

# WUU news

## Monthly Newsletter of Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists



2016

### Some Dates of Note

- |      |                             |
|------|-----------------------------|
| 1.7  | Navigators Monthly Meeting  |
| 1.9  | Adopt A Highway Clean-up    |
| 1.10 | New to UU Orientation Class |
| 1.14 | OWL Parent Orientation      |
| 1.17 | Congregational Meeting      |
| 1.18 | Office Closed-MLK Day       |
| 1.20 | Pathfinders Book Group      |
| 1.30 | Congregational Workshop     |
| 1.31 | First Aid Training Class    |

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

#### Interim Minister's Letter: "Building Community"

The months are speeding by. It was five months ago when Diann and I drove from Michigan to Williamsburg, eager for our next adventure in transitional ministry. Little did I realize the spirit of community and generosity that awaited us – at WUU and in the surrounding community. We have settled into our temporary home-away-from-home, in Seasons Trace. Most especially, we are so deeply grateful for the many expressions of kindness, appreciation, and welcome which the WUU congregation has extended to us. Who knows – we may well become long-term residents of Williamsburg in our retirement years. Stay tuned.

Much is unfolding at WUU as part of the two-year ministerial transition. Please note the announcements of upcoming events elsewhere in this newsletter, and invitations for your participation. Here are some additional events / experiments that will be upcoming:

**Building Community:** Sunday worship is the central event in the life of every congregation. In worship a congregation declares and manifests its values, and invites all to participate in making its values real. Such invitations can enhance the worship experience -- IF the messages are timely, well prepared, and effectively presented. Beginning in January, we'll try an experiment: The Orders of Service will include these words after the Prelude: Welcome, Greeting, and Building Community. The guidelines remain the same for Building Community messages: 1) Continue to rely on the monthly newsletters, weekly Spirals, and WUU website as the most effective ways to share your message. 2) If special circumstances require a spoken announcement during Sunday worship, please prepare your message in writing, and present it to me or to the Worship Associate at least 15 minutes prior to the service. 3) If you believe that you must present your message personally, please let us know this, and we will try to accommodate. In the late spring, I'll meet with the Worship Associates and we'll ask: "How did it go?"



Continued on next page

## Interim Minister's Letter Continued

Vision and Pragmatism: This year I have invited all WUU teams / committees to engage in creative possibility-thinking: What are your hopes and dreams for your team during the coming years? How might these dreams and new initiatives serve to invite new participants to the table, and thereby to engage powerful, open-ended questions which may strengthen WUU in making its values real in greater Williamsburg? My sincere thanks to all those who have contributed to this process of envisioning "the best of who we are, and who we may become". This envisioning process is the pacemaker of the upcoming Stewardship Campaign, about which you will be reading more in the coming weeks. To be sure, vision and pragmatism are a balancing act; yet possibility-thinking and experimenting should always be the first step.

Adult Education and Congregational Development: This week I am completing the four-session series "I Seem to Be a Verb: Introduction to Process/Relational Theology". In early January we will resume the Wednesday evening "Fables" series, which continues through April. January will be a very busy month, so I will defer until February the announcement of additional workshops which I will convene in the Winter and Spring.

Thanks so much to all for your dedication to the best of who we are, as a congregation. I am deeply grateful for the privilege of serving you in these amazing times. See you at First Night Williamsburg – perhaps for many more years!

Rev. Dave Johnson, Interim Minister, 2015-2017



## Share the Plate



# GREATER WILLIAMSBURG OUTREACH MISSION

A New Coalition of Faith Groups United to Serve the Homeless

The Share the Plate collection will be January 10 (to avoid the holiday weekend). The beneficiary will be the **Greater Williamsburg Outreach Mission**. This local non-profit – chartered in 2012 – now has over 20 faith groups focused on the spiritual practice of assisting the homeless population in our local communities. WUU was one of its early members, and Helen Hanson is our representative. As a new initiative, GWOM is now operating The Harbor Respite Day Shelter, open to our homeless neighbors, Monday thru Thursday from 10 AM-2 PM. The Harbor offers hospitality, including breakfast and lunch, showers, computer access, phone charging station, and access to services through partner, St. Bede Outreach. GWOM is employing a coordinator and purchasing supplies. This is a substantial commitment of resources for this long term initiative, so GWOM is seeking funding from its members as well as outside sources. Please consider a generous donation to GWOM on January 10.

