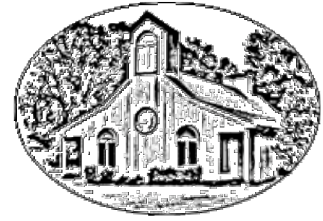




# The UU Circle

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalists of Fallston

*You Are Welcome Here!*



**May 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

**May 3 Unity Service at the historic First Unitarian Church of Baltimore – 11am**  
Rev. Peter Morales, candidate for UUS President, will speak at this service where Unitarian Universalists from around the Joseph Priestly District gather on the anniversary of William Ellery Channing's 1870 landmark sermon on "Unitarian Christianity." A lay led service by Scott Phillips titled "Gunpowder Joe" will be held at our church.

**May 3 Evening Soulful Sundown Service: Unity - 6:00pm:** A meditative service using the arts to express our commitment to and value of Unity.

**May 10 "God" - Rev. Lyn Cox**  
Unitarian Universalists seek the Divine in many forms. We may find holiness in nature, in caring for one another, or in music. Some of us name God as the source of the sacred, some of us bring other names. The more we share our perspectives with one another, the more we are able to accept one another and to encourage one another in spiritual growth.

**May 17 "The Long Goodbye" – Rev. Alida DeCoster**  
Life is full of goodbyes. Thankfully, it is full of hellos too. All my life, in the back of my mind, I knew my parents would die. Finally, my dad died in November. I have experienced sadness and gratitude as well as joy in the aftermath. Spring seems like a good time to reflect on this subject.

**May 24 "Voice Lessons: Speaking Truth to Power" – Rev. Mark Hoelter**  
The "Chakra Series" continues: If you had a chance to speak truth to someone in power, who would it be?... What would you say?... How would you say it?... What fears would arise?... What if the "someone in power" were you? It is.... In all this, we enter the sphere of capital-C Creativity.

**May 31 "Angels, Science and Healing" – Dr. Dahlia Hirsch**  
Dr. Hirsch is one of the pioneers of Holistic Medicine in Harford County and continues to be actively engaged in the promotion of holistic health issues and practices.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Intermediate-Middle School RE Class is using The Strong Kids curriculum, in which they will learn tools for recognizing and dealing with their feelings and the feelings of others.

## *It All Happens Here*

**May 9**     **Board of Trustees Meeting – 9am:** All are welcome to attend.  
Saturday

**May 9**     **Drum for Peace – 7pm:** All ages are welcome to the drumming circle and extra drums  
Saturday     and other instruments are usually available for general use.

**May 16**     **UUF Singles Group – 4pm:** The Singles Group meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month.  
Saturday     Join in for fun, music, food and diverse cultural activities. See article below for information  
on this month's activities.

**May 17**     **Annual Meeting and Pot Luck following the service:** See article below.  
Sunday

## *News You Can Use*

### **POT LUCK**

May 17<sup>th</sup>. Time to enjoy a meal together! Bring a dish to share at the pot luck lunch which will follow the morning service. (You can leave the food in the kitchen before service.)

### **ANNUAL MEETING**

May 17th. Following the morning service and pot luck, please plan to stay for our Annual Meeting and participate in discussions about our future and to amend or approve the proposed budget of \$32,789 and to vote on the officers for next year. Alison Elliott will assume the office of President as her term is ending this month as President-Elect. The following people are nominated:

#### ***Board of Trustees:***

- Vice President – Scott Phillips
- Secretary – Ave Childrey
- Treasurer – Laura Williams
- President Elect – Cheri Wilson

#### ***Nominating Committee:***

- Francie Glidden
- Paul Phillippi
- Charlene Phillips

### **CIRCLE OF HOPE**

• ***Do you have a tent or sleeping bags no longer being used by your family?*** The Faith Communities & Civic Agencies United have issued a special appeal from the director of the Welcome One Fellowship Center in Edgewood which provides daytime food and services for the homeless. Many of their clients do not stay in the overnight shelter in Riverside either because they are not eligible or they prefer to be on their own at night. The homeless men are in dire need of these items. If you have a tent or sleeping bag to donate, please contact Mark Nolder at [marknolder@hotmail.com](mailto:marknolder@hotmail.com).

• In April we responded to two requests for financial assistance. The first one was to prevent the cut off of electricity from the utility company and the second one was in response to a pending eviction. Both cases were caused by drastic reductions in working hours which resulted in insufficient income to cover the family expenses. It is sad that they don't have any reason to think that the situations will improve any time soon.

