

WILLIAMSBURG UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

WUUU NEWS

OCTOBER 2006

October 1

One Hundred Fifty Conversations about God, Rev. Jennifer Ryu, Co-Minister On any given Sunday, there are *at least* 150 different notions about the nature of God swirling around the sanctuary. Rev. Ryu adds her voice to this symphony and asks the “God Question” in a different way.

October 8

Declaring a Spiritual State of Emergency, Rev. Preston Moore, Co-Minister. What brings us to church? Is there something urgent at stake in being here? Or instead is church more like one more interesting activity among many?

October 15

Coming Home, Sara Mackey, Director of Religious Education. One of the best known stories in the Christian sacred text is about the young man who leaves home, makes mistakes, and comes back again. It is also the story of his older brother, who resents him. What stands in the way of our receiving what we want and need? How do we recognize ourselves in the story of the Prodigal Son?

October 22

How is it with Your Soul? Rev. Jennifer Ryu, Co-Minister. For many people, talking about spirituality or faith does not come easily, even with other UUs. How do we deepen our relationships with one another through the

practice of engaged conversation? (There will be a follow-up program to this sermon on Monday, October 23rd. See below)

October 29

Day of the Dead, Rev. Preston Moore, Co-Minister. On this holiday of blended traditions about mortality, we ponder our finiteness, looking to other cultures for fresh perspectives and to our own spiritual community for consolation.

Services begin at 11 am

Standard time returns on October 29th.



FAITH IN THE CONVERSATION

Led by Rev. Jennifer Ryu Monday, October 23, 6 pm-light supper, 7 pm-Session

As a continuation of the October 22nd worship theme (“How is it with your Soul?”), this Monday night session will feature a guided small-group conversation. We will gather in groups of 4 or 5 where each person will be given an uninterrupted block of time to speak while others listen.

A simple vegetarian supper will be provided for a suggested donation of \$5.00.

Childcare will be provided ONLY if requested by October 15th.

Please RSVP to jennifer@wuu.org or call the church office, 220-6830.

A Day in the Life

On a recent gray and cloudy afternoon when my eyes grew tired from the computer screen, I left Parker House and went for a walk. I meandered through the Memorial Garden, but when the mosquitoes started biting, I went inside to the library. We have a lovely little library, and if you've never seen it, you'll be impressed by its collection. As I scanned the titles, one book caught my eye because there were papers sticking up from the top. The book was written in 1924 by Harry Emerson Fosdick. I hope one day we will get to talk more about Rev. Fosdick and his radical stand against Fundamentalism. I opened the front cover to find that this book belonged to Rev. Tom Pugh, a beloved Baptist minister and member of this congregation who passed away this summer. Preston and I are glad we had a chance to meet Tom while we were in town during Candidating Week last March.

Under his name, he had written, "Chaplain, USA," so I knew this was a book he had had for a long time. The papers pressed in between the pages were Tom's sermon notes. One set of notes had been pounded out on a manual typewriter. Some sentences were more deeply imbedded than others. From their texture on the paper, I could feel the weight of Tom's fingers on those keys. I remember the sound of my own father's Underwood typewriter and the way two keys would clash together when he typed too fast. The second set of sermon notes had been typed on an electric typewriter. I could still feel the letters on the paper, but not as dramatically. And of course, these days, the laser-printed page gives one no feel for the hands that typed the words.

Tom's sermon was about miracles. He wanted people to understand that real miracles have nothing to do with the Bible stories. Rather, they have everything to do with the ordinary stuff of daily life. Like the miracle of one cloudy day in Williamsburg, Virginia, when a Unitarian Universalist woman minister, born in Taegu, South Korea finds a profound connection in the papers of a Virginia sharecropper's son turned Baptist minister.

May your days be blessed with miracles.

Jennifer

We will be presenting a new Lifespan Faith Development (lifelong learning) Program called "Our Theology—Discovering, Choosing, and Living It." We are all spiritual, yet we are not always conscious of how our particular spirituality can direct or misdirect our lives. The purpose of this program is to seek, ask questions about, and learn to express our spirituality through sharing it with one another.

