



Windmill

Mount Vernon Unitarian Church

To affirm and promote
the inherent worth
and dignity
of every person

APRIL 1, 2008

Interim Minister's Column

By The Reverend Don Vaughn-Foerster



The good news around MVUC these days is: There is a candidate for minister!! During the week between the first two Sundays of this month, the **Reverend Kate Walker** will be here to meet with as many persons and groups as can be crowded into that period. The result of that week should be a clearer idea in this congregation's mind as to who Kate is and in Kate's mind as to who and what make up this congregation. Surely a lot of the conversation will be about organizational dynamics and issues, but more important will be the way ideas and feelings are exchanged and heard.

Having been through several candidating weeks as the candidate myself, I can attest to the importance of encountering not just issues and agendas, but persons as well. After all, at root it's a community of persons that Rev. Walker will be coming to meet, and it's her person that the community most needs to know.

A great depth of community can exist between persons who communicate on an earnest and sincere level without lobbying or trying to win points. In seminary I experienced this kind of conversation in certain seminars. In churches and fellowships in which I have ministered, I have found that the more people could explore ideas honestly and openly together, the stronger was the community itself. I have also found that, if such opportunities to converse do not exist, what's thought to be community may be just a bunch of people trying to get their own way. To have community, you have to know one another. To know one another you have to converse—you have to talk meaningfully in ways that reveal values and commitments.

By the way, in our UU procedures it is customary for the Interim Minister not to be present during the candidating week in order to reduce the effect of third party influence on the conversation between this congregation and its candidate. I'll be working at home and basically out of touch unless the church burns down or some other dire emergency occurs.

May this congregation have a great conversation with the Rev. Kate Walker. May it have great conversations within itself.

—Don Vaughn-Foerster

Program Highlights

Spring Workenanny
Sun, Apr 6

Labyrinth Walk
Sun, Apr 6, 6:30–8:30 pm
Meeting House

RE Open House
Tues, Apr 8, 7:00–8:00 pm
Hollin Hal Fireplace Room

Good Companions
11:45 am–12:45 pm: BYO Lunch
12:45–1:45 pm: Speaker
Tues, Apr 8—**Harold McClendon**
Tues, Apr 22—**Pat Maddox**
Hollin Hall

**Call to Special
Membership Meeting**
Sun, Apr 13, 12:45 pm
Meeting House



**MOUNT VERNON
UNITARIAN CHURCH**

INTERIM MINISTER

The Rev. Don Vaughn-Foerster

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~ ~ ~

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Mark Your Calendar!

Spring Workenanny

Sun, April 6

(See Page 7)

Labyrinth Walk

April 6, 6:30-8:30 pm

Meeting House

RE Open House

Tuesday, April 8, 7:00-8:00 pm

Hollin Hall Fireplace Room

(See Page 3)

Call to Special Membership Meeting

Sunday, April 13, 12:45 pm

Action on motion to call settled minister. (See Page 9)

Good Companions

11:45 am-12:45 pm: BYO Lunch

12:45-1:45 pm: Speaker

Hollin Hall

Tuesday, April 8—Harold McClendon: *Using Genealogy to Uncover Your Family's Hidden Secrets.* Find out about aunts and uncles that you never knew existed. Learn all of the details about an ancestor's military career in the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Civil War, or World War I. All it takes is a little time and effort to uncover the past.

Harold began to research his family some 15 years ago. He started out helping his son with a school project on the history of his family and has never stopped looking for his ancestors. Currently he serves as the Publicity Chairman for the Mount Vernon Genealogical Society, which was founded in 1991 and has 300 active members.

Tuesday, April 22—Pat Maddox: *Ten Cruises So Far—What Fun!* Pat and Rex were part of a naval group (WWII) with whom they went on a cruise to Alaska. That was a great experience and they continued after that on their own, going annually—all on the *Holland America* Line. There are many varied activities aboard ships, plus popular ones for children. She has memories to tell you about those trips and the many countries she visited. She declares that living on cruises is cheaper than living at home!

