

Windmill

Mount Vernon Unitarian Church

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

DECEMBER 1, 2008

Taking Note

by

The Reverend Kate R. Walker



About two years ago, I noticed I was sometimes reluctant to go to bed at night. This reluctance appears to be getting worse. It's not because I don't like to sleep, or I don't like my mattress (I love to sleep and I love my mattress!!). I think it's tied to my corresponding reluctance to get up in the morning, which is nothing new, but not wanting to get up seems in odd conflict to not wanting to go to bed at night.

It's also tied to the recent disappearance of October.

I'm rather in shock that I am writing this newsletter column for a December issue, when I haven't finished with October yet. And, yes, I've noticed it's November already because we've got a list for our Thanksgiving dinner shopping adventure. This is all tied together along with my hitting middle age.

I think I'm lamenting the passing of my life.

Each time I begin my bedtime routine, I know in a few hours I'll wake up and another day of my life will be gone. Gone for good, without any chance of a do-over or taking a mulligan. My life has multiple joys; there are also challenges bringing on all sorts of tears and grief deep in my heart, but I still wouldn't want to change a thing. I also know I'm probably not even halfway through yet. Due to my good genes, I'm likely to hit my 90's, outliving most of my immediate family.

Since the passage of time has definitely accelerated (I don't care what those folks at the Greenwich, England, time station say), I'm greatly concerned that I'm going to miss more months than just October 2008.

Okay, it's not that I missed October. I have memories of my wedding anniversary, my installation (one of the best in human history!), and I even remember all sorts of other things. It's just that it went by so very fast. Superconductor speed. I want to slow things down a bit so I can enjoy my life now that I have a mature appreciation of it.

I have found that one antidote is to pay attention and appreciate. I'm finding ways and creating moments when I intentionally stop what I'm doing and pay attention to the details that make up any given moment,

See Page 9, Taking Note

Program Highlights

Holiday Craft Workshop
Sat, Dec 6, 2:00-4:00 pm
Commons

Holiday Dinner and Sing-Along
Sat, Dec 6; 5:30 pm, Dinner;
6:15 pm, Sing-Along
7:00 pm, Pinata
Meeting House

**Advent Common Meal and
Communion Service**
Sun, Dec 7, 12:30 pm
Hollin Hall Sun Porch

**Partner Church Christmas
Holiday Brunch**
Sun, Dec 28, After 11:15 am
Service-Hollin Hall

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heard-Page 8



**MOUNT VERNON
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,
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Mimi Stevens, Kathryn Moore,
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Proofreaders: barbara barry, Phyllis Gonigam,
Curtis Hunter, Mimi Stevens, Herb Tyson

Webmaster: Bill Alsmeyer-Johnson
webmaster@mvuc.org

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newsletters@mvuc.org.

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

Mark Your Calendar!

Good Companions
No meeting in December
Meetings to resume in January 2009

Boxwood Picking
Monday/Tuesday, December 1-2
Weather Permitting! (Page 3)

Holiday Craft Workshop
Saturday, December 6, 2:00-4:00 pm
Commons (Page 3)

Holiday Dinner and Sing-Along
Saturday, December 6; 5:30 pm, Dinner;
6:15 pm, Sing-Along
7:00, Pinata
Meeting House (Page 3)

Advent Common Meal and Communion Service
Celebrate the season of Advent by joining us for a communion service
on Sunday, December 7, at 12:30 pm. In the tradition of the early fol-
lowers of Jesus, we will begin with a common meal and fellowship on
the Sun Porch of Hollin Hall, followed by a short communion service.
All are welcome. For more information contact
Peg Bartel at 703-799-1208.

Sunday Book Club
Sunday, December 14, After 11:10 am Service
Village Wharf Restaurant (Page 5)

Partner Church Christmas Holiday Brunch
Sunday, December 28, After 11:15 am Service
Hollin Hall (Page 3)

Religious Education (RE)

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

Holiday Pageant

Join us for our annual Holiday Pageant, brought to you by the Religious Education Program. This year's play, *It's a UU Christmas, Charlie Brown!*, is an adaptation of the traditional favorite, *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, by **Charles M. Schulz**. **December 21**, Second Service *ONLY*, 11:15 am.

