



What's with UUS

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



Minister's Message



"Summer is a comin' in" wrote an old Elizabethan poet! And we welcome summer no matter how brief or long our "time off" is! For some, it's a foreign holiday, for some, vacations by the shore, yet for others, a little less pressure and more free time! Perhaps a little romance and a little dreaming!

This summer, it looks like just hoping our mid-Atlantic, sometimes-stupefying, temperatures won't be too high or long-lasting. There's always baseball or socializing on the porch with our friends – and replays of favorite programs on PBS or other channels. Programs like Antarctic Exploration are especially welcome where the vision of the cold seems like an especially good idea! The very best thing about "eternal summer" is that it is a pause that refreshes - and that the word, "eternal," evokes a wonderful sense of memory and meaning.

If we are intentional – and lucky – summer can be "the pause that refreshes." For summer is a different sense of time, not just for recreation, but for *re-creation*. More than any other season of the year, summer is, for many, the time of most thoughtful reflection on the flow – and the underlying flow – of the meaning of our lives. I say, *underlying*, because so much of our lives is lived by clocks, chronometers, and schedules of a dominating kind. Modern technologies may both serve us or eat us alive!

(Continued on page 2)

President's Column



I am thrilled to know that our coming church year is off to a wonderful start with the calling of Reverend Anya Sammler as our new minister. Our goal over the last 2 years was to find a new minister, and having accomplished that, it's time to make plans for our future.

We have weathered the transition difficulties of the last two years, thanks to the commitment of the lay leaders in this beloved community, as well as to the gentle guidance of Reverend Matthew McNaught. We put our faith into the hands of the Search Committee and are now able to revel in the success of the Committee's efforts.

The last year has seen UUS in a sort of "holding pattern" – we kept things going, but (Scott Findley's tremendous community outreach efforts aside) we haven't done much to expand our footprint in the community. It's almost as though we've been holding our collective breaths to see what the future would hold for us. Now that we know our future looks bright, it's time to set new goals for ourselves, and to re-ignite the fire of action and enthusiasm within UUS!

I have been honored to serve this congregation as your president, and will continue to participate fully in the life of this church. I come to church every Sunday not only to replenish my spirit, but also to see and talk with you, my fellow congregants. I really like the people in this church! This is my home.

(Continued on page 2)

Worship Calendar

June 3 - "Summertime and Summer's Promise" by Rev. Matthew. For me, who arrived on these shores more than forty years ago, American summer has always been a special time, a pause that refreshes, and the time to allow thoughts that the hecticness of the working year tends to push away. For most of the year, we live a day-to-day existence, but hopefully summer brings a new sense of the width and depth of life: a sense of where we have been, an acknowledgement of where we are, and a growing sense of new possibilities of a healing self-understanding. As the hymn says, "The Eternal Summer of our Souls."

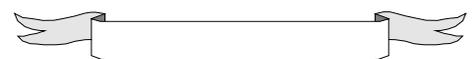
June 10 - Annual Religious Exploration (RE) Service. Celebrate the end of the RE year with the children of UUS. There will be musical performances by the children as they share experiences from this year's study of world religions and cultures.

(Continued on page 2)



Farewell Potluck for Rev. Matthew Sunday June 17

Please join us after church for a potluck to thank Rev. Matthew for all he has done for us and bid him a fond farewell. More details to come.



(Minister, Continued from page 1)

Summer has a different pace, if only in our imagination, and we should really relish its relative tranquility. It's an opportunity to listen to more music, browse the National Gallery for your own beloved painting, read the novels or books that are waiting for your attention and reflection. Summer allows us to move from a schedule-dominated life of chronological time to a sense of "eternal" time, that is, time measured not by the clock, but by the question of meaning, broken down to the four great "eternal" questions of my life never fully grasped - never quite articulated: "Who am I?" "Who are You?" "Where do I live?" and "What's around the corner?"

