



*Sunday Services –10 am*

June 25– Rev. David Tetrault

***Spirituality: Scanning the Horizon beyond Religion***

June 2 –Sara Mackey

***The Bible Tells Me So. Or Does It?***

What does the Bible really say about homosexuality? In what language? To whom? When? Why? And why are any of these questions important to Unitarian Universalists, who do not embrace the Bible as our sacred text? Sara Mackey, our Director of Religious Education and member of her own congregation's Welcoming Congregations Committee, explores the issue of homosexuality and the Bible for UUs, who affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every individual.

July 9 – Rev. David Tetrault

***Embracing the Age of Spirit***

July 16 – Rev. Jeff Jones (UU Fellowship of Fredericksburg)

***Celebrating Humanism***

July 23 - The Rev. Dr. George (Kim) Beach

***"Jesus after the Da Vinci Code and the Gospel of Judas: Who Is He to Us?"***

July 30 -David Hicks MacPherson:

***"God is in Trouble – Again. Periodically, God gets hijacked by the haters and killers. What can we do about it? Let's see."***

***Chalice Gazing: Notes from the DRE***

As I write this, Rev. Shirley and I are making our plans for General Assembly in St. Louis, June 21-25. Last year I arranged and rearranged my schedule many times before I even arrived at GA in Ft. Worth. Once I got there, most of my careful plans dissolved in the context of multiple events all going on at once, all compelling and exciting.

This year, my plans may be a little easier to make. I know for sure that I will attend the events around the twentieth anniversary of Cakes for the Queen of Heaven, written by Rev. Shirley and loved by women all over the denomination. I know for sure that, no matter what else is going on, I will attend the reception in Rev. Shirley's honor, hosted by the Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation, to celebrate her receiving the 2006 Women's Federation Ministry to Women Award. This award has been given at GA since 1974 to honor individuals or organizations who have ministered to women in an outstanding manner. Past recipients of the award have included Ms. Magazine (the first recipient), May Sarton, Planned Parenthood, and Marion Wright Edelman.

Williamsburg UU has every reason to be proud and honored that our interim minister, who has served this congregation with such love and wisdom for the past two years, will be recognized at our General Assembly for her life's work in ministry to women. We are fortunate to be the congregation that gets to send her to GA to receive this wonderful affirmation, and I feel richly blessed that I will be celebrating with her, as her colleague and friend.

Blessed be, Rev. Shirley.

Merry meet, and merry part, and merry meet again!

*Sara*

**UU Auction** date set waaaaaaaay ahead of time!!! Postpone visits to Aunt Louise, the Eiffel Tower, and the Seven Natural Wonders of the World! Attend our festive **WUU Annual Auction** on Saturday night, November 4, 2006. Eat heartily, laugh loudly, and bid generously as we join together for our most successful fund-raiser of the year. Ruth Hopkinson, Chair

### **Tabernacle Choir**

You've heard of Tabernacle Band...now there's Tabernacle Choir. On August 20th there will be an opportunity for everyone to participate in choir with only one rehearsal before the service. If your only excuse for not being in the WUU choir is that you are busy on Wednesday evenings, this is your chance to participate.



So mark your calendars and watch for more details.

### **Fair Share**

I sincerely thank Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists for paying its Fair Share in supporting the Unitarian Universalist Association and the Thomas Jefferson District. Other TJD Fair Share congregations include Blacksburg, Glen Allen, Harrisonburg, Meadowview, Newport News, and Waynesboro.

Myrtle E. Hepler, president of the Thomas Jefferson District.

**News from the Membership Committee** On June 4, we received two new members, Jane Cottle and Les Solomon.

Jane Cottle came to Williamsburg in 1997. She has a great love of the written word, especially the written word for children, poetry and prose. She looks forward to sharing ideas and "imagination".



Les Solomon came to Williamsburg with an eye on eventual retirement here. He is presently still working in DC as a Chief of Customer Service in the US Census Bureau. He has a PhD in geography and is strongly interested in social justice and peace (especially Palestine/Israel relations). He looks forward to helping out with buildings and grounds work, joining the Welcoming



Congregation Committee, and perhaps teaching R.E.

We welcome these new members and will be happy to get to know them better.

The Membership Committee

***Standing on the Side of Love:*** WUU Board Calls Special Congregational Meeting on Marriage Equality

On June 15, the Welcoming Congregations Committee and the Social Responsibility Committee asked the board to endorse a resolution opposing the proposed Marshall/ Newman Amendment (also known as the Marriage Amendment) to the Bill of Rights of the Virginia constitution, which will be on the ballot in November, and to call a special congregational meeting this summer to consider the resolution. Both motions passed unanimously, and a congregational meeting will be held no later than August 15, 2006 to vote on the congregation's opposition to the Marshall/ Newman amendment.

