



The Flame

EXTRA EDITION!

October
2011

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Peninsula



13136 Warwick Blvd
Newport News, VA 23602
www.uufp.org 757-369-1098



The mission of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Peninsula is to create a dynamic community that celebrates life and searches for truths.

NEWS FLASH!
Inserted/added new pg 3
with two new items!

October Services

Theme: Wholeness

2 Oct: "Wider Vision, Renewed Strength"

Rev. Millard

June's General Assembly in Charlotte marked the Unitarian Universalist Association's fiftieth birthday and the Fellowship was well represented at the celebrations! This Association Sunday, come hear our delegates and other attendees share their excitement at spending a week with thousands of other UUs, whether that's singing or voting or getting rained on together!

Following services there will be a vegetarian potluck lunch (in honor of Gandhi's birthday) and a showing of Karen Armstrong's stirring Ware Lecture, "The Challenge of Compassion".

9 Oct: "At-One-Ment"

Rev. Millard

The fundamental religious impulse is our human need to make sense of our place in the world. As well as stories explaining where we come from, religions provide moral guidance and prescriptions for making amends and seeking forgiveness when we fall short in living up to our own principles. How can Unitarian Universalists engage with such a process of atonement?

Between and following services, you are invited to visit with the organizers of the Fellowship's many programs and activities at their tables outside the Sanctuary.

16 Oct: "Popcorn Theology with Matthew, Mark, Joan and Rufus"

Daneene Kelley

What makes up a person's beliefs generally comes from what they've read, heard and experienced in life. Why can't those ideas come from movies, television shows and novels? Daneene will explore how movies helped shape her personal spirituality, and why we don't need to always reach for non-fiction books written by people with doctorate degrees for inspiration.

23 Oct: "Old Turtle and the Broken Truth"

Rev. Millard

When a truth falls from the sky, it breaks in two and part of it is lost. The other part of the truth, though lovely in itself, is incomplete and soon there is conflict amongst the people who would keep it for themselves. This new story by Douglas Wood brings us back to Old Turtle, and asks us to be open to the many small and lovely truths of life in the world we share with one another.

The first (9:30am) service will follow our traditional format with a sermon; the second (11am) service will be a multigenerational drama including most other service elements. Special music will be provided (at both services) by the ChorUUs.

Oct 30 on page 4...

For all that is our life!

Rev. Andrew Clive Millard

What did the mystic say to the hot dog vendor?

"Make me one with everything!"

Throughout my childhood and adolescence I attended church services of one sort or another. As a young child I remember going to Sunday School — though I don't remember much beyond crusty modeling clay and singing "All Things Bright and Beautiful" a lot — but from time to time I also sat in services with my father. During the week, at the schools I attended from kindergarten through high school, we'd begin each day with "assembly", which was in large part a religious service that included hymns, Bible readings and prayers. I was in every school choir and we would often sing anthems, too. Morning assembly at my high school also included a sermon, usually by the school's chaplains or sometimes guest speakers or even students; that's where I was first in the pulpit, giving sermons on such topics as Albert Einstein and the Chernobyl disaster.

At some point, before reaching adolescence, I realized that many of theological specifics that were presented in those school assemblies simply didn't mean a lot to me. Lessons about treating other people with respect, sharing our gifts with one another, doing what we can to make the world a better place: sure, those made sense, and hearing them probably helped me to be a better person, too. But there's something about saying the Lord's Prayer five times a week, ten months a year — and in "King James" English, no less — that soon emptied it of significance.

Nonetheless, I generally looked forward to morning assembly. For one thing, I enjoyed singing, particularly, once my voice broke, singing hymn tunes in harmony with other voices. Looking back, I'm also glad that it was part of my daily routine. I was something of an unruly child and didn't always treat other people nicely, so it was good for me to learn the self-discipline of sitting still and paying attention. (That certainly came in handy during the 2010 General Assembly in Minneapolis when I

found myself on screen for much of the Service of the Living Tradition, right behind the minister giving the sermon!) It taught me the importance of what I would now describe in terms of the Third Principle — acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth — even, or perhaps especially, when another's worldview didn't align with my own.

