

Newsletter

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Easton

November 2006

Sermons

Finding Room for Celebration

Nov. 5

We have so many things in our lives that are worth celebrating. But sometimes we ignore them. Today, we will be talking about the celebratory part of living and how we can make it a regular part of our lives.

Nov. 12, Finding Room for Grief

All of us have those points in our lives when we are grief stricken. But it's wrong to think that such experiences are occasional interruptions that will eventually go away. Grief may find a context that makes it bearable, but it seldom disappears. Here is our topic of the morning.

Nov. 19, Thanks for Our Beliefs

Once again, we will have a "cast of thousands" service, this one focusing on the beliefs that are central to who we are as individuals. Join us for this special service of traditional hymns and individual and group readings that will begin our Thanksgiving experiences for the year. Classical Pianist Sharon Lee Wright will provide special music for us.

Nov. 26, A Poetry Sunday

Nicole Meehan will lead us in a sharing of the poetry that is important to our lives. Do you write poetry, or would you like to read a favorite selection? Contact Nicole and bring your offering of words to this service for all to hear.

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

Got Leftovers?
Monthly Family Potluck

Sunday, Nov. 26
After Service
@ Third Haven

What better opportunity to use up the leftovers from your Thanksgiving feast that you may be getting pretty tired of but will be fresh and new to others?

See you there!

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

Third Haven Friends Meeting House
405 South Washington St.

End of Extended Capital Campaign Celebration

November 5

Third Haven Friends Common Room After Service

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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.



Our Fellowship Yard

Our Fellowship Yard's a
happy place

Where worship is fun!

There are projects to do

And programs are done.

You can laugh with a stranger

Or comfort a friend!

Raise your voices in song

And let your souls blend.

Do join us this week

And every week that you can!

Jim Bank

Ministerial Thoughts

My Yard

One of my favorite books to read to my daughters when they were small was a little cardboard-page book of glossy pictures and simple readings titled, *My Yard*. It ran something like this: "My yard is a happy place! Sliding is fun. You can swing up so high. And find places to run." On and on it went with a new sentence on every page that covered a host of activities. Everywhere you looked, preschool kids—boy and girl, black, yellow and white—were having fun in "my yard."

I thought of that little book the other day while a batch of us were out working, sowing grass seed on the septic field behind the Fellowship building. Under Sue Loweree's guidance, we sectioned off the field, roughed up the areas given to each of us, spread topsoil and seeding soil, and cast grass seed hither and yon. I must confess that my own job was made simpler through Sue's able assistance and through Cathy Jane, who brought me wheelbarrows of topsoil from the mound that was nearby. Dick Doughty, David Stevens, and Peter Paul didn't have that luxury with theirs! Tom Anovick worked solo on getting the fire pit moved and ready for May Day next year. But all of us were having fun together and working in the yard that will be so much a part of our newly renovated Fellowship home. It was a happy place of willing workers!

Another happy place is at Third Haven, where we have our weekly services at 3 p.m. on Sunday afternoons. Those who have come this fall have talked about the peace of the place and the pleasure of looking into one another's faces during worship, made easier through the organization of the pews. Parents have commented on the children's RE spaces that are bright and pleasant. And our coffee hours have been fun in the community building. Our meetings and programs at our offices downtown have carried on in the traditions we enjoy so much. All of it has been enriching, enlivening, and fun!

My recollection is that the little book, *My Yard*, closed with an invitation welcoming anyone to that yard and its pleasures. In my turn, I welcome any of you to the fun we are having.

See you at the Meeting House and at our offices
in the Stewart Building downtown!

Jim Bank

President's Corner

A Home in the Desert and Other Thoughts

Del Joiner's characterization of this year as our "time in the desert" comes back to me again and again. It is indeed a nomadic life for us. We've changed times and places, but for now I think that we are settled, and it feels good to me.

The space at the Friends Meeting is tranquil, beautiful, and welcoming. If you haven't come to a 3 PM service at the Friends Meeting, I urge you to make the space

in your Sunday afternoon. You will be grateful to be in this wonderful place and seeing your UU friends again.

I can assure you that our committees are busy; your Board is engaged; and, of course, our building on Rt. 50 is progressing. Each month seems to bring a new mix of alternatives, decisions, and questions. But the various committees involved are working to create the best possible home for our future, physically and spiritually. If you haven't stopped to see the building lately, I urge you to do so. There's a lot to see, and you can get a real feel for how things will be. The framing of the various rooms is in, so the new floor plan is apparent.

