



The UU Circle

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalists of Fallston

You Are Welcome Here!



June 2011

A Month of Sundays

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

Jun 5 “Flower Celebration” – Rev. Lyn Cox

In the picture book, "Miss Rumphius," we hear about doing something to make the world more beautiful. Being part of the UUF community helps us to develop our gifts to do just that. Bring a flower to add to our communal vase. The color and diversity of the flowers will remind us of the many perspectives and talents brought together in our congregation.

Jun 12 “Highways and By-ways” – Rev. Lyn Cox

Summers at UUF are celebrations of lay leadership. Whether you plan to share your vision at home or on the road in the coming months, what beacon will you shine for the benefit of others?

Begin Summer Schedule of Lay Led Services – No Sunday School

Jun 19 NO SUNDAY SERVICE - Fathers Day!

Jun 26 “Do Science and Religion Conflict?” – Scott Phillips

To stimulate discussion we will view a short video on this topic from the PBS series exploring fundamental issues of universe, brain/mind, religion, meaning and purpose through conversations with leading scientists, philosophers, scholars, theologians and creative thinkers.

Our Happenings

Jun 5 Share a Flower: Bring a flower to share for the “Flower Celebration” service. Help us celebrate the diversity Sunday that blossoms here.

Jun 12 Board of Trustees Meeting – 9:45am: All are welcome to attend.
Sunday

Jun 12 Annual Picnic following the Sunday service: Hot dogs and soft drinks will be provided.
Sunday Bring a salad, dessert, wine or other specialty to share and have a great time!

Jun 13 Homeless Shelter Support: Contact Paul or Maureen North for volunteer opportunities. See
Monday information below on current volunteer needs.

Jul 9 The Sharing Table: Our next date to host The Sharing Table is July 9th so please check your
Saturday calendars to see if you are available to help and sign up at the church.

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

Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting was held on Sunday May 22nd following the Sunday service.

• **Election of Officers**

~ **Board of Trustees:** Paul and Maureen North become the Co-Presidents automatically since they were elected Co-Presidents Elect last year. Laura Williams will continue the third year of her term as Treasurer. Don Clarke was Elected Vice President and Lucille Sonnichsen was elected Secretary. We will search for President Elect in the coming year.

~ **Nominating Committee:** Scott Phillips, Chuck Selfe and Cheri Wilson were elected to the Nominating Committee.

• **Fiscal Year 2011-12 Budget:** Thanks to all who pledged support for the new fiscal year, the congregation approved a balanced budget of \$28,830.00. Economies were made to reach this budget. Principle among them are the reduction of cleaning services to every other week in the summer and planning for 8 lay lead services in the regular season replacing the usual guest speakers.

• **Long Range Planning:** The Long Range Planning Committee provided an interim report based on the Congregational Survey and the Open Forum. The Committee plans to host a summer Congregational Meeting in mid-July to discuss steps for moving the LRP survey results forward.

• **Ministerial Consulting Agreement:** The congregation unanimously voted to approve the Consultant Agreement between Rev. Lyn Cox and the Unitarian Universalists of Fallston for Fiscal Year 2011-12. Rev. Cox indicated that she would be available for emergencies over the summer.

• **Committee Reports:** Outgoing President Cheri Wilson presented a consolidated report of UUF Committee accomplishments during the past year that was very impressive. With a tighter budget in the coming year we need increased volunteer support in some key areas.

Religious Education

• **Youth Religious Education**

Throughout the month of May, the elementary RE lessons have followed the seventh Unitarian principle: Value our interdependence with nature. Their classroom activities have facilitated an acknowledgement and appreciation for the interconnected nature of our world, and a respect for even the smallest creatures. Also, the kids have been encouraged to take time to notice and enjoy the beauty of nature around them.

Our youth group has focused on sharing their thoughts and feelings about the current events that have dominated the news, the earthquake in **Japan** and the death of **Osama Bin Laden**.

• **School Supplies**

School Supplies are still needed. It's not too late to donate! See the collection box in front of the meeting room.

Outreach

CIRCLE OF HOPE

All of our outreach efforts (Neighbors in Need, the Homeless Shelter, the Sharing Table, the Christmas Family and mittens/caps and school supplies) are covered under the Circle of Hope. These efforts are not an item under the church's annual operating budget. They are supported by donations given to the UUs of Fallston for the specific purpose of helping those less fortunate in Harford County. Every dollar designated for the Circle of Hope is applied directly to assist people who are truly in need of help in coping with their daily lives.

If you would like to contribute to these efforts, a check to UUs of Fallston noting it's for the Circle of Hope may be placed in the collection plate or mailed to the church at P. O. Box 258, Fallston, MD 21047-0258.

• **Neighbors in Need**

There were no personal calls from anyone for financial assistance so far this month. However we did respond to two special requests. One was from Anna's House that provides support for homeless women and children in Harford County and helps them to find housing and get relocated. The other was an appeal from the Department of Social Services and the Community Action Agency for a particular family with several exceptional needs. Their most pressing immediate problem was to get their electric power restored. We made donations in both cases.

As usual, we made a donation to cover the cost of paper supplies used by the Unitarians in preparing meals at the Homeless Shelter on May 13th.

The July newsletter will include a summary of the donations and expenditures for the 2010-2011 year for the Circle of Hope.

• **Sharing Table**

The 2011 dates for the Sharing Table are as follows: July 9; October 1; and November 12. The reason we have two months in a row is because we could not do the January 1st date that was assigned to us and we only had one other option to choose from.

• **Welcome One Homeless Shelter**

The Homeless Shelter in Riverside is always looking for overnight on the 13th and breakfast help the morning of the 14th of every month. If anyone is interested please contact Maureen North at mnorth@ccps.org.

Minister and President's Columns

MINISTER'S COLUMN – REVEREND LYN COX

As I write this, the congregational meeting is fresh in my memory. I want to say again that I have the best gig in the business. The many talents shared by members and friends add up to a deep understanding of shared ministry. I hope you are taking pride in your increased participation in intentional pledging this year. We share a confidence that UUF has a vital place in its members' lives and in the community.

This year, we've spent some time in services and RE classes reviewing the seven principles of Unitarian Universalism. These principles are descriptions of the ways we practice our spirituality in congregations. They aren't used as creedal tests, but they do help us articulate what it means to be UU. (For more information about the principles, check out <http://www.uua.org/beliefs/index.shtml>) I hope you have found it as satisfying as I have to know that we have some common threads in our programs for children, youth, and adults.

In June, we'll spend some time thinking about the many gifts and perspectives we bring together as a congregation. We'll also consider the possibilities for sharing those gifts in the wider world. The Flower Celebration, which we will observe on the first Sunday in June, celebrates that diverse beauty. Please remember to bring a flower on June 5.

I'll be thinking of you and communicating with the Board over the summer as we prepare for the new liturgical year that starts in September. Take care and be well.

Peace,

