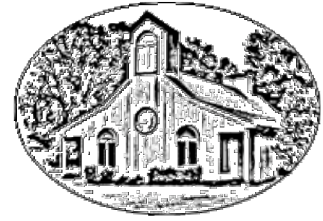




The UU Circle

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalists of Fallston

You Are Welcome Here!



December 2008

A Month of Sundays

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

SUNDAY SERVICES

- Dec 7 "The Shepherd's Prayer" – Rev. Lyn Cox**
Whatever our spiritual practice, be it service or meditation or something else, our practice can help us to confront fear, to love what is concrete and mortal, and to live our lives with sincerity and authenticity.
- Dec 14 "Mary's Christmas" – Rev. Alida DeCoster**
Advent is a time for inward reflection. Waiting has its place in life as miracles take time to come to birth. Mary's story is worth considering in this time of anticipation.
- Dec 21 "Intergenerational-Interfaith Service" – Colette Horn**
- Dec 27 "Rhythms, Readings and Resolutions" - Congregation**
We share music, readings and resolutions of hope as we look forward to 2009.

SUNDAY PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH

Each Sunday, during the Church year, there is a program for youth aged 12 or and younger during the adult service.

The RE Committee will be coordinating the Intergenerational Service which will be held on December 21st. This year the service will be inter-denominational and intergenerational. We hope to see you all there.

It All Happens Here!

- Dec 6 Holiday Open Mic Night, 7:00pm**
Fresh java and musicians open mic hosted by Uncle John Sawbriar.
- Dec 7 RE Committee Meeting: Sunday, 10:00am**
- Dec 13 Board of Trustees Meeting: Saturday, 9:00am**
All are welcome to attend.
- Dec 13 Drum Circle: Saturday, 7:00pm**
All ages are welcome. Extra drums are available for newcomers.

Dec 27 Holiday Social – Caroling and Pot Luck Dinner: Saturday, 6:00pm



Come one, come all - singles, couples and children. Pot Luck Dinner, caroling, entertainment, candlelight and music. If Christmas was hectic and even a bit stressful, this is the time to kick back, relax and enjoy a fun evening.

News You Can Use!

CHRISTMAS FAMILY

Our Christmas family this year is a 38 year-old single mother, Michelle, and her two sons, Christopher (age 16) and Nicholas (age 7). The family lives in Edgewood and is very grateful for our sponsorship.

Christopher is in need of new ankle length athletic socks and boxer shorts -size large. He also enjoys music and video games and would love a gift card to Best Buy or CompUSA.

Nicholas is in need of a new pair of winter pajamas- two piece size 8-9. He likes Pokemon toys and loves to do arts and crafts. His mother suggested a gift card to Wal-Mart.

Michelle would love new pajamas- size 1X. She loves scented candles for the home and anything for the bath/body to help her relax.

Ornaments with gift ideas for the family will be hung on the Christmas tree in the church. For all those interested in purchasing a gift for our Christmas Family, please wrap the gift item, label it with the gift recipient's name and return it to the church on or before Sunday December 21st, 2008. Gifts will be delivered to the family the week of Christmas.

MITTEN TREE

The RE Committee will also be coordinating the Annual Mitten Tree. This is a holiday drive for mittens, hats, scarves and school supplies that will benefit the children of Halls Crossroads Elementary. Please remember to pick up these items as you do your holiday shopping.

Social Responsibility ~ Circle of Hope

“HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS” SOULFUL SUNDOWN SERVICE AIDS OUTREACH

Your generous donations at the service contributed \$140 to our Circle of Hope program to assist those in need in our county. Also, the folks at the Harford Food Pantry were ecstatic to receive the 109 pounds of jelly from our Jelly Tree prior to Thanksgiving. They anticipated a greater demand for food assistance with the kids home from school for the holiday.

Maggie Spatarella reports that the “*Food for the Soul Artpiece*” (pot with cards describing hunger homelessness or experiences or pledges or thoughts on subject) at our Soulful Sundown service had a donation to the Maryland Food Bank attached to the piece – each written card (thought) represented a \$5 donation by an anonymous donor. There were exactly 50 cards (nice and even) and a \$250.00 cash donation was made to the Maryland Food Bank in the honor of UU Fallston Soulful Sundown. Hunger and Homelessness are enormous and global problems solved by individuals. Thanks to every individual who contributed to this art and the Food Bank.

YouTube and **Picasa** slide shows coming soon.

CIRCLE OF HOPE

A grandmother called us for help to prevent a pending eviction notice. She is only able to work part time due to poor health and she is raising two school-aged grandchildren. Normally, with careful planning, she is able to pay her expenses when due. But her 87 year old mother was recently diagnosed with cancer causing an additional drain on the family finances. We sent a check to her landlord for \$40 to help with the delinquent rent.

Thanks to the special collections taken during the Soulful Sundown service on November 16th and John Seay's CD party on November 21st, our coffers have been refilled for our combined outreach activities. We now have a total of \$489.10 in our Circle of Hope Fund.

Reminder: The Grape Jelly Church

Please continue our tradition of jelly generosity by your donations of grape Jelly for the Harford Food Pantry. **These are hard times for many folks. Think PBJ (Purple Brings Joy).**

Did You Know!

CIRCLE OF HOPE

What is the Circle of Hope?

The Circle of Hope is our program of Community Outreach to assist those in need in our county.

☺Neighbors in Need:

We provide direct assistance to families in critical need. With your donations we helped families to stay in their homes. In 2008:

- we helped 14 families with eviction notices make their rent.
- we helped 9 families facing utility cut off with utility bills.

No cash is given. All assistance goes directly to the landlord or utility company.

☺Welcome One Homeless Shelter:

We and the Unitarians of Churchville have supported the shelter with our donations and volunteer support every month. Because of organizational changes we are examining ways to support the shelter on our own.

☺Sharing Table (soup kitchen):

About 3 times a year we and the Unitarians of Churchville host the Sharing Table in Edgewood. We provide and serve the food on a Saturday for about 100 people. The congregation supports this program by donations to buy food and our volunteers staffing the Sharing Table event.

☺Our Grape Jelly Church Supports the Food Pantry:

The Food Pantry gets bread donations from local grocery stores and peanut butter from government sources. The Food Pantry always needs grape jelly because of the families with children they serve. In 2008 we have donated about 40-50 pounds of grape jelly every two weeks. We can do even better with your support!

How do we fund our Circle of Hope programs?

The program is supported by direct donations from UUF members and friends and by folks attending special programs such as: Soulful Sundown Services, concerts, open mic nights or other events. The recent Soulful Sundown service raised \$140.00 and John Seay's CD release party raised \$173.00. We occasionally make a direct call for money or volunteers if we need additional help.