



WILLIAMSBURG UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

# WUUU NEWS

NOVEMBER 2007

## Nov 4—11 am—Worship Associates

**“Atheism: Faith without God”** Do you believe in God? Can one have faith without believing in God? What do atheists believe and why do they come to church? What can the WUUs offer to someone who does not believe in God? The answers may surprise you.

**November 11—11 am--Rev. Jennifer Ryu—“We affirm the Goal of World Community”** Is the idea of world peace naïve? Is the UU goal of world peace, liberty and justice for all too idealistic and far-reaching? How do we hold in our hearts both the world's suffering and our hope for healing?

Guest Musicians, “InClusion” will join our congregation for an inspiring worship service full of music and images. We will be giving out the UUSC (The UU Service Committee) Guests at Our Table Boxes that day. InClusion will also perform Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup>.

## November 18—11 am—St. Cecelia/ Rev. Jennifer Ryu

Sunday, November 18 is our annual St. Cecilia Celebration of Music. This year the WUU Choir and chamber orchestra will be performing Franz Joseph Haydn's *Te Deum*. Haydn composed this work in Eisenstadt, Austria for the Empress Marie Therese (wife of Franz I) while in the employ of the

Esterhazy family. This very cheerful piece, based on a traditional Latin text praising God, explores a wide palette of musical colors. There will also be an opportunity for the whole congregation to participate in another piece re-arranged specifically for WUU. Come, bring your enthusiastic voices, and share in the wonder of the gift of music.

## November 25—11 am—Rev. David Tetrault “Losing Life: Finding Life”

Three of the gospel writers overheard and remembered the same piece of Jesus wisdom: if we lose our lives we find our lives. Religion often sees passages like this as an opportunity to champion high moral imperatives. “Here, folks, have some more guilt.” Nope. Maybe we need to turn a saying like that upside down and inside out. Maybe we need to remember that we are spiritual beings having a human experience and not the other way around.

## WUU Thanksgiving Day

November 22, 1 pm,  
Sanctuary



Preston and Jennifer will host a Potluck Thanksgiving for those who do not have big family gatherings. They will provide the turkey. Please bring your favorite side dishes. Last year we had an overabundance of pie, so please consider bringing more veggies. RSVP to [Jennifer@wuu.org](mailto:Jennifer@wuu.org) or call her at the office 220-6830 so we know how big of a bird to get.

## Ministers' message—a few words from the co-mins about socializing

### Whom Do We Mean When We Say “We”?

When we say “we,” the focus is usually on the core spiritual mission of WUU. Our spiritual journeys, though, don't happen in a vacuum. There is always a social setting. Part of being a church is paying attention to that social setting. Our spiritual collaboration is much more meaningful if we have gotten to know each other better as the sometimes purely social creatures we all are. A community with a capital “C” is nurtured by all sorts of connections, even if it has a particular inflection like “spiritual.”

And in an overheated, overly serious world, we need to goof off! Who better to do this with than a bunch of U's like U?

In the past, WUU – like many churches – has had recreational events focused mainly on child-centered activities. We want to include all ages in the social life of the church, but with a little creativity, we can have social events that are everyone-centered—that give us unhurried chances for real camaraderie—getting acquainted with new folks and reminding ourselves of why the longtime friendships have meant so much.

So...our Community Cluster is planning a series of events—called “Purely Social”—that will provide opportunities to do this. We'll only have one rule at these events—no discussion of church business. No quorum required. No agenda. Imagine what it might be like to relax with the people you see on Sunday in a setting other than worship, committee meetings, covenant groups, or staccato networking at coffee hour!

Please take a look at the Purely Social Events listed on the cover page. Give your reactions and suggestions about these and

about other possibilities to Marcia Brecker, chair of the Community Cluster. Marcia is also putting together small groups to make light work of preparing these events (culinary skills are not required!) and she would love to hear from you.

Looking forward to seeing all of you on a Purely Social basis now and then.

