

# WUU news

Monthly Newsletter of Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists



2015

## Some Dates of Note

- |                             |
|-----------------------------|
| 12.3                        |
| Navigators Monthly Meeting  |
| 12.11                       |
| Yule Sing                   |
| 12.13                       |
| Multigen Dance Party        |
| CPR/AED Training            |
| 12.14                       |
| Coloring Books for All Ages |
| 12.16                       |
| Pathfinders Book Group      |
| 12.21                       |
| Winter Solstice Ritual      |
| 12.24                       |
| Christmas Eve Service       |
| 12.25                       |
| Office Closed-Christmas     |

## Words from Rev. David A. Johnson, Interim Minister

### Interim Minister's Letter: "The Best of Who We Are"

The period of transitional ministry always involves two parallel, closely-related, yet distinct activities: (a) Congregational Development and (b) Ministerial Search. Each of these two fields of endeavor is intentional and goal-directed. Each builds upon the experiences of hundreds of congregations – of all denominations and traditions. And each involves an ever-present balancing of vision and pragmatism; leadership and management; tasks and relationships. My primary role, as consultant to the Board, is to support the congregation's initiatives toward the first of these two activities: Clarifying and strengthening WUU in its mission and vision, and thereby attracting the very best UU ministers to form a line in their eagerness to serve WUU in the decades ahead.

Your Board will update you – in the monthly newsletters – on the procedures for gathering your input in choosing your Ministerial Search Committee. I urge you to participate in this process when you are called upon; there will be several such times during the next twelve months. In the meantime, please read the "Settlement Handbook" on the UUA website for a thorough overview of the search process, and what will be expected of Search Committee members. See: [www.uua.org/documents/mpl/transitions/settlement\\_handbook.pdf](http://www.uua.org/documents/mpl/transitions/settlement_handbook.pdf)

An essential aspect of Congregational Development engages three over-arching questions: *Who Are We?* (the identity question), *What Are We Called To Do?* (the purpose question), and *Who Is Our Neighbor?* (the context question). In order to unpack and explore these questions, the Transition Team is sponsoring and coordinating a workshop entitled "The Best of Who We Are." All are encouraged to participate! Please mark your calendars for **Saturday morning January 30, 2016**, from 9:15 am till 12:30 pm. Continental breakfast and snacks provided. We will arrange for child and nursery care, IF you sign up in the WUU office by Sunday January 10. **Continued on next page**



## Interim Minister's Letter Continued

As background for this workshop, I'm including a selection adapted from Ron Heifetz's recent book, which was included in our worship services this past Sunday November 15:

*Adaptive Leadership is mobilizing people to tackle tough challenges and to thrive. The concept of thriving is drawn from evolutionary biology. It has three characteristics:*

- 1) *It preserves the DNA that is essential for the species' continued survival.*
- 2) *It discards, re-regulates, or re-arranges the DNA (that may have functioned previously) but, no longer serves the species' current needs.*
- 3) *It creates new arrangements of DNA that allow the species to flourish in new ways and in more challenging environments.*

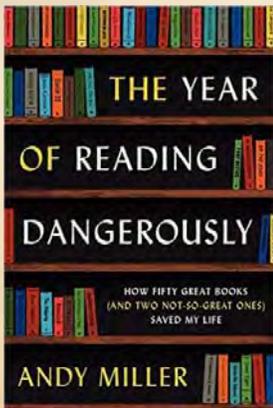
*Successful adaptations thus enable a living system to take the best from its history into the future. Successful adaptations build on the past rather than jettison the past. The challenge for adaptive leadership is to distinguish between what is most essential to preserve and what is expendable. Successful adaptations are thus both conservative and progressive.*

*Adaptation occurs through experimentation. Leaders of adaptive change need an experimental mind-set. They must improvise as they go, buying time and resources along the way for the next set of experiments. Adaptation relies on diversity. In evolutionary biology, nature acts like a fund manager. It diversifies risk. Each variant is a new experiment, producing an organism with capacities somewhat different from the rest of the population. The secret of evolution is variation. In organizational terms, this might be called distributed or collective intelligence. Adaptive leadership thus values diverse views (from many stakeholders), and relies less on central planning from a few at the top.*

For those interested in additional resources pertaining to the January 30 workshop, I will be happy to provide more food-for-thought. Just let me know.

