



Windmill

Mount Vernon Unitarian Church

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

July 1, 2011

... MVUC is a loving and inclusive community. Our mission is to encourage one another on our spiritual journeys and to work together to build the common good.

Taking Note . . .

by The Reverend Kate R. Walker



Taking Note Part 1 of 2:

The median age in the U.S. is 35.3. In 2007, the last time a survey was taken, MVUC's median age was 60-69, with 48% over 60 and 1% between 19 and 29.

The future vitality and viability of churches and entire denominations are significantly challenged by the different needs of two age groups: GI'ers, born before 1946 and millennialists, gen X and Y'ers, or those born after 1970. Value differences are hard to negotiate, and compromise is often unsatisfying for all parties. Author Gil Rendle, "The Multigenerational Congregation," suggests education, understanding and consensus. To that end, I continued the conversation on June 4 at MVUC.

Present for the conversation were GI'ers, baby boomers, millennialists and gen x'ers, maybe even a gen y'er too! All were gathered for a multigenerational potluck/barbecue on a beautiful Saturday afternoon. A delightful meal was shared, and I learned that, here south of the Mason-Dixon Line, a barbecue means just that—bring the barbecue sauce!

With full bellies we gathered in a circle of mixed ages. I offered some information that I've learned about generational value differences and encouraged everyone not to try and fix anything yet. Just have a conversation.

According to author Gil Rendle, 1946 was a watershed year that marked the end of the GI generation (post WWII), and the beginning of the baby boomers. A lot of those boomers didn't go to church, in part because their parents did. But the grandchildren, those born after

1970, are returning to church in search of spirituality and connection. However, as soon as they walk in the door they're met with a church that clashes with their needs.

The dominant culture and value system of most churches and denominations was built by and is maintained by the GI generation. It's been their church for decades and they've paid for it with precious time and money. Dressed up, they attend traditional worship on Sunday morning, with solid predictable hymns, listen to intellectually stimulating sermons, respond without applause in the chapel they built, in an institution to which they're committed.

This generation knows how to defer their pleasure, and believes in the Protestant work ethic. Known for speaking out on important issues, they also know how to band together in strength and how to create a sense of belonging. The women often have important leadership roles that they didn't get in the larger work world. They take care of each other, and create process-oriented decision making procedures so that everyone's voice is heard.

Born in a frightening world recovering from world wars, personal responsibility and control are high values, and heroes still walk the earth. This generation knows how to create a sacred home. The operating budget comes from their pledges and the endowment is safe and secure for a rainy day in the far future.

Next month Part 2 of 2: Who is that future?

In good faith, Rev. Kate Walker

Rev. Kate R. Walker

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The Windmill is published monthly. Deadline for articles is the 15th of the month. Items will be edited to fit available space.

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

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Program Highlights Mark Your Calendar!

Social Justice Movie

Inlaws and Outlaws

Friday, July 1, 7:00 pm

Chapel

See page 6

Brunch with a Book

Sunday, July 10, 11:30 am

Ruby Tuesday

See page 5

Partner Church Brunch

Sunday, July 10, after the Service

Hollin Hall



Lifespan Spiritual Growth By Meagan Henry, Director

Summertime is Here!

Join us on Sunday mornings for summer fun! MVUC children are encouraged to attend the multi-age class after the For All Ages portion of the worship service.

Our Children's Summer Religious Education program is coordinated by Alison Stevens. Alison is a graduate of the MVUC Children & Youth RE program, and we're delighted to have her involvement over the summer. She is also working at Frog Pond during the week, so she is getting a lot of quality time with wonderful kids!

Attention Parents

Summer RE assistants are needed each Sunday. Please sign up in the Commons and/or contact Alison Stevens for more information, eveningwish@aol.com.

Welcome to New Lifespan Religious Education & Spiritual Growth Council Members!

Our mission is to encourage the lifelong journey of faith development.

Our council's vision is to provide learners of all ages with meaningful experiences for their minds, hearts, and bodies and allow them the space to reflect on these experiences and connect them to their personal spiritual journeys.

We have five new members who've joined the RE Council: Laura Castro, Kristine Erickson, Donna Gold, Jim Hewitt, and Mary Paden. These new members add to our current members: Liz Bessel (Chair), Penelope Fleming, Colleen O'Malley, and Beth Summanen.

