

Windmill

Mount Vernon Unitarian Church

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

JUNE 1, 2008

Interim Minister's Column

By the Reverend Don Vaughn-Foerster



How would you define a situation when a congregation is locked in with you in an abandoned theater? "A potential lawsuit," said the attorney. "An emergency for the fire department or the police," said the building inspector. "A great opportunity," said the Interim Minister.

Obviously, MVUC has not been in an abandoned theater this past year. However, as abandoned theaters are caught between what they were and what they may become, so is a congregation without its regular settled minister caught between its past and its future. Such a situation is fraught with opportunity.

That's pretty much where we have been for the past year as Congregation and Interim Minister. The opportunities to examine what a church really means to us personally and collectively have been all around us. Many persons have taken the opportunity to examine what they believe to be the nature and the mission of this congregation. There have been some opportunities to tinker with organization. There have been occasions to examine the health of relationships and the limits that healthy relationships impose on us. There have been occasions to celebrate some of the wonderful things we have found, as there have been occasions to ponder where changes need to be wrought. This has been an active and creative year in the life of this MVUC.

In all this we have been reminded that a religious community exists to fill a wide spiritual, ethical, and philosophical area in human life. We have been reminded that every element of the religious life must be covered if a religious community is to be true to its reason for existence. We have to worship and celebrate together, of course. We have to teach one another—teach our children the basics of religion and life; teach one another by being intellectually engaged with, and responsible to, one another. We have to care for one another, and we have to find ways to contribute to the larger community.

The task of an Interim Minister is to remind him/herself of these things and to help the Congregation remember how broad and deep is the enterprise on which it is embarked. However, remembering is only a prerequi-

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Program Highlights

Partner Church Brunch

Sun, Jun 8
After the service
Hollin Hall

Good Companions

11:45 am–12:45 pm: BYO Lunch
12:45–1:45 pm: Speaker
Tues, Jun 10—Larry Jackley
Tues, Jun 24, 12:00 noon—Picnic
Hollin Hall

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MVUC Awards—page 2
New trees—page 6



**MOUNT VERNON
UNITARIAN CHURCH**

INTERIM MINISTER

The Rev. Don Vaughn-Foerster

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~ ~ ~

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Mark Your Calendar!

Partner Church Brunch

Sunday, June 8—After the service

Hollin Hall

Adults, \$12; children under 6, \$6

(See Page 8)

Good Companions

11:45 am–12:45 pm: BYO Lunch

12:45–1:45 pm: Speaker

Hollin Hall

Tuesday, June 10—Larry Jackley: *Panama—Delessups to Carter and Beyond.* Larry is a retired army colonel. He was the Special Assistant for the Panama Canal treaties in the Office, Secretary of Defense, 1975–1980, and a staff member of the Panama Canal treaty delegation. He will briefly review the history of the canal, the negotiations that led to the transfer of the canal to Panama in 1999, and how the canal is faring today. He will also look at the canal operations and its future.

Tuesday, June 24, 12:00 noon—Picnic at Hollin Hall: Indoors or outdoors, weather permitting. No scheduled speakers. We'll share with each other our summer adventures, Let'spast and future. Bring your own lunch; drinks will be provided.

Annual Summer Intergenerational

Summer Campout on the Hill

June 20-21

(See Page 4)

FLASH!! LATE-BREAKING NEWS

**MVUC Recognized Three More Times
for Service to the Community**

Doubt that MVUC is making a difference in the world?
Think again!

This month MVUC won the Bennett Award from the UUA for Social Justice, the Green Sanctuary Award from the UUA for environmental standards, and certification as a Wildlife Sanctuary from the National Wildlife Foundation. Good things are happening on our Hill! Let's keep it up!

Religious Education (RE)

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

The great end of religious instruction is not to stamp our minds irresistibly on the young, but to stir up their own to touch inward springs. ~ **William Ellery Channing** (notable 19th century Unitarian minister)

Dear Friends,

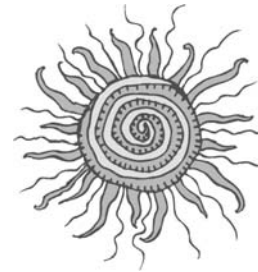
I am filled with deep gratitude for the incredible experience we shared on May 18 in our Sunday worship services. We celebrated Unitarian Universalist Religious Education (RE) at MVUC and we honored our RE volunteers (over 75 people!) and our youth “bridgers”—those students entering into the High School class next year—and our graduating seniors.