Holiday Craft Workshop

Join us for the annual Holiday Craft Workshop on Saturday, **December 6**, 2:00-4:00 pm. There will be crafts for children and adults of all ages, including the ever-popular gingerbread houses and boxwood wreath-making for adults. Sign up to attend, reserve wreaths and gingerbread houses, and/or volunteer in the Commons or by contacting **Karen Offringa** (koffringa@yahoo.com).

Holiday Dinner & Sing-Along

Join your fellow MVUCers for a holiday dinner on Saturday, **December 6**, at 5:30 pm, followed by the Holiday Sing-Along—complete with piñata, tree decorating, and "Twelve Days of Christmas" hilariously led by our own Marty Bredeck—at 6:15 pm. We provide dinner and drinks; you provide dessert. Volunteers are needed to lead dinner preparation and clean-up. Sign up to attend and/or volunteer in the Commons by contacting **Seileen Mullen Murphy** at smurphy@sentinelconsulting.net or 703-283-5130, or **Suzanne McDonnell** at shortenzdc@aol.com.

Boxwood Picking

Help prune boxwood in our gardens for the Holiday Craft Workshop. The English boxwood pickings become holiday wreaths at our workshop. No experience needed. We are hoping to gather December 1 and/or 2 (weather permitting), under the guidance of "Senior Picker" **Wendy Burns**. Please join us for a fabulous day on the Grounds! You can volunteer for an hour or for a day. All assistance is welcome; contact **Seileen** at smurphy@sentinelconsulting.net or 703-283-5130. Sign up in the Commons.

Successful 2008 UNICEF Carnival

Hats off—witches' hats, that is—to **Jan Vaughan**, who tirelessly each year pours her creative energies and playful imagination into our yearly UNICEF fall carnival. This year, because a basement flood in the Carriage House had damaged so many of our decorations and children's games, Jan had to work even harder to quickly obtain replacements.

She also helps conceptualize a new theme each year for the Jr. Youth Group's (6th-8th grades) participation as they construct a haunted house, which always claims an enthusiastic reception.

The Cakewalk has now risen to its own fame, as we have church members who take time to bake elaborate Halloween theme goodies (you know who you are), as well as those who donate already-baked goods (see picture). It seems as if a gambling frenzy hits people of all ages when they're angling for the win of a great treat.

This year we saw many long-time friends of the church and community—those of all ages attended. There was a sense of community, and within the blur of 45 minutes, we had raised \$588 for UNICEF.

~**Suzanne McDonnell**, RE Council



Angel Collins and her family made the prize winning "Eyeball Cake" for the UNICEF Carnival cakewalk. The Mastersons were the lucky winners who got to take it home!



Many of our members and friends may be unclear on why our building plans have been put on hold. The answer is related to trends in our stewardship commitments.

In 2002, 282 households made stewardship commitments (pledges) to support MVUC. Their pledges averaged \$1,159 and totaled \$326,739. In the current church year, we have 195 stewardship commitments, averaging \$1,830 and totaling \$356,896. Between 2002 and now, the decline in the number of pledges has been gradual and persistent. To maintain our revenue and avoid cuts in staff and programs during that period, many of us have significantly boosted our annual stewardship commitments each year, resulting in the much larger average pledge we are seeing this year compared to the average in 2002. However, with our shrinking pledge base, we have not been able to generate a stream of revenue sufficient to take on debt service, which would be required to launch our building plans. That, in a nutshell, is why the building plans have been put on hold.

Our Board of Trustees is confident that, going forward, our active membership, Sunday service attendance, number of stewardship commitments, and other indicators of church life will reverse direction and start to increase. Some indicators, such as Religious Education attendance, are already rising.

Our next stewardship campaign, to be conducted in the spring, will hopefully tell us that we can think again about setting construction dates. In the meantime, the funds collected in our Capital Campaign either have been used appropriately (for Hollin Hall renovation or design and permitting of the planned meeting house expansion) or are being retained in a separate bank account and money market fund, not to be used for other purposes.