The Council had a successful Spring Mini-Retreat and will follow up with another in August. The Council is looking at ways to address the changing needs of the 21st century family/person. We recognize that life is different now from how it was when many of us were growing up. Sundays

are no longer set aside for church and matters of the spirit. Often, we're too busy to build strong bonds within our community. However, many of us desire religious education, spiritual growth and to belong to the "beloved community." How will we, as a faith community, adapt to our changing lifestyles? We hope to come up with some good answers to these and many other questions!

Children and Youth RE Volunteer Teachers Needed for Fall Program

Contact Meagan Henry or sign up in the Commons if you would like to teach RE next Fall. There will be a thorough teacher training session before classes begin. Regular Children and Youth RE classes begin on September 18.

Clothing Sent to Unitarian Orphanage in India

Many thanks to everyone who donated to our children's clothing drive for the Annie Margaret Barr Children's Village! We were able to send five fully packed large-size flat-rate boxes filled with play clothes for the children. This joint effort between our Partner Church and Religious Education program was a great success and we hope to combine efforts again in the future.

Sincerely, Lisa Gillispie (Partner Church Committee Chair) and Meagan Henry (Director of Lifespan Spiritual Growth)

July Youth Birthdays

Bernice Bendsen	6
Rowan Napier	9
Shahad Choudhury	9
Austin Lane	11
Henry Keeler	12
Summer Bossman	12
Kenneth Krogh	13
Calla Reidy	15
Chris Hewitt	20
Sophia Butler	22

Monthly Worship Services

Sunday, July 3, "The Spiritual Discipline of Reconciliation"

The Rev. Rebekah A. Montgomery

Only by knowing our truths can we act boldly on our spiritual journey of healing. Reverend Montgomery is a Unitarian Universalist Community Minister and 2009 Military Chaplain of the Year.

Sunday, July 10, "Art and Spirituality: The Place I Want to Get Back To"

Linda Jemison and MVUC

This is a multi-generational service.

July 17, "The Rich Young Man"

Kären Rasmussen

July 24, "Liberty's Lessons for Liberals"

Kelly Campbell and the Young Adults

July 31, "We are in this together. So where are we going?"

MVUC and the General Assembly

Question Box Sunday Leftovers

From August 8, 2010

Q. "Love is the teaching of this church." We talk of love in church with friends and certainly among lovers. There are dozens of definitions of love, such as "god is love," etc. So what's the UU definition when you think of love, and can love be a 'teaching,' like how, when, where?

A. I find love teaches me every time I close it to someone or ignore a call to compassion. The teaching comes from guilt, the tool of the conscience that smacks me upside the heart. I find love, real love, not the Hallmark card sweet and goey love, but love that challenges me to look beyond my own motivations, my own ego, my own needs, is a powerful teacher of what

humanity is fully capable of, if given the chance. The human heart is breakable, but mends quite well.

Q. (Late entry) I really appreciated your answer to the question "who is God?" and have a piggy back question: Why call that metaphor "god," when the word has caused so much trouble in understanding, violence and oppression for so long?

A. Changing the word won't change the potential for trouble in understanding, violence and oppression. It's not the word, it's the people who use it that cause the misunderstanding, violence and oppression. We could use the word "Uberlicious" and people will still use it to meet their needs. Please see the prior question and answer.

Unitarian Universalist History

July 1, 1858 Unitarian Charles Darwin presented his paper "The Origin of Species" to the Linnaean Society.

July 7, 1540 Prince John Sigismund of Transylvania was born. The first and only Unitarian king, he ruled from 1556 to 1570, declaring in 1568 a decree of religious tolerance in his principality.

July 11, 1767 Unitarian John Quincy Adams was born in Braintree, Massachusetts. He devoted many years of public service including serving as U.S. President 1825-1829.

July 28, 1948 The first fellowship under the new American Unitarian Association was formed in Boulder, Colorado.

