

Windmill

Mount Vernon Unitarian Church

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

AUGUST 1, 2008

Taking Note

By the Reverend Kate R. Walker

Lots of people give advice about how to leave somewhere. They'll tell you about paying attention to saying properly goodbye and grieving. They'll even give practical advice such as throwing unwanted items away before packing. Mark and I are paying attention and doing lots of practical things, including making sure we have some rest before the moving truck pulls up in front of our house.

It's harder to find advice on how to arrive somewhere. Advice givers are a little skimpy on that part of the equation. By the time you read this, the moving truck will hopefully unload precious belongings in our new home and with a roar depart a few hours later, leaving large piles of life scattered about in mild mayhem.

I'm a nester. I like to unpack and make my nest as quickly as possible. I'll be up late into the night putting things into their new proper place, and probably move them several times over the next few months. If Mark is the wise man that I think he is, he'll get out of my way, lest I put him in his proper place. I suspect before the end of August I'll have most of the boxes unpacked and the pictures hung. Don't worry, Mark will get his opinion in too.

There is a fundamental life-affirming joy in nesting. I have moved often enough in my life to know that moving brings more than the grief of leaving one's home. It brings an energy and renewed enthusiasm for the new home. It is a yin-yang balance of dark creative energy and light-renewing energy. I also know that this energy that comes with moving can bring a wild swinging between deep paralyzing sadness and a manic drive to get the job done. I feel grateful for those days when I'm able to embrace the fullness of the emotions that come with such a major life transition without getting whip lash.

After August 1, you'll find me in my new office, also unpacking. I haven't set my office hours yet since I want to confer with the staff first. Please, don't hesitate to call me for a time for tea. I'm looking forward to meeting people over the next few months. It will take me some time, and with some patience on my part, I'll start to remember your names.

In the mean time, I'm delighted to have arrived. –Cheers, **Kate Walker**

Program Highlights

Partner Church Summer Brunch

Sunday, August 10
Hollin Hall–After the Service
Adults, \$12; children
under 6, \$6

Question Box Sunday

August 17, Church Service

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UNITARIAN CHURCH**

MINISTER

The Rev. Kate E. Walker

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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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Mark Your Calendar!

**Partner Church Summer Brunch
Sunday, August 10**

After the service in Hollin Hall
Adults, \$12; children under 6, \$6

**Question Box Sunday
August 17, Church Service**

This is a once-a-year tradition when Rev. Walker will entertain written questions. The questions are received during the service just before the "sermon." She requests that we please try to contain our curiosity to areas that she might actually know something about, such as theology, tea, Star Trek, community building, morality, professional ministry, dogs, cats and other interesting topics.

To avoid redundancy, here are the two most popular questions and the answers:

Did we sell our house in Meadville? Answer: Yes. We had an offer within six weeks! I watched a lot of HDTV for tips on how to sell a house.

Did we buy a house in Alexandria? Answer: Not yet. Mark and I are renting a wonderful townhouse on the north side of Old Town. We want to be in a "walkable neighborhood," since we're committed to reducing our environmental footprint. We're downsizing to one car, and therefore need to be close to the Metro, stores and tea houses. We're looking at buying a home sometime in the next year.

**Ingathering Picnic
Saturday, September 6, 6:00 pm**

On the Patio

**Installation of The Rev. Kate Walker
October 19, 4:00 pm**

Don't Be Left Out!!!
Go to www.mvuc.org and
sign up to have your photo
included in the new MVUC Directory!!!

Religious Education (RE)

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

Affirming and promoting a free and responsible search for truth and meaning.—Unitarian Universalist Association

Why Should You Teach a Religious Education Class?

Your Religious Education program is in need of volunteer teachers for the Fall 2008 semester. We have openings for both the 9:30 and 11:15 am classes, Kindergarten through Fifth grade.

