

February 5, 11 am

Brigid, Candlemas and Ground Hog's Day

Here we are half way to Spring, stepping across a threshold into the new year, into a new future. We take a look at the wisdom in some old myths.

February 12, 11 am

Our Place in Modernity

College students reflect on entering a strange new world. Modernity, if anything means dislocation in the world and how we find meaning despite it. For our (UU) movement to survive, we must declare our grounding between the extremes of rote ideology and recklessness.

February 19, 11 am

How Unitarian Universalists Can Change the World

The spiritual journey takes us through celebration, suffering, and the awareness of our creative potential. What then shall we do with this new life?

February 26, 11 am

Welcoming the Stranger - Immigrants came to this country choosing to build a new life here. The story of their struggle to fit in continues today. What have we learned? It is any easier today for the stranger? Members of the UU church of Harrisburg, Pa., will present a service with music and words for you ponder.

Shirley's Cauldron



I've never been to England but I feel sometimes that England has always been part of my life. From my mother's love of Shakespeare's dramas to my feminist fascination with the stone circles and goddess sites explored by archeologists; from Charles Dickens to Virginia Woolf; from *The Mists of Avalon* to *Cats* somehow I feel connected there. I've always thought that someday I would go there.

Well someday has arrived! My old friend Maeona Clark whom some of you met last year earned a Master's degree at the University of London years ago and she wanted to go back for a visit. She found a great travel deal on the internet and invited her daughter Ann, me, and my daughter Laura to go along. A week in London! So I will be gone Wednesday February 8 through Wednesday February 15. There is so much we want to see and do! I know I want to go to the theater, and the two daughters love museums. I'd like to see the reconstructed Globe, and just do some basic sight-seeing. Maybe I can connect with some British Unitarians too. It's going to be a very full week!

Meanwhile, **don't forget to register for the CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT on FEBRUARY 25!**

Our First Ever Congregational Retreat is This Month!

"Toward a Compelling Commitment"

What does this slogan mean? It's simply an attention-getter -meant to pique your curiosity about our Congregational Retreat - to find out more, join the crowd on Saturday, February 25, with coffee and doughnuts at 9:30, program from 10 to 4, with lunch provided, in our Sanctuary. The *Congregational Planning Committee* and the *WUU Board* expect this will be a milestone event in moving the WUU forward in ways that will strengthen the fabric of our religious community.

Why Do We Need a Retreat? The Congregational Planning Committee is tasked to recommend strategies to the Congregation to guide WUU actions over the next few years. Of course, the CPC can't do this in isolation because we are a democratic religious society, so this Retreat is intended as a sounding board to openly discuss and collect your perceptions of our WUU "needs and wants". We want to hear from all segments of the congregation, new members and long-timers, the young and not-so-young.

What About My Children? Bring them, by all means. Thanks to a collaboration between the CPC and the RE folks, we will offer a separate program for the youngsters with their own facilitator. The older ones might sit in on some of the adult sessions. Our youth are unquestionably one key to our future and must be considered in our planning. Nursery care will also be available.

How can I find out more about the Retreat? Email planning@wuu.org with your questions and comments or to receive an advance preliminary agenda. Packets of background material will be available for registrants at the Retreat.

Do I need to register? Yes, we do need to know that you'll be there, for lunch planning. Please sign up at Sunday services or contact the WUU Administrator, at 220-6830, or office@wuu.org, with names of those attending, and the ages of children.

Roger Baldwin
Congregational Planning Committee

FROM THE TOP

Imagine my surprise when I received the most recent newsletter from an organization I am a member of, The National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC) and discovered on the front page a reference to our former minister's wife, Elisa Bishop-Becker. During Rev. Becker's tenure here, Elisa obtained her Masters degree in counseling from the College of William and Mary, later received her certification from NBCC.

The letter it references is one that Elisa wrote detailing her experiences counseling in the after Katrina milieu in the Baton Rouge, LA area. She was one of more than 300 National Certified Counselors who volunteered their time and energies to help those in the aftermath of the disastrous hurricanes that hit the Gulf Coast last year. She was assigned to Welcome Centers in Baton Rouge, Iberville and New Orleans and ended her story with the following comments:

"Talking to the survivors was a rewarding experience. Most were exhausted, some were angry, some depressed, but repeatedly I heard gratitude for the help they had received, support for one another, reliance on faith, and determination to go forward even though they didn't know where "forward" was. No one was

enraged or violent or seemed to be in absolute despair.

