

Windmill

Mount Vernon Unitarian Church

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

SEPTEMBER 1, 2008

Taking Note

by

The Reverend Kate R. Walker



What's in a name? For some people, everything. Their entire family history is connected to their name in a kind of DNA web providing their code of who they are and who made them. Names can be deeply personal in ways elusive to our conscious awareness. We remain unaware until some unsuspecting innocent bystander steps over an invisible boundary. With a quickness surprising to the heart, we respond, defending our name and all that it encompasses: history of stories, connection to family members distant and near, attachment to spelling, and pronunciation.

Woe to the person who addresses me as "Katy, Katie, Kathleen, Katherine," or worse, "Catherine." Only one of my brothers gets to call me "Katie." My name is legally Kate, and I'm the third Kate R. Walker in three generations of great-aunt Kates on the Walker side.

We all have different middle names, mine being Ruth, which is my mother's middle name and also my maternal grandmother's first name. My great-aunt Kate and her great-aunt Kate also carry maternal family middle names. There is a tombstone in Gunnison, Colorado, inscribed for Kate R. Walker with her death on February 27, 1963, ten days after I was born.

My great-aunt never married and had no children of her own. She was a career woman, and a middle-school teacher and principal in Gunnison. She imported the first bicycle into Gunnison, from Paris, France. I have it and love to ride it, pedaling backward for brakes. Aunt Kate told my grandfather on February 17, 1963, after reading the telegram that she had a namesake, that it was the happiest day of her life.

I was quite sick when born, an Rh baby as they said, because my mother's blood type was rare. I needed a complete blood transfusion, and death lingered over me. Ten days after my birth, my mother, holding my "screaming, fed-up, tired-of-being-poked-with-needles" body, felt a deep maternal instinct, finally knowing I would live. A few hours later she received a phone call that Aunt Kate had died. She had the flu, went into the hospital, and developed pneumonia after a thoughtless visitor exposed her to another virus.

What's in a name? For some, everything. An entire family history is connected, proud and strong. Whether we're immigrants of recent years or four generations, our names carry us forward. Whether our roots are deep in another country, or North American native land, our names provide us with a connection to a family, a clan, a unit, a com-

See Page 4, *Taking Note*

Program Highlights

Good Companions
11:45 to 12:45—BYO Lunch
12:45 to 1:45—Speaker
Tues, Sep 9—Rev Kate Walker
Tues, Sep 23—Sid Johnson

UU Revival
Sat, Sep 27, 8:30 am—3:00 pm
UU Church of Arlington

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UNITARIAN CHURCH**

MINISTER

The Rev. Kate R. Walker

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Editor: Marlene Churchill

Production Crew: Ginny Endicott, Phyllis Gonigam, Laurie Hayden, Dotty Ann McClelland, Sally Montanari, Susan Montanari, Mimi Stevens, Kathryn Moore, Vilma Morrissey, Betsy Stephens

Proofreaders: barbara barry, Phyllis Gonigam, Curtis Hunter, Mimi Stevens, Herb Tyson

Webmaster: Bill Alsmeyer-Johnson
webmaster@mvuc.org

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Mount Vernon Unitarian Church
1909 Windmill Lane
Alexandria, VA 22307
Tel: 703-765-5950
Fax: 703-765-1237
E-Mail: info@mvuc.org
Website: www.mvuc.org

**Effective September 7, Sunday services
will be held at 9:30 am and 11:15 am.**

Mark Your Calendar!

Ingathering Picnic
Saturday, September 6, 6:00 pm
On the Patio
(See page 4 for details.)

Good Companions
11:45 to 12:45 - BYO Lunch
12:45 to 1:45 - Speaker

Tuesday, September 9, 2008—Please note this meeting will be in the Chapel. **Rev. Kate Walker: Taoism of the East**— A visual and oral presentation on Taoism in China, complete with gods, ghosts and spirits. This is a chance to be with Kate, our new minister since August 1, in an informal get-together.

Tuesday, September 23, 2008—In Hollin Hall. **Sid Johnson: An Agnostic and God**—He tells with humor and insight what the “God” of an agnostic might be like and become. Sid, his wife, **Roxana** (now deceased), and their five children were in many activities at MVUC for over a 45-year period. Recounting his 83-year journey through life, he does not find enough to sustain a theistic or an atheistic belief system. He ultimately finds comfort in agnosticism in spite of its limitations and uncertainties.