On and Off the Hill

Brunch with a Book

Brunch with a Book will be meeting July 10 at 11:30 am at Ruby Tuesday in Hybla Valley. This month we will be discussing *Dreamers of the Day* by Mary Doria Russell. In 1921 a woman who has lost her family to WWI and the flu epidemic decides to do something a woman of her age would normally never think of—travel to Egypt. There, she meets T.E. Lawrence who is in Cairo for a conference to determine how the post-WWI/Ottoman Empire remains of Palestine and the Middle East will be divided.

For more information contact Louise Werner-Rhoades at louron13@cox.net or at 703-619-1369.

MVUC Greenhouse News

After two close-out sale weekends, we finally called it quits for this Spring. Many thanks to those of you who bought our plants and praised our efforts. We welcome your continued shopping for leftover plants which are all outside on pallets. Donations may be left in the Greenhouse or with the church office receptionist. We appreciate your bringing back pots and flats for reuse. We are now in the business of washing and sorting pots and flats and getting organized for our next sale in the Fall. We welcome new members. If you are interested give me a call at 703-360-7152 or email at maryabarnett@gmail.com.

Back to School!

Yes, it is early to think about September, but no, it is not too early to help United Community Ministries (UCM) with their Back to School drive. This year, by working with Kids R First, a local non-profit, and with the help of donations collected throughout the community, UCM will be purchasing the supplies they need at bulk prices from local stores. This is a change from past drives, and UCM has 1,000 kids to help out. Churches are asked to consider a goal of \$500 and

50 backpacks as a fundraising goal. If 50 MVUCers donate a \$10 check per person, and one backpack, we can meet this challenge. Can we do that MVUC? Please consider helping: Drop off a backpack and a check in the UCM donation box when you come to church (make check out to UCM). Thank you for your generosity, the Social Justice Council.

Massachusetts Tornado Relief Fund

A series of storms and devastating tornados ripped through western and central Massachusetts causing severe damage to local churches and homes. The Unitarian Universalist Parish in Monson, MA, sustained significant structural damage when a tornado sheared off the steeple. At least one family in each of the congregations in Brookfield and Sturbridge suffered catastrophic damage to their homes, and a staff member of a UU Springfield congregation also experienced serious property damage.

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) has established the Massachusetts Tornado Relief Fund to provide relief to the congregations of the Clara Barton District, their participants, and the affected communities in Massachusetts. If you would like to help, please access the UUA website and search Massachusetts Tornado Relief Fund. Thank you for your generosity.

—The Social Justice Council.

July 10 - Green Sales

We will be selling Green Products including:

- Paper products including paper, envelopes, toilet paper and paper towels
- Cleaning products including laundry detergent, dishwashing soap and more
- Recyclable plastic bags, and cloth bags for produce
- Coffee
- Chocolate

Look for us before and after the service. If you have any questions ask me by email at bikeschaf@aol.com. Dick Schaffer



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

Partner Church News

Our group of ten people from MVUC will travel to Transylvania to visit sites of Unitarian and historic significance beginning July 20. We will spend four days in Szentháromság, our partner church village, doing home stays, attending church and getting to know the people of the village and our scholarship students. If you are a scholarship sponsor, and would like to send a letter or very small gift to your student, please give it to Lisa Gillispie.

The headmaster of the Unitarian school of Mawlat in the Khasi Hills sent us a very nice thank you letter including the following excerpt:

“Dear Lisa and all the members of MVUC,

We want to thank you for your great help to our school. I received your letter last month and the \$3,000 for the school you sent. Thank you very much for your hard work to raise this fund [sic] to fulfill our requirements. I know through your supports [sic], we can pay the salaries of the teachers. This year, we will upgrade to grade 8. Next year, we will upgrade to grades 9 and 10. May God bless you all.

Thank you. With love, Recover Sawian”

Social Justice Movie Series

July 1, 7:00 pm, Chapel, *Inlaws and Outlaws* (2010): At the beginning of the film, you meet real people one on one. You don't know who's gay or straight or who's with whom. As their stories unfold and stereotypes fall by the wayside, you won't care because you'll be rooting for everybody. With candor, good humor, great music and real heart, the film gets past all the

rhetoric to embrace what we have in common: We love.

