



What's with UUS

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



Minister's Message



From Here... Where? and Why?

As our practical commitments of time and energy to our

congregation lessen a bit during the summer months, let's wrap our minds and hearts around an important consideration. UUS does great work together – we build a welcoming community, we seek truth, we work toward justice, we educate all ages, we listen deeply to one another, we struggle through difficult hours and decisions so we can grow as individuals and as a community. We do all of this and more. From here, where shall we go, and why? What is our vision for our growing and vibrant community? Why do we hold this vision – what is the mission that stirs our aspirations?

A congregational vision is the result of a collective imagining – a dream that will call us to our best selves. A mission is the project we undertake with intention. A mission gives meaning to our work, it drives our generosity, and it helps us guide our decisions. UUS is ripe for a process of determining our vision and mission. It is work that can be energizing and will likely sustain a congregation through change and development.

While flipping through a favorite collection of readings, I found this one from Michael G. Young that I feel poetically establishes the mission of our faith as he saw it:

"Ours is a free church, dedicated to the nourishing of the human spirit, and the

(Continued on page 2)

President's Message



Another Beginning

As the Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalists of Sterling

transitions to the new church year, I would like to thank you, the congregation, for allowing me to serve as your Board president. I am honored that you have given me this opportunity, and I look forward to working with the new Board, both those who are staying on from last year and those who are joining the Board this year.

Last year we had an exciting year with the start of Rev. Anya's ministry at UUS: spiritual and uplifting worship services, additional offerings such as new adult religious education classes, growth in membership, and a new and exciting enthusiasm within the congregation as evidenced by the extraordinary results of the annual stewardship drive. Managing these kinds of changes is not easy but with the leadership foundation laid by Rev. Anya and our past president, Bryan George, I think UUS is poised to continue its upward momentum.

This year I hope we can continue to build on what we have started. We obviously will need to deal with changes and new problems, or even recurring situations such as finding a replacement for a departing musical director, in this case Daniel Boothe. But I know we are heading in the right direction, and we are ready to strive ahead. We are in the enviable position of perhaps soon needing more space for worship services, and we are already feeling

(Continued on page 2)

Worship Calendar

July 6 "Scenes from a Voluntary Association: Our UU General Assembly" with Rev. Anya and the UUS General Assembly attendees. We will share our stories and reflections (and maybe our tans) from this annual gathering of our member congregations.

July 13 "Living by Heart: Developing a Spiritual Practice" with Rev. Anya. "Living by Heart" is an adult education curriculum born of the life and wisdom of the late Rev. Harry B. Scholefield and the work of Rev. Laurel Hallman. Youth and Adults will be welcome to this year long-once a month class in the fall. Our worship service will share some of the beauty of the practice and invite us to consider the implications of taking on a daily spiritual pursuit.

July 20 "Musical Rainbow" James Stafford will lead this service of music which evokes all colors of the spectrum by members of the UUS community.

July 27 "Cosmology and Theology" Steve Dick will discuss the theological significance of a cosmic enigma – why the universe is fine-tuned for life.

August 3 Kim Fitzgerald will lead this Earth-based mid-summer celebration.

August 10 "Freedom" Paul Roche and our very own UUS rock band, jUUSstUUS, will offer a rock music service based on music from "Easy Rider."

August 17 "Out of the Flames: Heretics and Liberal Religion" with Rev. Anya. Unitarians and Universalists are heretics – simple as that! Lets go deeper into some of the stories of our stirring past.

August 24 "Awe and Reason: Universalism meets Unitarianism" with Rev. Anya. We became UU's

(Continued on page 2)

(Minister, continued from page 1)

hope of human community. Here we would venture together to seek and do the truth, knowing that venture to be bonded only by the limits of our own imagination. Here knowledge is trusted, and the unknown is not feared; for it is but the growing edge of life's creativity. Here we would wrap our being and doing in compassion, for the voice that speaks to us out of Life's mystery is a challenge to create and to care, and not to destroy.

"We are those who would see life whole; accepting the partial character of that vision at any moment, yet pushing always beyond the momentary boundaries of that vision; seeking the fulfillment of our highest hopes and our deepest needs in this community where no man (human) is stranger."

