

Newsletter

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Easton

September 2006

Sermons

Jobs Too Small for Our Spirit

Sept. 3

Lay leader Dwayne Eutsey offers this Labor Day meditation on how we derive meaning—or for many of us, fail to find meaning—from the jobs we do.

Sept. 10, Water Tales

Water Communion Sunday. Bring along the water you have saved from the places you have been to this summer—or a reasonable facsimile thereof.

Sept. 17, Good News

The Gospels take their names from the Good News that they are purported to have spread. But there are other Gospels that bring other good news, and to which we will turn in our sermon of the morning. UFE Choir performs.

Sept. 24, “Blessed Are the Peacemakers”

A service of hymns, readings, poetry, moments of silence, and reflections about peace. Leader: Rev. Daniel Higgins. *Note that service this Sunday will be held at Third Haven Friends.* Guitars and voice by UFE talent Sue Loweree, Dave Moore, and friends.

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

Homecoming

**September 10
10 a.m.
at the Fellowship**

to celebrate the changes that are taking place there this year. Be sure to join us this morning as we kick off the new year by reveling in the changes taking place.

Coffee and donuts provided.
Rain date: Sept. 17

Brief Change in Services Venue

**Sept. 24 & Oct. 1
Third Haven Friends
4:30 p.m.**

During the Jewish holy days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, our services will take place at the Third Haven Friends Meeting at 405 S. Washington St. in Easton. Look for the small sign and take the long driveway just south of Adkins Ave.

Sunday Service and School, 4:30 p.m.

Temple B’Nai Israel
Adkins Ave.

Behind Memorial Hospital

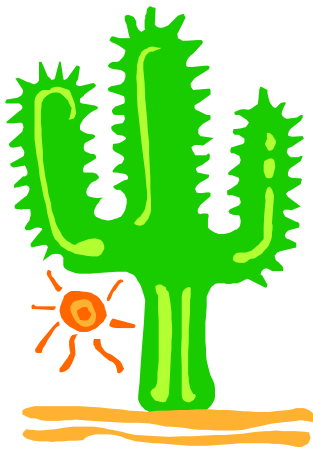


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Minister's Office Hours

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.



The Purpose of the Fellowship

With all the disruption and hub-bub going on, it is important not to lose sight of the purposes of the Fellowship, which are well stated in our bylaws. The purpose of our Fellowship is to provide for:

- Public worship according to the liberty of individual beliefs
- The free discussion of religious and moral questions
- The opportunity for children to discover through broad religious education and evolving faith of their own
- The transformation of individual and social life in the light of religious principles

Ministerial Thoughts

A New and Different Year

All of us are aware that this fellowship year will be new and different. It's always new when we start over again in autumn. We may celebrate some events every year, like Labor Day and our Water Communion this month, but even these programs change from year to year, with new and old blending together. This year, however, the differences are magnified and go beyond the ordinary changes of previous years, as our services take place in the afternoons at Temple B'Nai Israel. Not only that, but every time we drive by our dear-old building, we are reminded that nothing will ever be quite the same again. Daily, and right before our eyes, the old building is changing to the new.

As the poet says, some things will never change. But sometimes so many major changes surround us on every side that it's hard to find the ongoing elements. They will be there, however, especially in the many friends who join together regularly and the good works and shared learnings that have been a hallmark of our lives together.

I hope you come regularly to worship and to our various programs and opportunities for fellowship in this new and different year. Bring along a friend or two! Enjoy seeing old friends and making new acquaintances. Celebrate all that we are doing together to forward Unitarian Universalism on the Eastern Shore. And help us in a dozen ways to prepare for our return to our refurbished spaces when spring will bring so many changes to our world.

See you at the Temple and at our offices in the Stewart Building downtown!
Jim Bank

Presidents' Corner

We are on the brink of another full program year at the Fellowship, and it promises to be unique! We are out of our digs; out of our comfort zone; and flying on good vibes, prayers, hopes, and dreams—or duct tape depending on the day and your theology!

Although we have a temporary home, we still have to move around on some Sundays—Sept. 24, and Oct. 1 being cases in point. We're definitely not used to the time of the service and coffee in the late afternoon. It feels like it's going to be a long time "in the desert," but as all of us have found out, time flies.

The Worship Committee is actively discussing options regarding the time for the service, so stay posted. We realize that the change from Sunday morning is difficult, but it's not permanent. We also are not constrained to having worship/meditation once a week as an entire congregation. Small group worship and meditation is a common practice at larger UU churches and could work for some of us this year, too.