"In those two days at Welcome Centers, I must have spoken with hundreds of people. They couldn't believe so many of us came from all over the country to help them, and we were impressed by their spirit and strength. All in all, it was an amazing and intense experience—one I would do again in a heartbeat."

The remainder of her excerpted letter is available at www/nbcc.org/newsletter.

I'm sure that this is one of only hundreds of experiences of a similar nature that could be told by volunteers who went by the thousands to assist in this most human of tragedies. Our contributions to the organizations helping there were, I'm sure, well received and most useful over all.

Our more personal contact, the Rev. Jim VanderWeele, Pastor of the Community Unitarian Universalist congregation in New Orleans, spoke to us of his own experiences and our contributions to him are ongoing. We are pleased that our contributions are being used in this most personal way, helping one whom we know and love. We are urged not to forget that this tragedy is continuing and the need will exist into the future.

Fred L. Adair,
President

WANTED: NEW EPICUREANS



The church is in need of more good Epicureans and I am asking you to join us. An Epicurean is someone who is willing and able to make or purchase a finger food plate when called upon for a special church function. (If on occasion you are not able to participate,

that is OK.) Sometimes we are asked to also serve food.

We have a lot of fun and good fellowship. Please say "YES" and join us. Just send me your e-mail address to: ttinaallen@cox.net.

Tina Allen

Ministerial Search Committee Final Steps

The Ministerial Search Committee is embarking on a sacred journey for the next six weeks. As we begin the actual face to face interviews with our prospective ministers, we call to mind the spiritual experience this truly is. You, the congregation, have put your trust in us, and we, your search committee have worked sincerely on your behalf.

The sifting through applications, phone interviews and reference checks are now finished; the choices have been narrowed. We are excited to say we are pre-candidating more ministers than last year, that we feel the quality is exceptional this year, that we are very enthusiastic.

Our January, February and early March weekends will be devoted to our pre-candidating sessions. From Friday through Sunday we are dedicated to purposeful interviews, interaction, showing off our facilities, touring the area, getting acquainted, asking the spiritual questions, listening to a sermon at a neutral pulpit, discussing our mutual goals, and of course, sharing delightful conversations around the banquet table.

The weather can really challenge us so keep us in your thoughts these winter weekends. Last year we had some experiences! Thank you from the MSC - Diane Abdo, David Doersch, Vicki Hall, Gayle Henion, Debra Hill, Jim Kent, Jane Reilly - for the smiles, handshakes and hugs along the way. We know in our hearts this is going to be a good year. You may not be seeing us for a few weeks, but be with us in spirit.



WALT

Preparations have begun to introduce the Spring WALT (Williamsburg Area Learning Tree) catalog of classes.

WALT, a public service project of the Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists, allows community members who have a knowledge and passion about an activity, to share their interest with others in the community. Past catalogs have contained classes ranging from Scrapbooking to Sailing, Cooking to Cribbage, Drawing to Digital Cameras.

“It is always a pleasure to see people step forward to offer their expertise so that others can learn from them”, commented Roy Snyder, Chair of the WALT Steering Committee. “A number of these individuals will re-offer their courses in the new catalog. However, we are anxious to find new people who want to share their special area of skill with the rest of us.”

The catalog is scheduled to appear in March with classes taking place in April and May.

If you are interested in offering a class, call 220-9975.

PARKING SAFETY



When you park, please consider whether there is space for fire trucks and ambulances to pass. The inside and outside of curves are NOT for parking. Thank you for taking care.

NEW MEMBERS

In January, Juliet Day and Leigh Starr signed the Membership Book.



Juliet has lived in Williamsburg for 25 years and works as a nurse educator. We are happy that she is joining us - welcome to our congregation, Juliet!