Reasons you should volunteer to teach an RE class this fall are:

- We have a brand new curriculum from the *Tapestry of Faith* series, the UUA's new series of programs that nurture Unitarian Universalist identity, spiritual growth, a transforming faith, and vital communities of justice and love;
- You will receive a comprehensive training session before beginning to teach;
- You will learn from our amazing group of MVUC children and youth, who bring diverse and fresh perspectives to our curriculum topics;
- You are not committed to teach every Sunday, since we have structured teaching teams to work together;
- We have two Sunday morning worship services, so you can teach a class and still attend the service;
- Your DRE and RE Assistant help make your job easy and fun;
- You will learn things you didn't know about Unitarian Universalism;
- If you are a parent, teaching an RE class is a great way to get to know other parents of children of a similar age to your own;

.....and the #1 reason to teach a Children's RE class: it's an opportunity to participate in one of the important heartbeats of our Unitarian Universalist community, growing a new generation of thinkers while stretching your own reflective thinking.

Please contact **Meagan Henry** at dre@mvuc.org or 703-765-5950, ext. 105, or sign up in the Commons, if you would like to teach a class.

Summer Sundays for Kids

From June 1 until our Ingathering on September 7, 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. We invite pre-kindergarten kids to attend with a parent, and older kids are always welcome.

August 3: Puppets with **Penelope Fleming**

August 10: Parachute Games with **Betsy Lowry**

August 17: "Power Sing" with **Joe Kitrosser**

August 23: Gardening with **Tamara de la Camp**

August 30: Spontaneous Story with **Penelope Fleming**

Adult Religious Education Program

The Adult Religious Education Committee has been developing a program for fall. The Committee will review this program at the meeting on Tuesday, August 26, at 7:15 pm. Everyone is invited to the Committee meeting to learn about the plans and make suggestions for classes and teachers. The classes already being planned for the fall include:

The God We Never Knew, 7:30–9:00 pm, HH BR, Eight consecutive Wednesdays, October 1–November 19; teacher and contact is **Peg Bartel**.

Wellness Wednesdays, 7:00–8:30 pm, HH FR, 12/3, 1/14, 2/11, 3/11, 4/8, and 5/13; teacher and contact is **Sue Redding**.

Teen Parenting 101, 4:30–5:30 pm, HH FR, August 24; first meeting is for organizational purposes and more dates will follow after this first meeting. Contact is **Meagan Henry**.

George Ball

Adult Religious Education Chairman

Activities On and Off the Hill

Members and Friends of MVUC Be Part of Our New Photo Directory

Do you see people in church and wonder who they are? Have you ever heard an announcement regarding an MVUC member and wished you could put a face with the name? Are you new to MVUC and wish you had something to help you put names with faces? Well, help is on the way. We are producing a new photo directory for MVUC.

There is no cost to you or MVUC to have your photograph taken, and you will receive a complimentary 8x10 portrait and a directory for participating. Immediately after you are photographed, you will be able to view your images electronically. You will then have an opportunity to purchase additional portraits to share with family and friends if you so desire.

For your convenience, you can sign up online. Just go to www.mvuc.org to “**Get information and schedule photo appointments for the new picture directory HERE.**” When you click “**HERE**,” read the directions, then click on “**HERE**” again, and you will be redirected to the Life Touch website. Then just follow the simple directions to schedule your portrait session. It will take only a few minutes to sign up. There will also be a table in the Commons on July 27, August 3, 10, 17, and 24 where you can ask any questions or get help signing up if you do not have Web access. Photographs will be taken at Hollin Hall as follows:

<u>September</u>	<u>Time</u>
3–Wednesday	2:30–9:00 pm
4–Thursday	2:30–9:00 pm
5–Friday	2:30–8:30 pm
6–Saturday	10:00 am–4:30 pm
8–Monday	2:30–9:00 pm
9–Tuesday	2:30–9:00 pm
10–Wednesday	2:30–9:00 pm
11–Thursday	2:30–9:00 pm

Please arrive at Hollin Hall on time, but there is no need to arrive early, and plan on spending an hour to complete the paperwork and to have your picture taken. If you have any questions or absolutely can't make any of the dates, please contact **Joan Darrah** (JEDARRAH@AOL.COM or 703-768-5751) as soon as possible. Thank you for your participation.

