



What's with UUS

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



Minister's Message



We Are a Gentle Angry People

Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael

"We are a gentle angry people, and we are singing, we are singing for our lives. We are a justice seeking people, and we are singing, we are singing for our lives ..."

Holly Near, a singer and songwriter from California, wrote these lyrics in response to a tragedy of injustice – the murder of Harvey Milk, a gay member of San Francisco's city council. In 1992, her song was arranged and copy-written for the Unitarian Universalist hymnal by our Association. I love to sing the hymn; it asks me to respond whole-heartedly to our world's ills and injustices. Indeed, I have sung it before while marching to a worship service on Martin Luther King Day, and I have hummed it to myself while marching for Immigrant rights.

Social Justice work is something that many Unitarian Universalists deem holy. Indeed, our hymnal teems with songs that call us to just action and with readings that explore its potential. *But, from whence came all this righteous indignation?* Is it simply our substitute for dogma? Or does it course from a deeper place in our history and theological grounding?

Some of my favorite sections in the Hebrew Bible are the writings of the prophets, Micah and Isaiah, and in the tradition of Unitarian Universalist ministers, I am not alone. Micah's proclamation, "He has showed you, O

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President's Message



What We Believe

At a recent Unitarian Universalist conference, I attended a seminar on UU Evangelism. I

attend these seminars because, like many UUs, I see that we have a wonderful faith tradition that's worth sharing, and I want to find ways to inspire others to find out more about us.

Unfortunately, I often find myself frustrated by such exercises, and, for the first time, I was able to put my finger on why. The UU approach to evangelism, simply put, consists of convincing others to have a conversation about what Unitarian Universalists believe, but then having little specific to say on the topic.

Here is an apocryphal (from the Greek *apo*, meaning "totally" and *cryphal*, meaning "made up") transcript paraphrasing various conversations I've had with friends and colleagues about Unitarian Universalism:

Friend: "So, what do Unitarian Universalists believe in, anyway?"

Me: "Well, Unitarian Universalists have a set of principles affirming the worth of all people, how we work together, and our relationship with the larger world."

Friend: "Okay, but what do you believe in *spiritually*?"

Me: "We believe there are many ways to find spiritual truths."

(Crickets chirp...)

Friend: "And those truths would be...?"

Me: "That's for you to decide."

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Worship Calendar

May 4 "To What do we Give our Lives?" - Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael. As our world spins faster and faster, we need occasions to stop and assess the influence of our busy schedules. Are we balancing family with work, fun with spirituality, health with joy, and what does the balance or imbalance foster? Let's give our intention on Sunday morning to this necessary reflection.

May 11 "Flower Communion" - Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael. The minister will lead this intergenerational service that was originated by the Czech Unitarian, Norbert Capek, in 1923. Everyone is asked to bring one or two cut flowers. The flowers are symbols of our diversity – just as flowers are all different and beautiful, people have diverse talents and offer diverse gifts. After we have gathered the flowers in a common vase, we each will leave with a flower – but not the same flower we arrived with. Each addition to the vase symbolizes participation in this community in which we freely join. Each flower that we take from the vase symbolizes the gift of sharing in the richness of community – in the richness of one another's unique humanity. In this way, through the flower communion, we ritualize the affirmation of diversity – and the power of engaging community.

May 18 "Partner Church Sunday" Members and guests of the UUS Partner Church task force will lead the service, focusing on the UU Partner Church program as a means of living out the ideal of global community. After the service, at the annual meeting, the congregation will vote on whether UUS should become a partner church with the Unitarians in the village of Kut in N.E. India. *For more information, see the*

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(Minister, continued from page 1)

man, what is good and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God” graced the sermons of many a preacher in our movement’s past. In addition, it was the earliest Unitarians who questioned Jesus’ divinity (Origen of Alexandria in the 3rd century and, later, Servetus in the 16th), who praised Jesus for his compassionate work for justice. And it was Hosea Ballou, the vocal proponent of the Universalist faith in America in the 18th century, who witnessed to the existence of a Just God – a God that would not condemn any of her beloved children to eternal torment.