All good wishes, as the holiday season descends upon us.

*Rev. David A. Johnson, Interim Minister*



### Pathfinders Book Group

The group chooses a book that explores the author's spiritual journey or understanding of the human condition. Group members bring their lunch and we use the book as a springboard for what always turns out to be a spirited discussion of personal reactions.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday, December 16 at noon in the Sanctuary. We will be discussing The Year of Reading Dangerously by Andy Miller. Come and join us – and bring a friend! We welcome new members and ideas for new books to read.

## December Worship Schedule

### December 6, 2015

9:15 am & 11:15 am

Rev. David Johnson

**"The Thing With Feathers:  
What Are You Hoping For?"**

**Worship Associate: Tamra Elim-Durden**

Humanity longs for saviors. Pacific Islanders believe that a great ship will arrive to transport the tribe into heaven. Muslims await the return of the revered Mahdi to herald the final days. Buddhists believe that Maitreya will deliver all beings from ignorance. Native Americans believe that the White Buffalo will signal a restoration of ancestral lands. For whom might Unitarian Universalists be longing – if anyone? How might we recognize such a person? I'll offer some reflections on messianic hopes, long ago and today.

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### December 13, 2015

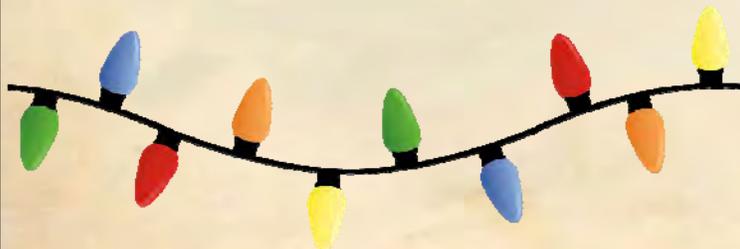
9:15 am & 11:15 am

Rev. David Johnson

**"The Landscapes of Desire:  
Protect Me from What I Want!"**

**Worship Associate: Pat Hoppe**

As part of this fall's series of sermons highlighting Family Systems, we'll reflect on empathy, caring, and compassion. These are admirable virtues. Even so, might there be necessary limits, or signposts, which point toward those qualities of compassion that foster worth and dignity? T.S. Eliot wrote (in "Ash Wednesday"), "teach me to care and not to care." We'll unpack that phrase and consider its implications.



### December 20, 2015

9:15 am & 11:15 am

Rev. David Johnson

**"Mary Had a Little Lamb: Divine Foolishness"**

**Worship Associate: Richard Costello**

How will you celebrate -- or navigate through -- the holidays? Garrison Keillor writes: "The aim of a festive season is to attain amiability, and perhaps actual joy, which we may find in our private moments, but which at Christmas we seek to attain together. The family gathers, with its checkered history, hoping to share warmth, and to instill in even the most sullen member a measure of good cheer. The beauty of Christmas is that it is not about us, our creativity, our fabulous décor, or the glittering gifts we can afford. It is about a story and a ritual that can lift us all." How might we re-claim the timeless stories that transform the human heart?

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### December 24, 2015

9:00 pm

Rev. David Johnson

**"Christmas Eve Service"**

**Worship Associate: Eva Burke**

Join us on for WUU's traditional Christmas Eve celebration -- with special vocal and instrumental music, readings, legends from many lands, carols, and candles. There will be no nursery or child care, but children are warmly invited. As in previous years, the collection will be dedicated to the Minister's Charitable Giving Fund to support special needs of individuals or local organizations.

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### December 27, 2015

9:15 am & 11:15 am

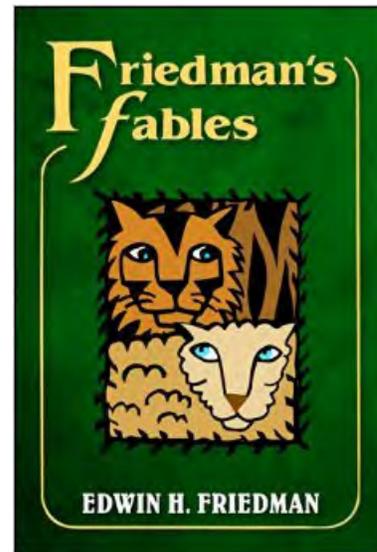
Worship Associate: John Hochella

**Speaker and Topic To Be Announced**

**“Of Bonds and Binds: Fables for Our Time”**  
**Adult Enrichment Series, Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists**  
**Wednesdays, 6:15 pm to 7:25 pm;**

