



# The UU Circle

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalists of Fallston



*You Are Welcome Here!*

**November 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

- Nov 1** **“I Can See Clearly Now” – Rev. Mark Hoelter**  
On our journey into "the farther reaches of human nature," we reach the next-to-last stage of development. We'll at least kiss "neurotheology" in the process, and explore the present-reigning reductive-science "taboo against the subjective." The mind is a terrible thing to waste, so we won't waste it. Brain research seems to be catching up to ancient wisdom.
- Nov 8** **“Prophetic Souls” - Rev. Lyn Cox**  
Our living tradition includes many ancestors who "spoke the truth in love." These were journalists, musicians, and poets who pointed out abuses committed by people in power, offered encouragement for justice movements, and set forth a vision of peace. In receiving and handing down this heritage, we find our own ways of embracing public ministry.
- Nov 15** **“Is Intelligence the Destiny of the Universe?” – Dr. Joseph DiRienzi**  
Dr. DiRienzi will talk about the Anthropic Principle that relates the evolution of the Universe with the emergence of intelligent life. The basic idea is whether intelligent life was an intended effect of evolution or an accidental byproduct.
- Nov 15** **Evening Soulful Sundown Service: “Spirituality” – 6:00pm:** A meditative service using the Arts to explore nature and meaning of Spirituality.
- Nov 22** **“Deeds that Beckon” – Rev. Lyn Cox**  
Individually and collectively, members of UUF live out our values of justice, equity, and compassion. As we approach Thanksgiving, we will give thanks for the UU role models whose example of direct service continues to inspire us. We are both the receivers and the givers of a tradition of deeds.
- Nov 29** **“The Prophetic Voice in Each of Us” - Bill Feiss**  
Bill will explore that prophetic voice within each of us and how it calls us to the ministry of all. This will complement Rev. Lyn Cox's November topic exploring one of our UU tradition of "Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love."

## *It All Happens Here*

**Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday** **UUF Singles Group – No Meeting This Month:** Gail Drew is unable to continue as the leader. Anyone interested in taking over please call Gail at 410-836-1234

**Nov 8 & 15** **Choir Rehearsal for Soulful Sundown - 10am:** The choir will rehearse prior to the regular service on these two Sundays for the "Spirituality" Soulful Sundown.

**Nov 8 Sunday** **Congregational Meeting and Pot Luck –12:30pm:** Sharing our plans for the upcoming year and food and fellowship together.

**Nov 13 Friday** **Homeless Shelter Support:** Contact Paul or Maureen North for volunteer opportunities.

**Nov 14 Saturday** **Board of Trustees Meeting – 1:30pm:** All are welcome to attend.

## *News You Can Use*

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR 2009-10**

We welcome the UUF kids to a new year in the program. The **Elementary and Preschool Program** for the 2009/2010 year follows the UU Curriculum **Around the Church Around the Year**. Its author, Jan Evans-Tiller, prepared this curriculum to help the children feel a part of the Unitarian Universalist community and understand the faith and practices of Unitarian Universalism. The program focuses on the children's own experience with **fundamental concerns of life and death, human relationships, and personal identity**—not as abstract concepts but in ways **appropriate to preschool and primary age children**.

The **Middle School Program** for the 2009/2010 year will follow the Tapestry of Faith, Amazing Grace curriculum. This program will meet on **alternate Sundays** beginning on September 27, 2009. The author of **Amazing Grace**, Richard Kimball, states that the curriculum intends to **help sixth graders understand right and wrong and act on their new understanding**. Its purpose is to **equip them for moving safely and productively through the middle- and high school years**, when they will be continually tugged toward both ends of the ethics continuum. Through their involvement in Amazing Grace, youth will come to recognize and depend on their Unitarian Universalist identity and resources as essential to their movement toward understanding, independence, and fulfillment of personal promise.

We are counting on the parents of the elementary and preschool classes to keep in touch with Kate regarding the need for snack items throughout the year. Snacks will be provided to the children during their class based on availability of food and drink items.

**Note: There will be meetings for parents of the RE students and the RE Committee on Nov. 1 at 12:30 and Dec. 13 at 12:30 in the RE classroom.**

### **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, so mark your calendars now: January 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>, February 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>, March 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>. All classes will be held from 1 to 3pm.

# *Social Responsibility Committee*

## **SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Committee met on October 18, 2009 with the following members in attendance: Paul and Maureen North (Co-Chairs), Art Burris, Alyssa Ehram, Mark Nolder, Scott and Charlene Phillips, and Laura Williams

### ***General***

To help the Unitarian Universalist community better understand the roles and activities of the Social Responsibility Committee, we plan to develop a description of each subcommittee and its volunteer opportunities. This information, along with supporting photographs, will be posted on the Fallston UU website and distributed via the UU Circle Newsletter.