*—Jennifer and Preston*

### Chalice Gazing: Notes from the DFD

Not long ago, a member of the congregation was telling me about a book he was reading. The author pointed out that children have lost the connection to the natural world that we once took for granted as an integral part of our childhood. We played outside all year long, played in the woods, vacant lot, or whatever our neighborhood provided, with no adults to organize our play and few props other than what we created ourselves. Now, it seems that going outdoors is a planned event rather than an integral part of the daily routine.

Our conversation made me remember a recent Sunday morning after church, watching some of our younger children playing in the grass beside the sanctuary, running up and down the little hills (which are not so little if you're 4 years old). Their parents were nearby, but not with them, and they looked completely comfortable on their own, rolling in the grass, looking for tiny blooming things. One of our youngest members, for whom walking is a fairly recently developed skill, was doing his best to keep up with the older guys, the 5 year olds. He was laughing, delighted, confident that he could do what they could do.

I wonder if we recognize that for the children, that Sunday morning experience

was as much religious education as their earlier organized program in Fahs House. They were experiencing the interdependent web of all existence. They were learning what the social justice committee is emphasizing now, that the natural world is a source of great joy, and worth saving. Although they may not have been able to explain it, they were treating the toddler justly, as an equal, compassionately. They were learning that they belong here at WUU, and this is a safe place. In this context, playing in the yard is far more meaningful than it might look. As Sophia Lyon Fahs said, “Life becomes religious and ethical whenever we make it so.”

*Blessings, Sara*

### **President's message**

Your board is continuing its work on drafting policy statements to guide our church. Fortunately this is a path down which other churches have gone before. As a result, we are able to draw on the work other congregations have done as they have moved from program to policy government models of operation. Of course we will design a set of policies unique to WUU, ones which will reflect our local needs and desires. We're not copycats, just borrowing good ideas and adapting them to our best use!

Our initial challenge is to take a very broad overview of who we are and where we want to go. We will draft a series of “ends” statements which will form the bowl into which all our future work will fit. The first of these policies will state our values, those shared interests and concerns which draw us together. The second policy will describe our mission, the difference we want to make in our world. The third will be devoted to our

vision, what we see our church looking like in the years ahead.

Our meeting in November will focus on the third policy—each of the 7 board members will be drafting a statement for next month's meeting, attempting to craft a concise description of where we each envision our church going in the immediate future. We invite all of you to share in this labor by sending your own thoughts and dreams on to us. What would you like to see in terms of program? Of facilities? Of outreach? Put on your thinking cap and send your thoughts to [board2007@wu.org](mailto:board2007@wu.org).

We will be hosting a café conversation on December 9<sup>th</sup> and holding a congregational meeting on January 13<sup>th</sup> to keep you apprised of our progress. Stay tuned!

*—Joe Fister*

### **2007 WUU Women's Retreat**

Rev. Jennifer Ryu and Liz Canuel are pleased to announce the date and location of this year's WUU Women's Retreat.

Invitations will be mailed to you later this month providing more details. Please save a spot on your calendars for this weekend of spiritual nourishment. It will be held on Saturday and Sunday, December 1-2, at Chanco on the James Retreat Center, Surrey County, Virginia.

## Nothing Stays The Same—Our Name Is Shorter Now!

### The ESSG becomes ESG

Our warming planet provided the impetus for a group of WUUs to come together last summer to study and discuss how our actions contribute to global warming. A grassroots effort to try to change our environmental behavior became known as the *Environmental Stewardship Study Group*. Since we are moving from the study of issues into action, it is appropriate to drop the word **Study** from our name. We are now, The **Environmental Stewardship Group** or **ESG**.

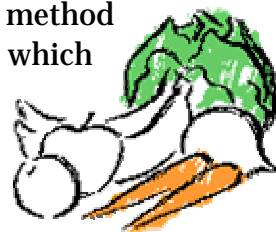
As spiritual people, members of the ESG agree to accept as our mandate this year, the role of leadership in providing educational opportunities and encouragement as we at WUU work to change the human behaviors which contribute to global warming/climate change. We welcome fellow travelers on this journey. **We urge everyone to read the UUA 2006 Statement of Conscience—Threat of Global Warming/Climate Change, which the ESG embraces and endorses.** It can be found at the UUA website.