Religious Education

By **Meagan Henry**, Director of Religious Education (DRE)

Our spirituality is our deep, reflective, and expressed response to the awe, wonder, joy, pain and grief of being alive.—**Sarah Gibb Millspaugh**

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to announce this year's Religious Education Open House on April 8 in the Fireplace Room of Hollin Hall from 7:00–8:00pm. We will have examples of lessons from the new *Tapestry of Life* curriculum we plan to use next year for Kindergarten through fifth grade. I will speak briefly about this exciting new curriculum and be available to answer your questions.

The Adult RE Chair, **George Ball**, will present information regarding our Adult Religious Education program and ideas for the fall. The RE Council members will be in attendance and they are looking forward to hearing your comments and suggestions for Religious Education at MVUC.

In addition, we have a lovely slideshow of pictures from throughout the year to share with you.

If all of this isn't enough to entice you, **Rev. Kate Walker** will be in attendance! This is a great opportunity for you to meet her and talk with her about Religious Education.

Spirit of Life begins April 2, 7:30 pm, in Hollin Hall. Too often we get so busy doing the work of the church that we forget to take time to focus on our spiritual lives. The *Spirit of Life* classes offer an opportunity to identify spiritual moments in our lives, meditate on what it means to us as individuals and members of a community to engage with our spirituality and share our thoughts in discussion with others.

The classes are stand-alone workshops, and you are welcome to attend them as your schedule permits. Additional class dates are: 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30, 5/7, 5/14, 5/21, 5/28.

Blessings,

~Meagan

April Children and Youth RE Class Schedule:

K–5th Grade (Meets after For All Ages of both services.)

- The Green Hill Project -

- 4/6 Animals In Our Community
- 4/13 Reduce Your Use
- 4/20 RE Annual Earth Day Creek Clean-up
- 4/27 Playground Workday – Cobb Playhouse
- 5/4 The 3 C's: Compost, deComposition, and Conservation

Jr. High (6th-8th Grade)—Compass Points (Meets only during 11:15 service in Hollin Hall, Fireplace Room)

- 4/6 Attend Candidate Sunday Service and Church Workenanny
- 4/13 Lesson # 27: Universalism: What Are We Good For?
- 4/20 Old Rag Hike
- 4/27 RE Annual Earth Day Creek Cleanup
- 5/4 Lesson #28: Two Paths Become One

YRUU (Young Religious UUs) 9th–12th Grade (Meets during 11:15 am service in the Carriage House, YRUU room.)

- *4/6 Meet with Rev. Kate Walker, 3pm

Coming of Age Class for 8th–9th Grade (Meets Sundays, 4:00–6:00 pm, Hollin Hall, 1st floor)

High School Our Whole Lives Class (Meets Sundays, 4:00–6:00 pm, Carriage House, 2nd floor)

Please check the RE page of the MVUC website for updates! (www.mvuc.org)

Melodie's Musings

by Melodie Feather, Music Director

I recently ran across a quote by **Pat Conroy**: "Without music, life is a journey through a desert." This got me to thinking about the musical selections for worship services in a different way.

In most worship services, there always seems to be an assumption that there would be at least one hymn included. Recently, I've started to ask why that is. Is this a ritual that we cling to, or is it a desire for a deeper meaning that embraces the service theme, or is there a "need" that only music can provide?

For many, I assume the lyrics are of utmost concern in selecting hymns. While I won't dispute that lyrics are important, I also believe that the style of the music is just as critical. As I discuss music and hymn selections during the planning process, I find that I am attempting to put myself within that time and space of the planned worship service to see how the music "feels." Then I try to imagine what effect it might have on those singing it. And lastly, what does the hymn do for the participant? Does it heal, frustrate, calm, energize, motivate, or inspire? So the question for me becomes, "What is the intended purpose of the worship leader(s), and does this selection meet the criteria?"

From my perspective, there are many reasons to choose a hymn or a particular musical selection. Those of us making these decisions know what we would like to convey, but we never really know how successful we are in achieving the goal. For each participant will react in a different way, and what may feel good to one person may leave another hurt, angry, or with unpleasant memories.

If a particular hymn or musical selection moves you during a service, I hope you will share that with me....whether it is positive or upsetting—both of these experiences are important to me. I look forward to hearing from you!