A Celebration of the Fall Equinox!
Monday, September 22, 7:30-9:00 pm
in the Remington Chapel
(See page 6)

UU Revival
Saturday, September 27, 8:30 am-3:00 pm
UU Church of Arlington
(See page 5)

Installation Service and Reception
for The Rev. Kate R. Walker
Sunday, October 19, 4:00–6:30 pm

Register for RE Now!

All participants, including the Nursery, must be registered each school year. MVUC's policy states, *Every family must fill out registration forms each year. This enables the church and RE program to maintain accurate records regarding numbers of children in the program and special needs that staff and teachers need to be aware of.* The 2008-09 forms are online at <http://www.mvuc.org/re.html> and in the Commons. *Thank you!*

Religious Education (RE)

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

Dear Friends,

Welcome to MVUC Religious Education, 2008-09! I am bursting with anticipation of this exciting new church school year. Your RE council met for a visioning retreat in July and I am thrilled to be working with this group of positive and forward-thinking volunteers. Watch for innovations in RE programming this year, beginning with more intentional integration of music and song into RE classes on Sunday mornings.

I am pleased to introduce the Tapestry of Faith curriculum for Kindergarten–Fifth grades that we are implementing this year. Below, you will find a description of each of the three curricula, taken from the program descriptions.

Kindergarten–1st Grade: *Creating Home* is a UU journey, open to stories and beliefs from different lands and people. The program helps children develop a sense of home that is grounded in faith, home as a place of belonging and as a "faith home"—the congregation—which shares some characteristics with a family home. Children explore the deep sense of sacredness, the beauty of hospitality, and the gift of loving relationships that a home can represent. *Creating Home* introduces children to UU heritage, including rituals, songs, and traditions of our faith, and stories about UUs whose words, songs, and deeds have helped to shape the faith home that participants share.

Grades 2–3: *Moral Tales* attempts to provide children with the spiritual and ethical tools they will need to make choices and take actions reflective of their UU beliefs and values. The stories woven throughout *Moral Tales* can activate and inform children's learning about how to make moral choices. Sessions introduce tools for discerning truth and justice in a complex world; focus on the ways love calls us to act in the world with humans, other living beings and the earth; and introduce tools and attitudes that are necessary to bring goodness and justice into the larger world.

Grades 4–5: *Toolbox of Faith* invites fourth- and fifth- grade participants to reflect on the qualities of our UU faith, such as integrity, courage, and love, as tools they can use in living their lives and building their own faith. Each of the 16 sessions uses a tool as a metaphor for an important quality of our faith such as reflection (symbolized by a mirror), flexibility (duct tape), and justice (a flashlight).

Each of the Tapestry of Faith lessons is available for your viewing online at: <http://www.uua.org/religiouseducation/curricula/tapestryfaith/index.shtml>.

Continued in next column

September Schedule of Children and Youth RE Classes

Pre-K—Chalice Children

- 9/7 Ingathering Intergenerational Service
- 9/14 Welcome
- 9/21 Tour of the Church
- 9/28 Make Chalices
- 10/5 Chalice Children Memory Game

K-1—Creating Home

- 9/7 Ingathering Intergenerational Service
- 9/14 Social Justice Guest Speaker
- 9/21 On The Threshold
- 9/28 Symbols of Faith
- 10/5 Beehive

2nd-3rd Grades—Moral Tales

- 9/7 Ingathering Intergenerational Service
- 9/14 Social Justice Guest Speaker
- 9/21 We Are All One
- 9/28 Conscience: Hearing the Inner Voice
- 10/5 Faith, Hope and Prayer

4th-5th Grades—Toolbox of Faith

- 9/7 Ingathering Intergenerational Service
- 9/14 Social Justice Guest Speaker
- 9/21 Faith
- 9/28 Questioning
- 10/5 Integrity

Jr. Youth Group, 6th-8th Grades

- 9/7 Ingathering Intergenerational Service
- 9/14 Social Justice Guest Speaker/Pancake Breakfast
- 9/21 Starting our Journey Together
- 9/28 Finding Our Path

YRUU, 9th-12th Grades

- 9/7 Ingathering Intergenerational Service
- 9/14 Social Justice Guest Speaker

Regular classes scheduled for 9/21–10/5, topics TBD.

