



Newsletter

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Easton

December 2007

Sermons

Dec. 2 What Child Is This?

One of Dan Higgins' mother's favorite carols was written by William C. Dix. "What child is this, who laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?" As we enter the Advent/Christmas season may we ponder Dix's question.

Dec. 9 Freeing Our Families from Perfectionism

Based on the book of this title, our guest preacher, Rev. Melora Lynngood, will explore the challenging phenomenon of perfectionism as it affects children, adults, families -- and church families. Rev. Lynngood has served as Minister of the UU Community Church of Sacramento and as Interim Minister in Newport, R.I., UU church.

Dec. 16 Lessons Learned in Costa Rica

This past summer Juliet Smith spent ten weeks traveling, living, and teaching in Costa Rica as a WorldTeach Volunteer. She will share what she has learned from this cross-cultural experience.

Dec. 23 Sounds In The Silence

Joseph Mohr's carol "Silent Night, Holy Night" is the best known and the most familiar carol. Does the silence have anything to say to us in this season of Christmastide? Dan helps us hear the silence.

Dec. 24 The Other Wise Man

On Christmas Eve (5:00 p.m.) with songs, readings, and Henry Van Dyke's novel about the fourth Wise Man, we gather with families and friends to celebrate Christmas. Dan leads us in this celebration.

Dec. 30 Spiritual Comings and Goings

The week before New Years can feel like the "big empty" - a gift of days to clear out the old and prepare for the new. This infers growth, change, redirection. Does our spiritual consciousness shift and re-shape also? Sue Loweree invites us to consider our own growth while listening to four members reflect on this question.

Sunday Service and School

10:00 a.m.

7401 Ocean Gateway



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Visit our web site
<http://www.ufeaston.org>
for more information about our Fellowship, for
current and past editions of the Newsletter and
monthly calendar.

Read the weekly sermons and continue
our after-sermon multilogues at
<http://uufe-dialogue.blogspot.com>

Religious Education

Our Calendar

Dec. 2

UU Principle 6 – World Community with Peace, Liberty, and Justice for all

Dec. 9

UU Principle 6 – In Harmony

Dec. 16

UU Principle 6 – Working it out

Dec. 23

Celebration

Dec. 30

Setting Goals

A Few Words from Religious Education

In December we will study Unitarian Universalist principle six. - about a world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all. We will define what it means to have a peaceful world and a peaceful community. We will discuss our role as peacemakers. We will talk about harmony and compare that harmony in our lives to musical instruments. Our final lesson about UU principle six will be about handling our angry feelings and compromising.

Also in December we will celebrate the holidays associated with December and set goals for the new year – 2008!

Happy Holidays to everyone!

Liz Hausburg, DRE

Religious Education Needs for December

- ◇ Juice Boxes
- ◇ Colored pencils

(If you have an item to donate, please see Liz Hausburg, Nancy Dimond or Colleen Ronning.)

Ministerial Thoughts

Daniel's Docket:

Howard Thurman (1900-1981), former dean of Marsh Chapel at Boston University, who deeply influenced Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote "The Work of Christmas."

"When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the shepherds are back with their flocks, the work of Christmas begins;

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace,
To make music in the heart."

Jean, Catlin, and I wish you and yours a blessed Christmas.



President's Corner

How FULL is your bucket?

My youngest son recently gave me a small volume to read titled *How FULL is your bucket?* by Tom Rath and Donald Clifton, Ph. D. As a supervisor for a medical supply company, he found this volume full of useful advice about steps to take to motivate people and create a positive work environment.

The theory of the Dipper and the Bucket from the book is quoted below:

"Each of us has an invisible bucket. It is constantly emptied or filled, depending on what others say or do to us. When our bucket is full, we feel great. When it's empty, we feel awful. Each of us also has an invisible dipper. When we use that dipper to fill other people's buckets – by saying or doing things to increase their positive emotions – we also fill our own bucket. But when we use that dipper to dip from others' buckets – by saying or doing things that decrease their positive emotions – we diminish ourselves.

Like a cup that runneth over, a full bucket gives us a positive outlook and renewed energy. Every drop in that bucket makes us stronger and more optimistic. But an empty bucket poisons our outlook, saps our energy, and undermines our will. That's why every time someone dips from our bucket, it hurts us.