We heard an incredible poem from **Arwyn Fleming**, a 6-year old student in our K-1 class, about the ways in which RE lessons and stories give her strength. She told us, “One day I was in my class at school, when one of my friends said, “This is the rule!” She said, “You must believe in God.” I thought to myself, that’s a bit odd, because I learned at my church that it’s okay for people to believe differently—to think their own way.

So I said, “I’m sorry. That’s just not for me; I have to be true to myself, you see.” (An excerpt from the poem, *MVUC Showed Me the Way*, by **Arwyn** and **Penelope Fleming**)

We heard from **Parker Collins**, a 6th-grade student in the Junior Youth Group, who told us that the most important thing she learned in RE was the notion that she can express herself openly and freely with her peers and teachers at MVUC, and even if someone disagrees with her, he or she will respect her right to her opinions and to think for herself.

We also heard from **Linda Jemison**, RE teacher and mother of two children who have grown up in the MVUC RE program. She told us about inviting MVUC members **Mimi Stevens** and **Jay Holmes** to portray famous UUs **Susan B. Anthony** and **Henry Bergh** in her class of 4th and 5th graders, and how the kids went home and told their parents they’d met the actual Susan B. Anthony and Henry Bergh. Long time Adult RE volunteer **Al Searle** spoke of how some of his experiences in Adult RE helped him deal with the loss of his wife **Florence Searle** this past year.



Summer Sundays for Kids

- 6/1 Craft/Sports
- 6/8 Theater and Story Telling
- 6/15 Music Activity
- 6/22 Science Activity
- 6/29 Music Activity
- 7/6 Fun and Games: Legos

From June 1 until our Ingathering in September we offer fun activities for kids on Sunday mornings during the service time, 10:00 am to 11:00 am. There are four broad categories of activities: Science and Gardening, Theater and Story Telling, Music, and Games. A number of volunteers will lead the activities and a light snack will be provided. The activities are geared towards children in kindergarten through fifth grade, and older kids are welcome to join us.

Malcolm Kerr lit the Chalice and said the words we use in our RE classes every week. **Alec Coakley**, who always enthusiastically recites our Covenant, led it from the pulpit this Sunday.

We were blessed with music from the Kids’ Choir and Voices of Youth, directed by **Angel Collins** and accompanied by **Joanne Masterson** on the piano and **Eric Pourchot** on the guitar. Angel deserves an extra acknowledgement for encouraging the Voices of Youth teens to pick out songs that particularly speak to them and their concerns about the world. She supported them as creative beings in their own

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Religious Education

From Page 3, Dear Friends

right who deserve to have their own voices; this is exactly what UU religious education strives to do.

The band *Sharks on a Roller Coaster*, comprised of YRUU members **Calvin Hentges** and **Doug Jemison** with their friend **Zack Riviere**, entertained us with a satirical song they wrote about communism. They were a bit concerned about offending the congregation, and they almost didn't play the song, but luckily for all of us, they decided to take a chance that the congregation would support them with a light-hearted sense of humor.

It was truly an intergenerational service for and by all ages, and I am extremely grateful to everyone who participated. Thank you!

In the Spirit of Community,

Meagan Henry

Annual Summer Intergenerational Summer Campout on the Hill

Join us for the annual Summer Campout on the Hill on June 20-21. We will gather on Friday starting at 3:00 pm. After you pitch your tent and roll out your sleeping bag, join the many outdoor games (tag, hide-and-seek, kick-the-can, frisbee, bicycling, etc) before chowing down at 6:30 pm (spaghetti, garlic bread and salad) in Hollin Hall. Pull out your flashlight and pull up your outdoor chair for a wonderful evening around the campfire. Scary stories, music, songs, and s'mores will be provided aplenty! Breakfast will be provided at 7:30 am on Saturday (coffee, orange juice, pancakes, bacon) with breakdown completed by noon. Summer Solstice (longest day of the year) is June 21, so we shall have plenty of daylight to enjoy.

Come one, come all—you can participate for the whole event, or come just for dinner, or meet us at the campfire at dusk. Permission slips and guardians are required for youth who come without their parents. Sign up in the Commons or contact **Seileen Murphy**, 703-283-5130, smurphy@sentinelconsulting.net. Cost: \$5 per person/\$20 per family.