Reflection on these obvious questions may lead us not only more deeply into ourselves, but also to the "eternal" question, "Where do I go from here?" Whether we are eight or eighty, the question is still valid.

So I wish all of you the very best of summer, offering you, as I said, both recreation and re-creation! We don't have to be "religious" to raise the "spiritual" questions which belong most deeply to our inner life, our sense of inner meaning, and the truest inner happiness. Happiness can never be separated from our personal sense of meaning.

"Gather Ye rosebuds, while ye may."

Rev. Matthew

Fond Farewell to Rev. Matthew

Sunday June 17 will be Rev. Matthew's last service at UUS. He has served us well as interim minister for the past two years and helped provide a much-needed pastoral presence as we navigated our period of transition. We would like to express our deep appreciation for his support and wish him the all best as he re-enters retirement. Baltimore is not that far away, so we hope he will come back to visit often!

(President, Continued from page 1)

Thank you for the support you have afforded me this year. I am grateful for having had this experience, and look forward to the wonderful year that I know is ahead of us.

Blessings to you all,

Kim

Roving Reporter

By Susan Rose

The warm weather is upon us! What will you be doing this summer?

Holly (9) I'm going to New Hampshire in August, and to YMCA Summer Camp!

Maddie (6) I'm going to a camp where you get to ride horseback every day!

Shannon (8) I'm going to be doing a Trip Camp where we go to water parks and take lots of field trips!

Rachael (16) I'm going to Ireland, London and Wales this summer!

Julie (15) I'm going to stay home and do video games and work at American Flatbread!

Diane (15) I'll work at a restaurant named "Good Fortune"!

(Calendar, Continued from page 1)

June 17 - "Hail and Farewell" by Rev. Matthew

Alas, Alack! This is my last Sunday at UUS, and I'm taking my leave with more than a tinge of regret. My two years were, I hope, a more or less refreshing pause between two full-time ministers! This is my opportunity to say goodbye to a truly fine group of people. I was "torn untimely from the womb" of my retirement from old Philadelphia – as sister foundation to the very first Unitarian church in the United States and from King's Chapel, Boston. I'm so glad to have spent these two years with all of you. You may not be the largest congregation that I have been privileged to serve, but you may very well have been the brightest! Good luck, God-speed!

* There will be a farewell potluck at UUS for Rev. Matthew after the service.

June 24 - The Women's Earth-Based Spirituality Group (WEBS) will celebrate the Summer Solstice with a service of rituals, readings, and more, as we follow in the footsteps of the ancients to honor the changing seasons.



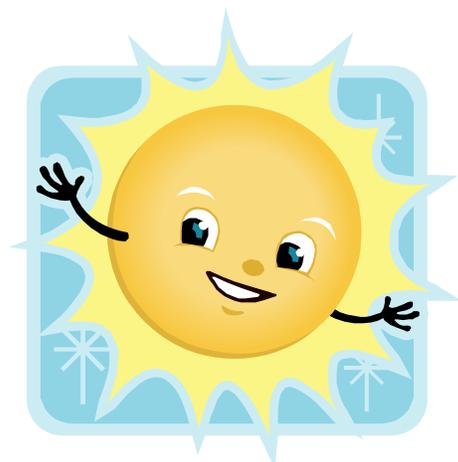
Religious Exploration

RE Service Rehearsal is during class time on June 3. All children are encouraged to attend to prepare for the RE Service on June 10.

In RE classes this summer, the children will examine what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist as they explore the seven colors of the rainbow and the seven UU Principles. There is still time to sign up to help in the class or nursery. Leaders will get a lesson plan, story, and the directions and materials needed for the craft. Sign up for a fun and colorful Sunday this summer!

