



WILLIAMSBURG UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

WUUU NEWS

OCTOBER 2007

Sept. 30—11 am—Rev. Preston Moore
"You Don't Have To Be Buddha" -- or even a Buddhist, to move down the life-altering path toward greater consciousness. This is the ground on which love, truth, compassion, and all of our most precious values must stand. As we begin our new church year, we reach out for this most profound of possibilities.

Oct. 7—11 am—Rev. Sue Sinnamon
"The Heartmender"

Our life's journey encompasses distinct stages and challenges. Each of these four stages have their distinct pathways of Faith Development and Theologies. This morning we will reflect on the first stage, childhood, and the last stage, wisdom. Each has gifts for all our lives. Being the first Sunday of the month, this is "Share the Plate Sunday." See Share the Plate on page 4.

Oct. 14—11 am—Rev. Jennifer Ryu
"Now is the Time"--UU Association Sunday President Bill Sinkford has just announced the launch of the first national marketing campaign for Unitarian Universalism in fifty years. Beginning in early October, as part of an effort to offer the good news of our faith to the larger world, the Unitarian Universalist Association will begin a partnership with Time Magazine. Have you heard the good news?

**You will have the opportunity to contribute to this campaign. A separate collection will be taken for this effort. Make those checks to WUU.

October 14th is also the 2nd Sunday of the month, which means we will have a Café Conversation at 12:30 after coffee hour. The topic will be "Harmonious Relations." (Previously known as Right Relations)

Oct. 21—11 am—Rev. Preston Moore
"Closeness and Otherness, Intimacy and Wound". The people closest to us should be the ones with whom our relationships are most kind, gentle, and loving, right? But then why do we nod our heads in sad recognition when we hear those old songs that go "you always hurt the one you love"? This Sunday we look at intimate relationships and ask how we can best compose ourselves in these sacred spaces.

October 28—11 am October 28, Rev. Jennifer Ryu "Dia de Los Muertos-Day of the Dead" During this most auspicious time of year, the veil between the dead and the living is most transparent. Please bring photos of those you would like to remember and place them on the table before services on this Sunday. WUU youth will assist in worship.

A Welcoming, Worshipping, Witnessing Community

“You’ve Got Male!”

In response to an item entitled “**Male Call**” in the Spiral on September 20, a dozen WUU men met on Sunday morning, September 23 to discuss forming a men’s covenant group. We talked about the restrictiveness of male roles; about having the feeling of wearing one role-playing coat after another all the time – coats we never get to take off and just be ourselves. And we looked at the difficulty men face in talking about emotion, relationships, and spirituality in a culture that expects men to be “too tough” for all that.

When the WUU covenant group program was being put together, it was decided to populate the groups randomly rather than on the basis of a shared interest or characteristic. As the enrollment process neared completion, though, Jennifer, Sara, and I noticed that hardly any men had enrolled. So we adjusted our framework to allow for a men’s group. It’s clear now that doing this will address an important unmet need. We need to sort out schedules, but already we know there will be at least one men’s covenant group, and possibly two.

We lit the chalice for our September 23 meeting with words from the poet Hafiz, who declared “how blessed is the man who has tasted in his heart the wine made before Adam.” A gathering of men is an excellent place to discover the name of that wine and begin to seek it; and to turn away from being among the men described in the haunting words of the poet Philip Larkin:

men whose first coronary is coming like
Christmas—who drift, loaded helplessly
with commitments and obligations and
necessary observances, into the
darkening avenues of age and incapacity,

deserted by everything that once made
life sweet.

September 23 was truly a red-letter day.

Preston

Chalice Gazing: Notes from the Director of Faith Development

Covenant groups, Our Whole Lives, YRUU with a new staff person as coordinator, Sunday morning children and youth programming, new UU classes, a rich selection of choices for adult faith development, social justice programs, not to mention once-a-year events such as the auction...autumn at Williamsburg UU is a vibrant time! This year in particular, with the introduction of covenant groups, increased social justice opportunities, and more adult faith development offerings, there are plenty of reasons to come to church in addition to attending Sunday morning worship. We are gathering not only in the sanctuary and Parker House, but now Fahs House has become our own again, and we are filling the rooms with adults during the week as well as children on Sunday mornings.