Al Robbert

Chair, Finance Committee

Attention Social Action Chairs: UUSJ Announces New Collaborative Fund With Grants of \$300

The proceeds from the October 2008 Social Justice Awards Benefit Gala created a new way for UUSJ to meet its goal of increasing the frequency, impact and visibility of UU collaborative efforts in the region.

The UUSJ Collaborative Fund supports programs promoting cooperation to enhance the impact of social justice endeavors among congregations, organizations and individuals. Priority will be given to collaborative projects involving two or more UUSJ member congregations or organizations, to promote best practices in areas such as environmental justice and reducing oppression. The UUSJ co-chairs have authority to approve expenditures for a variety of collaborative program expenses. UUSJ will make a form available shortly and will encourage grant requests of up to \$300. The first grants may be awarded as soon as January. Contact **Terrie Barr** at terriebarr@comcast.net for information.

Old Cell Phones, Etc!

The Outreach Church in Alexandria is sponsoring a phone and electronic device drive. If you have the following items, and no longer use them, why not donate them to help build a church in Alexandria? Every item can assist a needy person or family, and help generate funds at the same time.

The following items are recycled: **cell phones; iPods and related items; digital cameras; Blackberries; and used ink cartridges.** Contact **Pastor Marvin Scott**, 703-455-2278 (home) or 301-661-2824 (cell), for information or to make arrangement for pick-up if you are not in the neighborhood of our present location at 8121-A Richmond Hwy. Thanks so much. **Dr. Marvin Scott, PhD**, Outreach Church

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.

Activities On and Off the Hill

Sing With the Choir at Martin Luther King (MLK), Jr., Volunteers in Community (VIC) Choir Festival

The MVUC Choir invites you to join them at the Fourteenth Annual MLK, Jr., VIC Choir Festival on Sunday, January 18, 2009, at the Good Shepherd Catholic Church, located at 8710 Mount Vernon Highway.

At this annual celebration of the life and works of **Dr. King**, about fifteen choirs from churches in the Mount Vernon-Route One area will sing one selection each, then join together in a heavenly throng for two incredible pieces: the **Steffe-Wilhouisky** arrangement of the *Battle Hymn of the Republic* and *Get All Excited to See the King* by **Patti Drennan**. Savor the experience of being part of a massive choir!

As **Reverend Kate** said in last month's Windmill, "You can sing too!" Everyone—occasional choristers and first-timers alike—are invited to join us in representing our religious community. Youth singers, 4th grade and up, are invited to sing with the group. (The following Monday is a school holiday, so it won't hurt to be out a little late!)

We'll perform an SATB arrangement of *Standing on the Side of Love*, by **Rev. Jason Shelton**, which was written in 2004 to honor **Rev. William Sinkford**, President of the UUA.

Special rehearsals to prepare our selections for the Festival will take place prior to regular Wednesday choir rehearsals on **December 3 and 10, and January 7 and 14, from 7:15 pm to 7:45 pm**. Of course, all adults are invited to stay for choir! We will have extra rehearsals between services in January also. For more information, contact **Joe Kitrosser** at (703) 768-8508 or joekit@verizon.net; or Interim Director of Music **Mark Zimmerman** at music@mvuc.org.

This is a very special opportunity for us to express our UU principles in our community, specifically the acceptance of one another and the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all. Please join us with your heart and your voice!

Questions to Ponder from the Annual Question Box Sunday held in August.

Q. In deciding to come to MVUC, what pleased and encouraged you the most about MVUC, and what gave you pause or concerns?

A. I was impressed in sequential order by the online Congregational Record Sheet that the Search Committee put together, and then the packet that was sent to me. Both were well organized and thoughtfully put together. The stories of the congregation were presented fairly, even when painful. I loved the commitment to social justice, particularly that it wasn't minister-dependent, but rather lay-inspired. I was also delighted with the ability of the search committee to ask good questions and to laugh together as a committee. I knew I wanted a congregation that could both cry and laugh together.

My only real pause was whether Mark and I could afford to live in the area. The commitment to fair compensation that the board made to all staff helped alleviate our concerns. We also knew that Mark had a strong shot at getting a job in this area. He is now the Director of Development and Communications at United Community Ministries.

Q. Do you play any musical instruments?

A. No, although I am attempting to learn a wooden indigenous flute I picked up in Canada. It sounds beautiful when others play it.

