

WUU news

Monthly Newsletter of Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists

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

Transition Musings: Interim Minister's Letter

2015

Some Dates of Note

9.3

Navigators Monthly
Meeting

9.10

The Odyssey

9.13

Water Communion

9.17

Leadership Team Meeting

9.20

Two Worship Services

Building Groundbreaking

9.21

PFLAG

9.25

Fourth Family Potluck

9.27

Rainbow Potluck



We have entered the seasonal transition from summer to autumn -- at least in Northern Hemisphere latitudes. Dozens of cultural, religious, academic, and even athletic milestones recur predictably during this season, serving as familiar milestones and pacemakers: The list of opening-days of classrooms, from kindergarten thru university, spans well over a month beginning in mid-August. The date of the autumnal equinox is fixed according to the earth's

solar orbit -- as are the dates of the Jewish High Holy Days and countless holidays of religious and pagan communities. Let's not forget the start-up of the NFL season and the controlling influence of Sunday-afternoon kickoff-times, which will heavily influence worship scheduling in countless congregations nationwide. Of course there is the World Series of major league baseball, whose extension into early November has been known to bring early snowfalls to the playing fields in places such as Minneapolis, Boston, and Toronto

Here at WUU the multiple transitions into autumn programming and activities are underway as well. As of this writing (Thursday morning August 20), key leadership groups, constituents, and "deciders" are in conversation to review all options and then set the date to resume the two-Sunday-services schedule, following the one-service summer schedule. You'll read their decision elsewhere in this newsletter. This year there are more variables and stakeholders to be taken into consideration than in previous years. I am impressed and pleased by the broad participation in these discussions, and the well-considered deliberations now in progress. This process of adapting, discernment, and experimental learning is among the most important opportunities -- and challenges -- of congregations-in-transition. I thank you for the privilege of coaching and encouraging you in embarking on this important work. As you know, I am here by virtue of extensive and in-depth deliberations, both by WUU and by me. WUU and I have purposefully chosen to work with each other -- and each of us had other options /offers. So let us continue to open our minds and hearts to new voices, new yearnings, and yet-to-be-envisioned landscapes for making our UU values real.

Rev. David A. Johnson, Interim Minister

September Worship Schedule

September 6, 2015

10:00 am

Rev. David Johnson

**"That We May Not Labor in Vain:
Of Labor and Self-hood"**

Worship Associate: Nan Hart

In his 2015 book entitled The Road to Character, journalist David Brooks considers the difference between the resume virtues and the eulogy virtues. He writes: "The resume virtues are the skills that you bring to the job market and that contribute to external success. The eulogy virtues are deeper, at the core of your being -- whether you are kind, brave, honest or faithful, what kind of relationships you formed." On this Labor Day weekend we will explore various meanings of vocation, and its significance for discovering and creating a meaningful life.

September 13, 2015

10:00 am

Rev. David Johnson

**In-gathering: Water Communion Ceremony
"Notes from the Open Road"**

Worship Associate: Anne Stevens

At our annual in-gathering service, we bring samples of waters representing places and experiences that have nourished and inspired us. Water is a common symbol of passage, transition, and new life. Our one-of-a-kind stories remind us that the fabric of community is given shape, strength, and beauty when the unique strands of our lives are woven together. Be part of this annual celebration! The sermon will build upon the wisdom of Mark Twain: "Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness. Broad, wholesome, charitable views cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one's lifetime." (Mark Twain, Innocents Abroad)

September 20, 2015

*9:15 am & 11:15 am-Resume Two Services

Rev. David Johnson

Building Groundbreaking Ceremony

**"Memories, Hopes, and Conversations:
A Door Set Open "**

Worship Associate: John Hochella

A new year begins – marked by the autumn equinox and by rituals in many secular and religious traditions. It's an opportunity to let go burdens / regrets, and to begin anew. As we break ground for our building-expansion, we shall also be creating new habitations for the mind and heart. What might unfold in the years ahead as we share the good news of our free faith? G.K. Chesterton wrote: "It is a track of feet in the snow, It is a lantern showing a path, It is a door set open." How might we creatively enter the doorways of opportunity that will open to us?