For these reasons and more, I believe it's important for children to experience worship with adults, to understand not just what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist in theory, but in practice as well. The first ten or fifteen minutes of our services are not just time to rush through so we adults can get to the "more important" parts, but offer real opportunities to show our living tradition to our children: sharing the significance of lighting the chalice, discovering what it means to raise voices together in song, and hearing a short story that celebrates life and our search for truths no matter our age.

Intentionally multigenerational services go one step further, from family-oriented rituals such as the Water Communion to services based around an extended story that is told or enacted by a variety of voices. As was the case last year, Joanne and I are planning some of these story-based services, but we recognize that they're not everyone's cup of tea. So, though we've recently extended the capabilities of our sound system and are working on making it more hearing-aid-friendly, and will take into account issues of visibility, only the second (11am) service will feature actors, while the first service (9:30am) will follow the traditional format with a sermon. On such Sundays there will be no Religious Education classes: adults are then free to choose which service to attend, while children can stay with their parents so that families as a whole can participate in services together.

Whoever you are, whomever you love, wherever you are on your spiritual journey, I look forward to seeing you on Sunday!



You are Invited...

**The Congregation of the
First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Canton**

requests the honor of your presence at the installation of

The Reverend Beverly Morrison Boke

Sunday, October 23, 2011

Four o'clock in the afternoon

1508 Washington Street

Canton, Massachusetts 02021

**Bishop Spong Hosted by Unitarian Universalists in
Williamsburg**

Rev. Andrew Clive Millard

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Peninsula was well represented at a public lecture by retired Episcopal Bishop John Shelby Spong in September. Invited to speak by the Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists as part of their programming during the sabbatical of their minister, Rev. Jennifer Ryu, Stone House Presbyterian Church (a liberal Christian congregation in Toano) and the UUFP co-sponsored the event, entitled "Recovering the Jewish Jesus".

Raised within a conservative form of Christianity espousing a literalist approach to the Bible, Spong described how he began to struggle with church doctrine as a fifteen-year-old. Asked which book (of his twenty — and counting! — over the last four decades) is his favorite, he referred to the book he's currently writing, given the continued evolution in his thinking regarding the Bible, Jesus and Christianity.

Spong began his lecture by presenting the consensus understanding of the writing of the New Testament based on current Biblical scholarship. The Gospels — Mark, Matthew, Luke/Acts and John — were written at separate times between 70 of the Common Era and 100 CE, that is from two generations after the death of Jesus (in 30 CE) to as much as three-and-a-half generations, making them far from eyewitness accounts of the events of Jesus' life. The earliest books of the New Testament are actually letters written by Paul, with those that Biblical scholars actually attribute to him being written between 51 and 58 CE. Thus, nothing was written about Jesus until twenty years after his death, and even then by someone who

openly admitted to never having met Jesus in the flesh. In fact, Paul's letters have very little to say about Jesus' life, whether the nature of his birth or his activities (miraculous or otherwise) during life.

So what, Spong asked, was the nature of Christianity during those two decades? Reading the Gospels while paying attention to the Hebrew Bible (particularly the stories of Moses and the book of Isaiah) it's clear that early Christianity was incubated within Judaism as a largely oral tradition that developed inside Jewish synagogues. Paul, then, was writing to Christian groups that were beginning to meet outside synagogues while the Gospels were written down over a period of time of separation from Judaism when the favor of the Roman Empire was being courted instead (as illustrated by the evolving roles of both Judas and Pontius Pilate from Mark to John). Thus, any modern attempt to read the Bible literally, without due attention to the complex historical origins of Christianity within a Rome-dominated Judaism, does great violence to the text, to the faith and to humanity.

Spong remains a committed Episcopal and names himself a Christian as a follower of the teachings and example of Jesus. However, his is a universalist, an arguably unitarian and, above all, a humanist Christianity that Unitarian Universalists would do well to know more about. In our commitment to promote liberal religion for today's world in service to a more compassionate humanity, Spong reminds us that we have great allies within liberal Christianity and that they need our help as much we we need theirs.