It is these roots of Justice-based Christian theology that blossomed for America in 19th and 20th centuries. Following the model of Transylvanian Unitarian Francis David, who achieved the first ever “Edict of Toleration” for religious freedom, America’s founding fathers (many of the prominent ones themselves Unitarian) founded a civil code where justice was equated with free thought, free speech, and free enterprise. And it was this country where religious choice could be free and voluntary that nurtured an explosion of Unitarian and Universalist congregations. Our democracy promised that individuals (at first solely white, land-owning men) could, indeed, work with what they were born with to turn it toward the good or the right. This freedom became a responsibility – to make it possible for themselves and others to live to their fullest potential.

As our country aged, its people came to understand a more inclusive definition of justice and freedom – and with this maturation, our Unitarian and Universalist leaders and congregations became integral in the struggle for equal rights. The first call for abolition nearly split the denominations between North and South, but as the work went on, many from our ranks recognized the brutal injustice of slavery. Then we turned to suffrage, and, later, women’s and gay rights. And as we worked for these, the call to justice grew more diversified. Among other callings, we prominently sought a world community and environmental protection.

Throughout, our theology has been grounded in the recognition that our work is here on this earth – in this life – and that the work of justice is, therefore, our holy or, for humanists, our necessary work. This may not lead us all to the same vision of a just world, or the same understanding of how to bring justice about, but it does lead us to pair our spiritual efforts with our righteous indignation. And it leads us to recognize faith, not so much in what we believe, but in what we do!

This is what the UU Rev. Richard Gilbert of Rochester, New York calls the “prophetic imperative” in his book, *The Prophetic Imperative: Social Gospel in Theory and Practice*. Rev. Gilbert explains that church and individual social justice activities fall into four main areas:

- * Social service/giving: A direct rendering of our time and funds to those in need.

- * Social education: Researching and understanding the issues so we are informed as we fight ignorance, plus teaching our children to do the same.

- * Social witness: Displaying our convictions publicly through such activities as speaking out, carrying signs at rallies, and writing letters on important issues.

- * Social action: Organizing to influence policy and decision-makers to correct injustices by changing policy, laws, and the infrastructure.

By choice and necessity, we have gone for seven months without an active social justice committee. We will have the opportunity on June 8, at a social justice forum, to re-imagine the work for justice at UUS. I hope we will be inspired by our history and by Richard Gilbert’s classifications to build a comprehensive and vital program. What do you envision? How might you engage?

Please join us on June 8 at 12 noon, after the service, for a rich discussion and a new beginning in this ancient stream of work!

(Calendar, continued from page 1)

“Partner Church Information Packet” at the end of this newsletter.

For more details, please visit:

<http://uusterling.org/newsletter/PartnerChurchInKutInfoPacket.pdf>

May 25 “Circle of Kinship” - Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael. What is the particular meaning of membership in a Unitarian Universalist congregation? In the hopes of discerning an answer to this often pressing question, we will search the history of our faith’s polity (governmental structure) and the theology of some of our most prominent leaders. We will also have the honor of celebrating and recognizing our newest members.

June 1 “All Ages at the Welcome Table” This intergenerational service will celebrate our Religious Exploration adventures of the past year through song and through the Biblical stories that children and youth have been studying. Between the Special Needs Task Force, advocating for access to children’s literature, and inviting new friends to explore with us, this has been a year of welcoming. Rev. Lyn Cox, from the Joseph Priestley District office, will be the guest leader and storyteller.

Religious Exploration Events

May 4 – Taking Action - During Religious Exploration (RE), children in kindergarten through 7th grade will continue to explore ways they can make life better for others every day.

May 17 – Families and adults are invited to meet at the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore at 1 pm to view ancient objects related to the stories the Tween class studied this year. “Rain” date is May 24.

May 18 – RE Service Rehearsal – Children in kindergarten through 7th grade will rehearse for participation in the RE Service on June 1.

(President, continued from page 1)

I could continue, but you get the point – I've lost 99 out of 100 people I'm having this conversation with by the time the it gets this far. That, incidentally, is slightly higher than the percentage of the adult population of the United States who identify themselves as UUs, so I'm actually making progress.

Our national religious organization, The Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA) recently embarked on a national advertising campaign, with a similar goal of evangelizing Unitarian Universalism. The UUA spent substantial sums of money promoting messages such as “*Is God keeping you from going to church?*” and “*When in prayer, doubt.*”

In many ways, these messages reflect well on the UU approach to religion. At the same time, someone encountering UUism for the first time this way could be forgiven for thinking “Oh, I see, Unitarian Universalism is the religion for people who hate religion” or “Unitarian Universalism – that's the church where people don't know what to believe, right?”

thud... thud... thud...