Parents, please do not hesitate to contact me with your questions, comments and feedback. My office hours are Monday–Thursday, 9:30 am–2:30 pm, and I can be reached by e-mail, dre@mvuc.org, or phone, 703–765–5950, x105. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours truly,
Meagan Henry

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pany, a tribe, kindred and kin complete with blood or adoption papers and rituals.

Know your name, its history, story, meaning and value. Kate, according to a sweet candle my mother-in-law bought me means: Shows love and affection of others and is well focused on her goals. Yup, that's me, and my great aunt Kate, and her great aunt Kate too. I really hope my brothers have children, who then have children who name a daughter Kate. You can call me Kate, or Reverend Kate, it's up to you. Just don't call me Katie, Katherine, or Kathleen.

—Cheers,

Kate R. Walker, Minister

Office hours: Monday–Wednesday: 9:30 am– 4:00 pm
Thursday: Study Day; Friday: Day Off. Please call to make an appointment: 703-765-5950, ext. 104.

(P.S. Please note that I am totally deaf in my left ear, so it really helps if you speak directly to me, or on my right. Due to my hearing loss you'll most likely find me after service hanging out in the Chapel where I can hear people better than in the Commons.)

New Adult RE Class To Be Offered This Fall

Menu for the Future–Discovery Circle

Mondays, 7:00– 8:30 pm, Fireplace Room, Hollin Hall

Monday, September 29–Monday, November 10

Seven sessions, self-guided discussion group

Have you ever considered the impact that food has on culture, society, and the health of our planet? What about the connections between agricultural practices and personal, as well as ecological, well-being? Do you wonder what your role in creating or supporting a sustainable food system might be? This topic is so important that *Ethical Eating: Food and Environmental Justice* is the UUA Study Action Issue for 2008-2012.

Topics: The effects of our modern eating habits; ecological and economic impacts of how we grow and prepare our food; influences shaping our choices and food policies; the issues of hunger, equity and Fair Trade; and inspiring, practical advice on the steps you can take to create more sustainable food systems.

For more information contact **Suzanne Cleary Cohen**, 703-768-4967.



Fall is coming!

..and that means...

the famous MVUC

Ingathering Picnic

*Exotic Wines!
Gourmet Food!
Remarkable People!*

Meet Our New Minister!

Saturday, September 6,
on the Patio

Hors d'oeuvres at 6:00 PM

Brief Program, then dinner at 6:30 PM

- Grilled marinated chicken, hot dogs, veggie burgers, etc.
- Beer, Wine, Soft drinks

Please bring a salad or dessert to share
Donation of \$5 per person to cover costs

*What better way to welcome
in the new Church Year?*

Join us!

**Catch up with friends - Be part of this
great MVUC tradition**

**Sponsored by your Board of Trustees
and Program Council**

Activities On and Off the Hill

Build Your Own Rain Barrel Tutorial Now Online

Want to save the environment, live “green,” and protect the Chesapeake Bay? Try building and installing your own rain barrel to collect and conserve water! A tutorial developed by the City of Alexandria’s Office of Environmental Quality can show you how.

Rain barrels can be placed under your downspouts to capture runoff from the roof. The rainwater you collect can help you save water for use in your yard and house plants, eliminate potential flooding in your basement, and reduce storm water management costs. The use of rain barrels also helps to decrease the volume of storm runoff, which in turn helps to moderate stream erosion and the resulting pollution that is impairing the Chesapeake Bay.

To access the *Build Your Own Rain Barrel* tutorial, visit www.alexandriava.gov. For more information about rain barrels and water conservation, please contact **Jesse Maines**, Office of Environmental Quality, Department of Transportation and Environmental Services, at 703-519-3400, ext 166.

–**Ann Kaupp**, Green Sanctuary Committee

Make a Difference: Tutor a Child at Beacon House!