Interconnections suggests that when small groups meet, they have some structure and plan to have at least one "mission" that is outward facing. They suggest that this group services the larger congregation or works together on an outreach activity as possibilities. If you are interested, I can give you further suggestions or you could check the UUA Web site. Also, please keep the Worship Committee Chair, Nancy Orr, informed on what's happening.

We have submitted our application for the Chalice Lighters Grant, seeking \$40,000 support for balancing our budget in these first years of a large mortgage
(continued p. 3)

Gatherings

Men's Lunch Bunch, Sept. 6 & 20: Men from the Fellowship gather promptly at 11:30 a.m. at the Easton Airport Cafe.

Women's Lunch, Sept. 14: We'll try one more outing to the Masthead at Pier Street in Oxford. It's a casual venue, and the weather should still be pleasant. No need for reservations so just come as you can, informal please. Call Nancy Orr (410-226-5426) if you have questions.

Movie Night, Sept. 8, "Wallace and Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit" (G): Cheese-loving eccentric Wallace and his cunning canine pal, Gromit, investigate a vegetarian mystery in this animated adventure. The pair run a business ridding the town of pests, using only humane methods. Their work leads them to investigate the mystery of a voracious vegetarian monster who threatens to ruin the annual veggie-growing contest. *Showtime:* 7:00 p.m. at the UUFE Offices in the Stewart Building (5 Federal St., Rm. 216-217).

Drumming Circle, Sept. 15: 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, Sept. 18: 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).

Building Project Update

Have you been by to see the progress? You really should. The demolition phase made it look like a bomb site, but now the foundation and floors are in, the windows and doors have been sized and moved, and a tall chimney is in place. Next comes the framing of the sanctuary and the other new spaces, followed by the roof. You can already get a feel for our new home, though we are only a fraction of the way there.

We have been particularly fortunate to have a very dedicated and professional site supervisor who is working closely with Dick Doughty (three cheers for Dick!) on the many details that arise. Both he and our builder, Bruce Harrington, are pleased with the progress. As of August 15, we have paid approximately \$55,000 to our builder. Go and take a look, join us for a "homecoming" on Sept. 10 (see p. 1), or check out the slideshow on our Web site: www.uufeaston.org!

Be Part of the Decision Making for Our New Building!

Call the UUFE Office (410-822-8103) and leave your name and area of interest. The subcommittees are as follows and would appreciate all the ideas and help they can get:

- Construction
- Landscaping and Grounds
- Temporary Facilities and Moving
- Aesthetics and Furnishings
- Finance and Banking
- Publicity and Celebration

Calendar

Men's Lunch Bunch

Wed., Sept. 6 & 20, 11:30 a.m.

Movie Night

Fri., Sept. 8, 7 p.m.

Women's Lunch

Thurs., Sept. 14, 12 p.m.

Drumming Circle

Fri., Sept. 15, 7 p.m.

Women's Spirituality Circle

Mon., Sept. 18, 7 p.m.

Children's RE Calendar

Sun., Sept. 3

No RE or child care

Sun., Sept. 10

Intergenerational Water Communion, no RE

Sun., Sept. 17

Children's own in-gathering and decoration of UU Kids Board

Sun., Sept. 24

Crop Walk @ 1 p.m., no RE or child care available

(Presidents' Corner, continued)
payment. Our long-range plan has been updated in conjunction with the application and will guide our actions in the coming years. Please let me or the office know whether you would like to receive a copy. It's exciting reading.

The year ahead is a unique and continued opportunity to pursue the purposes of the Fellowship (see sidebar, p. 2) and be guided in that pursuit by our beloved UUFE community.

In faith,
Jean Rhian
September 2006

Sign Up Now

Our Whole Lives O.W.L.

Our Whole Lives helps our kids to make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior. It equips them with accurate, age-appropriate information in six subject areas: human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behavior, sexual health, and society and culture. Grounded in a holistic view of sexuality, *Our Whole Lives* not only provides facts about anatomy and human development, but also helps kids to clarify their values; build interpersonal skills; and understand the spiritual, emotional, and social aspects of sexuality.

UUFE O.W.L. Facilitators Amy Eutsey and Nicole Meehan are reaching out to area teenagers in 10th–12th grade to participate. How often we meet and when will depend on interest and numbers. If you are or know of any teens who would be interested in participating, please contact:

Amy: 410-820-7971;
beansbear@hotmail.com or
Nicole: 410-745-5959;
nicole@rainmakercreative.net.

Interfaith Lunches

Fourth Wednesdays @ 10 a.m.

Interfaith Hunger Coalition lunches are will be prepared from now on at Asbury Methodist Church.

