



Newsletter

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Easton

April 2009

**Headline News - The Search has Ended
- story on page 2 -**

**Sunday Service and
School
10:00 a.m.
7401 Ocean Gateway**

Sermons

Contours of the Human Heart

Apr. 5

A service led by Rev. Paula Maiorano in recognition of our capacity for compassion with all creation, especially for our mother, the earth, on this the Buddhist feast of Kwan Yin, Goddess of Mercy. Our young people will provide the Story/Thoughts for All Ages.

Apr. 12, Transforming Paradoxes

Easter is a time of rejoicing as we celebrate the renewal of spring during the Christian and Jewish holy days of resurrection and salvation, and the Pagan holiday of fertility. Let us be enriched by the complexities of the season, and distill our uniquely UU approach to the day. Rev. Paula Maiorano

Apr. 19, Reality Ever New

If we consider evolutionary theory 200 years after the birth of Charles Darwin, and 150 years after "On the Origin of the Species," can we discern the compatibility of both theistic and humanistic religion with natural science, while refuting Intelligent Design? Rev. Paula Maiorano

Calling All Chalice Lighters! Today, Mark Bernstein, the JPD Director of Growth will join us as we celebrate Chalice Lighter Sunday.

Apr. 26, Change, The Reverend Gabriele L. Parks

What is it about change that scares us? Rev. Gabi will explore with us why we often avoid new experiences because it would mean we would have to change something.

Sunday, April 19th, Chalice Lighters Sunday

Once again, UUFE has received a generous grant from the JPD **Chalice Lighters Program** that will permit us to hire a part-time Music Director this year.

Why did we receive this grant? How did the JPD know that we needed the money for a part-time Music Director? What did we do to earn it? These questions and more will be answered by our JPD District Growth Director, Mark Bernstein, during service on Sunday, April 19. Please join us and learn how you can be a chalice lighter and support new and growing UU congregations! It's a marvelous opportunity to learn how our wonderful UU faith grows and grows, from one person and one congregation to another. Don't hesitate to see me after service on April 19th, or call me if you have any follow up questions.
Suzanne Clarke

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UUFE Candidate for Settled Minister Selected

The Search Committee is proud to announce Reverend Gabriele Parks as our candidate for settled minister. We look forward to her arrival for "Candidating Week" from Saturday April 25 through Sunday May 3.

During this 9-day period, Reverend Parks will preach two sermons and meet with the Board, committees, staff members, social groups, and as many members and friends of the fellowship as possible, both formally and informally. A schedule of Reverend Parks' activities is forthcoming.

On Sunday, May 3, in a congregational meeting following the service, a vote will be held to determine whether or not to call Reverend Parks. UUFE bylaws prohibit absentee ballots for this vote. According to our bylaws, in order to have a quorum, **50 percent of our membership must be present.**

According to *The UUA Settlement Handbook*, the congregational meeting should proceed as follows: The search committee chair will make a motion to call the minister and the president of the board will preside over ensuing discussion. Votes will then be cast in secret (i.e. written) so that everyone will feel free to vote his or her conscience. It is generally expected that at least 90 percent of votes cast agree to call the minister in order for the minister to accept the call.

The decision to call the next settled minister for UUFE is now in the hands of the members. We urge you to participate during "Candidating Week", and to be present, May 3, to vote on this very important decision.

Juliet Smith

Rev. Gabriele L. Parks (Gabi). currently serves the Thomas Paine UU Fellowship in Collegeville, Pennsylvania as an interim/consulting minister. Gabi says she hopes to share her vision of ministry with a congregation interested in steady growth and in spreading the good news of Unitarian Universalism. Her special interests in ministry are worship, adult religious education, and pastoral care. Gabi sees herself as the "glowing ember" in the congregation she serves—without her, it would be hard to start a fire; but without many logs (i.e., congregants), no fire can be started at all.



Raised a Catholic, Gabi is personally familiar with a wide range of UU theologies. Her spiritual journey includes secular Humanism, Neo-pagan spirituality, and Buddhism. Additionally, humor and the connection between science and religion are two important themes characterizing her ministry.