Want to make a difference in the world? You can, by making a difference in a young person’s life in DC. Volunteer to tutor an at-risk child who needs your help to succeed in the world. Beacon House Community Ministry is recruiting volunteers to work one-to-one, tutoring math and reading with children in grades 1-12. The programs begin the week of September 29 and run through mid-May 2009. Tutors are matched with student and you both meet once per week for two hours from 6:00-8:00 pm. Programs meet:

- Monday–grades 1-5 elementary school Focus Program
- Tuesday–grades 9-12 high school Teen Program
- Thursday–grades 6-8 middle school Yes! Program

No experience is needed, training is provided during flexible dates and times scheduled for weeknights and evenings in September. Parking and shuttle service to/from the Rhode Island Avenue Metro (Red Line) is provided. Application packets will be available at most Social Action tables by August 31. Your church may have a liaison, you can contact that person for more information. If your church does not have a liaison (consider becoming a liaison), contact Beacon House at 202-529-7376 or email **Lavona Grow** at lgrow@beaconhousedc.org or call her at 703-524-4860.

What’s a UU Revival?

A regional Revival Planning Committee is hard at work to create a UU Revival so compelling and so exciting you will find it irresistible. What is planned is a mini-GA with highly energetic worship services to open and close the day. We have booked workshops that are organized in three tracks: Greener Path, the Welcoming Table, and Broader Vision. **Dr. Thomas Lovejoy**, the Heinz Center for Science, Economics and the Environment president, and founder of the PBS program, *Nature*, and many other high profile positions, will lead off the Greener Path track with a talk titled *Climate Change: Prospects for Nature*. Other great workshops include a UU congregations *Secret Shopper* or *Anonymous Visitors’ Training* that will prepare participants to visit Sunday services at churches other than their own this fall and report back what they experience. This information will be used to develop tools to help our congregations improve their welcoming skills and to share great ideas. There will also be a workshop that will actually be a working meeting of the NoVA UU Legislative effort Planning Committee. We have confirmed *Faith, Conscience and Non-Violent Civil Resistance in an Age of Empire and War*, facilitated by **Malachy Kilbride**, Washington Peace Center. We’ll also have an OWL *Out* session that will discuss how UU’s are spreading the good news about safe and responsible comprehensive sexuality education.

Registration for the Saturday, September 27 Revival at the UU Church of Arlington is happening right now online at www.UUSJ.org. Because we will enjoy a catered lunch prepared by the UUCA Food Ministry leader, New Orleans native, **Erica Clark**, we require advance registration. Please bring your name tag from your home church! And we’ll see you on the 27th for worship, music, dancing, clapping, eating, and making joyful noise (do you hear halleluiaah?)

Save This Date

Sunday Oct. 19, 2008, 4:00 to 6:30 pm
Installation Service and Reception
for The Rev. Kate R Walker

Participants will include **Rev. David Bumbaugh, Rev. Kenn Hurto, Rev. Linda Peebles, Rev. Betsy Stevens, Rev. Marlene Walker, and Rev. Betty Jo Middleton**. Please join us for this important and joyous occasion.

Participation in Sunday Worship

The Sunday Services committee is gearing up for the new church year and wants to invite you to help us make worship at MVUC a deeply rewarding time. Of course we are all excited about having **Kate Walker** join us as our new minister, but there are lots of ways that the rest of us can be involved in making our Sunday Services moving and fulfilling experiences.

- Participate in the chalice lighting at the beginning of the service: It's good to see the faces of many different members of our community helping with this important opening ritual.
- Be a reader: People are needed to read short, inspirational texts at almost every service. Texts are chosen by the worship leader, but different voices make the words more real.
- Become a worship associate: The Sunday Services Committee needs your help. Worship associates work with the worship leader to help make the service run. We will be providing training later in the year—from simple things of knowing where the key to piano is to the more complex of understanding the structure of the service and being the glue that holds it altogether.
- Be a worship leader: One of the tenets of Unitarian Universalism is that revelation is ongoing and open to all. Throughout the year and especially in the summer we have lay-led services. MVUC has a long tradition of high quality lay-led services. You can be a part of that.

The first step to being a worship leader is to propose a topic and a brief description to the Sunday Services Committee. We are always looking for new faces. As we plan the calendar, we take into consideration the various interests of the congregation and the originality of the proposals and try to weave together a diversified program of imaginative and enriching worship experiences. Sometimes several people will address the same topic on a given Sunday. Sometimes just one person is in the pulpit. Always we have experienced worship associates to back you up.

