

WILLIAMSBURG UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

# WUUU NEWS

NOVEMBER 2006

**November 5**—Rev. Jennifer Y. Ryu

*"Finding Our Public Voice"*

Does the church belong in the public square? Or is religion solely a private matter? If we do belong there, what is our appropriate role?

Question and Answer session on Ministerial Evaluation Team after services; see article on MET below.

**November 8**—Mid-week worship service, 6:30-7:15, Reverends Jennifer Ryu & Preston Moore: *Into the Sanctuary with our Electoral Joys & Concerns*. Whatever the outcome of Tuesday's election, there will be need to come together to voice our gratitude, our sorrow, our joy, and most of all, our commitment to each other and the continuing work of justice.

**November 12**—Rev. Preston Moore

*Promises, Promises*—When we give our word, we act in a way that has spiritual consequences. What do these sometimes ordinary, sometimes heroic utterances called promises represent in the life of a person of faith? We answer this question in words and in the music of the Jazz Band, punctuated by a surprise vocalist contributor.

**November 19**—St. Cecilia service

*Magnificat* by Johann Sebastian Bach with soloists and Chamber Orchestra: The *Magnificat* text is the canticle of Mary "My soul doth magnify the Lord...". It is her joyous prayer in response to her cousin Elizabeth's greeting. Bach's *Magnificat* originally in E<sup>b</sup> was written in Leipzig for the 1723 Christmas Vespers. Ten years later he revised it, removed the Christmas interpolations to make the piece suitable for use throughout the year and transposed it into D, a much brighter and more satisfactory key for the trumpets. The *Magnificat* is conceived on a grand scale, requiring five soloists, a five-part choir and, for its time, an unusually large orchestra consisting of three trumpets, two flutes, two oboes, strings and continuo. We'll have the whole gang here so come and enjoy a very festive and spirited musical offering of Thanksgiving in honor of St Cecilia, the patron saint of music and musicians.

**November 26**—Rev. David Tetrault

**Lifespan Faith Development program on Church and State**

**The Premise:** As our church becomes more visible in the public square, people naturally wonder about how this role relates to the cherished doctrine of separation of church and state. When religious liberals become

more politically active, are we implicitly ratifying the position of churches that seek official status for their dogmas? A timely reflection on the eve of the election. *Space in this program is limited, and an accurate count is needed in advance.* RSVP to [preston@wuu.org](mailto:preston@wuu.org).

**Date/Time/Place:** Saturday, November 4, 8:30 to 10:00 am, Multi-purpose Room (out of consideration to the bleary-eyed, coffee and pastry will be provided)

**Facilitator:** Rev. Preston Moore

**Related Events:** November 5 worship service on the role of the church in the public square.

**The Promise:** After this 90-minute presentation/questions/discussion event, you will be in the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile of Americans in terms of understanding this foundational legal doctrine. You will feel ready to participate in the shaping of our church's public advocacy for justice.

*That Long, Justice-Seeking Arc*, by Rev. Preston Moore

In the movie "One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest," the main character, McMurphy, is a rebellious mental institution patient. He desperately wants to escape. Standing around with his fellow inmates, he suddenly declares he is going to break out by picking up a huge porcelain water fountain and hurling it through a nearby wire-reinforced glass window. He grunts and groans and can't budge it. The others make fun of him. McMurphy says angrily, "okay, I failed. But at least I tried." Observing silently in the corner stands another patient, a huge Native American called "Chief Broom." He almost never speaks.

At the end of the movie, after he discovers McMurphy has been lobotomized for being so rebellious, Chief Broom breaks down and cries. Then he gathers the porcelain water fountain in his immense embrace, hurls it through the window, and leaps through the jagged opening—running to freedom.

I replay this story when the wagon I'm pulling seems unusually heavy; when the progress looks glacial; and the "failure" screen is flashing in my head. It has a timely message for those in our church fighting for justice and feeling like bone-tired foot soldiers.

The latest polls suggest that our thirst for justice may soon be slaked. We hope and strive to win, but if we don't...

Be slow to use the word "failure," lest your horizon be too short. Others are watching what you try. Others will pick up the pieces of your effort. Your cause is worth the cost of disappointment, of efforts that fall heartbreaking inches short. At some point on that long arc of the universe, which does indeed bend toward justice, your stubborn straining will move the universe decisively—even if right now, the struggle feels like that porcelain water fountain.

### *President's Message*

Greetings one and all,

It's nearly time to turn your clocks back, put out the Halloween candy and start thinking about Thanksgiving dinner. Although 2006 is winding down, there is no shortage of activity around our fellowship. In fact, I suspect we are just getting a head start on what promises to be an exciting 2007.