For more information about GWOM, please visit [gwoutreachmission.org](http://gwoutreachmission.org). For information on the Share the Plate program and how to nominate recipients, please email [stp@wuu.org](mailto:stp@wuu.org).

## January Worship Schedule

### January 3, 2016

9:15 am & 11:15 am

Rev. David Johnson

**"Compassion Fatigue: Dealing with Burnout"**

After the hectic pace of year-end holidays, we'll reflect on empathy, caring, and compassion: Admirable virtues. Even so, what are the warning-symptoms of burnout? Are there necessary limits, or signposts, marking 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 its implications.

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### January 10, 2016

9:15 am & 11:15 am

Rev. David Johnson

**"Belonging: The Joy of Sects"**

There is a common dilemma which appears on the radar screens for ministers and for congregations during the ministerial search process: What does it mean to "belong"? How can members of a group get along respectfully and harmoniously, given the diverse backgrounds and aspirations? For thousands of years humans have gathered in tribes, sects, volunteer associations, and special interest groups. How shall the "joy of sects" be a valued asset, and not a deterrent to healthy functioning?

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### January 17, 2016

9:15 am & 11:15 am

Rev. David Johnson

**"Gandhi, Parks, & Tenzin Gyatso: MLK's Legacy"**

On this annual tribute to the life and enduring significance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., we will honor three of his spiritual predecessors and successors: Mohandas Gandhi, Rosa Parks, and a leading spokesperson for the principle of non-violent resistance: the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso.

### January 24, 2016

9:15 am & 11:15 am

Travis Harris, Guest Speaker

**"Mosaic Makers Service: Black Lives Matter"**

Why do "Black Lives Matter?" Black people, compared to whites, are more likely to be killed by police, are incarcerated at much higher rates, and are twice as likely to be unemployed. How should UUs respond to this systemic racism? Join us to hear Mr. Travis Harris' account of how a movement begun in the wake of Trayvon Martin's killing is changing our understanding of racism.

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### January 31, 2016

9:15 am & 11:15 am

Rev. Andrew Millard, Guest Minister

**"Our Secrets"**

Is every religion built around some deep and powerful insight? Is it only shared with true believers upon their initiation into the mystery? If so, what is that for Unitarian Universalism? And when do we get told about it? At great personal risk of getting into trouble for letting the cat out of the bag, Andrew will enlighten us with our great Unitarian Universalist secret!

Rev. Andrew Clive Millard has served as minister to the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Peninsula in Newport News since 2010. Born in England, he came to the United States to be a physicist and instead re-discovered religion. Andrew lives in Yorktown with Allison and their threen-age daughter, Olivia.

This is a pulpit-exchange Sunday. Our minister, Rev. Dave Johnson, will be speaking at the UU Fellowship in Newport News today.



HAPPY NEW YEAR

## Greetings From Your Board President

Happy New Year! Now that we are all sugared up from too many holiday cookies, WUU is going to need us to use the subsequent energy in many ways by lending a hand, making decisions, and sharing our thoughts.

**\*Lend a hand:** Help with construction. Check out the information in this newsletter from the Building Our Future chair, Les Solomon, about how you can do some very needed support work.

**\*Make Decisions:** January 17th at 10:30 (between the services) attend the congregational meeting to elect fellow members to open Board and Congregational Committee positions. All voting members will soon receive an email "Announce" or a letter in the mail with the slate of officers and other business to come before the congregation. All voting members are needed to make these decisions. Remember: a voting member is one who has signed the membership book and made an official pledge of financial support to the 2015-16 annual fund. Such a pledge is different from a pledge made to the Capital Campaign. If you are unable to attend the meeting, absentee ballots will be available during by the first week of January.

**\*Share Our thoughts:** 1. Help Kick off the Ministerial Search. Using a UUA "best practices" method, the Nominating Committee, together with the Board, has developed a new plan for WUU members to select the Ministerial Search Committee and begin the important and exciting work of selecting our next called minister for the congregation's consideration!