If you are interested in participating in Sunday morning programs, please send me an email at Sunday1909@mvuc.org or call me at 703-799-1208. Hope to hear from you.

Margaret Bartel
Sunday Services Committee

Director of Music Position

A search committee is working to fill the Director of Music position. The position announcement can be found on the MVUC website. If you have suggestions, questions, or comments regarding the search process, please contact any of the Search Committee members: **Angel Collins, Tom Griffin, Eric Pourchot, or Cheryl Sabo**. E-mails can be sent to: musicsearch@mvuc.org.



Holiday Shop Update

Already the Every Thursday group has begun its cooking of chutneys on Thursday mornings. We have begun making craft items, and the quilt is just about ready to come together. We also have begun collecting nice house decorating items and old jewelry to sell. So, if you can come join us on Thursday mornings at 10:00 am, we would love to have you.

Donated items can be left in the Hollin Hall kitchen. Beginning September 29, we will have the Holiday cooking and craft Monday evening class in the Hollin Hall kitchen at 7:00 pm. It will run every Monday evening until Holiday Shop week, November 17. Come once, come every week—whatever time you can share will be welcomed. Any questions? Ask **Mary Barnett, Sandy Peterson, or Ruth MacCleery**.

A Celebration of the Fall Equinox!

Monday, September 22, 7:30-9:00 pm
in the Remington Chapel

Come and join us for some relaxation exercises, easy yoga and a labyrinth walk in celebration of the changing seasons. We will begin by getting our bodies nice and relaxed, then move onto some easy yoga exercises, and finish up with a labyrinth walk. During the walk, **Carolyn Gamble** will play some improvised pieces for us on the piano. Sounds inviting, don't you think? Wear comfortable clothing and bring a yoga mat or a blanket. If you have any questions, contact **Kathi McNeil** at 703 780-5939 or krmcneil2105@aol.com.

Activities On and Off the Hill

Caring Community News

Partner Church News

Thanks to everyone who attended and helped at our Partner Church summer brunches. Many people have asked who made the delicious Cheese Strata. It was our own **Joan Wamsley**, and her recipe is at the end of this item.

We will be starting our scholarship program for our partner village, Szentháromság, this month, and the current sponsors will be contacted soon. If you are interested in sponsoring a student to attend high school, trade school or university, contact **Lisa Gillispie**.

PCC Cheese Strata

- 1 stick butter
- 10 (or so) slices bread, cubed (assorted ends work great)
- 8 oz. shredded cheese
- 3 eggs
- 2 cups milk (skim)
- 1/2 tsp dry mustard
- 1/2 tsp red pepper (ground)

The night before, melt butter in 9 x 12 baking pan. Stir in bread cubes to coat. Stir in shredded cheese. In a bowl, stir eggs well; add milk, stir well; add mustard and red pepper. Stir well. Pour over bread. Cover pan and refrigerate overnight.

In morning, preheat oven to 325 degrees. Uncover pan and bake 30 minutes.

In Memoriam Jeffrey Searle

Jeffrey Searle, son of **Al** and **Flo Searle**, died in Tallahassee, Florida, on August 1, 2008. Jeffrey was a member of the MVUC group in the 1960's, with many friends in MVUC and Hollin Hills. Information will be furnished at a later date regarding the private memorial gathering of Jeffrey's friends to be held at the residence of Al Searle, in accordance with Jeffrey's wishes.

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).

Wednesday Fellowship Meals

Wednesday Fellowship Meals are back! Come and plan to join together for a catered meal and a variety of activities. The first one will be **Wednesday, September 24**. If you are available to assist, please contact **Louise Werner-Rhoades** at 703-619-1369 or louron13@cox.net.

Preparations Begin for Annual Book and Art Sale

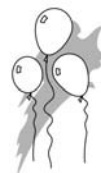
The Annual Book and Art Sale will be March 26-28, 2009. We are accepting donations of books, puzzles, CDs, DVDs, and art now. We do not need records, magazines, encyclopedias, or withdrawn library books. For more information, contact **Joan Wamsley** at 703-751-6086. Books left over from the last sale are on the shelves in the Fireplace Room and are for sale at 50 cents each. They will be available until the shelves are needed for the Holiday Shop.

Do You Buy Groceries At Giant?

