



# The UU Circle

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalists of Fallston

*You Are Welcome Here!*



March 2011

## *A Month of Sundays*

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

- Mar 6** **“The Shades of Grief and Our (Sacred) Limitations” – Dr. Janet Lewis**  
Grief, an inescapable part of life, is also in a sense beyond words. Psychiatry currently struggles to classify grief. Our larger culture often struggles with it as well. We will nevertheless talk about the varieties of grief, including anticipatory grief. A deeper appreciation of the sacred nature of our human limitation may help us emerge from our collective and individual grieving in a fuller healthy way.
- Mar 13** **“Collective Wisdom” – Rev. Lyn Cox**  
In the UU tradition, we honor the wisdom and experience that arises from within communities. Everyone in the congregation has a role in contributing to the success of the whole. Our practice of building consensus among smart, passionate people of different backgrounds and ages is an avenue for spiritual growth. (Daylight Savings Time begins. Spring forward! Set your clock ahead one hour on Saturday night.)
- Mar 20** **“This is Your Brain on God” – Rev. Mark Hoelter**  
I learned how to wiggle my ears while reciting the "Apostles Creed" in a church service. It might be related to contacting God. I'll explain as we explore some of the neuroscience connected to the God (or the "God-ing") experience, and perhaps reach to the "Emptiness" or "Nothingness" beyond God. Sounds heady. I'll do my best to make it both visceral and spiritual in this second in my series of "How to (Not) Think About God."
- Mar 27** **“Conscience” – Rev. Lyn Cox**  
We are called both individually and collectively to hear the voice of conscience in navigating our ethical and spiritual lives. With our 21st-century understanding that all things are connected, we may find it difficult to keep our questions and answers to ourselves. When do we share what's on our minds and hearts? What is the role of a collective, spiritually-centered voice of conscience in the public square?
- Apr 3** **Topic to be Announced – Bill Feiss**
- Apr 10** **“Sojourn” – Rev. Lyn Cox**

## *Our Happenings*

- Mar 5** **Murder Mystery Dinner Theater "Honky Tonk Homicide" -5:30pm:** Sign up for a fun evening. See Saturday details below.
- Mar 10** **Yoga Classes – 7pm:** See article below.  
Thursday

**Mar 13 Board of Trustees Meeting – 9:45am:** All are welcome to attend.  
Sunday

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

**Mar 26 Open Mic Nite – 7pm:** Come join Dan Layman-Kennedy for an open mic in celebration of Spring.  
Saturday Music to start at 7pm and end at 10pm. See article below.

**Mar 27 “Understanding the Bible” - 9:30-10:30am:** Last of three sessions conducted by Rev. Lyn Cox.  
Sunday See article below in Religious Education.

## *News You Can Use*

### **MURDER MYSTERY DINNER THEATER " HONKY TONK HOMICIDE"**

It is "Last Call" for someone at Bubba's Bar in Cactus, Texas Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. A nasty murder investigation sure can disrupt Karaoke Night, especially when everyone in town has a motive. The regulars at Bubba's Bar and the residents of the Cactus Court Trailer Park must find the murderer among them. For a small Texas town, Cactus has plenty of dirty secrets, double lives, torrid affairs and alien abductions! This is a one-of-a-kind party you won't forget! Meet the interesting characters at Bubba's such as: Twyla Fleetwood, Carney Folk, Sheriff Sissy Wesson, Rowdy Lawless, Rev. Jim Bob Eternity, Mary Kay Eternity, Crystalline Daniels, and Dusty Diamond. Don't forget Pot Luck including the Chili Cook Off. Bring your best chili to the competition and let diners vote with dollar bills. (All proceeds go to Circle of Hope.) Come 5:30pm to socialize at set up, 6pm Dinner, and 7pm Murder Mystery.

### **LONG RANGE PLANNING SURVEY**

The Long Range Planning Committee will be meeting again on March 13th. We appreciate all the feedback we received from the surveys. If you have not responded yet, we are still interested in your input and would welcome your comments.

### **OPEN MIC NIGHT – March 26<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**

#### ***Open Mic with Dan Layman-Kennedy***

Spring-themed (coming in right after the Spring equinox), so it's seasonal with all the expected resonances: renewal, rebirth, return, new life, new growth, awakening. And if anyone comes to this still in an Irish-tinged mode from the recent St. Patrick's Day observances, well, that's fine too.