According to our By-Laws, the Nominating Committee is responsible for developing a list of candidates to serve on the Search Committee. Following this new plan and our By-Laws, the Nominating Committee will be asking each voting member to provide names of those he or she believes have the skills, temperament, and vision to be on the Ministerial Search Committee. Consider these attributes:

- Knowledge of our WUU vision, mission, principles, and values
- Knowledge of WUU's organizational structure and By-Laws
- Knowledge of UUism in a broad sense (UUA, etc.)
- An open and listening mind to represent the membership
- Good communication and relationship skills
- A willingness to commit to a year-long period of intense service



The Nominating Committee and Board have projected following schedule:

- January 17, 2016 - Introduction of this process at the Congregational Meeting
- January 22, 2016 - A letter to voting members asking for nominee suggestions. There will be multiple options to return your view including mail, email, and a drop box in the Narthex.
- February 22, 2016 – Final date for nominee suggestions from voting members.
- About April 1, 2016 – Slate of candidates for the Ministerial Search Committee presented to the Congregation
- Mid-April 2016 – Congregational meeting to elect our Ministerial Search Committee
- Mid April 2016 – Ministerial Search Committee holds their kick-off meeting

**\*Share Our Thoughts:** 2. Attend the January 30th "The Best of Who We Are" Workshop. As we prepare ourselves for the new minister, we will gather to think toward the future as we consider the past. Your presence and participation are needed as we take this step in preparation of calling a new settled minister.

**\*Have a Happy New Year.** May you find peace in your lives as together we work toward peace throughout our community, our country and the world. Let's spread the word and actions of "Standing on the Side of Love."

Lola Warren

## Congregational Workshop Saturday January 30: "The Best of Who We Are"



Please mark your calendars for Saturday morning January 30, 2016, from 9:15 am till 12:30 pm.

At this important congregational workshop we will take a key step on our journey towards calling a new minister. By considering the elements that attracted each of us to WUU and what keeps us here, we will share our ideas on how we can bring out the best of who we are as a congregation. These two years with Rev. Dave Johnson with us as Interim Minister represent a transition period for WUU during which, among other goals, we have opportunities for discernment and growth. We want our new minister to understand and appreciate us at our best. We need your help! Please join us on Saturday January 30!

Continental breakfast and snacks provided. To assist us with logistics, please sign up for the workshop by contacting the WUU office by Sunday January 17.

We will arrange for child and nursery care, IF you have signed up by January 17.

Your Transition Team (Rachel and Becca Delbos, Jane Ferguson, Fred Gilbertson, Linda Lane Hamilton, Dave Wilcox, and Rev. Dave Johnson)



### Tabernacle Choir sings January 31

Have you thought about singing in the choir? Want to sing but too many conflicts? This is your chance! On January 31, Tabernacle Choir sings. ONE rehearsal at 10:15 before the service. All are welcome. Questions? Contact Jamie [jcbart@wm.edu](mailto:jcbart@wm.edu). Music is available *now*!



## 7-9 Grade Parent Orientation for Our Whole Lives

January 14th at 6:30 PM in Fahs

**Williamsburg Unitarian  
Universalists**

for more information visit  
<http://www.uua.org/re/owl>

RSVP to Austen at  
[austen@wuu.org](mailto:austen@wuu.org)

Are you hankering to add RE dates to your family calendar? You are in luck! Below, please find a list of what the different grades will be doing from January – June 2016.