So we face a choice every moment of every day: We can fill one another's buckets, or we can dip from them. It's an important choice – one that profoundly influences our relationships, productivity, health, and happiness."

I found this strategy for living to be especially positive and meaningful. My personal experience in the UUF community is that we have a number of people who practice this philosophy on a daily basis. This is the essence of a caring community and is something that all of us should strive for.

Dick Doughty

Gatherings

Youth Roller skating and Pizza, Dec. 2 - Dover

Get to know other UU kids (5th grade & up) from Chester River UU, UU of Southern Delaware (Lewes) and UU of Central Delaware (Dover). UU of Central Delaware Dover is hosting this afternoon of fun starting at 1:30 pm. The cost is just \$12 which includes admission, skates, pizza and soda (financial assistance is available). We will carpool from the Fellowship after the Sunday service. Contact Colleen Ronning colleendr13@yahoo.com or 410-770-3843 for more information and to sign up.

Meditation, Wednesdays, Dec. 5 and 19

The Easton Meditation Group meets at 7p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month. Newcomers to meditation are welcome. Questions? Contact Laura Winne. 410 476-4774

First Friday Youth Night, Friday, Dec. 7

We have expanded this program to include kids from 6th grade & up. Join us at 7:00 pm for a spaghetti dinner, 'make your own sundaes' and fun. Bring a friend!

Spiritual Adventure, Wednesday, Dec. 12

Monty Python and The Holy Grail is the ultimate "quest" movie. It is the last in our series of movies with the theme of questing as spiritual adventure. We hope you will come and enjoy this classic spoof of the Arthurian tales. Perhaps it will turn into a sing-a-long evening. Bring a brown bag at 6:00 pm, movie at 7:00. Drinks and Dessert provided. *Gail Woodall*

Women's Lunch, Thursday, Dec. 13

We've been invited to Barbara Doughty's home for a brown bag lunch. It's a lovely spot overlooking the Choptank, about a 25 minute drive from church so we will carpool from there at 11:30. If you wish to go it on your own, follow Dover Road, east from Easton. After crossing the river, go left on Tanyard at the little store. Continue about 3 miles, then left on Hog Creek Road, straight through the first stop sign; and then left at the second stop sign on Bell Creek Road. After the curve, turn left on lane marked #6280. Follow the lane until it turns left, again, at the white post marked #6280 to the house in the trees. Her number is 410-673-7580.

Choir practice, Thursdays, Dec. 13 and 20

At the church, 7:30 to 8:30 pm.

Holiday Potluck, Sunday, Dec. 16

Get ready to bring your favorite Christmas or Hanukkah dish to our annual holiday potluck, immediately following the worship service. No need to sign up. Just be there and be ready to enjoy yourself. There will be music and caroling following the meal. This event is always a perfect respite in the midst of holiday preparations. If you have questions call Gail Woodall 410 820-8541

Fellowship Friday

This event has been cancelled for November and December because of its proximity to the holidays. But mark **January 25** on your calendars and come prepared for food, fun, and fellowship! If you have an idea for an activity you'd like to share on a Fellowship Friday just let us know. *Jean Rhian and Rita Barker*

Dinner and Movie Night

December's Friday night movie event will not be held.

David Stevens

Book Group Cancelled but resumes January 24th.

Joannie Baynard



Guest at Your Table

Giving thanks by giving back has been an important UU Service Committee project since 1975. Put a "Guest at Your Table" box on your family's dinner table and discuss together what it means to welcome a guest at your table. If you were not in church on November 18th, you can pick up a box in the foyer at a future service. Boxes are to be returned on December 30th or January 6th.



Out of Space - A Good Problem to Have

On a recent Sunday we ran out of parking spaces. If you arrive early enough, please pull up in front of spaces on the North side of our parking lot so that there is room in back of your car for one more car.

Holiday Open House, Saturday, Dec 8

Liz Hausburg and Laura Winne invite you to drop by from 3 to 8 p.m., to visit and oooh and aaaaah over Liz's "Holiday Village Efforts" (it takes up their entire sun room). Refreshments will be served. Easy to find us - just a little over 7 miles south of the Fellowship in Trappe at 3835 Seymour Drive. In Trappe, turn left at Barber Road, then second left on Seymour Drive. We look forward to seeing you!

