

WILLIAMSBURG UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

WUUU NEWS

MAY 2007

May 6—Middle School Youth with Rev. Jennifer Ryu

“Coming of Age.” The “Middles” will share their journey into adulthood with us. Our youth are growing up in a Time of Troubles. Becoming who you are requires more than individual freedom. What gifts can our faith community give?

May 13—Rev. Preston Moore

“Turning Away From Eden.” Come celebrate the heroisms and honor the tragedies of mothers, who live acutely in the paradox of holding close and letting go. Come for a deep theological embrace, instead of the usual holiday pieties.

May 20—Rev. Jeanne Pupke

“How I Almost Did Not Become a Unitarian Universalist” Reverend Jeanne Pupke, Senior Minister of First UU Richmond, shares the saga of her difficult struggle to find the religious home she *thought* was Unitarian Universalism. She asks some interesting questions about our “tribe” and what her difficulty says about our people, traditions and future.

May 27—Rev. Jennifer Ryu

“Flower Communion” This annual ritual is uniquely Unitarian Universalist. Everyone brings one flower to the service, creating one

large bouquet. The bouquet then becomes a symbol of our diversity and unity.

Gamsahamnida! Thank You! Merci!

From Preston & Jennifer

So many of you helped to make the April 1st Installation Service an unforgettable event. For those who were not able to attend, there is a DVD available for loan in the library. And the full text of the Charge to the Congregation by Rev. Robert Latham and the sermon by Rev. Rebecca Parker will be online next week. We also want to thank you for the generous financial gift you gave us that night. We will use it well.

The Physics of Religion

I walked into the church at 5pm last Monday to make ready for our Lifespan Faith Development program on science and religion. We were offering a light supper to ease things for the on-the-way-home-from-work folks. Since we don't really have a logistics crew for these events yet, I was doing the food drill.

Beth Kennedy was there. I asked why, since the program she had registered for wouldn't start for an hour. Her reply: “Oh, I just thought there might be a need for a little help with the food.” Given Beth's concept of “a little help,” my brief stint as a kitchen elf pretty much ended right there.

Such freelancing is epidemic at WUU. It is a remarkable concentration of benevolent energy. It also is a vivid illustration of one of my favorite principles of religious physics: church is both wave and particle. Our collectivity is evident when we raise our hands and vote to oppose a law like the Marriage Amendment. Our individuality is evident when, unbidden, one of us looks at the seating in the sanctuary and, knowing we are bursting at the seams, spends a couple of hours by himself, rearranging and rearranging the chairs to see if there is a better way to be architecturally welcoming to newcomers. (Thanks, Bob Cowling)

The cover of our Planning and Budgeting Guide for the 07-08 church year pictures a flock of geese. When such a flock takes flight, its wave-like motion is remarkable. Up close, though, it is clear that the wave is a composite of individual strivings. As our flock completes a stellar year of collective action, I want to pause for a moment to celebrate you one at a time, to see and reflect back to all of us the inspiring particularity of Williamsburg You You.

Co-Minister Preston Moore

Chalice Gazing: Notes from the DFD

This month I intended to write about my conversation with our YRUUs last Sunday. Then on Monday, while I was working in Richmond at the seminary, my colleague's husband called and said, "Look online. Some people have been shot at Tech." Instantly I went through my mental rolodex: did I know any teens, from WUU or from my own church, at Tech? I called the UU Community Church office. "Are our Tech kids OK? Any news?" The administrator was confused; she had not yet heard what was happening.

"Turn on your radio, look online. Something bad is happening at Tech," I told her.

We eventually got an e-mail saying that the UCC kids who're students at Tech are safe and well. One of them is one of my former YRUUs, from the days when I was an advisor there. As the news has unfolded over the past few days, I think about him often. Every time, I offer thanks that he is alive and unharmed. It could have been otherwise.

I'm sure that for all of us, fear squeezes our hearts when we imagine our children, or anyone's children, in danger. Yet while I watched those heartscalding student interviews on TV, I was struck, and so proud, to see how brave the Tech students were, how they took care of each other, how they would not let themselves be brought down. And they're *kids*.

You've heard me say this often, and I know it to be true from my own experience. There is nothing you can do in the church...nothing...that will bring you the satisfaction, pride, delight, and inspiration that you will get from being an ally and a companion to teens. We cannot possibly love them more than they deserve to be loved. Our WUU congregation is blessed by the presence of our bright, energetic, compassionate teens; let us offer thanks today that they are safe and well.

Blessings,

Sara

President's Message

Greetings,

The annual meeting is just around the corner now, on Sunday May 6th. We'll have a light lunch right after service, and get the meeting underway by 12:30. We need a

quorum of at least 50 people to conduct business, so mark your calendar and be sure to attend.