We are blessed with so many choices, so many devoted volunteers to create these programs, that we may find it challenging to decide which ones we’re going to commit to. I invite you to ask yourself this question as you make your choices: what is it that *only* church can give me? We love having lots of things to do, and yet there are plenty of places in our lives where we can find activities. We love the comfort and nurture of our WUU community, and yet there are lots of places in our lives where we can find friends. What is it that can be found nowhere else but church? As you discern the

answer to that question, may you discover where your passion lies. May you create and share significant religious experiences as you join in our classes and programs this year. May this be a year of transformation for you.

Blessings, Sara

President's message

It's a New Year beginning now that summer is behind us. And it's beginning to sink in just how different this New Year is from previous ones, at least from your Board's perspective.

WUU has devoted much time and energy the last two years to adjust our governance structure. Last May the congregation approved a series of bylaws changes to significantly change the way the Board operates. This year's Board is smaller, and our responsibilities have been changed. Managing the day to day affairs of the church has been transferred to the ministers and the church council. The Board is charged with focusing on long range planning, on developing evaluation strategies for our various ministries, and on developing mechanisms to insure oversight of our financial affairs.

This shift in responsibility has resulted in very different meetings for us. We used to spend much of our time together reviewing reports from the clusters, and dealing with various administrative items. Now, freed from day to day issues, we are wrestling with just how we proceed to design the series of policies which will guide the church as it aims to fulfill its mission. In fact, we agreed at this month's meeting that taking a serious look at our values, our mission and our vision will be an excellent place to begin our work together. We have lots of good

background materials to work with, and will be exploring materials developed by other churches which are on the same journey we are.

The Board will be sharing the results of our deliberations with the congregation throughout the year. We welcome your thoughts and comments as we proceed along this new path. We will be hosting one of the café conversations after church on December 9th, and we have scheduled a congregational meeting for Sunday January 13th. Both of those sessions will enable you to keep tabs on our progress. Stay tuned!

Joe Fisler

2007/2008 WUU Social Justice Focus Areas

The primary social justice focus areas for this church year were announced at the Back to Church Potluck and Social Justice Forum on 9/15. This year we'll be focusing on environmental stewardship, fulfilling our commitments as a welcoming congregation, and supporting the effort to end the atrocities in Darfur. We encourage you to join us in supporting the work of each of these groups. Over the next month you'll be hearing about their projects and plans. In addition to working with our fellow WUUs on these year-long focus areas, many of us will continue to lend our energy to other organizations that are making a difference locally and globally. If you are particularly interested in another social justice area, please contact the Social Justice Steering Committee at socialjustice@wuu.org. We will help you connect with others, find resources, and with the process of submitting a project for consideration.

-Social Justice Steering Committee

A Timely Reminder from the Treasurer

Now that we as a congregation are moving toward a significant increase in giving to both local and UUA communities through First Sunday plate and designated Second collection plate, it is important that all checks that we receive are adequately recognizable as to the givers intent.

Therefore I ask that on checks sent to the WUU office or deposited in the Sunday plate that they be written 'Pay to the order of 'Williamsburg UU' or 'WUU' and that they denote in the 'Memo' or 'For' line the purpose.

Checks for individual giving by Pledge should be designated 'Pledge', checks for the collection should read 'Collection'.

On October 7th the First Sunday collection will be to benefit Avalon. All checks should be made out to WUU with a memo reading 'Avalon'.

On October 14th "Now is the Time"--UU Association Sunday" a separate collection will be received. All checks should be made out to WUU with a memo reading 'UU Association Sunday'.

On both these occasions one check will be written from WUU to the subject recipients.

Parents as Resident Theologians

October 7, 14, 21, November 4 and 11, 9-10:30 am, will take place in Fahs House.

Share the Plate

Starting in October, WUU will donate the first Sunday offering of each month to an organization that supports our social justice mission.

Our first offering will go to support Avalon. Avalon is a local organization committed to intervening in and reducing the incidence of domestic violence and sexual assault. In order to achieve this mission, Avalon offers shelter, advocacy, education and support to survivors and fosters awareness and prevention by educating the community.

Please join us in supporting Avalon in October!

Stay tuned for more details about the Share the Plate program and how you can help select future recipients.

Where Are They Now? Shirley Ranck has moved from Vancouver, BC, to Reno, Nevada. Janet Newman is serving the church in Ottawa, Ontario. And our former minister, Randy Becker, is serving the Key West, Florida, congregation.

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.