## *Did You Know*

### **ELECTION OF UUA PRESIDENT**

At the General Assembly in June we the member congregations will elect a new UUA President to succeed the Reverend Bill Sinkford. As a UUA member congregation we will have a vote. The two candidates for President with links to their websites are:

- Dr. Laurel Hallman <http://www.hallmanforuapresident.com/>
- The Reverend Peter Morales <http://www.moralesforuapresident.org/>

The Reverend Peter Morales will be giving the sermon on Unity Sunday at the First Unitarian Church of Baltimore on May 3rd. We successfully used the Path to Membership Program developed by Reverend Morales and his congregation. This is a great opportunity to hear and meet him.

## *Columns*

### **FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT**

Dear Fellow UUs and Friends,

It's hard to believe, but this is the last letter I will be writing to you as president. I'd like to begin by thanking the Board members who have served with me: Alison Elliot, president-elect, Tom Diggin, vice president, Charlene Phillips, treasurer, and Paul Phillippi, secretary. You have all been wonderful to work with. You even put up with my asking you to meet at 9:00 Saturday morning! And while everyone is probably tired of hearing me say it, we have had an amazing year. We've added nine new members and another children's R.E. class. Through the efforts of our creative members, we had something special scheduled every month this past year. We have enjoyed Soulful Sundown services and Open Mike music organized by Mark Nolder, kids and adult parties, circle dinners, a Mystery Theater, and the list goes on and on. All of these events came about because people have stepped up and donated their time and talents. That's what makes this a great fellowship.

The coming year will reflect our growth. We will once again have the services of a part-time minister, Rev. Lyn Cox. The addition of another R.E. class for our children will happen due to the tireless work of Colette Horn and the R. E. Department. Through the efforts of Gail Drew, we now have a Singles Group that meets monthly. And our latest addition is that we once again have a choir thanks to the innovative and persuasive tactics of Anne Bredlow.

While sitting in church last Sunday listening to yet another thought provoking sermon, I reflected on all the talented speakers we have heard this year. A big "well done" goes to Scott Phillips and the Program Committee. As an admitted coffee addict, I must also thank Cheri Wilson for organizing the after service snacks. A final thought on the spirit of fellowship in this congregation. At the last clean-up day, there we were, all playing in the dirt together. We dug up shrubs, put in new plants, pulled weeds, and trimmed bushes. The work was hard and monotonous, but we were actually appearing to enjoy it. And why was that? It was because we were all working together to beautify our religious home. That's what makes this a great fellowship.

Sincerely,

Lucille B. Sonnichsen, President

## CONSULTING MINISTER'S COLUMN

I feel abundantly blessed to be able to write this column as your Consulting Minister. The coming year holds much promise for our work together. Please see the "Welcome from Our Minister" page on the UUF website for some of the reasons why I am excited about serving this congregation.

You are already aware of the details of the consulting agreement, such as worship and adult religious education. Ministers and congregations in consulting arrangements like ours are encouraged to have some goals in mind. For the most part, our goals have to do with growth.

UUF has already begun a trend of numerical growth by clarifying expectations in the Path to Membership class and by being your warm, hospitable selves when greeting visitors. I will attend Path to Membership whenever possible so that we can work together on numerical growth. We hope to achieve other kinds of growth as well.

In his book, "More Than Numbers: The Ways Churches Grow," Loren B. Mead suggests that congregations have the capacity for maturational growth, organic growth, and incarnational growth, as well as for numerical growth. A congregation might grow in one area and not the others, yet each area of growth gives support to the others.

Maturational growth has to do with our ability to nurture and be nurtured. When members increase their personal understanding of what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist, that is maturational growth. Our plans for workshops and adult religious education speak to maturational growth goals, as does lively worship.

Organic growth relates to UUF's ability to maintain itself as an institution. When we develop our gifts through service and leadership in the congregation, that is organic growth. When members on committees and the Board increase their ability to work together as a spiritual practice, that is organic growth. Toward this end, I will occasionally visit with committees and the Board and offer my perspective.

Incarnational growth is about applying our values in real, concrete ways outside the congregation. UUF's reputation as a responsible, caring member of the interfaith community is a measure of our incarnational growth. For the UU's of Fallston, I think the key to incarnational growth is to notice the spiritual aspects of our acts of compassion. I will be listening for ways we can add a reflective component to the good works members already do on behalf of UUF.

I am very excited about the journey before us. I look forward to making these plans a reality, and to getting to know the whole congregation better. See you soon!

- Lyn Cox

## *Church Finances*

### **BUDGET AND PLEDGE DRIVE**

The proposed budget for the coming fiscal year (June 09 thru May 10) totals \$32,789. The pledge drive is underway – to date nine members have pledged a total \$9,540. We are off to a good start but have a ways to go! There are copies of the pledge form on the table by the front door in the church lobby which you can complete and place in the collection plate on a Sunday or hand it to the treasurer, Charlene Phillips. (You can also just e-mail me with the info at [charlene\\_phillips@usa.net](mailto:charlene_phillips@usa.net))