Blessings,
Melodie



Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) Report

We have a Ministerial Candidate and her name is **Rev. Kate Walker!**

We look forward to introducing you to Rev. Kate Walker, currently of Unitarian Universalist Church of Meadville, Pennsylvania (www.uumeadville.org). We are thrilled that Kate has also chosen us, and she is looking forward to meeting our congregation during Candidating Week, April 5-13.

Kate earned her Masters of Divinity from Starr King School for the Ministry in 1997, a BA in Mass/Speech Communication from the University of Denver, a MA in Social Ecology from Goddard College in Vermont, and has been the settled minister at the UU Church of Meadville, Pennsylvania for the past ten years.

Kate will be preaching on two Sundays, April 6 and 13, at both services. She will attend Good Companions on Tuesday, April 8, and the RE Open House that evening at 7:00 pm; ET lunch on Thursday, April 10; a Social Justice Forum on Saturday, April 12, 9:30 am-12:30 pm; and will be our guest of honor at a Congregational Dinner hosted by the MSC on Saturday evening, April 12. She will be meeting with the Board of Trustees, Program Council, Contemplative Group, Caring Associates, Membership Committee, Sunday Services Committee, MVUC Staff and others. We will get a complete schedule posted as soon as we can. The week culminates at a congregational meeting on Sunday, April 13, directly following the 11:15 service, where a motion will be made to accept her as our settled minister. We'll need a minimum of 50% voting members participating.

Kate is energetic, warm and welcoming. She is a good listener and communicator and has a great sense of humor. We hope that you will make it to one or both of her Sundays! We'd love to have her preach to a full house! We also hope that you will be able to attend the congregational dinner and bring any questions that you have.—From your Ministerial Search Committee: **Jane Nelson, Omran Hasan, Pam Tinker, Marty Bredeck, Sandy Peterson, Vince Patton, and Kathi McNeil**

Activities On and Off the Hill

Successful Stewardship Dinner—March 15

All had a wonderful time! How could they not!

We were entertained during hors d'oeuvres and dinner by the Mt. Vernon Dixieland Band. Our own musicians, **Eric Pouchot**, **Tom Griffin**, **Heather Griffin**, and **Peter Mosley** provided entertainment. **Jay Holmes** and **Alan Bunner** sang. Peter Mosley gave another great performance as Mann, miming some of the activities in which we participate as part of our life at MVUC. **Mike Walker** lent his dry wit to the Emcee job. And, they got all of us into the act! We had hoped to include the children who attended, but they were having too much fun romping on the hill.

Raleigh Romine again provided wonderful assistance with sound. Set-up and clean-up even went incredibly smoothly. It was all a lot of fun!

Thanks to all who made this another great event, another happy memory of time spent at MVUC!

Wendy Burns, Dinner Chair

Al Robbert, Stewardship Chair

Fairfax County Victims Assistance Network Hotline

The Fairfax County Victims Assistance Network hotline [VAN] is available 24/7 for help, for any resident who has been a victim of sexual assault or domestic violence, i.e., physical or emotional abuse, either in the past or recently. Services include free counseling, support groups, current information about the medical, legal, and psychological aspects of sexual assault and domestic violence, referrals to other resources such as the Women's Shelter, Victims Services personnel in every police station, specific medical treatment at hospitals, help with Safety Planning, educational programs on violence prevention and how to foster healthy relationships.

The hotline number is 703-360-7273, TTY 703-799-8253. To inquire about volunteering, call **Sarah White**, Volunteer Coordinator, at 703-704-6716. Volunteers go through a 40-hour training course, and when certified, they can pick their own hours to serve. The course is taught conveniently at the South County Building on Rte. 1. (**Annie Mechanic** (703-333-3004) has recently finished the training and can also answer questions about the program.)

Covenant Groups, Small-Group Ministry and Beyond

As **Rev. Don** reminded us in a February sermon, building community can be challenging in larger churches such as MVUC. Individuals, whether long-time members or new to the church, may find it difficult to integrate, find spiritual meaning, or fill a personal need unless smaller groups are available to respond to their needs.