*“We as Unitarian Universalists are called to join with others to halt practices that fuel global warming/climate change, to instigate sustainable alternatives, and to mitigate the impending effects of global warming/climate change with just and ethical responses.” (2006 UUA Statement of Conscience)*

The full resolution is at UUA site: <http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/socialjustice/statements/8061.shtml>

As part of our continuing effort to encourage and support changes in our environmental habits, the ESG will be selling BioBags® and large tote bags with a WUU logo. We hope to offer learning opportunities throughout the year. Addressing climate change is serious, but you can have still have fun!

On a beautiful October Saturday, the ESG traveled to Dayspring Farm near West Point VA where local farmer, Charlie Maloney, explained his method of organic farming, in which balance and harmony with nature are sought. An interesting and informative tour of the farm was followed by a delightful lunch. Supplementing our simple potluck was an array of delicious vegetable dishes from the farm, which turned a simple lunch into a pleasant feast, shared by ESG, the Maloney family and their farm interns. Organic farming works with the rhythm of nature. Purchasing locally reduces the energy required to transport food long distances. The result is fresher produce with better flavor.



### Williamsburg Climate Action Network

WCAN will next meet November 12, 7 pm. Speakers will be Ben Thacker-Gwaltney of the Virginia Organizing Project speaking on the Legislative Process, How a Bill Becomes a Law, and How to Effectively Talk to your Legislator. There will also be a presentation by Gary Grunau of Citizenre, a residential solar panel rental program.

<http://renu.citizenre.com/>

## Our Newest Members



Trenna and Charles Tankersley



Joel Schiff



Louise Diaz-Jenkins

Not pictured are Christine and Tim Swann

## “Our Whole Lives” Kicks Off

Seven 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> graders from our congregation have begun the comprehensive Our Whole Lives (OWL) Program. *Our Whole Lives* helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior. It equips participants with accurate, age-appropriate information in six subject areas: human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behavior, sexual health, and society and culture. Grounded in a holistic view of sexuality, *Our Whole Lives* provides not only facts about anatomy and human development, but helps participants to clarify their values, build interpersonal skills, and understand the spiritual, emotional, and social aspects of sexuality. This year’s program is being facilitated by Heather Scully and Penn Russell, with support and back-up from Harold Philipsen and Tracy Shackelford. All four of the facilitators were trained through UUA. The teens and their facilitators will meet twice a month through late spring.

## Cluster Chair Photo Gallery

With our new WUU governance policy and structure, the cluster chairs, also known as the church council, play a key role in linking the congregation with volunteer opportunities. The challenge becomes putting the name and face of these leaders with a particular activity or service.

Soon we will have the photos of cluster chairs grouped in the narthex so all can identify those areas they might be interested in pursuing. We know that the more involved we become in any community, the richer and more fulfilling the experience.

We embrace all who are interested in sharing their talents and gifts and hope this will make it one step easier to be involved. We are in the process of taking photographs and hope to have the composite done soon.

### “We’re in the Money” at TOOTS’



On Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, our sanctuary will be transformed into TOOTS’, a 1940’s nightclub. This club comes complete with music by perennial favorite The Dog Street Rhythm Kings.

Also featured are fabulous food, drinks AND many, many exciting items and services for your bidding pleasure. TOOTS’ is this year’s WUU fundraising auction. Last year we raised nearly \$20,000 for WUU programs and services and we hope to top that this year – we can only do it with your help and participation.

Bid on Live Auction Items offered by our very own auctioneer *Richard Wolfe*. This year’s “Van and Vanna” are *Abby Brown* and *Harold Philipsen*—their acting talents will be put to the test as they help us visualize what we’ll be bidding on. *Karyssa Bushing*, a UU teen, and a friend will be Raffle Ticket Sellers posing as ‘Camera Girls’. *Steve Brecker* and *David Tetrault* will be playing in the Dog Street Rhythm Band to entertain us, too.

Who can pass up on UU B&B weekends in DC, Charlottesville and Winchester, or what about the myriad of dinners and wine tastings, or the Day on the Bay, Bridge Lessons, Bike Trip, Road Trip with the Minister, Yoga Classes, US Open tickets and those coveted WUU parking spots? Or think about one of John Bensel’s beautiful chalices, some of the gorgeous antiques from

our various members, a new bike for that bike ride, art of all sorts, mending by Hanni, and a game table for the kids or grandkids? The options are many...practice raising that bidding arm and remember: all of the funds raised go straight to WUU.