In addition to the normal end of year reports, we will be asking for your approval of a series of bylaws changes to begin our transition to a policy governance form of operation. Under the new proposal, the board assigns responsibility for day to day operation of the church to our ministers, and devotes its time to long term policies and strategies to enhance church growth. The board has conducted numerous meetings to explain the transition to the new model. Changes have been made in the proposals to reflect concerns and recommendations made by participants at these meetings, and further bylaw changes will be considered in the fall of this year as we get deeper into the process. Those of us who have labored over these issues since last fall are excited about the opportunities the new structure will offer to draw more members into significant roles in the workings of the church. The changes will also allow the board to devote more time to consulting with all of you and insuring that our resources are prudently employed to further our mission in the community.

If you have questions about the process, or the specifics of the changes, please speak with our ministers or any of the board members. We will be happy to share with you the many reasons we believe this is a wise move for our expanding congregation.

Joe Fisler

General Assembly 2007

June 20-24 in Portland, Oregon

<http://www.uua.org/ga/>



Committee on Overcrowding

Our first meeting was held on April 9th. We agreed that there is congestion apparent in many areas. The committee is considering a number of options. The first ones will be things that can be put into place by September 1st. While we will consider many things such as extra chairs, other layouts of parking, and so forth; no decisions have been made. The committee would appreciate your input. You can contact us through crowded@wuu.org. One possibility to consider is changing to two services. The answer could be yes, no, or maybe. Expect to see questionnaires in the future. And the congregation should also consider an eventual long term plan for larger facilities. Your input is important. We will be reaching out to members of the congregation over the next few months.

A Note of Thanks

I wish to thank the many dear friends of Genevieve who have sent messages of affection and testimonials of honor. Your kindness has given me abundant solace and strong support, which I shall remember to my own dying day. May shared memories of Genevieve—both personal and musical—be a blessing to our community of attentive and respectful hearts. I also wish to thank those who have made gifts in Genevieve's name to the WUUs. Thank you! Mike McGiffert

Our newest members



Marion and Richard Wolfe



Marion Moore



Molly and Allen Cooke

Not pictured: **Bob Matarainen**



What is going on at the Community Church UU (New Orleans)? The CCUU minister, Jim VanderWeele, used to be the WUU minister. Here are some gleanings from the CCUU web site:

The "we" here is not a "CCUU-we" but rather it is the larger "we" which encompasses ourselves and our partners and supporters from all over the country. "We Are All Family & We All Have Value" extends here to "We Have All Accomplished These Things Together".

Everything left in our building has been removed--leaving a pile of sheetrock, insulation, and ductwork at our curbside (we hope it will be picked up soon).

The interior framing is completely prepared for the next steps in salvaging our building.

The flowers at our front door symbolize our commitment to our neighborhood, as well as our commitment to returning to our place of worship.

We are inviting members of our partner churches to visit us during the weekend of May 18–20. The churches which will receive invitations are West Hartford, CT, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA, CCNY, Davenport, IA, Williamsburg, VA, Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Appleton, WI; Montclair, NJ, Naples, FL, and Marblehead, MA.

[The main partner church is the one from Fox Valley in Appleton, Wisconsin] For lots more information about post-Katrina history and efforts in New Orleans, check out CCUU web site: www.communitychurchuu.org/

WUUs in action



On Saturday April 14, a group of local residents, many of them WUUs, joined graduate students from the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences and undergraduate students from the Student Environmental Action Coalition at William and Mary, to participate in part of a nationwide event to draw attention to the dire issue of global warming. The group braved the cold and the rain to send the message to Congress: Step It Up Congress, Cut Carbon 80% by 2050!

Organized by WUU Chris Llewellyn, the event was one of over 1400 similar rallies in all 50 states on this National Day of Climate Action. Letters and petitions to U.S. Senators and Representatives were signed. Compact fluorescent light bulbs, donated by local stores, were given away. WUU Emmett Duffy created an event link on his website: www.naturalpatriot.org/, WUU Rachel Delbos worked tirelessly to get terrific media coverage of the event, and WUUs Bob and Karen Richardson created YouTube videos of the presentations.

The event is just the beginning of the mission we hope to accomplish: generate awareness about the dire need for bold and immediate action, provide attainable solutions, and work collectively toward

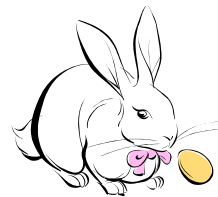
meaningful state and federal legislation, because we need to change more than just light bulbs; we need to change lifestyles and laws if we are to enact the dramatic change necessary to slow the runaway train of global warming.

To get lots more information, check out the newly updated social action part of our web site: www.wuu.org/sj_home.htm

Lifetime Faith Development program

A second LFD program will take place on Thursday, April 26, with the theme of “paganism”. Again, a light supper will be served prior to the class. Child care will be provided if necessary. Please email the office at office@wuu.org and let us know the number of people attending in your party, whether or not childcare will be needed (to include ages of the children), and indicate if you will be attending both the supper and the class, or the class only. Supper will be at 6 pm, program will start at 7 pm. It will be facilitated by David Doersch, Elizabeth Wiley, and Rev. Jennifer Ryu. The “Beltane” worship service on April 29th is related.