Oct Services, continued from cover page

30 Oct: "Who do you say you are?"

Jim Sanderson

It's Halloween again! Jim will explore the question "Who Do You Say You Are?" Halloween gives us an opportunity to explore who we are, who we might be and the facets of ourselves we only let out to play on special occasions. Of course there will be references to the Great Pumpkin! Feel free to wear a costume and explore who you are.



RE NEWS

by Joanne Dingus

We've had a wonderful start-up of the fall RE program. Many new students have joined us this year. We welcome especially the youth from Williamsburg who are attending Our Whole Lives class with our youth. A huge thanks goes out to all our wonderful teachers this year. We have room for a few more volunteers to help teach our 2nd-4th grade students and our middle school students. Please let me know if you are interested.

Also, I am looking for 4 teachers to lead our Coming of Age program in January. This is an exceptional program and a highlight for our students. It requires a strong commitment to being there on a regular basis but it is well worth the effort. Come talk to me. I'll show you the curriculum and class schedule and we can decide together if this is the right opportunity for you.

What's coming up in October?

We'll start with Birthday Party. Come to the Vegetarian Potluck on October 2, 2011— a f t e r second service and celebrate Gandhi's Birthday! Stay to watch this year's General Assembly Ware Lecture by Karen Armstrong, The Challenge of Compassion. Child care will be provided during the film with games, henna painting and a walk through the labyrinth!

On the 14th-16th of October we will have the UUFP Annual Retreat at Pocahontas State Park. This is always a wonderful time to relax and get to know one another in a beautiful park setting. (see below for details)

On October 23rd we will have an Intergenerational Service at 11:00 based on the story Old Turtle

and the Broken Truth. "In a time when every stone is a teacher and every tree a ladder to the stars, the people live in peace. Then the people discover a powerful truth that gives them strength and happiness. But they do not see that their truth is broken and incomplete. Will it take a journey by a little girl to the land of the wise old turtle to discover the precious piece of wisdom that will mend the people's broken truth?" Come find out for yourselves. Performed as a play with music by the choir this will be a thoughtful and entertaining service for all ages. Plays not your thing? Then join us for a traditional service with the same theme at 9:30. No RE classes except OWL at 11:00. The nursery will be available at both services as usual.

RE committee meeting October 10th at 7:00 in the main building.

See you in the RE! ■

Adult RE

by Dennis Shaw

Join us in Adult RE on September 4th as we kick off the fall "semester" with a highly-anticipated series titled "Faith and Reason", facilitated by our own Dawn Hutchinson. A professor of Religious Studies at CNU, Dr Hutchinson blends great knowledge with humor and a low key approach in order to explore the subject fully. All sessions in ARE are designed to be interactive, so plenty of time for questions and comments. Faith and Reason will be presented each Sunday in September. Sessions are held from 9:30 until 10:30 Sundays in the administrative building. Come check it out and still get to the second service. ■

<< Office Hours >>

Rev Andrew is generally in the UUFP Office during regular work hours from Tues through Fri. (He takes Mondays as "sabbath days" that are kept free of congregational duties in order to concentrate on life at home.) Weekly staff meetings are on Wednesdays and Fridays are reserved for reading and writing (e.g. sermons). The best days for "walk-in" meetings are Tues and Thursday, please, call him first, if possible. Making appointments in advance is preferable. He'll do his best to accommodate requests for other times (evenings or other days, even weekends. Mary-Elizabeth is generally available from 1pm through 4pm, Mondays through Fridays. If possible, please call ahead before stopping by the Office. ■

Save the Date

for the

UUFP Fall 2011 Retreat!

October 14 - 16th, 2011
Pocahontas State Park

Attractions include:
 Canoeing, yoga, Socrates cafe, camp fires,
 intergenerational games, and more!