The safe space of our religious community is a place for developing our personal theologies in relationship with others, rather than solely as private meditations. Come, share, and be surprised by what happens when you name your spirituality out loud. A detailed description of this new program is available on the website (www.wuu.org) and in the lobby after Sunday services.

When: 7 to 9 p.m. on November 5, 12, 19, and December 3, 10, 17.

Chalice Gazing: Notes from the DRE

A couple of weeks ago a long-time friend of mine went to a celebration at the church where she and her parents were charter members. As she told the story of her weekend at her old church, she recalled a Sunday school teacher that she knew in 6th grade...let's call him Mr. Smith.

"He was a young man, with a new baby. He was so kind to us. I learned from Mr. Smith how to read the Bible, and I still do that every night." A couple of years ago, she told me, she wrote to the minister of her old church. In the letter, she recalled her Sunday school teacher and asked if he were still there. She wrote how much it meant to her that Mr. Smith had taught her to love reading the Bible. The minister responded that Mr. Smith was indeed still there, and told my friend that he had passed her letter on to him.

When she visited her church a couple of weeks ago, my friend saw Mr. Smith, who is now 80 years old. He told her that he keeps her letter in his own Bible, and he cherishes the knowledge that his gift is still a blessing in her life today.

Mr. Smith did not educate my friend *about* the Bible—he shared with her, and passed on to her, his love for the Bible. Would you like to imagine that 45 years from now, a child or youth will still cherish his or her Unitarian Universalist faith because of your sharing your own love of this faith? There is a place for volunteers in our children/youth/teen programming. We are asking that you promise 8 weeks...8 weeks out of 52...to share your faith with the next generation. Imagine how far into the future your influence might extend!

Contact me at dre@wuu.org to volunteer.

Blessings, Sara

President's Message

Greetings, Bobbi and I were away on a brief trip to New Jersey last Sunday, the 17th. We were happy to get back to Williamsburg, and even more delighted to hear that both the Sunday service and RE were very crowded. 178 in the service and 47 RE students probably don't set any records, but they are good indicators that our new year is off to a great start. I also heard that Jennifer got a round of applause for her message on Revelations. Now that really is a positive sign!

I've spent time this week reading the monthly reports from our cluster chairs in preparation for the monthly Board meeting. Our energy level is very high right now, and the reports are full of good things happening. However, one troubling item stands out that I need to share with all of you. Yes we see lots of folks in service on Sunday, but we are very much in need of more of you to step up and play a role in the many programs which make our fellowship the wonderful experience it is for us. Specifically, only 6 members showed up for the Grounds Day on Saturday the 16th. Our Community Cluster needs a person to be responsible for denominational affairs. We have identified chair people for the auction, the yard sale and for First Night, but we need many volunteers to fill in the ranks and help to make these events run smoothly. Volunteering is a great way to meet new members, renew old acquaintances and make a positive contribution at the same time. Any of the Board members or the ministers or Ruth Hopkinson, our Volunteer Coordinator, would be happy to explain what's involved in each of these activities.

We're on a roll. Please help us to keep pushing!

Joe Fisler

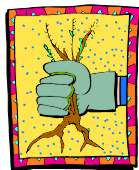
All-church work day

Many hands make light work—or so they say. We didn't have a huge turnout on September Saturday. So let's try Monday, October 9, Columbus Day, starting at 9 am. There will be no Saturday tenants to worry about and no need for to do the usual Saturday chores or kids' games to attend. In fact, the kids will be in school. **Rainy day? No problem!** There are a number of indoor jobs for all skill levels. Some involve repairs and some are as easy as dusting.

Outdoor jobs include cleaning up the street entrance, installing benches in the Memorial Garden, beautifying the wax myrtle hedge along the main parking lot, and removing weeds in the gravel parking lot. There are also a couple of dead pines to remove—but only by TWO people who know what they are doing with a saw.