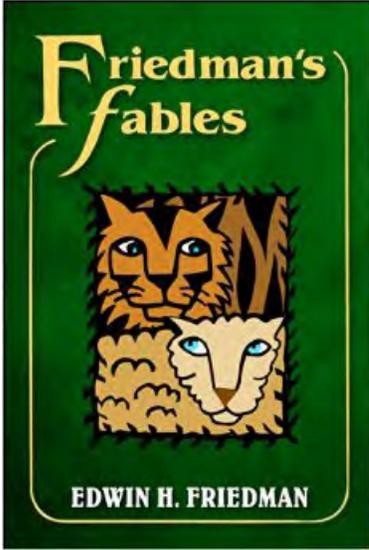
Yours in Peace, Austen Petersen

Key: L = Lower Elementary; U = Upper Elementary; MS = Middle School

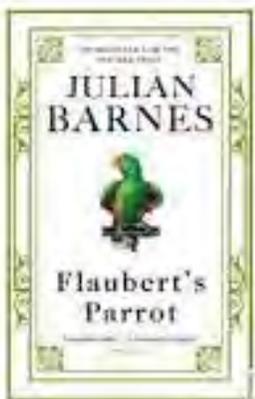
3-Jan-16		All Ages
10-Jan	Children's Chapel: U.U. Pilgrimage with YRUU	Children's Chapel - H&H
17-Jan	Secret Friends Signup - All ages in sanctuary	Multigenerational - MLK Sunday
24-Jan	RE Program in Fahs and Parker	L: Tour of Our Congregation; U: Our New Year; MS: 1, 2
31-Jan	Secret Friends Kickoff; RE Program in Fahs and Parker	L: Making Chalices; U: Mardi Gras; MS:3, 4
7-Feb-16	Children's Chapel: Chinese New Year	Children's Chapel; MS: 5, 6
14-Feb-16	RE Program in Fahs and Parker	L: All Around Us; U: Susan B. Anthony Day; MS:7, 8, 9, 10
21-Feb-16	Children's Chapel: UU and the Golden Rule	Children's Chapel; MS:12, 13
28-Feb-16	RE Program in Fahs and Parker	L: Chalice Necklaces; U: Powamu; MS: 14, 15
6-Mar-16	Children's Chapel: Iranian New Year, No Ruz	No Ruz - Iranian New Year; MS: 16
13-Mar-16	Children's Chapel: UU and Your Senses	UU and Your Senses; MS: 17, 18; STORY WITH REBECCA MILBURN
20-Mar-16	<u>YRUU led service</u>	ALL AGES TOGETHER IN SANCTUARY
27-Mar-16	Easter	ALL AGES TOGETHER IN SANCTUARY
3-Apr-16	Secret Friends Reveal; Children's Chapel: Social Justice	Children's Chapel; MS: 21, 22
10-Apr-16	RE Program in Fahs and Parker	L: Beauty of Nature; U: Buddah's Birthday; MS: 23, 24
17-Apr-16	Children's Chapel: Mary Wollstonecraft Day	Mary Wollstonecraft Day (dress as Frankenstein?); MS: 25
24-Apr-16	RE Program in Fahs and Parker	L: Fruit Chalices; U: Passover; MS: class party
1-May-16	multigenerational - 1 service	May Day; ALL AGES WORSHIP TOGETHER
8-May-16	multigenerational - 1 service	Mother's Day, RE in Sanctuary
15-May-16	RE Program in Fahs and Parker	L: Chalice Flannel Board; U: Chalice Making; MS: Congregation History
22-May-16	Children's Chapel	Children's Chapel; MS: Congregation Herstory
29-May-16	RE Program in Fahs and Parker	L: Helping Others; U: Beauty in Nature; MS: Congregation History
5-Jun-16	End of Semester Party; RE Program in Fahs and Parker	L: class party; U: class party; MS: class party

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

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>	
<b><u>Part III: Bonds and Binds</u></b>		
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”	
<b><u>Part IV: Reptilian Regressions</u></b>		
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”	
<b><u>Part V: Epilogue</u></b>		
Wed 20 April	“The People of the Charm” (by Rev. Peter Steinke)	

**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, January 20 at noon in the Sanctuary. We will be discussing Flaubert’s Parrot by Julian Barnes. Come and join us –and bring a friend! We welcome new members and ideas for new books to read.

## 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 months of December and January:

- 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.



Do you know every WUU? Neither do I.

That's why we want to include a brief member biography in every newsletter.

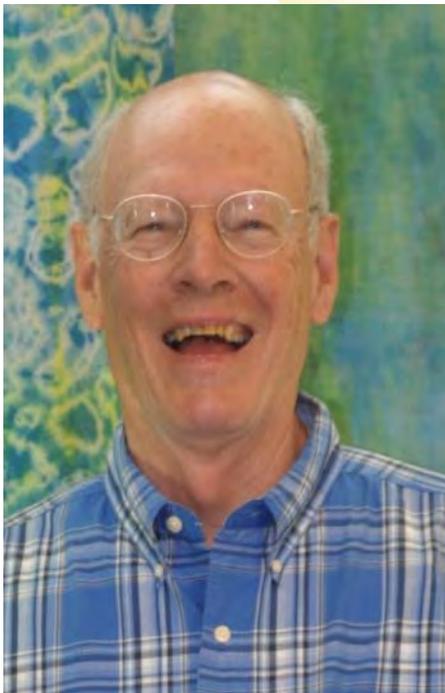
Maybe you'll discover someone who shares your background, interests, or hobby. Maybe you'll learn something new about someone you already know. Or maybe you'll be moved to reach out to someone who needs to hear from you.