Retreat Offerings 2011

Friday Afternoon- arrive at Pocahontas State Park any time after 3:00. I hope to arrive by 5:30 so if you get there earlier just enjoy roaming around the park. We are at the Algonquin Ecology Camp. Dinner runs from 6:30-8:00 but if you need arrive later than that let us know and we can save a plate for you.

Friday Night- after dinner

- Cards and Games: Learn a new card game or play an old favorite. Play group board games in the lodge.
- Kids- join in a game of flashlight tag outside of the main lodge.
- S'mores around the campfire starting around 9:00.

Saturday Morning- Breakfast starts at 7:30

- Canoeing- All are welcome to bring canoes and kayaks to use during the retreat. The park canoes will also be available for us to use for a fee. Group canoeing will be organized for Saturday morning and afternoon.
- Tie dye for all ages.
- How to create an intergenerational worship service with Andrew and Joanne. Workshop participants will use what they

learn to lead the evening worship.

Saturday Afternoon- Lunch 12:30-1:30

- Canoeing for anyone who didn't go in the morning
- Back by popular demand- cake decorating. We'll provide the supplies you provide the creativity. All cakes will be on display in the afternoon and then eaten for Saturday night dessert!
- The Amazing Race part2. Join in an exciting fun-filled race of skill and silliness!
- Yoga with Judy

Saturday Evening

- Saturday Evening Worship for all ages at 5:00.
- Dinner 6:00
- Acoustic music by Chessie Roberts? Socrates Cafe- Share philosophic leanings, deep thoughts, consider difficult questions in the Socrates Café format led by Christine Woods 9:00
- S'mores around the campfire starting around 9:00.

Sunday Morning- Breakfast 8:00

- Free time. Sleep in, and then enjoy a

hearty breakfast. Go for a nature walk, visit with members and friends, or just clean up and head on your way.

Also Available at the Park on Saturday, 15 Oct

11AM - Noon **Guided Nature Hike Location:** Camp Store Come explore the trails from the campgrounds to wonderful scenic locations with great natural resources to discover along the way. Please no flip flops or open toed shoes. Water bottle and bug spray recommended. No registration necessary. Free.

1PM - 5PM **Discover the Nature Center Location:** Nature Center Visit the park's wildlife collection including animal pelts, skulls, mounts and live reptiles. Also, join us for our 2 p.m. reptile feeding time and 3 p.m. Pocahontas State Park's Best Kept Secrets. Both programs are free. No registration necessary. Free.

2PM - 3PM **Feeding Time Location:** Nature Center Come see how a snake swallows a mouse whole and why a snapping turtle is aptly named. No registration necessary. Free.

3PM - 4PM **Pocahontas State Park's Best Kept Secrets Location:** Nature Center Learn about hidden places, best scenic views, trail adventures and the interpreter's favorite spots at Pocahontas State Park. Information will be available to get you to locations of interest. No registration necessary. Free.

Phone: (804) 796-4255 Web Site:
[Pocahontas](#) Email: pocahontas@dcr.virginia.gov

Directions to Park:

Take I-64 West to I-295 S/ US 60 exit 200 toward Rocky Mt. Take US 60 exit on left toward Seven Pines/Bottoms Bridge. Merge onto I-295 S via the exit on the left. Merge onto VA-895 W/ Pocahontas Pkwy via exit 25 toward Richmond (toll) Merge onto VA-150 N/ Chippenham Pkwy via the exit on the left. Merge onto VA-10 E/ Iron Bridge Rd toward Chesterfield. Turn Right onto Beach Rd/ VA-655. Turn Right onto State Park Rd. Follow signs to Algonquin Ecology Camp. Come to the main lodge for cabin assignments.

UUFP Retreat Fall 2011

Location: Pocahontas State Park, 10301 State Park Road, Chesterfield, VA 23838

www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/poc.shtml

Date: October 14-16

Time: Arrival any time after 3:00 pm on Friday

Departure by 10:00 on Sunday

Meals: are included in the cost of registration.