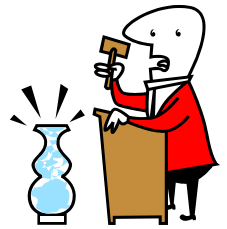
There are lots of other jobs—you probably know needs you have noticed. Can't make it on Monday? You can join a crew on Saturday, October 7. Check with Buildings and Grounds chair, Wade Rawlins, or with Grounds Committee co-chairs, Dave and Virginia Banks.

The 8th season of Tai Chi classes will be held at WUU beginning Sept. 27th. The classes will be held on Wednesdays at 11 am in the WUU sanctuary and will continue for eight weeks. Please or call 564-3739 or email gertasmith@cox.net to register.



“On the Street Where You Bid”, our 16th annual auction, will take place on Saturday, November 4th, 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.

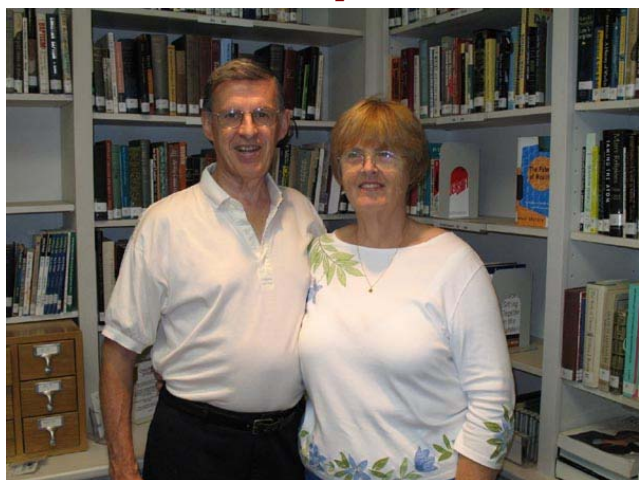


Membership classes

Are you considering membership? Join us on October 15, 22 and 29 for an introduction to Unitarian Universalism and to the Williamsburg UUs. The first session will be held at the home of our co-ministers, 4-6 PM; the second and third sessions will take place after services in the Sanctuary. Child care is available, and a light lunch will be provided at the second and third sessions.

They will be led by our co-ministers and members of our Membership Committee. They will make UU history and theology come alive for you, provide a guided tour of life in our spiritual community, and make clear the meaning of membership. We'll get to know each other better. Come spend some time exploring whether this is where YOU belong. For more details, contact Peter Mellette at pmmellette@aol.com.

New members in September



Phyllis & Jack Hostetter

Peter & Tina Bunai—no picture available yet.

A consideration for those who pledge via credit cards

I would like to encourage my fellow church members who prefer to make their monthly, quarterly, semiannual or annual WUU pledge by using a VISA, Master Card, or Discover Card (in many cases, for the purpose of accumulating airline miles) to come to the same decision that I made last year after our past treasurer made arrangements with VANCO, a company where pledges can be fulfilled with a only a minimal loss in service fees from the total amount pledged. Credit card companies charge more steeply than does VANCO. Fees charged by VISA are 3.88% while Master Card charges 3.93%. With Discover Card, the fee is about 3%. Upon reflection, I decided to cover this loss for the total amount that I pledged with a separate check. I certainly feel that WUU requires the entire amount that was pledged by each individual or family in order to support the budget that we all wish to honor. ~ Virginia Kory

Building and grounds heroes—during the third week of September, the following people were seen pulling weeds, wielding paintbrushes, trimming bushes, changing light bulbs, scrubbing walls and sidewalks, protecting the pond from algae, blowing the parking lot clean, hauling brush:

Fred Adair
Roger Baldwin
Dave and Virginia Banks
Jim Hall
Preston Moore
Wayne Moyer
Wade Rawlins
Jennifer Ryu
Bob Winther



The grounds crew was fed by Jennifer Ryu and Kit Fournier.

Others to thank for all the work they do are Beth Kennedy and Tina Allen—and all their helpers.