Joan Wamsley has Giant gift cards (\$20 or \$100) for sale. MVUC buys the cards at 5% discount and sells them at face value. The profit goes to the operating budget. If you shop at Giant, please consider using these gift cards. Other denominations are available. For more information, contact Joan at 703-751-6086.



RE Youth September Birthdays!



- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 7 Ilene Gillispie | 14 Helina Meressa |
| 8 Faten Hasan | 17 Maeve Bradley |
| 8 Sally Henrehan | 20 Bryce Woolf |
| 9 Alex Fithian | 20 Starling Carter |
| 9 Mollie Passacantando | 22 Michael Brandt |
| 9 Maxine Piatt | 24 Daniel Stern |
| 9 Michaela Piatt | 24 Isabelle Caballero |
| 9 Dillyn Zindler | 25 Evie McNulty |
| 11 Sarah Butler | 27 Olivia Hansell-Foster |
| 14 Fiona Penn | 29 Ben Brandt |
| | 29 James Howe |



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.

News from the Social Justice Council

MVUC has the wind in the social justice sails, so to speak. After winning the Bennett award for social justice and getting certification as a Green Sanctuary and a Wildlife Refuge, the social justice team started to plan a new year of activities. We met throughout May and June to brainstorm, organize ourselves, finalize our mission statement, identify further needs, and determine how to better respond to the congregation's input regarding particular activities.

A number of organizational issues are worth highlighting, particularly if you are thinking of joining the social justice team. Our finalized mission statement, charter, special collections, and annual plan of work will be publicized on the new website, expected to become operational in September. Also, we have a Social Justice Council membership list for your information, at the end of this article. If you are interested to join any of the groups, committees, or task forces below, please contact the group leader in your area of interest or the social justice coordinator.

Here are highlights of our activities in the 2008-2009 church cycle. We are kicking off a *Living Green Year* in September, with the specific purpose of making intentional life style changes in our personal lives, at work and in church. At Ingathering, we will sell cloth shopping bags with MVUC logo, *Building Our Hill of Dreams*. A handout will let you know how much waste is created by the inordinate use of plastic shopping bags, and how they end up on the bottom of rivers and oceans, killing marine life, or in landfills, slowly poisoning the earth. Consider using MVUC cloth bags when you go to the grocery store, and spread the good news about our church in the process. Further in the year, we will recycle old cell phones, work with church staff to complete the recommendations of the energy audit, listen to environmental speakers, and much more.

We are also planning topical services on issues of interest to our congregation: immigration in October, affordable housing and homelessness in November, the right to choose in January, a March service for our two partner churches, and an April Earth Day service. We continue to feed the homeless, December through March. We collect food, clothes, and checks for UCM, Rising Hope, and New Hope Housing to support them in their on-going struggle to keep people from dying of hypothermia in winter and to advocate for more affordable housing by the county. For those in the congregation who are not yet registered

to vote, we will have available information and forms in September and October.

The speaker series continues with a debate for the House seat that Republican **Tom Davis** is vacating. We have other potential speakers such as the ambassadors of Afghanistan and of Pakistan, and **Senators Jim Webb** and **John Warner**. In November, MVUC will host a Legislative Preview of the Northern Virginia Unitarian Universalists, organized with the UU Church of Arlington and UUSJ. The Legislative Preview features elected representatives from Richmond speaking about their priorities in the state legislature. **Delegate Robert Brink** and **Senator Patsy Ticer** are confirmed to speak. **Rev. Doug Smith** of the Virginia Interfaith Center will give us a rundown on what legislation is up for a vote, and where our representatives stand on issues. Last year's Preview resulted in concerted lobbying by UU churches in Northern Virginia regarding the payday lending bill, which passed with provisions that were recommended by people like you. Concerted action does work, if you get involved.

MVUC's leadership to repeal *Don't Ask, Don't Tell* is starting to pay off. Our own Joan Darrah testified on Capitol Hill and appeared on ABC, NBC, **Diane Rehm** shows and in *The Washington Journal*. Thanks to her Group, this piece of legislation is closer to being repealed now than it ever was. **Jamie Barnett** also published an article in the *The Washington Post*. Information about all these events is posted on our website and on the social justice bulletin board in the chapel.