Register and volunteer for fall 2007 to spring 2008. A program is being planned to include exploration of stories from the Hebrew and Jewish Bibles, examination of social justice issues, and hands-on involvement in social action. Ideally, there will be four age groups. This requires having enough children registered to form the classes and enough adults to lead them. Six to eight adults will be needed each Sunday. To help make this happen, sign up to be a leader or assistant. If this is not for you, consider volunteering to help plan or supervise a special event or social action project; lead music, dance, drama, games or craft one Sunday; or provide a snack.

Contact Linda Weaver to sign up or get more information.



RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION SCHEDULE

DATE	HOLIDAY	LEADER	ASSISTANT	NURSERY
3-June	RE Rehearsal	Weaver	Need Help	K. Fitzgerald
10-June	RE Service	No RE	No RE	L. Reeder
17-June	Games Day	Scher	George	Weaver

SUMMER RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION SCHEDULE

DATE	TOPIC	LEADER	ASSISTANT
24-June	The Rainbow and the UU Principles	T. Dick	M. Burns
1-July	R-E-S-P-E-C-T	K. Fitzgerald	Need Help
8-July	Offer Fair and Kind Treatment	S. Miller	C. Chandler
15-July	Yearn to Learn	C. Douoguih	C. Chandler
22-July	Grow by Sharing Your Thoughts and Feelings	N. McCormick	M. Burns
29-July	Believe in Your Ideas and Act on Them	T. Glass	Need Help
5-Aug.	Insist on Peace, Freedom and Justice	S. Miller	Need Help
12-Aug.	Value Nature	K. Fitzgerald	Need Help
19-Aug.	Exploring the Rainbow Principles	Need Help	K. Fitzgerald
26-Aug.	The Journey Along the Rainbow Continues	Need Help	Need Help
2-Sept.	Living the UU Rainbow Principles	L. Weaver	Need Help

Come to a GA Video Party

Streaming Live Near You!

On **Sunday, June 24**, the UUA General Assembly will close with a rousing 4 pm service in Portland, OR, attended by thousands of UUs and featuring great preaching, music, etc. In recent years these services have been very uplifting and well-produced, including fine video coverage, which again will be streamed live over the Internet.

You may already notice that 4 pm Portland time means 7 pm our time here. Well, this just seems like a natural set-up for a POTLUCK DINNER at 6 followed by a viewing party to enjoy the live video "feed" together with other UUs. What a great way to revel in our wider movement at its most visibly inspirational!

For this year's showcase service, another outstanding preacher, Rev. Josh Pawelek (of UU Society: East in Manchester, CT) will offer a sermon ("On Becoming an Ancestor"), accompanied by stirring music from the renowned choir of First UU Church Portland.

So far, at least the following congregations in our region are arranging to gather their own and any neighboring folks for this occasion:

Maryland

River Road (Unitarian Church, Bethesda, 301-229-0400)

Rockville (UU Church, 301-762-7666)

Silver Spring (UU Church, 301-434-4050)

Annapolis (UU Church, 410-266-8044)

Northern Virginia

Reston (UU Church, 703-742-7992)

Arlington (UU Church, 703-892-2565)

Plan ahead to join fellow UUs at any of these settings for a 6 pm potluck meal and then a 7 pm live viewing experience that will connect you to the heart of UUism at General Assembly!

Contact the individual sites (or their web pages) for directions or more

Small Group Ministry

May was an exciting month, with all the activities and anticipation surrounding Rev. Anya's visit and our unanimous vote to call her as our settled minister. All of our candidating week activities reinforced the power of our fellowship together. Remember that UUS small groups can help sustain our sense of community. Small group ministry provides a way for members and friends to keep in touch during the week and 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. We plan on singing at two services each month. New voices are always welcome. See our music director, Dan Boothe, or any choir member if you are interested.

Covenant Groups

Covenant Groups meet once a month to discuss a topic related to spiritual growth. There are three groups meeting once a month on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings. If you are interested in joining a group, now's the time to act. There will be one more meeting (in June) before the summer break. Send an email to Shelley Tamres at shelleytam@aol.com if you would like to join a group or check our website and pull down the menu bar under 'Ministry' for more information.

specific information, including confirmation of potluck plans.