WUU Bazaar and Yard Sale

WHO: All UUs and friends!
The more the merrier!!

WHAT: The WUU Bazaar & Yard Sale!

WHEN: Saturday, October 21st, from 8:00 AM-noon

WHERE: In the gravel parking lot behind Parker House.

WHY: To raise money for our wonderful place of worship!

HOW: Stop by the table before or after the service on Sunday to purchase your spot. They will be \$25 each. Please plan to bring your items with you on 10/21 to sell. You will need to take any unsold items with you when you leave. If you are so inclined, a donation of a percentage of your sales would also be



appreciated. We have a limited number of tables, so they will be available on a first come, first paid basis. (If you have your own table you can provide or loan to us, it would be greatly appreciated!

We would like to open this up to everyone, so please encourage your friends and neighbors to participate as well. The Bazaar part is geared towards home based businesses or anyone who has their own wares they would like to sell. Spread the word to make this a huge success!! If you do not have items to sell, we still need helpers. Questions? Contact Jennifer Rawlins at 645-4626 or 4rawlinsinva@cox.net.

Family Activities Planned for This Year

At our congregational retreat in February, people expressed an interest in more fun and more family gatherings. With that desire in mind, the Religious Education Committee is planning the following activities during the coming year:



October 27: Fall Fun & Campfire

December 8: Yule Sing

April 13: Family Game Night

Mark your calendars now, and watch for more news in the order of service, the

Cars, cars everywhere

Wow, did we ever fill up the place on Sunday, September 16th! We need everyone's help so that we can all park on Sundays. Until we get lines painted on the fronts of spaces in the gravel lot, please make an effort to **park close** to other cars—leaving enough space to open the car doors. And **carpool** if you can. This is especially important for those going

to choir practice and committee meetings. If families can come in only one car, that will help us all. We haven't run out of places to sit (yet), so let's do our best to make sure everyone has a place to park. At the same time, **emergency lanes** should be left vacant.

A special note: coming out to work on grounds days will help add parking spaces to the gravel lot and contribute to the success of the yard sale.

Thanks to all those who have helped to make upcoming picture directory a success.

Sign-ups: Dave Banks,
Shirley Guenther, Hanni Sherman



Phoning: Peter Mellette, Tamra Elim-Durden, Natalie Miller-Moore, Ellen Busching, Tom Payne

Hosting: Joan and Fred Adair, Flora Adams, Beverly and Roger Baldwin, Jane Dickson, Nancy Ferguson, Kit Fournier, Bobbi Fidler, Gayle Henion, Sally Kellen, Jennifer Rawlins, Shirley Roby, Hanni Sherman, Pauline Snitwongse, Jacqui Winther

Layout: Jacqui Winther, Nan Hart, Virginia Banks

Proofreading: Membership Committee

Mary Ellen Lloyd was instrumental in updating data throughout the year. Kudos to MEL!



Presents concerts
Wishing Chair
and

a special “Koncert for
Kids” (and their
grown-ups) featuring
Billy Jonas!

The award-winning
Kentucky-based folk

roots duo, Wishing Chair, takes the stage on October 20 at 8:00 p.m. for an engaging performance with haunting harmonies and award winning songs. Any subject is fair game: from politics to coal strikes, punk bars to Calamity Jane. As Euan Bear writes: “Wishing Chair has a passion about the truth, about being emotionally available to tell it, and that for me, is the essence of folk music.”

Billy Jonas brings an explosion of energy to the WUU sanctuary for an afternoon family concert on Sunday, October 15 at 3:00 p.m. Bring the family, and be prepared to become part of the performance! In singalongs, bangalongs, and whisperalongs, his primary instrument is the audience. His work is born out of respect and reverence, and seeks to honor the creative energy in everyone.

Live Off Five! concerts are held monthly in the sanctuary. Doors open at 7:30 p.m., and the concerts start at 8:00 unless otherwise noted. Tickets are \$10, \$5 for students and children and are available in advance through the WUU office. For information about the series, contact Sherri Powers. For information about the musicians, see www.billyjonas.com and www.wishingchair.com.