September 27, 2015

9:15 am & 11:15 am

Stacy & Lily Bolling and

Tamra & Autumn Elim-Durden

"Transformation"

As the earth's autumnal equinox has just passed, today we will talk about Transformation in various forms. Transformation is a critical component in all of our lives. We will address how such changes affect us from different perspectives



From the Board President

Some of you may remember this from September Song, a love song from the mid 1900s, composed by Kurt Weill and Maxwell Anderson.

"... it's a long, long while from May to December
But the days grow short when you reach September
When the autumn weather turns the leaves to flame
One hasn't got time for the waiting game."

May does seem a long while ago and December a long way away. So much has happened at WUU during the past four months, and it's often hard to comprehend where we will be by the end of four more. Much to do, much to plan --- not much time to just sit and wait.

The Board has not been sitting and waiting. Emails have been flying, subcommittees have been hard at work, decisions have been made.

- Our new tenant, The Progressive Learning Therapy, a clinic for young children with autism, began this week. Kathryn Kellas, the director, is delighted to have the use of our space as she looks to find a permanent home for her clinic. WUU has received her first month's rent. Should you wish to use Fahs and are not already scheduled for it, please check the calendar and then contact the office to arrange your specific time. The current Fahs schedule is posted on the doors of Fahs.
- Linda Lane-Hamilton and Allen Cooke have stepped forward as co-chairs of this year's Stewardship program. We will be hearing more from them and their committee in the days to come. Please give them a special thanks!
- Ground-breaking is on schedule for September 20th. What a wonderful way to celebrate the Autumnal Equinox -- digging in the dirt to plant something new -- our future. A team of folks from the Building Our Future Steering Committee and the Worship Team are preparing a very special occasion that morning at both services. Keep checking the Spiral, BOF Newsletter, and the Webpage for the latest.
- Hopefully, construction equipment ground-breaking will occur this month, too, as planned. A few unpredicted glitches arose, but should be resolved by the time you read this.
- Members of the Nominating Committee and the Board are set to draft a plan for the congregation to select members of the Ministerial Search Committee. They will be using "best practices," as set forth by UUA and endorsed by Interim Minister Dave Johnson, and our by-laws as their guides.

May September 2015 find all of us enjoying the autumn weather turning leaves to flame, the new and ongoing events taking place at WUU, the changes that will occur as we build and adapt. Even though we think we haven't time "for the waiting game," do take some minutes, hours, days to just enjoy what nature is providing for us and our being together to celebrate it all.

Lola Warren



Building Our Future: We Are on the Tarmac

Every time I sit on the tarmac waiting to take off, I get a bit nervous: Will the flight take off on schedule; what's the problem; if delayed, what then? One thing I know, probably there is a lot of activity taking place behind the scenes that I don't know about.

And so it is with Building Our Future. As examples:

- There was a dispute involving ownership of a tiny sliver of land on the "back 40." It was all resolved by the surveyor and the new title company agreeing on the property line. **Result: No delay in the schedule.**
- The archeological study involving about 150 different digs throughout our property resulted in finding a few fragments of brick and glass (Coke bottles). That was enough to hold up getting clearance from the Virginia Department of Historical Resources (DHR). Fortunately a meeting at WUU last week involving Guernsey Tingle Architects (GTA), James City County, DHR, and the archeological consultant resulted in a decision to dig two bigger holes in search of artifacts of historical significance. **Result: No anticipated delays in schedule.**
- E.T.Gresham, our contractor, is working diligently with GTA and the subcontractors to identify additional cost savings and to clarify some bid options that the Design Build Team (DBT) requested. DBT anticipates that there will be a meeting the week of August 24 to finalize the plans. **Result: No anticipated delays in schedule.**
- It has been challenging to keep the processes going in the midst of busy summer travel schedules, an unanticipated computer glitch at GTA, keeping the permitting process going, etc. Nevertheless, we did it! **Result: No anticipated delays in schedule.**

So, while we await the final reviews and permits before takeoff, fasten your seat belts and mark your calendar for arrival at a festive, interactive, multigenerational ground breaking on September 20. This the first day for two services and we want everyone to have a chance to participate. Thus, both services will have a groundbreaking ceremony at the end of the service. Linda Lane-Hamilton and Donna Stanford are heading the ceremony so there will probably be a cake to cut at each service!

Les Solomon, BOF Chair



Books Online:

A great opportunity to make a big difference!