Donations of money, supplies, and time are always welcome. Contact Mary Young for more info.

www.uufeaston.org

Thoughts for All Ages

The Blind Men and the Elephant

In the farthest reaches of the desert there was a city in which all the people were blind. A king and his army were passing through that region and camped outside the city. The king had with him a great elephant. The people of the city had heard of elephants but never had the opportunity to know one. Out rushed four young men, determined to discover what the elephant was like.

The first young man, in his haste, ran straight into the side of the elephant. He spread out his arms and felt the animal's broad, smooth side. He thought, "This is an animal, my nose leaves no doubt of that, but this animal is like a wall." He rushed back to the city to tell of his discovery. The second young blind man grasped the elephant's trunk. The elephant snorted loudly. The young man exclaimed, "This elephant is like a snake, but it is so huge that its hot breath makes a snorting sound." He turned to run back to the city and tell his tale. The third young blind man walked into the elephant's tusk. He felt the hard, smooth ivory surface of the tusk. When as the elephant lifted the tusk out, he could feel its pointed tip. "How wonderful!" he thought, "the elephant is hard and sharp like a spear, and yet it makes noises and smells like an animal!" Off he ran. The fourth young blind man found the elephant's tail. "I don't see what all the excitement is about," he said. "The elephant is nothing but a frayed bit of rope." He dropped the tail and ran after the others.

Finally, an old blind man came. He walked all around the elephant, touching every part of it, smelling it, listening to all of its sounds. He found the elephant's mouth and fed the animal a treat, then he petted it on its great trunk. Finally he returned to the city, only to find it in an uproar. Each of the four young men had acquired followers who eagerly heard his story. But then, as the people found that there were four different contradictory descriptions, they all began to argue. The old man quietly listened to the fighting. "It's like a wall!" "No, it's like a snake!" "No, it's like a spear!" "No, it's like a rope!" The old man turned and went home, laughing as he remembered his own foolishness as a young man. Like these, he once hastily concluded that he understood the whole of something when he had experienced only a part. He laughed again as he remembered his greater foolishness of once being unwilling to discover truth for himself, depending wholly on others' teachings.

A Retelling by Nicole Meehan
Director Religious Education

Social Action

Interfaith Coalition To Help Easton Utilities To Winterize Homes

Although the Social Action Committee did not meet during the summer, the Interfaith Social Action Coalition met in August to discuss possible projects for the year. New to the Coalition are representatives from Christ Church Episcopal and Trinity Cathedral. The group agreed to pursue a project initiating from Trinity Cathedral in which volunteers work with Easton Utilities to help people winterize their homes. One member of that congregation has a contact with Easton Utilities and will research ways our congregations can help. She plans to attend our next Coalition meeting.

Helping Hands

Another related project is Helping Hands from Christ Church. This already-established group has volunteers who help people with household and yard chores as well as provide rides to appointments and recreational activities. The Coalition will help to publicize this service, notably by placing notes in the lunches provided by the Interfaith Hunger Coalition on Wednesdays and daily to the homeless shelter. If anyone knows of someone who could use this help, contact Catherine Murphy at the Christ Church office.

Alternative to Violence Project

The group also agreed to look into the feasibility of providing volunteer drivers to take children to visit their mothers who are incarcerated in prison, possibly at the one in Salisbury. Mary Young attended, with 13 others, the initial training of the Alternative to Violence Project. Advanced training will be held in September, and some of the participants plan to take the skills learned into the Talbot County Detention Center.

CROP Walk September 24

This year, we have volunteered the services of our UU Kids to man the snack table during the walk. Any and all donations of apples and water to support the walkers are welcome!
Contact Nicole Meehan for more information.

Adult Religious Education

Sept. 13, When Bad Things Happen

The old lesson from scripture is that the rain falls on the just and the unjust—on all of us. Join our discussion as we look at the way we deal with life when bad things happen. *Leader:* Liz McGrory

The Theology of Film Series

Based on the principle that going to the movies can be a spiritual experience, each evening will include the viewing of a film followed by discussion. The theme of our fall series is *Connections*.

Sept. 20, "Roommates"

This film is a warm story of the strength of family relationships, with wonderful touches of humor. It explores the changing relationship of Rocky and his family, particularly his grandfather, as the years go by.
Leader: Gail Woodall

Sept. 27, Parables To Ponder

Drawing on three parables written by Erwin Friedman, we will talk together of how nonsense stories can lead us to deeper understandings of life. *Leader:* Jim Bank

Music Notes

L'Shana Tovah—Happy New Year! Time to file away the old papers and replace them with clean, smooth, blank pages. Time to regather the strengths of past endeavors and bundle them with the energy of renewed enthusiasm. Time to rejoice in the rejoining of familiar faces and voices and to be blessed with the gift of new hearts and minds who find their way to UUFE!