What do you see as the mission of our community? What is your vision of our future? Wax poetic – if you are called – sometimes it is only in poetry that the deepest truths rise to the surface. Draw a picture or invite your children to draw a picture of our community rising on the horizon of our dreams. Write a list of those things you feel we must do, those items that call us to our best selves. And when we gather again, ready for another year together, you will have many occasions to consider your work and share it with others as we construct our collective vision and mission.

Have a wonderful summer. Collect water from your travels (near or far) to share at our ingathering on September 7th. And know you are never far from the reach of community should you need.

- Rev. Anya



(President, continued from page 1)

cramped in our Religious Exploration space. It is also time for us to start thinking about our long-term planning as we expand and grow. I hope during the next year, we can start the process of determining our vision of UUS for the future and how we can welcome everybody's voices, ideas, perspectives, hopes, and dreams to start making our long-term future a reality

On a personal note, I will try my best and will work as hard as I can for this congregation, but I would like to ask for your help: Please let me and the Board know of your questions, problems, or concerns, no matter what they may be. I can't promise that I or the Board can resolve your issues, but I can promise that that I will listen and that I will care about you and your concerns. Again, I want to thank you for the trust you have placed in me and for the opportunity to help maintain and grow our spiritual home.

-Dave

**Minister's
Summer Schedule**

This gracious community offers its minister four weeks of vacation and four weeks of study leave. I intend to take a good deal of that time this summer season. This is my intended schedule. Please do, however, call any time that you need to talk - when you are mourning the loss of a loved one, if you are sick or injured yourself, if a family member is sick or injured, if you are sad or concerned about a pressing issue ... the list goes on.

Please know that I hope you will call whenever you need to.

6/30 – 7/13: Work Weeks

7/14 – 7/27: Study Leave

7/28 – 8/10: Vacation

8/11- 8/24: Study Leave

8/25: Back to regular schedule!



(Worship Calendar, continued from page 1)

(Unitarian Universalists) in 1962 by way of a long considered merger. Two very different faiths and communities of people were suddenly joined in the practice of building a common hope. What have we gained by joining the two streams of faith? What are we still struggling to unite?

August 31 "Adoption Stories" Karen Saifer and Ken Ward share their and others' experiences with adoption.

Summer in Religious Exploration

Summer is here and hopefully you are enjoying the warm weather, summertime activities and vacations. When you are in town, don't let your children miss out on seeing friends at UUS and attending summer RE. The program is based on stories from *Rhinos and Raspberries*, a curriculum developed to encourage tolerance. Children will explore the important issues raised by these stories through discussion, crafts and other fun activities. The story and topics for each Sunday are listed on the RE schedule in this newsletter and can be viewed on the UUS website calendar.

Help Wanted!

Help is still needed in the children's Religious Exploration program for next year. The only requirements are that you have been at UUS for six months, have an interest in the multi-generational community at UUS and a desire to share that interest by working with the children or by helping outside the RE classes.

Throughout the 2008-2009 year, children will develop a greater understanding of themselves, each other, UUS and Unitarian Universalism. Helping in children's RE next year is a great opportunity for adults to find out more about Unitarian Universalism. You will also get to know the children and adults at UUS better, learn more about yourself and know that you are contributing to building a strong intergenerational community.

There are still many opportunities available to choose from:

-Lead RE approximately one Sunday a month.

