

Windmill

Mount Vernon Unitarian Church

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

MAY 1, 2008

Interim Minister's Column

By the Reverend Don Vaughn-Foerster



The Rev. Kate Walker has been called to the ministry of Mount Vernon Unitarian Church and she has accepted the call. The future is now not one about which to wonder, but one for which to plan. From what I have seen in both the Rev. Walker and this congregation, this will be an exceedingly good "fit" and the future holds great promise.

As my time with MVUC goes into its last phase, I have been reflecting on my experiences both here and with the other interim ministries I have had since leaving the settled ministry seven years ago. All of these ministries have been both challenging and enjoyable because they all have struggled (mostly joyfully) with what it takes to be clear-headed and authentic in a world that lets people get by with so much thoughtlessness and sham. Resolutions to problems and issues sometimes have been a bit hard to come by because earnest people sometimes find it difficult to cooperate with other equally earnest people. But, only occasionally has goodwill been lacking enough seriously to exacerbate a problem. My experience with other congregations, as with my experience here at MVUC, affirms the usefulness of, the need for, and the joy of interim ministry.

And the reality is that, especially when the interim is winding down, there usually are some significant things still to be done. If they are not done, the incoming minister may be unnecessarily saddled with old problems when her energies should be directed toward new issues. For one thing, in the case of MVUC, there is at least some thought that needs to be directed toward infrastructure, namely how committees actually are comprised and function. And there are the Sunday services that I find both challenging and rewarding. Thus, I still feel employed; and I look forward to sharing a productive May and June with you before July catches up with me and I have to move on.

—Rev. Don Vaughn-Foerster

Program Highlights

The Spiritual Journey

Sunday Service, May 4

Presented by **MVUC Choir**,
Davies Recorder Duo, and
Guest Artist, **Thomas Poole**

Celebrate Spring!

Sunday, May 4, 4:00-6:00 pm
Walled Garden

Good Companions

11:45 am–12:45 pm: BYO Lunch

12:45–1:45 pm: Speaker

Tues, May 13—**Grant Fulkerson**

Tues, May 27—**Erica Hershler**
Hollin Hall



**MOUNT VERNON
UNITARIAN CHURCH**

INTERIM MINISTER

The Rev. Don Vaughn-Foerster

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(Four new Board Members will be included next month.)

~ ~ ~

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The Windmill is published monthly.
Deadline for articles is the fifteenth of the month.
Items will be edited to fit available space.
Please e-mail articles to newsletters@mvuc.org.

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PLEASE NOTE!

Our "summer season," holding only one service on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am, will begin May 25.

Mark Your Calendar!

The Spiritual Journey
Sunday Service, May 4

This service will be a special presentation by Melodie Feather and MVUC Choir, with the **Davies Recorder Duo** and a special guest artist, **Thomas Poole**. You won't want to miss it! (See Page 4.)

Celebrate Spring!
Sunday, May 4, 4:00-6:00 pm
(See page 5.)

Good Companions
11:45 am–12:45 pm: BYO Lunch
12:45–1:45 pm: Speaker
Hollin Hall

Tuesday, May 13—Grant Fulkerson: *Lighthouses—A Guide to Mariners for More Than 2000 Years*. Grant, a retired navy officer, will give a history of lighthouses, how they have been used, and are used currently by sailors around the world to navigate dangerous waters. A slide presentation will show some of the world's most famous lighthouses and present the stories that made them famous. Questions will be encouraged.

Tuesday, May 27—Erica Hershler: *Hot Pix, Zoom Text, and Insect Identification*. Ms. Hershler, who has been at the Martha Washington library for nine years, will be explaining what all these things have in common. These are just a few of the many services available at your local library. There are talking books, inter-library loans, internet, Metro fares, book clubs, etc. Come and learn of the many helpful services now available.

Youth Picnic and Canoe-Kayak Outing
at Mason Neck State Park
Sunday, May 18, 2008
Depart MVUC after 11:15 am service
(See page 4.)