Would-Be Poets to Give Twelfth Recital

The twelfth recital of the Would-Be Poets will be given in the MVUC Chapel at 11:30 am on Sunday, August 24. Light refreshments will be provided for people who have attended Rev. Walker's 10:00 am service and want to remain.

The Would-Be Poets is a long-running adult religious education class that meets monthly to encourage and critique each other's writing. Current members are **Al Searle, Barbara K. Katz, June Stumpe, Tom Tarcza** and the leader, **Bea Holmes**. The poets produce and distribute a booklet containing the poems in the recitals, allowing the audience to follow along. This year, a few of the best poems of **Harriet Marx** and **Phyllis Smolen**, long-time members who died in the past year, will also be presented.

Bea Holmes

Thursday Readers Book Group

The Thursday Readers Book Group invites you to join our discussion on the fourth Thursday of every month at 10:30 am in the Fireplace Room of Hollin Hall. Our schedule and books for the next few months are as follows:

August 28—*Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant* by Ann Tyler

September 25—*Peace Like a River* by Leif Enger

October 23—*Empire Falls* by Richard Russo

January 22—*The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver

February 26—*The House of the Spirits* by Isabel Allende

For further information, please contact **Mary Barnett**, 703-360-7152.

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.

Social Justice Action

UUSC, Women and the Middle East

While the United States focuses on ending the war in Iraq, a more insidious conflict rages in this troubled region. The fall of the Taliban regime improved the plight of Afghan women, but repression and denial of rights still prevails. Forced marriages, domestic violence, restrictions on political participation and on educational opportunities continue, particularly in rural areas. The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's focus on civil liberties is providing strategic funding and technical assistance to grassroots organizations in Afghanistan to defend and uphold our UU principles. Additionally, UUSC is working with a partner in northern Iraq-Kurdistan to combat violence against women.

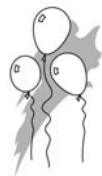
In Afghanistan, UUSC's program partners are working to empower women to understand their rights, to mobilize them to improve the quality of life through expanding rights and freedom in civil law, Islamic law and Afghan culture.

Asuda is an organization based in Kurdistan (currently the only region of Iraq where women are permitted to organize openly) that combats violence against women. UUSC supports Asuda's work in rights training and combating violence against women. In addition to intervening to end violence and discrimination against women, Asuda conducts research and studies to affect policy goals for civil society groups.

You can help. If you are a member of UUSC, thank you, and please renew your membership. Check the back cover of your UUSC *Rights Now* newsletter to see when your membership expires. If you're not a member, please join with the nearly 70,000 other UU's to strengthen our voice for human rights worldwide. Visit www.uusc.org. UUSC receives no funds from the UUA.—Thank you, **Jim and Dot Caldiero**



RE Youth August Birthdays!



3 Madalena McNeil	16 Jade Small
4 Zachary Gauger	17 Hannah Howe
5 Matt Bair	17 Juliana Abelow
8 Alec Coakley	19 Sophia Passacantando
8 Grace Denton	21 Benjamin Brewer
8 Fares Hasan	22 Sebastian Crapa
8 Kelly Jemison	24 Morgan Walton
12 Maggie Farley	24 Julius Bredeck
13 Sam Sabo	30 Sarah Watson
15 Marcus Picado	

Activities On and Off the Hill

Membership Anniversary Recognition

(In an effort to recognize our long-time members, the Membership Committee is beginning this new Windmill column.)