As a member of the American Association for Therapeutic Humor, Gabi uses humor "to help with healing, or as a diagnostic tool." She has explored this field first during her studies in therapeutic recreation and later during her time as a chaplain. As one who finds spiritual meaning in quantum physics, Gabi is also interested in the relationship between science and religion. She has presented services at UU congregations on the topic and has co-facilitated workshops with a friend who is a NASA physicist.

Gabi was born in a small town in Germany in 1954. She and her husband Roger were married in 1983, and have twin daughters, Susanne and Michela (born in 1985).

During her 18 years as a stay-at-home mother, she earned a BS in Therapeutic Recreation from Indiana University in 2001. Gabi went on to earn an MDivinity degree from Lancaster Theological Seminary in 2006 (part of her fieldwork was done with our Joseph Priestley District Executive, Rev. Dr. Richard Speck). In 2007, she was ordained by her home congregation, the UU Congregation of Columbia in Maryland.

Dwayne Eutsey

We would like to thank all members of UUFE for their interest and support over the past year, crucial to the success of our search.

A generous budget enabled us to conduct a search showing the Fellowship in our absolute best light. We have provided excellent accommodations, transportation as needed, and shown prospective candidates our Fellowship and community to their best advantage. Your thoughtful, candid answers to last summer's survey helped the committee accurately represent the congregation. Several prospective ministers specifically mentioned that the information was very helpful.

Last fall, many members attended the Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop, demonstrating our interest and sincerity in finding the right ministerial match. We have appreciated your questions and encouragement and feel privileged to represent UUFE regarding this task.

Thank you for your generosity and support. And like you, we look forward to the next step in this process.

The Search Committee

Watch for the publication
"UUFE Settlement Gazette"
for the candidate week
schedule and further information.

Religious Education-Youth

Calendar Events

Apr. 5 Christianity: Palm Sunday
Apr. 12 Christianity: Easter
Apr. 19 Earth Day Celebration
Apr. 26 Stewardship: Nature Trail

RE Donation Needs: None this month

Our Religious Education

This month we begin a brief look at the Christian celebrations of Palm Sunday and Easter. Palm Sunday commemorates the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. The gospels record the arrival of Jesus riding into the city on a donkey, while the crowds spread their cloaks and palm branches on the street. Easter is the most important religious festival in the Christian liturgical year. Christians believe that Jesus was resurrected from the dead three days after his crucifixion, and celebrate this resurrection on Easter Day or Easter Sunday, two days after Good Friday.

April 19 will be our first day of celebrating our earth and the animals and plants. We will learn how to take care of our planet as well as discover how intertwined we all are with each other.

April 26, weather permitting, the children will begin their "donation" to our Fellowship by cleaning up the nature trail.

Something to Think About

Today we tell our children, "Everything is possible, no matter what."

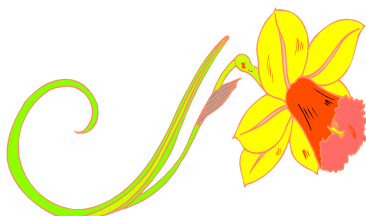
We agree to do the following things with our children:

- Lead them in a few minutes of silent meditation,
- Inspire them to appreciate the beauty and wonder of nature,
- Show them the hidden possibilities in familiar situations.

– from *The Seven Spiritual Laws for Parent* by Deepak Chopra.

See you Sunday!

*Liz Hausburg
Dir. R.E. for children and youth*



Lifethemes

From Paula's Pen

Taking Stock of Our Interim Work

April begins the last quarter of our interim work together. My final service will be June 14, after which I'll be leaving for General Assembly, followed by vacation in July.

In early Fall '08, UUFE members and I committed to the work of the Interim Year as outlined below. How have we been doing? Do you believe we've done the needed work? Where shall we focus our last weeks of energy?

To claim and honor UUFE's past and provide help with healing its griefs and conflicts.

To recognize the unique identity, strengths, and challenges of UUFE.

To understand the appropriate leadership roles of minister, church staff and lay leaders and navigate the shifts in leadership that may accompany UUFE in this time of transition.

To help renew connections with available resources found within and beyond the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA).

To enable the congregation to renew its vision, strengthen its stewardship, prepare for new professional leadership, and engage in its future with anticipation and zest.