Leigh came to Williamsburg in 1989 to attend the College of William and Mary and has been here, off and on, ever since. Like Juliet, she is working

in health care, as a hospital administrator. She is also an Air Force Reserve officer and is interested in military health care issues, as well as improvements in patient safety and international adoption. She has two children, Connor, 6, and Maddy, 4, and looks forward to contributing to our RE program. Welcome, Leigh!

We are happy to receive these new members and look forward to sharing in their lives.

Motions of the Board

January 19, 2006

That the Board awards a \$500 bonus to our administrator, Mary Ellen Lloyd, for sustained outstanding performance.

Moved: Dave Banks

Seconded: Dave Stanford

Approved unanimously.



What's that? Sometimes we forget that newcomers don't know some of the words we use.

Fahs, also known as Unicorn Cottage, is the house next to our driveway. It is where our preschool and elementary children go after we sing them out. Unicorn Cottage is the name of the daycare business that rents the building from us on weekdays.

Parker—is the house located next door to Fahs and is where the church offices are located. It is also where the junior and senior high school students meet for RE.

FISH is a charity that collects food and clothing. (FISH stands for "For Immediate Sympathetic Help). We have two barrels in the lobby for foodstuffs. And WUU takes its turn sorting clothes in May of each year.

Guidelines for articles

- General church-wide events (such as all church parties, sales, special presentations—100 word limit
- Announcements of interest to a smaller group of people (clusters, committee meetings, social action activities—75 word limit
- Focus articles—church program areas, board news, auction, pledging, written by staff or board member—300 word limit
- Attachments preferred to email.
- Events must include date, time and place.
- Submissions must be related to WUU

Deadline for March Newsletter:

February 20

newsletter@wuu.org

All Together Reads welcomes you to join its book group. It meets on the first Monday of each month at Williamsburg Regional Library, Meeting Room C, at 7:00 pm..

February 6: *The Shame of the Nation: the Restoration of Apartheid Schooling in America*, by Jonathan Kozol. Jonathan Kozol will also be speaking at the Kimball Theater on February 27. The lecture is free, but tickets are required.

March 6: *Marva Collins' Way: Returning to Excellence in Education*, by Marva Collins and Civia Tamarkin.

All Together Reads is a book club that is looking into the issues of human rights through reading relevant books. The group meets at 7:00 pm on the first Monday of the month at the Williamsburg Regional Library, in Meeting Room C. For more information about **All Together Reads**, email Jessica at socialaction@wuu.org.

SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTING – Interested?

The UUA Committee on Socially Responsible Investing is presenting TELECONFERENCE WORKSHOPS in February and March. There will be three free one-hour learning sessions to be enjoyed in the comfort of your home--no travel required.

The theme is "Making a Difference with Ideals, Impact and Involvement." Each session will teach one of the key strategies of the socially responsible investing movement. You'll learn concrete steps to get strategies implemented in your personal life or within your congregation.

- **Impact - Community Investing**

Saturday, February 4th, 1pm EST

- **Ideals - Investment Screening**

Saturday, February 18th, 1pm EST

- **Involvement -- Shareholder Activism**

Saturday, March 4th, 1pm EST

Details for all calls are on the flyer posted at www.uua.org/finance/sri.

Ukrop's Golden Gift season has started! It now goes year-around but you must re-register every quarter.



Ukrop's has changed its charitable contributions system—significantly. It is now part of the Benevolink system. You must go online and register your name, then register to affiliate your purchase contributions with WUU.

Directions are as follows:

Joining: Go to www.benevolink.com and select "join". Complete the application form and submit. Once you are a registered member with Benevolink you will then need to register your Ukrop's Loyalty cards.

- Under "My Benevolink" located in the left navigation bar, select "Cards & Accounts"
- Select "loyalty cards" highlighted in #1; Scroll to the bottom of the page.
- From the "loyalty card" drop down menu select the card you would like to register (Ukrop's UVC Card or Market Share Check Card) - you can only select one at a time. In the "account number" field enter the last eight (8) digits only on your card without any spaces or dashes.
- In the "re-enter account number" field, do the same.
- Then click the "add this card" button.
- You can only register one card at a time. Each card is unique and must be registered.
- If a household has several Benevolink accounts decide which loyalty card goes to what account. If you have only one Benevolink account per household register all cards with that account.

What is a Welcoming Congregation?