In numerous UU churches across the country, the need to find a niche for each individual has led to the formation of covenant groups, and small-ministry groups. Their purpose is to offer a venue for spiritual growth through participation in small settings that permit closeness, confidentiality and intentionality. A usual covenant group is made up of eight to ten members, who covenant to support one another. The groups meet regularly; participants takes turns to speak, while the rest of the group listens. Covenant groups may be formed to provide support for people in time of need, such as divorce, death, or illness. Others can be formed to explore personal spirituality and growth. Small-ministry groups can take a variety of structures.

MVUC does not currently have either covenant groups or small-ministry groups. If there is interest in such groups, Rev. Don could provide initial guidance. Please contact Rev. Don, or **Georgia Pouchot** if you are interested.

What Does This Church Have To Offer An Atheist?

Alternatively, what does an atheist have to offer this church? If you are interested in discussing atheism and how non-believers fit into this church community, please consider participating in a conversation about this on April 24 at 7:30 pm in Hollin Hall. This will quite possibly be just the first of a series of meetings about atheism. We will also discuss the new wave of books being published about atheism and the increasingly aggressive critical tone against religion found in many of them. If interested, please contact **Ken Pilkenton** at 703-765-1553 or kpilk@cox.net.

UUA General Assembly (GA)

The annual meeting of UUA congregations, General Assembly, will be held in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, this year, June 25-29. MVUC is entitled to have eight delegates representing our congregation. If you are interested in attending, as a delegate or otherwise, please contact **Birgit Robbert** (703 299 9892).

Tom Lovejoy to Discuss the Effects of Global Climate Change on Ecological Systems and Biodiversity Sunday, April 27, at 10:00 am

At a special Sunday Service on April 27, **Dr. Thomas E. Lovejoy**, internationally known conservationist and president of the Heinz Center, will discuss how climate change is affecting natural systems and biological diversity in the U.S. and globally. The talk titled *Climate Change: Prospects for Nature* will focus on what we know and our options for the future. It promises to be interesting and informative. There will be only one service on April 27, at 10:00.

Tom Lovejoy has been President of the Heinz Center since May 2002. Before joining the Heinz Center, he was the World Bank's Chief Biodiversity Advisor and Lead Specialist for Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean and Senior Advisor to the President of the United Nations Foundation. Dr. Lovejoy has been Assistant Secretary and Counselor to the Secretary at the Smithsonian Institution, Science Advisor to the Secretary of the Interior, and Executive Vice President of the World Wildlife Fund—U.S. He conceived the idea for the Minimum Critical Size of Ecosystems project (a joint project between the Smithsonian and Brazil's INPA), originated the concept of debt-for-nature swaps, and is the founder of the public television series *Nature*. In 2001 he was awarded the prestigious Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement. Dr. Lovejoy served on science and environmental councils or committees under the Reagan, Bush, and Clinton administrations. He received his B. S. and Ph.D. (biology) degrees from Yale University.

The Heinz Center is a nonprofit, nonpartisan institution dedicated to improving the scientific and economic foundation for environmental policy by fostering collaboration among industry, environmental organizations, academia, and government in each of its program areas and projects.

Building our Hill of Dreams: Stewardship Campaign in Full Swing

Our annual campaign to gather financial commitments from members and friends is now in full swing. By now, if you are a regular contributor, you should have heard from a member of the congregation—a visiting steward—seeking to have a conversation with you about the mission of the church and its meaning to you. Visiting stewards will also help you find answers to any questions you might have regarding the financial condition of the church. After that conversation, the visiting steward will ask you to make a financial commitment for the coming year.

If you are not a regular contributor, you have probably received a letter asking you to make a financial commitment without the benefit of a visit. If you are in that category, but would like to have a conversation with a visiting steward, please contact **Al Robbert** (703-299-9892, aarobbert@comcast.net), who will arrange one for you.

With or without a visit, please seriously consider making a financial commitment to the church this year. We need to know how many of our dreams for this holy hill can be made into reality.