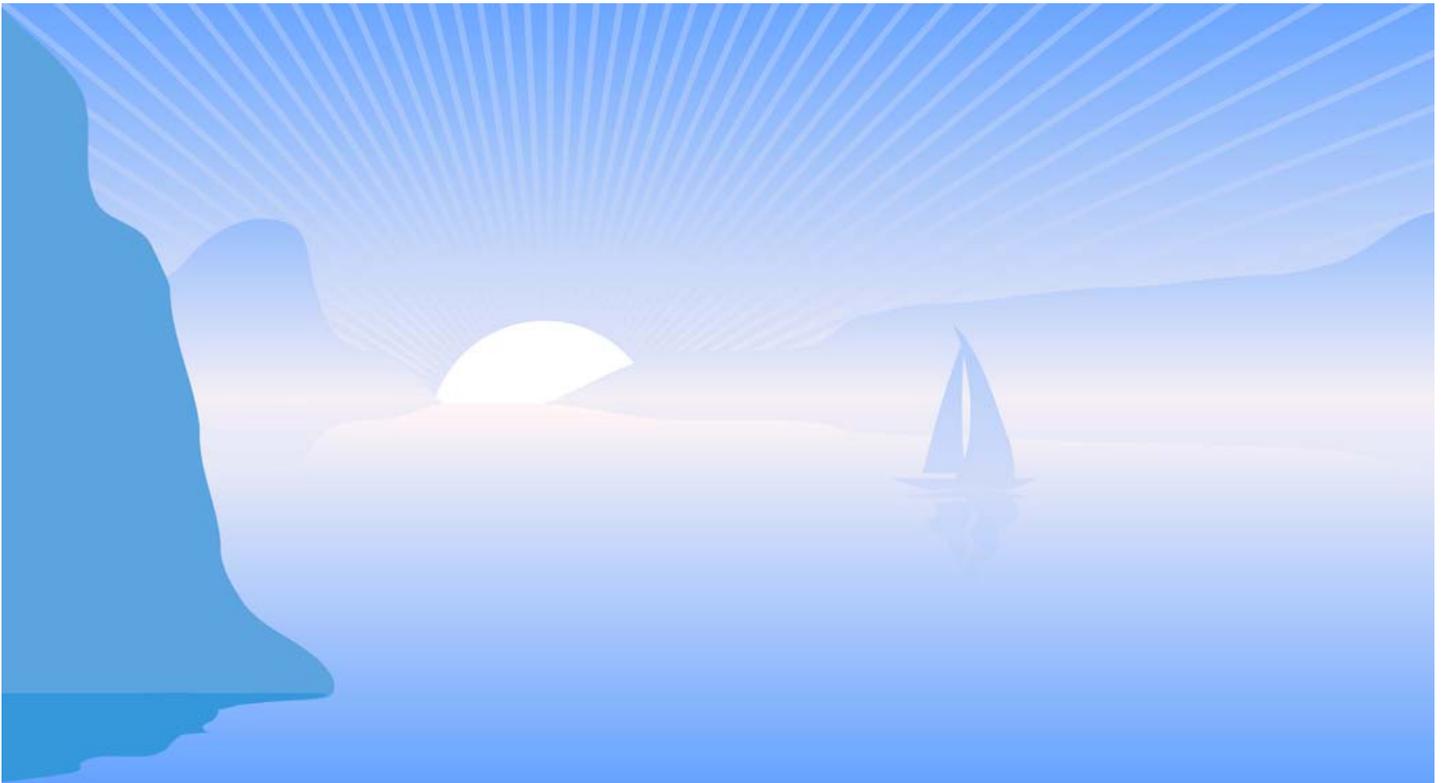
-Assist in RE approximately one Sunday a month.

-Substitute when Leaders and Assistants are not available.

-Lead dance, singing, drama or an art project one or more Sundays throughout the year.

-Coordinate or help with a Special Event, such as a children's activities during the Auction, Valentines for Vets or the Trail Clean-up.

To register your children, volunteer or to find out more about the children's RE program, contact Linda Weaver at redirector@uusterling.org.



Religious Exploration Schedule

	Date	Children's RE Topic	Leader	Helper	Nursery Adult
June	22	The Prince and the Rhinoceros: An Indian Tale of Speaking Kindly	N. McCormick	N. George	H. Donovan
	29	The Clever Boy: An Afghan Tale of	K. Ward	D. Scher	R. Clavez
July	6	The Blind Man and the Hunter: A West African Tale of Learning from Your Mistakes	D. Scher	C. Chandler	G. Douoguih
	13	Supriya's Bowl: A Buddhist Tale of Giving	L. Weaver	M. Masiak	G. Douoguih
	20	Paplotzin and the Monarchs: A Bilingual Tale of Breaking Down Walls	T. Dick	Need Help	S. Tamres
	27	Rabbit Foot: An Iroquois Tale of Peacemaking	A. Lum	S. McMullen	H. Donovan
Aug.	3	The Fiery Tail: A Chinese Tale of True Beauty	S. Roche	A. Roche	S. Connors
	10	The Emerald Lizard: Guatemalan Tale	N. George	W. Manuel-Scott	K. Houck
	17	Old Joe and the Carpenter: An	A. Lum	M. Masiak	L. Reeder
	24	The Stonecutter: A Multicultural Tale of	K. Fitzgerald	W. Manuel-Scott	L. Reeder
	31	Raspberries!: An American Tale of Cooperation	L. Weaver	C. Douoguih	S. Tamres

Roving Reporter

By Susan Rose

Summer is here! What are your summer plans?