A congregation that "supports efforts to create justice, freedom and equality for bisexual, gay, lesbian and/or transgender persons" is revealed in many ways, among them:

- **Education** through religious education, the UUA's sexuality curriculum "Our Whole Lives," programs and worship services, and workshops

including the workshop series in which our congregation will participate next year;

- **Congregational life** with non-discrimination clauses in our by-laws, inclusive language in worship, worship space for rites of passage such as services of union, and representation of bisexual, gay, lesbian and/or transgender members in our church publicity and activities;

- **Community outreach** by supporting legislative efforts, maintaining contact with gay-friendly community groups, and making our building available to educational, social and advocacy groups that support justice, freedom and equality

The process to become a Welcoming Congregation takes time--from 18 months to two years to complete. At the end of this process, WUUs will vote whether to become an official Welcoming Congregation.

Welcoming Congregation Committee—Upcoming related activities:

- Congregational survey by email or paper
- Valentine’s “dress-up” dance for adults in our congregation and the greater Williamsburg community, Saturday, February 18.
- Welcoming Congregation concert at Sara Mackey’s church in Glen Allen on February 11th at 7:00 pm. (Glen Allen is also involved in the Welcoming Congregation process). The proceeds will benefit Equality Virginia. Glen Allen is located at 11105 Cauthorne Road, north of Richmond. Tickets are available at www.EqualityVirginia.org/gaye_and_rodny.
- Our second Welcoming Congregation worship service will be on March 26 and will focus on family.

During January, the Welcoming Congregation Committee focused on “legislative month.” We publicized gay-friendly legislation and communicated with our local representatives by email, by telephone, and in person on Equality Virginia Lobby Day, January 25.

The committee consists of about 20 members, co-chaired by Jan Brown and Bunkie

Righter. Committee members can be contacted at welcoming@wuu.org.

Chalice Gazing: Notes from the DRE

February 2006

If you attend the service regularly on Sunday mornings, or if you come once in a while, you probably know how to sing “Go now in peace, go now in peace, May the Spirit of Love surround you...” as the children and youth leave the sanctuary. Where do they go? Have you visited their space recently?

Imagine yourself as a young UU. You come into the sanctuary, listen to that big gong get struck, watch somebody light a chalice. Words get spoken; somebody reads or tells a story. Then everybody sings a song that serves as a signal for you to leave that sacred space. The adults stay comfortably, peacefully, where they are. Depending on the season, you may have to put your coat on. If it’s raining, you get wet. If it’s hot, you feel that shock of going from the air-conditioned sanctuary into the stark summer heat and humidity. You cross a parking lot, watching (we hope!) for the cars of late-comers that may be still driving in. If you’re in middle school, you go to Parker House living room, recently re-decorated with your needs in mind. If you’re any age from pre-school through fifth grade, you go to Fahs House.

During the week, Fahs House is rented to Unicorn Cottage, a pre-school day care center. On Sundays, though, we have only a few pre-schoolers. The rest of our children are too old for the space as it is now used...too old for pre-school furniture, baby toys in every room, and ABCs on the wall. What message do we send to our children when we put them in space that is not appropriate for them? What can we do to change things for them?

These questions have vast implications and lead to other, more profound questions: who belongs here? What are our responsibilities to our children? Who should pay for the programs and facilities of WUU? How do we get our needs met today, as well as years from now? Please

come on Feb. 25 to engage questions about the life and strength of Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists. We need you...we need your energy and your spirit and your wisdom and your generosity and your hope. We need your faith.

Blessed be,
Sara



Presents The Arcona Reel Band

This octet of performers from Harrisburg, Pa., brings its powerful “American Celtic” music to the Live Off Five!

concert series on Friday, February 24.

The Arcona Reel Band has performed in Williamsburg before—to rave reviews—accompanied by local favorite Coyote Run. Arcona’s bag of musical tricks includes violin, dulcimer, bouzouki, and Irish bodhran—in addition to eight voices forming beautiful harmonies.

