



The UU Circle

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalists of Fallston

You Are Welcome Here!



June-July 2009

A Month of Sundays

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

SUNDAY SERVICES

Jun 7 "Belonging" - Rev. Lyn Cox

As we celebrate the new members who have joined in the last year, we will pause to reflect on the meaning of belonging. The longing to be part of something larger than ourselves can be strong. Whether our sense of belonging comes from the "flags of our heritage" or from the choices we make in our present lives, affiliation has something to say about identity and shared purpose.

Jun 14 "This Refulgent Summer" - Rev. Lyn Cox

June is filled with major transitions: graduations, weddings, changes of address, jobs beginning and ending. No matter how joyful our changes, the chaos of transition tempts us to ignore the present moment in favor of focusing on the future. In his "Divinity School Address," our UU ancestor Ralph Waldo Emerson advised a graduating class of ministers to give witness to beauty as it unfolded, to experience life first-hand. Emerson's advice is still pertinent to us as we celebrate the beginning of summer at UUF.

Begin Summer Schedule – No Sunday School – **Child Care Provided**

Jun 21 No Service – Father's Day

Jun 28 "Morning Musical Meditation" – Mike Redding aka hank49

Jul 5 "Our American Roots: Unitarian Universalism in North America – Scott Phillips

This part of the series will feature Emerson, Thoreau and the Transcendentalists.

Jul 12 "Transcending Limits of the Everyday" – Mari Kane

Several people will discuss writing, painting, music, and running.

Jul 19 "Morning Musical Meditation" – Kevin Ireton

Jul 26 "Conversations with God" – Steve Eckels

It All Happens Here

Jun 13 & Jul 11 Board of Trustees Meeting – Saturday 1:30pm: All are welcome to attend.

Jun 13 & Jul 11 Drum for Peace – Saturday 7pm: All ages are welcome to the drumming circle and extra drums and other instruments are usually available for general use.

Jun 14 Sunday Annual Picnic following the Sunday service: Hot dogs and soft drinks will be provided. Bring a salad, dessert, wine or other specialty to share and have a great time!

Jun 20 & Jul 18 UUF Singles Group – Saturday: The Singles Group meets on the 3rd Saturday of the month. In June the group will meet at 6pm for dinner at Cafe Italia, 2402 Pleasantville Road. In July the group will meet at the church at 7pm for a book discussion. Bring a recent book or favorite to tell others. For more info contact Gail Drew at 410 -836-1234.

News You Can Use

UUA MONTHLY BULLETINS FOR CONGREGATIONS

The UUA is publishing monthly Congregational Bulletins online that are a collection of announcements and updates from the staff groups and committees of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) of Congregations, and from the Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF). Check them out at www.uua.org/congregationalmonthly.

PLANTING RESTRICTIONS FOR OUR PROPERTY

The parking expansion project will include some restrictions on plantings near the water quality swale that will be constructed, so this is a good time to review the restrictions imposed for certain types of plantings at various places on our property. When the new water quality swale is installed during the parking lot expansion, it will run parallel to the parking lot between the parking lot and the storm water management pond. Trees or woody vegetation will not be allowed within 15 feet of the swale because they could compromise its functioning.

For the storm water management pond, no trees or woody vegetation shall be allowed on or within 25 feet of the embankment on the Rte 152 side of the pond because they could weaken this barrier.

The swath of land from the end of the parking lot (when extended) to the vicinity of our large sign is our septic reserve and should not have trees or woody vegetation on that land because their roots could compromise the septic drain field.

Harford County makes periodic inspections of these facilities for compliance and mandatory corrective actions could be costly.

Also, our property boundaries are very different from what one might perceive. Our large sign at the Old Fallston Road - Rte 152 intersection marks the end of our property in that direction. Property beyond the sign belongs to the county or state. The land a few feet beyond the storm water management pond barrier parallel to Rte 152 belongs to the county or state and could be used in the future if Rte 152 is widened. We have no rights for plantings or any other use of this land.

It is recommended that you consult with Rowan Glidden or Scott Phillips before planting at or near these locations so that we can review the appropriate engineering drawings.

Board President and Minister Columns

BOARD PRESIDENT

Those who were at the congregational meeting have heard this, but I thought it was important, so here it is again:

A couple of months ago, Lucille asked me what I wanted to accomplish during my presidency. I answered "I don't know, it will come to me." After going to the JPD Conference and getting energized, the answer came to me. Now I actually have a theme to my year as president – "Just a Bit More."

I know you are probably wondering what I mean so here goes. When Steve and I started here - all we did was show up, then we signed up for coffee hour, and then I signed up to teach RE. I took over doing the prelude and postlude. We joined a couple of committees and Steve became President of the Board of Trustees and now me. You see - we kept doing "Just a Bit More."

Now I'm going to ask you to make the same commitment. If you came to the congregational meeting, your on your way, if you didn't, come to the next one. It means you care about what's going on in the church. What else can you do? Sign up for coffee hour, join a committee, if you've never pledged before - do it. If you've pledged in the past, give a little more. See an area where the church has a need and come to the Board with suggestions. For example, Gail Drew has started a single's group this year. There are lots of ways you can do "Just a Bit More." We are on a roll, let's continue to grow and we will all benefit.

Thanks,

- Alison Elliott

MINISTER

This time of year, as our corner of the planet tilts toward summer, I see transition all around me. Friends share their photos of graduations and weddings. I see some friends more often, some less often, depending on how the seasons affect their lives. Lately, my heart has been with people who are transitioning out of downsized jobs, facing the summer in the absence of a recently departed family member, or preparing to move away with hope for a new life.

Transition reminds me of a quote by physicist John Wheeler: "Time is what prevents everything from happening at once." This is a good reminder, because I often feel as if time is not doing its job. Sometimes it seems that everything is happening at once: birth and death, growth and decline, despair and celebration are all part of this moment. Even when transition is positive, it can be overwhelming. In the spinning merry-go-round of life, where do we seek the center in order to keep from getting dizzy?

As with many things in Unitarian Universalism, it depends. Each one of us searches for truth and meaning. Each one of us will come up with a different answer about our source of comfort and inspiration. We come together at UUF in order to listen for the voice that calls to us from the center of our lives. In worship, we attend to a variety of speakers and musicians. Some of them resonate like a tuning fork in our own souls, some of them help us figure out what we don't believe. Finding the center is a search that requires both individual motivation and collective support.

In community and in solitude, at UUF and in your travels, may you find your center during this season of transition. Go in peace. Return again in love.

- Reverend Lyn Cox

Did You Know

CIRCLE OF HOPE

For the year, our Circle of Hope donations for Neighbors in Need, the Homeless Shelter and the Sharing Table totaled \$1,558

Plus:

- grape jelly given to the Food Pantry
- gifts for the Christmas Family
- mittens and school supplies to needy kids.

“UNITY” SOULFUL SUNDOWN SLIDESHOW

Maggie Spatarella has put together a slideshow of our May 3rd “Unity” Soulful Sundown. Take a look at <http://tinyurl.com/unityss09> Maggie points out that about half of the photos were taken by Margo.