WUU Board meetings are on the 3rd Thursday of the month, at 7:15 pm in the Sanctuary. All are welcome to attend.

InClusion Concert

Saturday November 10, 7:30 pm

WUU is happy to welcome the musical group **InClusion** from MCC NOVA in Fairfax, Virginia.



MCC NOVA is a small GLBT church with great heart, a wonderful sense of community, and a number of spirited and talented musicians. InClusion is a collection of singers, guitarists, and percussionists with a few other instruments thrown in for good measure. The band plays and leads singing for regular worship as well as special events for the church. Their music engenders the faith and social justice values that are integral to the MCC denomination. InClusion has made several guest appearances in MCC churches in the area and we are fortunate to have them share their musical energy and talent with us for this concert. *They will also be playing for the worship service on Sunday.*

Suggested donation: Adults \$10.00, Students: \$5.00. No one will be turned away.

About MCC

MCC of Northern Virginia is an affiliate of a larger organization called Metropolitan Community Churches (MCC). On a global level, MCC has an inclusive membership of over 43,000 members and adherents in 22 countries as of September 2003. MCC is a movement that started in Los Angeles in 1968 when one group of 12 people gave birth to the world's first church group with a primary, positive ministry to gays, lesbians, bisexual, and transgender persons. Today MCC has almost 250 churches throughout the world.

Members of MCC come from diverse religious backgrounds and bring a rich variety of perspectives to our Christian faith community. We have long celebrated the freedom to grow in faith in an environment of open minds and open hearts. As part of our effort to develop authentic and holistic lives, we take spirituality seriously. Worship is at the center of our communal life. We believe that our worship must inspire our activity in the world. Our Social Action flows directly out of our identity as a worshipping community.

MCC has been in the vanguard of civil and human rights movements and addresses the important issues of racism, sexism, homophobia, ageism and other forms of oppression.

WUU Council

Saturday, November 10, 9 am to 11 am, Fahs House

The quarterly WUU Council meetings are open to all members and friends. If you want to keep up with what's happening in the various Clusters, please join us for all or part of this gathering.

Break out Your Bow Ties and Boaters for This Year's Auction



The theme's not set yet for this year's auction, but rumor has it there's a new club in town and it opens on November 3rd at WUU! With the Dog Street Rhythm Kings providing the charge to get us all in the bidding mood, this new club promises to be exciting. We understand that if you break out your bow ties and boaters, you'll fit right in! Our goal is to beat last year's proceeds of \$17,000 and to do that, we are looking to

you, our congregation, for help. Each year you step up to the plate donating hundreds of lovely products and services that we offer in the Silent and Live Auctions. Last year we had some bidding frenzies and we fully expect to have the same level of excitement this year. If you'd be interested in making a donation, please contact Ruth Hopkinson at beachri@cox.net or by phone. Stay tuned for more information!

WUU Environmental Stewardship Study Group

WHO ARE WE?

Since the first climate change seminar in July, 2007, a group of interested WUUs has been supporting the 2006 UUA initiative on global warming and climate change, with the focus of learning about environmental and climate change, investigating what constitutes effective recycling, as well as changing our individual behavior to become better stewards of the environment. We hope to encourage each other and our WUU congregation to think locally, in order to affect the world globally.

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

On the personal level, we have shared ideas, articles, book titles and information available from the Internet and guest speakers in order to raise our group's consciousness about current and potential problems arising from our use of natural resources and energy.

First, we started with efforts to change current behavior patterns that all WUUs could consider. We emphasized the importance of ridding ourselves of dependence on plastic bags for shopping by using, and re-using, other sacks or bags. We have found sources for these and can share

that information. Then, we undertook a survey of our individual homes and transportation needs. The survey is available on-line from the EPA (See address below). And we are preparing a poster to share results to encourage ourselves and other WUUs to use that baseline to decrease our carbon footprint through manageable life-style changes.

http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ind_calculator.html

Most recently, we toured the Fahs house to check for ways to ensure positive energy changes. An inefficient hot water system, limited or negligible attic insulation and air movement, and problems with attic and underground venting represent avenues which could be addressed to result in dramatic financial gains as well as a beneficial approach to environmental care.

GOALS FOR THE YEAR

We will encourage WUU congregants to join us in:

- Using non-plastic bags for shopping
- Preparing individual EPA carbon footprint worksheets to examine energy patterns and improve efficiency
- Auditing the energy expended in all WUU facilities with follow-up according to best "green" practices

PLEASE JOIN US IN THIS ENDEAVOR!

