



WILLIAMSBURG UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

WUUU NEWS

JUNE 2007

June 3—11 am—Rev. Preston Moore

“Reuniting Our Working and Worshiping Selves.” Is America’s “church on Sunday, work on Monday” ethic a healthy separation of secular and religious spheres, or a part-time spirituality that leaves us leading un-integrated lives? How should we come to terms with the question of spirituality in the workplace? (See below for the LFD class on May 31st related to this service)

June 10—11 am—Rev. Jennifer Ryu?

“The Work of the Soul” When we do the work of the church, for whose benefit do we volunteer our time and talents? It is easy to think of church work as obligation, sacrifice, doing your fair share. But what if the whole point of the work is to inspire spiritual transformation of the people doing it? This is our aspiration for next year. Come find out how we have already sown those seeds.

* **All-Church Picnic and Volunteer Fair will follow the service***

June 17—10 am—Rev. Preston Moore

“The Manly Art of Surrender.” In the masculine world, resistance is often equated with strength, and vulnerability is often equated with weakness. If we look at surrender with religious eyes, how is it different? Come ponder this question, illuminated by masculine tales of power,

piety, and intimacy—important for men and women alike.

June 24—10 am—Rev. David Tetrault

Minister’s message: Rev. Jennifer Ryu

For those who were not able to attend the Installation Service, and for those who want to remember, here are the charges given to the Revs. Jennifer Ryu and Preston Moore and to the WUUU Congregation on April 1, 2007 by Rev. Robert Latham:

The primal principle that governs the universe is that of an unrelenting transformation of its entire being. Every form its energy takes is designed to achieve its fullest potential and then become other forms. Picasso captured the rhythm of the universe in the notion that every act of creation is first of all an act of destruction. And Einstein’s famous formula $E=mc^2$ announces the capacity of all of creation’s forms to engage this rhythm of transformation. The human body models this principle by growing into its fullest potential with death announcing physical transformation. Our human mind models this principle by being filled with life learning that becomes an evolutionary process of change, eventuating in spiritual transformation. The goal is for our mind to progress through as many spiritual transformations as possible in achieving its fullest potential. Or, as e e cummings

reminds us: we are humans who can never be born enough through the mystery of growth. The rhythm is for the old to die so the new can be born. The only issue that confronts humans is whether their spiritual drama will be in or out of sync with this universal rhythm. It is this unending transformation of who we are that keeps us alert to the new, that keeps the adventure of life exciting and that makes each of us a uniquely provocative person. The dullest and least perceptive people in our midst are those who have decided to make this transforming growth possibility a lifestyle of defiance.

So, here is my charge to you, Jennifer and Preston: fully invest in learning those life lessons that evolve into a constant trip of deathing and birthing. Fully invest in living this inherent principle of personal evolution and its constant spiritual transformation. Your focal task as ministers is leadership toward transformation. However, only the transformed become transformers. If this is not a lifestyle you are willing to embrace, then plan on moving to a new congregation every six or seven years because you will have nothing spiritually fresh and challenging to say to the people you presently serve.

Here is my charge to you as a congregation: continue to transform yourselves so that you can continue to offer a message of transformation to the world around you. If you do not engage this mission then you will become nothing more than an inconsequential social club for frustrated liberals. Be the institutional embodiment of that ultimate human thrill of being a transformer. If you do this, then I will be able, in five years, to walk down the streets of Williamsburg and hear your congregation's name whispered.

Chalice Gazing: Notes from the DFD

Watts Chapel at Union Theological Seminary in Richmond was packed last Wednesday, which was a little unusual, but gratifying. During my time as a student at the seminary, Watts Chapel was where I received comfort and got irritated on a weekly basis. Now, as a part-time employee at the seminary, I find myself drawn to the chapel services on Wednesdays. These days I'm more comforted and less irritated than in times past.