Religious Education (RE)

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,

We have been quite busy in RE and there are so many things to tell you about that I've struggled to pick which items to put in this column. I think the best thing to do is to give you a brief listing of as many as possible.

The Green Hill Project is moving right along! We are growing vegetables and flowers and we have a new composting container next to our garden. Children learned how to pack a waste-free lunch, and they decorated canvas bags for use at home instead of plastic bags. We had a very successful though wet creek clean-up. Several bags of trash were gathered out of the woods and creek that runs along Ft. Hunt Road at the bottom of Mason Hill. We built a natural playhouse in the back corner of the playground. In May, we will have a visit from Joy Jacobs, who works for a CSA (Consumer Supported Agriculture), and we will learn what "certified organic" means and the value of buying and eating locally grown food. And, we are looking forward to eating some of the food we're growing at our end of the year RE picnic on May 25.

Big plans are in the works for our intergenerational RE service on May 18. This is a special service for a number of reasons. We will have a ceremony of Bridging to recognize our rising 9th graders and our graduating high school seniors. I'm looking forward to honoring our dedicated RE teachers and sharing with the congregation the importance and benefits of a UU religious education. We will hear comments about RE from members representing a wide age-range of people in our congregation. We will have wonderful music from our Kids' Choir, the Voices of Youth, and some of our high school students. This service is truly for and by all ages!

YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists) is our program for high school youth, grades 9–12. This year has been quite productive with many group building activities, including discussion classes, a lock-in, making breakfast bags, and organizing the

May Children and Youth RE Class Schedule:

Pre-K (Meets in the Carriage House during the first service only.)

- *Chalice Children* -
- 5/4 May Day
- 5/11 Mother's Day
- 5/18 Closing Sunday
- 5/25 RE End-of-Year Picnic and Games

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

- *The Green Hill Project* -
- 5/4 The 3 C's: Compost, deComposition, and Conservation
- 5/11 Local Foods Guest Speaker and Seedling Planting
- 5/18 No Class—Attend RE Service
- 5/25 RE End-of-Year Picnic and Games

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

- *Compass Points* -
- 5/4 Lesson #28: Two Paths Become One
- 5/11 Group Cookbook
- 5/18 No Class—Attend RE Service
- 5/25 RE End-of-Year Picnic and Games
- 6/1 Attend Coming of Age Service

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

- 5/4 Check-in
- 5/11 YRUU in Bridging Celebration Class
- 5/18 No Class—Attend RE Service (All Church Bridging Ceremony)
- 5/25 RE End-of-Year Picnic and Games

Coming of Age Class for 8th-9th Grade

(Meets Sundays, 4:00–6:00 pm, Hollin Hall, 1st floor)

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

Religious Education

From Page 3, Dear Friends

Youth Service. The group met recently to begin plans for next year. Our biggest challenge this year has been that we only have two adults serving as youth advisors. If you are an adult who is open-minded towards supporting youth needs and interests and are willing to commit to an average of two Sundays each month, September through May, please consider serving as a youth advisor. We have amazing youth who are inspired to do great things. Now, all they need are a few more committed adult allies.

Lastly, and most importantly, I hope everyone is aware of what a fantastic year in RE this has been! Our average attendance is up from last year, and we are seeing many familiar faces and new friends. Please take some time to look at the sample Tapestry of Faith lessons in the Commons and sign up to teach next year. We need you!

Sincerely, Meagan Henry

**MVUC Youth Picnic and Canoe-Kayak
Outing at Mason Neck State Park
Sunday, May 18, 2008
Depart MVUC after 11:15 Service**

The drive is about 30 minutes south to Mason Neck State Park, where we will have a group cookout (burgers and dogs). After lunch we will launch our boats and paddle along the shore of Belmont Bay and then up Kane's Creek. We should see osprey, eagles and a beaver dam and pond. The paddling is appropriate for beginners and we will provide instructions as desired. We should be on the water about two hours, perhaps somewhat longer, depending on the tides and weather conditions. Siblings, parents, the Jr. High Youth Group, YRUU, and adults from the church are welcome on this outing.