Both the Silent Auction and enhanced Raffle will entice you with exciting and fun items and services, all donated by our members and friends of WUU.

Donations will be accepted until Sunday, October 28. Due to deadlines in getting the auction catalogue together, we cannot accept any items after that date. So, if you’d like to donate, please do it this week! Speaking of donations, we’re still hoping that someone will help us underwrite the cost of the drinks or food this year. Please contact Ruth Hopkinson ([beachri@cox.net](mailto:beachri@cox.net)) or Tracy Shackelford ([tracyharold@hotmail.com](mailto:tracyharold@hotmail.com)) to make your generous underwriting contributions.

This year’s decorations will dazzle – and we encourage you to dress the part as well! Bow ties and bowlers for the men, 1940’s hats for the ladies and/or over-the-elbow white gloves are encouraged and we might even have a special something for the best costumes!

Tickets are on sale until after church on October 28<sup>th</sup>.

See you at TOOTS’ on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### Video Discussion series

#### “Race—the Power of an Illusion”

Nov. 5, 12, & 19—7:30 p.m., WUU Sanctuary

We all know that people look different. Anyone can tell a Czech from a Chinese. But are these differences racial? What does race mean? Find the answers to these and other questions in this 3-part video discussion series. The WUU Racial Justice group

presents this film (originally aired in 2003 by PBS) followed by a facilitated discussion. Susan Whitehurst and Rev. Jennifer Ryu welcome you and your family to this event.

## **Breaking through the Mystery of Estate Planning and Planned Giving**

Ever awakened in a cold sweat wondering what will happen to your loved ones should you die because you knew you hadn't "taken care of business"? Was the last time you looked at your Estate Plan/Will when you had children—and you now have grandchildren? Who gets your hard-earned money when you pass away—the IRS or the people and (charitable) organizations that YOU care most about?

Doing proper estate planning is one of the most important gifts that we can give ourselves, our families and the (charitable) organizations we love, and we're never too young or too old to start. But how many of us put it off year after year? After all, confronting these issues means we must acknowledge our own mortality.

The old saying goes that the two things we can't avoid are death and taxes. Well, the Endowment Committee at WUU would like to invite you to a seminar that will talk about death, planned giving and taxes, but not in the traditional sense. Abe Zysman, an attorney who focuses exclusively on Estate Planning issues (and who has been a WUU visitor in the past) has answered our call to shed some light on issues surrounding the Estate Planning and Planned Giving process:

- Why the vast majority of Estate Plans do not work
- Why owning Life Insurance on your own life can be a major tax mistake

- Why sharing ownership of your assets with rights of survivorship can be a tax disaster and cause you to unintentionally disinherit your children (issues to look out for in blended families)
- Why a Will may waste your \$2 million estate tax exemption
- How to protect your children's inheritance from lawsuits, failed marriages and outsiders
- How the new IRS legislation changes everything we know about IRAs
- What are the best strategies for 'giving' to your favorite charity

You will walk out of this seminar with more clarity on this important issue that all of us need to address, sometimes many times during our lives.

This session will be offered:

- Tuesday, November 13th between 1.30 - 3.30 pm (Fahs House)
- Tuesday, November 13th between 6.30 - 8.30 pm (Fahs House)
- Tuesday, November 20th between 6.30 - 8.30 pm (Fahs House)

We ask you to please put your name down on the sign-up sheets available in the Narthex, or e-mail Harold Philipsen at [haroldphilipsen@gmail.com](mailto:haroldphilipsen@gmail.com) when you plan to attend any of these sessions. For other questions, contact Harold at the email above or call 757-645-5057.

## No Excuses!!!!

Calling all closet, semi-closeted and completely uncloseted musicians. For a limited time only you now have 2 opportunities to participate in the musical life of your church with no money down and no further obligation. What more could you want!



