



The UU Circle

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalists of Fallston



You Are Welcome Here!

December 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

- Dec 6** **“Candle in the Window” - Rev. Lyn Cox** As the weather turns colder, we look for signs that warm, open hearts still abide. A single flame can communicate welcome to neighbors, prepare a celebration, or remind us to be hospitable to ourselves.
- Dec 13** **Intergenerational Service - Colette Horn and RE Dept** The program is an Inter-Generational and Interfaith Celebration of the winter solstice. We will have our traditional reading and slide show of Stone Soup, along with the soup fundraiser during coffee hour.
- Dec 20** **“Room at the Inn” - Rev. Lyn Cox**
The Advent story is an annual reminder about making room, yet we may find a different aspect of "making room" meaningful each year. Possible readings of this story speak to welcoming the stranger, responding to scarcity with creativity, and setting aside time for reflection.
- Dec 27** **“Rhythms, Readings and Resolutions” – Congregation**
We share music, readings and resolutions of hope as we look forward to 2010.

Our Happenings

- Dec 5** **Holiday Open Mic– 7pm:** Fresh java and musicians open mic hosted by Uncle John Sawbriar.
Saturday
- Dec 12** **Board of Trustees Meeting – 1:30pm:** All are welcome to attend.
Saturday
- Dec 13** **Homeless Shelter Support:** Contact Paul or Maureen North for volunteer opportunities.
Sunday
- Dec 29** **Holiday Caroling and Dinner – 6pm:** Pot Luck Dinner, caroling, candlelight, music and entertainment
Tuesday by Music Americana.
- Jan 2** **Sharing Table – 10-am-1:30pm:** Our church will be hosting the Sharing Table on Saturday, 2 at the Prince of Peace Church in Edgewood. We are looking for 5-7 additional volunteers to help set up, serve, and clean up that day. We usually arrive around 10:00 and finish up around 1:30. If you are interested in helping out, please sign up at the church bulletin board or email Paul (paul.north@jhuapl.edu) or Maureen North (mnorth@ccps.org)."
Saturday

The Season of Joy and Generosity

UUF CHRISTMAS FAMILY

Our Christmas Family this year is a father, his girlfriend, and his two children. The children are Alvin Jr. age 12 and Adrianna age 7. A tree with ornaments displaying the gift items will be in the lobby of the church. If you choose to donate cash or check please indicate your gift is for the Christmas Family and place it in the collection plate. All cash/check donations will be used to purchase a gift card to Giant grocery store for the family to use towards their holiday meal. Please place all wrapped gifts under the Mitten Tree with a gift tag indicating who the gift is for. **Bring your gifts to the church by December 13, 2009.** The gifts will be delivered to the family on Thursday Dec. 17. If you have any questions please contact Laura Williams.

Alvin

electric razor
wallet New

Christina

pants - size 18 petite
Musk for women cologne
slippers - size 9

Alvin Jr.

jeans – size 16
shirts size - mens med.
flannel PJ's
sneakers - size mens 9
Tech Deck toys
WWF toys/items
Mongoose bicycle gloves(black)- size L

Adrianna

jeans- size 8
shirts - size 8
dress shoes (black)- size 2
Playstation 2 - Dora the Explorer game
puzzles
word search activity books
bicycle helmet

MITTEN TREE

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

HOLIDAY SOCIAL – CAROLING AND POT LUCK DINNER: SATURDAY, 6:00PM



Come one, come all - singles, couples and children. Pot Luck Dinner, caroling, candle light and entertainment by members of Music Americana. 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

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. Credo will meet January 10, January 24, February 7, February 21, March 7, and March 21. All classes will be held from 1:00 to 3:00PM. Look for a sign up sheet in early December.

Community Outreach

CIRCLE OF HOPE

Since the last update, five people have appealed for our Neighbors in Need help.

The first call came from a young woman who was homeless four months earlier. With help from Social Services she had been able to find a job and rent an apartment for herself and her two children. Since then she had lost her job, is struggling to find another. We sent a check to help her catch up on her delinquent rent.

The next person needing help was a young woman who had been surviving without lights, hot water or the use of any appliances because her electric had been cut off a week before. We sent a check to BGE to be applied toward her delinquent utility bill.

The third appeal was from a woman with two sons who had received an eviction notice. Earlier this year her husband left them and she also lost her job. She has since been employed but has not been able to catch up on all of her bills. We sent a check to her landlord toward the back rent.

A man called appealing for help on a security deposit. He's moving from Pennsylvania because he was able to find a job in the Bel Air area after having been unemployed for several months. He was pleased to find an affordable modest place to live but was having trouble coming up with enough for the security deposit. We mailed a check to his prospective landlord to help with that deposit.

The last call was from a 55 year old single woman who has been out of work for 18 months. She has spent her way through her savings and now is receiving calls for delinquent bills. She is trying very hard to find any kind of a job and has hopes of a call back from one interview last week. We sent a check to BGE to help with her electric bill.

As usual, we paid \$30 for the supplies used by UUs on the 13th at the Homeless Shelter in Riverside.

All the \$55 donated at the Soulful Sundown Service on the 15th went to support our Circle of Hope programs. All of our outreach programs are supported by special contributions marked with a notation "for Circle of Hope".

Thank you for your donations. They are always welcome and every penny goes to help someone in need in Harford County.

Minister and President's Columns

MINISTER'S COLUMN DECEMBER 2009

One of the things I appreciate most about the Unitarian Universalists of Fallston is the warm welcome. Everyone from the greeters at the door to the hospitality volunteers to the members who wear their nametags show their readiness to welcome the stranger. UUF's Circle of Hope outreach operates out of a sense of interdependence with the local community. Members and friends of the congregation make connections between UUF and the wider community in a variety of ways. We know that our destinies and those of our neighbors are intertwined, and that kindness ripples outward to embrace us all.

Knowing that hospitality is an important spiritual and ethical value for our congregation, I hope we are on the lookout for ways to improve our welcome. This month, let's make a practice of using a "hospitality lens" for our interactions with each other. When we make decisions about showing up, choosing our words, and sharing abundance, let's imagine how our decisions will help us to welcome the stranger. The congregation is doing a great job already. Let's continue the spiritual discipline of keeping our hearts and doors wide open.

I believe that the path of hospitality cultivates hope, peace, joy, and love. Coincidentally, these are also the themes of the four candles of the Advent wreath, which we'll experiment with during worship this year. Each week, we'll take some time during the service to hear a few words from each other about these themes. What's our UU take on these ideas? As we light the candles, we can imagine preparing our spiritual home for guests, illuminating our blessings, and strengthening our circle of love. May peace be with you this season.

- Reverend Lyn Cox

Greetings from the President:

During this busy holiday season (whatever holiday you might be celebrating), remember to take time to tell your friends and family how much they mean to you. I feel very lucky that Steve, the boys and I walked through the doors almost 11 years ago. The Unitarian Universalists of Fallston have added much to our life. Friendships, musical appreciation, spiritual growth, sometimes even just a reason to get up on a Sunday morning. Thank you all,

- Alison Elliott