Cost: Adults- \$60

Students ages 13-21- \$40

Children ages 4-12 - \$20

Children ages 3 and under - no charge

Meals only on Saturday (attendance with no lodging) - \$20

Partial work scholarships available on an as needed basis

Registration form on next page ■

UUFP Activities Fair, October 9th

Submitted by Rev Millard

The UUFP has a lot going on! By one count, there are over twenty regular programs and activity groups that meet at or are based out of the Fellowship, and they're all waiting with open arms and open hearts for more people to join them. These are not committees, but activities aimed at personal growth, community building and good old fashioned fun! Whether you're interested in singing or dancing or drumming or softball, whether you prefer discussing novels or poetry, whether you're looking for small group sharing or Earth-based celebrations, whether you're trying to change the world or just yourself, or if you're just wanting to share a good meal with pleasant company, there are plenty of opportunities for you to get to know great people while growing in mind, heart and spirit.

So come to the Activities Fair on Sunday, October 9th to learn more about what the Fellowship has to offer you! Sponsored by the Membership Committee, tables will be set up in the social area for you to visit representatives of the various programs and groups between and after services. Spend some time browsing over coffee and you never know what you might find just waiting for your participation! ■

Retreat Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ cell phone _____

Email: _____

Names of additional Attendees: _____

Registered adults _____ X \$60 _____

Registered students _____ X \$40 _____

Registered children _____ X \$20 _____

Saturday meals only _____ X \$20 _____

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

Optional

_____ I would like to apply for a scholarship

_____ I need transportation to the retreat

_____ I would like to donate to the scholarship fund \$ _____

_____ I can provide transportation for _____ people

_____ I have special dietary needs. Please describe: _____

_____ I would like to volunteer in the kitchen

_____ I would like to help with entertainment

_____ I would like to lead a workshop, topic: _____

_____ I would be willing to share a cabin with others

_____ I would be willing to chaperone youth

Make Checks payable to UUFP and designate Retreat on the info line. Registrations may be left in the treasurer's mailbox or sent to the fellowship at:

UUFP

13136 Warwick Blvd.

Newport News, VA 23602



Who are we when we are at our best?

from Dan Moore's sermon of September 18th

Two years ago I was a couple of months into my term as Vice President after serving as Finance Director. My only other experience with non-profit boards was serving on a homeowners' association when I found myself drafted after correctly pronouncing "Robert's Rules of Order". Compared with them, our congregation was in GREAT shape!

It was our interim minister who knocked me off my perch of contentment. Don had the way of throwing out provocative statements, like a rhetorical grenadier, and he hit me with one. We were talking about our day-to-day operations and our committee structures, and he stopped me with this comment: "You guys are feral." Then he sat back, waiting for us to process the statement. He finally went on to explain what he meant.

In the field of study called ecclesiology there exists the concept of congregation types. There are traditionally four, defined by the number of attendees at worship: "Family", up to fifty congregants; "Pastoral", from fifty to 150; "Program", from 150 to 350; and "Corporate", from 350 and up, although mega-churches may require further categories.

These categories provide a useful explanation for certain programs working in some congregations but not others, and why certain ministers can be effective in some congregations but not others. They describe not just the number of people showing up each week, but also characteristics that are common across congregations, regardless of denomination.

Small congregations tend to operate like extended families, organizing around matriarchs or patriarchs. The minister in Family congregations is a chaplain, leading worship and provide some level of pastoral care. A minister that runs afoul of a matriarch or patriarch doesn't often last long.

Pastoral congregations rely a great deal on the minister, who maintains relationships between church leaders and is active in decision-making. Since this congregation is relatively small, it's possible for members to recognize every other member.

Program congregations exceed the number of people that most individuals can know. It's not possible for a minister to maintain all the reins of authority, and there's a real need for professional staff to develop and deliver programming.

Corporate congregations are even bigger. There's usually a senior minister, one or more associate ministers, many paid staff and, it goes without saying, a much larger building than ours.

So what does this have to do with being "feral"? You see, over the last ten years since we committed to full-time professional ministry, we've grown from a congregation under a hundred members to a congregation hovering around 150. We should have gone from Family to Pastoral, getting ready to make the leap into Program, but it didn't work that way for us.