The Board has lost a couple of members lately with the departure of Cynthia Quast and Nancy Krueger. Nevertheless, we still have more than sufficient members according to our by laws. And with so much going on, we decided that it is best not to take energy away from other work in the congregation to add to the Board at this time.

As in past months, I continue to be impressed and grateful to the many members who work to enrich—and, indeed, make possible—our community. I'd like to particularly thank Nancy Dimond, Lois Greenburg, and Janet Pfeffer for their outstanding work on the Extended Capital Campaign. Each gave generously of her time and talents by taking the lead for some aspect of the campaign and to help ensure our success.

The "desert" is no place to be out wandering alone. Let's keep our UU connections strong. Let's make a real effort to stay connected. I look forward to seeing you on Sundays at 3.

Jean Rhian

Gatherings

Men's Lunch Bunch, Nov. 1, 15, & 29: Men from the Fellowship gather promptly at 11:30 a.m. at the Easton Airport Cafe.

Women's Lunch, Nov. 9: We'll meet again at noon at Legal Spirits in the Avalon building in Easton, a convenient spot for many. Please let Edie Swallow know whether you can come (410-745-5170).

Movie Night, Nov. 10, "Duma" (PG). This family drama explores the bonds of friendship between man and beast. A young boy, Xan (Alexander Michaletos), befriends a cheetah named Duma and commits a true act of selfless love: He traverses the southern region of Africa, a long and difficult journey, just so he can help his pal return to his one true home—the wild. Although he may never see Duma again, Xan discovers that love lingers in spite of distance. *Showtime:* 7:00 p.m. at the UUFE Offices in the Stewart Building (5 Federal St.).

Drumming Circle, Nov. 17: Join us at 7 p.m. if you want to learn or just have fun. There are always extra instruments. For more information on meeting location, please contact Debra Hathaway (410-770-9057).

Women's Spirituality Circle, Nov. 20: All women are invited to come together at 7 p.m. to honor the female divinity in this monthly circle. For more information and meeting location, please contact Beth Hansen (410-253-0214; sagefirebeth@yahoo.com).

Calendar

Men's Lunch Bunch

Wed., Nov. 1, 15, & 29, 11:30 a.m.

Women's Lunch

Thurs., Nov. 9, 12 p.m.

Movie Night

Fri., Nov. 10, 7 p.m.

Drumming Circle

Fri., Nov. 17, 7 p.m.

Women's Spirituality Circle

Mon., Nov. 20, 7 p.m.

Children's RE Calendar

Sun., Nov. 5

In the Kitchen With Fannie Farmer; kids meet in the common room

Sun., Nov. 12

Making Soda Bubbles With Joseph Priestley; kids start in service

Sun., Nov. 19

Intergenerational service; child care for infants and toddlers

Sun., Nov. 26

No RE; child care for infants and toddlers; older kids encouraged to participate in poetry readings

Choir Calendar

Thurs., Nov. 1, 8, 15, & 30

Rehearsal from 7–8:30 p.m. in the Third Haven Friends Common Room.

Note. No rehearsal on Nov. 23



Online RE Resources

UU Faithworks:

www.uua.org/re/faithworks

This is an initiative supported by the UUA to lead children's RE into Lifespan Education, or RE for *all* ages. Links and resources are available for both adult RE and youth programs. Free online newsletter.

Worship Web:

www.uua.org/worshipweb

Provides a searchable database of worship ideas, formats, and group activities for laypersons.

UU Family Network:

www.uua.org/families

A wonderful site with info on creating family rituals, at-home activities, and social action projects. Has information on creating coming-of-age and other rites of passage for your children.

Young Religious Unitarian

Universalist: www.uua.org/yruu

A site for 14 to 20s to chat and create a wider UU community. Find out about trips, conferences, and social justice projects nationwide or just connect with other young UUs.

Teaching Tolerance:

www.teachingtolerance.org

By a secular organization committed to teaching peaceful interaction and nonviolence, this site contains many downloadable or free resources. Families can easily use activities at home.

Church of the Younger Fellowship:

www.uucyf.org

This site is for UUs from 18 to 35, including young parents. UUCYF is a membership organization that provides networking and resource opportunities.