The following are current members who joined MVUC during the months of August and September:

53 years ago: **Charles Dell, Leroy Merrifield, Al Searle**

40–50 years ago: **Al Weinstein, Kim Rusinow, Pat Jackson, Pat and Rex Maddox, Shirley Cherkasky, Ann McDowell, Del and F.J. Pepper**

30–40 years ago: **Jo Jackley, Val and Bill McKeckney**

20–30 years ago: **Daniel and Pat Kenny Priest, Jim and Joan Wamsley, Chuck Reams, Mel and Nancy Fox, Rob and Esther Dickenson, Richard and Isabelle Von Glatz**

10–20 years ago: **Kim Thompson, Nanette Davis, Larry Cohn, Jane Nelson, Larry Austin, John Henrehan**

10-Year anniversary: **Elsbeth Peebles, Gregg and Debra Early**

5-Year anniversary: **Kelly Jemison, Anne Stewart**

We honor and thank you,

Membership Committee

The Volunteer Coordinator

As we continue to learn what is working well at other churches, one item that shows up repeatedly is the value of a talented and well focused Volunteer Coordinator. MVUC has had only one such person in the last decade, and that as a secondary duty: its likely time to make this more of a priority. Among other things, the Volunteer Coordinator helps match up Committee positions with interested members and looks for volunteer opportunities that allow new and less engaged members to take part in the richer fabric of life on the Hill. Long time member **Betsy Yarrison** has agreed to take on the daunting job of helping us define exactly what this position entails, what tools and processes will be used, and what coordination needs to happen in making the position work for MVUC. Betsy will be working with many individuals and groups over the coming weeks and months as this important effort goes forward. Thank you, Betsy.

—**Bill Clontz**, Board of Trustees

Green Sanctuary Committee Report

Alternative Energy: A Brief Status

Good news! There are so many good and interesting things happening in the alternative energy field that it is hard to put together an article short enough to be printed in this newsletter. The June 21-27 issue of the *Economist* had a special report on all the alternative energy technologies and the future is bright. According to the *Economist*: because we are no longer tolerant of coal fired plants being built in our own back yards; because cost has made gas fired power plants uneconomical; and because nuclear power is still feared by many, the economics of alternative energy sources are beginning to match those of oil and coal. As a result, many major companies—such as General Electric and oil companies such as BP and Shell—are supporting research in alternative energy technologies.

On the cost front, the criticism of alternative energy is that it must be subsidized, but former White House counsel, Mr. Woolsey, estimates that oil companies receive over \$250 billion a year subsidy. The usual price comparisons fail to take account of the oil subsidies. The *Economist* further notes that energy derived from photovoltaic cells is growing at the rate of 50% per year with its cost falling. There are research projects to create photovoltaic materials than can be applied to steel so that what appears to be a standing seam metal roof could also generate electricity. New smaller wind turbines, which can be installed in places where current wind turbines cannot, are being developed.

There are organizations that have been working for many years to move society to embrace alternative energy technologies, organizations that have worked to get government to support these technologies with subsidies and to remove oil company subsidies. The Apollo Alliance and

Green for All are two such non-profit organizations. The founder and president of Green for All, **Van Jones**, presented the Ware Lecture at the 2008 General Assembly of the UUA of Congregations. (The Ware Lecture—the best I have heard—will be shown at church once the DVD of the lecture becomes available.) According to Van Jones there is a looming labor shortage in the alternative energy sectors. Demand is increasing for construction workers with skills for installing and maintaining wind turbines, solar panels, and building insulation. A special report, titled *Green Collar Jobs in America's Cities: Building Pathways Out of Poverty and Careers in the Clean Energy Economy*, jointly produced by the Apollo Alliance and Green for All, states that there are many municipalities with policies that will help advance adoption of alternative energy technologies; notably among them is Washington, DC. Such municipalities have policies to install renewable energy systems on existing public buildings, to build new public buildings to green standards, to build transit infrastructure, and commitments to purchase green products and services, all of which will spur demand for green jobs, home grown jobs, and will help build the green economy.

What we need to do is to insist that our local governments have and practice these policies. We need to insist that our state and federal government promote such policies all over our state, all over our country. We need to press the next President to fund tax subsidies for green technologies and to fund research in improvement of these technologies. We need to press the next president to remove or at least reduce the oil subsidies.