This year I am convening a workshop series that builds upon principles of Family Systems. We are focusing upon fables -- because fables convey broader, more enduring truths than “actual” occasions. The fables in this series are by one of the authorities on family systems, Edwin A. Friedman. Each week we read one Fable, and consider questions-for-reflection that Friedman suggested. We are especially alert for implications for our personal lives, our relationships, and the communities of which we are a part. Here is the schedule of remaining dates and titles for this series:

<i><b>Date</b></i>	<i><b>Fable</b></i>
<i><b>Part II: The Demons of Resistance</b></i>	
Wed 02 December	“Soaring”
Wed 09 December	“Net Results”
Wed 16 December	“Metamorphosis”
<i><b>Part III: Bonds and Binds</b></i>	
Wed 13 January	“Intermezzo: Oedipus,
Faust, and Cassandra”	
Wed 20 January	“Symbiosis”
Wed 27 January	“Attachment”
Wed 03 February	“Jean and Jane”
Wed 10 February	“Cinderella”
<i><b>Part IV: Reptilian Regressions</b></i>	
Wed 17 February	“Caught in Her Own Web”
Wed 02 Mar	“The Wallflower”
Wed 16 Mar	“Panic”
Wed 30 Mar	“Burnout”
Wed 06 April	“Narcissus”
Wed 13 April	“Tradition”
<i><b>Part V: Epilogue</b></i>	
Wed 20 April	“The People of the Charm” (by Rev. Peter Steinke)



**Spirituality as a Family Practice Course**

The Church of the Larger Fellowship has an online course offering for families beginning in the new year. Follow this link to learn more. <http://www.questformeaning.org/programs/learning-center/bringing-it-home-spirituality-as-a-family-practice/>

# BROWN BAG

*Lunch Series*

## A Relational Vision: “I Seem to Be a Verb” An Introduction to Process / Relational Theology Tuesday series: December 1, 8, and 15; 12 noon – 1:15 pm

During my final semester of divinity school, Prof. John Cobb’s course on Process Theology was transforming for my life and ministry. His insights have opened pathways to a compelling worldview that is consistent with my lived experiences. In my 28 years of ministry since then, I have found that many Unitarian Universalists raised in traditional churches or synagogues have come to value Process / Relational theology as a compelling voice echoing our UU Principles and Purposes.

<i>Session / Date</i>	<i>Topics</i>
1 Tue Dec 01	<b>The Relational Vision; The Self</b>
2 Tue Dec 08	<b>Human Experience; God as an Outgrowth of Human Experience</b>
3 Tue Dec 15	<b>God and the Experience of Evil and Power; Spirituality in a Global Perspective</b>

### VIDEOTAPE RESOURCE:

“A Relational Vision: John B. Cobb Jr.” (lectures and interviews), Center for Process Studies, Claremont, CA, 8 parts, 3 videotapes).

### OPTIONAL TEXT:

Christ, Carol P., *She Who Changes: Re-Imagining the Divine in the World*, 2003

WEBSITE for resources, indexed: <http://www.ctr4process.org/publications/Biblio/Thematic/>

## (AED) Automatic External Defibrillator

I'm filled with gratitude seeing our AED machine up on the wall in the sanctuary; gratitude to Roger Baldwin for donating the seed money, gratitude toward all those who have taken or will take the AED/CPR training, and gratitude to Franz Gross for attaching the machine to the wall.

I send prayers to the Universe that we may never have need of the machine. If we do use it, the helpers will remember their training and act with the grace and compassion I see in this community every day.

--Austen Petersen, Director of Religious Education

### CPR/AED Training-Second Class Added!



WUU has an important new addition that has been installed in the sanctuary, a Phillips HeartStart Automatic External Defibrillator (AED). Come learn how to handle a heart related emergency with us! The class is being held on Sunday, December 13 at 5pm in the WUU Sanctuary and is open to all. The cost is \$30 per person. Please RSVP to Austen at [austen@wuu.org](mailto:austen@wuu.org) or (757) 220-6830 if you would like to attend. There is a class maximum of 12 students.

## Greetings from the Board President



As 2015 comes to an end, we take time to reflect on where WUU has been this year.