Thoughts for All Ages

High-Tech RE: At Home and at Church

We miss the every-week familiarity of our beloved building. We dream about clean classrooms where the children's art graces the walls and our own little "family worship circle" space. But however difficult it has become temporarily being the Wandering UUs, there are many families who can't attend a UU service. Perhaps they live 100 miles from the nearest congregation, or perhaps Sundays just don't work for their family. The UUA and many eager UU religious educators and families have created a wealth of online resources for families like them...and like us. If you are feeling a bit disconnected during this year of irregular places and spaces, check out some of the wonderful RE resources online (see sidebar for more):

Church of the Larger Fellowship: www.uua.org/clf

Church-wide resources for those without a congregation or those who want to supplement their congregation experience. Excellent for small group ministry and "at home" RE and parenting activities. Check out *KidTalk* and let your kids check out this safe, interactive site where they can learn about UUism, world religion, holidays and nature. They even can submit questions, and a religious educator will post the answers.

Backyard to the Universe: www.hzmre.com

Designed by experienced Minister of Religious Education Minister Helen Zidowecki, this site has a downloadable curriculum, including Dr. Seuss and the UU Principles.

Nicole Meehan
Director Religious Education

Social Action

Community-Wide Winterization Effort

The Social Action Coalition is participating in a winterization project with the Neighborhood Services Center and Easton Utilities to help people to minimize their utility costs. Volunteers are needed from member congregations to provide (unskilled) labor; Lowe's will provide training, and Easton Utilities will provide most of the cost of materials. Kelley Malone of Trinity Episcopal has agreed to coordinate this project. Volunteers who are willing to work one or two Saturdays are encouraged to contact Jim Richardson (designs@atlanticbb.net or 410-645-5001).

UUFESocial Action Giving

The Social Action Committee voted to donate \$300 to TACL's Good Samaritan Fund and \$104 to cover the cost of water and apples for participants of the annual community Crop Walk.

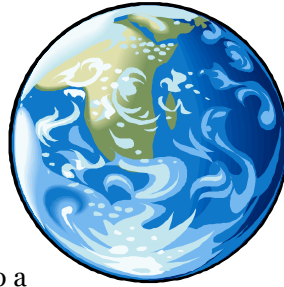
Adult Religious Education

Nov. 1, A Political Forum

On the eve of elections, Adult Religious Education and the Social Action Committee invite you to come and share your opinions on the people and issues that face us all. Everyone is entitled to her or his own opinion. Every opinion will be respected. Come join the conversation! Leaders: Jim Richardson and Jim Bank

Nov. 8, Living on Earth at the Avalon

This evening we take a break from our regular programming to go to a program at the Avalon dealing with "Living on Earth." The program is free and will inspire discussion shared with the greater community.



Nov. 15, Theology of Film Series: "Garden State"

is a story about a depressed, out of work actor responds to a call from his estranged father and returns to his home state of New Jersey to attend his mother's funeral. He begins to see his life in a new light, which leads him to confront his psychologist father and forge a connection with a new friend.

Leader: Gail Woodall

Nov. 29, How Unitarians and Universalists Came Together

Our subject is the merger of two denominations in 1961 to form the Unitarian Universalist Association. It didn't happen over night, and some frustration was involved on both sides. Leader: Jim Bank

Music Notes

Giving Thanks for Travelers

The group of choirfolk was a bit smaller than expected, huddled in the early cool October morning around the donuts and juice balanced on the "trunk" of a Prius. We were meeting to carpool over the Bridge for our second annual singing with the UUCA (Annapolis) Choir in gratitude for the many years they have brought music services to UUFE and in anticipation of enjoying singing with those whose familiarity is growing into friendships. But, would our 6 voices make any difference to the sound of the 30 voices we would join? Their sound was already so big to our ears, and they seem much more confident in their separate vocal harmonies. Again, joining choirs seemed more favorable to us than to them, yet, over the potluck lunch kindly provided to us after the second service (and the second fire drill), I heard several times how our voices changed the quality of the sound, that it was the differences added in that made for a fuller resonance of the whole, a resonance we felt combine in our own physical resonating chambers—even as it was sent out—with voice and spirit.