As has been said before, this is a critical election that will help decide more than just the future of our country, so

Third Annual Northern Virginia Unitarian Revival

Saturday, September, 27, 2008; UU Church of Arlington at 4444 Arlington Blvd., Arlington, VA

From 8:30 am to 3:00 pm, join with more than 20 Northern Virginia UU churches—as well as UU churches in Maryland and the District—for the third annual UU Revival. Celebrate our liberal faith, founded in social justice, fueled by love, and ready to grow. Renew your commitment, sing, dance, hear great sermons, participate in workshops in Welcoming (diversity), Green Path (environmental issues), and Broader Vision (growth & outreach). In addition, the Revival will have a youth programming track. Discuss living life as an intentional seeker in the modern, imperfect world, the world that is our paradise. Proof of that, if you need any, will be found in the lunch prepared by a New Orleans chef. Registration for the day is \$10, and if you wish to purchase lunch, \$5 additional. And remember, singing loud raises the spirit! The Revival is limited to 200 people, so sign up early. Feed your spiritual hunger; the liberal religious life is joyous! Registration begins in late August online at the www.uusj.org website, or look for a table manned by **Bill Alsmeyer-Johnson** or **Seileen Mullen Murphy** in the MVUC Commons.

Caring Community News

Louise S. Young

MVUC member **Louise S. Young** died peacefully in Ojai, California on Friday, April 25, 2008.

Born in Minneapolis in 1922, she grew up in Portland, Oregon, where she attended Lincoln High School and Reed College and was active in the Unitarian Church.



Louise married **Robert L. Young** of Nantucket, Massachusetts, in 1947 and moved to Vershire, Vermont, where she and her husband founded an economic cooperative that included the local saw mill, maple syrup company, and local weaving cooperative.

In 1954 she and Robert Young moved their family to Nantucket, Mass. where she worked as a reporter and copy editor of the local paper, *The Town Crier*, which was fiercely positioned against bigotry, prejudice, ignorance, and injustice. On Nantucket, she was active in the Unitarian Society and the Nantucket School Board.

In 1960 she moved to the Tauxemont Historic District, south of Alexandria, Virginia, and worked at the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church where she was active through 1999.

When her children were in grade school, she continued her education, earning a Masters in Counseling Education from George Washington University in Washington, DC. Divorced in 1972, Louise remained in Tauxemont and continued what became 30 years in the Fairfax County School System as a teacher and guidance counselor. She became a certified reality therapist and was awarded for excellent guidance of adolescents and families at the Hayfield Junior High. Following retirement she became a certified master gardener, resumed her lifelong study of the piano, and was active with the Women's Circle at the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church. Louise was known for refined handwork in knitting, embroidery, and sewing.

In 1999, Louise moved to Carpinteria, California, where she was active in the Library Literacy Program, League of Women Voters, The Energy Alliance of Santa Barbara, and held season tickets to the Santa Barbara Symphony, which she dearly loved. She moved to At Home in Ojai in December, 2006, where she continued to practice her piano and enjoy the garden.

She is survived by her three children, **Willow Young** of Santa Barbara, CA, **Heather Young** of Alexandria, Virginia, and **Tyl Young** of San Mateo, CA. Additionally, she is survived by her three grandchildren **Star Michelle Young** of Mountain View, CA, **Maia Friedman** of Bennington, VT, and **Chaz Boyer** of Alexandria, VA.

Harry Jackson

Harry Jackson, long-time church member, who passed away on January 5 of this year, will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors on Monday, August 18, at 1:00 pm. Friends and family wishing to attend must be at the Arlington Visitors' Center by 12:30 pm. An outdoor reception around the Jacksons' pool is planned following the service.

Caring Associates Would like You to Know:

***www.SeniorNavigator.org is Virginia's one-stop resource for health and aging information. This program combines the internet with a network of volunteers to bring over 20,000 health and aging resources, both public and private, to seniors, their families, and caregivers. It is simple to use. Just type a topic and zip code in the "Quick Search" box to access hundreds of services available in your own backyard. Or click on "Customized Search" or "Needs Assessment" for a more tailored list of services for your unique needs. Click on "Ask an Expert" to receive confidential answers to your own personal questions. It is free. Check it out!