Please help us strengthen the WUU community by sharing your story. Together, we can weave a growing web of friendship, support, compassion, and love. Melissa Ackley, [ackleymw@gmail.com](mailto:ackleymw@gmail.com)



In the  
Spotlight

Jim Kent



A native of New York City, my early years were in Alexandria, VA, Dallas Center, IA and Scarsdale, NY after pursuing my passion in American colonial history at Dartmouth College,

I developed my love of teaching and educational administration at Harvard. There I was very lucky to meet and marry my team-teaching partner, Phoebe, and we have been blessed with four children, two sons-in-law, and three grandchildren. After enjoying thirty-five years in administrative positions in Minneapolis, Marlborough, and Marblehead, Ma. then concluding with five years as Superintendent of Schools in Williamsburg-James City County, I retired in 2000. Soon thereafter and for over a decade I enjoyed teaching colonial history in costume at Colonial Williamsburg. And, yes, to be sure, some of the American Revolution took place outside Virginia, especially in New England!

Raised a Presbyterian but rejecting some of its dogma, I first found my home as a UU in 1978. A WUU since 1995, I was pleased to serve on search committees that brought Jennifer and Preston and recently Rev. Dave Johnson here. Currently on your Board, my service has focused as Chair of the Finance Committee, working to ensure WUU as a beacon of liberal religion and social justice in our community. Reading American history and biographies, following world events, gardening, traveling, spending time with family including grandchildren and Labradoodle Rusty make for fulfilling retirement years. My thanks to all members of this congregation for making WUU truly a loving and caring home for one another.

## Our Relationship with Progressive Learning Therapy

### – A Work in Progress

We are four months into our agreement to lease shared space in Fahs to Progressive Learning Therapy (PLT). PLT is devoted to working with young autistic children to develop their interpersonal skills and self-discipline, with the goal of preparing them to function successfully in a regular school environment. PLT staff generally work one-on-one with these children.



Overall our relationship is going well. However, sharing space can be a challenge and there have been a few bumps in the road that warrant mention. Most important of all is to recognize that the PLT students need a low disruption and low noise environment to thrive. Below are a few of the challenges WUU and PLT face together and suggestions on how to handle them.

- **Challenge** - Visitors arrive at Fahs when PLT is in session and knock loudly on the door or window to gain access.
  - **Suggestion** – if you arrive while PLT is in session and do not have the door combination please wait for your leader to arrive or check in over at Parker to see if someone is available to open the door for you.
- **Challenge** – PLT holds Tae Kwon Do in the Narthex on Tuesday and Thursday evenings for autistic children. When others are scheduled to use the building they must walk through the Narthex to reach their destination and some walk across the mats or hold discussions in the Narthex.
  - **Suggestion** – when entering and leaving the main building please walk around the mats and hold conversations in other locations
- **Challenge** – keeping Fahs clean and orderly for both WUU and PLT.
  - **Suggestion** – please leave things where you found them and clean up any areas that you used.

Thanks for listening, sharing our space for the work that PLT does in our community, and working together to make it a lasting relationship



### FISH (our local community's food & clothing pantry)

The winter months are here!  
Let's bring some soups and filling, hearty foods!

Please remember to check those dates.  
Thank you for your generosity!



## AVERY, ALY, LILY AND REBECCA CELEBRATE THE SEASON



CREW (Council on Religious Education for WUU) bid farewell to 2015 with a rousing Yule Sing in December, when more than 80 adults and children shared a delicious potluck dinner, trimmed our Christmas tree and enjoyed caroling accompanied by Dave Robbins and several choir members who helped lead our singing. With thanks to angels Les Solomon and Austen Petersen who hung greenery and readied the Christmas tree, to members of CREW and the Community Team (and various spouses) who organized the dinner and cleanup, and to those special grownups who helped make decorations for the tree and who also helped little hands with that task. A bit of history: Yule Sing has been held every year since WUU was founded. Brainchild of the WUU Choir led by Genevieve McGiffert, the Yule Sing has always been an all-ages-all-congregation songfest. It began as an after-

dinner coffee and dessert party, hosted in Genevieve and Mike McGiffert's spacious home until our sanctuary was completed in 1995.

