



What's with UUS

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalists of Sterling
A Welcoming Congregation
Sterling, Virginia



President's Message

Beginnings



"If I have the belief that I can do it, I shall surely acquire the capacity to do it even if I may not have it at the beginning." – M. Gandhi

"He who chooses the beginning of a road chooses the place it leads to. It is the means that determine the end." – H. Fosdick

"In the beginning, the universe was created. This made a lot of people very angry, and has been widely regarded as a bad idea." – D. Adams

This is a time of many beginnings – the beginning of the 2007-2008 church year, the beginning of the work of a new Board of Trustees, the beginning of my term as Board President, and, of course, the beginning of our preparation for the ministry of Rev. Anya Sammler. As I reviewed my favorite quotes about beginnings, I chose these three to share, because I thought they best captured my combined sense of optimism, challenge, and, yes, comedy as UUS moves toward the future.

Having observed a variety of faith communities over the years, I can say without reservation that this is the most optimistic and audacious congregation I have encountered, UU or otherwise. The congregation of UUS has always displayed a sense that we have a positive destiny which, if not entirely within our grasp, is certainly within our reach.

This optimism manifests itself in a number of ways that are especially

(Continued on page 2)

Worship Calendar

July 1—"Embracing Our Whole Story" by **Andrew McKnight**, Song/Story Artist. We are indeed the sum of many parts; not all of them are so attractive to us. Yet "if we don't have a laugh at ourselves every now and then, we're missing a mighty big source of humor!" More information about Andrew can be found on page 4 of this newsletter.

July 8—"Our Search for a New Minister" by the **UUS Ministerial Search Committee**. Members of the search committee will reflect and share on the year-long search process for our new settled minister, Rev. Anya Sammler.

July 15—"Partner Church: Romania" **Karen Tripp**, a Fairfax County teacher / UU spent two years in Transylvania. She will provide insights and reflections on the UU Partner Church program.

July 22—Rev Amy DeBeck from the UU Church of Loudoun will be in the pulpit.

July 29—UUS member Deb Rose will lead the service.

August 5—"Celtic Grain Festival" The **UUS Women's Earth-Based Spirituality (WEBS)** group will lead this service.

August 12—Brahms Requiem, by the **UU Chorale** — a reprise of the Reston performance. Bring friends!

August 19—"Partner Church: India" **Dee Idnani**, a member of the Fairfax UU church, has just returned from a working visit to the partner churches in India. Her service will provide more connections to our movement in faraway places.

August 26—"Neurodiversity or Redemption" by UUS member **Terri Glass**.



It's not every UU congregation that sends its interim minister off in style! Rev. Matthew McNaught, our interim minister for the last two years, was serenaded by a bagpiper on June 17, 2007, his last day in our pulpit.

Don't Forget Ingathering on September 9, 2007!

Every year, as the summer ends, we come together to celebrate the new church year. While you are traveling about over the next couple of months, remember to collect water to add to our communal bowl! This year we have cause for additional celebration: We welcome Rev. Anya Sammler, our new minister!

(President's Message, Continued from page 1)

helpful as we move forward. During interim ministry periods, many faith communities suffer serious attrition, abandon their long-range goals, and sometimes go into outright stasis.

By contrast, the Members and Friends of UUS have held firm to our faith in the church and its place, both in our personal lives and in the life of the larger community, and have maintained support for our vision by way of preparing for what we continue to see as a bright future. If I haven't mentioned it before, I am extremely grateful for that support, because it makes the work to come so much easier.

As you all should know, we are a congregation that is both spiritually and financially generous. We have taken bold steps to provide UUS with facilities and full-time ministry that go well beyond the short-term needs of our existing congregation and look toward a time when we will need those resources and more to support the vision of our church. While there are no guarantees, such a forward leaning approach, if properly managed, is a key contributing factor to sustainable congregational growth.

Most significantly, we have chosen in Rev. Anya a minister who shares the energy and optimism of our church, and who will be a positive and supportive presence in the life of this congregation, an influence on UU congregations in the area and beyond, and a spiritual and moral leader in the larger community. I look forward to helping her be successful in that regard.