One year ago, we had no idea that Jennifer would be leaving to travel new roads. We had no idea that Dave Johnson would be here as a two-year interim minister tending to our spiritual, pastoral, and administrative needs, while helping us sort out ourselves as we prepare for a new settled minister. Breaking ground for our facilities expansion was still a vision; we didn't even have a general contractor. The very successful Capital Campaign was still in progress. We didn't know our children would be attending a Hogwarts academy over the summer. We didn't know we'd be hosting the homeless shelter during one of the coldest, snowiest, iciest weeks of the season. The Mosaic Makers were not yet planning ways to help lead WUU in becoming a multicultural-oriented congregation. We didn't know all the wonderful things that each and everyone would be doing this year to help make the world a better place. We didn't know who would decide to make WUU your spiritual home. So much we didn't know then, but can now celebrate.

And we aren't done with the year yet. The Board, for one, continues on its track:

- The Board has been evaluating the pros and cons of the governance structure put in place about three years ago. Is it working well for WUU? How will we describe ourselves to prospective settled ministers?
- The Stewardship Committee has exciting plans that you will be hearing about soon.
- The Nominating Committee is also putting together a slate of new Board and other committee members for your vote on January 17th. Interested in serving or learning more about the positions? Please contact Nan Hart, chair of the Nominating Committee.
- The Nominating Committee and Board are also developing plans for the congregation's election of a Ministerial Search Committee. Be looking for information from them.
- Financially, we're a little behind in matching expenditures to the budget. We can expect to be more so by Spring because of lower-than-anticipated pledges and some unbudgeted expenses. If you haven't submitted a pledge, there's never a "too late" time. Ending the fiscal year in June with a balanced budget is possible!
- Of course, you know actual building is due to start very soon. Did you see the large sign at the entrance to the driveway? To get the latest news, stop by the table in the narthex any Sunday morning to talk with one of the Building Our Future team members.

As we celebrate all we have done and all we hope yet to do, I wish for you a season to celebrate all the good that has come and all you plan for the coming year. Wherever those plans take you, may you find peace, love and happiness.

Lola Warren, Board President



**Richmond Food Not Bombs** is running a free clothing store on Sundays. Can you help?

It's getting cold outside! Our Richmond homeless neighbors are in need of coats, jackets, socks, undergear, and blankets. If you have any extras of these items, please donate them. You can drop them off in the WUU library before December 1<sup>st</sup> and Dave Robbins, WUU pianist extraordinaire, will take them to Richmond. Winter is a hard time of year for a lot of folks.

## Building Our Future Update:

With the silt fences, construction equipment, trenches, and a new beautiful sign, Ironbound travelers now know that *WUU is building a new future*. Our members and friends, with a closer view, can expect to see the following during the month of December:

- The arrival of the concrete structures that will enable the BMP work to get underway.
- The big green electrical box will be moved to a new site closer to Parker since its current location is in the way of construction.
- Trenches will be dug and storm drains installed to enable water to flow around the new construction to the bigger, newly-repaired BMP.
- The berms will be leveled and the small BMP filled in so that foundation work can begin.
- The Fahs playground will be made smaller to enable the Community Character Corridor work to begin all along our Ironbound frontage. *Attention: Volunteers needed to relocate the fence!*

In the sanctuary, you will find a new rendering of the new buildings and the latest floorplan drawing. On the kitchen side of the back wall in the sanctuary is a new chart showing when various construction activities will occur.

We are also learning that the next few months will be a bit disruptive, if November is an indicator. For instance:

- Some areas were temporarily closed off, and there were new obstacles here and there. *Watch where you walk and drive.*
- The construction crews cut through a few electrical cables as they were digging trenches for the new electrical equipment; thus, the parking lot lights went off. **Keep a flashlight handy for evening events.**
- The pathway to the labyrinth was cut off by a silt fence. *It is accessible by going around or stepping over the fence.*
- Some days were active and others were not as we waited for Dominion Power to start their work. *Be patient!*