—**Rev. Kate R. Walker**

Sunday Book with Lunch Group

You are invited to join the Sunday Book with Lunch Group on December 14, following MVUC's 11:15 am service, at the Village Wharf Restaurant. Come enjoy *Driving Mr. Albert: A Trip Across America with Einstein's Brain* by **Michael Paterniti**—a book that is about an unlikely threesome: a writer, an elderly pathologist, and **Albert Einstein's** brain as they travel across America. The book is based on the urban myth that Einstein's brain was taken so it could be studied.

Please also plan to join us in January when we will be discussing *The Monkey Wrench Gang*, which **Rev. Kate** referred to during the November 16 service. For more information, contact **Louise Werner-Rhoades** at louron13@cox.net.

Activities On and Off the Hill

Ministerial Start-Up Workshop

MVUC held a very successful ministerial start-up workshop on November 7-8. **Rev. Melora Lynn-good**, JPD representative, facilitated the workshop. Over 50 members participated in the Saturday evening session; 20 church leaders continued the conversation on Saturday. The purpose of a ministerial start-up workshop is to lay the groundwork for a healthy relationship between the minister and the congregation, and to establish a thriving shared ministry—work the minister and the congregation do together to care for the congregation and for the larger community.

On Friday evening, **Rev. Kate** learned more about who we are and what we care about as a congregation. We shared our hopes and fears for MVUC. Many of us expressed a hope to grow: in number of members; in deeper spirituality; in greater participation of members; and in better and expanded programs, activities and outreach. We also hope to complete our building expansion. Fears expressed included concerns that we won't be able to afford to complete our expansion, or that we may over-extend, and that we may overburden/burn-out our active membership upon whom we rely so heavily in caring for our church community.

In the final exercise on Friday evening we listed and prioritized characteristics of MVUC. The most important characteristics are: MVUC cares about Social Justice; seeks and provides for spiritual growth; and values open and transparent communication, integrity, and fair-mindedness.

We outlined what the Board, the minister, and the committees are primarily responsible for. The Board is responsible for: budgeting and fiscal planning; policies and procedures; developing a vision/mission of the church; and strategic planning. The Minister is responsible for: worship; pastoral care (urgent and on-going); and spirituality. The committees are responsible for the on-going activities, programs and administration of the church.

For a full description of the discussions at the workshop and the covenant produced between our lay leaders and **Rev. Kate**, please visit the MVUC website, www@MVUC.org.

Priority Enrollment for Fort Hunt Preschool

MVUC members have from January 6, 2009 to January 30, 2009 to take advantage of priority enrollment for the Fort Hunt Preschool (ages 2, 3, and 4) at MVUC for the 2009-2010 school year. Open house will be held on Saturday, January 31, from 10:00 am–12noon. Interested families can schedule a tour of the school at any time by calling the Admissions Chair, **Christina Smith**, at 703-360-2367.

Partner Church News

Jane Nelson recently returned from a trip to the Khasi Hills, where she visited with our partner church and school and Mawlat, India. She brings greetings and thanks from our partner minister, **Nangroi Suting** and the school headmaster, **Recover Sawian**. Here is a small excerpt from a letter sent from the church board and school secretary:

We the people from Mawlatbah Unitarian Church and School thank God to give us this opportunity to write this letter to you. We hope this letter finds you and all your families in good health . . .

Now our school and church have progressed from one day to another day. The big question is, who made this? It is by your great help and kindness . . .

We have no special gifts for you, but only the most precious love and respect. We are thankful for your help. May this [partnership] continue between you and us.

Jane plans to give a presentation about her trip soon. She also brought back an amazing packet of letters and drawings from the students in the Mawlat Unitarian School. We will share those as well.

Please consider a gift from the heart during the holiday season, by supporting our Alternative Gifts program to support our partners. Please see **Lisa Gillispie** or any member of the Partner Church committee to create your honor gift. We will make the cards available between services in December.

Plan to attend the **after-Christmas holiday brunch on Sunday, December 28, in Hollin Hall.**

We have three scholarship students still looking for sponsors. Please see **Lisa Gillispie** if you are interested in sponsoring one of these students with a full or partial scholarship.