Of course, we face significant challenges over the course of this church year. Given our numbers, our current position is precarious – we are using reserve funds to keep our facility, and without a notable increase in our ability to generate income over the course of the church year, UUS may face difficult decisions about where we will conduct our affairs as a church afterward.

I think, however, that the greater challenge we face is to keep our focus off expedient solutions to our problems in the short term, and to keep our focus on why all of us have chosen to be committed to UUS in the long term. As our minister, Rev. Anya will provide the

congregation with spiritual support, comfort, care, and inspiration, and will provide the larger community with awareness of the positive spiritual nourishment and good work of which Unitarian Universalism is capable.

Those intangibles, far more than our facility or our numbers, represent the true value of UUS, and we owe it to Rev. Anya to make them the primary focus of the coming church year. Going back to our sense of optimism, this congregation must trust that the path we have chosen with Rev. Anya will lead to a valuable faith experience, and that the value we see and feel in our church will resonate with and be attractive to new Members and Friends.

If we are successful in building the kind of church community with which we are proud to be associated, then the path will not have been taken in vain, regardless of other outcomes.

The Board, staff, and lay leaders of UUS will provide Rev. Anya with the material support she requires to be effective in the ministerial role for which we have chosen her. The challenge our leaders face over the next church year is to act diligently, wisely, and deliberately during potentially turbulent times. Given our collective desire to help Rev. Anya, as well as the experience and wisdom I see in our leadership, I am confident that we are equal to the challenge.

As I noted at the start of this article, I view the life of this church as a comedy in the Shakespearean sense, where issues tend to resolve themselves positively in the end, sometimes in spite of our best efforts and mistakes, and where in the final analysis the path taken to that end is more enjoyable than stressful.

As we help guide the church toward a hopeful (if uncertain) future, and address both the known and yet-to-be-determined challenges we must face, it is my hope that everyone in the church, especially our leadership, can find joy in the experiences of worship and fellowship that will certainly abound as we get to know Rev. Anya better. At those times in the course of the year when I look particularly stressed, I would appreciate it if some of you could remind me that I said this.

In conclusion, I would like to express

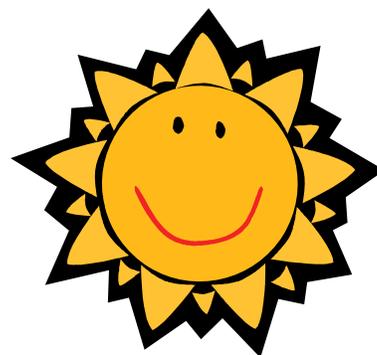
my gratitude to the outgoing members of the UUS Board of Trustees: Kim Fitzgerald, Art Rose, Terri Glass, and Bill Roman. Your service to UUS is appreciated by all, and sets us in good stead moving forward.

And, of course, a heartfelt "See you again soon!" to Rev. Matthew McNaught – your wise and gentle counsel was precisely what UUS needed during our interim period, and I am convinced that we are a much better church as a result of your ministry.

Enjoy the summer, everyone!

Yours in Faith,

Bryan



Roving Reporter

By Susan Rose

School will soon be out! What memories do you have of the school year that's ending - good or bad?

Maddie (7) Good - friends and teacher. I like the school lunches. (We eat early 'cuz school starts at 8!)

Meg (8) School starts at 7:50! I really like P.E. (baseball, basketball). We're close to the school, so we can shoot baskets!

Charlotte (10) Good memories. It's because of some boys who cracked jokes the whole year, and 'cuz of my friends!

Ben (8) I liked the Halloween and Thanksgiving celebrations!

Libby (6) Birthday parties. (We got to have cupcakes!)

Molly (6) We got to do a play about a river and gnomes!

Anna (7) A good memory is when we practiced jump rope!