So, what can I, your humble Board President, offer to help deal with this confusion? Not much, of course – I am not a religious professional, nor do I play one on TV. But like all UUs, I make it a point to be possessed of an expansive view of religion. In addition, I am an engineer – it's my job to take an analytical approach to solving problems.

With that in mind, I offer a few of my own observations about what I think Unitarian Universalists believe.

We believe in the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

Yes, I know, I've just largely repeated our First Principle. But it is an article of faith, as is the faith expressed by the Founding Fathers in “certain unalienable Rights” called out in the Declaration of Independence. It is unprovable, profound, and worth defending to our full measure of devotion. Honestly, if that isn't belief, I don't know what is.

*We believe that faith is **described**, not prescribed.*

Unitarian Universalists are highly allergic to making definitive statements of faith. Being a fiercely independent lot, any statement declaring “This is what we believe, period, end of discussion” would be rather, shall we say, contentious – we simply don't *do* creeds.

But in the process of avoiding such arguments, we miss a golden opportunity. The members of a Unitarian Universalist congregation bring a varied, but largely compatible, set of religious perspectives to worship. With open hearts and open minds, and with the help of a gifted minister, it is possible to *describe* how those varied perspectives merge into a meaningful and coherent view of faith defined on our own terms.

Which leads to my last observation.

We believe in the Spirit of Life.

This is the theme of one of our best hymns and speaks to what I see as the focus of many of our shared religious experiences.

Whether our perspectives are informed by Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, Deism, Humanism, Naturalism, or Religious Atheism, the common thread linking those perspectives appears to be the belief that something profoundly beyond ourselves is present in the universe and that it is inextricably linked with life itself. For lack of a better term, that would be the Spirit of Life.

So, if this helps you with your elevator speech about UUism, great. If you think I'm completely full of spam, no problem. Bring your own ideas forth and let's see if we can work out something better.

And if you're out there thinking this is a dandy way to do religion, come see us sometime.

Yours in Faith,

Bryan

"Inspiring Ideas, Sharing Resources, Working Together"

Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice (UUSJ) presents congregations sharing ideas, resources, best practices and opportunities to work together on Saturday, May 31, 8:30 – 1:00 at the UU Church of Arlington (www.uucava.org/). Workshops by congregations will include topics such as programming on anti-racism work, connecting to your local community through your social justice work, fundraising for social justice, involving young adults, and more. Attendees are welcome to stay for lunch from 1:00-1:30 and the UUSJ board meeting to follow.

Register by sending you name, congregation, phone, email and mail address to info@uusj.org or to UUSJ, 8605 Cameron St., Suite 200, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Come learn from and share with each other.



Religious Exploration Schedule

	Date	Lower Elementary Topic	Leader / Helper	Tween Topic	Leader	Nursery Adult
May	4	Taking Action	Weaver Confoy	Taking Action	Weaver Confoy	Ward
	11	Mothers Day / Flower Com- munion	No RE	Mothers Day / Flower Com- munion	No RE	Confoy
	18	RE Service Rehearsal	Weaver George	RE Service Rehearsal	Weaver George	Stafford
	25	Celebration Sunday	Chandler Thede	Review & Celebration	Weaver	Douoguih
June	1	RE Service	No RE	Re Service	No RE	Burns
	8	Trail Clean Up	Chandler Confoy	Trail Clean Up	Chandler Confoy	McMullen Gruner
	15	Games Day	Connors George	Games Day	Connors George	James
	22	Summer RE: The Prince and the Rhinoceros	McCormick George	Summer RE: The Prince & the Rhinoceros	McCormick George	Need Help
	29	Summer RE: The Clever Boy and the Terrible, Dangerous Animal	Need Help	Summer RE: The Clever Boy and the Terrible, Dangerous Animal	Need Help	Need Help

2008–2009 Religious Exploration

Children are important to the vitality of a community. Traditions and values reach the future through children, and they add their own unique visions and energy to the group. UUS is committed to providing meaningful experiences to children with the understanding that everyone benefits from a strong children's Religious Exploration (RE) program.