The UU Fellowship of the Peninsula in Newport News has been using book sales as a revenue stream for several years. Our experiment takes the idea a bit further by integrating an experiment in bookselling into our work with John Hinkley.

Our objectives are these:

- Continue to reach out to John through interaction, providing life purpose, and bring others into John's community of friends
- Create a new revenue stream for WUU and John, with the possibility of expanding it to other areas.

As with all experiments, we will implement the process we have developed and we will monitor, tweak, and evaluate it before making a final report to the Board by the end of the year. However, this much I know:

- My work with John has been quite rewarding. He is compassionate, conversant and informed on many topics, and so grateful for what we are doing.
- This experiment has the potential to be profitable to WUU and provide John a source of income.
- This experiment also fits nicely into the work that Michael Coirin is doing to create new revenue streams at WUU that are compatible with our mission and vision.
- Already we have almost 75 records, CD's, and books evaluated, priced, and ready to put online to sell.

However, I need some help--Someone who is willing to meet with John for a few hours each month to evaluate, price, and post the items (there are plenty of easy-to-use tools on Amazon to do this). Previous experience with online sales would be nice but not a requirement. This position is important because we still await the court's permission to grant John access to a couple of the online sales websites that we need to use. Until this happens, John can look on as someone else (currently myself) does the searching and posting. Our vision is that, if the experiment is successful and with the court providing more access to these sites, John can take over most of the processes.

I will continue my role, but my schedule is busy and I would like to involve others in this interesting and rewarding work.

Les Solomon

Please contact me for more info at 202-1909 or les.solomon@gmail.com



Share the Plate

Olde Towne

MEDICAL & DENTAL CENTER

Share the Plate Sunday will be September 13 (rather than our usual first-Sunday donation, which avoids the busy Labor Day weekend). The plate collection will be donated to Olde Towne Medical Center (OTMC) on Olde Towne Road. OTMC is a safety net clinic providing preventive care and early intervention services to a vulnerable and disadvantaged population with services to children and their families. Over 5000 patients each year are provided a full range of medical and dental services. Since uninsured patients pay for their services on a sliding scale, based on family income, OTMC can never be self-sufficient. Although OTMC receives financial support from local governments and grants, the agency relies on special events and the support of local organizations, congregations and individuals to provide quality health care to those in need.

For more information on OTMC, please visit www.oldetownmedicalcenter.com. For information on the Share the Plate program, please email stp@wuu.org

Calling all Artists and Crafters



Monday mornings from 9:45 am - 11:45 am will find a variety of artists and crafters at work in Fahs house. Our official name is the Gayle Henion Arts and Crafts Group, named for our friend who started the group a number of years ago. We are engaged in painting, paper crafts like card making and scrapbooking, knitting and crocheting and computer activities.

The group will begin meeting again after a summer break, on September 21st. We look forward to welcoming new members to join us. Bring your project to work on and share.

For more information email Grace McArdle at mcardle.grace@gmail.com or Melinda Morgan at minda5411@yahoo.com.

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

This is a thank you note to the WUU choir reprinted with permission from Hamed Barbarji.



Reflections on Tanglewood

It's a hard thing to do, summarizing my experience at the Boston University Tanglewood Institute. As I sit here and write, so many things come to mind. The people I met, the recitals I went to, the lessons I learned—they all had a significant impact on me and my playing. I felt as though I left Massachusetts as a brand new trumpet player.

I'm not going to lie; I was very nervous when I entered Groton's doors. I was some trumpet player from Williamsburg who had a mediocre audition tape. I had no idea where I ranked against these kids; I was lucky enough even to get into the two week program. As I was unpacking, my roommate Joseph Brozek walked in with his family. "Trumpet players see each other, and it's like we're getting ready to square off or get into a fight or something" (Wynton Marsalis). This quote cannot be a more perfect description, but the moment I

met Joe, most of my nerves completely vanished; he was the nicest person I have ever met. After both our families left, we were ready to hit the ground running and we did.