Contact Advisor **Carl Lohmann**, 703-799-7996, cjlohmann@cox.net, for information and to sign up for the outing. We need to know in advance the number of people and boats in order to plan the picnic food and to borrow/rent canoes. Please indicate as soon as possible the number of students and adults who plan to join us and also whether you have your own boats, any room for additional paddlers/passengers, or whether you will need a boat or space in a boat.

Melodie's Musings

by Melodie Feather, Music Director

The month of May at MVUC is going to be filled with lots of special music during the Sunday services! On Music Sunday, May 4, the service will be presented by the MVUC Choir, the **Davies Recorder Duo**, and a special guest artist, **Thomas Poole**. Thomas is a decades-long UU who has an international reputation as a lyric tenor! He is Professor of Music Emeritus at the University of Northern Colorado School of Music and has sung in many roles around the world. During the service, Thomas will be singing lieder and art songs that reflect the message of the service. **Barbara Schelstrate** will be the accompanist for this service again this year.

On Mother's Day, May 11, two of our young artists will be providing the music: **Kelly Watson** and **Sally Henrehan**. The **Voices of Youth** and **Kids' Choir** will be singing on May 18 and will be accompanied by several volunteer musicians. The **Adult Choir** will be singing again on May 25 for the single service at 10:00 am.

I encourage you to come let your hearts be filled!

Blessings,
Melodie

Book Sale Report

The Book Sale made about \$5,500 for the operating budget. Thanks to all those who helped and those who purchased books, games, and art!

The next sale will be March 26-28, 2009. Donations are being processed now. We are not accepting magazines, records, encyclopedias, or library discards. We would appreciate donations of puzzles, games, CDs, DVDs, books on tape, videos, books, and art as soon as possible.

Please don't wait until the last minute. If you are interested in joining the Wednesday morning book sale crew, please contact **Joan Wamsley** (703-751-6086) for more information.

Activities On and Off the Hill

Stewardship Campaign Nearing Completion

If you are an active member, a friend with a current stewardship commitment (our new term for a pledge), or a new member, you should have received a phone call and/or a visit by a visiting steward sometime during the past six weeks to talk about our church's mission and to ask for a stewardship commitment for the coming church year (July 2008 to June 2009). If you are an active member, but have not made a stewardship commitment in recent years, you should have received a letter asking you to consider making a commitment.

If you have already made your commitment, THANK YOU. If not, please try to do so this week so that we can wrap up the campaign and refine our fiscal planning for the coming year.

If we have somehow failed to get in touch with you, and you are interested in actively supporting our mission, please contact me at 703-299-9892, or arobbert@comcast.net, or find a stewardship commitment card on the credenza in the Commons, complete it, and drop it into the mail slot in the church office.

Al Robbert

Stewardship Committee Chair

Paper Cups for Coffee Hour

We ordered paper cups, both hot and cold, for use at Coffee Hour. Although this is largely a symbolic move, we hope to send the message that we do care about our environment, even though paper cups cost more initially. (We have already switched to Fair Trade/Shade Grown Coffee.)

If you are willing, please keep a ceramic mug in your car to use at Coffee Hour and then take home. We have insufficient room to store everyone's mugs, but if you forget to bring your own, a paper cup will be available. Also, please remember, no budget line item exists to pay for coffee/cups/snacks, so donations are always welcomed and needed!

Thanks to everyone in advance!

Kay Youngflesh

Congratulations to MVUC Members A Settled Minister Has Been Called!

On April 13, following the morning service, our congregation overwhelmingly approved calling the **Reverend Kate Walker** as our settled minister. Rev. Walker accepted and will begin serving MVUC on August 1, 2008.