One of my brothers, unattached in various ways, wanders our way now and then, often disparaging the value of his presence. I need to tell him, again and again, how much I appreciate his visits, whenever he wants to share time with us,

UUA/UUSC Gulf Coast Relief Fund Needs Your Help

The UUA/UUSC Gulf Coast Relief Fund needs hands-on help from congregations. The UUA has volunteer coordinators in both Mississippi and Louisiana ready to work with individuals and groups who can come to lend a hand. To volunteer, e-mail the UU Katrina Volunteer Coordinating Center at uukatrina@bellsouth.net or call the office at 225-926-2283, 225-223-8203, or 225-223-2876.

Chester River Building Dedication

November 12 @ 3 p.m.

The Unitarian Universalists of the Chester River proudly present the dedication of their new building and welcome any and all interested to attend. UUCR is located at 914 Gateway Drive in Chestertown. If you are planning to attend, please call the UUFE office at 410-822-8103 to help work out a carpooling.

Fannie Merritt Farmer

Mother of Level Measurements and UU

Pumpkin Pie

1 1/2 cup steamed and strained pumpkin
2/3 cup brown sugar
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon ginger
1/2 teaspoon salt
2 eggs
1 1/2 cup milk
1/2 cup cream

Mix ingredients sugar given and bake in one pie crust. For more original recipes, go to www.bartleby.com/87

Looking for a Place To Gather on Thanksgiving?

If you are alone or only a few for Thanksgiving this year and would like to join with UUFE friends for dinner and conversation, consider a potluck at Bob and Gail Woodall's home in Easton. Gail and Bob will provide the turkey and stuffing. Bring a dish to share that reflects your family's tradition. We'll plan to eat about 3 p.m. (early enough to get out and walk a little of the fullness off before it gets dark). Children are welcome. Please call Gail and Bob (410-820-8541) by November 19 so we know what size turkey to buy.



Goodbye To Nancy Krueger

Saying goodbye is never easy. It's hard to realize that Nancy has only been a member of UUFE for a little over 3 years. During those years, she has been an active member and has taken a variety of leadership roles, including Board member, chair of the Long Range Plan Extension task force, and chair of the Annual Operating Campaign, to name only a few. In addition she has been a true and faithful friend. We will miss Nancy and wish her well in her new job and new life in St. Louis.

but especially at Thanksgiving and other celebrations. When we stay in Maryland, as much as I love to cook the traditional foods for and gather with our nuclear family, even the addition of one familiar face increases the joy of those present, and brings in the memories of those absent. This year it looks like eight (!) will come as houseguests, and joy and chaos will magnify each other and overflow, hearth and heart.

I look forward to UUFE celebrations with faces new and familiar, regular, recurrent and returning, with plenty of differences and a little chaos mixed in to make a more resonant joy.

Making and Hearing Joyful and Sufficient Noise

Although I am not present at most Sunday afternoon services, I am glad to hear from those who are, especially about music and sound matters. I hear that Dorothy Lewis's music selections are an appreciated part of worship and that Dorothy enjoys exploring different ways of expressing worship themes through her music. Tom Egbert's vocal additions are also a special treat! I've heard, both at the temple and at the meeting house, that hearing parts of service may be difficult for some people at some times. We are trying different equipment setups in the different environment, but the easiest thing to try first may be to move closer to the sources of sound. UUFE folk also consider one another's spoken contributions to service important, such as during joys and concerns and multilogue, so please try to speak clearly and directed to the majority of the folk and maybe with a little more oomph than usual!

Patty Rubin
Music Director

Board News

Building Expansion On Schedule

Our building construction has been progressing as scheduled. Chandeliers have been selected for the worship room as well as other interior lighting fixtures. The location and type of chalice to be situated over our front door also has been decided. A fire alarm system has been approved, and our northbound vehicle entrance way has to be moved northward 6 feet in order to avoid expense because of the need to otherwise modify the guard rail at that location. A volunteer seeding operation under Sue Loweree's direction was held on October 14.

Minister's Report

Jim Bank noted that our service attendance was down, which he believed was expected because of the change to afternoon services and substitute locations. It was also noted that RE attendance was lower. The Board discussed the possibility of creating a record of those attending our services as an aid in considering other action relative to our attendance; the matter will be considered further at the next Board meeting.

