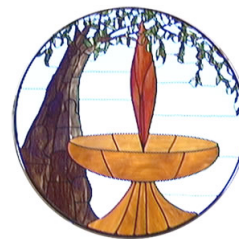




# The UU Circle

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalists of Fallston

*You Are Welcome Here!*



January 2012

## *A Month of Sundays*

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

- Jan 1** **“Rhythms, Readings and Resolutions” – Congregation**  
We share music, readings and resolutions of hope and humor as we look forward to 2012.
- Jan 8** **“Maketh All Things New” - Rev. Lyn Cox**  
If it is true that revelation is not sealed, one of our tasks is to create tools and ethics for the future using the knowledge and wisdom of the past. How do we decide what to keep and what to transform? The path of re-invention runs through spirituality as well as engineering. Speaking of "the new," we hope to celebrate a child dedication during the service.
- Jan 15** **“The Journey, Should You Choose to Accept it” – Rev. Mark Hoelter**  
You could say there are three kinds of time: linear time, cyclical time, and mythic time. Each has its place. But when we enter mythic time, we drop into a different dimension - the dimension of meaning and fulfillment. We will at least walk up to the gateway of that time. Perhaps we will even enter it.
- Jan 22** **“Wholeness” – Rev. Lyn Cox**  
In one of her most famous poems, Rev. Dr. Rebecca Parker urges us to use our gifts to "bless the world." Responding to that call may tempt us to perfectionism, as if blessing the world requires all of us hitting one small, fixed point. Perhaps wholeness has more to do with diversity and ingenuity than with precision.
- Jan 29** **“Religion and Evolution” – Mark Nolder**  
Have we evolved to be religious? Does being religious offer some evolutionary advantage? Come join Mark in a discussion of this provocative topic.

◆◆◆◆ FRIDGE CARDS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE MEMBERSHIP TABLE ◆◆◆◆

## *Our Happenings*

- Jan 1** **Mitten Tree Donations:** This is the last Sunday for Mitten Tree donations.  
Sunday
- Jan 8** **Board of Trustees Meeting – 9:45am in UUF Office:** All are welcome to attend.  
Sunday
- Jan 29** **Congregational Meeting – after service:** See two proposals to be considered below. Information on all proposals will be on the bulletin board in the lobby.  
Sunday

## *Membership*

### **"Ours is a Caring Community"**

*Help us be the caring community we want to be; let us know if you or someone among us needs our support.*

Helen Mann khcries@comcast.net; Susan Mannion suenfrnk@verizon.net;  
Charlene Phillips charlene\_phillips@usa.net; Cheri Wilson cwillson366@comcast.net

## *Outreach*

### **CIRCLE OF HOPE**

Thanks to all who made a special holiday contribution to the Circle of Hope Fund in December. The Fund is now solvent and again able to provide assistance to those less fortunate in Harford County.

Another big thanks to all UUF's who helped to decorate the mitten tree. Its variety of hats, scarves, gloves and mittens will soon be keeping little hands and ears nice and warm during the coldest part of our winter.

A colorful variety of gifts were delivered to the mother of our Holiday family December 23. She was overwhelmed! Those presents made the day for three children on Christmas morning. It's good to bring joy to others!

## *Adult Religious Education*

### **ADULT RE BEGINS FEBRUARY 12: Your Input Invited**

A four-session adult RE class led by Rev. Lyn will meet after the service **February 12, February 26, March 11, and March 25**. We decided at the summer congregational meeting that we want to do more study and reflection related to our social responsibility work. Within that framework, we have three options:

(1) A class based on **"How Much Do We Deserve: An Inquiry Into Distributive Justice"** by Rev. Dr. Richard S. Gilbert. This class would be focused, fast-paced, and extremely relevant to our congregational theme of relieving poverty in Harford County. Participants should read the relevant chapters before we cover them in class. For more information about the ideas in the book, see Gilbert's article from the UU World Magazine's Nov/Dec 2001 issue: <http://www.uuworld.org/2001/05/feature3.html>

(2) **"Blessing the Peacemakers"** is a four-session covenant group module developed by the UU Service Committee (UUSC). The series invites reflection on the connections between religious education and justice-making. This is a coherent series with spiritual depth. It is more general than our congregational theme on relieving poverty, but it is more related to our goal of being a welcoming, intergenerational community.

(3) Additional justice-centered covenant group modules developed by the UUSC cover special topics in each session and are not sequential. We would use **"Living on Democracy's Edge," "The Right to Water," "Wage Justice," and "Living an Engaged Faith."** These sessions offer variety and a lot of food for thought. They are related to our congregational theme in the way that all justice issues are interdependent, but only "Wage Justice" is directly tied to relieving poverty.