Special Collections ***July 2011 - April 2012***

On the second Sunday of the month, Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church holds a special collection, in support of service and advocacy organizations. For the period July 2011 through April 2012, the Social Justice Council selected the following organizations as recipients of special collections: Beacon House which assists at-risk children and youth in Washington DC (July), Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice, a partnership of UU churches in the Greater Washington area working to promote our principle of dignity and justice for all (August), Walk for the Homeless to benefit New Hope Housing (September), Association Sunday, designed to help our UU congregations grow (October), Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, and Guest at Your Table boxes, an organization that promotes human rights around the world (November), the Katie Tyson Fund, in memory of our own Katie, to support youth and young adults (December), United Community Ministries, which provides support to low-income families on the Route 1 corridor (Christmas Eve service), Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington (January), Equality Virginia, which seeks equality for gay, lesbian, transgender and bisexual Virginians (February), Partner Church (March), and an environmental agency (April).

Thank you for your past support, The Social Justice Council.

Church Life

Sad News

Long time MVUC member Rusty Clauss died at noon on Saturday, June 4, 2011. Her son Brian writes, "She died as she had hoped to, still a working actor, still engaged and feeling good, and then go suddenly, unexpectedly. She made a brilliant arc through life, as a person and an artist. As I live and perform, I know she lives on in me, and in so many people. I can only hope to bring so much light and life into the world, be the inspiration she was to so many."

A memorial service is being planned for the fall at MVUC and will be announced when the family chooses a date.

Minister's Summer Schedule

Reverend Kate will be on study leave and vacation from June 25 to August 18. In case of emergency please contact church administrator Carol Graves, board chair Becky Brandt, or board vice-chair, Eric Pourchot who can reach Kate.

Gathering of the Waters

Everyone is invited to collect small samples of water during your travels this summer for our annual ingathering of the waters ceremony on Sunday, September 11.

Sustainable Energy Project Update

First of all, I want to thank everyone for their patience and understanding as this exciting project has taken longer to complete than anticipated. In particular, **Nina Tisara**, our wonderful wedding coordinator, has been forced to reset some expectations of the early season wedding parties but has handled this difficult task proactively and professionally. **Mary Barnett and the rest of the greenhouse gang** have had to tread nimbly to and from the greenhouse and make adjustments to their annual plant sales schedule. Furthermore, the **preschool staff and families** have been very cooperative as access to the Carriage House was limited for a couple

weeks and the ongoing construction activity a very real distraction for the students these past couple months. And of course, if it weren't for our terrific property manager, **Leah Choudhury**, this project would likely be even further behind schedule and our grounds less far along in regaining their previous lushness.

The two geothermal heat pump units that will provide conditioned air for the sanctuary are on-site. Once the first unit is operational, the last of our conventional furnaces and AC compressors will be swapped out for the other new unit. Depending on delivery schedules yet to be determined, installation of the office wing and Commons units will follow with all Meeting House geo systems expected to be running by the end of June.

Meanwhile, the installation of the electricity-generating solar panels that are expected to bring us to net-zero grid energy use for this building is progressing a bit more slowly. This is largely because the permitting process has proven to be more difficult to navigate than Shenandoah Sustainable Technologies (SST) anticipated. As a result, SST has now contracted with another firm that specializes in large-scale solar projects to take the lead on doing the work that will result in the entire south-facing roof of the sanctuary being covered with photo-voltaic solar panels. At this time, SST has decided it is better not to hazard a guess at how much longer this will take. I suspect that just as with the geothermal system, there may be some delivery delays once the panels and ancillary equipment have been ordered. To be honest, at this point I'll be pleasantly surprised if we first see the Meeting House electric meter spin backwards before mid-July. Be assured, though, whenever this project is fully complete we will have an appropriately joyful celebration as the MVUC congregation once again shows our serious commitment to living our shared values and UU principles.

Ken Pilkenton, Sustainable Energy Project Coordinator

We Say Goodbye

The MVUC community has been steadily growing in numbers, programs, and enthusiasm. But just as in any cycle, the membership circle sometimes shrinks due to life's ebbs and flows. We say goodbye to two families this summer, and we send them out to their next life stops with our love and support. Michael Dawkins, Roseanne Desmond and their grandson Phoenix are moving away for job requirements. They were with us for a relatively short amount of time, but made their mark in many ways. Pat and Darbi Bossman and their two little girls are trying out the sunny beaches of Florida for one year, to see if they can take a permanent move. We wish them all well, and hope they visit us when they come back to town.