On behalf of the Ministerial Search Committee (MSC), we thank all of you for your support in the past year. You gave us the answers to the question, "What do you want in a minister?" You gave us the financial support to do our job and to offer a fair compensation salary as directed by UUA guidelines. You filled out surveys, came to committee and cottage meetings, and warmly welcomed Kate during our Candidating Week. You took the time to share kind and supportive words with us during the process.

Congratulations and thank you! Your input made it possible for the MSC to select an outstanding candidate who fully met your approval.—MSC Committee: **Jane Nelson, Omran Hasan, Pam Tinker, Marty Bredeck, Sandy Peterson, Vince Patton, and Kathi McNeil**

Celebrate Spring! Sunday, May 4, 4:00-6:00 pm

Please join the MVUC/FHP (Fort Hunt Pre-School) Natural Playground Project for a story-telling and musical event on Sunday, May 4, in the Walled Garden from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. Bring a blanket for your family to sit on, or use the chairs that will be set up inside the garden. We welcome you to see the progress we have made on the playground so far.

You will hear stories told by our own storytellers, **Penelope Fleming** and **Gioia Chilton**. Also, our new storyteller's chair will be unveiled. **Eric Pourchot** and friends will lead the music and a sing-along. Fort Hunt Preschool parents will sell picnic goodies and snacks to benefit the project. Also, donations for the Natural Playground Project will be accepted.

Please, come Celebrate Spring! Questions? Ask: **Meagan Henry, Gail McNulty, Kristen Rich, or Wendy Burns**

Rainy Spring Workenanny Declared a Success!

Although Sunday, April 6, was cool and overcast with frequent periods of light rain, a great many stalwarts came to trim, dig, build, haul, and plant! Given the weather and the fact that it was the first Sunday with our ministerial candidate, we appreciate the turnout and are especially grateful for the families who came with their children and worked together to keep up our hill.

Many projects were accomplished. **Keith Brophy; CJ Crebbs; Linda, Lauck, Morgan and Erika Walton;** and **Tamara DeLaCamp, Jim, Lachlan,** and **Malcolm Kerr** worked in the playground area sculpting a serpent's back and in an area below the Walled Garden being developed for story telling.

Steve Murphy resurrected the fallen property line fence along our property line, with help from **Carl Lohmann, Joe Kitrosser and Al Macomber.** **Kristen and Chris Reidy** led a group of preschool parents in the Carriage House area building planters. **Marty Bredeck,** helped by **Priya,** cut and hauled dead limbs, as did **David Napier** and **Doug MacCleery.** **Carl Lohmann and Joe Kitrosser** dug out two large dead boxwoods in the mud and planted a smaller boxwood along the flagstone path. **Dolan, Rowan,** and **Lisa Napier** worked on the herb garden. **Angel Collins** worked on the Bride's Garden. **Annie Mechanic** removed ivy from oak trees along side the Walled Garden. New member **Sarah Sertic** got dirty with the rest of us, pruning boxwood around the Walled Garden.

Behind Hollin Hall, **Diana Macomber** pruned the wisteria arbor and **Bill Boissenin** cut dead boxwood out of the maze. **Ron Kellis** started repairs on the Greenhouse, Turkey Shed roof, and flagstone path.

Bill Alsmeyer-Johnson put in signs that **Bob Schultz** mounted, and **Lynn Alsmeyer-Johnson** hauled brush to recycling. **Pat Bossman** worked on our firewood and chipping piles. **Darbi** and **Summer Bossman** did the litter patrol, while **Faith** watched from her stroller. **Becky Brandt** hauled loads of firewood and limbs from the dogwood grove to recycling.

A pizza lunch was organized and served by **Dorothy Brandt** and **Diana Macomber.** What a welcome break on that cold and rainy day! And what a worthy crew! The Workenanny tasks were organized and assigned by **Alvin Macomber** and **Wendy Burns.** The scheduled grounds informational walking tour conducted by **Al Macomber** was attended by seven people in a light rain. We'll do another on a sunnier day!