Yours in the work,

Rev. Paula A. Maiorano
paulamaiorano@yahoo.com

Personal Information Registry Offered at UUFE

A Personal Information Registry provides confidential information for use by the Minister in the event of life-threatening illness or death. Reverend Maiorano and Ann Davis have devised a form to be completed by those who wish to do so. This form will provide emergency contact information, next of kin, will location, name of executor, health care wishes if you become unable to communicate, name of health care agent/surrogate, wishes regarding funeral or memorial service, and other pertinent information.

If you are interested in completing one of these forms, contact Ann Davis. Reverend Maiorano will compile completed forms for safe-keeping and future reference.

There will be a meeting on **Sunday, April 5 at 11:30** in the Archer-Shee Room to review these forms and answer questions about their use. Also available will be The Five Wishes forms, legal documents that act as Advance Directives for health care. UUFE member Peter Paul will be available to provide general legal information. He will not, however, provide formal legal advice.

President's Corner

UPDATE ON BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE

The Building & Grounds Committee, recently revitalized, now has three active subcommittees that focus on taking care of our grounds & landscaping, building maintenance, and building aesthetics. Since I will be stepping down from the UUFE Presidency at the end of June, I have accepted the position of Chair of the Building & Grounds Committee.

The Committee plans to meet on a regular basis and if you are interested in becoming a member, please contact me. Each sub committee's chair has summarized their goals and current activities as follows:

Grounds & Landscaping Subcommittee – Sue Loweree, Chair

We have fairly well established bed and plantings around the building which hopefully will keep our expenses at a minimum this year.

On April 4th, a **workday** from 9:00am until 12:00 pm will be held to mulch and feed plants and beds. Anyone with a bent toward outside work is welcome to join us to clean out, edge, weed, and mulch the beds. Bring along rakes, shovels, clippers, nippers, a wheelbarrow or cart if possible, plus any spare garden tools you might be willing to donate to the Fellowship.

1. An immediate Concern – clean out, level, and seed the “nursery” area at the back of the property.
2. Pre-Summer Project – plan and estimate the cost of a covered sand box.
3. Establish a sense of reality for a Memorial Wall project, by obtaining cost estimates.
4. Continue plans for an outdoor coffee hour space - to be dealt with in stages.

Wish List:

1. To fill beds with color, three to four flats each of pink or white impatiens and annual vinca
2. Mums, marigolds, coleus and day lilies
3. Tools in good condition: shovels (flat & spade), trowels, loppers, nippers, rakes

Building Maintenance Subcommittee – Don Barker, Chair

It will take three persons to fill Tom Anovick's shoes! Eric Rubin, Roger Williamson, and Don Barker are the new Building Maintenance Subcommittee (BMS) members and will be responsible for keeping the building repaired and in good condition. Upon being formed the BMS polled the UUFE staff and committees to list and prioritize pending tasks. Next, we worked on the most critical ones -- stinky water, frozen pipes, some rooms too hot, some too cold. We would appreciate hearing from UUFE members via email or by calling Eric, Roger, or Don as soon as you see repairs or improvements that need attention. We keep the task list online (www.uufeedon.org/BGC/), so that everyone can see what's done and what's next on the list. Also, if you'd like to join our crew, call us! You might enjoy some new DIY skills and job satisfaction.

Aesthetics Subcommittee – Nancy Orr, Chair

The goal of this subcommittee is to create unified and harmonious spaces throughout the building. It will monitor, consult, and advise on changes or additions to both the interior and exterior of the building. It may plan for aesthetic additions such as display of art in the foyer or wall hangings or other additions to the worship space. It will work in consultation with other committees to insure that aesthetic components are considered jointly with function. Committee members are: Nancy Orr, Chair, Maggie Garey, Sue Loweree, Jean Rhian, and Peggy Sharp.

Dick Doughty

Board News

The Board formalized our current practice of having all Committee Chairs meet semi-annually as official policy. It also addressed our need for more long-range planning. (Policy follows) The Fellowship Vice-President will take the lead, along with an Ad Hoc Committee, to examine our Long Range Plan annually.