### Tabernacle Choir—November 4

Did you always want to be a rock star? Do you love John Lennon? Then this is a double header for you. The Tabernacle Choir will be singing “Imagine” by John Lennon on Sunday, Nov 4. We’ll gather in the sanctuary at 10:00 and then work our way through this provocative piece and have it ready to sing at the 11:00 service. You needn’t be able to read music but you must bring a pencil. For an early sneak peak at the music, please contact Jamie Bartlett, Director of Music, at 259-2354 or [jcbart@wm.edu](mailto:jcbart@wm.edu).

### Tabernacle Band—December 2

Is your instrument whining at you like the family dog wanting to be petted? Have you been thinking that it was time to get the French horn out of the attic and back into your life? Do you have the urge to just try that oboe one more time before you decide to sell it? Come and join your friends of the WUU Tabernacle Band on Sunday Dec 2 at 10:00 as we rehearse to play some cheerful music for the 11:00 service. This is an intergenerational activity so all skill levels and ages are invited to play. Please be sure to bring a pencil. Contact Vicki Hall,



[vickihall@cox.net](mailto:vickihall@cox.net), for more info about the music.

### Covenant group meetings

- Men’s Monday group, 7 pm, Nov. 5 and 19, Fahs House
- Men’s Tuesday group, 7 pm. Nov. 6 and 20, Fahs House
- Small covenant group (mixed), 7 pm, Nov. 12 and 26, Fahs House
- Small covenant group, Thursday, 2:00 pm, Fahs House



Remember to vote on November 6<sup>th</sup>.

## November 2007 Program And Events Calendar

- |           |                              |                |                           |           |                  |            |                           |
|-----------|------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|-----------|------------------|------------|---------------------------|
| <b>1</b>  | <b>Thursday</b>              | 7:30 pm        | Worship Associates-S      | <b>19</b> | <b>Monday</b>    | 6:00 pm    | Small Group ministry-A    |
| <b>2</b>  | <b>Friday</b>                |                |                           |           |                  | 7:00 pm    | Global Warming-FH         |
| <b>3</b>  | <b>Saturday</b>              |                |                           |           |                  | 7:30 pm    | Video discussion series-S |
| <b>4</b>  | <b>Sunday—Standard Time!</b> | <b>6:00 pm</b> | <b>AUCTION</b>            | <b>20</b> | <b>Tuesday</b>   | 12:00 noon | Newsletter deadline       |
|           | New Member Sunday            |                |                           |           |                  | 6:30 pm    | Silent Meditation-S       |
|           | Share the plate              |                |                           |           |                  | 7:30 pm    | Jazz Band Practice-S      |
|           | 11:00 am                     |                | Worship Service-S         | <b>21</b> | <b>Wednesday</b> |            |                           |
|           | 11:15 am                     |                | LFD all ages-FH, PH       | <b>22</b> | <b>Thursday</b>  | 1:00 pm    | All Congregation          |
| <b>5</b>  | <b>Monday</b>                |                |                           |           |                  |            | Thanksgiving potluck      |
|           | 7:00 pm                      |                | Dream Group-PH            |           |                  |            | <b>Office closed</b>      |
|           | 7:00 pm                      |                | Global warming-S          | <b>23</b> | <b>Friday</b>    |            |                           |
|           | 7:30 pm                      |                | Race video series-S       | <b>24</b> | <b>Saturday</b>  |            |                           |
| <b>6</b>  | <b>Tuesday</b>               |                | <b>Election 6am-7pm</b>   | <b>25</b> | <b>Sunday</b>    | 11:00 am   | Worship Service-S         |
|           | 6:30 pm                      |                | Silent Meditation-S       |           |                  | 11:15 am   | LFD all ages-FH, PH       |
|           | 7:30 pm                      |                | Jazz Band Practice-S      | <b>26</b> | <b>Monday</b>    | 6:00 pm    | WCAN Small Group mtg-S    |
| <b>7</b>  | <b>Wednesday</b>             |                |                           | <b>27</b> | <b>Tuesday</b>   | 6:30 pm    | Silent Meditation-S       |
|           | 7:30 pm                      |                | Choir practice-S          |           |                  | 7:30 pm    | Jazz Band Practice-S      |
| <b>8</b>  | <b>Thursday</b>              |                |                           | <b>28</b> | <b>Wednesday</b> | 7:30 pm    | Choir practice-S          |
|           | 12:30 pm                     |                | Separate Checks-S         | <b>29</b> | <b>Thursday</b>  |            |                           |
|           | 7:00 pm                      |                | Adult LFD-S               | <b>30</b> | <b>Friday</b>    |            |                           |
| <b>9</b>  | <b>Friday</b>                |                |                           |           |                  |            |                           |
|           | 4:00 pm                      |                | Finance-PH                |           |                  |            |                           |
| <b>10</b> | <b>Saturday</b>              |                |                           |           |                  |            |                           |
|           | 9:00 am                      |                | Cluster council-FH        |           |                  |            |                           |
|           | 7:30 pm                      |                | InClusion concert-S       |           |                  |            |                           |
| <b>11</b> | <b>Sunday</b>                |                | <b>Veterans Day</b>       |           |                  |            |                           |
|           | 11:00 am                     |                | Worship Service-S         |           |                  |            |                           |
|           | 11:15 am                     |                | LFD all ages-FH, PH       |           |                  |            |                           |
| <b>12</b> | <b>Monday</b>                |                | <b>Office closed</b>      |           |                  |            |                           |
|           | 7:30 pm                      |                | Video discussion series-S |           |                  |            |                           |
| <b>13</b> | <b>Tuesday</b>               |                |                           |           |                  |            |                           |
|           | 6:30 pm                      |                | Silent Meditation-S       |           |                  |            |                           |
|           | 7:30 pm                      |                | Jazz Band Practice-S      |           |                  |            |                           |
| <b>14</b> | <b>Wednesday</b>             |                |                           |           |                  |            |                           |
|           | 7:00 pm                      |                | Social Justice-A          |           |                  |            |                           |
|           | 7:30 pm                      |                | Choir practice-S          |           |                  |            |                           |
| <b>15</b> | <b>Thursday</b>              |                |                           |           |                  |            |                           |
|           | 7:15 pm                      |                | Board meeting-FH          |           |                  |            |                           |
| <b>16</b> | <b>Friday</b>                |                |                           |           |                  |            |                           |
| <b>17</b> | <b>Saturday</b>              |                |                           |           |                  |            |                           |
| <b>18</b> | <b>Sunday</b>                |                |                           |           |                  |            |                           |
|           | 11:00 am                     |                | St. Cecilia Sunday        |           |                  |            |                           |
|           | 11:15 am                     |                | LFD all ages-FH, PH       |           |                  |            |                           |