WUU seeks to join other Virginia congregations—including, most recently, the First Unitarian Church of Lynchburg—in opposing this amendment, which is intended to deny the rights of all unmarried persons. The board action in endorsing the resolution and calling for a congregational vote fits within in a long tradition of Unitarian Universalist commitment to civil rights and marriage equality. At the 1996 General Assembly, delegates “urge[d] the member congregations to proclaim the worth of marriage between any two committed persons and to make this position known in their home communities.” Unitarian Universalist ministers have been officiating at same sex marriages and commitment ceremonies for many years.

In recent weeks, our congregation has joined the fight for marriage equality. On June 13, more than 80 local volunteers staffed the polls in Williamsburg, James City County, and parts of York County to educate voters on the proposed amendment and to urge them to vote no in November. The effort, organized by WUU's own Camilla Buchanan, could never have succeeded without the congregation's support: more than half the volunteers were WUU members who chose to stand publicly against the amendment.

Please take a few minutes to read the text of the proposed amendment and the resolution, which the congregation will vote on later this summer. For more information on the amendment and its implications for all Virginians, contact a member of the Welcoming Congregations Committee or the Social Responsibility Committee, or visit <http://www.votenova.org/>

**Text of the Proposed Marshall/ Newman Amendment (SJ337... HJ586)**

*That only a union between one man and one woman may be a marriage valid in or recognized by this Commonwealth and its political subdivisions.*

*This Commonwealth and its political subdivisions shall not create or recognize a legal status for relationships of unmarried individuals that intends to approximate the design, qualities, significance, or effects of marriage. Nor shall this Commonwealth or its political subdivisions create or recognize another union, partnership, or other legal status to which is assigned the rights, benefits, obligations, qualities, or effects of marriage.*

## Resolution

### Whereas...

Virginia's Declaration of Rights, adopted by the Virginia Constitutional Convention on June 12, 1776, proudly states: *"That all men are by nature equally free and independent and. have certain inherent rights, of which, when they enter into a state of society, they cannot, by any compact, deprive or divest their posterity; namely, the enjoyment of life and liberty, with the means of acquiring and possessing property, and pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety."* and,

### Whereas...

The proposed amendment to the Virginia constitution (SJ337/HJ586 "Marshall/ Newman Amendment") undermines the rights of all Virginia citizens by depriving certain members of equal access to and protection of the law; and,

### Whereas...

The proposed amendment discriminates against gay and lesbian families and other non-traditional families, depriving them of their basic human and civil rights, opens the door to broader discrimination and abets the commission of hate crimes; and,

### Whereas...

The proposed amendment may force some families to leave their homes, their jobs, their churches, and their communities and move to other states; may make it difficult to readily prosecute domestic violence outside marriage; may be used to deny hospital visitation rights to unmarried partners; may be used to determine guardianship of children and property rights; and may prevent businesses from offering domestic partner benefits and health insurance to unmarried partners and their children; and

### Whereas...

The proposed amendment may prohibit religious leaders from consecrating marriages consistent with their faith traditions and beliefs; and,

### Whereas...

The proposed amendment flouts values we hold in common with many faiths, expressed in the Unitarian Universalist principle of the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

### Now, therefore...

The Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists declare our opposition to the proposed Marshall/ Newman amendment to be voted on in November 2006.

To support this action, the Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists will continue to welcome all persons and families without regard to sexual orientation, will work to inform the Williamsburg community and all Virginians of the injustices and dangers of the proposed Marshall/ Newman Amendment, will publicly stand against the proposed amendment in our community, and will hang a banner from the front of the WUU building opposing the amendment and supporting marriage equality.

### *WUU Welcoming Congregation Survey*

**Results:** This Spring, the Welcoming Congregation Committee handed out a survey of attitudes towards gay men, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons at a Sunday service (and a couple of weeks afterwards). A total of 80 of you responded. Results have been tabulated and the

complete survey results will be made available on the WUU web site.

On the whole, it indicated that most of you are comfortable with gay men and lesbians, but a bit less so with bisexual and transgender persons. This discomfort was magnified within family relationships (e.g. if you learned that a sibling or child identified as transgender). Comfort was higher in school or workplace situations (if you learned that a co-worker, boss, doctor, or teacher was gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender).

85% indicated they would not be shocked to learn their minister was gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender (although some expressed trust issues if this had been concealed during candidating).

## MOTIONS OF THE BOARD

June 15, 2006

1. MOTION: that the Board endorse the Resolution, brought forward by the Welcoming Congregations Committee and the Social Responsibility Committee, opposing the proposed Marshall/Newman Amendment to the Virginia Constitution.

Moved: Bunkie Righter

Seconded: Jacqui Winther      Approved.

2. MOTION: that the Board call a Special Congregational Meeting for the purpose of voting to support the above Board - endorsed Resolution that opposes the proposed Marshall/Newman Amendment. This meeting will be held no later than August 15, 2006.

Moved: Dave Stanford

Seconded: Jan Brown      Approved.

