



Windmill

To affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person

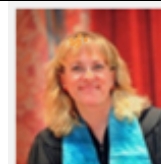
Mount Vernon Unitarian Church

March 1, 2010

... is a Welcoming Congregation. Its Mission is to inspire a transforming journey, to embrace our interconnectedness, and to build a loving community of fairness, equality and respect.

Taking Note . . .

by The Reverend Kate R. Walker



Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church is a midsize church with 346 members. According to folks who study church dynamics we are what's known as a program size church. This means our organization is dependent upon programming in order for members to be in relationship with each other.

Our community is filled with all sorts of programs in addition to worship, such as religious education for all ages, Every Thursday group, Small Group Ministry, quilting, meditation, bible study, Caring Associates, committee meetings and grounds work. All of these activities, some formal, some less so, help bring people together in mutual support.

In a smaller church, between 70 and 150 members, called a pastoral size church, the minister is the center of most activities, particularly communication, teaching and pastoral care. Working together, the minister and the board guide the organization in a tight community resembling two or three large families. But, be clear, those "families" hold a lot of the power, and caution to any minister who tries to change something sacred to any of them.

Because of our size and the complexity of our organization, neither the board nor I can easily hold a clear and cohesive picture of our community. A new kind of extended partnership in an uneven leadership matrix is needed, one that includes the board, the minister,

staff, and volunteers (some of whom are so dedicated they often act as staff). The board and the minister collaborate to keep the parts connected, with communication flowing.

In order to achieve this dynamic and challenging effort, the leadership needs to know in what direction to guide this religious community. The recent sessions inviting dialogue about our values, appreciation and dreams for MVUC are exactly what the leadership needs to make decisions about priorities and goals for the next five to ten years.

The key is understanding that the vision, mission and values we name are the point of orientation for all future decisions about programming. Our goals and priorities, and all that we do, will be weighed against our collective vision and mission. This is why it is essential we arrive at a consensus.

The Vision/Mission team, appointed by the board, has been carefully listening to you over the past two months. After some fun editing, we will post the results of our work by mid-March. This version is what you will vote on at our Annual Meeting on April 25.

I'll share more about being a program size church and what that means for your membership and my ministry in next month's Windmill.

Love, Kate Walker

Rev. Kate R. Walker

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Please e-mail articles to newsletters@mvuc.org.

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Program Highlights Mark Your Calendar!

First Wednesday Fellowship

March 3 (See page 6)

Dinner: 7 pm

Vespers: 7-7:30 pm

Choir, yoga, poetry, movies, etc.: 7:30-9 pm

Good Companions

Tuesday, March 9

11:45 am-1:45 pm (see page 6)

Pam Mitchell: New Hop Housing Dreams and Hopes for
Eradicating Homelessness
Hollin Hall

Partner Church Service

Sunday, March 14 (see page 7)

Paula Cole Jones Guest Speaker

All Souls Unitarian Church, DC, "UUs in Africa"

Lunch with a Book

Sunday, March 14, 12:45 pm

Village Wharf Restaurant (see page 5)

Partner Church Dinner

Saturday, March 20, 5:30 p.m.

Chapel (see page 7)

Men's Chorus

Sunday, March 21, 3 p.m.

(see page 5)

Spring Book Sale

March 25, 26, 27

Hollin Hall (see page 5)

Annual Lasagna Dinner and Variety Show

March 27 (see page 5)

Dinner: 5:30 p.m., Variety Show: 7:00 p.m.

Meeting House



Religious Education (RE) By Meagan Henry, Director of Religious Education (DRE)

There are many interesting and exciting things happening in the Religious Education program this spring. The Kindergarten through 5th grades are finishing up with their Tapestry of Faith curricula and moving on to the World's Religions mini-semester. Afterwards, we will begin our Green Hill Project. Contact me at dre@mvuc.org if you would like to inquire further about any of our classes or if you would like to volunteer to teach or assist with a class.

~Meagan Henry

RE Program Highlights:

Kindergarten & 1st Grades

Embark upon the world religions intercession through learning about and celebrating the "Holidays and Holy Days" of cultures around the world.

2nd and 3rd Grades

Exploring the Ancient World through Greek and Roman mythology.

4th and 5th Grades

Begin a new curriculum, "In Search of Myths and Heroes."

6th and 7th Grades

Continue to learn about "Our Neighboring Faiths." This fall the Jr. High Youth Group learned about Judaism and Quakers and had a lesson on the Masons with a visit to the George Washington Masonic Temple. They will continue their religious exploration by learning about Mormons.

8th Grade Coming of Age

Topics include: Justice, Equity & Compassion, How Would You Apply the 1st and 2nd Principles to the Patriots of the Boston Tea Party?; Acceptance of One Another; Free and Responsible Search for Truth



and Meaning; World Community with Peace; Liberty & Justice; Right of Conscience; and Use of Democratic Process/Practical Tips for Resolving Conflicts.

Young Religious UU's (9th-12th Grades)

Our High School Youth have enjoyed time getting to know one another better while planning their worship service. They have plans in the works for some interesting lessons and discussion around spirituality.

Adult Religious Education

A full listing of Adult RE classes can be found on the web at: <http://mvuc.org/pages/Adult-Classes.html> and signup sheets are available in the Commons or you can directly contact Meagan Henry at dre@mvuc.org or contact the course instructor.

RE Youth March Birthdays			
	4 Ben Roberts	20	
	7 Mia Colaizi	27	
	9 Alison Tashima	29	
	19 Ethan Tashima		
			
			Johnny Brown
			Jason Venzke
			Helen Kitrosser

Monthly Worship Theme

WHOLENESS, BY THE REV. KATE R. WALKER

There are a lot of religious messages about brokenness. In some of the other UU churches that are participating in Theme Based Ministry, the theme for March is Brokenness. But my preference is to focus on where I want to be, not where I've been. We all carry parts of ourselves, physical, emotional and spiritual, that feel broken, or not healed from past wounds. It's important to acknowledge these wounds in order for healing to take place. I like to then focus on what healing looks like, what Wholeness feels and looks like. The power lies within me to choose this path. I invite you to join me. (Please see my bi-monthly reflection at www.mvuc.org).

Sunday, March 7, the Rev. Kate R. Walker

"I Am Not Broken, I Think" - The theme of the month for March is Wholeness, bringing to mind visions of good therapy and bad theology.

Sunday, March 14, Paula Cole Jones

"UUs in Africa" - Partner Church Sunday, Guest Speaker Paula Cole Jones, All Souls Unitarian Church, DC

Rev. Walker will be on study leave March 10-17.

Sunday, March 21, the Rev. Kate R. Walker

"In Defense of Being a Religious Liberal" - The word liberal is getting beat up by all sides, yet UU's use liberal in connection to our religion. Should we be cautious with our liberalism?

Sunday, March 28, the Rev. Scott Alexander

"Golfing With Monkeys" - Please welcome our guest, the Rev. Scott Alexander, senior minister of the River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Bethesda, Maryland. By way of a curious British story from India, Rev. Alexander will explore one of the most important spiritual qualities we human beings can possess. Our minister, Rev. Kate Walker has exchanged pulpits with

Rev. Alexander and is preaching today at the River Road congregation.

Some Books for Suggested Reading compiled by the Rev. Marlin Lavanhar

When Bad Things Happen to Good People, by Harold S. Kushner, Avon Books, 1983.

Poems to Live By in Uncertain Times, edited by Joan Murray, Beacon Press, 2001.

Helping Someone with Mental Illness, by Rosalyn Carter, with Susan K. Golant, Times Books, 1998.

The Healing Choice: Your Guide to Emotional Recovery After an Abortion, by Candace De Puy, Ph.D., & Dana Dovitch, Ph.D., 1997.

Miscarriage: Women Sharing From the Heart, by Marie Allen, Ph.D., & Shelly Marks, MS, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1993.

Bereaved Children & Teens: A Support Guide for Parents & Professionals, Edited by Earl A. Grollman, 1995.

Proverbs of Ashes: Violence, Redemptive Suffering, and the Search for What Saves Us, by Rita Nakashima Brock and Rebecca Ann Parker, Beacon Press, 2001.

It Must Have Been Moonglow, by Phyllis Green.

Coming Back to Life: Practices to Reconnect Our Lives, Our World, by Joanna Macy and Molly Young Brown.

Healing Grief, by Victor M. Parachin, Chalice Press, St. Louis 2001. A wonderful little book with simple steps through the process of loss and healing.

A Small Piece of UU History

*March 8, 1841: Unitarian Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. was born in Boston, MA. He served on the U.S. Supreme Court from 1902 to 1932. He died March 6, 1935.

*March 9, 1874: Unitarian Millard Fillmore died at the age 74. He served as the 13th President of the U.S.

*March 11, 1965: Unitarian minister James Reeb died two days after being attacked by segregationists in Selma, AL. He was one of over 125 UU ministers that answered the call by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to march in support of civil rights.

On and Off the Hill

Lunch With A Book

March's Lunch With A Book selection is *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. If you have read the book in the past, or wish to read this classic, please come and join us for lunch and discussion on March 14th at 12:45 p.m. at the Village Wharf Restaurant. For more information contact Louise Werner-Rhoades at 703-619-1369 or louron13@cox.net.

Youth Ministry Coordinator

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax in Oakton, VA is seeking a part-time Youth Ministry Advisor to stimulate and energize their program for high school youth. This position involves youth in worship, leadership development, social action, and education and community building. The Youth Ministry Coordinator, in conjunction with the Director of Religious Exploration (DRE), will coordinate the religious exploration program for youth (9th – 12th grade) of the congregation.

For more information contact Natalie Fenimore, Director of Religious Exploration at dre@uucf.org

Men's Chorus to Sing at MVUC

In the distinctive style known as "barbershop," the 50-member Harmony Heritage Singers will present a concert of patriotic and popular songs at MVUC on Sunday, March 21, at 3:00 p.m. Hear favorites like "Top of the World," "Battle Hymn of the Republic," "That's Life," and the Beach Boys gem, "Barbara Ann." Also featured will be a special guest quartet, the Fo Pas, with their hilarious version of health care reform. There is no admission charge; an offering will be taken with proceeds going to the BEL (Bryant Early Learning) Center, affiliated with United Community Ministries. Information is available from Ron Brandt, 703-765-4779, brandtron@verizon.net.

Annual Lasagna Dinner and Variety Show Saturday, March 27

The Annual Lasagna Dinner to benefit the Coming-of-Age trip to Boston will be held on Saturday, March 27, 5:30 - 6:30 pm in the Meeting House prior to the Variety Show. Dinner will include delicious lasagna — meat and veggie — as well as garlic bread, salad, and beverages. Tickets, which include the Variety Show, are \$8 per person or a maximum of \$25 for immediate family members.

The Variety Show follows at 7 pm. Adults and children — young and old — all are welcome to perform. So, break out your bongos and dust off your tutu. A sign-up sheet for the Variety Show will be in the Commons each Sunday. Everyone should attend this at least once! Contact Linda Jemison (the emcee) by email at linda@fairfax.info or 703-765-0379.

Spring Book Sale Is Coming!

The Spring Book Sale will be March 25, 26, & 27. The bookshelves in the fireplace room of Hollin Hall are already filling up with books for the sale. You may purchase these books now for \$2 each. Please leave the money in the box on the shelf. We have lots of books and are happy to sell these books now to make room for more.

We will need help for the sale: moving boxes from the basement, setting up for the sale, cashiering, and cleaning up. What I really need is someone to recruit volunteers to fill the staffing needs for the sale. Can you help? Contact Joan Wamsley, 703-751-6086.

Book Sale Includes Used Art Sale!

It is happening again. At the Annual Used Book Sale we will also be selling used art, frames, and art objects. Please check around your house and see if you have items that you would like to recycle and donate to MVUC. Please leave all items in the Hollin Hall kitchen or put them in to book kiosk in the parking lot.