—**Al Robbert**, Stewardship Committee Chair

Green Sanctuary News

The Green Sanctuary co-sponsored the town hall meeting, "A Tale of Two Coal Plants: Virginia's Clean Energy Future," on February 5 in Alexandria City. Speakers included **Congressman Jim Moran**, **Vice-Mayor Del Pepper**, and representatives of Chesapeake Climate Action Network, Sierra Club, Greater Washington Interfaith Power & Light (GWIPL), and several other organizations. About 200 people attended, including about 10 members of MVUC. Residents are urged to write or call **Governor Kaine** (804-786-2211; www.governor.virginia.gov) and state legislators to declare the need for clean energy, not new coal.

—**Ann Kaupp**

Join UUs from around the country in Niagara Falls, July 20-23, 2008: Come experience the wonder of Niagara Falls. including some great educational opportunities while being taken care of like royalty. The UU Church of Niagara is conducting a four-day UU Niagara Experience, which is a lifetime opportunity to encounter the Falls up close from every perspective. Spend four days with us exploring the rich history and natural beauty around the Falls. For information visit our web site <http://www.uunex.net>. You don't have to be UU to join us.

Activities On and Off the Hill

**Spring Workenanny!
Sunday, April 6,**

We are all the stewards of MVUC's "Hill of Dreams." We are asked during our annual pledge drive, going on now, to share our treasure. We are also asked to give of our time and talent. Workenanny is a great way to share our time to help keep up this wonderful hill. Please come if you can on Sunday, April 6, to work on needed maintenance of our grounds and enjoy the company of others in a relaxed outdoor setting. If you do not do heavy work, come anyway, kibitz with the workers, and become a learning observer during a grounds tour (at about 12:30 pm) shortly after the Service ends, led by the Grounds Chairman. The tour will explain the two new rain gardens and identify other existing and planned features in a circular route of the grounds, including new children's playground features. Let's show our new nominee minister on her first speaking Sunday what the community at MVUC is like by attending this Workenanny to celebrate spring.

Sign up sheets will be in the Commons for the week starting Sunday March 30 (so we know how much pizza to get). Use the sheet for Workenanny Workers, take on a task, and get a free pizza lunch. Sign on the sheet for Workenanny Grounds Tour Only, come to the lunch and make a donation for the pizza. Or just join the tour.

For job assignments look for the separate list of tasks with Wendy or Alvin. To offer to do a specific job of your choosing see or call Al Macomber (703) 780-3489. Quiet jobs start at 10:30 am; lunch is scheduled for 1:15 pm, and clean up will finish by 3:30 pm. Tasks also may be committed to and completed later on your own schedule. See you there!

Alvin Macomber and Wendy Burns
Grounds Committee

**The Easy Way to Pay
Your Pledge to MVUC**

You can make regular payments to MVUC without having to write checks or remember when they're due. Just fill out a simple form authorizing the money to be debited each month from your checking

or savings account. To automate your contributions, contact **Ron Brandt**, Administrator, admin@mvuc.org or **Al Erickson**, Treasurer, aerickson@cox.net.

Mt. Vernon Meals on Wheels

The Mt. Vernon route needs a group coordinator and a treasurer as soon as possible. The Meals on Wheels program is a vital service that allows older members of our community to remain in their homes longer. The coordinator and treasurer positions are critical roles that need filled as soon as possible, but if someone is interested in driving, that opportunity is available also. Contact **Kathy Shinal**, Volunteer Solutions Recruiter, Fairfax Area Agency on Aging, 703-324-5410; or visit the web at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/aaa.

Caring Associates Announcement

As part of the assistance that the Caring Associates offer, we now have used rehabilitation equipment that has been donated for lending to members for short-term use. Items include travel wheelchairs, commodes, raised toilet seats, crutches, walkers and shower chairs. Let a Caring Associate know if you need any of these items.

Call **Sandy Peterson** at 703-768-2565 if you have rehab equipment that you would like to donate.

Contact information for the Caring Associate for the week and Caring Associate Coordinator (CAC) can be found each week in the Order of Service and in the Member Services area of the church website. As always, the MVUC staff and volunteers are willing to assist you during normal business hours. Please direct any questions or concerns to **Betsy Stephens** (betsys2@verizon.net) or **Meg Clontz** (megclontz@cox.net).



