



WILLIAMSBURG UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

WUUU NEWS

MARCH 2007

March 4—Rev. Jennifer Ryu

“Money Money Money.” Money, either the lack of it or the acquiring of it, consumes much of human thought and actions. So money must be highly relevant to our spiritual lives. What is that relevance?

March 11—Rev. Preston Moore

“Sin—We Need It.” Harsh religions have used “sin” to condemn and ostracize. This has made liberal religions leery of it. What are we losing by banishing this concept?

March 18—Rev. John T. Crestwell, Jr.

“UUism on the Brink”

What if you were a part of a religion that is becoming the religion of the present and future? Albert Einstein said, “The religion of the future will be a cosmic religion.” In other words, this religion would utilize the best of science in its theology, while synthesizing ancient thoughts, thus creating a new religious paradigm in the world! Why did a leader in the Mormon Church say that Unitarian Universalism is “The most dangerous religion in America?”

Come hear more from today’s guest preacher, Rev. John T. Crestwell, Jr., Davies

Memorial Unitarian Universalist Church. His church has been named a UUA Breakthrough Congregation and will be recognized at the UUA’s General Assembly in June 2007 in Portland Oregon.

March 25—Rev. Preston Moore

“Justice: What’s Love Got to Do With It?” On the day our movement declares to be Justice Sunday, we ponder the place of justice in our firmament of spiritual values. What does justice mean to a religious person—particularly one who calls herself a Unitarian Universalist? Anything special?

Celebrating Easter on Thursday

On Thursday, April 5, please join me in the sanctuary at 6pm for nourishment of the body—a simple supper in the manner of the early Christian church (\$2 donation requested)—followed by nourishment of the spirit—a short vespers worship service (concluding by 7:45) to mark Maundy Thursday, the day before Good Friday. I am not a traditional Christian, but learning about this lesser known piece of the Easter holidays put the death of Jesus in an entirely new light for me. It just might do the same for you. Please RSVP to minister@wuu.org and put “Maundy Thursday” in the re line, so we can know how much food to prepare. If you need childcare, please mention that, and it will be provided. If you are willing to join

me in preparing the food, please mention that too.

Preston

Lest We Forget

I am writing this newsletter column at 6:15 p.m. on February 21. Forty-two years and three hours ago, a gunman stood up in the Audubon Ballroom in New York City and murdered the speaker standing at the lectern: Malcolm X. The anniversary got a two-liner in the New York Times' "Today's Highlight in History" listing. If February were not Black History Month, I wonder if Malcolm would have made the papers at all.

Malcolm was intensely focused on repairing the damage done to African-American identity by slavery and its aftereffects. Although some condemned him for incitement, I believe he actually moved his audiences away from violence. Malcolm celebrated the dignity of African-American identity, sketching his people as patient and persevering, ready to defend themselves if pushed too far, but focused primarily on their own community.

Identity is fundamental to everything religion grapples with. Spiritual growth depends on affirmation of self-worth. We remember Malcolm as a radical organizer. We forget that he was a minister who struggled to engender an experience of self-worth in his people.

In his 1952 novel, Invisible Man, Ralph Ellison described the identity plight of African-Americans this way:

I am an invisible man. No, I am not a spook like those who haunted Edgar Allan Poe; nor am I one of your Hollywood-movie ectoplasms. I am a man of substance, of flesh and bone, fiber

and liquids—and I might even be said to possess a mind. I am invisible, understand, simply because people refuse to see me.

To this day, affirmation of self-worth and identity remain central concerns for people of color. There is no identity without history. There is no history without memory. On this anniversary, and in all our days, may we remember Malcolm X, who refused to recede gently into invisibility.

Preston

Chalice Gazing: Notes from the DFD

What's a DFD, you may be wondering. Well, the first D still stands for director. The F stands for faith, and the other D stands for development. Director of Faith Development. Why the change? For one thing, we want to be consistent with the language used elsewhere in the denomination. Also, we want our language to reflect that faith development is a lifelong process. Our habit is to use the initials RE as code for anything that has to do with children, and one way to help shift that deeply rooted way of thinking is to shift our language.