Communion Service – March 7, 2010

To mark the season of Lent and the coming of Easter, there will be a communion service held on March 7. The service will be preceded by a simple lunch and conversation. Lunch starts at 12:45 in the Hollin Hall Dining room, with the service beginning in the Fireplace room around 1:30 (after we have had our fill of good food and good conversation). All are welcome—this is a Unitarian Universalist communion service! If you would like to bring a dish for the lunch, let Peg Bartel know (703-799-1208) or mbartel@verizon.net.

Wednesday Fellowship

On March 3rd, the first Wednesday of the month, we will celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Join us at 6 pm for an Irish meal and music (\$7 per dinner). At 7 pm, Rev. Walker will lead a Vespers Service. Starting at 7:30 pm, we will offer activities such as choir, yoga, poetry, and kid's games. Sign up in the Commons, and contact Georgia Pourchot with questions: 703-721-0595, gpourchot@yahoo.com.

The Search Is On For Next Year's Leaders

The Nominating Committee is currently seeking input for creating the slate of nominees to fill the following positions:

- Board of Trustees - five members
- Our Home Community - program coordinator
- Religious Education - program coordinator
- Nominating Committee - two members

The congregation will vote on people to fill these key roles at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, April 25th. If you know of any fellow MVUCers who would be well-suited for any of these positions, please contact one of the current members of the Nominating Committee (see below). If you are contacted by the Nominating Committee to potentially serve the church in one of these positions, we thank you in advance for your favorable consideration of such a request!

Nominating Committee: Tom Griffin (co-chair), Robin Roberts (co-chair), Deborah Hansell, Paula Mathis, Ken Pilkenton

Good Companions

Hollin Hall Dining Room & Fireplace Room

Elaine Bronez assisted by Eleanor & Al Erickson

11:45 to 12:45 - BYO LUNCH | 12:45 to 1:45 - SPEAKER

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Pam Mitchell: New Hope Housing dreams and hopes for eradicating homelessness

Pam is the executive director of New Hope Housing. She has been working with various categories of homeless people in Fairfax County for over ten years. She will talk about the various kinds and degrees of homelessness that she encounters every day, the causes and effects of homelessness, and much more.

MVUC walked for the homeless on the National Mall in November, in support of the work New Hope Housing does.

Tuesday March 23, 2010

No meeting planned

The Rev. Kate Walker's presentation concerning dream interpretation has been rescheduled for Tuesday, April 13, 2010

Thanks to All For Snow Day Adjustments

Our services on Sunday February 14 created some real challenges in parking safely and efficiently. Our special thanks to the many volunteers who made it possible for the services to take place (especially Jim Lachlan, Malcolm Kerr, and Leah and Shahad Choudhury). An equal thanks to our patient congregants who put up with some creative parking requirements, and in a couple of cases, some rather long delays in getting out while we found the owner of the car blocking you in. Everyone worked together to good effect.

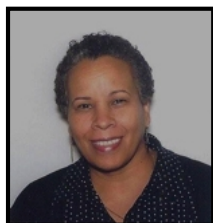
Thanks, Bill Clontz



OUR LARGER WORLD NEWS

Social Justice Programs at the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church
Love is the teaching of this church, and service is its prayer.

Partner Church News



We are looking forward to having a guest speaker for our Partner Church Service on Sunday, March 14. Paula Cole Jones is a management consultant and lifelong member of All Souls Church, Unitarian, in Washington, D.C. She is a former president of DRUUMM (Diverse and Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries) and an independent antiracism consultant for the UUA's JUUST Change Consultancy.

She accompanied Rev. William G. Sinkford, former President of the UUA, on a 19-day pilgrimage to visit six African countries in November 2008: South Africa, Uganda, Kenya, Senegal, Ghana and Nigeria. She had the incredible experience of meeting with Archbishop Desmond Tutu as part of her journey. She will speak about her pilgrimage and about African UUs at our service.