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After Katrina: Disaster and the Politics of Climate Change

A Lecture by
Mike Tidwell
Sept. 6 @ 7 p.m.
Avalon Theater

Author, filmmaker, radio show host, and founder and executive director of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network Mike Tidwell's 2003 book, *Bayou Farewell: The Rich Life and Tragic Death of Louisiana's Cajun Coast* foretold the catastrophic consequences of Hurricane Katrina for the city of New Orleans and indicted the underlying mismanagement of the region's ecology. In his latest book, *The Ravaging Tide: Strange Weather, Future Katrinas, and the Coming Death of America's Coastal Cities*, Mike explains what the lessons that we should have learned from Katrina tell us about the possible fate of other coastal cities and what we can do about it.

Welcome Our New Accompanist!

We are most fortunate to welcome **Dorothy Lewis** to UUFE as our accompanist for the year. One advantage of Sunday afternoon services is that she can be available to us then (as well as for Thursday rehearsals), even though she is busy Sunday mornings as the music director at Christ Church (Easton). Patty Rubin has worked with Dorothy there and in the Easton Choral Arts Society, and both are looking forward to sharing the UUFE musical experience.

Get Involved!

Newsletter: Be a backup for the editor

Contact Amy Eutsey

Power Church: Be the system administrator for our software package

Contact Dick Doughty

Help Desk: Be our first-line computer support consultant

Contact Edie Swallow

Usher: Be an usher at Sunday services

Contact Nancy Orr

Children's RE: Become a committee member or teacher

Contact Nicole Meehan

Board of Trustees: Be a leader

Contact Jean Rhian, Cynthia Quast, or any other Board member

Canvass Committee: Become a member

Contact Nancy Krueger

Any Committee: Use your interests and talents to help out and enjoy the fellowship!

Contact the committee chair listed in the UUFE directory

Welcome

Sandra Henry-Stocker

as the new chair of the Music Committee and much thanks to

Del Joiner

who served as chair for several years. The Music Committee makes the music program possible, offering general support and helping with the duties and details that don't fit into a quarter-time music director's position.

Member News

Living Large

Even before we moved to Easton, I learned that UUFE likes to live large. By that I mean we take on a lot of challenges and reach out in many ways to one another and to the community. We live like a larger congregation than we are. Now that I'm here, I know that living large can be exciting, fun, and very challenging. I also know that it takes the *whole* village to keep the load manageable.

There are lots of opportunities for involvement, some one time, others ongoing. Lots of different skills and talents are needed. I've listed a number of these and included a contact name where you can get more information (see sidebar). Think about what you can do to enhance your life and the life of the UUFE community.

Jean Rhian

Monthly After-Service Potlucks

Sept. 24, Third Haven Friends

The Membership Committee will be organizing monthly potlucks following the worship service during the remainder of our time at the Temple. This month the potluck will be held on Sept. 24 at Third Haven Friends Meeting where we will be holding worship service that Sunday. Their community room has ample space for adults and children as well as kitchen facilities for warming and refrigerating food. So plan to attend and bring your favorite dish. We will not try to organize the offerings, opting for a good-old-fashioned potluck and trust that the menu will be as varied and delicious as usual.

(Music Notes, continued)

Choir Begins

All voices are welcomed—new and returning, from practice venues of shower, car, or stage. We sing from a variety of musical styles and spiritual traditions, and at levels from musical ease to rewarding challenge. Choir also can be a community, sharing the joy of making music (and sharing snacks at rehearsals). Choir rehearses on **Thursdays, 7–8:30 p.m., beginning Aug. 31**, at the Temple. On Sundays, choir will sing at one afternoon service each month, usually on the third Sunday. Choir will not meet formally on other Sunday afternoons; however, there will be a handful of Sunday mornings when we are invited to sing with other UU choirs at their services in the area. Please call or e-mail me, Patty Rubin, with questions.

Instrumental Folks

If you are a musician of any age who has *instrumental abilities* to share at service, please let me or Sandra Henry-Stocker know. Sharing such gifts is a mutual blessing. Many thanks to the musicians who volunteered their gifts to the support of music during the summer services: Eric Heath, Crystal Ding, Dave Moore, Rebecca Moore, Frank Greenburg, and Sue Loweree. Thanks also to Sharon Wright for the extra treat of playing special service music.