Our Congregation

October/November/December Members' Anniversaries

We honor these members on their anniversaries of joining MVUC:

Over 50 years ago: Peter Keir, Jeanne Graef, Mike Niccolls, Dolores Hoover, Sally Montanari, Ken and Pat Krogh, and Arnold Edelman.

Between 40 to 49 years ago: Bea and Jay Holmes, Lewis Long, Alvin and Diana Macomber, and Bea and Henry Bobotek.

Between 30 to 39 years ago: Robert and Virginia Revere, Larry Jackley, Walter Anderson, Elisabeth Campbell, Ginny Endicott, Bill Boissenin, and Jan Vanderstaay.

Between 20 to 29 years ago: Bert Ely, Randy Merrifield, Mimi Stevens, Barb Selzer, Mike Walker, Deborah Berger, and Gil Fritz

10th-year anniversary: Bill Means, Julie and Steve Dressing, and Bill and Lynn Alsmeyer-Johnson.

5th-year anniversary: Vannessa Anderson, Helen Lounsbury, Judy and Ron Stevens, Eben Kuhns, and Laurie and Marty Hayden.

Congratulations! from the Membership Committee
~Sandy Peterson

In Sympathy

We extend our sympathy and regards to **Linda Davidson** who lost her sister, **Susan Bolgatz**, to breast cancer this summer. Linda and her sister were very close. Susan leaves behind her husband, **Jay**, and their 18 year-old son, **Lee**, in addition to her parents, three sisters, and many others who loved her.

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).

Recognition of Members

THANK YOU! A very special thanks from all of us to **Steve and Kelsey Dressing** who have been laboring mightily over the past few weekends, carefully weeding and improving our rain gardens. The gardens are looking a lot better and doing exactly what they were designed to do. This is labor-intensive AND skilled labor (don't want to pull up the wrong plants!). Be sure to thank Steve and Kelsey the next time you see them—they are making us all look good.



Congratulations to **Danica Priest**, MVUC member and daughter of **Daniel and Patricia Kenny-Priest**, who will receive her BA in Music from Virginia Commonwealth University on December 13, 2008. Following her graduation, Danica will join the African UU Tour in January. The ten-day trip is sponsored by the Kenyan Unitarian Universalist Council, an economic development project of Bridges into Africa.



From **Kathi McNeil**: Special thanks to all of you who helped make Kate's installation at MVUC go so well! I'm sure you will all agree that it was an inspirational service and bountiful reception. I'd like to personally thank all of those who helped me with the reception. I couldn't have done it without you! On behalf of the Ministerial Service Committee, I'd like to thank the entire congregation and friends for embracing our new minister!



RE Youth December Birthdays!



- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Priya Bredeck | 21 Gabriel Ross |
| 8 Emma Ross | 23 Athena Beidler |
| 15 Sarah Mulvaney | 27 William O'Connell |
| 20 Malcolm McNeil | 27 Tommy Marsh |
| 20 Gabriel Chesney | 30 Anna Vaughan |



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.

A VOICE To Reckon With

A powerful collective call to action was heard from members of a diverse group of Northern Virginia houses of worship on Sunday, October 5, at the founding public action of Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement (VOICE). This meeting was held at First Mount Zion Baptist Church in Dumfries, to accommodate over 2,300 people in attendance.

Why, you might wonder, should we pay attention to this call? Very simply put, VOICE promises to be the single most effective bottom-up vehicle to effect social change in Northern Virginia. It does so by: 1) pooling inter-faith activists who are concerned about increasing injustices in our community; 2) pooling their resources for collective action; 3) identifying areas of immediate work; 4) calling on elected officials to work with the faith community to implement change; and 5) following up for responsible and accountable government action.

This broad, community-based effort has been in the making for the past three years, to organize interested institutions for action. At the October 5 meeting, 39 sponsor-institutions, representing 120,000 people from Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax County and Prince William County, with financial commitments of over \$165,000, came together to present their agenda for action in front of elected representatives. The agenda includes issues that MVUC has been working on for many years: affordable housing, homeless services, immigration, access to health care, and access to mental care.