While we have tried to recognize all Workenanny participants, we send apologies to any we may have inadvertently failed to identify. Thank you all for a job well done!

Alvin Macomber and Wendy Burns

Congregational Meeting—April 13

The Board of Trustees would like to apologize to anyone impacted by our error in starting the meeting before the scheduled start-time. As a result of this decision, a few members were not afforded the opportunity to vote or to provide comment. In no way did the Board wish to prevent anyone from full participation in the decision to call our next minister. Preventing even one member from full participation is too many. Members of the Board have attempted to identify everyone who might have been impacted and have already apologized to each person.

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

Caring Community News

Partner Church News

Thanks to everyone who attended the Partner Church Dinner on March 29. The Hungarian and Indian food was delicious, the entertainment by the WPHS Colonial Singers was great, and we raised about \$1300 for our partner churches. Mark your calendars for the upcoming summer brunches on June 8 (Recognition Sunday), July 13, and August 10. It's a great way to socialize with your church friends, have a good meal, and support the Partner Church program. It's not too early to consider supporting a scholarship student next fall. If you'd like to sponsor a student in high school, trade school or university in Szentháromság, Romania, please let **Lisa Gillispie** know. When you help to educate a young person or an adult, you help to change lives.

Please send your prayers and positive thoughts to our partner church village in Mawlat, India, where their church lay leader has been hospitalized.

If you are going to General Assembly (GA), there are two partner church programs which can be found on the UUPCC website: <http://www.uupcc.org/genassembly.htm>. The international worship service is very moving and highly recommended. Also, two members of the Unitarian Union of NE India (UUNEI), **Pearl Green Marbaniang** and **Derrick Pariat**, will be attending GA this year.

Lisa Gillispie, Partner Church chair

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).

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.

A Special Joy—MVUC's Champion!

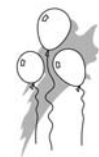
Mary Yarrison, who grew up at MVUC, is coming on strong as a potential Olympic diving champion! The Washington Post reported on April 15 that at a recent Grand Prix diving event in Moscow, she and her partner won the only medal for the United States, a bronze in the three-meter synchronized diving. Following that success, on April 17, Mary won gold and silver medals at the 2008 NCAA swimming and diving championships to cap off her senior year of college. Then just last week, Mary and her partner won their second national championship in synchronized diving, trading up the bronze in Moscow for a gold and earning themselves a spot on the US team for the upcoming Grand Prix meet in Fort Lauderdale in May. Most recently, Mary also qualified for the Olympic Trials in the women's three-meter at the US championships.

Mary's swimming career has been followed by her many former RE teachers and friends for over ten years—since she started missing Sunday School for dive meets when she was a little nine-year old diving in the 13-and-Under age group. Mary is the daughter of our own **Betsy** and **Jim Yarrison**.

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 May Birthdays!



1 Lucy Neer	23 Sarah Jesup
1 Christina Dillard	24 Caitlin Stewart
2 Arwyn Fleming	24 Alison Tashima
8 Syre Clark	25 Kiah McGhee
9 Tabitha Chilton	26 Emily Irish
10 Alexander Johnson	27 Alex Venzke
10 Kenneth Johnson	27 Rebecca Roberts
11 Parker Collins	30 Benn Mellinger
13 Mia Colaizzi	30 Dylan Mellinger
20 Ella Benbow	



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.

Inspiring Ideas, Sharing Resources, Working Together

Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice (UUSJ) presents congregations sharing ideas, resources, best practices and opportunities to work together, on Saturday, May 31, 8:30 am–1:00 pm at the UU Church of Arlington (www.uuca.va.org).

Workshops by congregations will include topics such as programming on anti-racism work, connecting to your local community through your social justice work, fundraising for social justice, involving young adults, and more. Attendees are welcome to stay for lunch from 1:00–1:30 pm and the UUSJ board meeting to follow.