Rachael (17) I'll be working at Dulles Town Center, and going to Busch Gardens and the beach!

Julia (16) I'll be bumming around and getting a part-time job!

Sora (16) Volunteering and getting a part-time job!

Noah (11) I'm going to Brick World (a Lego convention) in Chicago!

Anna (8) Going to the pool and the beach!

Maddie (8) Going to a beach house and a wedding!

Molly (8) Going to the pool and visiting friends!



Small Group Ministry

Summer days are here! Didn't we used to enjoy summer's relaxing times? Now it seems that our schedules are even busier and our travels keep us on the move. All this activity, some of which keep us from coming to Sunday services, makes small group activity even more important. These groups keep members and friends connected - to themselves and to others in our church community.

Our small group ministry program is an important part of UUS, providing that connection between Sunday services. More information on all small groups is available on our web site (www.uusterling.org). Watch for announcements from these groups. UUS small groups are always open to new members.

New Groups

It is easy to start a small group. If you like to read and would like to discuss what you read with other UUS'ers, or if you like to quilt or do other fabric related things, you could start a group. More information is available on our website under the drop down menu ministry/small groups, or contact Bonnie Lepoff (Board liaison to Small Groups) at blepoff@cox.net.

Choir

The choir is taking a summer break. We will begin rehearsals again the end of August. Dan Boothe, our music director, accepted a position on the faculty of UVA at Wise and that is definitely not within commuting distance, even for the most dedicated. We are therefore in a search mode for a new music director. Stay tuned for breaking news when we hire Dan's replacement. Please see any choir member if you are interested in joining us next year.

Covenant Groups

Covenant Groups meet once a month during the school year to discuss a topic related to spiritual growth. Our most recent topic was "Loss." We shared stories of loss, how we dealt with it, and how we grew from the experiences. As a member of a group, you will be able to engage in these kinds of deeper conversations and you will get to know the other members of your group in a way that might not otherwise be possible. Our last meeting of the year was in June although some groups will meet once or twice over the summer. Covenant Groups will gear up, take in new members, and begin meeting again in October. We expect there will be four groups again next year meeting once a month on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings and one daytime group. Other groups will be formed as interest grows. Send an email to Bonnie Lepoff at blepoff@cox.net or contact Rev Anya if you are interested in joining a group next year or just learning more.

Elder Care Support Group

The Elder Care Support Group meets for breakfast at 8:30am the second Sunday of each month at the Virginia Kitchen in Herndon to discuss issues related to caring for our parents. This month's meeting is on July 13th. The coffee is always ready for us. If you would like to join this support group, contact Mike Berger at m.d.berger@ieee.org or just show up.

Men's Spirituality Group

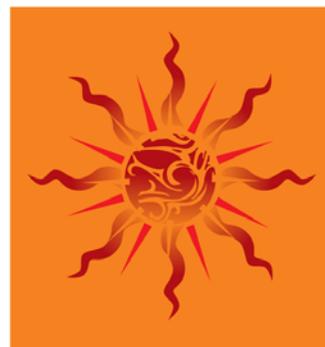
The Men's Spirituality Group is meeting on second Fridays for conversation and comradery. Watch for meeting announcements or contact Tony Thede or Al Swett for more information.

Stream Monitoring

The UUS Stream Monitoring Group monitors Beaverdam Run in Ashburn. Members get together periodically to conduct a habitat survey and a biological survey according to a protocol. The Stream Monitoring Group encourages environmental stewardship, and is an opportunity to learn, interact, and commune with our local environment in a family-friendly, fun outdoor activity. Contact Scott Findley at sfind39@aol.com for more information.