Two weeks. That's all we had. I had to be an absolute sponge. We started each morning with a group warmup and solo masterclass taught by the great Terry Everson and his assistant/doctoral student, Fred Sienkiewicz. We would then have another group masterclass in the afternoons where we would learn about the music world, experiences, life lessons, and work on ensemble music. We warmed up using a book by Wiff Rudd which consisted of mouthpiece buzzing, lead pipe playing, articulation work, flexibility/range work, and listening. We then went on to solo class. Solo class consisted of each individual trumpet player going on stage with an accompanist and playing a solo for the group. Between each performance, the group, including Terry Everson and Fred Sienkiewicz, would critique the player's playing (which helped tremendously). It was finally my day to go, and I was a nervous wreck. First impressions are important, especially when you are playing for some of the best trumpet players in the nation. I put J.N. Hummel's "Concerto for Trumpet" (Movement I) on the stand and waited for my entrance. I played my final note with a sigh of relief and looked out to the group of 12 trumpet players. I knew I had done a good job and that's when it hit me: I was

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supposed to be here.

It's a funny thing when a group of trumpet players get along because it's also very rare, but I have never grown so close to a group of people in two weeks. Each player brought something different to the table. For me, I brought a full sound, musicality, and a nice tone. Others brought technicality, outstanding sight reading ability, trumpet/music repertoire and knowledge, and different abilities whether they could play high and/or low. It was an absolute pleasure to learn from every single one of them. By the fourth day, we all knew each other pretty well and that made all the difference in the world. We were all friends and were pushing each other to get better. Sure, Tanglewood consisted of two weeks of intense practicing and playing, but we also had fun. We would go out into town, hang out, play Frisbee, eat a ton of ice cream, play cards, and just be teenagers. I truly believe that out of all the instruments that were at BUTI, the trumpet section was definitely the closest.

Each night, one teacher would have a recital out in the town. I made it my goal to see every single one of them if possible. Each one was amazing in its own way. Terry Everson, in my opinion, stood out the most. No, it wasn't only because he was a trumpet player (though it contributed). Mr. Everson had chops of steel. He played 4 of the most intense pieces for trumpet without breaks and gave an inspiring performance. I sat there for one and a half hours completely mesmerized. He was the only teacher to pack the church and there was a reason for it.

I learned so many things at Boston University Tanglewood Institute. I learned about new and standard repertoire, the music world, professional experiences, student experiences, my strengths, my weaknesses, and most importantly, life lessons as both a musician and a person. It was such an eye-opening experience that I will never forget. Terry Everson was such a great mentor and I enjoyed every second under his tutelage. My time at Tanglewood was topped off with a lesson from Mr. Everson. I worked on "Concerto for Trumpet" by Alexander Arutiunian. At the end of the lesson, he told me that I had the potential to be very successful in the music world. I left the lesson full of hope and excited for what may come ahead. We finished our Tanglewood experience with a final concert. The concert was a huge success and definitely a memorable experience.

Thank you so much to everyone who helped make it possible

for me to



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: ALL TOGETHER IN SEPTEMBER

As the month of August comes to an end, so does WUU's Hogwarts Summer Extension program aka "Harry Potter Camp." With an array of visiting faculty blending UU Principles and fun, a great time was had by all! Potter Camp will be a hard act to follow, but our creative religious education (RE) teachers are planning some engaging lessons and activities for the months ahead. With children and youth encouraged to participate in our annual Ingathering (water communion) service on September 13, and the Groundbreaking Ceremony on September 20, which will also include all ages, the Children's Chapel on October 18th (featuring Qi Gong!) we have many fun offerings. Our first RE class will be October 4th. Meanwhile, we will be registering children and youth before classes begin, and we are still looking for a teacher for two sessions this fall. Next month, we'll tell you more about the curriculum for classes to begin in October, and about CREW, your Council on Religious Education for WUU, formed last October, to support our wonderful RE volunteers and the families they serve.

Austen Petersen, austen@wuu.org
Director Religious Education



WALT Registration begins September 5

The Fall 2015 WALT Schedule of Classes will be available in the Virginia Gazette and online at www.wuu.org/walt on Saturday, September 5. This popular WUU outreach program is offering more than 60 unique and enjoyable classes this fall. This is your opportunity to "Try Something New!" Many of these classes are hosted by WUU members in addition to others in the community who are excited to share their talents.

Pick up your flyer in the Narthex and you are encouraged to take a stack and place them in locations around town so that others can have an opportunity to enjoy WALT.



Save the Date!