Please also mark your calendars for our Partner Church Dinner on Saturday, March 20. We will have delicious Hungarian and Romanian food and wine. We will begin serving appetizers at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6:00 p.m. If there is enough interest, we will provide child care and pizza for children for a small fee. Please let Lisa Gillispie know if you would like to bring your children. The price for dinner for adults is \$25.

Easy Green! March 2010

From a climate point of view, it is difficult to justify bottling water (often tap water to begin with), hauling it long distances, and selling it. Clever marketing, designed to undermine public confidence in the safety and quality of municipal water supplies, has convinced many consumers that bottled water is safer and healthier than what they get from their faucets. However, in the United States and Europe, there are tougher standards regulating the quality of tap water than that of bottled water.

Manufacturing the nearly 28 billion plastic bottles used to package water in the United States alone requires 17 million barrels of oil per year. But, 50 million barrels of oil is used to haul the 1 billion bottles of water EVERY TWO WEEKS from bottling plants to stores. (August/September 2009 issue of Mother Earth News).



Please, keep a reusable bottle or two handy at all times. And, if you want to filter your tap water, Brita makes a good pitcher that does it.

Just a thought ~ Wendy Burns

More Green News

40th Anniversary of Earth Day is April 22nd

Earth Day 2010 resources are now available on the web from UU Ministry for Earth at:

http://www.uumfe.org/earth_day_resources.

For the 40th anniversary of Earth Day this year, UU congregations are invited to join in lifting up the role our faith can play in making the production and consumption of food more just. We make daily decisions of what to eat, and every bite is an opportunity to vote for justice. The following is available:

- Information and suggestions on issues ranging from the field to the table
- Links to congregational stories
- Worship materials
- Ideas for actions in your own community
- Order of Service covers
- Eco-Hero certificates

Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice
Environmental Program
Baltimore –Washington– Northern Virginia
Region

Title: "After Copenhagen: How Should Our Chesapeake Region UU Community Take Action?"

Plenary Speaker: Mike Tidwell, founder and director of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network

Workshops include:

- Addressing Climate Change in the Chesapeake
- How to Further Ethical Eating
- Preparing for Life After Peak Oil
- Resources and Possibilities for Earth Day Programs and Actions

Date and Time: Saturday, March 6, 2010, from 8:20 a.m. to 12:35 p.m.

Location: River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation
6301 River Road
Bethesda, MD 20817-5888

Register to attend at info@uusj.org or 301-588-1951 or at www.uusj.org.

The UU-UNO's Annual Intergenerational Spring Seminar: "A Climate of Change: Head, Heart and Hands Around the Planet"

April 8-10, 2010 (Youth program begins on April 7)
New York City, NY

Every April, youth and adults from around the United States and Canada gather in New York City for an exciting and educational Intergenerational Spring Seminar. All participants gain a deep understanding on a topic of global concern and have a lot of fun in the wonderful intergenerational environment. Past seminars have focused on water, poverty, HIV/AIDS, human trafficking, and peacekeeping. This year's topic is *Climate Change*. During these four days approximately 75 youth and advisors stay at one of the Manhattan based UU congregations, learning, making friends, having fun, and mobilizing. Not only do youth attend the conference but many also take on important leadership roles in its planning and execution. Contact their office for more information on how to participate in the next spring seminar! Please visit their website at <http://uu-uno.org/> to register.

Featured Speakers:

Dr. Tony Broccoli is director of the Rutgers Center for Environmental Protection and an experienced UU-UNO Scientific Advisor who will present work of the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change)

Dr. Graciella Chichilnsky is a world renowned economist who developed the carbon market system used in the Kyoto Protocol, and created the sustainable development theory in economics.

