



The UU Circle

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalists of Fallston



You Are Welcome Here!

January 2010

A Month of Sundays

Sunday Services and Sunday School at 11:00 AM, 1127 Old Fallston Road, Fallston, MD (410-877-3773)

SUNDAY SERVICES

Jan 3 "New Beginnings" - Rev. Charles Myers

New religious leaders seem always to call for new ways of doing things. In a sense they are always correct; there is always much to be done. In a sense they may seem to be incorrect; it may seem that, as the author of Ecclesiastes observed, there is nothing new "under the sun." The new year (and the Christmas season) is as good a time as any to examine such things. I will attempt to make a few suggestions for your consideration

Jan 10 "Awakening" - Rev. Lyn Cox

As Unitarian Universalists, we honor our own experiences with mystery and wonder as well as external sources for spirituality. Wonder finds us in different ways at different ages. When has an experience with mystery transformed you?

Jan 17 "Dream Work" – Rev. Mark Hoelter

Dreams have amazing power. They can grab you and not let you go. They can get you killed. They can also bring back life. These thoughts are in honor of Dr. King.

Jan 24 "Sing a New Song" - Rev. Lyn Cox

Our sense what is holy changes over time. We may or may not stop to re-think how to describe our relationship with the sacred. For many people, the question of God is key to discerning other aspects of spirituality. Celebrating a living tradition, we find new ways of approaching transcendence as we grow and change.

Jan 31 "God is Alive, Magic is Afoot" – Rev. Mark Hoelter

Those lyrics, sung by Buffy Saint-Marie, along with some reflections by physicist, Freeman Dyson, will help us complete the chakra sermons. How open can we let ourselves be? To what power beyond? To what power within? To what power for?

Our Happenings

Jan 2 Saturday Sharing Table – 10-am-1:30pm: Our church will be hosting the Sharing Table on Saturday, 2 at the Prince of Peace Church in Edgewood. We are looking for 5-7 additional volunteers to help set up, serve, and clean up that day. We usually arrive around 10:00 and finish up around 1:30. If you are interested in helping out, please sign up at the church bulletin board or email Paul (paul.north@jhuapl.edu) or Maureen North (mnorth@ccps.org)."

Jan 9 Saturday Board of Trustees Meeting – 1:30pm: All are welcome to attend.

Jan 9 Saturday Drum for Peace – 7pm: All ages are welcome to the drumming circle and extra drums and other instruments are usually available for general use.

Jan 10 Sunday "Credo" - 1-3pm: Rev. Lyn begins this six-session course on alternate Sunday afternoons. The goal is for participants to articulate a spiritual path for themselves with a credo (an individual statement of belief). The class is discussion-based, with readings and hymns helping to create a contemplative atmosphere.

Jan 13 Wednesday Homeless Shelter Support: Contact Paul or Maureen North for volunteer opportunities.

The Season of Joy and Generosity

UUF CHRISTMAS FAMILY

Laura Williams and Alyssa Ehrsam delivered all the gifts to the Christmas Family on the 17th (at the mother's request.) The family was very appreciative. Laura later said, "It felt so good to help those in need" – a sentiment that speaks for all of us.

MITTEN TREE

The Annual Mitten Tree holiday drive for mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves to decorate our Christmas tree that will benefit the children of Halls Crossroads Elementary was very successful. The Social Responsibility Committee will keep the tree up through January to collect school supplies for needy children. These are difficult times for many and these impacts are felt by the children as well as their parents.

News You Can Use

SAVE THE DATES FOR ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: "CREDO"

Rev. Lyn will be leading a **six-session course** on alternate Sunday afternoons during the Winter Quarter. The class is called "**Credo**," and it is an opportunity for UUF'ers to explore spirituality. Unitarian Universalists don't have a creed (a group statement of required beliefs). Therefore, we have the freedom and the responsibility to **articulate a spiritual path for ourselves with a credo (an individual statement of belief)**. The class is discussion-based, with readings and hymns helping to create a contemplative atmosphere. A minimum of 6 participants and a maximum of 15 participants are necessary for a successful class. Credo will meet January 10, January 24, February 7, February 21, March 7, and March 21. All classes will be held from 1:00 to 3:00PM. Look for a sign up sheet in early December.

Community Outreach

CIRCLE OF HOPE

Congratulations to the Religious Education Department. Their Stone Soup Sale following the Intergenerational Service on December 13th raised \$79 for the Circle of Hope!

Neighbors in Need:

One of our early UUF guidelines was the decision to not give money directly to needy individuals but instead to send checks to their creditors. A woman called a week before Christmas asking for help to buy Christmas dinner and gifts for the three grandsons she is raising. When I told her we couldn't give money or gift certificates directly to her but asked if she was behind in her rent or other bills, she proudly told me she had taken care of those but now had no money left for Christmas. The best I could do was to tell her about the free meal on Saturdays at the Sharing Table and the food pantry in her area.

We were able to help one caller. In the spring she was evicted because her landlord's mortgage company had foreclosed on him and evicted her. By chance she found a couple who were willing to let her rent a room. Since then she was laid off her job and now she is being evicted again. We sent a check for \$50 to her landlord - at least she will have a roof over her head for the holidays.

Minister's Column

MINISTER'S COLUMN DECEMBER 2009

One of the reasons people gather in communities like ours is to be part of something larger than ourselves. The "something larger" may be the network of people, a common cause to make the world a better place, or a sense of shared beauty. These are just a few of the ways we might discover a sense of the sacred. In our congregation, there are people who follow a spiritual path through the connections of nature, with reverence for human potential, or in relationship with a personal sense of the Divine.

One way of naming the common thread among all of these paths is: "Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life." This is one of the sources of our tradition described in the UUA bylaws. Our diverse ways of seeking renewal of the spirit may be both daunting and interesting as we embark on conversations about depth and meaning. Yet our goals in support of the forces that uphold life draw us together. I believe that we have the strength to discuss our many paths to mystery and wonder, and that this discussion will make us stronger.

In the new year, let's resolve to be bold in our conversations about spirituality. I look forward to hearing from you.

- *Reverend Lyn Cox*