Golden Egg Hunt was a great success!



The Finance Committee would like to thank all the children, their parents and grandparents who came and made this event both memorable and fun. We would also like to thank Dave and Virginia Banks, David Tetrault, Harold Philipsen, Jack Hostetter, Jacqui Winther, and most especially the unknown rabbit that left large white footprints throughout the Memorial Garden, all of whom contributed to a very successful Easter Egg Hunt. Organizers,

parents, and grandparents who were able to participate were pleased with the happy children's faces and the intergenerational sharing which occurred on Easter Sunday - the result of our first annual Golden Egg Hunt.

Money Matters\$

Our 2007-08 pledge campaign is nearing its end. We have reached more than 83% of our target, but we need all WUU members and friends to support their commitment and make pledges--soon--if we are to be able to meet our proposed program enhancements and outreach goals.

Many of you have been members of WUU for years, while some of you joined recently. Many of you make generous donations weekly or monthly. The problem is that--without a pledge--we cannot base program decisions on that generosity. That is why pledging is so important! It costs about \$2000 per family unit to operate WUU for one year, and more than 70% of that cost must come from pledges!

Flower mysteries from March —

The first one was identified as evening primrose and the last as lesser celandine or ranunculous ficaria. Patsy Wells was the first to identify them.

Check out the May apple—it is not blooming as of April 22—but in May, it will



be. The flower is white and will be found under the umbrella of leaves.

April flora and fauna



Buttercup



Caterpillar on north side of sanctuary
(Future moth)



Moth on north side of sanctuary

MAY 2007 PROGRAM AND EVENTS CALENDAR

- 1 Tuesday**
10:00 am Staff Meeting-PH
- 2 Wednesday**
7:30 pm Choir Practice-S
6:30 pm Silent Meditation-S
7:30 pm Jazz Band Practice-S
- 3 Thursday**
9:30 am Tai Chi-S
7:30 pm Worship committee
- 4 Friday**
7:00 pm Parent Support-S
- 5 Saturday**
- 6 Sunday**
9:00 am Finance Committee-PH
11:00 am Worship Service-S
11:00 am RE all ages-FH, PH
ANNUAL MEETING
- 7 Monday**
- 8 Tuesday**
10:00 am Staff Meeting-PH
6:30 pm Silent Meditation-S
7:30 pm Jazz Band Practice-S
- 9 Wednesday**
7:30 pm Choir Practice-S
7:30 pm Social Responsibility-A
- 10 Thursday**
9:30 Tai Chi-S
12:30 pm Separate Checks-S
- 11 Friday**
- 12 Saturday**
- 13 Sunday**
9-10:30 Endowment-A
11:00 am Worship Service-S
11:00 am RE all ages-FH, PH
12:30 pm RE Committee-PH
12:30-2:00 New UU class
- 14 Monday**
7:00 pm Dream Group-PH
7:00 pm Global Warming-S
- 15 Tuesday**
10:00 am Staff meeting-PH
6:30 pm Silent Meditation-S
7:30 pm Jazz Band Practice-S

- 16 Wednesday**
7:00-8:30 Social justice meeting
7:30pm Choir Practice-S
- 17 Thursday**
9:30-10:30 Tai Chi-S
7:15 pm Board meeting-A
- 18 Friday**
- 19 Saturday**
- 20 Sunday**
11:00 am Worship Service-S
11:00 am RE all ages-FH, PH
12:30-2:00 New UU Class
-
- 12:00 pm Newsletter Deadline**

- 21 Monday**
- 22 Tuesday**
10:00 am Staff meeting-PH
6:30 pm Silent Meditation
7:30 pm Jazz Band Practice
- 23 Wednesday**
7:30 pm Choir Practice-S
- 24 Thursday**
9:30-10:30 Tai Chi
7:30-9:00 Membership Comm.-A
- 25 Friday**
- 26 Saturday**
- 27 Sunday**
11:00 am Worship Service-S
11:00 am RE all ages-FH, PH
- 28 Monday**
Memorial Day, office closed
- 29 Tuesday**
10:00 am Staff meeting-PH
6:30 pm Silent Meditation-S
7:30 pm Jazz Band Practice-S
- 30 Wednesday**
7:30 pm Choir Practice-S
7:30 pm Social Responsibility-A
- 31 Thursday**

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

Check out our website: www.wuu.org.

Board meeting, April 19, 2007. Chris Faia made the following motion: That the Board agrees that a Youth Adviser can be hired if a candidate is found. The motion was Seconded by Jan Brown. and passed unanimously.



Blackberry



Scotch Broom

And please enjoy all the dogwoods, azaleas, pieris andromeda (Japonica), snapdragons, roses, and other deliberately introduced parts of our campus.

WILLIAMSBURG UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