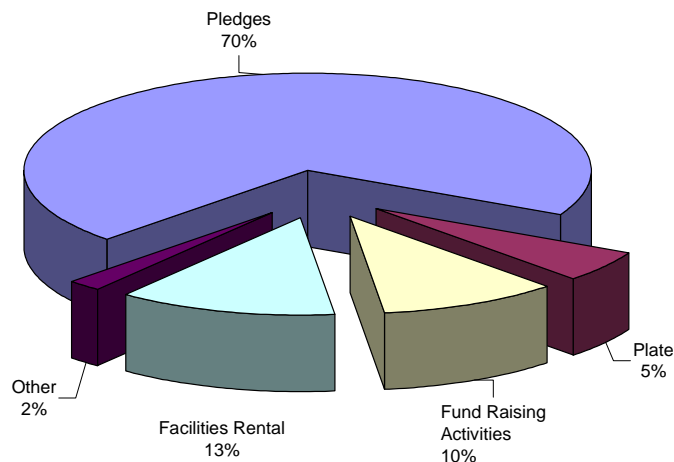
Audience members are encouraged to sing along to the many popular traditional Celtic songs in Arcona’s repertoire, and it’s a rare concert where someone isn’t moved to dance, the music is so energizing.

Live Off Five! concerts are held in the sanctuary. Doors open at 7:00 p.m., and the performance begins at 7:30. Tickets are \$10, \$5 for students.

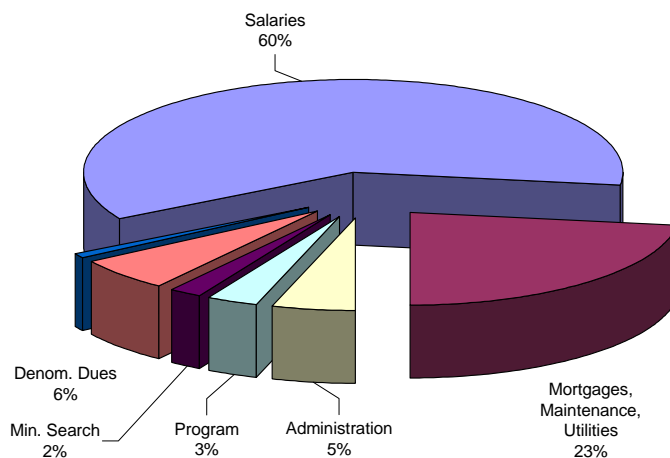
Live Off Five! offers regular Fall and Spring performances, including local, regional, and national touring acts with a variety of styles. For more information about the concert series, please contact Sherri Powers (229-0136) or Natalie Miller-Moore (876-8824.) For more information about the artist, check out www.arconareelband.com.

Note from the Finance Chair

Pledge campaign season is almost upon us, so I thought it might be helpful to show you a little detail of our current year budget. Most of you haven’t seen this budget since I showed it to you at last year’s Annual Meeting (if you were there). You will soon see the draft budget for the next church year, so seeing this year’s charts can help you be ready.



First, see where we get our money: most of it comes from your pledges. Without your generous pledge, very little would be possible.



How is our money spent? Most of it goes to salaries, mortgages, maintenance and utilities—fixed and predictably increasing expenses.