**RE Youth
April
Birthdays!**



- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Will Narins | 13 Keller Collins |
| 1 Jack Irish | 14 Naomi Masterson |
| 3 Elliott Jernigan | 15 Emma Boel |
| 4 Kevin Sargent | 16 Boede Offringa |
| 5 Michael Sears | 21 Nate Sinn |
| 8 Katelyn Sargent | 26 James Dressing |
| 8 Ian Anderson | 30 Will Neer |
| 12 Griffin Colaizzi | 30 Alexa Sears |
| 13 Devon Des Jardins | |



OUR LARGER WORLD NEWS

Social Justice Programs at the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church

Love is the teaching of this church, and service is its prayer.

Route 1 Task Force News

Task force members and supporters were busy this winter. In December, we collected 100 unwrapped holiday gifts for the families of United Community Ministries (UCM), and donated thousands of pounds of food, clothing and other household items to UCM, Rising Hope Methodist Mission Church, Eleanor Kennedy Shelter for the homeless, and On Our Own, a Fairfax County program for the mentally ill.

From December until March, we fed the homeless in the framework of Ventures in Community Hypothermia Project (VIC-HOP). In February, we supported UCM's Transitional Skills Program. In March, our RE families prepared 15 Easter baskets for the families of Rising Hope Methodist Mission Church. The Candy Swing continued to raise money for UCM monthly, from candy vending machines along the Rt. 1 corridor. Over one hundred MVUC members and friends and seven church groups were involved in these activities.

Special thanks go to the following groups: the Contemplative Group, the Every Thursday group, the Junior Youth Group (6-8 graders), the RE Council, the Social Justice Council, TAWANDA and YRUU (9-12 graders).

The following either prepared a meal, spent the night overseeing the homeless shelter, coordinated gift and food drives, or supported the activities of this busy winter: **Ian Anderson; Tina Bak-Brevik; Nancy Barkume; Susan Barrett, Peg Bartel; Ruth Bennett; Marybeth Bernhard; Terry Bradley; Becky, Bonnie, Dorothy, and Ron Brandt; Marty Bredeck; Keith Brophy; Isabel Cavallero; Anjum, Leah, and Shahad Choudhury; Meg Clontz; Dave Coakley; Mike Walker; Helen Haltzel; Sarah Sertic; Jan Vaughan; Kim and Lincoln Cobb; Jane Hess Collins; Angel, Keller, and Parker Collins; Beth Conway; Elza Daniel; Joan Darrah; Tamara de la Camp; Renee Desrosiers; Maggie Farley; Marya Fitzgerald; Camber and McKenna Freeze; Jeanne Gayler; Ilene and Lisa Gillispie; Leila**

Goodman; Deborah Hansell and Olivia Hansell-Foster; Basema Hasan; Caroline and Laurie Hayden; Sally Henrehan; Meagan Henry; Calvin Hentges; Bea Holmes; Jo Jackley; Barbara and Bryan Jacobs; Doug and Linda Jemison; Elliott, Laura, Rob, and Will Jernigan; Lynne Kennedy; Jim Kerr; Helen and Joe Kitrosser; Keith Krogh; Linda Lloyd; Carl Lohmann; Brian and Helen Lounsbury; Betsy Lowry; Paula Mathis; Dotty Ann McClelland; Addie McGee; Malcolm McNeil; Rachel Morgan; Joe and Lauryne Morris; Peter Mosley; Lara Mulvaney; Seileen and Steve Murphy; Dolan and Rowan Napier; Karen Offringa; Sophia Passacantando; Kate Penn; Ken and Raina Pilkenton; Jim Potter; Georgia and Michael Pourchot; Janet Powers; Chuck Reams; Sally Joy Remington; Ben Roberts; Kris Rosenthal; Jackie and Ralph Scherer; Karna Schwimmer; Michael Sears; Michael Seay; Rebecca Stier; Nina Tisara; Nicolas Walker; Lauck and Linda Walton; Louise Werner-Rhoades; Marge Witting; and Betsy Yarrison."

Thank you, MVUC!