People filled the chapel last Wednesday to hear Doug Ottati, a theology professor at Union for thirty years, preach his final sermon in Watts. Next fall he will begin teaching in another school. I will miss Doug; he taught me, among many other things, what thickwits the disciples were, how hard Jesus had to work and how frustrated he got when these guys just didn't have a clue. Why didn't he pick smarter ones, I wondered. Surely he had other choices.

But these were the ones he picked. These were the ones who followed him and who sustained his ministry along with him, blundering and stumbling the whole time. And that's the point Doug wanted to make: ministry belongs to the whole church. It belongs to the ones who don't understand and the ones who don't agree and the ones who are too busy to minister and the ones who are kind of mystified. Ministry belongs to the whole church.

How in the world can that work? we ask. That was Doug's next point: ministry is impossible. There's no way we can ever do it completely, and get it right, and say, "Now. That's it." Ministry is impossible. So why do we try? Well, there's good news. (The Christian sacred text is full of that!) We have to translate it because we aren't Christian, but the promise that goes along with the call

to minister, the call that belongs to all of us, is, "I am always with you."

Who or what is "I"? We have to figure that out for ourselves. I hope we can talk a lot about that in the months to come, as our small group ministry and adult faith development programs unfold. You are invited to the conversation; please come.

Blessings, Sara

President's Message

Greetings,

"Summer is a cumin in" says an old English folk song. We've held our annual meeting, graduations are upon us, and the May excitement of Jamestown 400, and LPGA golf and Mother's Day are now history. Williamsburg is rarely sleepy these days, but the pace is definitely slowing a bit, and many of us are looking ahead to some quieter days in the coming months.

Our annual meeting on May 6th was a highlight day for this year. The congregation overwhelmingly approved the bylaws changes which were an important step in our transition to policy governance. The ministers are actively seeking a few more key volunteers to complete the new management organization chart which will conduct the day to day operations of our fellowship. The Volunteer Fair on June 10th will give everyone a great opportunity to learn more about the challenges we face in the coming months, and the specific slots we need to fill for next year.

Some of the newly elected folks are already busy. The four new board members - Anne Luchsinger, Vicki Hall, Peter Mellette and Harold Philipsen – have already been briefed by the outgoing board, and will meet again in June before officially commencing

their responsibilities on July 1. We welcome their active engagement as the new board wrestles with the challenges of evaluation and policy making – now our full time mission.

One new challenge has arisen in May. The failure of our Fahs House tenants to get their child care business off the ground has given us an opportunity to reassess the ways we utilize this part of the church space. Negotiations and discussions are ongoing, and we will keep you apprised of developments. Joe Fisler

Volunteer Fair/Lunch, Sunday, June 10

Join us for this year's volunteer fair. Come socialize, eat lunch and see what opportunities await you! WUU needs all of you in order to succeed and grow. By volunteering in activities, committees, and other services, you grow socially and spiritually as you interact, learn, share, and experience being a participating UU. Many volunteer opportunities are available from short term to long term commitments, from small to large responsibilities, and from minor to major talents and gifts. If nothing else, come see what all is happening at WUU this coming year. Sandwiches and drinks will be provided, as well as desserts served in Fahs House during the Open House of the children's Lifespan Faith Development. Put June 10 on your calendar for our WUU Volunteer Fair!

UUA Board of Trustees

Anna Olsen has been elected by the Thomas Jefferson District to serve a four year term as our representative on the UU Board of Trustees. Ms. Olsen is a member of the UU Congregation of Asheville, NC.

Overcrowded?

Have you noticed any recent congestion in our Sunday services space?

- in the parking lot,
- at the door upon arriving,
- latecomers standing in back,
- finding accessible open seats,
- before children leave for RE,
- in RE classes,
- in closing circle
- during coffee hour?



What are your current feelings about the possibility of WUU's adding a second service to meet our needs for space and to promote further growth?

- I'm excited about the possibility and ready to start tomorrow.
- I'm excited about the possibility and think we should start next September
- I'm excited about the possibility and think we should start next January
- We should try all other reasonable solutions before considering two services
- Two services will hurt the congregation
- If WUU starts having two services, I will stop coming.

