and will be expecting a more elaborate service. That more celebratory event will come later in the church year in the form of the Installation Service. This will involve out-of-town guests and local dignitaries. More on that later, but first, let's ordain our new ministers so they can begin their work.

President's Message
HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

No I haven't lost my calendar, and no, my clock isn't ticking too fast or too slow. I know it's July, but this is the beginning of the new year for all WUU officers and boards and committees. This is an especially exciting New Year as we welcome Jennifer and Preston to town, and begin making plans for all of our activities for the next twelve months. For my own part, I'm busily attempting to learn the various aspects of the Board president's responsibilities. I'm already grateful to Fred and Roger and Sherri for providing insights based on their experiences in this very challenging responsibility.

At this moment there are two short range issues and two long range issues on which I'm focusing my attention. Getting a new tenant into the Fahs House is a critical issue for our financial well-being. Many people have been involved in this slow but critical process, which is now being delayed by a very cumbersome state regulatory machinery. The tenants hope to move their school program into the attractively refurbished Fahs House in the early fall.

The second short term issue is preparing for our Congregational meeting on August 6th. Two issues will be on the agenda. We have to vote to ordain our new ministers, a legal requirement we overlooked in the meeting last spring. Second, we will be presenting to the congregation a resolution adopted in June by our Board regarding the proposed marriage amendment to the state constitution. Many members of our congregation have been taking active roles in bringing this issue to the attention of our

community, and the Board is seeking the full support of the congregation in this effort.

The Board will hold its annual retreat on August 5th to discuss long range planning. It has been three years since we last had a settled minister (and now we have two!). The Board and the ministers need to have clear understandings of our respective roles and responsibilities if we are to work together effectively, and we will spend time working on a useful model which will make the most of everyone's talents. Once we have an understanding on that issue in place, we will review the Congregational Planning Committee's work in implementing the important issues raised by all of you last February in the church-wide retreat.

It certainly won't be a dull New Year!

Joe

Calling all YRUUs!

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We will start the new year with an overnight retreat at the Norge Community Center on Richmond Road. It will start at 4 pm Friday, August 18 and conclude around lunchtime on Saturday, August 19. We'll have plenty of food on hand, and are planning a variety of activities from music to plays to designing our own midnight service. This is open to any and all youth entering grades 9-12 who are interested in being part of the YRUU group this year. Permission slips are required. Contact Dave Wilcox or Jennifer Olson for more information. More adult help would be appreciated. If you are willing to join us or have good ideas for activities, give us a call.

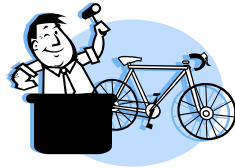
Tabernacle Choir

You've heard of Tabernacle Band...now there's Tabernacle Choir. On August 20th there will be an opportunity for everyone to participate in choir with only one rehearsal before the service. If your only excuse for not being in the WUU choir is that you are busy on Wednesday evenings, this is your chance to participate.



So mark your calendars and watch for more details.

The Auction is Coming! by Ruth Hopkinson, Auction Chair and *WUU's Poet of Forced Rhyme*



The auction is coming! An event, an occasion!

Good laughs with good friends and great conversation!

I'm scratching my head and pacing the floor
With ideas, and new thoughts, and so very much more....

A talented musician will surely be there,
Florimonte's will cater a sumptuous fare,
Auctioneer Dave pumps life 'to the party,
Bid, buy and laugh while you're eating most hearty.

The auction is scheduled for the Fourth of November,

Tickets on sale will come this September,
It's for you and for me and people we know
We can DO it! Yes sir! We WILL reach our goal!

ESCAPE TO VERMONT

September 22-24, 2006

Twelfth Annual B&B Weekend offered by the UU Church of Rutland, VT. Enjoy the beauty of Vermont, UU hospitality, and a choice of guided activities: hiking, canoeing, visiting the studios of local artists, touring historic sites and quaint towns, and much



more. Registration by August 1, \$225 (single) and \$425 (double). After August 1, \$275 (single) and \$475 (double). For more information, contact uufoliagevermont@yahoo.com or (802)438-2095.