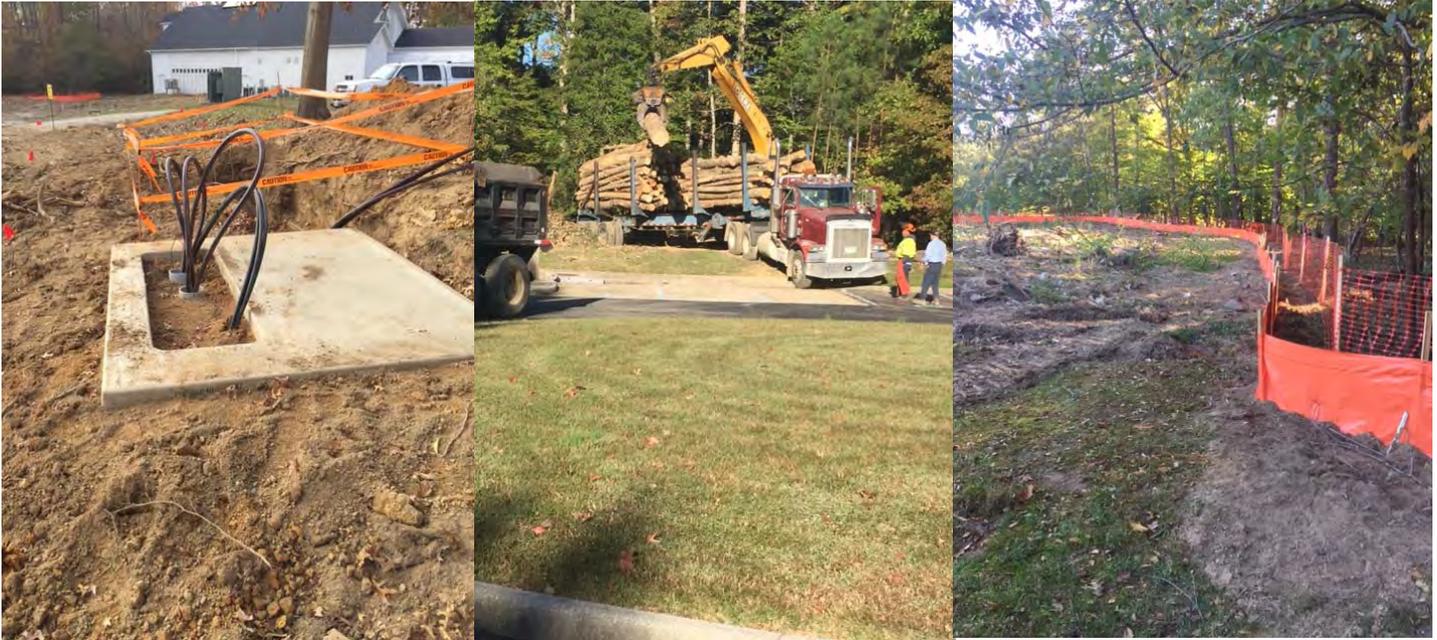
Your Design Build Team continues to coordinate activities with our contractors and, in turn, the Team will continue to keep you informed so that these disruptions do not negatively impact our programs and mission. And we will continue to offer tours each Sunday to help you keep up with the progress.

Thank you for your patience. Isn't this exciting!

Les Solomon

Chair, Building our Future.





## Share the Plate



The Share the Plate collection on December 6 will benefit the Avalon Center for Women and Children that serves our local community. Avalon provides shelter and support to those experiencing domestic violence and sexual assault. By offering tools for safety, self-sufficiency, and empowerment, Avalon works to break the cycle of abuse and helps create a positive future for its clients. Priscilla Caldwell will speak about Avalon at the 11:15 service on December 6.

For more information on the Center, please visit [www.avaloncenter.org](http://www.avaloncenter.org). To contact Avalon for help in a domestic violence situation, contact Avalon at (757) 258-5051. If you would like to volunteer at Avalon, contact Priscilla Caldwell at the outreach center (757) 258-5022. If you cannot attend the service, contributions may be sent to the WUU office (check payable to WUU, with Avalon in the memo line, please).

## The Navigators

### Monthly Meeting

6:30-7:30pm, **Thursday, Dec 3rd**

Final parade preparation for the Williamsburg Christmas Parade - David Benson leading.

### Williamsburg Christmas Parade

7:30am, **Saturday, Dec 5th.**

Participate with your fellow Navigators in the parade. Our theme will be "giving" and we will pass wrapped gift boxes from the truck to the Navigators on each side, who will symbolically present them to the parade onlookers before cycling them back into the end of the truck. Please attend the Nov and Dec meetings to learn the routine. This event is tons of fun!