Dr. Alan Robock is a climatologist studying the effects of human impacts on climate and the risks of geoengineering

Rev. Fletcher Harper is the Leader of GreenFaith, an interfaith coalition for the environment

From Our Board of Trustees by Reid Adler, Chair



Dear Friends: Here are some updates and opportunities to get involved with some very important, ongoing projects:

MVUC's Budget – Al Robbert's article in the Feb. Windmill

"Recession Takes Bite Out of MVUC Finances" is noteworthy. MVUC "is running a \$71,000 deficit in our operating fund revenue and expenses so far this year" largely because wedding revenues are far below projections. Raising the money to operate our Church truly is a challenge in this climate. But we are not running out of money and we do have a cushion. Some belt tightening is necessary, as well as more attention to fundraising and a commitment to stewardship. It's important to remember that MVUC has an abundance of wealth in terms of our members, staff, volunteers, social programs, RE, worship, music, public policy work, endowment, property, etc.

The Cell Tower – AT&T has decided to look again for a public property for its cell tower. So AT&T has put on hold its proposal to locate a tower at MVUC. Thus, the preliminary activities intended for February (i.e., a balloon test, subsequent photo simulations, propagation tests and site plan development) also are on hold for the foreseeable future. AT&T may or may not re-engage with MVUC. It's clear that we should not expect a tower at MVUC to improve cell phone reception in our neighborhood, and rent payments from AT&T are not likely to help our cash flow.

Our ad hoc Safety Task Force – A concern discussed at the December 6 Congregational meeting was our safety on the Hill. I'm pleased to announce that Becky Brandt is chairing a new task force that will identify and triage safety issues, consider how other churches address these concerns, and make recommendations to the Board. If you have suggestions, concerns or would like to participate, please contact Becky! One high priority matter is improving communications between our buildings.

Mission of MVUC – Our Mission & Vision "Theme Team" has listened to more than 100 members of the church, and has selected some "themes" for your review and comment before they finalize a statement of mission, vision and goals. The final statement will be voted "up or down" at our annual meeting on April 25. Please look at postings in the back of the chapel, on the MVUC web site and on Facebook. Share your thoughts about the themes and the draft statement. The Team will consider your feedback and capture the spirit of your comments.

Stewardship – Our "visiting stewards" have been training and organizing for their visits with members of the Congregation. As a family who has been "visited" in the past, Jacki and I enjoyed a good conversation about our expectations for and relationship with the Church. This may be a great opportunity for some of you to make a personal connection with a fellow congregant whom you don't yet know well. If you are a Steward, thank you for volunteering your time and energy! And if you are asked for a visit by a Steward, thank you for making the time to have a very important and rewarding conversation.

Governance Enhancement – In parallel with the creation of a new statement of mission, vision and values by the Congregation, the Board has been taking steps to make our Church programs more effective in accomplishing them. Specifically, and with reference to Rev. Kate's column this month, we are clarifying certain policies, reorganizing some committees and considering other ways to empower our staff and to make more efficient use of the time and energy of our volunteers in accomplishing what really matters most to us all. If you are interested in policy-based governance, strategic planning or bylaws please get in touch with me! (I can be reached by email at boardchair@mvuc.org or catch me in person on the Hill).

Sermons for Your Re-Hearing

Each Sunday's service is recorded and available on CD. If you would like a copy, please speak with Raleigh Romine or Joanne Ell.

A Month of Sundays

Services at 9:30 and 11:15 am
unless otherwise noted*

Sunday, March 7

"I Am Not Broken, I Think"
The Rev. Kate R. Walker

Sunday, March 14

"UUs in Africa"
Guest Speaker Paula Cole Jones

Sunday, March 21

"In Defense of Being a Religious Liberal"
The Rev. Kate R. Walker

Sunday, March 28

"Golfing With Monkeys"
The Rev. Scott Alexander

*See Page 4 for Sermon Descriptions

**Mount Vernon
Unitarian Church**
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Alexandria, VA 22307

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Caring Associates

Contact information for the Caring Associate for the week and Caring Associate Coordinator (CAC) can be found each week in the Order of Service and in the Member Services area of the church website. As always, MVUC staff and volunteers are willing to assist you during normal business hours. Please direct any questions or concerns to Betsy Stephens betsys@cox.net or Meg Clontz meg@theclontz.net.

Reminder to All MVUC Email Users

To receive emailed newsletters, weekly bulletins, and special notices, please notify Esther Dickinson if your email address changes, esthergertrude@verizon.net.

Thank you!