The word *education*, even when it is modified by the adjective *religious*, evokes images of school, classrooms, teachers, and information. One aspect of Unitarian Universalism that makes us different from other denominations is that we don't teach each other lessons about what to believe. We know what we believe, or we are in the process of figuring that out. We don't come looking for answers; we come yearning to ask questions, to share and refine what we believe. Children and teens are no different from adults in that respect; the only

difference is that they are not processing developmentally on the same level

Every adult in every congregation is responsible for embracing its children and youth on Sunday mornings. We teach them what it means to belong, what it means to have inherent worth and dignity. We want them to grow up to be faithful Unitarian Universalists, healing the world's wounds, strong in their own sense of self. In order for that to happen, we walk with them, sharing what it means to us to be UUs, asking them what it means to them...on whatever level is appropriate. We develop our faith together, all our lives.

Blessings,

Sara

President's Message

Greetings,

In last month's column, I told you a little about some new initiatives the board has taken to reorganize the way the church operates. In a nutshell, we've have adopted a new form of organization known as policy governance, a term you will be hearing very frequently in the coming months. As I mentioned last month, under the new arrangement, the board becomes primarily a policy making body rather than a program management group. Managing the day to day operations of the church becomes the responsibility of the ministers and the staff. The current cluster chairs, now board members under our current by-laws, would report to the ministers, leaving the board free to make long-range plans, and conduct evaluations of the church's progress toward its mission.

The board and the bylaws committee have been working together to determine

what changes we need to propose to the congregation to bring our new governance model into sync with our rules of order. All of these changes will be included in the agenda of our May 6 annual meeting for the congregation to approve. In the meantime, we have scheduled several after service sessions to explain the new directions we are taking, and to answer as many of your questions as we can. The first of these gatherings will be held on Sunday, February 25. Then on Sunday, March 18, we will hold a formal congregational meeting to elect a new UUA trustee and to discuss changes in our ministerial evaluation process. A second informal chat session will be held on April 15th. In between those meetings we will kick off our annual pledge campaign on March 24 and install our new ministers on April 1st. It's going to be a busy and exciting spring!!

Joe Fisler

General Assembly 2007

June 20-24 in Portland, Oregon—registration opens on March 1st. The theme is *Choices That Matter*. Dr. Rashid Khalidi, author of two highly acclaimed Beacon Press books on the Middle East, will deliver the 2007 Ware Lecture at the UUA General Assembly in Portland, Oregon. Khalidi is the author of *The Iron Cage: The Story of the Palestinian Struggle for Statehood*, named an outstanding title of 2006 by *Publishers Weekly*, and *Resurrecting Empire: Western Footprints and America's Perilous Path in the Middle East*. For more information, check <http://www.uua.org/ga/>





Join me at GA!

Each year thousands of UUs get together and turn a major US city into a wonderful place where you can worship, learn, and socialize while surrounded by fellow UUs. This year I plan on joining the group of WUUs that will make the trek to Portland, Oregon for the annual UUA General Assembly from 6/20 to 6/24. Though I've never been to GA before, I have heard so much from my parents and others that have gone about the rewarding and energizing environment that you find at GA, that I know I'll have a great time.

It would make me even happier to be part of a large group of WUUs at GA. So, reserve that week on your calendar, make your travel plans, register after 3/1, and join me in Portland! Here's the GA website: www.uua.org/ga. Dave Wilcox

Social Justice Potluck and Movie

Please join us on March 17 for a potluck in the sanctuary at 6pm followed by "Heroes of the Spirit," a short documentary telling the story of UUSC founders Rev. Waitstill and Martha Sharp who traveled to Europe during the Holocaust to help rescue victims of Nazi persecution. The DVD will also lead us to explore what we each can do today in relation to Darfur.

Worship Associates meet Thursday March 1 at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary

Interested members of the congregation are encouraged to participate in the Worship Associate Program, to:

- Plan and lead worship services several times each year.
- Participate in Sunday worship services with our ministers and guest ministers
- Assist our ministers to evaluate the quality of worship services

For further information, contact Minister Jennifer Ryu, jennifer@wuu.org or 757-220-6830.

Board motions, February 15

The following motions were presented for a second time to the Board at the February 15, 2007 meeting. They had been passed at the January 20 meeting. However, since that was not a regular meeting of the Board the motions had to be considered officially at a called meeting:

Jan Brown made the following motion: That WUU move toward policy governance (as in "The Carver Model of Policy Governance"). Seconded by Chris Faia.