Melodie's Musings

by Melodie Feather, Music Director

Summer is fast approaching, and MVUC needs musicians to help with summer services! Consider volunteering in any of the following ways: keyboard/guitar accompaniment, vocal or instrumental offerings, songleading—or maybe form an ensemble to provide any or all of the above! Opportunities are also available to assist with musical activities in the RE summer program. Here's your chance to share your gifts. If interested in offering your assistance, please contact **Sandy Rutiser** at srutiser@yahoo.com.

May your summer be filled with music, harmony, and lots of rhythm!

Blessings,
Melodie



A Letter from Kate, Our New Settled Minister

Dear Members of the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church,

Thank you for your wonderful support and care during candidating week. Mark and I felt welcome and celebrated as we met as many of you as humanly possible. We are looking forward to finding a new home in Alexandria. It will be a rental home for a while until we sell our house in Meadville, and find just the right neighborhood for us to buy into. Since our adoption from China is taking far longer than anyone predicted, Mark decided it was better to look for that perfect new job.

I'm looking forward with a lot of excitement to being your minister! I felt fully affirmed by your call and left on April 13 as if I had just received several hundred hugs! I believe we will celebrate our commitment to Unitarian Universalism with love and laughter. Even the challenges we don't and can't anticipate can be gracefully negotiated as long as we remember our common values and the love the grounds us.

Thank you to all who made our candidating week so successful! See you in August!

Love,
Kate Walker

Activities On and Off the Hill

Natural Playground Project!

Stories and Music in the Garden on May 4 was a magical afternoon! The weather and setting were perfect. And the performers just made the day. About 100 children and adults were entertained by stories told by **Penelope Fleming** and **Gioia Chilton**, with music and song by **Eric Pourchot** and **Cheryl Sabo**. All enjoyed singing familiar favorites! The Fort Hunt Preschool parents provided food for our picnic. The Natural Playground Project earned close to \$400 from donations, \$60 more from **Joan Wamsley's** sweater sales, and we don't know yet how much from food sales. Thanks to all who helped create a very special event!

Please walk down the McClelland walk next to the walled garden to see the first of our completed playground elements. Just beyond the lower-walled garden is the story-telling area, for use by young and old. Wait until you see the "Giant's Chair" now in place. And, then, look to the right to see the bamboo and mud hut, which was daubed as part of our spring Green Hill Project RE classes. It too is rather special. Moving toward the Carriage House, you can see the Willow Tunnel under construction and the Tree Surround/Stage under construction. Both MVUC folks and Fort Hunt Preschool parents have been working hard this spring to get them done. This summer, the new manufactured play structure will go in. We will continue to build more elements, based on **Nancy Striniske's** plans over time. See www.mvuc.org for pictures or talk to **Meagan Henry**, **Wendy Burns**, **Kristen Rich**, or **Gail McNulty** if you want to help, to know more, or to donate to the project!

Easy Ways to Pay Your Pledge

There are now several new ways to conveniently fulfill your financial commitment to the church. Rather than writing checks yourself, you can authorize an amount to be taken each month from your bank account, or you can make contributions by credit card. Forms are usually available on the credenza in the Commons, but if you don't find them there, ask the church office. We'll gladly mail them to you

Preparing for the Church New Year

We are rapidly moving into our summer schedule, with reduced activities on some levels and many of us taking vacation trips. In no time at all, it will be September, with the Ingathering Picnic, Ingathering Sunday, the installation of our new minister, and all the activities and energy associated with a new church year.

In anticipation of that happy period, now is a good time to think about some opportunities for growth and renewal:

- *JOIN IN:* If you have been thinking about really becoming a part of this community, beyond just attending services and pledging, now is a great time to join a committee or a service group, or volunteer for one of the many recurring but simple tasks that are so important to church life (such as helping to usher, setting up and taking down the coffee service, being a greeter, or providing Sunday flowers).

There are many wonderful opportunities to serve and enjoy community life. Questions? Ask any Board or Program Council member, check the MVUC web site for opportunities, (www.mvuc.org/volunteers.html) or check the listing in the front of your MVUC telephone directory. The lists change a bit over time, but provide a good indication of what is available.

- *STEP UP:* If you serve on a committee or service group now, and the same stalwart volunteers have carried the leadership mantle for more than two years, encourage new leadership to step forward, grow our leadership team, and allow those who have been leading to enjoy being a member for a change. It's good to do so regularly – take the opportunity in your next few meetings to consider and make effective such changes. A reminder: committee chair changes need to be submitted to the Program Council for forwarding and Board approval.