(Of course, individuals can also pick up the stream on their own home computer, but being together for the live event is a lot more like the real thing!)

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, please contact Becky Fockler at bfockler@verizon.net.



New Minister for UUS

After a year-long search and an arduous candidating week, UUS has chosen a new full-time, settled minister to begin in September. The Rev. Anya Sammler was chosen by unanimous vote of the membership after the service she conducted on May 20. She was able to get to know the members of the UUS congregation through a series of dinners, lunches, meetings and forums that started on May 12 and included her Mother's Day service.

Rev. Sammler attended the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee and earned degrees in philosophy and fine arts, concentrating on Wittgenstein and photography. She has also worked as a chef and café manager. She has a Masters of Divinity degree from Meadville Lombard Seminary in Chicago and has served as chaplain at Swedish Hospital in Seattle and as intern minister in Sunnyvale, California. Currently, she serves as Youth Minister at the Community Unitarian Church in White Plains, New York. She is an avid runner, practices yoga, and is engaged to be married to Scott Michael, an intern minister, in August. She will begin her ministry at UUS in September.

The search committee was headed by Gus Douoguih and included Karen Saifer, Celinda Chandler, Linda Reeder, Dave Miller and Rosalie Clavez. Gus said, "We are very excited because of Anya's solid theological and intellectual credentials and her many human and pastoral qualities."



UUS Board

Meeting Highlights

May 2, 2007

Attendees: Linda Weaver, Reverend Matthew, Terri Glass, Shelly Tamres, Kim Fitzgerald, Gus Doughee, Bryan George, Art Rose

Liason Reports

Denominational Affairs:

- Joint UUCL/UUS social activity is deferred until the Fall.

Finance

We are now 83% of the way through the 2006-07 fiscal year. We have collected \$114,122 which is 86% of the total budgeted income. Year-to-date expenses are \$113,435 or about 75% percent of the budgeted amount.

In our general bank account, \$8,547 is available for general operations; \$3,357 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, \$23,542 is available for general operations and \$33,588 is in the Building Reserve funds.

UUA Annual Dues

- Finance committee recommends that we pay 1/2 dues this year (due June 30)
- Follow-up next month

Worship Associates

- Deb Rose is returning to WA
- June WA: Shawna Daly

Service ideas for Summer include:

Partner Church - Rosalie Clavez, Dee Idnani

Enlightenment - Shawna Daly

Spinoza - Mary Matheny

Numbers - Scott Findley

Music - Scott

Breathing & Spirituality - Scott

Cosmos - Steve Dick

Nominating Committee:

Proposed Board of Trustees slate for the 2007-2008 church year beginning July 1, 2007:

President: Bryan George

Vice President: Dave Miller

Secretary: Jeff Chandler

Treasurers: Paul Roche and Alyssa Lum (co-treasurers)

At Large: Scott Findley

At Large: Gus Douoguih (1 year)

At Large: Judy Gruner

At Large: Shelley Tamres

Communications

Publicizing concert events and disseminating info about ministerial candidate.

Old Business

Maria Jacobs has decided to tender her resignation. She is willing to stay until the end of June, and possibly longer, as we transition her responsibilities to someone new. The Worship Associates are to take on the responsibility of producing the OOS.

New Business

Annual Meeting Packages are to be submitted 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting on 6/3/2007. The packages are to include:

- Budget for 2007-2008

- Slate for the Incoming Board

- Written Reports from the Board Officers and the Committee Chairs

Loudoun Symphony Orchestra has reached out to UUS to develop its' base audience. There was a discussion as to how this might be an opportunity for UUS to obtain extra music talent for our services and other events. Contact information was provided.