It was moved by Dave Banks: That the Board rescind instructions to the Nominating Committee to select candidates for a Ministerial Evaluation Team. Jan Brown seconded.

Both motions passed without dissent.

New motions: Dave Stanford moved that the minutes of the December 21, 2006, January 18, 2007 and February 5, 2007 meetings of the Board be approved with corrections. Seconded by Dave Banks. Motion passed without dissent.

Our Newest Members



Tracy Lord



Stephen Sechrist

The Thomas Jefferson District will present a conference on anti-racism at Charlottesville on March 2-3. The keynote speaker is William Cross and his speech is titled *Who is Worthy of our Efforts?* For more information and a brochure, go to <http://www.tjd.uua.org/>

Welcoming Congregation workshops

will be presented on Sunday mornings (9-10:30 am) and Monday evenings (7-8pm) starting on March 4th. The two workshops will be identical in content. The two time offerings are to accommodate peoples' different schedules.



Global Warming Action:

March 22, 7:30-9:00 at WUU. Come out and be part of the solution, in your homes, at work, in our community and legislatively. I would also like to see a WUU Earth Committee form. Contact Chris Llewellyn, CHL5075@aol.com



Musical Opportunities at WUU

Calling all musicians (or wannabees)

On March 25, Tabernacle Band will play for the Sunday service. If you are new to WUU, you'll need to know that Tabernacle Band is an opportunity for musicians of all ages, abilities and instruments to join together to make a joyful noise. Our wonderful Music Director works her magic on us and the results will amaze you.



On April 15 the Tabernacle Choir will sing for the service. This is a chance for those who, for whatever reason, are unable to participate in choir on a regular basis. They will sing along with our regular choir to provide an anthem. Each of these opportunities will involve one rehearsal before the service in which we are playing or singing. Please mark your calendars if you are interested. For more information about either of these opportunities, please contact Vicki Hall or Jamie Bartlett.

Celebrate Spring!



Come to the grounds party on Saturday, March 24, from breakfast to lunchtime. Work for all levels of expertise. Help spiff up the grounds before the installation.

Rain date: March 31.

Social Justice Potluck and Movie

Please join us on March 17 for a potluck in the sanctuary at 6pm followed by "Heroes of the Spirit," a short documentary telling the story of UUSC founders Rev. Waitstill and Martha Sharp who traveled to Europe during the Holocaust to help rescue victims of Nazi persecution. The DVD will also lead us to explore what we each can do today in relation to Darfur.

Spotlight on: Susan Greenbaum

A frequent comment at Susan Greenbaum's shows is, "How does that big, beautiful sound come out of someone under five feet tall?" *Billboard* Magazine says her songs have "hooks that drill into your brain...and lyrical substance to make the music an interactive experience." Susan fills her songs with intelligent lyrics, beautiful melodies, and her mellifluous, versatile voice. She has opened for Jewel, Kenny Loggins, Dar Williams, Janis Ian, Iris DeMent, Lucy Kaplansky, and many other major acts. On March 9, find out why this Richmond-based artist has won the repeated praise of *Billboard*. WUU's own Fran Metzger will open.



Gala Canvass Dinner

March 24, 6 pm

Come to WUU and enjoy a delicious dinner (new and improved from last year), entertainment (the Gold and Silver Duet) and community. As we enter a year of unparalleled growth and activity, it is important that our generosity expand and grow to support it! We'll combine an evening of fun and good company with a serious start to the pledge drive!



Money Matters\$

The Canvass will begin on 24 March with a gala dinner, followed by Canvass Sunday on 25 March. This year's theme, "Taking Flight", relates to the tremendous energy WUU has developed over the past months and the heights it can expect to reach over the coming year. Reaching those heights depends on every one of you supporting (and if possible increasing) your commitment to WUU! Remember, 75% of WUU income is from pledges: this goes to support worship, Lifespan Faith Development, music, and all of the other WUU programs we all value!