On June 3, following the Sunday service, please join us for a Café Conversation in the sanctuary to discuss our crowding issue. Child care will be provided. Contact us with your concerns and suggestions at crowded@wuu.org.

Global Warming Meeting: Monday, June 18, 7-9 pm at WUU. We will continue small group action area planning. Community Outreach events are already scheduled! Contact Chris Llewellyn, CHL5075@aol.com



Wanted: Desserts for the Volunteer Fair, June 10

We need folks to bring desserts to the Volunteer Fair on June 10. The desserts should be finger-desserts. That is desserts that don't require a fork for eating, such as cookies, dessert bars and squares, brownies, etc. Please bring the desserts on Sunday, June 10, before the service and drop them off at the Fahs House (the house just to the left of the WUU driveway). If you have any questions, please email Jan Newton at jnewton110@cox.net.



WUU yard sale, Friday, June 15 and Saturday, June 16



Yes! It is time to empty out closets and clean out houses. Your donations will generate dollars for our church! Our annual yard sale will be held on Friday, June 15th from 5–8 p.m. and on Saturday, June 16th from 8 a.m.–1 p.m. To make this the biggest sale ever, I need the entire congregation to help as follows: Donations of items may be delivered to the church beginning Sunday, June 10th to Friday, June 15th. Please limit clothing to items in very good condition. If you need items to be picked up, please contact me. Volunteers are needed for the following tasks pre-sale sorters June 11th to June 15th, sale floor assistants, cashiers, and post-sale clean-uppers. In addition we need people to handle advertising, signage, and people with trucks who can pick up donated items. Be in touch! Contact ttinaallen@cox.net or 221-8149. Tina Allen, Yard Sale Chair

Climate Change and Global Warming—

Can anything be done to slow climate change and global warming? Does it make sense to try? Come deepen your understanding and consider what role you and other UUs should play.

Three sessions based upon one of the eight topics presented by The Foreign Policy Association's 2007 Great Decisions discussion series. Insights from science and local organizations will also be presented and discussed.

Facilitators: Members of the congregation. Phyllis and Jack Hostetter, experienced Great Decisions moderators, will lead the first session. Advanced reading of an article is required. Copies will be supplied after June 15th. Childcare will be provided. When registering, please indicate the number and ages of children for whom childcare is needed.

Date /Time: Mondays, July 2, 9, and 16. 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Passport to adventure

The younger UUs are traveling to Egypt this summer! Summer R.E. commences on June 24th. If you've always wanted to visit Egypt yourself but haven't found the time, you can always volunteer as a helper. Some of the other places that we plan to travel include Poland, Thailand, Palestine



and India. Come travel with us! Contact Charlotte Bush at charlotsweb@verizon.net or Tracy Shackelford at tracyharold@hotmail.com if you'd like to be a "tour guide"



yourself and lead us off on an adventure, or if you'd like to volunteer to help out.

All Hat And No Cattle: The Illusion of Victory in the Enron Case This is a program about business ethics, using Enron as a case study. Like radioactive pollution, the spirit of Enron will be with us for many years to come. Do not expect a secular cure for this spiritual illness. Come deepen your understanding. By the end of this program, you will have an informed understanding of the limits of legal remedies for ethical lapses. You will not feel forced to choose between opposing ethical misconduct and showing compassion for those who are caught up in it.

May 31, 2007, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Light supper available between 6:00 and 7:00 (\$2 donation suggested).

Please email office@wuu.org to register for the supper, class, and childcare.

Facilitator: Rev. Preston Moore

Related events: June 3, 2007 worship service entitled "Reuniting Our Working and Worshiping Selves"

New member



Michael McCoy. Sam Brecker signed as well. Both Michael and Sam have signed as junior members.

Social Justice at WUU—A Progress Report
So...there have been a couple of workshops. At the first one, the Social Justice Steering Committee outlined a process for doing congregation-wide social action in 2007-8. At the second workshop we brainstormed together and came up with 5 broad social issues that need attention—in our community, in our country, in the world. Then we identified specific areas of concern within each of those 5 broad categories. Even though we had split into 2 separate groups to do this work, it was amazing how similar our ideas were.