Board News

A review of our annual budget projects our annual expenses at just over \$100,000, rather than the original projection of almost \$119,000. Changes in staff expenses, along with projections of slightly higher income from building rentals and investments, will enable us to avoid spending our \$20,000 JPD Chalice Lighters grant this fiscal year. We will need that money during fiscal year 2009, when we will incur the costs of a full time interim minister and the search for a called minister. Consequently, the Board has approved the removal of the \$20,000 as an income line item from FY2008 Budget and has invested most of that money in a certificate of deposit.

Updated Policy for Alcoholic Beverage Use at UUFE

At the Board Meeting on November 13th, our policy was simplified to make it easier to understand and administer.

Serving alcoholic beverages on UUFE's premises is subject to the following regulations:

- UUFE will abide by all applicable federal, state and local laws.
- The serving of alcoholic beverages is permitted at wedding receptions, memorial services, and at UUFE's masquerade ball. Permission to serve such drinks at any other event is at the discretion of the Board of Trustees. Food will be served at all events with alcoholic beverages.
- When alcohol is served, non alcoholic alternatives will be offered with equal attractiveness and accessibility. Furthermore, all bottles, punchbowls pitchers, etc. which contain decanted alcoholic beverages will be clearly labeled "contains alcohol".
- An event's sponsor is responsible for ensuring that anyone who becomes intoxicated at the event is provided immediate transportation home.
- The serving of alcoholic beverages at any UUFE event will not be publicized as a main attraction of the event.

Adult Religious Education

Building Your Own Theology

On Wednesday, January 9, 2008, the Adult Religious Education Committee will offer a 10-session class called "Building Your Own Theology". Within a group context, individuals will reflect on their religious experiences and knowledge and create their own credos. The process of study, reflection, group discussion, and credo-writing guides participants in examining and articulating their own and the group's theology. Each person writes his or her spiritual odyssey and the group discusses varieties of religious experience, human nature, ultimate reality, history, ethics, and religious meaning. Nancy Dimond will co-lead the class with another one or two leaders. This is not a drop-in class. Because the sessions are sequential and build upon previous content, signing up for the class indicates an intention to attend as many of the classes as your schedule allows. We understand, however, that many people may have to miss one or two sessions because of personal commitments. Independent study and exercises to be completed will usually compensate for missed sessions. We need 6 people to form the class and registration will be limited to 10. The first class is January 9, 2008 and continues every other Wednesday evening from 7 – 9 p.m. through May 14. Please call the church office at 410-822-8301 or send an email to uufe@verizon.net to secure your place.

Adult R.E. Movie Night, Wednesday Dec. 12

Monte Python and the Holy Grail. See details on page 3 under **Gatherings**

Watch for announcements of other December Adult R.E. programs in Sunday bulletins or in e-mails sent from our UUFE office.

NOW IS THE TIME !

The Unitarian Universalist Association has launched a major advertising and awareness campaign, **NOW IS THE TIME**, to support growth, leadership, diversity, and witness. Ads have appeared in recent issues of TIME magazine.

The Rev. William G. Sinkford, President of the UUA, in a letter to churches wrote, "Now is the time to pool our resources to make ourselves known to all those seeking a liberal religious home. Now is the time to grow our congregations stronger and more effective. Let us summon the courage to let the world know what we stand for."

If you desire to contribute to this campaign, envelopes are available in the church office and on the literature table in the foyer.

Capital Campaign Update

In October a payment of \$64,000 was made on the principle of our line of credit at Talbot Bank. Our current balance is \$73,394. Thank you very much for your strong support of the Capital Campaigns. The interest paid in October was \$847. The faster we pay this loan off the less interest we pay to the bank. Keep your payments coming!
Jerry Fairbanks

Social Action

Winterization Project

Saturday, November 3, a team of five volunteers, including three members of UUFE, winterized two homes, one on Port Street and another on South Street. The goal was to insulate windows and doors, making the houses ready for the upcoming winter months. The team also found a couple of doors that needed better insulation around their frames. One air conditioner was covered with a special insulation bag and another was removed from its window. These simple tasks will make a big difference in energy bills. (All insulation supplies are paid by Easton Utilities.) Thanks to volunteers Ralph Steinberger, Dick Doughty, Len Janssen, Ralph Young, and Jim Richardson. Thanks also to Kelly Malone from Trinity Cathedral for organizing this effort. If you would like to be involved in this project, please contact Jim Richardson or Eric Stocker.