3. MOTION: that the Board approve the contract renewal for the coming year – July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007 - of the four current WUU staff members: Mary Ellen Lloyd, Church Administrator; Dr. Jamie Bartlett, Music Director; Joelle Griffin-Russell, Pianist, and Sara Mackey, Director of Religious Education.

Moved: Dave Stanford

Seconded: Jan Brown

Approved.

***Greg Greenway*** and ***Wishing Chair*** in Concert to Benefit The Commonwealth Coalition

- Saturday, July 8, 7:30 pm
- First Unitarian Universalist Church of Richmond
- Tickets are \$25, and all proceeds benefit The Commonwealth Coalition.

To reserve tickets or for more information, go to [www.votenova.org](http://www.votenova.org), and check the events calendar. The Commonwealth Coalition is campaigning to defeat the proposed Marshall Newman Amendment-- otherwise known as the "anti-family" or "marriage" amendment. Please join the congregation of First UU and many others for an evening of wonderful music for a worthwhile cause!

***Summer film festival*** presented by the Welcoming Congregation Committee  
July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7 pm - "Hedwig and the Angry Inch" - a rock musical like you've never seen  
August 19th - "Transamerica" - starring Felicity Huffman ("Desperate Housewives") who won an Oscar nomination for her portrayal of a transgender person

## VIRGINIA STATUTE FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Be it enacted by the General Assembly, That no man shall be compelled to frequent or support any religious worship, place, or ministry whatsoever, nor shall be enforced, restrained, molested, or burthened in his body or goods, nor shall otherwise suffer on account of his religious opinions or belief; but that all men shall be free to profess, and by argument to maintain, their opinion in matters of religion, and that the same shall in no wise diminish enlarge, or affect their civil capacities.

And though we well know that this assembly elected by the people for the ordinary purposes of legislation only, have no power to restrain the acts of succeeding assemblies, constituted with powers equal to our own, and that therefore to declare this act to be irrevocable would be of no effect in law; yet we are free to declare, and do declare, that the rights hereby asserted are of the natural rights of mankind, and that if any act shall be hereafter passed to repeal the present, or to narrow its operation, such act shall be an infringement of natural right.

**Thomas Jefferson**  
**1786**

----

But it does me no injury for my neighbor to say there are twenty gods or no God. It neither picks my pocket nor breaks my leg.  
-Thomas Jefferson, Notes on Virginia, 1782

Why quote Thomas Jefferson?

This 4<sup>th</sup> of July is the 230<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. As we celebrate, let us remember what it means to be an American, and what defines our freedoms. Although Jefferson was the third President of the United States, his epitaph shows what he thought were his greatest achievements:

**Author of the Declaration of American  
Independence  
Of the Statute of Virginia for Religious  
Freedom  
And Father of the University of Virginia**



**Thomas Jefferson**  
**R.I.P.**

Deadline for August newsletter: **July 20,**  
Noon.

July 2006						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1 10:00a- 2:00p. UCG-S
2 08:30-09:45a Welcoming Cong Mtg- 10:00a-11:30p-Worship Service / S	3	4 <i>Independence Day office closed</i> 6:30p-7:30p Silent Med-S	5	6 5:30p-8:30p MAA / PH	7	8 10:00a- 2:00p. UCG-S 7:30-Richmond UU Concert for Commonwealth Coalition
9 8:30a-09:45a-Finance Comm-PH 10:00a-11:30p-Worship Service / S	10 7:00p-9:00p- Dream GP-PH	11 6:30p-7:30p Silent Med-S	12 12:30p-2:00p Sep Checks/S	13 5:30 p-8:30p MAA / PH 7:30-9:30p-Pers Comm	14	15 10:00a-2:00p UCG
16 10:00a-11:30p-Worship Service / S	16	18 6:30p-7:30p Silent Med-S	19	20 5:30 p-8:30p MAA / PH 7:15p-9:30p Board Mtg-MP	21 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> 1:00 Membership comm. -PH	22 10:00a-2:00p. UCG-S 6:30p-10:00p- Welcoming Cong Film Fest-S
23 10:00a-11:30p-Worship Service / S	24	25 6:30p-7:30p Silent Med-S	26	27 5:30 p-8:30p MAA / PH	28	29 10:00a-2:00p. UCG-S
30 10:00a-11:30p-Worship Service / S 11:00a-7:00p Anniversary Party/S	31					

## WILLIAMSBURG UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

3051 Ironbound Road  
Williamsburg, VA 23185  
(757) 220-6830  
www.wuu.org

Joe Fisler, *President*  
Dr. Shirley Ranck, *Interim Minister*  
Sara Mackey, *Director of Religious Education*  
Mary Ellen Lloyd, *Administrator*  
Dr. Jamie Bartlett, *Director of Music*  
Joelle Griffin Russell, *Pianist*  
Virginia Banks, *Newsletter Editor*

Newsletter submissions: [newsletter@wuu.org](mailto:newsletter@wuu.org)  
Church office: [office@wuu.org](mailto:office@wuu.org)



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED