



The UU Circle

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalists of Fallston

You Are Welcome Here!



October 2011

A Month of Sundays

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

Oct 2 “Celebrating Our Elders” – Bill Feiss

This week the Chinese celebrate Chung Yeung an ancient festival where they pay respects to their elders. How do we celebrate our elders and ancestors; those who have given us much of our traditions and sensibilities? As America ages, can a culture once obsessed with our youthfulness, transition gracefully into our elder years and learn from those who have come before?

Oct 9 “Roll Like Waters” – Rev. Lyn Cox

The prophets of the Hebrew Bible were sources of inspiration during the Civil Rights movement of the 1950s and 60s. We may yet find words that are useful for finding peace in our own hearts and with our neighbors.

Oct 16 “A Little Kinder than Necessary” - Rev. Mark Hoelter

We are living through an extraordinary time in history. It's brutal. What are we called to bring to this time? And how do we possibly do that? What's the spiritual power for super religious liberals?

Oct 23 “This Life and Beyond” - musical meditation by Joe Spatarella

In his last music meditation, Joe took us on a journey through the Planes of Existence. This time, he is searching those planes of existence for an understanding of reincarnation, the afterlife and cosmic justice. Is there life after death? Where do we go after death? When a person dies, the physical body ceases to exist. However, many believe that the rest of his or her consciousness continues on other planes of existence.

Oct 30 “Ancestors” – Rev. Lyn Cox

People we loved who have died remain in our hearts. Sweet Honey in the Rock sings, "They are in the rustling trees. They are in the groaning woods." Calling our beloved ancestors to mind may bring guidance or comfort. For this service, you are welcome to bring a picture or a memento of a human or animal friend or member of your family who has died.

Volunteer Sunday Service Leaders Needed

At our annual meeting we were able to approve a balanced budget by reducing expenditures in a number of areas. A major expense reduction was achieved by reducing Guest Speaker led services to 10 this year. The open Sundays need to be filled with Lay Led Services. Volunteers are needed to lead Sunday Services on November 6th and December 4th. Be creative – you can explore different formats for Lay Led services. To volunteer contact Scott at scott@thebluecrab.com.

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

Our Happenings

Oct 1 Sharing Table – 10am-1pm: We will host the Sharing Table in Edgewood on Saturday October 1st.
Saturday More details below under Outreach. **We need volunteers, please contact Maureen North at mnorth417@gmail.com if you can help.**

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

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

Oct 29 Halloween Open Mic Night – 7pm: Fresh java and musicians open mic. See support info below.
Saturday

Oct 30 Congregational Meeting – after service: Coordinators share their committee goals for this year.
Sunday

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, come and listen to the great music.

Outreach

CIRCLE OF HOPE

If you would like to contribute to our community outreach programs, 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*

We responded to three appeals for financial help this month. The first one came from a lady who has operated her own cleaning service company with several employees in recent years. But more recently a large number of her customers have discontinued or cut back on the frequency her cleaning service. She had to lay off employees and even moved to cheaper housing herself and her children to reduce expenses. The situation continues to worsen and she now is forced to appeal for help to pay her rent. We sent a check to her landlord.

One of the people we had to turn down (because of lack of funds) in the summer called again. Her delinquent rent situation had advanced to the point that the sheriff was coming the next day to evict her unless she could satisfy the debt. She had accumulated \$430 of what she owed and still needed another \$100. I told her we could send \$50 and she said she was sure she'd be able to come up with the other \$50. This was a new experience for the lady and she didn't seem to understand the process. We explained to her she would have to

take the final \$50 to the landlord's office by 10 AM the following morning to stop the eviction and we promptly faxed a letter of intent to the landlord regarding our \$50.

The third person who turned to us also seemed to be dealing with an unfamiliar situation. A young woman with two small children had recently moved back in with her father who is gainfully employed. They claim they never received advance notice from the utility company that a bill was delinquent and that power would be cut off. They were surprised when they woke up one morning with no electricity. We sent a check for \$50 to help with the overdue account.

• **Sharing Table**

We will host the Sharing Table in Edgewood on Saturday October 1st. We start the day around 10am and are finished by no later than 1pm. Meals are served at: Prince of Peace Church, 2206 Willoughby Beach Rd, Edgewood, MD 21040. It's a fun experience and everyone is invited to join us.

• **Welcome One Homeless Shelter**

As we do each month, we made a donation to cover the supplies used on the 13th at the Homeless Shelter when UUs prepare and serve meals. The Homeless Shelter in Riverside is always looking for overnight volunteers on the 13th and breakfast help the morning of the 14th of every month. If anyone is interested please contact Maureen North at mnorth417@gmail.com.

Minister and Co-President's Columns

MINISTER'S COLUMN – REVEREND LYN COX

Over the summer, we took the babies on their first overnight trip to visit with my extended family at the farm where my mother grew up. Through photographs and the landscape, I was re-introduced to ancestors who worked toward the world that my cousins and I now enjoy, a world where women's barriers to voting and education are nothing like what my grandmothers and great-grandmothers knew. Looking at the past not only makes me grateful for the present, it leads me to hope for the future.

October is a good time to reflect on the past. The falling leaves remind us of the passing of time, and the cooler weather slows us down enough to think. One of the themes that is emerging in my sermons for this year relates to figuring out how to live as a Unitarian Universalist. In October, I'd like to listen to the voices of history and heritage on that question.

Whether your fall reflections bring you peace with the past or a closer relationship with the present moment, may your harvest be abundant.

Peace,



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

Many thanks to Lyn for facilitating a successful UUF Board retreat which was held on September 17. During the retreat we looked at the different working styles of the board members, discussed goals for the upcoming year, and looked for ways to mitigate obstacles for achieving those goals. In mid-October, we plan to conduct a working session with committee coordinators to help jointly shape and synchronize those goals that span across committee responsibility areas. Committee coordinators will be receiving a separate email shortly regarding this session. At the annual Congregational Meeting, scheduled for October 30, each committee will have the opportunity to share their committee's vision for achieving the goals articulated by the congregation during the long range planning effort.

Our next Sharing Table event is scheduled at the Prince of Peace Church starting at 10:00 on October 1st. As always, we need your support as a volunteer to make this endeavor a success.

Recently a suggestion was made to change the name of the church band from UU2 to another name since it appears to be causing some confusion with the name of the existing band U2. Some possible suggestions are UUF Band or UU4. Please send any ideas you have regarding this matter to one or more of the UU2 band members (Paul, Larry, Dan, and Jim).

We are excited about the start of a new fall season and October is shaping up to be a productive month for our UUF community. We appreciate your continued involvement and support in our church and we look forward to working with you this year to make our UUF vision a reality.

Respectfully,

Paul & Maureen North
Co-Presidents