### **OPEN MIC SUPPORT – RE STUDENTS**

We are asking RE students to provide food and drinks as a fund raiser to benefit Circle of Hope. The kids (intermediate/middle school and older) are encouraged to attend and bring a friend as a service learning experience. We will need contributions of the following items:

- Soft drinks
- Cookies, brownies and other sweets
- Cheese and cracker tray
- Vegetable tray
- Fruit tray
- Other--use your imagination

if you do not plan to attend, please drop food & drink items off before 7pm. Please let Francie Glidden (rglidden@qis.net) know if you plan to contribute. Also, It would be nice if the church people came to listen to all the great music.

## **FREE YOGA CLASSES - BEGINNING MARCH 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**

Peat Purol is completing his training as a Yoga instructor and as part of his 8 week internship he will provide free Yoga classes at UUF on Thursday nights at 7pm from March 10<sup>th</sup> to April 28<sup>th</sup>. He has reserved 10 class spaces for UUF Members. **Only one space now available.** The focus of the program is stress management so there will be a mixture of physical postures, non-religious meditation, and breath work. He has to teach for 75 minutes per session for his internship. This is a great opportunity to try Yoga to see if you find the classes beneficial. A sign up sheet is posted at the Bulletin Board.

## *Religious Education*

### **ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

#### **Understanding the Bible - March 27 9:30-10:30am**

Unitarian Universalists are often not quite sure what to do with Jewish and Christian scriptures. These words have been used publicly and privately for harm, for comfort, and for inspiration to social justice. We'll explore a little bit of the historical context and the possibilities for finding meaning. "Understanding the Bible: An Introduction for Skeptics, Seekers, and Religious Liberals" will be a resource for this class, but participants who aren't able to obtain a copy are welcome to participate.

### **YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - School Supplies**

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

*"Be an opener of doors for such as come after thee." Ralph Waldo Emerson*

## *Outreach*

### **CIRCLE OF HOPE**

#### **• Neighbors in Need**

An older lady appealed to us for financial assistance in February. She survives almost entirely on her Social Security income. Sometimes it just doesn't stretch far enough to cover the bills, especially in the winter. She was in arrears on her rent and turned to the Community Action Agency. They agreed to pay a little more than half if she could raise the remainder. We were one of the churches she called. We sent a check to the landlord for \$50.

#### **• 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 and breakfast help on the 13th and morning of the 14th of every month. If anyone is interested please contact Maureen North at [mnorth@ccps.org](mailto:mnorth@ccps.org).

## *Minister and President's Columns*

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

As I write this, voices of democracy and dissent are ringing from continent to continent, from lake to sea to ocean. People are gathering in support of different visions for sharing wealth, resources, and power. The news can be inspiring, frightening, frustrating, or informative, or sometimes all of those things at once.

I hope that our church is one of the places where you find kind and thoughtful people who make sense of world events together.

Our theme of the month is the fifth of seven UU principles: "the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process in our congregations in society at large." This principle may sound obvious, but there are nuances. We will have varying assessments of fairness and equality in a given situation. Maintaining a shared connection to the spirit of life may help us stay on track.

In a congregation of our size, we are even more cognizant than usual that every person matters. Every person's attendance, every person's generosity with gifts of time and resources, every person's open heart matters. We need each other for our shared spiritual journey and ethical discernment. I am speaking of people of all ages here; we need our middle-schoolers and teens and children and elders and adults. Each one of us has a moral perspective that informs the whole. Let us gather up all of the sparks of wisdom, insight, and love that we have into a bright beacon of hope for ourselves and our community.



### **BOARD PRESIDENT'S COLUMN – CHERI WILSON**

As I write this letter, I am very concerned about the financial state of our church. On the one hand, we are a thriving community; yet, on the other, we sometimes seem to lack commitment and engagement. I realize that we are still living in difficult economic times. However, a few cannot continue to financially carry the whole. As we prepare the budget for the FY12 church year, we may have to make some very difficult decisions. Stay tuned for the draft budget in April.

I'd like to extend a special thanks to Helen Mann and Lucille Sonnichsen for again babysitting the RE children on Valentine's Day weekend. We really appreciate it!

Yours in fellowship,

*Cheri Wilson*

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