Thank you for all you do. See you on the Hill!-
Bill Clontz, on behalf of the Board of Trustees and the Program Council

Activities On and Off the Hill

New Trees Planted!

We have two new specimen trees! They are expected to shade a wide area and have a large diameter in just one hundred years. First there is a Northern Red Oak, currently a 2.5 inch caliber, 12-foot tall specimen, planted in the circular lawn in front of Hollin Hall. It stands in the same location of a very large black walnut tree removed about five years ago as unsafe. It has green foliage in the summer, and the leaves turn red in the fall; it could grow to seventy feet in height.

The other is called a Purple Rivers Beech, currently a 2-inch caliber specimen (as listed on the invoice) that is about 12 feet tall. It is planted along the brick walkway of the Memorial Walks near the upper Garden Gate, about where a tall locust and a large silver maple tree were removed in recent years. With a spreading habit, the foliage of the purple beech is expected to maintain a purplish color during the growing season and have bare limbs in the winter. The Committee feels fortunate that such a nicely-proportioned, large beech tree was available for sale just at the first time of our search.

This tree purchase/planting episode was a fast moving seven-day event that started Tuesday, May 6, after it became known that there was unused money in the Island Garden Fund that the Grounds Committee (GC) could use for landscaping. For a long time, the GC had been discussing new trees and where to plant them. Three of us, **Al Macomber**, **Wendy Burns** and **Mary Barnett**, hopped in a car that Tuesday morning for a trip to the Merrifield Garden Center to "look" at what might be available.

The trees sold themselves. In fact, we saw other trees as well that would enhance our church property. The Garden Center would deliver the two trees and plant

them with a one year guarantee. The planting date was scheduled, and the trees were planted on May 13, 2008.

Total cost, including planting, was \$1,471, of which \$345 came from the now-abandoned Island Garden Fund, \$500 from the sale of boxwood to the Fort Belvoir Garden Club last December to make Christmas wreaths (they did the picking, thank you, Garden Club), and \$626 from the Memorial Walks Committee. No money from individual memorials was used for these two trees.

We are pleased to have been able to purchase these lovely trees just at a time when a new chapter in church life is starting. The Committee hopes to continue to plant more trees as funds are available. From our "wish list," the highest priority for next to be planted are six Kwazan Cherry trees (the ones with large double blossoms) to replace those in the lower-walled garden behind the boxwood hedges. We also were enchanted by the Dawn Redwood trees at Merrifield Gardens, a deciduous evergreen with needles, not leaves.

If you would care to assist financially, for whatever reason, to help with the tree planting wish-list, please contact Alvin Macomber or Wendy Burns to discuss donating a tree, bush, or a whole forest! If you would care to help with the newly planted oak and beech trees, they will need watering weekly for the next twelve months, or longer. Please contact **Joe Kitrosser** if you can help with the watering schedule. Joe has agreed to be the lead water-watcher.

Now here is a quote: "It will be the next few generations who will thank us, though!"

Alvin Macomber and Wendy Burns



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.

Caring Community News

Goodbye from Nancy and Jim Thompson

Dear Friends,

It is with mixed sadness and joy that we share with you our plans to move to Brevard, North Carolina on May 15, 2008. We have been building a house there for almost a year in anticipation of a warmer lifestyle than the one we have had in our WV and VA home/office. We will spend winters in The Villages, FL and summers in NC. The sad part about the move is knowing we won't see our friends at MVUC again. We will miss you. Though living in WV has limited our ability to attend church, we hold our friends at MVUC close in our hearts.

Nancy's unexpected surgery last November prevented her from participating in the Holiday Shop for the first time in almost fifteen years, and had she not been hospitalized, she would have been there to see you all and make a contribution to MVUC. She is doing well now and has only one more surgery in August to complete the prophylactic double mastectomy that has reduced her breast cancer risk from 33% to almost zero. Even with the complication last November, she says she would do it all again to live life without a 33% risk hanging over her head. Thank you all for your thoughts and prayers of support.

We were thrilled to see that a settled minister has been called, and we know that will bring continuity and a settled feeling to the community. One of our criteria for selecting a place to build in NC was the availability of a Unitarian Universalist Church, and there is one in Brevard, so we are looking forward to becoming a part of their church community. It will be nice to actually spend weekends in the same state as our church, as we have been in WV weekends or full time since 1998, which has limited our ability to see you on Sundays.