—Georgia Pourchot



Mike Walker, Helen Haltzel, Sarah Sertic and Jan Vaughn, feeding the homeless, January 2008. Photo by Georgia Pourchot

Board Chips

by Jim Potter, Chair, Board of Trustees

We have two important congregational meetings coming up in April. I look forward to seeing you at both!

We are meeting at 12:45 PM on April 13 to decide whether to call **Rev. Kate Walker** as our settled minister. Be on time, or you may miss the meeting; the vote on Rev. Kate is the only item of business. You will have to register with a member of the Board to vote, which you can do that day or by absentee ballot.

According to Article IX (Minister(s)), paragraph 1 of the Bylaws:

Appointment. A new minister shall be called, upon the recommendation of the Ministerial Search Committee, by a four-fifths (80%) majority of the resident members of the church present or authorized to vote by proxy or by absentee ballot, at any meeting legally called for the purpose. Quorum for such a meeting shall be fifty percent (50%) of the resident members, including proxies and absentee ballots.

The Ministerial Search Committee is very high on this candidate. You will have a chance to make your own assessment the week between April 6 and April 13. Rev. Walker will be in the pulpit on both April 6 and April 13 and will be quite accessible that week.

It is an exciting time for MVUC. Be a part of it!

On April 27 we will have a second congregational meeting at 5:00 PM—our annual meeting. You will be asked to vote on the candidates for the Board selected by the Nominating Committee. You will hear reports from me on the state of the church, from **Lauck Walton** on the state of our finances and next year's budget, from **Reid Adler** on the Board's strategic plan, and from **Bill Clontz** on the state of the construction project.

We will be brief. However, if you have comments you wish to share with the congregation, you will have as much time as you need. I decided against having one meeting because the Board needs time to deliberate on the proposed budget for 2008-2009. You may want more time to reflect on MVUC's priorities and finances as well.

Our operating budget is in the red for the third straight year, but it appears that we could operate this way for a very long time; and your Board sees sun breaking through the clouds—giving us a glimpse of our "Hill of Dreams!"

We plan to have several informal meetings with you in April to discuss the Board's priorities, gain your input, and discuss the Board's strategic plan and proposed budget.

Call to Special Membership Meeting Sunday, April 13, 12:45 pm

Action on Motion to Call the Reverend Kate Walker as Our Settled Minister.

Voting at the Meeting—A voting member who expects to vote in the business meeting must **confirm his or her membership and obtain a ballot with Board of Directors election officials in the Commons** between services or immediately after the second service on April 13. The vote will be by secret ballot, and the result will be announced at the meeting for all to hear. Rev. Walker will not attend the congregational meeting but will be close by. When Rev. Walker hears the results of the election, it is her choice to accept or reject the call. There will be a reception for Rev. Walker immediately after the meeting if she decides to accept the call.

Proxy Votes—A voting member who cannot attend the meeting may authorize in writing another voting member to vote for him or her. Each voting member in attendance may hold only one proxy vote. Voting members intending to vote a proxy should request an extra ballot when they register.

Absentee Votes—A voting member who cannot attend the meeting may cast an absentee ballot with a Board representative in the Commons on April 6 or in the church office, between 9:30 am, Monday, April 7, and 2:00 pm, Friday, April 11.

Nursery Care and Child Care Provided.

Care for infants up to three years old will be provided in the nursery, and supervised child care for three years and above will be available in Hollin Hall.

Sermons for Your Re-Hearing

Each Sunday's service is recorded and available on CD. If you would like a copy, please speak with **Raleigh Romine** or **Joanne Ell**.

A Month of Sundays

*Services at 9:30 am and 11:15 am
(except as otherwise noted)
in the Remington Chapel*

April 6

Did You See the Moonwalking Bear?
Rev. Kate R. Walker

April 13

Seeking Confirmation
Rev. Kate R. Walker

April 20

The Myths That Move Us
Rev. Don Vaughn-Foerster

April 27

Climate Change: Prospects for Nature
Dr. Thomas E. Lovejoy
President, Heinz Center
Service begins at 10:00 am

May 4

The Essence of Religion
Melodie Feather and MVUC Choir

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