***If you have a sister who has had breast cancer, you might qualify to be part of the 10,000 sisters needed for what is called the *Sister Study*. By participating you are making a contribution in helping find the causes of breast cancer so future generations don't have to face this disease. This is one way we can help our sisters. Ask **Sandy Peterson** about it or visit www.sisterstudy.org.

—Caring Associates

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).

Continued in next column



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.

Don't Ask, Don't Tell – Update

On July 23, 2008, the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Personnel held hearings on “Don't Ask, Don't Tell.” The chairman of the Committee is **Susan A. Davis (D-CA)**. This was the first hearing in which lawmakers evaluated the military policy toward gay people serving openly since “Don't Ask, Don't Tell” was enacted in 1993. **Capt Joan E. Darrah**, USN (Ret) an MVUC member, testified.

Partner Church News

Please join us for the last Partner Church brunch of the summer on Sunday, August 10th after the service. The brunch benefits MVUC's partner churches in Szentháromság, Romania and Mawlat India.

Szentháromság, Romania: We received an email greeting from our new partner church minister, **Tivadar Hegedus**, who sends his regards and those of his congregation. MVUC's Partner Church committee will fund a bus rental that will enable congregational members to attend the summer Unitarian meeting, which is similar to GA, but with more worship and outdoor activities.

We will receive our list of continuing scholarship students in August. I will be contacting existing sponsors to see if they will continue. For anyone who would like to consider sponsoring a student in high school, trade school or university, please see **Lisa Gillispie**.

Mawlat, India: The headmaster of the Unitarian school in Mawlat, India sent us a very nice letter of thanks for all the help we have given their school. The detailed accounting of the distribution of our contribution included repairs to the school building, uniforms for poor students, books, salaries for teachers not compensated by the government, medical assistance to students, an excursion, winter gifts to students and teachers and assistance to the church. Next year they will buy a plot of land to expand the school to include middle school grades.

GWA-PCC Meeting: **Liz Campbell** and **Lisa Gillispie** attended the GWA-PCC meeting at UU Church of Fairfax which is attended by representatives of UU churches in the JPD District with Partner Church relationships.

Some information was shared about UU churches in the Philippines and in Africa.

The UU Church of the Philippines wishes to build a 31-room dormitory for 124 residents in the university town of

Dumaguette, Negros Oriental by 2012. The dormitory will house and protect university women. They are starting a fundraising campaign to raise \$300,000 for this project. If you are interested in contributing to this project, or getting more information, go to uudorm.wordpress.com or write info@uuphilippines.org.

The UU church of Lagos, Nigeria is in danger of losing its church building because of demands from the government. The church owns the land, but no longer has the documentation that shows the government approved the building project. If the church cannot pay a \$4,000 fee being levied by the government, the government will raze the building. If you are interested in helping or getting more information, please email **Janice Brunson**, UU Church of Phoenix, at janicebrunson@yahoo.com.

The UUPCC is sponsoring a trip to India and the Khasi Hills. The trip includes seven days visiting some of the most famous Hindu and Muslim sites, as well as the Gandhi Memorial and Museum, before flying on to the Khasi Hills to visit with our partner churches and the Unitarians of Northeast India. An additional eight days will be spent getting to know the Unitarians there and visiting their villages and schools. For more information, go to <http://www.uupcc.org/trips.html#indiatrip>.

There will be a conference in Houston in February 2009 for the International Convocation of UU Women. Details can be found at <http://www.icuuw.com>. The organizers would like to offer scholarships to deserving women in international partner churches around the world. For more information, see <http://www.icuuw.com/html/scholarships.html>.