Next year the children will explore their Unitarian Universalist history and identity. Our faith is very dynamic, rich and diverse. This means there is something left for everyone to learn, whether they are new UUs or have been UUs for many decades. Join the children in building the intergenerational community at UUS, learning about your chosen faith, and growing as an individual by helping in RE.

To make this program a success, we need people to lead and assist in RE classes, provide nursery care, and help with special events. Don't miss out on

Summer Religious Exploration

This summer the children will explore cooperation, peace, justice and tolerance. Be a part of the discoveries by leading or helping in the Religious Exploration (RE) class at least one Sunday. Stories from *Rhinos and Raspberries*, a curriculum developed by the Teaching Tolerance project of the Southern Poverty Law Center, will be provided, along with a lesson plan and supplies. Sign up at church or by contacting Linda Weaver.



the learning and fun in Religious Exploration. Fill out an RE volunteer form in church or contact Linda Weaver to sign up.

Roving Reporter

By Susan Rose

Rev. Anya, our ordained minister (!), was a lifeguard, a chef, and a photographer before becoming a minister. What do you think you'll become in life?

Rachael (17) I want to write a book (fiction) and get it published!

Andrew (17) I think I'll major in history and maybe become a teacher or film director!

Jayln (14) I'm thinking about becoming a journalist!

Charley (14) I want to be a "gran vizer" in my dreams!

Matthew (14) I'm thinking engineering!

Julia (16) I'm planning on a career in music!

Sora (16) I'd like to do something in music or writing!

One Family's Journey with Religious Exploration

It's 3 am and the phone rings. Who do you want answering the phone? Would you anticipate your adult kids to say "mom or dad"? Would you anticipate your kids would even call you at 3 in the morning if they needed to talk?

When our kids were younger, we could not have imagined them as teenagers or young adults. We tried to make the best decisions for them we knew how at the time, to provide them the best learning and caring environments possible to nurture their growth, independence and ability to make their own good choices.

Art and I investigated and interviewed day care centers, private and public schools; encouraged participation in activities based on qualities that we value; filled out the "best match" requests for their school teachers; and established family rules about acceptable behavior and activities with friends. Despite our best efforts, they experienced years with teachers with incompatible learning styles, participated in groups who did not practice the qualities they promoted, and found themselves at friends' homes where intolerance, discrimination, alcohol, and drugs were viewed with very different perspectives than our own.

Looking back, if you asked us what tipped the scales for our kids, what contributed to their sense of self, self efficacy, development of their value system, appreciation of their community and world, and ability to manage conflict and make good choices, there are many things we would need to consider. Was it the years I stayed home with them, private home day care, the community preschool, the selected teachers, the private academic tutors, music lessons, select sports teams, girl scouts or boy scouts, extracurricular activities, family meetings, family vacations, counseling, vision therapy, private school, trips overseas, or the GPS chip secretly hidden in their cell phone (we didn't do that but we really

thought long and hard about that option)?

While each of these efforts and their resulting experiences contributed in some way to our children's growth, not one of them in isolation was the "scale tipper." The critical piece that tipped the scale in their favor were the experiences and life lessons they received through Religious Exploration (RE) at UUS.

Throughout their RE experiences (for our kids, their later elementary, middle and high school years), they were nurtured and supported to ask questions, think for themselves outside established standards, explore their place in the world through their eyes and not preconceived routines, and lived and were loved in a community who cherished and held them in esteem regardless of their grades, learning disabilities, level of participation, or attitude.

They learned the value of other religions and the importance of an open mind through the Neighboring Faiths curriculum. In RE, they learned that being silent can speak louder than hateful words and that communication and sharing perspectives is crucial to one's self. They learned about family, personal reproductive health, and sexuality at developmentally appropriate stages through the OWL (Our Whole Lives) program. Each one developed a personal belief statement, vision, and spiritual identity through the Coming of Age program, and they developed an appreciation of their lives of comfort, and for adults who support and care about them, on their Camping Pilgrimage with Gus Douoguih.

Don't get us wrong...we have shared many difficult times - failing grades, speeding tickets, and breakups with significant others - to highlight a few. But here is where we have seen evidence of the tipped scale.

