

Newsletter

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Easton

March 2007

Sermons

Sermon on the Amount

March 4

Jim confesses that he stole this title from his friend, Mike Smith, but the sermon, itself comes from him and applies to this congregation. Special service music by Dorothy Lewis, piano, and Sue Loweree, recorder

March 11, The Ministry We Share

This is the second of Jim's sermons relating to ministry. In this case he has chosen to use a title that was used by his father when Jim was ordained at King's Chapel in Boston in 1976.

March 18, The Unwanted Patriot

While Jim is speaking at Lewes, Delaware, we will hear from Mike Smith, who will share his thoughts on what patriotism really means. The Uufe Choir will sing for us this service.

March 25, A Clown Ministry Presentation

Our friend, Bruce Butler, from the Church of the Brethren will join with other clowns in presenting this special service that uses the power of nonverbal communication in ways both funny and thoughtful. Leader: Patty Rubin.



The Heartshine Clown Troupe believes that clowns have the unique ability to not only bring happiness and laughter, but also to invoke deep emotions with the simplicity of their message.

**Bowling Outing
for Uufe
Mid-Age Children
and Friends!**

**Friday, March 2
6 to 8 p.m.**

Easton Bowling Center

Open to 10- to 14-year-olds and friends. Cost is \$5 per age-range child and one friend and includes bowling, shoes, pizza, and drink (\$14 for others). Other food may be bought on site, but not brought in. If you or someone you know would like to come, please let Eric or Patty Rubin know (410-745-2000; snug@intercom.net).

Sunday Service and School, 3:00 p.m.

Third Haven Friends Meeting House
405 South Washington St.



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

Minister's Office Hours

Tues. & Wed., 9:00 a.m.-12 p.m.
Mon., Thurs., Fri. by appt.
410-822-8103 (Office)
410-770-9772 (Home)
410-253-8881 (Cell)
jmbatmd@aol.com
Appointments encouraged.

The Joseph Priestley District of the UUA Presents:



The ALL NEW Intergenerational Annual 2007 Spring Conference

Spreading the Faith

April 27 – 29, 2007

Harrisburg Hilton

One North Second Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Featuring:

Keynote Speaker

Rev. Stefan Jonasson

UUA Director for
Large Congregations

Online Registration Available:

www.jpduua.org

Ministerial Thoughts

Coping With Stress

Every day we get closer to the end of our time away from the building. Our Aesthetics Committee is working overtime to decide what the finished product will look like. Our Building Oversight Committee is wrangling constantly with what we should do next. Our Board of Trustees is debating the proper things to do when we get into our new building.

With so much happening in the life of our Fellowship, it's easy to succumb to stress. I've found that such matters should be dealt with in all aspects of one's life—right down to diet. For some time, I've tried to adhere to the stress diet that follows and that I find is most beneficial:

- *Breakfast:* 1/2 grapefruit; 1 slice of whole wheat toast, dry; 8 oz. skim milk
- *Lunch:* 4 oz. lean broiled chicken breast; 1 c. steamed spinach; 1 c. herb tea; and 1 Oreo cookie
- *Midafternoon snack:* The rest of the Oreos in the package
- *Dinner:* Lg. sausage and mushroom pizza; 1 pitcher of beer
- *Late evening snack:* Pint of icecream with fudge sauce, nuts, and a cherry on top

The stress diet has numerous rules; the easiest to remember are: (1) if you eat something, and no one sees you, it has no calories; (2) if you drink a diet soda with a candy bar, the candy bar calories are eliminated; (3) never count food used for medicinal purposes (hot chocolate, brandy, cheesecake, etc.); and (4) foods that have the same color have the same number of calories (e.g., spinach and pistachio icecream, mushrooms and white chocolate). *Note:* Chocolate is a universal color, and may be substituted for any other food. Bon appetite and see you at Third Haven on Sundays, our offices in the Stewart Building, or at the Fellowship, helping with the dirty work!

Jim Bank

President's Corner

One of my regrets in life is not finding the UUs in time for my children to experience the accepting, challenging, loving atmosphere that our church community provides. I did not grow up with a religious or spiritual community, so I never realized what we were missing until 20 some years ago when Jerry and I found a Unitarian church community where we lived.

It was a revelation to me! People from a variety of backgrounds, interests, economic levels, and philosophies together, exploring ways to make the world a better place and help one another. That community helped me survive the darkest days of my life. I find that same spirit at UUFE. Here I know that I can count on people to help out when the Fellowship is in need, and when I am in need. Fellow members offer not only comfort and companionship, but also a new point of view and thoughtful disagreement when appropriate.