Mandela and DeKlerk Movie, Friday, Dec. 21

At 7:00 pm in the Third Haven Common Room, the Social Action Coalition will show the film, "Mandela and DeKlerk", rated PG13 for disturbing images of political violence. [Sidney Pottier](#) is spellbinding as Nelson Mandela in this made-for-TV drama that chronicles the leader's 27-year struggle to end apartheid. Segregation was abolished without widespread bloodletting due to the political maneuverings of South African President F.W. de Klerk ([Michael Caine](#)). Filmed in Cape Town, South Africa, this film reflects the important events of those tumultuous times. Come at 6:00 for social hour.

Talbot Association of Clergy and Laity

An anonymous donor has contributed \$2500 to the TACL Good Samaritan Fund with the stipulation that if the community matches this \$2500, an additional \$2500 will be contributed to the fund. Last year the Fund gave \$5400 to 60 worthy families, but had to turn away another 60 equally worthy families. Contributions are tax deductible. Please send donations earmarked for the Good Samaritan Fund to TACL, PO Box 1352, Easton, MD 21601.



Rebuilding Together Caroline County and Mid Shore Salvage Depot

are groups working in tandem to provide free service to low-income Mid-Shore homeowners who are elderly, disabled or families with children and are facing necessary but unaffordable home repairs.

In support of this mission, we maintain an architectural salvage depot in Harmony, Md. to facilitate the recycling of usable construction materials, making them available at low cost to homeowners, thereby reducing waste and promoting environmental sustainability. Our current projects:

- Replacing skirting on a single-wide home in Federalsburg to prevent frozen plumbing. (Completed)
- Assisting in deconstructing a home in Ridgely to harvest reusable architectural features
- Moving a newer double-wide to replace an older unit in Harmony
- Patching a roof in Preston

What we need: Administration help, Data entry, Marketing, Signage, Money, Physical help performing repairs, and "retail" sales help at our warehouse.

For information contact Jake Jacobs (443)496-1594
Rebuilding Together/Mid Shore Salvage Depot, PO Box 534, Denton MD 21629

Member News



The next Membership Committee meeting is Tuesday, December 11, 3:00 p.m. at the Fellowship building.

New Member

Emily Cranwell is our newest member. Emily teaches 2nd grade at the Country School. Look for her biography in an upcoming newsletter and look for Emily at the Fellowship to make her acquaintance.

?!UUFE&&UUA!!
JPD*TACL@RE##ARE!!!**
GA==UU!?

As a newcomer to our services, would this language resonate with our welcome statement that says, "We are an intentionally inclusive congregation...?" One of the primary goals of the Membership Committee for the coming year is to assist the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Easton (UUFE) in becoming the most hospitable congregation in all of the Joseph Priestly District (JPD). We would like to further one of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) goals to increase our membership. In our children's religious education (RE) programs as well as in our adult religious education (ARE) programs we try to promote the idea of inclusiveness. Our denomination's General Assembly (GA), held each year, conducts numerous workshops on growth and how to welcome all those who cross our threshold. In addition to being a shining example in our own Unitarian Universalist (UU) circles, it would be nice if our local Talbot Association of Clergy and Laity (TACL) recognized our church as one that truly practices hospitality as a spiritual exercise in the community.

So – watch your language! You may be leaving our newcomers in a fog of confusion. *Gail Woodall (GRW)*



New Member Biographies



Meet Juliet Smith

It's always a pleasure to meet someone who has a passion for their work. Juliet Smith is that kind of someone. Though superbly qualified for her job as instructor of developmental education at Chesapeake College, her credentials are merely the framework which shapes her enthusiasm for sharing knowledge. The curriculum she teaches provides remedial education in English to those whose high school education has left them unprepared for college.

Juliet was born in MD, but called Minnesota home for most of her childhood before moving to TX for her college education. She attended Catholic schools from K through college, then obtained two master's degrees from the State University of New York and completed her D.Ed. at Penn State.

During the summer of 2005, Juliet accepted a job as instructor at Chesapeake College and moved to Easton, eager to complete her thesis and teach. She had done some adult literacy work and knew that this field was right for her.

