

WILLIAMSBURG UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

WUUU NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2007

Sept. 2—10 am—Rev. Preston Moore
"Things Commonly Believed Among Us?" - Without the question mark, a long-ago Unitarian leader gave this name to an essay on what holds us together. Now, after over a century of similar efforts, our national leadership is at it again—this time, a revision of the UU Principles and Purposes. Why do we keep running around this track? Is something more profound at stake than the need for institutional cohesion?

Please note time change below

Sept. 9—11 am—Rev. Preston Moore
"Water Braiding Water: The Mythic River Flows On" - It is time for Water Communion again. Is there something extraordinary about the reunion we celebrate with this symbol-laden ritual at the beginning of each new church year? Something deeper than the simple pleasure of seeing good friends again after the scatterings of summer? Oh yes. Oh yes.

Sept. 16—11 am—Rev. Jennifer Ryu
"Intersecting Faiths: The Story of Hagar"

Islam, Christianity, and Judaism share the story of Abraham. One part of that story is often overlooked by all three traditions—the story of Hagar.

Sept. 23—11 am—Rev. Jennifer Ryu
"A Witnessing Community"

We are a *"Welcoming, Worshiping, Witnessing Community"* Of those three words, perhaps "witnessing" is the least commonly understood among us.

A Baby Dedication Ceremony will also take place during this service for Sophia Bunai.

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.

Celebrating Mabon, the autumn equinox

Sunday, September 23, 2007, 8:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Kimberly Renner and Rev. Jennifer Ryu invite you and your family to join them for this intergenerational service. More details will come your way. In the meantime, please save this date!

Chalice Gazing: Notes from the DFD

How can it be September already? Our Faith Development Committee for children, youth, and teen programming met recently to lay out plans for the coming year, and to inspire each other with our hopes and wonderful ideas. As usual, we will offer Sunday morning programming for children 4 years old through fifth grade in Fahs House, and for middle school and high school in Parker House. We are excited to introduce Kendall Plageman as our part-time (10 hours per week) YRUU advisor, so if you're a high school student who hasn't come over to Parker House basement recently, please stop by in September to meet Kendall, welcome her, and lend your good energy to YRUU.

When you see Charlotte Bush and Tracy Shackelford in church, please thank them for their hard work this summer coordinating Passport to Adventure for elementary age children! Thanks also to all the adults who came on Sunday mornings throughout the summer to transform Fahs House into a different country each week. Your gifts of time and care are what teach our WUU children that they are truly part of this community of faith.

As you have heard throughout the summer, a new program for adults will be starting this fall. Small group ministry, or covenant group ministry, is an opportunity for you to share your beliefs, listen deeply to your companions in the group, and participate in a service project to benefit WUU or the larger community outside of our walls. We have been seeking sign-ups during the month of August, asking people to indicate their time preferences. The next step is to see which times are best for the largest

number of participants, so that we can determine the times for the groups to meet. Watch for more information about small group ministry this month.

We're looking forward to seeing all of our friends safely returned from summer travels. May you all find joy, enthusiasm, fun, and rest as the new school year and the new church year begin.

Blessings,
Sara

Come Join the Choir

WUU choir will resume with practice on Wednesday, August 29 at 7:30. We rehearse each Wednesday and sing twice a month for services. One of the great advantages a UU has over other church choirs is that it is not limited to singing sacred music. Our choir also sings classical music, Broadway songs, folk tune arrangements, world music, and even some jazz. And if that isn't enough variety, we sing in German, Latin, Swedish, Spanish, Turkish, Zulu, and sometimes in English.



Dr. Jamie Bartlett is choir director and Director of Music at WUU. She works with our ministers to tailor the music to the sermon topic and to the service as a whole.

New members to the choir are always welcome. We look forward to seeing returning members as well as new ones on August 29. Contact Vicki Hall for more information.