Thomas Jefferson District annual meeting, April 27 and 28 at the UU Community Church of Glen Allen. Gather friends, carpool, and come to Glen Allen for an exciting and energizing UU week-end. For more information check:

<http://www.tjd.uua.org/tjd-2007annual-meeting-details.htm>

MARCH 2007 PROGRAM AND EVENTS CALENDAR

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| <p>1 Thursday
9:30-10:30 am Tai Chi
7:30-8:30 pm Worship Associates</p> <p>2 Friday</p> <p>3 Saturday</p> <p>4 Sunday
9-10:30 Welcoming cong. workshop
11:00 am Worship Service-S
11:00 am RE all ages-FH, PH</p> <p>5 Monday
7-8 pm Welcoming cong. Workshop-S</p> <p>6 Tuesday
10:00 am Staff Meeting-PH
6:30 pm Silent Meditation-S
7:30 pm Jazz Band Practice-S</p> <p>7 Wednesday
7:30 pm Choir Practice-S
7:30 pm Social Responsibility-A</p> <p>8 Thursday
9:30-10:30 am Tai Chi-S
3:30-4:30 Bylaws committee
12:30 pm Separate Checks-S</p> <p>9 Friday
7:30 pm Live off Five concert</p> <p>10 Saturday, turn clocks ahead</p> <p>11 Sunday
8:45-10:30 Lifetime Faith Devel.
9:00-10:30 Finance Committee-PH
9:00-10:30 Welcoming cong. workshop
11:00 am Worship Service-S
11:00 am RE all ages-FH, PH
12:30 pm RE Committee-PH</p> <p>12 Monday
7:00 pm Dream Group-PH
7:00 pm Welcoming cong. Workshop-S</p> <p>13 Tuesday
10:00 am Staff meeting-PH
6:30 pm Silent Meditation-S
7:30 pm Jazz Band Practice-S</p> <p>14 Wednesday
7:00-8:30 Social justice meeting
7:30pm Choir Practice-S</p> <p>15 Thursday
9:30-10:30 Tai chi-S
7:15 pm Board meeting-A</p> | <p>16 Friday</p> <p>17 Saturday</p> <p>18 Sunday
9-10:30 Welcoming cong. workshop
11:00 am Worship Service-S
11:00 am RE all ages-FH, PH</p> <p>Monday
7-8 pm Welcoming cong. Workshop-S</p> <p>19 Tuesday
10:00 am Staff meeting-PH
12:00 pm Newsletter Deadline
6:30 pm Silent Meditation
7:30 pm Jazz Band Practice</p> <p>21 Wednesday
7:30 pm Choir Practice-S</p> <p>22 Thursday
9:30-10:30 Tai Chi
7:30-9:00 pm Membership Comm.-A</p> <p>23 Friday</p> <p>24 Saturday
6:30 pm Pledge Kickoff Dinner-S</p> <p>25 Sunday
9-10:30 Welcoming cong. workshop
11:00 am Worship Service-S
11:00 am RE all ages-FH, PH</p> <p>26 Monday
7-8:00 pm Welcoming cong. Workshop-S</p> <p>27 Tuesday
10:00 am Staff meeting-PH
6:30 pm Silent Meditation-S
7:30 pm Jazz Band Practice-S</p> <p>28 Wednesday
7:30 pm Choir Practice-S
7:30 pm Social Responsibility-A</p> <p>29 Thursday</p> <p>30 Friday</p> <p>31 Saturday</p> <p>Key:
S – Sanctuary
L – Library
A – Activity/Multipurpose Room
PH – Parker House
FH – Fahs House</p> <p>Check out our website: www.wuu.org.</p> |
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An April Celebration: Jennifer's and Preston's Installation

An installation ceremony is one of the most special events that a congregation shares with its new ministers. We invite you to Jennifer's and Preston's installation on **Sunday, April 1, at 7 pm** in the WUU Sanctuary, followed by a reception organized by Tina Allen. Jennifer and Preston have invited many special guests and friends to participate in the service. We are honored to have as the keynote speaker Rev. Rebecca Ann Parker, president of Starr King School of Ministry, the UU seminary in Berkeley, CA. Other guests include Rev. Robert Latham, Rev. Beverly Boke, Thomas Jefferson District Executive Annette Marquis, and Doug Fraser and Molly Scholz, friends of Preston who are flying from Portland, OR to provide some of the special music. Jennifer and Preston will also be joined by their families, as well as by other Williamsburg area ministers and dignitaries. Mark your calendar for Sunday evening, April 1, for this most special event!

-Susan Geary and Linda Lane-Hamilton, Installation Committee Co-Chairs

WILLIAMSBURG UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