I hope that each of us can find opportunities to share with others what the Fellowship and the UU philosophy means to us: how each helps and sustains us;

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Gatherings

Women's Spirituality Circle, Mar. 2: At 7 p.m., we will gather to honor the female divinity in this monthly circle at Beth Hansen's home at 117 N. Locust Lane in Easton. For directions, please contact Beth (410-253-0214; sagefirebeth@yahoo.com).

Men's Lunch Bunch, Mar. 7 & 21: Men from the Fellowship gather promptly at 11:30 a.m. at the Easton Airport Café.

Dinner and a Movie Night, Mar. 9, "To Be Announced." This month's movie has not yet been announced. Keep your eyes and ears open for the title or contact Julie Striegel. Dinner is potluck. *Showtime:* 6:30 p.m. at Third Haven

Women's Lunch, Mar. 15, Noon: Many thanks to Sheila Lanahan who hosted us for last month's brown bag lunch. This month we will meet at Edie Swallow's in St. Michaels. Just bring a sandwich or salad, and Edie will provide beverages and a dessert. To get there, enter St. Michaels on Rt. 33 and turn right on East Chew (small bakery on the corner). Continue straight past the harbor to the T head on Radcliffe. The Swallow's is diagonally left: 605. Please let Edie know if you can come (410-745-5170).

Book Discussion Group, Mar. 22. We will meet again at Joanne Baynard's house at 207 Wye Avenue, Easton. (Wye Ave. is behind the hospital.) We will start our discussion at 11 a.m. and continue through lunch, so bring a sandwich. Joanne will have hot water for our tea. Do bring a title you think we might enjoy for a group read in April.

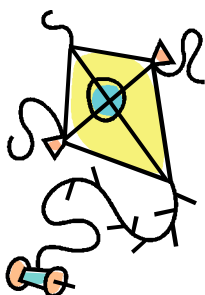
Fourth Sunday Potluck, Mar. 25: We will continue our fourth Sunday potluck gatherings in the common room immediately following worship service. As always, come with a dish of your choosing to share. If bringing an offering is not convenient, don't let that keep you away. There is always food to spare.

(President's Corner, continued)

how we work together to make our own lives more meaningful and to improve the lives of others as we can. In this way, we can grow the influence and joy of Unitarian Universalism.

I hope you enjoy the cottage meeting you attend this month. It's good to visit with one another and focus on our dear UUFE. I know too that you will contribute generously to maintain and grow our Fellowship. We are an important presence on the Mid-Shore. Our philosophy needs to be heard. Together, let's ensure a financially healthy Fellowship to build a strong program and future.

In faith,
Jean Rhian



Calendar

Women's Spirituality Circle
Fri., Mar. 2, 7 p.m.

Men's Lunch Bunch
Wed., Mar. 7 & 21, 11:30 a.m.

Dinner and a Movie Night
Fri., Mar. 9, 6:30 p.m.

Women's Lunch
Thurs., Mar. 15, 12 p.m.

Book Discussion Group
Thurs., Mar. 22, 11 a.m.

Fourth Sunday Potluck
Sun., Mar. 25, after service

Choir Calendar

Thursday Rehearsals: 7–8:30 p.m. on Mar. 1, 8, 15, and 29. Note: No rehearsal on Mar. 22.

Sunday rehearsal (and singing at service): 1:45–2:45pm on Mar. 18

Third Haven Friend's Carriage Sale

**Common Room Unavailable
Week of May 14–19**

Our good friend, Ann Williams, tells us that the Common Room (which we are enjoying so much) will *not* be available the week of May 14 thru 19. The Friends are holding their annual Carriage (or Yard) Sale on Saturday, May 19, and will be storing and sorting throughout the week. Anyone interested in contributing items to the sale or helping with the preparations during the week should contact Ann (410-770-3237).

What a Ball!

Our second annual Masquerade Ball held at the Historical Society Auditorium on February 24 was a resounding success! Many people put in long hours of planning and work to achieve such a successful celebration. Thanks go to everyone who attended, including those from our congregation as well as the many revelers from the larger community. Particular thanks for their hard work are due to *Debra Hathaway* and *Eric Heath* who conducted the Mask-Making Workshop early in February. Debra and Eric also worked on publicity and actual event production along with *Beth Hansen*, *Patty Joiner*, and *Julie Striegel*. The hors d'oeuvres and dessert, which could easily have been mistaken for a first-class meal, were prepared and served by *Colleen Ronning* and her husband, *Tom*. And we must be certain not to forget the foot-stomping music, provided by Big Joe's New Orleans Jazz Band ("Joe" is the husband of our own *Janine Maher*)! If you missed the ball this year, watch for early ticket sales so that you don't miss out next year.