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

Check out our website:  
 Web site: [www.wuu.org](http://www.wuu.org)  
 Blog: [www.wuu.org/wordpress/](http://www.wuu.org/wordpress/)



## WUU Purely Social Events for 2007-2008

(See co-ministers article on page 2)

### Campfire Storytelling & Drum Circle – Friday, October 26, 6:00 to 7:30

Food for families and folks of all ages, stories by Shirley Littledove, Drumming and Music led by Heather Jinmaku.

### Thanksgiving Dinner at WUU—November 22, 1 pm.

This started out last year as Turkey Day for the Unattached, and quickly turned into an all hands event. Help us make it a tradition this year.

### Cool Yule Sing—Saturday, December 15 (time to be announced)

Please join us for a traditional carol sing and perhaps a few newer tunes. Holiday fare and beverages will be served.

### 2nd Annual Game Night—February (date and time to be announced)

The young take on the old(er) in this 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual battle of the gamers. From Risk to pinochle, chess to Monopoly bring your favorite game to share and test your wits.

### Easter Sunday Festivities—March 23

A potluck lunch to the tune of live music—sign up to bring a covered dish. Prizes given for the most outrageously decorated Easter baskets and hats. Join us on the Church Grounds for a traditional Easter Egg Hunt, with a visit by the Easter Bunny. Hide and seek was never like this!

### Picnic on the River—May (date and time to be announced)

Think live music, kayaking, pier fishing, grills ablaze. Plan to have a great time with your fellow UU's on the River!

## WILLIAMSBURG UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

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