This fall season has been one of the busiest and most productive in memory. Our stand against the marriage amendment has

garnered lots of publicity and brought us to the attention of many community residents. As of this writing in late October, 19 new members had joined our congregation since July, nearly all of those had made a monetary pledge, and another 20 have attended our classes for new members. I see new faces in our Sunday services each week, and the membership table always seems busy.

The initial round of Lifespan courses for adult education has been advertised. They represent one important aspect of addressing the goals from the Congregational Retreat last February. I'm currently preparing an interim report for all of you on our progress in meeting those goals. I'm a strong believer in setting measurable goals and seeing that they get implemented. Making resolutions and following through on them is a key to success!

As I mentioned last month, we still have lots of places where can use more volunteers. Yard sales, auctions, First Night, and many upcoming events all need willing hands. Please consider this your special invitation to join in being an active part of our growth.

Joe

### *Chalice Gazing: Notes from the DRE*

At the October meeting of religious educators in our region, we discussed the challenge that we all face when it comes to consistent attendance at church. Someone said that in the old days, church was the only choice families had on Sunday mornings; if you didn't go to church, you stayed home. I remember from my own childhood that on Sundays, no stores were open. Our parents didn't let us go roller skating in the driveway of the gracious neighbor who had no children, and who let us skate at her house

because she had a blacktop driveway. Adults didn't work in the yard on Sundays. My current neighbor across the street still assures me that he won't cut his grass on a Sunday. Sundays were for rest.

When do we rest these days? How do we rest? What does rest mean? In today's culture, rest often means doing some more things, but not things related to job or school. One of my colleagues wrote that she was beginning to think the best program we could provide for children, youth, and teens on Sunday mornings was nothing...no program at all. Rather we could hold an hour each week for them to come and walk around in the yard, look at birds or bugs, turn cartwheels, dance, draw, read, listen to music, talk to their friends, have their brains and their time to themselves. We would protect that hour from practice, homework, technology, and obligations, be present for them, give them a chance to listen to what their own hearts and spirits might be saying to them.

This, to me, is a vision of true sanctuary. Is it possible to realize such a vision, at church or at home, in today's world? I hope so.

Sara

### *MINISTRY EVALUATION TEAM*

(Formerly known as Committee on Ministry)  
How does a congregation evaluate its professional ministers, as well as the progress of the congregation toward their goals?—Several years ago, WUU leaders outlined a procedure to create a Ministry Evaluation Team (MET), and the congregation approved this plan by congregational vote. Now with the new ministers in place, it is time to take the first steps in this procedure. At its last meeting,

the WUU Board charged the Nominating Committee with overseeing the election of MET members. The Nominating Committee (Fred Gilbertson, Dawn Traver, and Donna Stanford) is ready to begin its work. You will be hearing from them regularly over the next few months.

The purpose of the MET is to assess the effectiveness of the called ministers within the larger context of the congregation's total ministry. Why doesn't the Board perform these evaluations? Unlike the staff, who are hired by the Board, the minister is called by the congregation. The MET serves as agents of the congregation, and is accountable to the membership. It will not report to the Board.

The team will consist of five members with 3-year staggered terms and will be elected by congregational vote. A member of the MET cannot simultaneously hold another significant leadership position

Qualifications are:

- An overarching commitment to the congregation's mission above all other agenda
- Ability to see past the parts to account for the whole
- The capacity to keep confidences
- Personal integrity
- The ability to be caring, while being honest and straightforward
- Ability to listen well
- Willingness to make the tough decisions
- Be a member in good standing—minimum of three years of evidenced committed membership as a Unitarian Universalist (not necessarily at WUU)

Why the name change? In some UU churches, Committee on Ministry has come

to be associated with a support group for the minister. Preston & Jennifer have stated they do not need such a support group. However, they do desire honest and constructive evaluation of their work. The name change also reflects the intent to assess the entire congregation and how we are doing in fulfilling our mission.

If you think you may be interested, please contact Rev. Jennifer ([jennifer@wuu.org](mailto:jennifer@wuu.org)) or the members of the Nominating Committee.

A special Q & A session will be held after services on Sunday, November 5th.

*Thank you* to those who helped with various buildings and grounds jobs:

Randy and Anna Drake who cleaned up the entrance to the driveway—we can see the curbs again!

Chris Faia and Franz Gross for giving the multi-purpose room a new coat of paint and to Jim Hall for repairing the wall.

Jim Hall and Fred Adair for replacing a toilet in the ladies' room.

Dave Banks for giving us cleaner windows and Virginia for removing a lot of dust.

*“On the Street Where You Bid”*, our 16th annual auction, will take place on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, in the Sanctuary. Bring your appetite, best friends, and plenty of pocket money, checkbook or credit card for the bidding frenzy that is sure to take place when we unveil this year's auction items!