12 Step Meetings

Request from Mr. Ralph Kramer to have 12 step NA meetings at UUS – Kim will follow up

Other:

- Renewed sublease with AAFCJ through December 31, 2007 - terms are largely the same as the previous lease.

Ministerial Candidate Week

The schedule and issues relating to candidate week was presented by Gus Douoguih. The events and activities will culminate on Sunday when the congregation will vote on ministerial candidate Anya Sammler.

Religious Exploration

Linda Weaver attended an "Involve Workshop" on welcoming children with special needs into our congregations. The workshop and Sally Patton's book provided excellent information applicable to welcoming all children and adults.

RE Classes

Continuing to schedule adults to help with nursery care.

Continuing to recruit adults, teens and tweens to help with Trail Clean-Up on May 27th and Games Day on June 17th.

Recruiting for summer RE began April 15th.

RE Committee

Led Easter Egg Hunt. Received positive response from children and parents.

Met on April 15th to review Easter Egg Hunt and plan recruiting for summer and 2007-2008.

Board Host Schedule

May 6: Shelley

May 13: Kim

May 20: Bryan

May 27: Kim

June 3: Scott

June 10: Bill Roman

June 17: Judy G.

June 24: Bryan

Upcoming Regular Board meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. at UUS:

Wednesday, June 6

June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
						5:00PM-10:00PM AAFCJ - Joan Confoy
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10:30AM-11:30AM Worship Service by Rev. Matthew McNaught ; Children : RE Rehearsal (Weaver, help needed); Nursery: Fitzgerald 3:30PM-9:30PM AAFCJ - Joan Confoy			7:00PM-9:30PM Board Meeting - Kim Fitzgerald	7:30PM-9:00PM Choir Rehearsal - Shelley Tamres		5:00PM-10:00PM AAFCJ - Joan Confoy 8:00PM-11:00PM Men's Spirituality - Dave Scher
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8:30AM - Elder Care Breakfast @ Virginia Kitchen in Herndon - Mike Berger 10:30AM-11:30AM Worship Service by Rev. Matthew McNaught ; Children : RE Service (No RE); Nursery: Reeder 3:30PM-9:30PM AAFCJ - Joan Confoy	Monday Night Covenant Group - Vienna	Tuesday Night Covenant Group - Sterling	Wednesday Night Covenant Group - Ashburn	7:30PM-9:00PM Choir Rehearsal - Shelley Tamres	7:30PM Word-Beat Concert - Scott Findley Combined July and August Newsletter Deadline	5:00PM-10:00PM AAFCJ - Joan Confoy
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10:30AM-11:30AM Worship Service by Rev. Matthew McNaught ; Children : Games Day (Scher, George); Nursery: Weaver Potluck for Rev Matthew at UUS after the service. 3:30PM-9:30PM AAFCJ - Joan Confoy				7:30PM-9:00PM Choir Rehearsal - Shelley Tamres	7:00PM-10:00PM Women's Spirituality - Becky Fockler	5:00PM-10:00PM AAFCJ - Joan Confoy
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
10:30AM-11:30AM Worship Service by Rev. Matthew McNaught ; Children : The Rainbow and the UU Principles (Dick, Burns); Nursery: help needed 3:30PM-9:30PM AAFCJ - Joan Confoy			7:00PM-9:00PM Membership Committee - Mike Masiak	7:30PM-9:00PM Choir Rehearsal - Shelley Tamres		5:00PM-10:00PM AAFCJ - Joan Confoy



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



Your Church Leadership

Interim Minister: Rev. Matthew McNaught **Director of Religious Exploration:** Linda Weaver

Music Director: Daniel Boothe

Board of Trustees: President - Kim Fitzgerald Vice President - Bryan George Secretary - Scott Findley
Treasurer - Art Rose At-large - Terri Glass, Judy Gruner, Bill Roman, 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@yahoogroups.com

Submission Deadlines

06/15/07 for combined

July and August
newsletter

08/17/07 for September