Take a look at the website—use the Social Justice link—to see what those 5 broad issues are and what specific topics we came up with. Which ones speak to you? Where would you like to see WUU get involved?

(Because not all newsletter readers have computers the broad categories referred to are: Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender issues; race; poverty; human rights; and, peace. There is much more detail available if you go to the church web site www.wuu.org and click on Social Justice.)

Money Matters\$

Once a year we ask for your money and you pledge—generously. This year your generosity has been ample: pledge totals as of 21 May are \$281,000, or 94% of our target. This translates to programs and activities for the whole WUU community! It costs around \$1300 per member per year to “run the church”, or \$1800 per pledge unit! Thank you to all who have pledged, or plan to pledge yet this month!

Kenya Night, Saturday, June 2, starts at 6 PM, WUU sanctuary,

\$10 for adults, \$3 6-12, 5 and under free

At this year's Kenya Night there will be a drumming circle, a storytelling event for children of all ages with Mei Mei Sanford, a sale of Kenyan crafts by the Dream Shop, a multimedia display of African scenes by Debra Hill, and delicious African Style food. Fun...Buy your tickets from Camilla Buchanan after church or email her to reserve your tickets at bikercam@cox.net.



Deadline for the July newsletter will be June 15th rather than 20th because the editor will be attending General Assembly on the latter date.

JUNE 2007 PROGRAM AND EVENTS CALENDAR

- 1 **Friday**
7:00 pm Parent Support
- 2 **Saturday**
- 3 **Sunday**
11:00 am Worship Service-S
11:00 am RE all ages-FH, PH
12:30-2 pm Café conversation-crowding
- 4 **Monday**
- 5 **Tuesday**
6:30 pm Silent Meditation-S
7:30 pm Jazz Band Practice-S
- 6 **Wednesday**
7:30 pm Choir Practice-S
7:30 pm Social Responsibility-A
- 7 **Thursday**
- 8 **Friday**
- 9 **Saturday**
- 10 **Sunday**
9:00-10:30 Finance Committee-PH
11:00 am Worship Service-S
Children remain in worship service
12:30 pm All-Church Picnic-Grounds
12:30 pm Volunteer Fair-Grounds
- 11 **Monday**
7:00 pm Dream Group-PH
- 12 **Tuesday**
6:30 pm Silent Meditation-S
7:30 pm Jazz Band Practice-S
- 13 **Wednesday**
7:00-8:30 Social justice meeting
7:30pm Choir Practice-S
- 14 **Thursday**
7:15 pm Board meeting-FH
- 15 **Friday**
12:00 pm Newsletter Deadline
- 16 **Saturday**
- 17 **Sunday**
10:00 am Worship Service-S
10:00 am RE all ages-FH, PH
- 18 **Monday**
Global warming meeting-S
- 19 **Tuesday**
6:30 pm Silent Meditation
7:30 pm Jazz Band Practice
- 20 **Wednesday**
7:30 pm Choir Practice-S

- 21 **Thursday**
- 22 **Friday**
- 23 **Saturday**
- 24 **Sunday**
11:00 am Worship Service-S
11:00 am RE all ages-FH, PH
- 25 **Monday**
- 26 **Tuesday**
6:30 pm Silent Meditation-S
7:30 pm Jazz Band Practice-S
- 27 **Wednesday**
7:30 pm Choir Practice-S
7:30 pm Social Responsibility-A
- 28 **Thursday**
Membership meeting 29
- 29 **Friday**
- 30 **Saturday**
- 29 **Sunday**
10:00 am Worship Service-S
10:00 am RE all ages-FH, PH
12:30 pm RE Committee-PH
- 30 **Monday**

Key: S –Sanctuary
L – Library
A –Activity/Multipurpose Room
PH–Parker House
FH–Fahs House

Check out our website: www.wuu.org.



Please notice the time change
in services

WILLIAMSBURG UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