### ***Sharing Table***

The church will sponsor the Sharing Table three times this year. The expected months are January, May and August. Once the dates are established a sign up sheet will be posted for people to volunteer. Also, contributions will be requested to defray the cost of the pizza for the event. Paul and Maureen will contact the director of the Sharing Table to set up the dates for this year.

### ***Homeless Shelter***

We plan to continue our involvement in the Homeless Shelter during the upcoming year. We will be coordinating our efforts with Churchville UU church who is taking the lead on this project.

### ***Neighbors in Need***

Charlene reported that there have been a reduced number of people in the local community requesting assistance. We suspect the cause of this decline is due to a reduced awareness of available resources rather than a reduced need for assistance. The committee decided to pursue additional avenues of outreach. In response, Art Burris suggested that Alliance, Inc. of Harford County would be a good place to start and he will look into placing UU of Fallston on their list of churches providing assistance.

### ***Mittens / School Supplies***

We plan for this program to be active again this year. Colette Horn and the RE Department are expected to conduct the mitten tree outreach in December as usual. It was suggested that we conduct a school supply tree in February to encourage more participation supporting the needs children as their families face these difficult times. Alyssa Ehram volunteered to coordinate this effort.

### ***Christmas Family***

Laura Williams will be leading this effort and will be contacting the Mason Dixon Community Services agency to identify a family in need. More information to follow.

### ***Community Action Agency Food Pantry***

Steve Elliot has graciously agreed to deliver our grape jelly offerings to the Edgewood Food Pantry. Please continue your much appreciated jelly donations.

## *Minister and President's Columns*

### **MINISTER'S COLUMN NOVEMBER 2009**

Our congregation is a vibrant, living, changing spiritual home. We are blessed with each other's company, embracing long-time UU's, new members, and everyone in between. New members bring fresh perspective, while longtime members bring wisdom from many seasons of making meaning within our movement. Given the rich mix of experiences among us, we are called to directly address the question of what Unitarian Universalism means for us in our time in this place. In order to understand the movement at present, I believe it's helpful to explore our heritage.

The theme for November "Prophetic Women and Men," comes from one of the six sources of the UU tradition articulated in the UUA bylaws: "words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love." The exemplars of the past kept dreams of a free society and a free faith alive so that we could carry them forward in our generation. When I think about the sacrifice and commitment of our UU ancestors, I can't help but feel a sense of responsibility. The torch has been passed, the chalice of our own community has been lit. Let us carry it forward to illuminate truth and love in our changing world.

- Reverend Lyn Cox

### **MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT:**

Greetings all! We are coming upon what seems to be the busiest season. Everyone seems to have a million things going on in November and December. I just want to remind everyone to make some time for the church. Whether you need a spiritual pick-me-up or want to see friends or feel blessed and/or stressed and want to share with others, we are here for you. I personally look forward to the smiling faces on Sunday and hope you do the same. Don't forget our congregational meeting on November 8th. We will be sharing our plans for the upcoming year and eating the good food you bring!

- Alison Elliott

### **HERE ARE SOME BOOKS LYN WILL BE READING OR RETURNING TO THIS MONTH:**

#### ***These books will be of interest to families with children:***

A Lamp in Every Corner: A Unitarian Universalist Storybook by Janeen K. Grohsmeyer  
Fannie in the Kitchen by Deborah Hopkinson, pictures by Nancy Carpenter  
Maria's Comet by Deborah Hopkinson, illustrated by Deborah Lanino  
Henry Climbs a Mountain by D.B. Johnson  
Henry Hikes to Fitchburg by D.B. Johnson  
Henry Works by D.B. Johnson  
UU & Me! Collected Stories edited by Betsy Hill Williams

#### ***These books are of interest to adult readers:***

A Chosen Faith: An Introduction to Unitarian Universalism by John A. Buehrens and Forrest Church  
The Larger Faith: A Short History of American Universalism by Charles A. Howe  
Been in the Storm So Long: A Meditation Manual edited by Mark Morrison-Reed and Jacqui James  
This Day in Unitarian Universalist History by Frank Schulman  
Walden and Other Writings by Henry David Thoreau, edited by Joseph Wood Krutch  
A History of Unitarianism (1945) by Earl Morse Wilbur

#### ***These items have to do with music:***

Singing the Living Tradition  
Singing the Journey  
Rise Up Singing: The Group Singing Songbook edited by Peter Blood and Annie Patterson  
Between the Lines: Sources for Singing the Living Tradition edited by Jacqui James  
Earth and Spirit Songbook by Jim Scott

Let's read together!

**Minister's**