Conservation, environment, gravel parking lot—what do these words have to do with WUU? How are they related to each other? Gravel instead of asphalt gives a pervious surface—which means that rain and other liquids and chemicals percolate slowly into the ground water instead of running off. Asphalt surfaces are impervious and nearly all the water ends up in waterways and

eventually the Chesapeake Bay. Along with that come all the pollutants from vehicles, fertilizers and pesticides from surrounding areas. A heavy rain will also wash away soils and dislodge plants and trees and rocks that hold the edges (of waterways) in place.

-Grounds Committee

Many thanks to those people who helped spruce up our grounds on the last work days. They include Dave and Virginia Banks, Bob Winther, Jim Henion, Linda and Fred Bergmann, and brownie cook, Kit Fournier. Some dead trees were removed, hedges trimmed, the entrance area cleaned up, and the concrete areas outside the Sanctuary were power washed. Marion Wolfe is one of several people who work quietly on other days.



Storyteller Sheila Arnold helps us to begin the 2007-2008 year.



WUU board of trustees being sworn in by Rev. Jennifer Ryu

October 2007 Program And Events Calendar

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| <p>1 Monday 6:00 pm WCAN 7:00 pm Global Warming-A</p> <p>2 Tuesday 6:30 pm Silent Meditation-S 7:30 pm Jazz Band Practice-S</p> <p>3 Wednesday 7:30 pm Choir Practice-S</p> <p>4 Thursday 7:30 pm Worship Associates-S</p> <p>5 Friday 4:00 pm Finance Comm-PH</p> <p>6 Saturday</p> <p>7 Sunday 9:00-10:30 Parents as resident theologians-F New Member Sunday 11:00 am Worship Service-S 11:00 am LFD all ages-FH, PH</p> <p>8 Monday 7:00 pm Dream Group-PH 7:00 pm Global warming-S</p> <p>9 Tuesday 6:30 pm Silent Meditation-S 7:30 pm Jazz Band Practice-S</p> <p>10 Wednesday 7:00 pm Social Justice steering-A 7:30 pm Choir Practice-S</p> <p>11 Thursday 12:30-2:00 Separate Checks-FH</p> <p>12 Friday 4:00 pm Finance-PH</p> <p>13 Saturday</p> <p>14 Sunday 9:00-10:30 Parents as resident theologians-F 11:00 am Worship Service-S 11:00 am LFD all ages-FH, PH 12:30 pm Café conversation-S</p> <p>15 Monday 6:00 pm WCAN</p> <p>16 Tuesday 6:30 pm Silent Meditation-S 7:30 pm Jazz Band Practice-S</p> <p>17 Wednesday 7:30 pm Choir Practice-S</p> | <p>18 Thursday 7:15 pm Board meeting-A</p> <p>19 Friday</p> <p>20 Saturday 12:00 noon newsletter deadline</p> <p>21 Sunday 9:00-10:30 Parents as resident theologians-FH 11:00 am Worship Service-S 11:00 am LFD all ages-FH, PH</p> <p>22 Monday 6:00 pm Small Group ministry-S 7:00 pm Global Warming-A 7:00 pm Dream group-PH</p> <p>23 Tuesday 6:30 pm Silent Meditation-S 7:30 pm Jazz Band Practice-S</p> <p>24 Wednesday 7:30 pm Choir Practice-S</p> <p>25 Thursday 7:30 pm Membership-A</p> <p>26 Friday 6:00 pm Intergenerational Campfire</p> <p>27 Saturday</p> <p>28 Sunday 11:00 am Worship Service-S 11:00 am LFD all ages-FH, PH 6:30 pm Adult LFD-S 5:45 pm light supper before class</p> <p>29 Monday 6:00 pm WCAN Small Group mtg-S</p> <p>30 Tuesday 6:30 pm Silent Meditation-S 7:30 pm Jazz Band Practice-S</p> <p>31 Wednesday 7:30 pm Choir practice-S</p> <p>Key: S –Sanctuary A –Activity/Multipurpose Room PH–Parker House FH–Fahs House</p> <p>Website: www.wuu.org Blog: www.wuu.org/wordpress/</p> |
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They're back—Our choir returned with rollicking music

WILLIAMSBURG UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