Approved a policy which states that all Committees summarize their activities for the Annual Meeting on a standardized form. It is hoped that this form will simplify the task for Committee Chairs as well as make it easier for everyone to understand the work of the committees.

Approved a Contract with Roger Williamson as Fellowship Custodian, a position formerly held by Nancy Dimond.

Jane Terebey

Policy On Committee Coordination & Long Range Planning

The Board will host a Committee Coordination meeting twice a year, preferably in August and January, to facilitate coordination of programs and activities within the Fellowship and to encourage continuous improvement. All Standing and Ad Hoc Committee Chairpersons and Board Members will be invited to attend the meeting. Each Committee will make a brief report on their accomplishments during the past six months and their plans for the next six months. Attendees will be given an opportunity to ask questions for clarification and to make helpful suggestions. Problem solving is to be deferred to a separate meeting.

It is the objective of the Board to maintain an up-to-date 5 Year Long Range Plan encompassing our future vision and detailing annual plans for a five year period starting in the current year. The Long Range Plan will be reviewed annually in the fall and updated and published prior to the Annual Meeting each year. Starting in the fall, the Vice President will convene meetings of an Ad Hoc Long Range Planning Committee to complete the update. The updated plan will be approved by the Board and publicized at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation. The Long Range Plan, as a minimum, will cover planning for
(continued p.5)

(Long Range Plan Policy, continued)

property acquisitions and building expansions, capital fund drives, income and expense budgets, and ministerial and staff transitions; and will also reflect essential planning for all Standing Committees.

Approved March 10, 2009

Member Services

Our next committee meeting is Wednesday, Apr. 8 at 3:00 p.m. at the Fellowship building.

Welcome to our newest members. Lately, during coffee hour, you may have noticed that almost 1 in every 10 people are fresh, new faces. That is because our membership is growing by leaps and bounds. Please welcome these newest members and their children:

Robert and Claudia Tsas and their children
Sophie and Santiago
Scott and Christa Hill and their children
Emma, Garrett, and Austin
Russel and Carol Steffy
Vivian Napp
Mark Peach and Shalagh Hogan and their son
Emon
Kirk and Amy Hadsell
Ed and Marilyn Schmidt

On Sunday, April 19 we will have a special recognition for them. By then they may feel like "old hands", and we hope they do. Some, like the Schmidts, are "old hands". Nevertheless, we're delighted to officially welcome them as members on this day.

Gail Woodall

2009 JPD Spring Conference
<http://www.jpduua.org/pages/jpd-conference.php>
April 24-25, 2009
Navigating Changing Times

DoubleTree Hotel Downtown Wilmington, DE
700 N. King Street, Wilmington, DE 19801
Join us!

We will meet first for dinner at Rev. Paula Maiorano's house at 4pm so that we will have time to check in at the hotel before the opening ceremony at 7p.m.

For more information and to let us know if you are coming, contact Suzanne Clarke
sjclarke232@verizon.net or

Social Action Committee

Gave \$100 to the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), an organization which promotes the rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals.

Agreed to adopt a half mile segment of road in the Maryland Department of Highways Adopt-A-Highway program. The intended adoptee, a segment of Oxford Road that lies between Evergreen Road and Brightwater Farm Lane, is scenic with wide shoulders. Anyone in the fellowship is welcome to participate in this program. Safety procedure training is required before joining a work crew. At least four times a year we will clean debris from the sides of the road. If you would like to participate, talk to or email Sandra H-S

(bugfarm@gmail.com). Children must be twelve years old to participate.

A training session is set for Monday Apr. 6, 10:00 a.m. at the State Highway Administration building on Rt. 50 next to Wendy's. Let Sandra know if you can attend. If you can't, a video will be made available for training. Thanks to Mike Dann for initiating this community project.

Sandra Henry-Stocker

Gatherings

Men's Lunch, Wednesdays, Apr. 1, 15 and 29. We meet at the Airport Café at about 11:30 to enjoy the good food and hear advice on just about every topic under the sun. Rumor has it that we will have a very special guest on the 29th.

Religions of the East, Mar. 25, Apr. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29. 7-9 pm

Nancy Dimond and Paula Maiorano will lead a ten week exploration of *Religions of the East*, including Buddhism, Hinduism, Confucianism, and Taoism. The class is currently filled, but names are being taken for a waiting list. There is a \$10 materials fee for the class.