The meeting dates and times will be the same regardless of which option we choose. All three options are written such that anyone can lead them; if you are excited about one of these choices and want to organize a series in the spring or summer, abundant tools and support are available to you. For now, those who are likely to sign up for the February/March series are invited to give their input. There will be a comment form available at UUF beginning January 8, or you can leave a comment on Rev. Lyn's blog: [revlyncox.tumblr.com](http://revlyncox.tumblr.com)

## *Congregational Meeting Proposals*

### **PLAYGROUND REVITALIZATION PROPOSAL**

The last time we had playground mulch delivered, the vendor told me that the weed barrier was no longer working. The weeds were starting to engulf the playground, and the root runners were in the mulch. Also, the mulch was disintegrating quickly and as of now, there is only a layer a few inches deep before you get to dirt.

I asked Rowan Glidden, our landscape architect consultant for advice. Rowan suggested a plan and recommended two landscaping firms who could do the job. I contacted Bartenfelder Landscape Service and Ivy Hill Land Services. They both sent employees to survey the job and then sent estimates. The project, per Rowan's suggestions included:

- Removal of the old mulch on the playground and spreading it in front of the outdoor stage (to reduce the cost of hauling it away)
- Pile the soil under the mulch beside our compost area (again to reduce the cost of hauling it away. This is now high-grade top soil we can use on other planting projects in our various garden areas.)
- Remove old weed barrier and replace it.
- Pile new mulch on the playground to a thickness of 12 inches.

Both firms came up with estimates of around \$3,000. One was a little below and the other a little above. These were time sensitive bids, so if we decide to move forward we will have to get new bids.

Lucille Sonnichsen, Grounds Chair

### **NEW SIGN PROPOSAL**

As a result of the work of the Long Range Planning Committee, it has been determined that growth is a major factor in realizing our 5 year goals. In an effort to attract more members to our church and also to advertise some of our extra-curricular activities to the community, the board will be requesting your vote for approval on a new sign for the church. The proposed sign will be 4' x 8' double sided with interchangeable letters and it will feature our name and logo. A rendering of the sign and more specific details will be presented at the congregational meeting on Jan. 29th. The cost of the proposed sign and installation is \$5,000.00.

## *Minister and Co-President's Columns*

### **MINISTER'S COLUMN – REVEREND LYN COX**

One of the ways we often go about describing Unitarian Universalism is to name famous UU's. The idea is to explain by example what it looks like to live out our faith. Describing our religion this way strikes some as odd, and our litany of famous UU's may seem idolatrous to some. It is true that we should be cautious about claiming ancestors who weren't entirely committed to Unitarianism or Universalism or UUism, and that we should remember that having ancestors in our family tree does not confer all of their virtues and accomplishments to us. Even so, I think it is informative to look to our past, and to take stock of what we value when we bring up our UU ancestors.

Together with the elementary Religious Education class over the next several weeks, we'll talk about people like Peter Cooper, Maria Mitchell, Sir Tim Berners-Lee, and Thomas Edison: scientists, engineers, inventors, and researchers. Living our faith as UU's means expanding and making the most of the freedom to learn about our universe. As with any freedom, this comes with responsibilities. We have a responsibility to balance our respect for the past with openness to new ideas. We have a responsibility to keep updating our concept of what it means to engage in the search while guided by justice and compassion. The famous discoverers we admire show us how to give back and to create new opportunities to learn, as these opportunities were created for us.

I hope you have a chance this month to learn something new, to use creativity and ingenuity, and to ask questions. Know that these are all part of being a Unitarian Universalist.



## **BOARD CO-PRESIDENT'S COLUMN – PAUL AND MAUREEN NORTH**

Happy New Year! We hope the Holiday Season has been full of family, fun and togetherness. To start off the New Year, we have scheduled a Congregational Meeting on Sunday January 29 to discuss and vote on a number of new Church projects. Those include mulching the playground, installing a new sign on Rt. 152 to advertise UUF events, and establishing a relationship with Harford Family House to provide various types of support for homeless families. Be sure to look for the write-ups describing these projects on the bulletin board at the back of the Church. We are also looking for ways of raising additional funds for the Circle of Hope. To start that effort, we would like to hold a "chili cook-off" at the Church in February. Begin thinking about your best chili recipes. First, second, and third place prizes will be awarded. The date for the cook-off will be announced in early January.

Best wishes,

*Paul & Maureen*