UU RAINBOW PRINCIPLES

Summer 2007 Religious Exploration Schedule

DATE	TOPIC	STORY	ACTIVITY	LEADER	HELPER	NURSERY
June 24	The Rainbow and The UU Principles	<i>A Color of His Own</i>	Collage a Landscape & Chameleon	T. Dick	Burns	McCormick
July 1	R-E-S-P-E-C-T	<i>Frederick</i>	Paint Summer Impressions	Fitzgerald	C. Douoguih	M. James
July 8	Offer Fair & Kind Treatment	<i>Little Red and Little Yellow</i>	Make & Play a Game	S. Miller	Connors	Lum
July 15	Yearn to Learn	<i>Tillie and the Wall</i>	Make a Wall Book	C. Douoguih	C. Chandler	M. James
July 22	Grow by Sharing Your Thoughts and Feelings	<i>Geraldine, the Music Mouse</i>	Music & Soap Carving	McCormick	Burns	Need Help
July 29	Believe in Your Ideas and Act on Them	<i>The Bluetail Mouse</i>	Make a Bluetail Mouse	Glass	Scher	Lum & M. James
Aug. 5	Insist on Peace, Freedom and Justice For All	<i>It's Mine</i>	Make a Clay Frog	N. George	Connors	Need Help
Aug. 12	Value Nature	<i>The Biggest House in the World</i>	Make a Dream House	Fitzgerald	N. George	Need Help
Aug. 19	Exploring The Rainbow Principles	<i>Six Crows</i>	Make a Scarecrow	B. George	Fitzgerald	Need Help
Aug. 26	The Journey Along the Rainbow Continues	<i>Cornelius</i>	Draw Your Journey	S. Miller	C. Chandler	Need Help
Sept. 2	Living The UU Rainbow Principles	<i>Tico and the Golden Wings</i>	Paper Bird with Rainbow Feathers	Weaver	Connors	Need Help

Religious Exploration

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Religious Exploration (RE) Service on June 3. You made it a wonderful close to the year. The children offered a sample of readings and songs from their exploration of world religions. The middle-school students performed a Call to the Four Directions and Charlotte Rothman read the Chalice Lighting piece. The elementary-school students performed two songs and a yoga Salute to the Sun

and Noah Scher played a lovely solo on the violin. The choir added their marvelous voices and choir director, Daniel Boothe, involved everyone in drumming. What fun!

After so much activity, we look forward to beginning a new year in the fall. Don't miss out on the fun and learning in Religious Exploration. There are still openings for leaders and assistants, and there are many other ways to help.

Contact Linda Weaver to sign up or get more information.

Brightening RE

To begin a bright new RE year, we will be cleaning and painting the RE space on August 1, 2, and 3, 2007. If you are available to help wash walls, move furniture or paint on any of these days or evenings, contact Linda Weaver.

This would be a great time for the teens and older children to get together during the summer. It is also an opportunity to earn community service hours for school or activities.

Small Group Ministry

Summer has arrived! Can fall be far behind? The excitement and energy is palpable as we wait for September and Rev. Anya. She was excited to learn that we have a small group ministry program and is eager to work with each of the groups. Some groups take a break in the summer but others continue to meet, providing a way for members and friends to keep in touch and stay connected during the week; this contact can be just what you need, especially if you can't make every Sunday service.

More information on all small groups is available on our website (www.uusterling.org). Watch for announcements from these groups. UUS small groups are always open to new members.

Choir

The choir rehearses each Thursday evening and Sunday mornings when we sing. The next rehearsal will be in August. See our music director, Dan Boothe, or any choir member if you are interested in joining the choir in the fall.

Covenant Groups

Covenant Groups meet once a month during the school year to discuss a topic related to spiritual growth. The groups will begin meeting again in October; announcements will be made in September. Rev Anya will work with the groups next year, so be prepared for some interesting session topics! Send an email to shelleytam@aol.com if you would like more information or check our website (www.uusterling.org) and pull down the menu bar under 'Ministry' for more information.

Elder Care Support Group

The Elder Care Support Group meets for breakfast at 8:30 am the second Sunday of each month at the Virginia Kitchen in Herndon to discuss issues related to caring for our parents. The coffee is always ready for us. If you would like to join this support group, contact Mike Berger or just show up.

Men's Spirituality Group

The Men's Spirituality Group meets at the church on the second Friday of the month from 8 – 11 pm. If you are interested in joining this friendly game of poker, contact Dave Scher at david_scher@yahoo.com.