As CREW rings in the new year, we look forward to the new wing of our sanctuary being ready this fall and to the positive impact expanded space will have on the RE program. We anticipate being able to better organize Sunday mornings, when a separate room would allow us to offer a preschool program for three year old through Kindergarten age children throughout the worship hour on every Sunday, with three other rooms available for more appropriate age groupings and curriculum planning for RE classes for children in the first through fifth grades. We love Fahs House, but fitting RE classes and other activities for WUU children ranging in age from preschool through fifth grades into two classrooms is quite a challenge, and certainly less than ideal. Another benefit of our move to the new wing is that it will make space in Fahs House for middle school and YRUU youth, who are currently meeting in the Parker House basement. While the basement is a comfortable hangout (and comfortably separate from the little kids!) it is already too crowded for our middle school population and it's not handicapped accessible; in other words, we are keeping our fingers crossed that between now and September no one will twist an ankle, or worse. We expect 2016 to be a year of new beginnings and great changes for WUU!

## 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!

Remember to bring a can of soup when you come to church and place it in the green bucket by the membership table in the lobby. Thank you!



## How is WUU like NPR and PBS?



We depend on YOU for financial support—just as they do!

We have a special time designated for fundraising—just as they do! (Our formal pledge drive only happens once a year—this year starting Feb. 14.)

We have a Pacesetters group—just as they do.

We ask you to pledge for a year—just as they do (on our website, or talking one-on-one to a canvasser, or sending in a pledge card.)

Of course, we offer similar things—stimulation, arts, thoughtful discussion, and Stuff That Matters! We also offer the chance to grow spiritually and to change our lives and the lives of others.

WUU's annual canvass drive begins Sunday, Feb. 14 with lunch and an information session. Some of you—new members, parents with children registered in RE, and a few others—will be asked to visit one-on-one with another WUU to talk about your relationship to WUU and your pledge. Stay tuned.

Our goal for this year's stewardship drive—100 percent participation!

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

Stewardship Team: Dave Banks, Nancy Carnegie, Martha Elim, Helen Hansen, Peter Mellette, Ben Puckett, Trena Tankersley, Eva Burke (board representative) and Rev. Dave



### Plan to be a "Secret Friend"

If you would enjoy getting to know another person through this program of pairing an older member with a younger person in the UU community, this is perfect for you.

Those who want to be a secret friend will fill out a form, and agree to send a letter to their secret friend at least three times.

Children must be in second grade or higher and able to write a letter. Children who didn't have the chance to sign up are still invited to the party!

Children who want to participate need to have their parents complete a permission form....forms will be available starting January 17<sup>th</sup> both on the web and at the LFD table in the Narthex. Please submit your forms by January 25 either in person to Austen or via email ([austen@wuu.org](mailto:austen@wuu.org)). Participants will all get their notifications by January 31st.

Sunday April 3<sup>rd</sup> we will host a reception after the 11:15 service where each friend will meet his or her pen pal! It will be a fun "reveal." Questions? Contact Austen Petersen at [austen@wuu.org](mailto:austen@wuu.org).



## PROSPECTUS: INTERESTED IN BEING ON LPCA TEAM?

This appeal describes the new Lay Pastoral Care Associate group information. Contact David Hopkinson if interested in receiving an “application” to join the team. He will be glad to answer any questions (757-879-7526; davidhopkinson111@gmail.com)

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We’re looking for UU members who might want to get involved with the Lay Pastoral Care Associate team, a part of the larger WUU Pastoral Care Program. This unit needs about 10 volunteers. They would attend a training weekend event February 5-6, and a monthly meeting of the team going forward. As envisioned an LPCA might be assigned to one or two congregants at a time and be expected to make contacts of some kind perhaps once a week (usually not more than 8 hours/month). The LPCA would schedule their contacts with their assigned congregant, fitting these around mutually agreeable, practical and sustainable realities/energies. There would be periods of slack when there would be no call for direct services. The design of the program is to prevent volunteer exhaustion and over-commitments, and to match the needs of the congregant to the life experiences of the LPCA. No formal training is required as no formal “treatments” or professional services are being offered. We just need compassionate people.