A New Direction—Meet the New Volunteer Development Team

The mission of the Volunteer Development Team is to support WUU members and friends serving as cluster chairs and committee members to assess needs, recruit volunteers, create mission statements and annual objectives, participate in leadership development, and conduct the congregational and spiritual work of WUU with an emphasis on spiritual growth for all who volunteer.

Committee members, Gayle Henion (chair), Linda Lane-Hamilton, and Donna Stanford, have met several times since last spring to organize and plan the team's mission and objectives for this church year. By working closely with the ministers and cluster chairs, the team supports the work of our volunteers.

The team will not recruit volunteers for specific committees or clusters. The goal is to provide training in leadership plus encouragement and support of both new and long-time members in becoming actively involved in some aspect of the church's work. One team objective is to develop a volunteer covenant describing the relationship of volunteering to the spiritual work of the congregation. During the church year the work of our dedicated WUU volunteers will be recognized. The annual volunteer fair will be held May 18, 2008.

Children End Their Passport to Adventure Travels August 26th

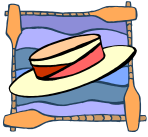
What a summer it's been – our pre-K through 5th graders have traveled the world this summer. Using the theme "Passport to

Adventure", they have traveled to Africa, Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Latin America learning about different countries, customs and people. Along the way they have recognized that some kids may have a harder life than we have, that people may look different but still kids are kids no matter where they are in this world. Parents, you should be proud of your young people – they have asked questions, challenged ideas and turned out wonderful artwork. They have been open to new foods, games and clothes and each young person participating in Passport to Adventure will come away with their very own WUU Passport, complete with exotic stamps and wonderful stories.

We would not have had the chance to teach our children about wonderful places in this world without the help of so many wonderful WUU volunteers. They taught us about different cultures, built walls, designed museums, created birds, shared photographs and songs, made food, shared hope, created wonderful stamps and shared their love of a particular place with us all.

On August 26th we have a very special guest to bring our children back to the place they call home. Thanks for trusting your children to us this summer – we've had a wonderful time getting to know them and are looking forward to next year's travels already! Be on the lookout in the Narthex for a memory collage from this year's travels and if you missed the Passport Connect for a specific country, please contact either of us. Charlotte Bush and Tracy Shackelford

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!



Concert Series Presents Tracy Grammer!

Grammer was trained in classical violin and later formed the pop band Juicy. She met and started performing with unparalleled songwriter Dave Carter in 1996. When Carter passed away in 2002, Tracy vowed to keep his music alive. She now tours internationally with songwriter/multi-instrumentalist *Jim Henry*. With acoustic and electric guitars, beautifully matched voices, dobro, mandolin and violin, this duo shares original songs and pays homage to Carter and other stellar writers while charting a brand new course for themselves in the musical landscape. Friday, September 28th. 7:30 p.m. Visit

www.wuu.org/liveofffive.htm for more information.

Wishing Chair will be performing at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Peninsula (Newport News) on September 29 at 8 pm. We know they have a following in Williamsburg and we invite our UU sisters and brothers to join us for the evening and bring their friends. Tickets in advance \$10 for all ages. Tickets at the door will be much, much more! For ticket sales send checks and a SASE to UUFP, P.O. Box 2597, Newport News, VA 23609. Seating is limited to 100! Get there early for a good seat!

Think Cool!

Cooler weather is coming, it's our chance to spruce up the grounds for Fall! Grounds Day is coming in mid-September!



Have you noticed how neat our lawns are these days? We have a new lawn care contractor, Yardworks, and it is doing a super job of the lawns, the ditch along Ironbound Road, and the new parking lot.

It's up to volunteers to keep the flowerbeds looking just as good! **Grounds Day** will actually be TWO days—Friday 14 September and Saturday 15 September, 9:00-noon each day. People who cannot come on either day can come and work at their own pace at the time of their choosing.



Areas needing the most attention are: the entrance from Ironbound Road, the edge of the parking lot by the wax myrtle hedge, the circle in front of the Sanctuary, and the Memorial Garden.

WILLIAMSBURG UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

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