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Application for a Special Chalice Lighters Grant

Over the summer months, the Board has paid a great deal of attention to our application for a special \$40,000 Chalice Lighters grant from the JPD to assist us in our building expansion. The Co-Presidents and committee chairs drafted a revised Long-Range Plan covering the years 2006–07 through 2008–09 and prepared an application with the focus on obtaining necessary capital funds to enable us to pay for increased mortgage obligations during the next 3 years until increased annual income may be realized. Darrel Nash, a member of JPD's Growth Extension Committee, has been appointed as our advocate with respect to our application, and he will visit the building site and review our plans on August 20, 2006.

Extended Capital Campaign

The Board authorized the engagement of David Rickart, the UUA fund-raising consultant who assisted us in our original capital campaign, to again help us in conducting the extended campaign. The timing of the extended campaign will await consultation with Mr. Rickart, but for the present, the date of our auction has been tabled until that decision is made.

Budget Adopted

The Board adopted a consensus 2006–07 budget, which had been created by the Finance Committee and committee chairs. This budget reflected a transfer from the capital fund to the operating fund of \$4,500, but the bottom line was a zero surplus/deficit amount. At the July Board meeting, the budget was amended to add a \$385 Director of Religious Education training line item.

Welcome New Board Member

At its July meeting, the Board welcomed *Sandra Henry-Stocker*.

Board Retreat

The Board and Committee Chair retreat is scheduled for August 19 from 3 to 8 p.m. at Sheila Lanahan's home.

Services To Be Held at Third Haven

The Board approved the Third Haven Friends Meeting invitation to use their new meetinghouse for our Sunday 4:30 p.m. services on *September 24* and *October 1*. The Temple will need its space on those Sundays for its own works.

(Music Notes, continued)

Another New Piano

Thank you to Ray and Bo Earnest for their generous gift of a Baldwin piano! The Music Committee arranged for transportation to temporary storage given by Peter Paul. If you have ideas about what to do with the Conn piano donated last year, which currently lives with Nancy Dimond, please speak to Sandra Henry-Stocker or me...or better yet, join the Music Committee!

Patty Rubin
Music Director

UUKids Bulletin Board

Children's RE will be creating a UUKids Bulletin Board with images of what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist. If you have magazines you need to clear out, please bring them to a service before Sept 17 so that the kids can cut and collage.

Who Needs a Will?

Everyone does. Regardless of your assets, you need a will to ensure that your final wishes are carried out in just the way you intended. When you have a will and have thought through how much medical intervention you wish to occur during your final hours, grieving family members are relieved of the burden of trying to figure out what you would have wanted, and the state is excluded from assuming the lion's share of your estate.

Is your will up to date? Have changes occurred that warrant updating your will? After you have taken care of family members and obligations, have you considered leaving a legacy that will perpetuate your values and the causes that you supported during your lifetime?

Often a simple codicil added to your existing can leave a lasting gift to perpetuate the UU values that you believe in and support. There are many ways to make a bequest or gift by will. You may state an amount or a percentage of your estate to go to your congregation, the UUA, or the JPD Endowment for Growth. All are worthy ways to leave your spiritual legacy, and sample wording is available on the JPD Web site (jpd.uua.org). Remember to consult your lawyer or financial advisor when drawing up or making changes to your will.

Joan Priest
JPD Fundraising

UUFE Contacts

Minister	Rev. James Bank, 410-770-9772 or 410-822-8103
Co-Presidents	Jean Rhian, 410-822-5807 Cynthia Quast, 410-819-8679
Dir. Religious Ed.	Nicole Meehan, 410-745-5959
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 October *Newsletter* is September 15.

Welcome Kelsey Ronning

Kelsey will be our child care provider during service.



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 one of the Co-Presidents, Jean Rhian or Cynthia Quast, and let' make your ideas a reality!



September 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Services, No RE, 4:30	4 Labor Day	5 Social Action Mtg., 7:00	6 Men's Lunch, 11:30 Katrina Lect., 7:00	7 Choir, 7:00	8 Movie Night, 7:00	9
10 Homecoming at the Fellowship, 10:00 Services, No RE, 4:30	11	12 Board Mtg., 7:00	13 Adult RE, 7:00	14 Women's Lunch, 12:00 Choir, 7:00	15 Drumming Circle, 7:00	16
17 Choir Rehearsal, 3:30, Temple Services & RE, 4:30	18 Women's Spirituality Cir., 7:00	19	20 Men's, Lunch, 11:30 Membership Mtg., 3:30 Adult RE, 7:00	21	22	23
24 Crop Walk, 1:00 Services, No RE, 4:30, at Third Haven After-Service Potluck	25	26	27 Interfaith Lunches, 10:00 Adult RE, 7:00	28 Choir, 7:00	29	30