In Joanne we have a Director of Religious Education who's provided stability in our children's programming for a decade — and quite frankly, Joanne has had more to do with our continued growth than many people recognize — yet we never had enough time with any of our ministers to break free from that Family congregation mentality.

So what does it mean? For starters, the fact that more people are committing to this community means we must be doing something right. We're going to continue to grow. We have an obligation to the community outside these walls to grow. Our message of tolerance and human dignity is too important keep to ourselves. We're sitting on the franchise of liberal religion and we must either improve the property or get off the premises.

And as we grow, we will change. To quote from that most prolific author, Anonymous: "Change is inevitable; suffering is optional." We have a golden opportunity to take stock of who we are, as a congregation, so that we can find the best way forward, together. We will change. We may as well do it intentionally.

Dan Moore served the Fellowship as President during the 2010-11 year and now chairs the Strategic Planning Committee. He also directs the ChorUUs.



Response to GA

By Jaimie Dingus

This summer I received an amazing gift; I got to attend the 2011 General Assembly of the UUA in Charlotte, North Carolina. This was definitely the high point of my summer. The wonderful thing about going to mass gatherings of Unitarian Universalists is that you get to look around the room and know that everybody you see loves you and supports you, all four thousand of them! Since I am 16, I was a member of youth caucus, which is the group of high school UUs who attend GA. This gave me the opportunity to network and share experiences with a national group of teenagers. I also got to spend time with a couple of good friends from Richmond. GA is great at bringing people together. Youth caucus sponsored a dance primarily for the youth, but older people showed up as well. I had never seen Grandparents dance to Ke\$ha, but it definitely made my day. GA, however, is so much more than just meeting a bunch of new friends and playing around in a convention center. Every day you attend workshops

on topics such as ministry, Standing on the Side of Love, and multiculturalism. One of my favorite parts was singing in the Southeast District Choir. I was sitting right behind where speakers (like Peter Morales) were, which did mean I was on camera the whole time, but for the rest of the week strangers would come up and tell me how nice I looked. GA reminds everyone that there is a large network of fabulous people that are committed to supporting each other and helping the world. I participated in the Standing on the Side of Love rally. About ten of my GA friends and I walked together holding hands and singing hymns that we all knew the words to. It was a moment where I was aware of the love all around me and the change I was making in the world. GA was such an incredible experience for me, and I seriously recommend everyone, but especially teens, to go next year. It changes how you see the world, and when you return you are so inspired and filled with enthusiasm for Unitarian Universalism. Personally, GA inspired me to create an interfaith lock-in for teens in our area and confirmed my desire to be a UU minister. ■

“The Challenge of Compassion”

Come watch Karen Armstrong’s excellent Ware Lecture from GA 2012!

We’ll show it in the Sanctuary following the potluck lunch after services on Sunday October 2nd.

Karen Armstrong is one of the world’s leading commentators on religious affairs and a best-selling author, whose books have been translated into forty-five languages. Her early work focused on the monotheistic faiths of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, but she has since begun to explore the eastern religions.

In her Ware Lecture, Armstrong argues that compassion and the Golden Rule have been central to all the major faiths, explores the reasons for this, and argues that an ideology that does not restore compassion to the center of the spiritual, religious and ethical life fails the test of our time.

Since September 11, 2001, Karen Armstrong has become chiefly known for her work on Islam and Fundamentalism, particularly in the United States. She has addressed Members of Congress and the Senate on three occasions, has participated in the

World Economic Forum in New York and Davos, has spoken at study days at the United Nations and at the NATO Naval Defense College in Rome, and has addressed the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington and New York. She has also advised members of the Dutch parliament about Islam and the integration of Muslim communities in Europe.