Dave Banks

February 2006

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1 ETHNIC EQUALITY MONTH 11:00 am. Tai Chi / Sanctuary 7:30 pm. Choir practice / Sanctuary	2 5:30 pm. MAA / Parker House	3 4:00 Magic class /S	4 -10:00 am. United Church of God Service / Sanctuary 1:30 pm. WYO Practice-FH / Fahs House 2:30 pm. Wmsbg Music Club Student Event / Sanctuary
5 11:00 am. Worship Service / Sanctuary 11:00 am. RE all ages / 2:00 pm. WYO Orchestra Practice / Fahs House 4:00 pm. Magic Class / Sanctuary 4:00 pm. WYO Brass Practice-PH / Parker House	6	7 6:30 pm. Silent Meditation / Sanctuary	8 11:00 am. Tai Chi / Sanctuary 7:30 pm. Choir practice / Sanctuary	9 12:30 pm. Separate Checks / Sanctuary 5:30 pm. MAA / Parker House 7:30 pm. Personnel Committee Meeting / Activity Room	10	11 10:00 am. United Church of God Service / Sanctuary 1:30 pm. WYO Practice-FH / Fahs House 2:30 pm. Wmsbg Music Club Student Event / Sanctuary
12 9:00 am. Finance Committee Mtg / Parker House 11:00 am. RE all ages / Parker House, Fahs House 11:00 am. Worship Service / Sanctuary 12:15pm R.E. Committee Mtg in PH 2:00 pm. WYO Orchestra Practice / Fahs House 4:00 pm. WYO Brass Practice-PH / Parker House 4:00-Magic class/Sanctuary	13 9:30 am. Membership Committee Meeting / Home of one of the members, TBA 7:00 pm. Dream Group / Parker House	14 VALENTINE'S DAY 6:30 pm. Silent Meditation / Sanctuary	15 11:00 am. Tai Chi / Sanctuary 6:15 pm. Live Off Five! Steering Committee Meeting / Activity Room 7:30 pm. Choir practice / Sanctuary	16 5:30 pm. MAA / Parker House 7:15 pm. Board Meeting / Multi-Purpose Room	17 2:30 Membership committee meeting/Parker House	18 10:00 am. United Church of God Service / Sanctuary 1:30 pm. WYO Practice-FH / Fahs House 2:30 pm. Wmsbg Music Club Student Event / Sanctuary 5:30 pm. Welcoming Congregations DANCE / Sanctuary
19 11:00 am. RE all ages / Parker House, Fahs House 11:00 am. Worship Service / Sanctuary 2:00 pm. WYO Orchestra Practice / Fahs House 4:00 pm. Magic Class / Sanctuary 4:00 pm. WYO Brass Practice-PH / Parker House 4:00 Magic Class/Sanctuary	20 Newsletter Deadline	21 6:30 pm. Silent Meditation / Sanctuary	22 11:00 am. Tai Chi / Sanctuary 7:30 pm. Choir practice / Sanctuary	23 5:30 pm. MAA Parker House	24 5:00 pm. Live Off 5 Setup / Sanctuary 7:00 pm. Live Off 5 Concert / Sanctuary	25 9:00 am. Congregational RETREAT / SANCTUARY 1:30 pm. WYO Practice-FH / Fahs House
26 11:00 am. RE all ages / Parker House, Fahs House 11:00 am. Worship Service / Sanctuary 2:00 pm. WYO Orchestra Practice / Fahs House 4:00 pm. Magic Class / Sanctuary 4:00 pm. WYO Brass Practice-PH / Parker House 4:00 Magic Class/Sanctuary	27	28 6:30 pm. Silent Meditation / Sanctuary	Mar 1 11:00 am. Tai Chi / Sanctuary 7:30 pm. Choir practice / Sanctuary	Mar 2 5:30 pm. MAA / Parker House 7:00 pm. Worship Committee Meeting / Sanctuary	Mar 3	Mar 4 10:00 am. United Church of God Service / Sanctuary 1:30 pm. WYO Practice-FH / Fahs House 4:00 pm. Private Function (Party) / Sanctuary

WILLIAMSBURG UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

3051 Ironbound Road
Williamsburg, VA 23185
(757) 220-6830
www.wuu.org

Fred Adair, *President*
Dr. Shirley Ranck, *Interim Minister*
Sara Mackey, *Director of Religious Education*
Mary Ellen Lloyd, *Administrator*
Dr. Jamie Bartlett, *Director of Music*
Joelle Griffin Russell, *Pianist*
Virginia Banks, *Newsletter Editor*

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Newsletter submissions: newsletter@wuu.org
Church office: office@wuu.org



Significant Events Calendar - Feb. '06-March '06

Thursday, Feb. 16	Board meeting
Saturday, Feb. 18	Valentine's Dance sponsored by Welcoming Congregation committee
Monday, Feb. 20	Newsletter deadline
Friday, Feb. 24	Live Off 5! Concert
Saturday, Feb. 25	Congregational Retreat 10 AM – 4 PM
Sunday, Feb. 26	Arcona Reel Band-Sunday Service
Sunday, March 12	Welcoming Congregation Committee Service
Saturday, March 25	Canvass dinner, 6 pm SAVE THIS DATE!!!
Sunday, March 26	Canvass Sunday-Pledge Campaign Kick-Off