Women's Earth-Based Spirituality Group (WEBS)

In this circle of UUS women, we explore the UUA sixth source of wisdom - "Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature." The UUS WEBS Group usually meets the fourth Friday of every month. Watch for the announcements. For more information contact Becky Fockler at bfockler@verizon.net.

The WEBS group will be presenting a Celtic Grain Festival at the Sunday service on August 5.

About Andrew McKnight

On July 1, we have the good fortune to host song/story artist, Andrew McKnight for our Sunday service.

Since permanently leaving his corporate environmental engineering career in 1996, award-winning singer/songwriter, guitarist, and poet Andrew McKnight's musical journey has traced over a quarter million miles of blue highways and small towns across the country, crafting his cinematic vignettes of Americans and their landscapes in music, poetry and prose in between 125 performances each year. Audiences are at once spellbound and relaxed by his entertaining stories delivered with just the right touches of down-home humor, causing one concertgoer to label him "equal parts Robert Frost, William Least Heat-Moon, and Jeff Foxworthy!"

Those threads connect his life to his diverse array of artfully crafted songs from his four CDs, including his latest "Beyond Borders," all wrapped in his warm and supple voice and effortless guitar grace.

Freedom Summer Camp: A Civil Rights Journey Atlanta, GA, July 7-14, 2007

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) is excited to announce the fourth annual civil rights journey that will travel through Atlanta, Selma, Montgomery and Birmingham. During this intergenerational trip, we will travel together by bus to visit historical sites that were significant during the Civil Rights Movement. We will also hear the stories of people who were there. This trip will begin with inspiration and generate reflection. It will conclude with a community collaboration project in Atlanta.

The fee is \$500, and there are limited scholarships available. The fee helps offset the cost of housing, food and transportation during the program. Participants must be age 14 or older.

To learn more about the JustWorks program, go to www.uusc.org/justworks.

You may also request an application or receive further information by emailing justworks@uusc.org or by calling JustWorks staff at 800.388.3920 ext. 228.



UUS Board Meeting Highlights

June 6, 2007

Attendees

Linda Weaver, Kim Fitzgerald, Rev. Matthew, Shelly Tamres, Judy Gruner, Scott Findley, Bryan George

LIASON REPORTS

Denominational Affairs

Association Sunday is scheduled for Sunday, October 14, 2007. The Board and Rev. Anya are considering options for UUS participation.

Finance

We are now 92 percent of the way through the 2006-07 fiscal year. We have collected \$121,091 which is 91 percent of the total budgeted income. Year-to-date expenses are \$125,490 or about 83 percent of the budgeted amount.

In our general bank account, \$4,263 is available for general operations; \$3,319 in other funds is allocated to the remaining Chalice Lighter Grant, House Pins, Free Trade Coffee, Music, Youth Group and Social Action accounts. In our reserve accounts, \$23,568 is available for general operations and \$33,777 is in the Building Reserve funds.

OLD BUSINESS

Ministerial Search Committee Appreciation

Presentation of certificates and lunch, June 24, 2007

Kim to confirm budget details with Treasurer

NEW BUSINESS

UUA Annual Dues

Finance Committee recommends we pay 50 percent by the end of June

About 3,400 x .5

Rev. Matthew said that he believes that our reputation will not be hurt if we send a letter to the UUA explaining

our current financial position, particularly if we show good faith by making a partial payment

Need to draft a letter

Use surplus from Search Committee budget?

Bryan George to talk to Treasurer and then initiate e-mail discussion among board members to vote on whether to pay UUS dues for 2006-2007 church year.

Annual Congregational Elected Board & Staff (CEBS) Packet

- To be submitted by June 22, 2007

Comcast High Speed Internet Service

- \$60 per month (+\$40 for phone), high-speed cable and TV, we are cancelling the Loudoun Easterner ad

- Can we keep our phone number?

- Check out Verizon prices for phone

- Ask Terry Dick about changing ads for new phone number

- Cancellation fee? (if we move)

- The board votes unanimously to install internet service

Document Management Bryan George is collecting historical UUS documents in order to catalog them in soft copy.