Help support WUU by planning on attending. Tickets are \$15.00. We will have a delicious dinner by Florimonte's, music by Heather and Joelle, an exciting live auction conducted by Dave Russell and a silent

auction. For more information, call Ruth Hopkinson at 565-3298 or Tracy Shackelford at 880-5726. You may also e-mail Ruth at [beachri@cox.net](mailto:beachri@cox.net).

### *Nursery News...New Nursery*

WUU Nursery Care Coordinator, Angie Prolog has been joined by Lottie Grimes, who is now working with her to care for our littlest WUUs, ages 4 and under in the Nursery.

Angie and Lottie are both experienced moms, as well as professional caregivers. Angie, a retired RN, has raised a son and a daughter, UU, Connie Lee; Angie now has two grandchildren, including Connie's daughter, Julia, a graduate of the nursery program. Lottie, who holds a masters degree in psychology and has practiced as a family therapist, is presently staying at home with her 3 children, ages 20 months to 7 years, while she takes classes in pursuit of certification as a school counselor. Most Sundays, her youngest, Ben, is a welcome addition to the nursery, which also serves as a play-group for him.

We are pleased to have such qualified and dedicated staff to care for our youngsters, and Angie and Lottie would be delighted if you would stop by and say hello. If you are and would like to know more about the program, please do not hesitate to talk with Angie or Lottie, or see Minister Jennifer Ryu.

### *WUU Thanksgiving Day*

Thursday, November 23, 1:00 p.m.,  
Sanctuary

For those who do not have plans for Thanksgiving Day, please join Preston & Jennifer at church for a



Potluck Thanksgiving. They will provide a turkey. Please bring your favorite side dishes. Contact them at the office 220-6830 or by email ([minister@wuu.org](mailto:minister@wuu.org)) so they know how big of a bird to get.

*Dinner and Theater Social*, November 18. We will have dinner at 5:30 at Doraldo's Restaurant (1915 Pocahontas Trail—Route 60) followed by theater at 8:00 to see the Williamsburg Players production of *Sleuth* in



which no one is ever what he seems to be and every event is bizarre. Contact Bobbi Fisler at [social@wuu.org](mailto:social@wuu.org). This is a popular show so there are only 30 seats available for our group. Ticket cost is \$12 each. Make checks payable to the Williamsburg Players.

There is a new procedure for use of the "WUU Events" glass display case and the bulletin boards across from the name tags. In an effort to coordinate communication within the church and to make an appealing display of upcoming events, the publicity committee has decided that only the publicity person (Bobbi Fisler) will post items on these bulletin boards. If you have flyers or suggestions, please place them in the designated envelope on the gray bulletin board across from the name tag board. The boards will be updated weekly. Direct any questions to [publicity@wuu.org](mailto:publicity@wuu.org).



## *New Members*



Cynthia Frezek



Tracy Shackelford and Harold Philipson



Martha Connolly



Catherine Hauke

## *It's That Time Again!!!*

For years we did a mitten tree for **FISH** until we found what they really need is socks and underwear—they give one pair of mittens, three pairs of socks and three sets of underwear to each person. So, bring **NEW** socks and underwear (infant to adult, men and women) to the FISH barrels and I will see that your contribution gets under the Christmas tree this year. Any questions? Call me at 564-0025. Thanks. Dolores Moyer



## *Christmas Family Fund*

It's that time of year again! WUU will once again sponsor two families this holiday season, one local and one in Lebanon (assistance for the family of our own Mohamad Barbarji). Beth Kennedy is leading this project. We will start accepting donations immediately and will continue to do so throughout the season. Donations can be dropped into the Sunday collection baskets in addition to your regular pledge and plate donations, or they may be mailed

to (or dropped off at) the WUU office. If you write a check, please make it payable to WUU and place the words "Christmas Family Fund" in the memo line.

### *W.A.N. Fall Fantasy*

Ever since the humble (not!) inaugural event at the home of Kathy and Bruce Hornsby, the Williamsburg Aids Network Annual Fall Social/Fundraising Event has been a memorable occasion for all who have attended. This year's theme is the "Denim and Diamonds Ball". The celebrity host will be Barbara Ciara of Hampton Roads' Channel 3 news. The event will take place at the Woodlands Conference Center in Williamsburg on Saturday, November 18, from 7:00-10:30 p.m.

Five WUU members enjoyed last year's event; and as the outgoing WAN board chair, I hope that I can entice a full table of ten to join me for this year's event. Please call me at 253-2633 or email me at [fredgilbertson@msn.com](mailto:fredgilbertson@msn.com) for reservations or further information. Fred Gilbertson



### Spotlight on:

Kim and Reggie Harris—two vibrant, engaging performers who have inspired audiences for over 25 years as singers, storytellers, educators, historical

interpreters, and cultural advocates.