Director of Religious Education Report

Nicole Meehan reported that during the last quarter, all the children in the program had been taught in one room due to our new venues. There had been some good sessions on Judaism and Quakerism. However there have not been as many children attending on Sundays. Kelsy Ronning has become the new child care provider. In the coming months, the children will learn about Fannie Merritt Farmer through a baking project and Joseph Priestley through a soda pop-making project.

Music Director Report

Patti Rubin noted how pleased we have been with our temporary accompanist, Dorothy Lewis, but she also noted that we will have to find a replacement when we return to our church because Dorothy will be at Christ Church on Sunday mornings. Sandra Henry-Stocker is the now the chair of the Music Committee.

Extended Capital Campaign

The Board was pleased with the mailing that had been sent to the congregation in connection with the Extended Capital Campaign and acknowledged the fine job that Nancy Dimond had done as Chairperson. Nancy reported that she had sent 33 appeals to former members who had moved away and to other noncongregational friends.

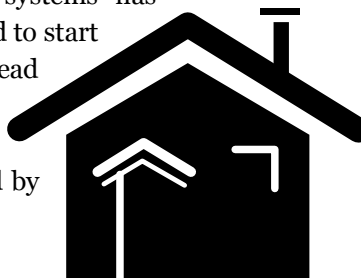
Canvas Chairperson Needed for Spring

Jean Rhian advised that Nancy Krueger had resigned from the Board because she is moving to St. Louis. This means that we will need to find a new Chairperson for our canvas this spring, a position that Nancy had ably fulfilled.

Building News

More on Progress

Steady progress is being made on the building expansion project. Shingles are being applied to the roof, and the flared roof surrounding the meeting room is being framed. The plumbers have completed the rough-in installation of all water and sewer piping. The electricians have installed electrical switch and outlet boxes and have run electrical cables in most of the building. Work on the heating, ventilating, and air conditioning systems has started. Window and door installation is scheduled to start soon. A volunteer group led by Sue Loweree spread top soil and planted grass seed on the new septic system drainage field, and lighting fixtures have been selected by the Aesthetics Subcommittee led by Nancy Orr.



Thanksgiving Prayer

*Lord, behold our family
here assembled.*

We thank Thee for this place
in which we dwell;

for the love that unites us;

for the peace accorded
us this day;

for the hope with which we
expect tomorrow;

for the health, the work,
the food, and the
bright skies, that make
our lives delightful;

for our friends in all parts
of the earth, and our
friendly helpers.

Let Peace abound in our
small company.

(Robert Louis Stevenson)

UUFE Contacts

Minister	Rev. James Bank, 410-770-9772 or 410-822-8103
President	Jean Rhian, 410-822-5807
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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 December *Newsletter* is November 15.

Fannie Farmer's Study of Food Values

When sleeping, you burn .4 calories per pound of body weight per hour. At slight exercise, .6 calorie/lb/hr (e.g., at meals, sewing, reading, writing). At light exercise, 1 calorie/lb/hr (e.g., standing, walking). At active muscular exercise, 2 calories/lb/hr (e.g., general housework, carpentering, tennis). At severe muscular exercise, 3 calories/lb/hr (e.g., digging [*in the garden, not into dinner*], horseshoeing, [*playing, not watching*] football).

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!

UUFE is always interested in hearing from members and friends about new ideas for small group activities. Contact Presidents, Jean Rhian, and let' make your ideas a reality!



November 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Men's Lunch, 11:30 Adult RE, 7:00	2 Choir, 7:00	3	4
5 Service & RE, 3 p.m. Extended Cap. Cam- paign Pot- luck, After Service	6	7 Social Ac- tion Mtg., 7 p.m.	8 Adult RE, 7:00	9 Women's Lunch, 12:00 Choir, 7:00	10 Movie Night, 7:00	11
12 Service & RE, 3 p.m.	13	14 Board Mtg., 6:30	15 Men's Lunch, 11:30 Adult RE, 7:00	16 Choir, 7:00	17 Drumming Circle, 7:00	18
19 Intergenera- tional Ser- vice, 3 p.m.	20 Women's Spirituality Cir., 7:00	21	22 Interfaith Lunches, 10:00 Member- ship Mtg., 3:30	23 Thanksgiving 	24	25
26 Service, No RE, 3 p.m. Monthly Potluck, Af- ter Service	28	29	30 Men's Lunch, 11:30 Adult RE, 7:00 Choir, 7:00			