So that is the idea for LPCA. Please let us know soon if you might be interested.

David H.



### First Aid Training Class

Sunday, January 31, 2:00 pm



With the success and popularity of our CPR/AED classes we have now scheduled a first aid training class.

The First Aid class format is similar to the CPR classes. Price is \$35/student, and it takes about 3 hours to complete. Books and completion cards are provided with the class.

Please RSVP to Austen at [austen@wuu.org](mailto:austen@wuu.org) or (757) 220-6830 if you would like to attend-RSVP is required to attend.

### ADULT DRUMMING

January 17 at 12:30 in the sanctuary

Bring your drums, bring your dancing feet (or arms, or whatever you like), bring a water bottle, and see you there!

Bentley is coming to entertain and help us drum. Contact Austen with questions.



## Building our Future Requires Volunteer Workdays— and we need YOU!

When the BOF teams looked at the construction plans, we discovered we could save a lot of money by doing some of the work ourselves. During the coming year, you will have numerous opportunities to participate in these workdays.



**The first workday will be on January 9** with two fence projects. In preparation for the work that will take place along our Ironbound property, we need to modify the Fahs playground. The work involves relocating a portion of the chain link fence and posts, removing the wooden fence at the corner of the playground, moving a portable shed to the playground, and cleanup. It isn't that complicated or hard.

We have a second fence activity in the enlarged retention pond (BMP). With the pond's increased depth and with all the trees cleared away, we know it will be an exciting, yet potentially dangerous, attraction for children and youth. We need to remove portions of the old chain link fence and replace the fencing to encompass the whole retention pond area. This will require a bit more skill and tools but it's a job that we can do.

**...And we need refreshments and a host.** For each project, we need to have hosts who will furnish refreshments for the workers. We want these projects to be fun with opportunities for multigenerational interaction. Our welcoming hosts, with some refreshments, can certainly help to make it so.

**...For those who want to help with Roger Baldwin's Ironbound Road cleanup project,** come at 9:00, join Roger's team at 10, and return to help complete the fence projects.

**Your Design Build Team will have signup sheets for forthcoming events at the BOF table in the Gathering Space.** Unscheduled activities include:

- Deep cleaning in the sanctuary (chairs, moldings, etc.),
- Removal and recycling (in the new space) of kitchen, library, and nursery cabinets
- Nursery, kitchen, RE, AV room cleanout and moves
- Library cleanout (including sorting books)
- Building the fence and equipment in the new playground
- Meditation Memorial Garden cleanup
- Office moving days
- New plantings in front of Fahs and the Sanctuary
- New sign and plaque hangings
- Parker basement cleanout

### And a few more items:

- We received the permit we need to begin the foundation work.
- Construction pictures are posted on the WUU.org site under Our Facilities/Building our Future
- So far, so good! There have been no surprises unearthed on the site!
- We have a new schedule, available at WUU.org, that highlights the critical path through construction. On this schedule, watch for foundations and flooring to take place in January and framing in February.
- As always, check with one of the BOF team members for information about construction.
- **CAUTION:** The fenced in area is an official construction site with hard hats and steel-toed shoes required for everyone inside that space.

Les Solomon

Chair, Building our Future

## Do you see what I see?

- **I'm dreaming of a White (Christmas) January.** WUU purchased a very nice used snow blower. It will enable us to clean our walks and driveways for many of our snowfalls, thus helping us to be more responsible property owners. Unless you have had your fill of snowstorms from up north, it is a great experience to blow the snow. The snow blower is easy to run (self-propelled) and learn. Already we have 12 folk signed up including two ladies. Les has the signup sheet.
- **Looking for a Free Bay.** Last month, volunteers went to Fairfax City to pick up a trailer load of nice, free furniture from a law office. We can save some storage rental costs if we can move these to an empty garage bay until we move into the new Administrative space in August.
- **Finally, an Accessible Meditation Memorial Garden.** Our walkways to the Garden are temporarily closed due to construction activities. When the MMG reopens, we need to decide the best, perhaps a new, route to the MMG center *and* to make certain that the center is easily accessible to all. Your suggestions are so important.
- **Parking Lot Lighting.** Thank you for your patience while construction is underway. I hope by the time you read this, that the temporary lighting has been installed in the auxiliary lot. Permanent lighting in the auxiliary lot will be reconnected once the new utilities room is operational next summer.
- **Welcome Patrick Dollar!** Patrick is joining our team and, with it, he brings a wealth of maintenance expertise.