Growing up Catholic, Juliet loved going to church on Sunday and connecting to things beyond herself and her life. As time went on, however, she grew away from that faith because so many of her questions went unanswered. When she moved to PA for her doctorate, her desire to explore religious ideas was rekindled and she was drawn to a group of people who were confident in their beliefs, happy with their lives, etc. They were reformed Presbyterians and evangelical in their ways. When Juliet realized that she could not accept Jesus as her savior, she turned to a UU church in her area and attended it for a time.

A year into her job at the College, Juliet decided it was time to branch out into the Easton community. That brought her to UUFE. She was pleased by the quality of the sermons, the friendliness and intelligence of the people, the lovely new building, etc. Soon she was singing in the choir and exploring ways to put her values into action. The Social Action Committee and environmental projects are high on her list of interests.

Last summer Juliet spent 2 months as a volunteer secondary school teacher in a remote section of Costa Rica. At our service on Dec. 16th, she will share with us what she learned from her experiences there. We are so pleased to welcome Juliet as one of our new members and look forward to her participation in our Fellowship.

Liz McGroary

Meet Ann Davis

Ann and her husband, Jack, are in the final stages of relocating from their home of 37 years in the Wilmington, Delaware area, to a new home in Talbot County on the Miles River. Describing herself as an 'Army Brat', Ann was born in Boston, but lived in many places e.g., Germany, S. Carolina, Panama, Pakistan and New Jersey. She fondly recalls her early childhood years in Aiken, S. Carolina, where she acquired her love of horseback riding. She attended Elmira College and acquired her graduate degree in Speech Language Pathology from Syracuse University.

While on a summer vacation from college, visiting her parents in Panama, she met her future husband, Jack, who was stationed there in the Navy. (He grew up in Berlin, MD.) After graduation and marriage, Ann embarked on a career as a Speech Language Pathologist in Wilmington, first in the field of public health and later in the public school system. The last 12 years, until her retirement, she moved into private practice. Now her husband is nearing retirement as an accountant and they are making the transition from Wilmington to the Eastern Shore.

When Ann signed our Membership Book several months ago, it marked a loss for the Unitarian Universalist Society of Mill Creek, Delaware, but a significant gain for us. Ann was a very active member there, serving as Membership Chairman for 10 years and assuming the leadership of a Small Group Ministry. In this role she spearheaded the development of Covenant Groups, bi-monthly gatherings of 10 or fewer members with a facilitator. Their purpose was to develop close relationships and to facilitate spiritual growth. She found this experience emotionally and intellectually fulfilling.

When Ann and Jack are settled here, they look forward to many outdoor activities, including kayaking and bicycling. We are grateful that Ann has joined our congregation and know that there are many avenues where she can apply her considerable experience and talents. Ann, we look forward to your participation in the Fellowship.

Jean Griffith



December 2007



Calendar of Events - Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Easton

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10:00 am Worship Svc., Children's RE 1:30 pm Youth Roller Skating in Dover	3	4 7:00 pm Social Action Committee Meeting	5 11:30 am Men's Lunch 7:00 pm Meditation Group	6 5:00 to 5:30 Silent Peace Vigil in front of the Courthouse <i>Each Thursday</i>	7 7:00 pm First Friday Youth Night	8
9 10:00 am Worship Service and Children's RE	10 5:15 pm Religious Education Committee meeting	11 3:00 pm Membership Committee Meeting 6:30 pm Board Mtg.	12 6:00 pm Adult RE Brown Bag and Movie, <i>Monte Python</i>	13 12:00 pm Women's Lunch. Car- pool is at 11:30 7:30 pm Choir Practice	14	15
16 10:00 am Worship Svc and Children's RE. Holiday Pot- luck follows the service	17	18	19 11:30 am Men's Lunch 7:00 pm Meditation Group	20 7:30 pm Choir Practice	21 7:00 pm Movie at Third Haven. 7:00 pm Drumming Circle	22
23 10:00 am Worship Service and Children's RE	24 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service	25 	26 10:00 am Hunger Coal. Lunches	27	28	29
30 10:00 am Worship Service and Children's RE	31					

UUFE Contacts

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Interim Minister Daniel G. Higgins, Jr., D.Min,
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Unitarian Universalist Principles

Unitarian Universalism is a faith for those who want the freedom to develop their own religious values and beliefs without being bound by creed or dogma. There are seven principles which Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregation and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence, of which we are a part.



www.uufeaston.org

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November 2007

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP AT
EASTON, MARYLAND
PO BOX 1162
EASTON, MD 21601

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