Liberal Religious Revival – UUCF will host this event again in September. Bryan will follow up

Ministerial Committee: Steve Dick and Elise Nicely have been nominated, with Rev. Anya to select the third member upon her arrival in September.

Collage of photos for Rev. Matthew Judy Gruner, Clarice Douoguih, and Mike Berger to collect and assemble as the gift to Rev. Matthew at the June 17 farewell lunch.

Congratulations to the unanimously elected incoming Board of Trustees:

President: Bryan George

Vice-President: Dave Miller

Secretary: Jeff Chandler

Co-Treasurers: Paul Roche and Alyssa

Lum

At Large: Scott Findley

At Large: Gus Douoguih (1 year term)

At Large: Judy Gruner

At Large: Shelley Tamres

Religious Exploration

- Scheduled adults to help with nursery care through June 17th.

- Lesson plans and craft supplies for summer RE are now available for the class leaders.

- Continuing to recruit volunteers for summer RE.

- Began registration and recruiting for 2007-2008.

- Childcare arranged for Open Forum on May 13 and dinner on May 19.

- Second adult not found for Trail Clean-Up May 27, so had RE Space Clean-Up Day instead. Washed tables and tested markers.

Board Host Schedule

June 17: Judy Gruner

June 24: Kim Fitzgerald

July 1: Bryan George

July 8: Shelly Tamres

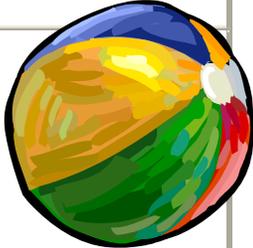
Upcoming Board Meetings:

Board Transition Meeting will be held on Saturday, July 7, 2007, from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. **New Board** will be held from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. on that date.





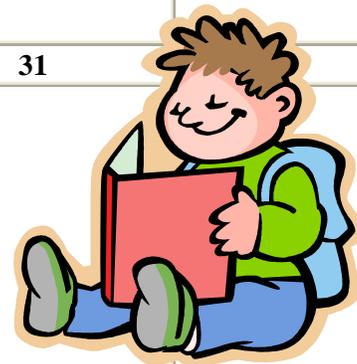
July

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10:30AM-11:30AM Worship Service: "Embracing Our Whole Story" by Andrew McKnight; Children : R-E-S-P-E-C-T (Fitzgerald, Douoguih); Nursery: James 3:30PM-9:30PM AAFCJ - Joan Confoy						9:00AM-11:00AM Board Transition Meeting 11:00AM-1:00PM First 2007-2008 Board Meeting – Bryan George 5:00PM-10:00PM AAFCJ – Joan Confoy
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
8:30AM - Elder Care Breakfast @ Virginia Kitchen in Herndon - Mike Berger 10:30AM-11:30AM Worship Service: "Our Search for a New Minister" by the UUS Ministerial Search Committee; Children : Offer Fair and Kind Treatment (Miller, Conners); Nursery: Lum 3:30PM-9:30PM AAFCJ - Joan Confoy						5:00PM-10:00PM AAFCJ - Joan Confoy 8:00PM-11:00PM Men's Spirituality - Dave Scher
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
10:30AM-11:30AM Worship Service: "Partner Church: Romania" Karen Tripp; Children : Yearn to Learn (Douoguih, Chandler); Nursery: James 3:30PM-9:30PM AAFCJ - Joan Confoy						5:00PM-10:00PM AAFCJ - Joan Confoy
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
10:30AM-11:30AM Worship Service: Rev Amy DeBeck; Children : Grow by Sharing Your Thoughts and Feelings (McCormick, Burns); Nursery: help needed 3:30PM-9:30PM AAFCJ - Joan Confoy			7:00PM-9:00PM Membership Committee - Mike Masiak		7:00PM-10:00PM Women's Spirituality - Becky Fockler	5:00PM-10:00PM AAFCJ - Joan Confoy
29	30	31				
10:30AM-11:30AM Worship Service: Deb Rose; Children : Believe in Your Ideas and Act on Them (Glass, Scher); Nursery: Lum & James 3:30PM-9:30PM AAFCJ - Joan Confoy						