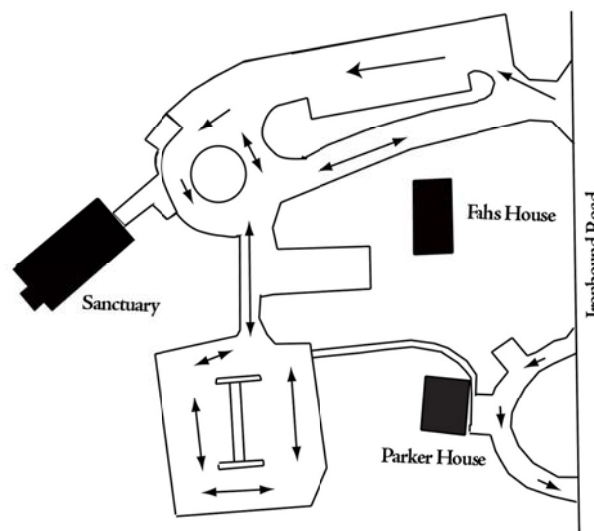
They were born in Philadelphia, a city rich in musical and cultural heritage. Exposed to many composers and genres through school, church, and home, they have evolved a "Bach to Rock" approach to their performances, with emphasis on Folk, Gospel, and Jazz.

Kim and Reggie present programs on the Underground Railroad, the Modern Civil Rights Movement, and African American Music of Social Change. They come to WUU on November 17. To learn more, visit [www.kimandreggie.com](http://www.kimandreggie.com).

### *Parking Lot Safety*



There have been several "near misses" in our busy parking lot on recent Sundays. In order to try to prevent parking-lot accidents, a suggested traffic flow pattern has been created (see picture). Please drive carefully and watch out for our little ones!

There is also parking in front of Parker House.



### *Money Matter\$*

We pledge, but many of us also put money in the plate each Sunday. Why? To make it possible for WUU to offer more social outreach; to care for others in the Williamsburg community and elsewhere; so WUU can be a liberal "beacon" in a conservative state; and because we can...

November—WUU Events						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> 7:30–9 Choir practice 6-9 AMN Task Force–PH	<b>2</b> 7–9 Worship Comm Mtg	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <b>Auction</b> Church & state class Task force
<b>5</b> 10-10:45 AMN Task Force–L 11–12:30 Worship 11–12:15 RE all ages 2-7 WYO practice-PH	<b>6</b> 7:00-8:30 Pandemic mtg 7:00-9:00 Lifespan class	<b>7</b> <b>Election Day</b>  6:30–7:30 Silent Meditation	<b>8</b> <b>6:30 worship service-S</b> 7:30–9 Choir practice-S	<b>9</b> 12:30-2 Separate Checks 7:30–9 Pers. Comm-A	<b>10</b> <i>Veterans' Day observed office closed</i>	<b>11</b> <b>Veterans' Day</b> 10:00-2:00 UCG-S
<b>12</b> 9-10:30 Finance PH 9-10:45 Endowment A 11–12:30 Worship 11–12:15 RE all ages 12:30–2 RE Comm 2:00 Piano recital 2-7 WYO practice-PH 7:00 Lifespan Class-S or A	<b>13</b> 7:00-9:00 Dream group-PH	<b>14</b> 10–11 Staff Mtg 6:30–7:30 Silent Meditation	<b>15</b> 7:30–9 Choir practice	<b>16</b> 7:15 Board meeting-A	<b>17</b> 7-8:30 Walt Beer -PH 8-10:30-Live Off 5 concert S	<b>18</b> 10:00-2:00 UCG-S
<b>19</b> <i>St. Cæcilia Service!</i> 11–12:30 Worship 11–12:15 RE all ages 2-7 WYO practice-PH 7:00 Lifespan Class-S or A	<b>20</b> 9:00-2:00 Williamsburg Spinners & Weavers Guild-S <i>newsletter deadline-noon</i>	<b>21</b> 10-11 Staff Mtg 6:30–7:30 Silent Meditation	<b>22</b> 7:30–9 Choir practice	<b>23</b>  <i>Thanks giving</i>	<b>24</b> <i>office closed</i>	<b>25</b> 10:00-2:00 UCG-S
<b>26</b> <b>No RE</b> 11–12:30 Worship 2-7 WYO practice-PH	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 10–11 Staff Mtg 6:30–7:30 Silent Meditation	<b>29</b> 7:30–9 Choir practice	<b>30</b> 7:30-9 membership comm.-A	<b>Dec 1</b>	<b>Dec 2</b>

## WILLIAMSBURG UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

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

Joe Fisler, *President*  
Preston Moore, *Co-Minister*  
Jennifer Ryu, *Co-Minister*  
Sara Mackey, *Director of Religious Education*  
Mary Ellen Lloyd, *Administrator*  
Virginia Banks, *Newsletter Editor*

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