## All Together Brown Bag Lunch Discussion



# BROWN BAG LUNCH

**Thursday, December 10th at 7pm, WUU Sanctuary**

All Together is presenting Brian and Erin Holloway Palmer. Brian Palmer is a [visual journalist](#) and scholar-in-residence in the Division of Learning Innovation and Student Success at Virginia Commonwealth University, and his wife Erin Holloway Palmer is an editor, writer, and educator. They live in Richmond where they are at work on their documentary, [Make the Ground Talk](#).

[Make the Ground Talk](#) takes viewers along two intersecting paths: The first follows the story of Mat and Julia Palmer, Brian Palmer's great-grandparents, who were born into slavery in the mid-1800s. The second traces the filmmakers' quest—into churches and living rooms, burial grounds and archives—to tell Mat and Julia's story and that of Magruder, the Tidewater Virginia community they helped build. Magruder was uprooted in 1942 to make way for a naval base that later became Camp Peary. Mat and Julia are buried on that base, now a top-secret military installation, in Upper York County. The cemetery is inaccessible to the public and barely accessible to family members. Their documentary starts there.

Much of this story, however, is about absence, about whose history is tended and whose is neglected. In a landscape studded with monuments to the Confederacy—to a mythic white past—the film documents a search for physical evidence of African American lives. We will never assemble enough fragments to create a seamless narrative of Mat or Magruder. This is the reality of the black experience. But it is the looking that matters. The stories of Mat, Julia, and Magruder are part of a missing chapter in our history that we want to help restore: the experience of African Americans who freed themselves during the Civil War, fought for the Union, and helped build our nation, all in the face of fierce resistance. Such stories illuminate hazy and contested periods of our past that are both painful and poignant—and essential to our collective understanding of who we are.

Come join All Together and members of the community for this interesting and valuable piece of historical research.

## COFM Homeless Shelter Volunteers needed



WUU will be partnering with Williamsburg Church of Christ and Temple Beth El for all shifts December 30 and January 1. We are asked to provide volunteers for Check In, Dinner, Over-night and Breakfast for those 2 shifts.

If you can lend a hand to our most vulnerable neighbors, please contact

Helen Hansen 757-608-8822 [helenfoxhansen@gmail.com](mailto:helenfoxhansen@gmail.com).

## FISH

(our local community's food & clothing pantry)

- Canned meats, vegetables and fruits for a holiday meal.
- Our holiday collection of new and packaged socks and underwear for all ages and sizes.



The socks and underwear will be placed under the church tree and taken to FISH after Christmas.



Thank you all and peace to you.

## LAY PASTORAL CARE NEWS

*Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists belong to a religious community committed to caring for one another--to provide a caring and compassionate presence to congregants facing stressful life challenges and crises, whether acute or ongoing.*

WUU's Lay Pastoral Care Program consists of the **Caring Ministry Team** for short-term support and the **Lay Pastoral Associates**, who are trained to offer sustained care for those in crisis. **Helping Hands** are available for one-time jobs such as certain repairs. **Steering Committee** members are engaged in planning how to expand and improve congregational support of members in need.

Here is a list of WUUs who generously serve in this program, including the Caring Ministry Team, Lay Pastoral Care Associates, Steering Committee and Helping Hands:

Melissa and Don Ackley, Fred and Joan Adair, Flora Adams, Beverly Baldwin , Linda Bergmann , Nancy Carnegie, Nancy Crowell, Donna Davenport, Louise Diaz-Jenkins, Denyse Doerres, Martha Elim (Lay Pastoral Care Associate), Sally Fisk (Steering) Susan Fournier, Cindy Frezek (Steering), Fred Gilbertson, Ellen Graham (Caring Ministry Cochair), Carolyn Greathouse, Shirley Guenther, Linda Lane-Hamilton (Steering), Jim Henion (Helping Hand for computers), David Hopkinson (Lay Pastoral Care Associate), Pat Hoppe (Lay Pastoral Care Associate), Beverly Levinson, Nancy McCauliffe, Melinda Morgan, Jane Nichols, Adele Oberhelman , Jane Reilly (Steering), Ken Schmidt (Helping Hand), Liz Snyder (Caring Ministry Cochair), Les Solomon, Anne Stevens, Trena Tankersley, Larry Ventis, Barbara West, Richard Wolfe (Helping Hand).