Pandemic Planning Group Formed

It may never arrive here, but the mere prospect of a flu pandemic ("bird flu") impacting WUU families is enough to start us planning for such an event. Activities already underway include developing a "phone tree" for information exchange and preparing an emergency contact information sheet that members may file with the Administrator. The planning group invites interested WUUs to its next meeting, Wednesday, August 16, 7 pm, in the Activities Room. For information, contact Roger Baldwin.

Summer film festival presented by the



Welcoming Congregation Committee

August 19th - "Transamerica" - starring Felicity Huffman ("Desperate Housewives") who

won an Oscar nomination for her portrayal of a transgender person.

*What's up with Harry Potter?
Chamber of Secrets*

Divination, secret habitats of magical creatures, creative dancing, and charms are all titles of upcoming activities in the summer RE program. Actually, the program is about several challenges including:

- ★ Identifying something wonderful about others
- ★ Trying things we always wanted to do, but were afraid to try
- ★ Helping others

and, of course, fun.

New members

The following people joined Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists on July 2nd: Jennifer Smith, Charlotte Bush, Larry Bucchioni, Jennifer Ryu, and Preston Moore. A hearty welcome to all of you!



Larry Bucchioni



Jennifer Ryu and Preston Moore



Jennifer Smith



Charlotte Bush

Reminder of Congregational meeting

All voting members of the congregation are reminded of the upcoming Congregational Meeting immediately following the morning services on Sunday August 6th. You will be asked to vote on two resolutions. The first resolution will be to ordain Jennifer and Preston as our new ministers. The second will be to oppose the proposed marriage amendment to the Virginia constitution, which will appear on the ballot in November. The complete wording of both resolutions will be sent to all voting members in the next few days. Absentee ballots will also be available. Be sure and be counted!

August 2006						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1 6:30p-7:30p Silent Med-S	2	3 5:30p-8:30p MAA / PH	4 7:00-9:00 Blessing Way-S	5 10:00a- 5:00p. UCG-S 9-4 Board Retreat
6 08:30-09:45a Endowment Comm.-A 10:00a-11:30p-Worship Service / S 11:30-1:00- Congregational Mtg-	6	8 6:30p-7:30p Silent Med-S 7:30p-9:30p Jazz Practice- S	9 12:30-2:00 Separate Checks-S	10 5:30p-8:30p MAA / PH 7:30-9:30p- Pers Comm	11	12 10:00a- 2:00p. UCG-S
13 8:30a-09:45a-Finance Comm-PH 10:00a-11:30p-Worship Service / S 11:30-1:00- Welc. Cong. Comm	14 7:00p-9:00p- Dream-PH	15 6:30p-7:30p Silent Med-S	16 7:00-8:30- Pandemic Steering Comm-S	17 5:30p-8:30p MAA / PH &:30-9:30- Board meeting	18	19 10:00a-4:30p UCG 6:30p-10:00p- Welcoming Cong Film Fest- S
20 Newsletter Deadline 10:00a-11:30p-Worship Service / S 11:30-1:00- Welc. Cong. Comm	21	22 6:30p-7:30p Silent Med-S	23	24 5:30p-8:30p MAA / PH 7:30-9:00 Membership Comm-	25 Live Off 5 concert-S	26 10:00a-2:00p. UCG-S
27 10:00a-11:30p-Worship Service / S 11:30-1:00- Welc. Cong. Comm	28	29 6:30p-7:30p Silent Med-S	30	31 5:30p-8:30p MAA / PH		



The Gurleys
and
Ron Fetner

August 25th 8:00 p.m.

Contact Sherri Powers for more
information.



Deadline for September newsletter: Sunday, August 20, NOON

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