August



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2		4
			7:00PM-9:30PM Board Meeting Bryan George			5:00PM-10:00PM AAFCJ - Joan Confoy
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10:30AM-11:30AM —Worship Service: “Celtic Grain Festival” by the UUS Women’s Earth-Based Spirituality; Children : Insist on Peace, Freedom and Justice (George, Connors); Nursery: help needed 3:30PM-9:30PM AAFCJ - Joan Confoy		7:00PM-10:00PM Church space reserved for HOA meeting				10:00AM Requiem Rehearsal - Clarice Douoguih 5:00PM-10:00PM AAFCJ - Joan Confoy 8:00PM-11:00PM Men's Spirituality - Dave Scher
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8:30AM - Elder Care Breakfast @ Virginia Kitchen in Herndon - Mike Berger 10:30AM-11:30AM Worship Service: <i>Brahms Requiem</i> , by the UU Chorale; Children : Value Nature (Fitzgerald, George); Nursery: help needed 3:30PM-9:30PM AAFCJ - Joan Confoy					September Newsletter Deadline	5:00PM-10:00PM AAFCJ - Joan Confoy
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10:30AM-11:30AM Worship Service: “Partner Church: India” by Dee Idnani; Children : Exploring the Rainbow Principles (George, Fitzgerald); Nursery: help needed 3:30PM-9:30PM AAFCJ - Joan Confoy					7:00PM-10:00PM Women's Spirituality - Becky Fockler	5:00PM-10:00PM AAFCJ - Joan Confoy
26	27	28	29	30	31	
10:30AM-11:30AM Worship Service: “Neurodiversity or Redemption” by Terri Glass; Children : The Journey Along the Rainbow Continues (Miller, Chandler); Nursery: help needed 3:30PM-9:30PM AAFCJ - Joan Confoy			7:00PM-9:00PM Membership Committee - Mike Masiak			



Kids, don't forget to read a good book this summer!

Unitarian Universalists of Sterling
PO Box 1632
Sterling, VA 20167
(703) 406-3068
<http://www.uusterling.org>



Your Church Leadership

Minister-Elect: Rev. Anya Sammler **Director of Religious Exploration:** Linda Weaver

Music Director: Daniel Boothe

Board of Trustees: *President* - Bryan George *Vice President* - Dave Miller *Secretary* - Jeff Chandler
Co-Treasurers - Alyssa Lum and Paul Roche *At-large* - Gus Douoguih, Judy Gruner, Scott Findley, Shelley Tamres

UUS Mission Covenant Statement

The Unitarian Universalists of Sterling offer a place where reason and spirituality converge. We welcome members of the community who are seeking such a religious home. Our mission is to make the community a better place to live by promoting a variety of religious expressions, working toward social justice, and fostering diversity. In order to carry out this mission, we covenant to listen to each other, encourage the exchange of creative thought, and respect our differences.

UUS Sunday Services 10:30 AM

Unitarian Universalists of Sterling meets at the Sterling Oaks Commerce Center Sterling, a handicapped accessible 24-7 facility, located on 22135 Davis Drive near Route 28 and Church Road in Sterling, Virginia. Child care and children's religious education are both provided during worship services. Dress is casual. Children are encouraged to wear play clothes.

From Northbound Route 28: Take Route 28 North exit from the Dulles Toll Road. Turn right at Church Road. Turn right on Davis Drive. Go about one block and turn right into the parking lot.

From Southbound Route 28: Take Route 28 south from Route 7. Turn left at Church Road. Turn right on Davis Drive. Go about one block and turn right into the parking lot.

From Westbound Route 7: Turn left at Sterling Boulevard. Turn right at Church Road. Go three miles. Turn left on Davis Drive. Go about one block and turn right into the parking lot.

What's with UUS

Communications Committee Chair: Terry Dick; **Editor:** Linda Reeder

Production: Jeff Chandler, Susan Miller

Board Liaison: Terry Dick

To submit material for publication send by email to uus-newsletter@yahoo.com

Submission Deadlines

08/17/07 for September

09/21/07 for October

10/19/07 for November