We also welcome the following WUUs who recently expressed interest in being involved in the Caring Ministry: Lola Warren, Merry Guernsey, Lee Hougen, Elisabeth Berning, the Rev. Robin Dwyer, and Deborah Jane Wells.

Thank you all for your willingness to help.

If you know of someone who might be cheered with a card, a casserole or a visit, Ellen and Liz, Caring Ministry cochairs, can be reached at [www.caringchair@wuu.org](mailto:www.caringchair@wuu.org) or through the WUU office. Or, if you need support yourself, please contact us.

Lay Pastoral Associates David, Martha and Pat work with our minister, Rev. Dave Johnson, who can be reached through the WUU office or by email ([revdaj@aol.com](mailto:revdaj@aol.com)).

**Support for the Craig family:** If you wish to help Lesa and Michael Craig and their children, who recently lost their home and belongings in a fire, you can donate with a check to WUU marked "Support for Craig Family" in the memo line. These funds will be transferred to the Craigs. The Craigs are now staying at the Residence Inn on Route 60. We know they would welcome an occasional casserole for evening meals.

**Rides:** We have an ongoing need to provide rides for members who have had to give up their driver's licenses. Kit Fournier needs rides to and from the 11:15 Sunday services and Don Allen needs transportation to various rehab classes at the Rec Center and Y. Please help if you can. Call Liz or Ellen if you are willing to pitch in.



Pictured: David Hopkinson, Pat Hoppe, Rev. Dave Johnson, Martha Elim, Liz Snyder, Ellen Graham



## WUU Tabernacle Band

Tabernacle Band plays December 20. What is Tabernacle Band you ask? It is WUU's intergenerational "no-fault" band. This is the place for musicians young, old and in between who play or have ever played an instrument. We provide service music twice a year (usually in December and then in spring or early summer). So get those instruments out of the closet and join us. There in ONE rehearsal at 10:15 on Sunday before we play at the 11:15 service. Jamie Bartlett makes the magic happen. Music will be available two or three weeks before we play at <http://tabband.weebly.com/index.html> Click on the instrument(s) you play and print out your music.

We especially encourage our younger musicians to join us. Need more info? Contact Jamie or Vicki Hall.

### Planned-Winter Solstice Ritual Monday Night, December 21, 2015 7pm

Join us as we celebrate the longest night of the year with meaningful rituals at the labyrinth, the fire ring, and indoors. Stay tuned to The Spiral for more details.



## WUU Youth ♥'s FISH

Each month this year we are asking our WUU young people to donate to FISH, the local group that provides for families in need. Some children you go to school with may not have enough to eat at home. **YOU CAN HELP!**



This month we collect socks and underwear for FISH, all new and packaged for all ages and sizes. We will place all items under our church tree and deliver to FISH after Christmas Please remember those less fortunate this holiday season.

Set items in the green bucket by the front door of the sanctuary and thank you!



# Undies for Everyone





## YULE SING FRIDAY DECEMBER 11, 5:30 p.m., WUU SANCTUARY

This annual event, sponsored by CREW and the Community and Social Justice Teams is a hit with all ages.

The evening begins with a potluck supper followed by carol singing and trimming the WUU Christmas tree to make it ready to receive our donations of socks and underwear for FISH. We actually make some of the decorations (environmentally friendly, of course), so there will be a craft table where young and old can create ornaments while we sing. Music will be provided by our own Dave Robbins, **with backup from some members of the choir to help us sing our best**, and word has it that Santa and Mrs. Claus are planning to make an appearance!

Please plan to bring a dish to share and join the fun! If you have questions, and if you can lend a hand, please contact Chris Faia, [clfaia@cox.net](mailto:clfaia@cox.net) or Carolyn Wilson, [c2wilson@cox.net](mailto:c2wilson@cox.net) or call Ellyn or Austen at the WUU office: 757-220-6830.

## UUFV Breakfast with Santa



The UU Fellowship in Newport News has invited the WUU community to their Breakfast With Santa event on December 5th from 9 AM until 11 AM. Admission is \$10 per adult and \$5 per child. There will be a photographer there to take professional photos of the children with Santa that will be available to purchase.

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be played by Mr. and Mrs. Harper. They are UUFV members who work for Busch Gardens during the holiday season as Mr. and Mrs. Claus, so they are the real deal and an absolute joy to watch.