—Lisa Gillispie

Fairfax Area Agency on Aging Meals on Wheels (MOW)

The MOW Program for the Mount Vernon community is in critical need of MOW drivers, deliverers for meal supplements, and a Driver Coordinator. This program allows homebound seniors to enjoy nutritious meals and contributes to their ability to “age in place.” Drivers can volunteer on a weekly, biweekly, monthly or substitute basis. For more information, please call the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging's Volunteer Intake Line 703-324-5406, or e-mail DFSAAAvolunteer@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Trustees Report

By Lauck Walton, Board of Trustees Chair

The dog days of July and August brings joys and sorrows. July brought the sad news that our Director of Music, Melodie Feather, decided not to return to MVUC. Melodie was a powerful force in our worship services. She brought energy and enthusiasm to every Sunday and we will miss her. The Board met in early July and selected a group of members to serve on a Search Committee. Through close coordination with the Personnel Committee, we will search for someone who can commit at least three Sundays per month on a part-time basis during the church year. The Board believes that having a separate “keyboardist” or “accompanist” makes sense. So one of the first things on the “to-do” list for the Director of Music is to find someone qualified to help with piano duties at choir practice and on Sundays. There will be a great deal of thought and work needed to chart the future course of the Music Program, and this discussion must include an opportunity for everyone at MVUC to weigh in. There will be much more to come on this topic.

Financially, the church year ended with a surplus. This happy result was due to:

Ron Brandt stepping in as a church administrator for the year.

Nina Tisara’s success at scheduling weddings at MVUC.

Everyone showing financial restraint.

The Board acted to transfer the surplus to the Property Major Maintenance Fund. This is the place where we keep our funds that will be used when some major system or equipment needs to be replaced. This transfer almost doubles that account balance and is an important step in ensuring that our property and grounds stay in good condition.

We see great positive momentum in new members and increased pledges from continuing members that may well change our projected deficit into another surplus next year.

I warmly invite all of our friends reading this to consider joining MVUC this coming year, and I hope that everyone will attend the annual *Ingathering Picnic* on September 6. I look forward to seeing you then—if not sooner.

Gearing up for September

Before you know it, September will arrive. We are expecting many new visitors, friends, and members on Sunday mornings to attend our services. Sufficient parking for everyone on the hill is going to be challenging. To help alleviate the parking shortage, I would like to remind everyone that there are two approaches to MVUC—one is up the driveway, and the other is up the lovely path from Mason Hill Drive. Parking is easy and available on Mason Hill Drive. The path begins at the fire hydrant, and is clearly marked. Please consider saving the parking places near the church for those who need to park close and joining me in taking the garden path up to MVUC.

We want to encourage everyone to wear their name tags on Sundays. Rev. Kate Walker wants to learn our names and wearing our name tags is a way to help her know who we all are. Also, it helps each of us to learn the names of our fellow attendees.

Many of the name tags that we made last summer are missing. If you have yours at home, please wear it back. If your name tag is lost or you can’t find it on the kiosk, make a temporary sticky tag at the greeter’s table, and sign up for a new permanent name tag. At the close of each service, please drop your name tag in the basket on the greeter’s table or stick it back on the kiosk.

Additional greeters are needed for Sunday mornings. Greeting congregants is a great way to meet and know other. It is easy and I’ll “train” you. If you are interested and can help out occasionally, please e-mail me at sandrapeterson@cox.net. Thank you!

Sandy Peterson
Membership Committee

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*

August 3

*Our Larger World: UUA
General Assembly 2008*

**Bill and Lynn Alsmeyer-Johnson;
Birgit and Al Robbert; Suzanne
Cleary and Dan Cohen**

August 10

*If You Think the Religious Right Is Dead,
Think Again—and Again!*

**The Rev. Barry Lynn
Executive Director, Americans
United for Separation of
Church and State**

August 17

Question Box Sunday
The Rev. Kate R. Walker

August 24

Trust or Bust
The Rev. Kate R. Walker

August 31

*Let It Be a Dance:
Remembering Ric Masten*
Mimi Stevens

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

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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!