Happy Spring Gardening!, Saturday, Apr. 4: From 9 'til noon you are invited to join the ranks and lend a hand in maintaining our inspirational outside sanctuary. Some tools will be available, but wheelbarrows, carts, rakes, loppers, nippers and trowels would be appreciated. Day lilies and hosta are also welcome! Sue Lowery can answer any questions at 410 822-5909.

Adopt-A-Highway Training, Monday, Apr. 6: Please read the details in the Social Action Committee article above. We hope to have a good-sized group to demonstrate our interest.

Women's Lunch, Thursday, Apr. 9: We will carpool from the Fellowship, leaving at 11:20 to meet at Robin Benfer's home in Cambridge at 5843 Hudson Wharf Road. Bring a bag lunch.

Friday Night Movie, Apr. 10: Potluck dinner at 6:30 and film at 7:00. The movie will be *Milk*, the story of Harvey Milk and his struggles as America's first openly gay political activist. Milk's life, played by Sean Penn, changed history; his courage changed lives. Even if you've already seen *Milk*, it's worth seeing again.

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NEW MEMBER BIOGRAPHIES

Mark & Jamie Walter



Jamie and Mark met while they were graduate students at the University of Maine, where Jamie received a Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology and Mark a Ph.D. in Social Psychology. They moved to Maryland where they taught at St. Mary's College and were married there by a Unitarian minister. Mark's religious background was in the Jewish faith; Jamie was christened in the Catholic Church, had attended Lutheran churches, but was raised primarily as an atheist.

From St. Mary's, they moved to Michigan and taught at Albion College for seven years. Jamie grew up in Towson, Maryland and wanted to move back to this state. When Mark spotted a job opening on the faculty at Salisbury University, he applied for it and was accepted. They moved to Easton in August of 2008, with their two children, Ellie and Lydia. Jamie works full-time in Annapolis as a researcher for the Maryland Judiciary. She researches the effectiveness of court-based programs, such as truancy interventions. Mark's research at Salisbury University involves the interplay between prejudice, controversial voting decisions, and the authoritarian personality.

Their other interests include time with their kids and their dog, Cadie, an eight year-old Golden Retriever. They love camping and being outdoors. Jamie, an avid reader, volunteers in our children's RE program. As an undergraduate Jamie was an art minor and would love to resume painting. She plans to learn the piano when Ellie starts taking piano lessons.

As a native of Denver, Colorado, Mark grew up with a love of hiking and hopes someday to spend time hiking select parts of the Appalachian Trail. Mark also enjoys listening to books on tape as he commutes to Salisbury. His particularly interest is the people and events of the American Revolution.

We welcome Jamie and Mark into the Fellowship and look forward to watching Ellie and Lydia's young lives unfold here.

Jean Griffith

(Gatherings, continued)

Book Group, Thursday, Apr. 23: Please join us at 11:30 a.m. for a discussion of Forrest Church's recent book *Love & Death*. Forrest Church served almost three decades as senior minister and is now Minister of Public Theology at All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church in New York City. Bring your lunch and join us in the Archer-Shee room. If you have any questions, contact Joanie Baynard at 410 770-8277.

Mark your calendar!

Friday, May 8 - Too Good for the Yardsale
Saturday, May 23 - Congregational Yardsale

More details to follow next month

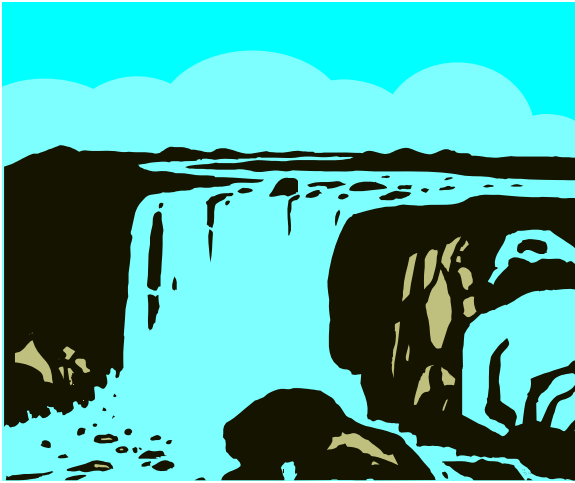
A CONVERSATION ABOUT GROWTH
With Mark Bernstein, JPD Director of Growth