Our new address is below, if you need to reach us. Thank you for sharing your friendship and love. You have enriched our lives.

Nancy and Jim Thompson

540 Tsuganawvi Ct.
Brevard, NC 28712-7464
828-862-8675

eshopnat@cox.net (for awhile until we get a new internet provider set up)

John Holmes Awarded Doctoral Degree

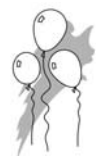
John Dewey Holmes, a 55-year-old MVUC kid, was awarded the Ph. D. in Russian history last month at the University of California, Berkeley. His dissertation was about his great uncle, Noah London, who immigrated to the U. S. from Russia in 1910. After his arrival, London learned English and subsequently graduated in engineering from New York's Cooper Union; he then returned to the Soviet Union in 1926 and managed industry developing natural resources of Russia and Ukraine. He was promoted to a high position in Moscow and later was shot by order of Stalin in 1937.

John is the son of Bea and Jay Holmes, MVUC members since 1959. London's wife, Miril, was a sister of Bea's mother, both of whom also immigrated from Russia early in the past century. Good Companions members may remember John's report on his research several years ago. He is a graduate of Hollin Hills Elementary School, Groveton High School, and Boston University. His masters' degree is from San Francisco State.

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 June Birthdays!



- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 4 Kiki McDonnell | 20 Aiden Mosley |
| 5 Caroline Hayden | 21 Lindsay Arnold |
| 6 Gavin Conway | 22 Michael Pourchot |
| 9 Molly Adler | 25 Annabel Chilton |
| 9 Scott Henrehan | 27 Jefferson Elkin |
| 13 Haley Narins | 28 Will Towne |
| 15 Max Torney | 29 Ava 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.

Civil Liberties Task Force

Are you concerned about the denial of civil liberties and human rights facing both our fellow Americans and those abroad? Do you believe it is unjust that despite some laws, discrimination continues on the basis of race, gender, and religion, or that many hard working Americans are still deprived of a living wage? Would you like to learn more about the inner workings of our local, state and national government, the provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act, or the recent issues associated with the passing of the Farm Bill? Do you want to find ways to have an impact the legislation passed in Congress? Are you searching for a safe forum to voice your political opinions? The Civil Liberties Task Force of MVUC welcomes advocates like yourself to come together to share inspirational ideas and work for peace and justice.

To get involved or learn more, please contact the Civil Liberties Task Force chair, **Marybeth Bernhard** at Melizberna@gmail.com.

Letters to Senators Webb and Warner

Over 165 people signed our letters to **Senators Warner** and **Webb** asking them to introduce legislation in the Senate to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." Thank you all for your continued support. —**Joan Darrah**

Book Nook Report and News

A check for \$480 was sent to the UU Service Committee in January for the sale of this year's holiday cards. We have raised \$4,161 over the 15 years that we have participated in the sales. Thank you for your contributions.

We order books, mostly, but not exclusively, from the UUA Bookstore; we also welcome suggestions from the congregation.

We urgently need additional help to run the Book Nook. This involves opening the Book Nook one Sunday a month during coffee hour. Please consider volunteering. Training will take 30 minutes. Call Sonja Bloom at 703-768-2238. Thank you to **Lew Long**, **Sally Montanari**, **Ann Mechanic** and our newest member **Louise Werner-Rhoades** for their continuing efforts to keep us afloat. —**Sonja Bloom**

Partner Church News

The Partner Church committee will be hosting its summer brunch series to benefit MVUC's partner churches in Romania and India. Enjoy a delicious breakfast and some time with your church friends. This summer's brunches will be held after the service on June 8, July 13, and August 10 in Hollin Hall. The cost for adults will be \$12, and for children under 6, \$6.

A new minister was elected by the congregation of the Szentháromság Unitarian Church on May 4. His name is Tivadar Hegedus. He is 29 years old, and he graduated from the Transylvania Unitarian Seminary in 2004. He served the Unitarian Church in Magyarzsakod (partnered with Rockville, MD) for his first four years of ministry.

If you are interested in sponsoring a scholarship student next year, please let **Lisa Gillispie** know. Scholarships enable students to attend high school, trade school and university so they can better their lives and improve their village.

June is Anti-Torture Month.

The Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition International (TASSC) is sponsoring a number of activities. Torture Survivors' Week is from June 24-30 at Catholic University. One event during the week will be a teach-in, open to the public, in which survivors will talk about their experiences and the situations in their home countries. To volunteer or to find out more about the needs that TASSC has for the week, please contact **Rebecca** here: rebecca@tassc.org.

Eleventh Annual Anti-Torture Vigil Saturday, June 28 7:00 am— Sunday, June 29 7:00 am Lafayette Park

Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition International (TASSC) will be having its 11th Annual Vigil in front of the White House, Lafayette Park. This is a culminating activity of "Survivors Week" where torture survivors come from various parts of the world and the US to gather, to give support to each other, and to make future plans to *END TORTURE*. Want to help survivors get their Vigil off to a strong start? Come at 7:00 am on Saturday, June 28th to show solidarity!!

Board Chips—Final Reflections

by Jim Potter, May 2007-2008 Board Chair

I would like to take this opportunity to review the progress MVUC has made during my term as Chair. Someone once said that a crisis either strengthens us or kills us. Unquestionably, MVUC has been strengthened by the unexpected, tragic departure of our previous minister.

Your Board's vision is to build our "Hill of Dreams" and become an excellent liberal church. The top priority was to hire and retain a highly competent professional staff (minister, church administrator, director of religious education, and director of music). The Board is grateful to the Ministerial Search Committee for giving us the **Rev. Kate Walker**. Now that we've got an excellent staff, we've got to make MVUC a great place to work to keep them. The Board intends to have excellent Sunday services—wonderful sermons, supported by well-integrated music and readings. The Board intends to respond well to your good ideas—your creative energy is the heart of the Board's "strategic plan." You've come forward with some very good ideas in the last 18 months: **Joan Darrah's** initiative to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell;" **Gregg Early's** and **Georgia Pourchot's** "MVUC Forum on Public Issues;" **Suzanne Cleary Cohen's** and **Dan Cohen's** vision to create a "Green Sanctuary" on our "Hill of Dreams;" and **Meagan Henry's** "Fellowship Wednesdays". The Board's job is to appropriately focus your creative energy.

The Board built on the excellent work of our Finance Committee over the past several years to put MVUC's financial house in order. Growing our

pledge income and the number of pledge units is a work in progress. As our Sunday services become consistently excellent, we expect more visitors will come, and more will become members. The Board is cautious, however, about starting major construction: "When they come, we will build."

The Board stayed on theme and accomplished two of our top priorities—hiring an outstanding staff and establishing a Leadership Academy. We made progress on three other top priorities—putting our financial house in order, clarifying the missions and responsibilities of the committees, and establishing programs that will make MVUC more effective as a local and world leader.

Why was your Board successful? First, we had outstanding Board members, many of whom had served before and agreed to serve MVUC again in its time of need. Second, we had your support. The congregation consistently supported the Board throughout the year. I thank you.

I would also like to thank **Bill Clontz** and **Ron Brandt**, who got so many things done for MVUC this past year and always provided wise and cheerful counsel. **Rev. Don Vaughn-Foerster** also was very helpful to the Board throughout this transition year. Many others stepped forward, but these three stand out in my mind. The Board would not have moved so purposefully without their outstanding efforts.

It was an honor and a pleasure to serve as your Chair this past year. Thank you

Jim Potter

Interim Minister, from Page 1

site. Some tangible changes may be made during an interim period, but the real opportunity to put it all together will come when the new, settled minister arrives. What has been thought through and discussed during this past year is but a grounding for building a new edifice of the spirit when the **Rev. Kate Walker** arrives.

Being among you and working with you during this transitional period has been a great privilege. Yours is a great congregation and I am sure you will continue to enhance one another and contribute leadership to Alexandria and Northern Virginia. As we take our leave, **Peggy** and I take with us many fond memories—and a desire to come back some day and see how you have progressed.

Rev. Don Vaughn-Foerster

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 10:00 am
in the Remington Chapel*

June 1

Coming of Age
A Service by Our MVUC Youth

June 8

THANKS-GIVING
Honoring Our People
Board of Trustees

June 15

A Will to Wonder
Rev. Don Vaughn-Foerster

June 22

Mankind's Place in the Universe
Alan Bunner

June 29

I Am Lost, But Making Record Time
Bill Clontz

July 6

*Politics and Religion—
An Unholy Mix?*
Ron Brandt,
with MVUC Speakers

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