Women's Earth Based Spirituality Group

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 4th Friday of every month. Watch for the announcements. For more information contact Kim Fitzgerald at Kimberly.Fitzgerald@ngc.com.



UUS Board Meeting Highlights

June 5, 2008

Discuss Committee Liaison Reports:

Talk about Communications Committee chair,

newsletter – couldn't since Jeff wasn't there – table until the next meeting.

Per Gus' suggestions, next year's Board should consider forming a subcommittee for personnel in lieu of a Personnel Committee.

Unfinished Business:

Board goal tracking – Gus Douoguih, Judy Gruner, Scott Findley.

RE goals – Gus: Nothing that needs to be addressed. Issues with space, not people.

Worship goals – Judy: Need an assistant to the WA, they're soliciting. Bryan - Set up sound training.

Right relationship goals – Scott:

New windows – Bryan George. Delegate to Dave, Linda send drawings to Dave. Need to talk to Tim re rent increase.

Covenant of Right Relationship – Kim Fitzgerald. Stalled – shoot for next congregational retreat.

Long Range Planning – Paul Roche. Nothing happening.

New Business:

Board transition planning – Bryan George, Dave Miller. Agenda (Bryan), Bios, pictures (Dave), mailing lists update (Bryan), signature forms (Paul), keys (Judy). July 7, 6:30-9PM at UUS will be transition meeting, will need to arrange dinner (Bryan). First Board meeting July 10 7-9PM. Job description, document stack on CD (Bryan), binders if you have them (everyone). Rev. Anya will work up ceremonial aspects.

Contracts – Paul Roche, Gus Douoguih. I will send softcopy to Gus, he will revise, coordinate with Paul on numbers, get back to me.

Ministerial Evaluation – Bryan George, Jeff Chandler. Three groups produce evaluation by 1 August. Board, Committee on Ministry, Rev. Anya (and

mentor). Sent out blank to Board, they will feed back to me, I will compile and bounce a draft around, then we'll get together 6-7 PM July 7 to hash out.

Facilities Committee – Bryan George. Rev. Anya proposes having three member committee, one facing Tim, one facing AAFCJ, one looking at new subleases. Basically reforming the committee. We have consensus.

Auction Date – Bryan George: Changed Auction to Dec. 6, BoT Retreat to Sept. 6 1:30-5 PM

Calendar Sync – Bryan George. I'll talk to Lori about transition.

Endowment – Paul Roche. Paul's thinking of mid-fall recommendation from Endowment committee. Judy, Paul and Nancy are working it. Paul will write newsletter article to get folks interested.



JULY 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6 10:30 Worship Service 12 Inquirer's Class	7	8 6:30 Membership Committee Meeting 7 Covenant Group	9	10 7 Board of Trustees Meeting	11 7:30 Men's Group	12
13 10:30 Worship Service	14	15	16	17 7 jUUStUUS rehearsal	18	19
20 10:30 Worship Service	21	22	23	24 7 jUUStUUS rehearsal	25 7 WEBS Group	26
27 10:30 Worship Service	28	29	30	31 6:30 Membership Committee Meeting		

AUGUST 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 10:30 Worship Service 12 Inquirer's Class	4	5	6	7 7 Board of Trustees Meeting 7 jUUStUUS rehearsal	8 7:30 Men's Group	9
10 10:30 Worship Service	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 10:30 Worship Service	18	19	20	21	22 7 WEBS Group	23
24 10:30 Worship Service	25	26	27	28 6:30 Membership Committee Meeting	29	30
31 10:30 Worship Service						

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



Your Church Leadership

Minister: Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael

Director of Religious Exploration: Linda Weaver; **Music Director:** Daniel Boothe

Board of Trustees: President - Dave Miller; Vice President - Bonnie Lepoff; Secretary - Jeff Chandler;
Co-Treasurers - Alyssa Lum and Paul Roche; At-large - Scott Findley, Ken Ward, Linda Reeder, Belinda Bullock

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 a.m.

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: Jeff Chandler

To submit material for publication, send by email to uus-newsletter@uusterling.org

Submission Deadlines

8/22 for September

9/19 for October

10/17 for November

11/21 for December