Over the years, our kids have come to us and:

- Asked not to participate in a community activity program because the adults and other children participating openly make negative comments about people who are gay and lesbian, Muslim or Jewish.

- Warned us that we would get a call from the principal because they asked an inappropriate question during the public school's Family Life Education class. The question: "If we are exploring all types of families, families with a mother and father, or a single mother or single father, why aren't we talking about families with two mothers or two fathers?"
- Shared that they do not believe there is a god, and going to church is useless, and that they are comfortable sharing that with their RE teachers who 1) assure us this is a normal developmental stage and 2) welcome them with open arms.
- Talked to us about the pressure they feel in dating relationships regarding sexual activity.
- Told the principal to "go ahead and call my parents - I want them to know what happened" when they interrupted a group of classmates verbally abusing another peer who was Muslim, and reported not only the classmates, but a teacher who stood nearby listening and did nothing to intervene. The administration tried to discipline our child for aggressive and "inciteful" behavior, but our child stood firm and said, "Go ahead. Give me detention. Just make sure that teacher is there with me."
- Thanked us for bringing them to UUS.

So when the phone rings at 3 in the morning and it is one of the kids who needs to share something with us, we are so very thankful for the influence of our faith community through the Religious Exploration program that tipped their scale toward the side of justice, fairness, honesty, open communication, and love. That makes any 3 am call a bit easier to handle!



New Member Profile

Joining UUS in February are new members Tim and Heidi Donovan. They have two lovely and energetic children, Maiti, age 6 and Cedric, age 2 ½.

Tim and Heidi have been in the Northern Virginia area for ten years now (how time flies), but they actually met on the west coast in Vancouver, Washington, at the telecom company where they both worked. Not heeding others' advice regarding dating co-workers, they tumbled into an office romance and left shortly thereafter to live and study in Dublin, Ireland.

Timothy pursued his Master's degree in Linguistics at Trinity University while Heidi worked from time-to-time as an administrative assistant to make ends meet. By the end of their stay, they had just about driven the wheels off a 1984 Mini (not hard to do) and climbed all of the highest peaks on the Emerald Isle. They had also become Irish music fans, developed a taste for stout, and came away with the phrase, "Thanks a million!"

Upon returning to the States, refreshed, enlightened, and light on cash, Tim and Heidi sought temporary refuge with Tim's parents in Glenwood, Maryland and then moved down to Northern Virginia, closer to the jobs they had found. They then proceeded to buy a



house, get married, and have the two wonderful children mentioned above.

Tim is now part of the senior management team at Verisign, Inc., and Heidi recently quit her accounting position at iDirect, Inc. to become a stay-at-home mom (which she highly recommends!) Hobbies, when time allows, include hiking, biking, climbing, tending a vegetable garden, baking, and sewing.



Small Group Ministry

May has arrived in all her glory! Can summer be far behind? Keep yourself grounded in our community by participating in UUS Small Groups. 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; 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 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 watch and discuss movies, 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 Shelley Tamres (Board liaison to Small Groups) at shelleytam@aol.com.

Choir

The choir rehearses Monday evening plus Sunday mornings when we sing, which is at least two Sundays a month. We are planning a choral retreat for the end of this month. If you would like to join us at any of our activities, please see our music director, Dan Boothe, or any choir member.

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 "Crossroads." We shared personal stories of the crossroads we've faced in our lives. 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. There are four groups this year meeting once a month on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday

evenings and Tuesday at noon. Send an email to Bonnie Lepoff at blepoff@cox.net or contact Rev. Anya if you are interested in joining a group or just learning more.

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. This month's meeting is on May 11. 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. Results are submitted to the Loudoun County Wildlife Conservancy and the Loudoun County Watershed Watch and used for the annual "The State of Loudoun Streams" report. 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 (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 Kim Fitzgerald at kimberly.fitzgerald@ngc.com.

The Potomac/ Sterling Outreach Project

...A grassroots, community-based effort designed to engage numerous stakeholders, including faith groups, homeowner associations, civic organizations, landowners, business owners, parent/teacher organizations, and citizens, in a public dialogue on enhancing the quality of life in Potomac and Sterling, invites the UU's of Sterling to participate.

- Four public interactive sessions,
- A community survey
- Many smaller meetings in the future

The county is interested in engaging a large and diverse cross-section of people in the process. To this end, your help in getting the word out to others will be greatly appreciated.