Armstrong is increasingly invited to address audiences in the Muslim world. In 2007 she was awarded a medal for Arts and Sciences by the Egyptian government for her services to Islam, the first foreigner to have been so decorated. That summer she was invited by the Malaysian government to speak in Kuala Lumpur, even though her books are banned there. She also spoke at the Young Presidents’ Organization in Istanbul and later that year gave the keynote address at an international conference on Islamophobia. ■

Attendance

Date	Total attendance	visitors
8/28	cancelled due to Irene	
9/4	39 /73	-
9/11	40/74	1/7
9/18	27/72	3/4

SECOND SUNDAY LUNCH

On the second Sunday of every month we invite all attendees of the Fellowship to a local restaurant to enjoy lunch together. It is always a good time. On October 9 we return to the HIBACHI GRILL on Jefferson to sample their very large and elegant buffet and have fun chatting with new and old friends. PLEASE COME JOIN US for 2nd Sunday. The cost is under ten dollars and the friendships are priceless.

50 & Better

If you have passed your fiftieth birthday we would love to welcome you to a pot-luck luncheon in the Admin Bldg on Thursday, October 6th, twelve noon. We socialize, share good food, good conversation and fun. These get-togethers are held eight times a year, skipping two warmest and two coldest months. Come, come again, come!

Please call Esther at 369-1858; yall come!

The Goddess Circle

Goddess Circle will feature Bastet the Egyptian Cat Goddess - October 2nd This is an open discussion circle. The group decided to open it for both women & men. Goddesses are chosen from various world religions as a starting place for group discussion.

We meet the first Sunday of each month in the Admin Bldg after the 2nd service (about noon) for potluck, fellowship and fun.

Please contact Dawn Hutchinson and dhutchin@cnu.edu.

Membership

There will be NO Membership Committee meeting in October. The next meeting will be Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2011, at 6:30 pm in the Annex.

Contact person: Bobbie Schilling, Membership Committee Chair, 249-2586, va_skibums@hotmail.com.

4th Saturday Women's Drum & Pot Luck

7pm - A casual gathering of women to share food, friendship & to make music together. Mark your calendar now! 4th Saturdays!

For more info, call Connie 788-8903.

FELLOWSHIP CIRCLES

Our new cycle of Fellowship Circles has begun. We now have eight circles that serves 67 people. Each circle is led by a Facilitator team under the direction of our minister, Rev. Andrew, and Bob Smith. Fellowship Circles are small, supportive groups that offer an environment for spiritual and personal growth. In these circles we practice listening to each other, learn to think deeply about our lives and beliefs, help each other by sharing difficult and joyous issues, strive to enhance our spiritual maturity, and nourish our inner-selves with the kind of personal sharing that seldom occurs in everyday life.

Humanist Discussion Group

The Humanists have teamed up with the Peninsula Skeptics group. In September the meeting was hosted here at the UUFP with Dale Coston, organizer of this local Skeptics group, presenting a program entitled "The World of Energy."

October 16 - Another joint meeting here at the UUFP. Mary-Elizabeth Cotton has agreed to present a brief program "Defining the Undefinable" which is based in large part on an article in The World magazine Summer 2011 called "Before Words" by Doug Muder in which the author (himself a humanist) tackles the difficult task of defining "spirituality" (from a Humanist point of view). This was the basis for a very successful Adult RE class this summer. There will be discussion afterward. The meeting will start at 6:30. Everyone welcome!

Caring Committee

Call Meg Glenn-Albiez, Chairperson at (757) 874-4368 or e-mail caringcommittee@uufp.org.

Wellness Group

Submitted by Amy Grissom

The UUFP is an amazing community that encourages, inspires and supports our spiritual selves. We thought it would be a great idea to offer a way to support our physical selves, as well. Hence, the Wellness Group was dreamt into creation. The main goal of the group is to support people in their individual quests for fitness and weight loss. No particular diet or fitness plan is being offered - we are simply here to support each other with encouragement, ideas, and inspiration.

It is also not strictly about weight or fitness - many topics can and will be covered, all dictated by the needs of our members.

The first meeting will be held at the Sanctuary on Tuesday, September 27th at 6:30 p.m. Bring a healthy dish to share!