Register by sending your name, congregation, phone, email and mail address to info@uusj.org or UUSJ, 8605 Cameron Street, Suite 200, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Come learn from and share with each other.

ACLU 2008 Membership Conference in Washington DC–June 8-10! Washington Convention Center

The theme of this year's conference is *Stop the Abuse of Power!* The conference will feature a third of the US Supreme Court in attendance, with Justices Antonin Scalia, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and David H. Souter con-

firmed to attend. Renowned experts on civil liberties will speak on topics of government surveillance, torture, the suspension of habeas corpus, increased government intrusion in private matters, and first-hand accounts from ACLU clients who had to fight for their civil rights in court.

The conference takes place between June 8 and 10, at the Washington Convention Center, 801 Mt. Vernon Place, NW, Washington DC. Early registration fees are available by May 4. There are discounts for young leaders, and single-day attendance options are offered. For additional information, check www.aclu.org/conference.

Religious Freedom, Pluralism and Equality. Is it possible?

UUs and all others who understand the value of religious freedom and religious pluralism will appreciate this article.

It points out how the founding fathers of this nation favored religious freedom, equality and pluralism, and were against sectarian religious bigotry and hypocrisy. It points out other important pieces of American history that are very relevant today. It's a must read for all Americans: www.reformationcomingsoon.bravehost.com/AmericanHistory.html. —Mary Ellsworth

Greenhouse News

Searching for 'Love in a Mist'? Wondering about the difference between Agastache and Salvia? Cannot wait to lay your hands on a Cherokee Purple or a Mortgage Lifter? Need a French Lavender and an Italian Basil? The MVUC Greenhouse is in the midst of its Spring Plant Sale, which is ongoing every weekend, Saturday and Sunday, from 10:00 am–2:00 pm until June 1. You will find a varied assortment of perennials, annuals, tomato and peppers, as well as herbs. Come see what we have been up to. Help is always welcome. If you have any questions, please call **Mary Barnett** at 703-360-7152.

Take Charge of Your Future!

Please join **Elaine Bronez** for an organizational meeting about how you can make your future more predictable and secure. Do you have a living will? If not, do you know what to do about it? Do you have insurance? If not, how can you protect yourself from predatory practices? Are your dear ones aging and you need advice on how to balance jobs, children and aging parents? These are some of the questions we will address at this initial meeting, on Sunday, May 25 at 11:30 am in the Fireplace Room of Hollin Hall. All are welcome. RSVP **Elaine Bronez**, 703-765-2346.

The **Journey Toward Wholeness** team of the Joseph Priestley District will hold two anti-racism caucuses on Saturday, May 3, from 10:00 am–3:00 pm, at Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church, 9601 Cedar lane, Bethesda, MD, 20814, www.cedarlane.org. One caucus will be for youth 12 and over; the other will be for young adults. The day will consist of age-related caucuses and a multimedia project time from 10:00 am–12:00 noon; lunch will cost \$5-\$10, followed by an intergenerational discussion from 1:00–3:00 pm. For further information, contact **Rev. Heather Janules**, hjanules@cedarlane.org or **Suzanne Crockett-Jones**, 443-417-7057.

Board Notes

by Lauck Walton—Chair, Board of Trustees

Farewell to Retiring Members of the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees would like to thank its retiring members for their dedicated service. These individuals served in interesting times and served with great distinction. We take comfort that all (except Ilene who will be off to college in the fall) will be on the Hill for support and guidance: **Wendy Burns, Jim Potter, Raleigh Romaine,** and **Ilene Gillespie**, YRUU representative.

Wednesday Fellowship Nights Are a Hit! Now What?