Fixing the Vending Machine: Embracing Change and Growth at UUFE
April 19, 2009 11:30 AM -12:30 PM

Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine. Anonymous

The equation is simple: Growth equals change; change equals anxiety; therefore, growth equals anxiety. No matter how desirous a congregation is to grow and change, it does not come without a measure of angst. In this conversation, we'll talk about your hopes and dreams regarding growth and what needs to change in order to realize those hopes and dreams. Time permitting we'll also engage in some exercises and lively group discussion around specific ways to grow the congregation. Please join us. It might change the way you look at change.





An Invitation from UU Church of Niagara

July 19-22, 2009

Come experience the wonder of Niagara Falls including some great educational opportunities while being taken care of like royalty. The UU Church of Niagara is conducting a four day UU Niagara Experience which is a lifetime opportunity to encounter the Falls up close from every perspective. Spend four days with us exploring the rich history and natural beauty around the Falls. For information visit our web site : <http://www.uunex.net/>

Music Notes

JOYFUL NEWS from the MUSIC COMMITTEE about having been awarded a Chalice Lighters Grant.

Now that Uufe is growing again at 5%+ per year, we feel that the music program is more important than ever in helping us sustain this growth. Music not only nurtures our congregation, it also offers an opportunity for ministry to those who like to perform and also to those who support our program. A strong music program headed by a half-time professional Director would really energize our religious community.

Our Uufe congregation places great value upon a high quality musical offering and many of us consider it a necessary component of any fulfilling spiritual experience. A professional staff Director will relieve some of the stress on our wonderful volunteers who are now carrying all the responsibility for the music program, as well as social outreach, administrative duties, and many other functions we value and depend upon.

Funding

We will receive a total of \$20,000 over a three year period as a grant from Chalice Lighters to help pay the salary of a half-time Music Director. The first year we will receive \$10,000, the second year \$6,000, the third year \$4,000. This grant may be further augmented by a \$10,000 special bequest from the Polly Thompson Estate. Our goal, subject to the results of this spring's pledge drive, will be to hire a half-time Music Director in the near future.

We want to absorb this expense without adversely affecting other vital programs, or the hiring of a full time Minister. Our Five Year Budget Projection supports this assumption, anticipating a gradual expansion of our financial base as membership grows.

A "thank you" to all who helped, advised and encouraged us in this endeavor.

Maggie Garey



Send a Love Letter to Salt Lake City

Can you imagine a *Marriage is a Civil Right* banner waving over downtown Salt Lake City?
You can make it happen!

This year, we have a unique opportunity to hang a three by ten foot marriage equality banner on the large tower of the Salt Palace Convention Center during General Assembly in June. Did you know that Utah residents donated \$2.6 million in 2008 - more than any other state outside California - to support the passage of Proposition 8, which banned same-sex marriage in California? Displaying our banner will send a strong message that we are **standing on the side of love**.

\$6,000.00 alone will make this advocacy event possible, but the Salt Palace will not reserve the space until payment is in hand. We aim to make the reservation by **May 1st**, so the time to act is now. Gifts of **\$35 or more** are especially helpful.

How to Give

Make an online credit card donation through the Unitarian Universalist Association's secure website.

Or call toll free: 1-888-792-5885. Or send a donation to:

Marriage Equality Banner c/o Tom Klein

Unitarian Universalist Association

25 Beacon Street

Boston, MA 02108

UUFE Contacts

Interim Minister	Rev. Paula Maiorano, 410 822-8103
President	Dick Doughty, 410 673-7580
Director of Religious Education for Children and Youth	Elizabeth Hausburg, 410 476-4774
Minister Emeritus	Daniel G. Higgins, Jr., D.Min., 410 745-3462
UUFE Office	410 822-8103
Newsletter Editor	Frank Greenburg, 410 819-8810

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.

Visit our New Web Site at

www.ufeaston.org

www.ufeaston.org

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April 2009

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

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