Les Solomon, Chair--Campus Improvement Team



## WALT is Back



WALT (The Williamsburg Area Learning Tree) is a WUU community outreach education program that brings people together to share the fun of leaning. The 2016 Spring WALT Schedule of courses is offering more than 65 amazing classes that are interesting, fun and open to everyone of all ages. WALT brings together people who are enthusiastic to share their talents and interests with others who want to Try Something New.

If you are interested in hosting a WALT class this session, please contact Jill between December 28 and January 13 to submit a course proposal.

A complete list of courses is available online on January 30, 2016 at [www.wuu.org/walt](http://www.wuu.org/walt) or in print in the WUU narthex or W/JCC Libraries; registration is through PayPal or by mail. WALT is always looking for new instructors. If you are interested in teaching a future WALT course or have questions or suggestions, please contact Jill Whitten - Program Coordinator, WALT at 757-220-9975 or [walt@wuu.org](mailto:walt@wuu.org).

## YRUU MEETINGS

**Sunday, January 3** – Regular Meeting 4:00 in Parker

**Sunday, January 10** – 11:15 service U.U. historical acting \*\*\*WE REALLY NEED YOUR HELP WITH THIS TO MAKE IT FUN\*\*\* Please RSVP to Austen.

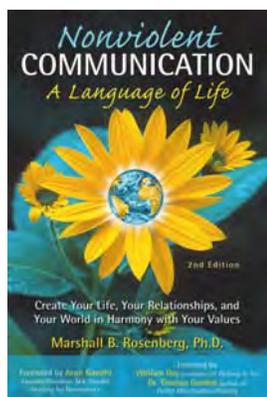
### YRUU/Youth Save the date

**Sunday, January 10**-UU Pilgrimage Children’s Chapel with YRUU

**Thursday, January 14** 6:30 pm-Parent orientation for Our Whole Lives (OWL) in Fahs House

**Sunday, March 20**-YRUU led worship service

## Compassion, Conflict, Communication and Covenant Workshop



- Where: Unitarian Church of Norfolk , 739 Yarmouth Street, Norfolk, VA 23510
- When: January 23, 2016
- Time: 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. (Breakfast and Check In at 8:30 am)
- Cost: \$15.00 to cover food. (Send check to: UCN at above address or see [UCNorfolk.org](http://UCNorfolk.org) for credit card payments).

Register online [HERE](#)

The Unitarian Church of Norfolk Committee on Ministries is very excited to be hosting a daylong workshop, “Compassion, Conflict, Communication and Covenant,” for members of the Unitarian Universalist Tidewater Cluster and beyond. As a faith of covenants, the more we learn how to communicate nonviolently, compassionately and with love, the stronger our faith will become.

This workshop is being presented by Kathy McGowan of the Southern Region of the UUA. Her work as a Congregational Life Consultant is centered on Cluster and Leadership Development for our area. She will present the material for the conference based on the book “Nonviolent Communication” by Marshall Rosenberg, from a Unitarian Universalist viewpoint.

Kathy led the workshops this fall at Unitarian Church of Norfolk’s Start-up Weekend for our new minister, Reverend Charles Dieterich. She is an excellent presenter and discussion leader. We are delighted to welcome her back to UCN for this very important work.

It is our hope that many of you in our cluster will join us on January 23rd from 9:30 to 3:30. We ask that you send this letter and the enclosed registration form to all of your congregants. The registrations must be in by January 4th.

Please feel free to call either the office and speak to Susie, our administrator, at 757-627-5371 or to Elisa at 757-470-7486.

Thank you. We look forward to seeing you in January.

Elisa Dickon, chair of Committee on Ministries



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Rev. David Johnson, Interim Minister

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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).)



**January Birthdays**

**January Anniversaries**

Rob & Nan Piland

Calvin Caldwell

Rebecca Delbos

Jane Ferguson

Jim Kent

Michael Luchs

Anne Luchsinger

Kevin Moore

Jane Nichols

Eileen O'Brien

Jane Reilly

Emma Savoie

Joel Schiff

Sandy Stephan

Charles Tankersley