The Program Council launched the Fellowship Night program and for these past six months or so, it's been great fun for us all. It's a wonderful opportunity to have a varied and low cost meal together, enjoy a Vespers service, and take part in a range of fun activities for all ages, from adult study courses, to choir practices, to children's events, and more. Low-cost child care is provided and everyone is on the way home before 9:00 pm. On average, about 55 of us show up every month. New members, old timers, young families, retirees—you name us; we are there. This is community at its best.

Now we need a small team of volunteers to carry on the program in the new church year. The Program Council has enjoyed starting the ball rolling and establishing the system to make this an easy event to set up, but has to move its time and energies to other Council responsibilities. We really have this down to a system; it only takes about half a dozen people to make this go, and the time required outside the event itself is literally only minutes each month. We have a list of restaurants and food quantities, a checklist for setting up, etc. We will host a short working meeting at the May Fellowship Night (watch for announcements) to determine if we want to continue this event as a congregation. If so, the new team will be ready to go in short order. If not, May will be our last event, and we will look at restarting when volunteers are available. By the way, if one or more standing committees are interested in sponsoring this activity as a modest fundraiser for their programs, let's talk.

Give it a try! We promise you will have a good time hosting this event and will be glad you raised your hand to volunteer for this one.

Questions? Contact **Bill Clontz** (bill@theclontz.net), **Kim Cobb** (kimjcc@mac.com), or **Meagan Henry** (dre@mvuc.org).

Video Record

A small group is beginning work on the round stained glass window that will eventually be mounted on the front wall of the remodeled chapel. We are looking for a volunteer to create a video record of this process, from start to finish. If interested, please contact **George Churchill**, 703-768-11143, or e-mail 02xsgc@verizon.net.

United Community Ministries (UCM)

UCM is a non-profit agency which helps people with emergency and self-sufficiency services and has been a part of our community for over 39 years. Our mission is to assist families and individuals to improve the quality of their lives in a manner which builds their self-esteem and fosters their ability to function at the greatest level of their capacity - socially, economically and emotionally.

UCM's Back Porch Thrift Store has been a fixture in the community for 25 of those years and provides a valuable service to the community by helping residents to recycle gently used household items, while at the same time providing those items to UCM clients, other low income residents and to the general public who appreciate quality items at bargain prices. Presently, UCM is particularly in need of the following donations: used books (both hardback and paperback) for our recently expanded used book section; houseware items, particularly small kitchen appliances, sets of dishes, glassware, etc.; gently used furniture (free of stains and tears); mattresses and box springs (free of stains and tears).

Donation drop-off days are Mon-Wed and Fri-Sat, 10 am-5 pm. Furniture and other larger-item pickups can be arranged for Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday each week. Please call 703-768-7106, ext. 320 to arrange for a convenient truck pickup. For additional information, please go to www.ucmagency.org and click on the Back Porch. UCM is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation. All donations are tax deductible.

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*

May 4*The Spiritual Journey*

**MVUC Choir, Davies Recorder Duo,
and Special Guest Artist, Thomas
Poole**

May 11

The Paradox of Mothers' Day
Rev. Don Vaughn-Foerster

May 18

*For All Ages: A Celebration of
UU Religious Education*

**Meagan Henry and Friends from the
MVUC RE Program**

May 25

*Salvation and Patriotism:
A Service for Memorial Day*
Rev. Don Vaughn-Foerster
(Service at 10:00 am)

June 1

Coming of Age
A Service by Our MVUC Youth
(Service at 10:00 am)

**Mt. Vernon
Unitarian Church**
*1909 Windmill Lane
Alexandria, VA 22307*

Non-Profit Organization
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Alexandria, Virginia
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**Large-Type Version of
Windmill Available**

A large-type version of the Windmill is available for those who are visually impaired. Copies may be picked up on the credenza between the two front doors in the Commons.

Reminder to All MVUC E-Mail Users

To receive all weekly bulletins and special notices, please promptly notify **Esther Dickinson** (esthergertrude@verizon.net) whenever your e-mail address changes. Thank you!