Our October meeting date is to be determined at the Sept meeting. Watch for details in the Weekly Digest, on the Calendar, or contact Amy or Allison.

Please let us know if you plan to attend by contacting Amy Grissom at: amygrissom@gmail.com or 757-268-5432. If you have questions, you may contact Amy or Allison Millard at allykat1111@cox.net. ■

Let's Celebrate!

Gandhi's Birthday - Vegetarian Potluck

Come to the Vegetarian Potluck on October 2, 2011— after second service and celebrate Gandhi's Birthday! Stay to watch this year's Ware Lecture by Karen Armstrong, The Challenge of Compassion. Child care will be provided during the film with games, henna painting and a walk through the labyrinth! ■

Did you know...

submitted by Carey Hall-Warner

...that \$72 can provide emergency food supplies for a family of five for a month?

The UUFP is participating in the Crop Hunger Walk on October 23, 2011 starting at North Riverside Baptist Church for a three mile trip around Christopher Newport. Part of the proceeds remains with the Peninsula Food Bank and part is used to globally help stop hunger.

Registration and music by Breakaway will begin at 1 p.m and the walk will start at 2 p.m. We need three things from UUs: 1) walkers, 2) supporters and 3) 10 dozen cookies. Please see Carey Hall-Warner after services (look in the nursery) for registration information or email her at careywynn@hotmail.com. ■

Leadership Development Workshops

Submitted by Rev Millard

The following Leadership Development Workshops are being offered by the Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists (3051 Ironbound Road, W'burg) on Saturdays from 9:30 to noon and are open to UUs in the Tidewater Cluster. You can reserve a place at any or all of these workshops by contacting Sally Fisk at fisk@jlab.org or (757) 564-0829.

- * Oct. 1, 2011: What would you give your life for? Contemplating the ultimate sacrifice as leaders.
- * Dec. 10, 2011: Can you see me? Relationship — the heart of leadership.
- * Feb. 4, 2012: Tell me your story and I'll tell you mine. Building compassion by sharing leadership experience.
- * Mar. 31, 2012: How do we know? Appreciative Inquiry as an evaluation tool for leadership. ■

South East District Young Adult Leadership Conference

UU Young Adult Leadership CON

- Williamsburg Unitarian Universalist, VA
- Weekend of Oct. 14, 15, and 16, (Friday evening though Sunday morning).
- Ages 18-35.

For Young Adults, by Young Adults, with the help of some dedicated UU staff folks and other volunteers.

Let's get together to talk and learn about:

- starting and growing local UU young adult groups and campus ministries;
- supporting each other as young adults across the area;
- planning other opportunities to get together and contribute to the larger UU movement.

Saturday 10 am – 4 pm Leadership Workshop for Congregational Leaders - Lay and Professional

- Creating, Supporting and Sustaining young Adult and Campus Ministries in our Congregations
- Special Guest (via Skype) – Kayla Parker – Campus Ministry Specialist - UUA

Full weekend registration - \$35

Saturday Only - \$20

To Register go to seduua.org



October Birthdays

If your birthday is this month and we overlooked you, please contact Bobbie Schilling at va_skibums@hotmail.com or 249-2586.

- | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 3 Bella Finkel Oglesby | 9 Meg Glenn-Albiez | 20 Bryan Hess |
| 3 Stella Combs | 10 MarkAvery Claridge | 20 Steve Kadar |
| 3 Nikki Ussia | 10 Peter Millard
(Andrew's father) | 22 Michael Wagner |
| 6 Jim Sanderson | 11 Camryn Goodrich | 23 Randi Akers |
| 7 Ray Baker | 11 Lois Winter | 23 Amy Goodrich |
| 7 Pat Yaros | 12 Anna Strom | 23 Collin Joers |
| 7 Tara Joseph | 14 Steve Farthing | 24 Ellis Remsberg |
| 8 Steve Yaros | 16 Hunter Goodrich | 24 Vickie Anderson |
| 8 Kathy Baer | 16 Jay Joseph | 26 Jeff Hinkley |