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Peninsula (UUF) is holding their fourteenth annual retreat at **Pocahontas State Park** the weekend of **October 9-11**, and they have invited the folks from WUU to attend! It'll be a great few days of food, fellowship and fun, enjoying workshops, games, music and other activities; the natural beauty of the park and lake; worship indoors and out; evenings at the campfire; and, of course, delicious meals! You can come Friday evening and stay through Sunday morning for the full experience (including lodging in one of the cosy cabins) or just spend Saturday at the Retreat! More information to follow. You can also visit this link: <https://uufp.wordpress.com/2015/07/10/coming-this-fall-the-fourteenth-annual-retreat/>



HIGHER POWER-LAUNCHING 9/27/2015 2-4pm

INTERFAITH AFFINITY GROUP FOR THEISTS

FACILITATED BY DEBORAH JANE WELLS

My definition of theism is that there is more to life than what we experience through our five outer senses.

There is more to everyone and everything than we are seeing, touching, hearing, smelling and tasting in any given moment.

There are many names for this Force, because It is beyond words. I use a variety of labels: God, Source, the Divine, Higher Power, Universe, Life Force, Creative Power and Spirit, to name a few. The reality of God is so large, It transcends the limitations of any name or description I could conceive of.

Those who join the group are eager to explore and share diverse practices for connecting with pure, love-based Source energy to inspire, guide and empower their lives.

Many of you already have a constructive, cocreative relationship with the Divine. For you, the group will be an opportunity to share your experiences, reinforce your practices and expand your possibilities.

Others haven't been on speaking terms with God for many years, due to abuse suffered in the name of fear-based organized religion. If, despite that painful past experience, you still find yourself seeking a healthy love-based way to reincorporate a Higher Power into your spiritual practice, for you this group offers the possibility of a major breakthrough. Based on similar groups I've facilitated in the past, this forum will provide a safe setting to redefine and reclaim Source energy in a way that feels authentic and supportive to you.

All meetings will take place at the Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists campus located at 3051 Ironbound Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185. The first meeting on September 27 (which is the 4th Sunday of the month) will be held from 2-4pm in the sanctuary of the main church building. Thereafter, our group will meet on the third Sunday of each month from 2-4pm in the Fahs House building.

Please email me at deborah@djwlifecoach.com to confirm your participation. I'll send you a registration confirmation email with more details in preparation for our first meeting. Please "whitelist" my email address so you'll receive my emails in a timely fashion.

Volunteer! Join the fun! Day of Caring, 2015



What? The United Way of Greater Williamsburg will host its annual Day of Caring, which supports local non-profit and public service agencies in the Greater Williamsburg community by linking teams of volunteers to requested improvement projects. More than 570 individuals volunteered in 2014. Projects include landscaping, painting, cleaning, repair, and gardening at more than 30 area non-profits. More info: <http://www.uwgw.org/volunteer/doc2015/>

When? Friday, September 18, 2015

Where? We will begin with a kick-off breakfast (location TBD) and then go to a designated location in our community.

Who? You! We'll have a WUU team of adults and kids of all ages! This is a great chance for families to spend time together serving our community.
{Once we have a team list, we will let UWGW know our unique needs, and they will choose a project that will accommodate our team.}

How? Contact Jess Hench. jesshench@gmail.com
Please let me know the name and t-shirt size of each member of your family who will be joining.

Why? Because helping others is what UUs do!



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

Children are starting back to school again and need cereals for breakfast and after school snacks and peanut butter and jelly for sandwiches. The need continues and the food is greatly appreciated!



It's great for our children to get involved and get in the habit of sharing a food item when they come to church!

Suggestions are:
Peanut butter, jelly, boxes of cereal, granola bars



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TIME SENSITIVE

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.

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



September Birthdays

September Anniversaries

Linda and Fred Bergmann

Michael and Ivonne Luchs

Beth Pepper and Lisa Williams

Elizabeth Wilkins and Jacques Van Montfrans

Brenner Beard

Lexie Berning

Marcia Brecker

Suzanne Dorsett

Roger Guernsey

Phyllis Hostetter

Phyllis Jay

Sydney Lord

Natalie Miller-Moore

Amelia Russell

Kenneth Schmidt

Dave Warren

Grayson Williams

Dana Winter