To learn more about the process - the dates, times, and locations - and to view the community boundary descriptions, I encourage you to visit the web page at www.loudoun.gov/potomac-sterling or contact Michael Salinas at potomac_sterling@loudoun.gov for comments and questions.



UUS Partner Church Update

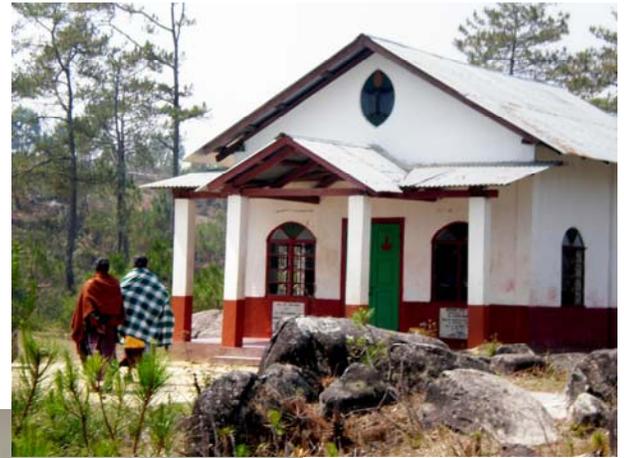
On Sunday, May 18 at the UUS Annual Meeting, members will vote on whether our church should participate in the UU Partner Church program with Unitarians in the village of Kut in Northeast India.

For answers to specific questions about our partner church opportunity, please refer to the Partner Church Information Packet at the end of this newsletter.

If some of you are still wondering why UUS would want to commit to a partner church halfway around the world, here are some benefits that have been suggested by current partner congregations.

- Partnering is a way of living out the UU Sixth Principle: “The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.”
- It provides an experience of global citizenship and increases our awareness of the interconnectedness of all humanity.
- Engaging spiritually with another culture that shares our foundational beliefs enriches our understanding of our own faith.
- It creates transformational opportunities for learning and service, pilgrimage and hospitality.
- It opens vistas for understanding our world.
- There are many ways for children and youth to get involved with projects, learning, and communication.

Unitarian Church In Kut



Sunday Service In Kut



Road leading into the village of Kut

Home of the Unitarian Church President in Kut



For more details, please visit:

<http://uusterling.org/newsletter/PartnerChurchInKutInfoPacket.pdf>

May 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7-9 PM Board of Trustees Meeting	2	3 5-10 PM AAFCJ
4 10:30-11:45 AM Religious Exploration 10:30-11:30 AM Worship Service 12-1:30 PM Inquirer's Class 1-3 PM Leader's Summit 3:30-9:30 PM AAFCJ	5 7:30-9 PM Choir Rehearsal	6	7 7:30-9 PM The Happiness Hypothesis	8	9 7:30-9:30 PM UUS Men's Group	10 6 AM-10 PM AAFCJ
11 8:30-10 AM Elder Care Support Breakfast 10:30-11:45 AM Religious Exploration 10:30-11:30 AM Worship Service	12 7:30-9 PM Choir Rehearsal	13 7-9 PM Covenant Group 7-10 PM Sterling Gable HOA Meeting	14 7:30-9 PM The Happiness Hypothesis	15	16 6-9 PM Game Night	17 1-5 PM Visit to Walters Art Museum 5-10 PM AAFCJ
18 10:30-11:45 AM Religious Exploration 10:30-11:30 AM Worship Service 12-1 PM UUS Annual Congregational Meeting 1-3 PM RE Committee Meeting	19 7:30-9 PM Choir Rehearsal	20	21 7:30-9 PM The Happiness Hypothesis	22	23 7-9 PM WEBS Group	24 5-10 PM AAFCJ
25 10:30-11:45 AM Religious Exploration 10:30-11:30 AM Worship Service	26 7:30-9 PM Choir Rehearsal	27	28	29 7-9 PM Membership Committee Meeting	30	31 5-10 PM AAFCJ

Unitarian Universalists of Sterling
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Your Church Leadership

Minister: Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael

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 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@yahoogroups.com

Submission Deadlines

5/23/08 for June

6/20/08 for July

7/18/08 for August

8/22/08 for September