The Membership Team



MVUC Summer Music 2011 ***Yee Von Ng***

It's been a pleasure serving MVUC last summer as the music associate. I am looking forward to a more exciting program this year, despite the scorching heat...☺ We will definitely cool em' down with great music!

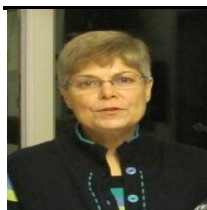
July 3 ~ The men's trio led by Ron Brandt, and including Alan Bunner and Ben Whelan-Morin, will sing an arrangement of Blow Bugle Blow. A smaller group from the MVUC choir will perform beautiful music that brings peace. Katelyn Aungst, a soprano who graduated from the University of Maryland and currently lives in Pennsylvania, will join the service.

July 10 ~ Come and join us for an exciting morning of poetry, music, dance, and physical art! This year's Art and Spirituality theme is based on Mary Oliver's poem 'The Place I Want To Get Back To.' Mimi Stevens will lead the choir in true Sacred Harp tradition singing.

July 17 ~ Special classical music selections from Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven.

July 24 ~ Ben Whelan-Morin and Karen Davis will perform Bach's 'Et misericordia' from *Magnificat* for the Young Adult service.

July 31 ~ The MVUC Jazz Ensemble will end this month's service 'We Are In This Together. So Where Are We Going?' with cool classic jazz numbers—"Georgia on My Mind," "You Are the Sunshine of My Life," and "Summertime."



From Our Board of Trustees

Becky Brandt, Chair

I recently returned from a Board of Trustees retreat that was stimulating and uplifting. The newly-elected and current BOT members (except for Ben Roberts, who couldn't be there because of school commitments) met off-site for focused discussion and priority planning. Our retreat was enhanced by the participation of Reverend Kate Walker and facilitation by Sue & Howard Lamb – each of whom asked compelling questions and were thought-provoking and clear in helping us articulate our priorities and next steps.

The retreat concluded in time for me to attend the Coming of Age service Sunday morning June 12, at which five highly talented, inspiring young people each gave their interpretation of a common message we should all embrace: “I Matter.”

During the last year our MVUC community devoted a great deal of energy to the idea that “This is our church; we accept the joys and responsibilities.” I would extend that thought even further: “This is our church. What I do matters — because MVUC matters.”

As explained at the congregational meeting May 15, BOT member Al Robbert has been leading a task force that is exploring three small-scale building/improvement capital projects. The projects are: a new stage for the Meeting House (contact person – Jeanne Gayler), expansion of the Commons (contact person – Doug MacCleery), and improvements to the kitchen in the Meeting House (contact person – Tamara de

la Camp). At the annual meeting, a large majority of members of the congregation approved continuing to explore these options. So that's what we expect to do in the coming year: We will gather information, engage in conversations, develop an understanding of different perspectives and bring these to the congregation for final approval.

As we contemplate the questions and eventually the decisions to be made regarding our building and renovation projects, we can be proud that we are a congregational church – democratic in principle and practice. We can achieve more working together than any of us could by ourselves. And we must not forget that we — each one of us — matter.

With an open mind and heart,

Becky Brandt

Sermons for Your Re-Hearing

Each Sunday's service is recorded and available within a few days on the MVUC web site (www.mvuc.org - worship/sermons) The services are also available on CD; if you would like a copy, please speak with **Raleigh Romine**.

A Month of Sundays

One service at 10:00 am unless otherwise noted



Sunday, July 3

"The Spiritual Discipline of Reconciliation"

The Rev. Rebekah A. Montgomery

Sunday, July 10

"Art and Spirituality: The Place I Want to Get Back To"
Linda Jemison and MVUC

Sunday, July 17

"The Rich Young Man"
Kären Rasmussen

Sunday, July 24

"Liberty's Lessons for Liberals"
Kelly Campbell and the Young Adults

Sunday, July 31

"We are in this together. So where are we going?"
MVUC and General Assembly

See Page 4 for Sermon Descriptions

**Mount Vernon
Unitarian Church**
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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 is willing to assist you during normal business hours. Please direct any questions or concerns to Betsy Stephens betsys@cox.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!