The following motions were passed by the Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists board on Thursday, September 21, 2006:

1. The request by the Heritage Humane Society for meeting space the second Wednesday morning of each month be approved beginning November, 2006. Moved by Chris Faia, Seconded by Dave Banks. Motion approved without dissent.
2. Under the Consent Agenda the Board authorized (1) Dave Banks to negotiate a renewal of the Church of God lease, and (2) Approved a holiday float with the WUU name.
3. Approve the formation of the Ministry Evaluation Team. Moved by Chris Faia, Seconded by David Wilcox. Motion approved without dissent.
4. Engage Rob Eller Isaacs and Louise Wolfgram of the Unity Unitarian Church, Minneapolis, MN to act as Organizational Development Consultants on January 19-20, 2007 at a cost of \$3000 plus travel. Motion approved without dissent.
5. Approval to engage the services of Lottie Grimes as an independent contractor to serve as a Nursery Care Coordinator on Sundays and at other times as needed by WUU and when mutually convenient to both parties. Appointment will be effective October 1, 2006, with its continuation contingent upon satisfactory completion of a criminal background check. Moved by Chris Faia, Seconded by Dave Banks. Approved without dissent.

October—WUU Events						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 11–12:30 Worship <i>11–12:15 RE all ages</i> 12:30–2 AMN Task Force–PH 5–11 Yom Kippur	2 9am–11pm Yom Kippur	3 10–11 Staff Mtg <i>6:30–7:30</i> <i>Silent Meditation</i>	4 7–9 AMN TF–PH <i>7:30–9 Choir practice</i>	5 7–9 Worship Comm Mtg	6	7 Grounds cleanup <i>11am–11pm</i> <i>Wedding</i>
8 9–10:30 Fin Com PH <i>11–12:30 Worship</i> 11–12:15 RE all ages <i>12:30–2 AMN TF–PH</i> 12:30–2 RE Comm	9 Columbus Day 9–3 All-church workday <i>7–9 Dream Group–PH</i>	10 10–11 Staff Mtg <i>6:30–7:30</i> <i>Silent Meditation</i>	11 7–9 AMN TF–PH <i>7:30–9 Choir practice</i>	12 12:30–2 Separate Checks–S <i>7:30–9 Pers. Comm</i>	13 5pm–9pm Wedding rehearsal	14 9am–11pm Wedding reception
15 11–12:30 Worship <i>11–12:15 RE all ages</i> 12:30–2 AMN TF–PH <i>1–3 Live Off 5 Kids Concert–S</i> 1–4 New UU session at Ministers' home	16	17 10–11 Staff Mtg <i>6:30–7:30</i> <i>Silent Meditation</i>	18 7–9 AMN TF–PH <i>7:30–9 Choir practice</i>	19 7:15–9:30 Board mtg	20 Noon: Newsletter Deadline 8–10:30 Live Off 5 Concert	21 8–12 Yard Sale <i>10–2 UCG</i> 11–2 TF Canvassing Home Base PH
22 11–12:30 Worship <i>11–12:15 RE all ages</i> 12:30–2 AMN TF–PH <i>12:30–5 New UU session</i>	23 Faith in the Conversation 6 light dinner 7 session	24 10–11 Staff Mtg <i>6:30–7:30</i> <i>Silent Meditation</i>	25 7–9 AMN TF–PH <i>7:30–9 Choir practice</i>	26 7:30–9 Membership Comm	27 5–9 Fall Fun & Campfire	28 10–2 UCG <i>11–2 TF</i> <i>Canvassing Home Base</i>
29 11–12:30 Worship <i>11–12:15 RE all ages</i> 12:30–2 AMN TF–PH <i>12:30–5 New UU session</i>	30	31 10–11 Staff Mtg <i>6:30–7:30</i> <i>Silent Meditation</i>	1	2	3	4 5 Auction

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