We have also established a Disaster Relief Fund, to be able to support people in need as tragedies occur at a fast rate. To date, we have been able to support the UUSC Myanmar Fund, the Knoxville Fund, and the UUA fund for mid-west states affected by floods this summer. We rely on congregational support for the fund. All you need to do is write a check to MVUC, with Disaster Relief Fund in memo line, and place it in the basket on Sunday morning. The hurricane season will undoubtedly be our next challenge.

If you are interested in any of the activities we are currently developing, please contact any of the group leaders listed below. We meet on the first Monday of the month, in the Morning Room in Hollin Hall. Meetings are open, come join us.

Continued on Page 9, Social Justice

Trustees Report

By Lauck Walton, Board of Trustees Chair

Dear Colleagues,

The Board has returned from its annual retreat in Star Tannery, Virginia, with renewed energy to work on behalf of the congregation. The retreat was held at **Pam** and **Bruce Tinker's** mountain home and was facilitated by JPD Staff member, **Michelle Grove**. The Board would like to thank the Tinkers and Michelle for their contributions to the success of the retreat.

While the Board's goals for the year and beyond are not finalized, it is safe to say that it will be spending time on stabilizing staffing, improving infrastructure and technology, and working on capital financial issues. While handling those "business" items, the Board also plans to support our new minister and the building of shared ministry, and to continue support of the outstanding programs on the Hill. The Board wants to continue to keep all interested parties informed through this newsletter, a redesigned website (coming soon), forums, attending meetings, and in regular conversation. Our meetings are open to all members, but please check the website carefully for dates as there is a proposal to adjust dates on the Board agenda in September.

The Music Director Search Committee is off and running. Its members are **Eric Pourchot**, **Angel Collins**, **Tom Griffin**, and **Cheryl Sabo**. Please make a special effort to thank these excellent volunteers for stepping up to this challenge.

They have inherited a very difficult task as we have not had much stability in our music program for quite a while, and there are extremely diverse opinions about what exactly our music program should look like. I hope that all members will help us find a stable path forward to a quality music program.

Fortunately, the Committee has some time to consider the candidates because **Joanne Masterson** has stepped forward and agreed to help coordinate music with the worship program at the beginning of the church year. Please thank **Joanne** for continuing to share her talents with all of us.

If you have questions or want to reach me, please contact me at Lwalton4@usa.net.

Best regards,

Lauck Walton, Chair

Continued from Page 8, Social Justice

The leadership list below also tells you that we have a number of vacancies. If your talents, skills and passions happen to fit any of these vacancies, please contact any of us. We will work with you to re-energize the Welcoming Congregation Committee, or the Committee on Racial Diversity. We would love to have someone with a knack for publicity; we are so busy doing things, we sometimes lose track of advertising and that lowers the impact our activities might have in the larger community. A secretary's job can be thankless, but it can also be very rewarding when you work with a group like ours.

In love and community,

Your Social Justice Council

Social Justice Coordinator: **Georgia Pourchot**
 Civil Liberties Task Force: **Marybeth Bernhard**
 Green Sanctuary Task Force: **Dick Schaffer**
 Rt. 1 Task Force: **Helen Lounsbury**
 Reproductive Rights Task Force: **Lynn Alsmeyer-Johnson**
 Partner Churches Committee: **Lisa Gillispie**
 Repeal Don't Ask-Don't Tell Group: **Joan Darrah**
 Blood Drive: **Jim Potter**
 Speaker Series: **Gregg Early**
 Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice [UUSJ]
 Trustee: **Al Robbert**

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee [UUSC]
 Representative: **Dan Cohen**
 Liaison to Interfaith Groups: **Ron Brandt**
 Young Religious Unitarian Universalists [YRUU] Representative: **Alison Stevens**
 Welcoming Congregation: **Vacant**
 Committee on Racial Diversity: **Vacant**
 Religious Education Council Liaison: **Vacant**
 Publicity: **Vacant**
 Secretary and Communications: **Vacant**

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
in the Remington Chapel*

September 7*Gather the People***The Rev. Kate R. Walker**September 14*Vision Test***The Rev. Kate R. Walker**September 21*Worship and Radical Equality***Peg Bartel**September 28*Days of Atonement***The Rev. Kate R. Walker**

**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!