Get your tickets now for Breakfast with Santa on December 5th! Here's information about the event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1787816191445794/> and here's where you buy advance tickets: <http://bit.ly/UUFVAnco>



## Giving and Getting



Thank you, WUUs, for your generosity in so many ways—in giving your time, your personal stories, your energy and hopes and dreams—and in giving your financial support.

We are in the midst of unusual financial times for WUU—a time when we are paying our capital campaign pledges for our new building AND paying our annual pledges to support our congregation. Thank you for continuing to honor your pledges and keeping us on track.

Of course, our stewardship committee has to think ahead. February 14 will not only be Valentine's Day—it will be our annual pledge canvass kick-off event. Rev. Dave has promised a chocolate fountain, and we will provide food and information that day after both services.

After Feb. 14, some of you will be visited by one of our congregants. If you are new to WUU in the past two years, or if you have enrolled a child in our RE program, we will visit about the canvass process and pledging. Some of you other long-time pledgers will also be part of our face-to-face campaign. You can even ASK to be personally visited by a canvasser if you wish!

What do we as WUUs get from this annual pledging process? Information. Connections. All the programs, services, caring, learning, and inspiration that WUU offers to us year round come to us as a result of the pledges we make.

Stewardship Co-Chairs: Allen Cooke and Linda Lane-Hamilton

## Nature Camp Scholarship Opportunity for Grades 5-12

The John Clayton Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society is now considering candidates for scholarships for the Summer 2016 sessions of **Nature Camp** at Vesuvius, Virginia in the George Washington National Forest.

**Nature Camp** is a coeducational, academic camp that emphasizes education in natural history and environmental studies. It is intended for those seeking a science/nature experience. Campers attend class daily, maintain a notebook, complete written projects and participate in outdoor activities. Students currently in 5th -12th grades are eligible to apply. For more information about Nature Camp visit [www.naturecamp.net](http://www.naturecamp.net).

Session One, June 19-July 2, Grades 9-12

Session Three, July 17-July 30, Grades 6-8

Session Two, July 3-July 16, Grades 8-9

Session Four, July 31-August 13, Grades 5-6

Scholarship application and essay information is online at: [www.vnps.org/johnclayton](http://www.vnps.org/johnclayton) or or call (757) 645-4164.

**Application and essay should be submitted to John Clayton Chapter's Nature Camp Scholarship Committee. It must be postmarked by January 7, 2016.**





WILLIAMSBURG UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

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(757) 220-6830

[www.wuu.org](http://www.wuu.org) [office@wuu.org](mailto:office@wuu.org)

Lola Warren, President

[president@wuu.org](mailto:president@wuu.org)

Rev. David Johnson, Interim Minister

[revdaj@aol.com](mailto:revdaj@aol.com)

Pat Hoppe, Newsletter Editor

**Office Hours**

The WUU office is open:

◆ 9am-2pm Monday - Friday

Rev. Dave Johnson has office hours:

◆ Noon-3pm Monday -Thursday

Austen Petersen, Director of RE, has office hours:

◆ Noon-3pm Monday - Thursday.

Sometimes these times change due to meetings, vacation, etc.  
Feel free to call first (757) 220-6830 to check our availability.

**CELEBRATE! CELEBRATE!**

Looking for a way to acknowledge a friend or relative's special day? Why not make a contribution to the WUU Endowment Fund in their name? We will then send out a letter acknowledging that the WUU Endowment Fund has received a gift from you in the name of that special person. What a unique way to recognize an occasion! For a Memorial Gift Form, contact [Endowment@wuu.org](mailto:Endowment@wuu.org).

(To add your name and month to the birthday and anniversary list, contact Ellyn Stephens in the office at [office@wuu.org](mailto:office@wuu.org).)



**December Birthdays**

**December Anniversaries**

The Fourniers

Dave and Donna Stanford

Dawn Traver and Debbie Haynes

Ken Schmidt and Sara Lewis

Don Allen

Jamie Bartlett

Natalie Chamberlain

Alina Citta Wolverton-Diggs Rollene Wells

Larry Dorsett

Christian Felipe

Marty Limber

Grace McArdle

Rob Piland

Doug Randolph

Gerta Smith

Bob Tschannen-Moran

Lisa Williams

Marion Wolfe