Olympia Brown.
Read more about her at www.uua.org/uuhs/duub/articles/olympiabrown.html

Thoughts for All Ages

A Name for An Activity Room

Spaces in our new building are noted on the architect's drawings with strictly functional designations, such as RE#1, administration, and so forth. In most cases, such annotation has seemed sufficient in our discussions, but there is at least one notable exception to that: The space identified today as RE#5 is unique and will not function as an ordinary classroom. It is the large room at the front of the Fellowship building with the high ceiling. We will hold many activities in this space, and some of those will be for the larger community. Therefore, it seems a good idea to give this space a unique name to be used in announcements and so forth.

One name put forward is "The Olympia Brown Room." In 1863, Olympia Brown became the first U.S. woman to earn a theological degree and be ordained as a parish minister by an American denomination. To honor the centennial of her ordination in 1963, the Theological School at St. Lawrence University unveiled a plaque that reads in part:

*Preacher of Universalism
Pioneer and Champion of Women's Citizenship Rights
Forerunner of the New Era
The flame of her spirit still burns today.*

Do you have other ideas for a name for this room? Do you concur with this name? Please let Jean Rhian know your thoughts. so we can decide on a proper name for this lovely space.

New Member Biography

John Turner: In His Own Words

I was born in Houston, TX, and attended Rice University. I got my PhD in statistics from Princeton University in 1976. After teaching 2 years in Florida, I moved to Annapolis and the Naval Academy, where I have been for 28 1/2 years. I will be eligible to retire from the federal government in August 2008. Right now, I plan to stay in the area after I retire.

I have two grown daughters. Sarah is in her third year of residency in family medicine in Fairfax, VA. Hannah does human resources work for a defense contractor and lives in Crofton, MD. I have no grandchildren yet. In 1995, I married Carol Meredith. Carol and I have decided to go our separate ways and have lived apart for about a year.

I began attending the UU church in Annapolis in 1981. In 1996, I was among the first group in the Lay Minister program there. I sang in the choir, served on the Board, and was treasurer. In 2001, I took a sabbatical from the Naval Academy and moved to a farm in Texas to be with my mom after my father died. While there, I became active in a new UU church in Austin. When we returned to Maryland in

(Continued, p. 7)

Adult Religious Education

Speaking of Faith Number 3

Mar. 7

This series within our series is based on the weekly radio program hosted by Krista Tippet where she explores a wide range of issues regarding faith and values. Join John Turner to discuss a recent program. You can listen Sundays on WSDL (90.7) at 11 a.m. or go to <http://speakingoffaith.publicradio.org> and click on Archives. We will discuss the program aired on Feb. 25. If you cannot listen to the program in advance, join John in the UUFE office at 6 p.m., and he will play the program before the Adult RE session at 7 p.m.

Mar. 14, Seeking a “Manly Religion”

A the dawn of the 20th century, the watchword for Unitarian Headquarters was a Manly form of Unitarianism. Join us as we discuss this sad chapter in our collective history. Leader: Jim Bank

Mar. 21, “Stolen Summer”

This film explores the differences between Catholicism and Judaism as seen through the eyes of a child who takes on the challenge of making sure a Jewish child goes to heaven. It exemplifies the theme of a given belief system evolving into a chosen belief system. Leader: Gail Woodall

Mar. 28, A Look at Buddhism

We have invited our friend David Mercier to join us this evening for a sharing of his experiences with Buddhism. Be sure to be a part of this special program.

A Note of Gratitude

January 31 was an enriching day for a dozen of us who heard Celeste and Jean talk about their transgender life. We wish to thank them each for their courage and generosity in sharing their early years as transgender youth and their subsequent transition to adult women in a transphobic society. The most useful advice you each gave and that we would like to pass on to other transgender youth is: “Before your transition, try to excel in your best quality. It will help your future employers need *you*, rather than the other way around. Also, it will raise respect among your coworkers.” We hope to see you both again in Easton in the near future and wish you growing success in the life ahead of you.

James Bank and Tineke Tan

Social Action

Helping Hands

The Talbot County Interfaith Social Action Coalition has agreed to actively support the free community transportation effort of the Christ Episcopal Church of Easton “Helping Hands” program. This effort provides transportation for needy persons to food kitchens, physician appointments, grocery shopping, and so forth. Volunteers are needed and may contact Cathy Murphy at Christ Episcopal Church (410-822-2677). There is no long-term commitment involved; volunteers help as they are able.

“Born Into Brothels”

Friday, March 23

7:00 p.m.

The Talbot County Interfaith Social Action Coalition will be presenting this film at Third Haven. The following is a description from the film jacket: “This Oscar-winning documentary is a portrait of several unforgettable children who live in Calcutta’s red-light district, where their mothers work as prostitutes. Spurred by the kids’ fascination with her camera, Zana Briski, a photographer documenting life in the brothels, decides to teach them photography. As they begin to look at and record their world through new eyes, the kids awaken to their own talents and sense of worth.” This 2004 film has won several awards in addition to the Academy Award for Best Documentary. It is rated R for some sequences of strong language.



Puja running. ©Gour/Kids with Cameras

Spanish-Language Books Needed

The Alexandria Detention Center Library is in need of all types of Spanish-language books, including dictionaries, textbooks, and general reading material (fiction, nonfiction, poetry, etc.). Books may be left at the front desk at the detention center or call Mary Young (410-819-0050) for pickup.

Thank You For All You Do

It's thank-you time again to some of the many people who pitch in with time and talents to keep UUFE the growing and thriving religious community that it is.

Here are some of the folks who deserve big THANK-YOUs for the work they have done recently:

Our RE Search Committee: *Jim Bank, Nancy Dimond, Martha Hamlyn, Amy Eutsey, and Dave Moore* • *Patty and Eric Rubin* who are organizing fun events for our middle school and early high school youth • *Sue Loweree* for contributing special recorder music for a recent service • *Dick Doughty* for stepping in for me when I was called away because of a death in the family • our Sunday school teachers *Nancy Dimond, Amy Eutsey, Leah Sindermann, and Janine Maher* • *Janet Pfeffer* for her generous flexibility in providing training to our canvass team members • *Don Barker* who as Finance chairperson has begun the important work of developing next year's budget along with the many committee chairs who do their piece of the planning • and the fabulous Masquerade Ball team of *Patti Joiner, Julie Striegel, Debra Hathaway, Janet Pfeffer, and Beth Hansen*

I know for sure I've missed some folks this month and I apologize. I've just been absent more than usual and it's been wonderful knowing that things have just kept right on buzzing along.

Music Notes

UU Hymns and Choir, Part II: The Words

Last month, I wrote a bit about how the UUFE choir sings hymns at most rehearsals as part of building our musical abilities and appreciation. We also consider the words of hymns in at least two ways: for their mechanics and for their meaning.

When we sing hymns as individuals, we usually sing the words with diction that is sufficient for everyday conversation. Choirs usually sing performance songs with slightly exaggerated or distorted *enunciation* to keep group speech from sounding muddy and to accommodate musical needs. When singing hymns, careful enunciation also may help keep the language sharper and more alive in our ears and minds as well as those of the congregation. Another way of keeping both text and music more alive is to *accent* certain words or parts of words instead of giving equal weight to everything. This works especially well with songs that would sound like a march otherwise: Try singing this, or even speaking it, with equal weight on each word or syllable, then again with more weight on the underlined parts, and just whispering the not underlined:

“Where is our ho-ly church? Where race and class u-nite....”

Interesting how the more important words become highlighted.

Where we stop singing to take *breaths* also can respect and enhance the language or chop it to bits. Try singing the opening line of “Spirit of Life,” stopping to breathe right before the word “me”—“Awk!” as my teenage daughter says. On the other hand, sometimes hymns are phrased with unrealistic expectation for lung capacity; it's better to breathe where needed than to squeak through a phrase and to feel the discomfort more than the message. And, we usually have the brief, dutiful acknowledgments of where “the” is pronounced as “thuh” or “thee.”

I think the above shows that it's hard to entirely separate the mechanics of singing from the meaning, but there are times when the meaning of text is in the forefront of our work with hymns. This is most obvious when singing UU-rewritten texts to well-known hymns, whether the text is entirely replaced, as in “Forward through the Ages” (aka “Onward Christian Soldiers”), or select changes are made, as in “We Gather Together.” When discussion bubbles forth, the choir members circle their chairs and talk. When it's time to put those thoughts and feelings into song, I invite each singer to circle one or two words in each verse that speak strongly to them. This not only clarifies the meaning and empowers the song for the individual, but carries that clarification and power over in the mechanics of singing, with better focused enunciation and phrasing through accent and breathing.

What words would *you* circle in your favorite or most troubling hymns?



Patty Rubin
Music Director

Report on Building Status

It has been almost 5 years since our Fellowship adopted the goal of increasing our membership and expanding our facilities. Since that time, we have accomplished a great deal. A master plan and final design for our building were developed with the assistance of our architect, Jay Corvan. We conducted a very successful first capital campaign and raised \$300,000 for the building project. A financial strategy was developed to allow us to afford the new building. We obtained bids for the construction and established a relationship with a reputable contractor, Bruce Harrington. The membership voted overwhelmingly to proceed with the project in May 2006. Construction started in June 2006 and has been proceeding on or ahead of schedule. Last fall, an extended capital campaign was conducted that raised an additional \$240,000 to help pay for the new facility and minimize our mortgage payments.

Today we are only a few months away from completion of the building. The exterior of the building essentially is completed. Sheetrock and interior doors have been installed in the rooms. Painting and installation of the suspended ceilings are scheduled to start soon to be followed by installation of the interior wood trim, door hardware, flooring, and a final coat of paint on the walls and woodwork.

Site work, including landscaping, has been partly completed in the rear of the building, and the new parking areas have been graded in front of the building. The parking areas and upgraded entrances from Route 50 are scheduled for completion this spring. Landscaping in the front of the building then will be completed.

Our actual total project costs are very close to the initial estimate of \$785,000. The projected final cost is \$800,000, approximately 2% above our initial estimate, primarily due to the addition of a new fire alarm system and a meeting room sound system to the project scope.

Throughout this effort, your support has been crucial. We all should feel proud of what we have collectively accomplished and look forward to using our new facility in May. Our challenge for the future is to make good use of our building to enhance the program and ministry of our Fellowship to members, friends, and the outside community.

(New Member Bio, continued)

I also sing in the Queen Anne's Chorale, and I'm a member of the square dance club in Chestertown.

Last summer, my two cats, Annie and Polly, went with me on my Excellent Adventure. In 31 days, we drove 9,000 miles across 23 states. We visited family in Houston and Wyoming and went to a statistics convention in Seattle, with sightseeing along the way. One of the highlights was my stop in North Dakota, which was the last of the lower 48 states to visit so far in my life. (It looks a lot like eastern Montana, at least to me.)

Although I signed the UUFE membership book in February, I have been participating in activities here since starting to attend services. I enjoy singing in the choir, coordinating UU Delmarva special events, and conducting once-a-month Adult RE sessions.

Introduction to Unitarian Universalism

Saturday March 10

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Rev. Jim Bank and Gail Woodall, will lead this helpful class for anyone who is new to our Fellowship—whether you've just joined, are considering joining, or would simply like to know more about Unitarian Universalism and our Easton Fellowship. Class participants will be introduced to general UU history and theology and, more specifically, to our own history, what there is to become involved in, and how we get things done. You also will have the chance to share some of your own spiritual beliefs and get to know others who are new to UUFE. To register, call the church office at 410-822-8103 or look for the signup sheet on the coffee table following Sunday services. Bring a brown bag lunch if you like. We will provide cookies. *Childcare can be provided with advance notice. The class will be held at Gail Woodall's house at 532 Trippe Ave. in Easton.*

May love and laughter light
your days,

and warm your heart and home.

May good and faithful friends
be yours,

wherever you may roam.

May peace and plenty bless your
world

with joy that long endures.

May all life's passing seasons
bring the best to you and yours!

UUFÉ Contacts

Minister Rev. James Bank,
410-770-9772 or 410-822-8103
President Jean Rhian, 410-822-5807
Music Director Patty Rubin, 410-745-2000
Minister Emeritus Daniel G. Higgins, Jr., DMin,
410-745-3462
Newsletter Editor Amy Eutsey, 410-820-7971
uufenewsletter@hotmail.com

Many thanks to the Folding and Stamping Crew. *We can't get the Newsletter to you without them! :o)*

The deadline for the April *Newsletter* is March 15.

Don't Miss It!

Annual UUFÉ Service Auction

April 20, 7–9 p.m.

See insert for donation sign-up sheet.



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. These are the principles that we share:

- 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.

We Want To Hear From You!

UUFÉ is always interested in hearing from members and friends about new ideas for small group activities. Contact President Jean Rhian, and let' make your ideas a realit