Elected officials in attendance were asked individually four questions. Would they work with VOICE to defend and preserve affordable housing for low income individuals in their counties/cities? Would they work with VOICE on easing the backlog of naturalization applications and enhancing access to English as a Second Language courses? Would they work with VOICE to increase access to dental care for low income individuals? Finally, would they agree to meet in early 2009 with VOICE constituents and report on progress to date?

All but one official answered affirmatively. **Prince William County Chair of the Board of Supervisors Corey Stewart** refused to work with VOICE on these issues, and highlighted budget constraints

and ideological differences with the community agenda. **Alexandria Mayor William Euille** promised more than he was asked; he offered to be an active part of VOICE. **Senate Majority Leader Richard Saslaw** of the Virginia Senate, **Vice Chair of Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Sharon Bulova**, **Arlington County Board Chairman Walter Tejada**, and **US Senate candidate Mark Warner** all agreed to work with VOICE. **Chairman Gerry Connolly** and **Governor candidate Jim Gilmore** were invited, but could not participate. Letters of support for VOICE agenda were sent by **Congressman Jim Moran** and **Senator Jim Webb**.

Three Unitarian Universalist churches have already committed resources and members to this effort: UU Church of Arlington, UU of Fairfax, and Bull Run Unitarian. MVUC should be next!

~**Helen Lounsbury** and **Georgeta Pourchot**

World AIDS Day 2008

On Monday, December 1, 5:30 pm at the Foundry United Methodist Church, 1500 16th St, NW, Washington, DC, a diverse group of people of faith will gather with the broader community to observe World AIDS Day 2008. Speakers from the faith community will include **Rev. Bill Sinkford**, **Rabbi David Saperstein**, and **Rev. Dr. Bernice Powell Jackson**. The event will be an interfaith observance, followed by a candlelight vigil.

With lives at risk in our local communities, our country, and around the world, we all have a moral obligation to act and speak truthfully about HIV and AIDS and to lead the way to effective prevention. On World AIDS Day, we call for effective leadership from political and religious leaders to ensure that all people have access to evidence-based and medically accurate sexual and reproductive health information, as well as the full range of contraceptive options. All individuals and organizations, religious or secular, are welcome to participate. We hope you will join our call for the truth and leadership needed for effective HIV prevention.

For more information, to get involved, or to add your organization as a co-sponsor, please contact **Nina Schwartz** at the National Council of Jewish Women: nina@ncjwdc.org.

Trustees Report

By Lauck Walton, Board of Trustees Chair

We are in the full throes of the MVUC year at this point. MVUC is an exciting place to be. Attendance appears to be increasing, new members are signing the membership book each week, and new volunteers are stepping forward and stepping in at events great and small.

It is difficult to grasp the magnitude of the activity on and around the Hill. If you just come over at any given time, you can find both the peace and tranquility of the grounds and Memorial Walks and the frenetic pace that starts early in the morning with the Fort Hunt Cooperative Preschool. It ends well after dark with attendees from a myriad of committee meetings and life-span classes emptying out into the parking lot, usually for more fellowship and conversation.

As we move into the winter, the Board's attention turns to stewardship and budget preparation, which are intrinsically linked. We have a generous congregation that has increased its average annual pledge year after year to offset decreased members. This year it certainly appears that we will have an increase in

the number of members, and hopefully this will allow us to proceed with many of the items that we have not been able to accomplish recently. I was thrilled that **Jamie Barnett** and **Jim Potter** have stepped forward to lead our 2009 Stewardship Drive—we are in great hands. **Al Robbert**, who served previously as the Stewardship Drive leader, will continue to be our “voice of experience” and serve on the Stewardship Committee.

The Board has been discussing future staffing levels, unfunded requests, and budget priorities, and will continue to do so for the next several months. The next meeting of the Board will be on December 9, at 7:30 pm in the Commons. You are all welcome to attend.

I would encourage everyone to check out the new website and specifically read the minutes; then let me or any other Board member know what you think about the general direction or any specific issues.

See you on Sunday (or some other day!),

~Lauck

From Page 1, Taking Note

and then I appreciate those details. This may not slow down the passage of time, but I think it is helping me notice my life more and more.

It is a spiritual existence to notice one's life—that is, to really notice and recognize the intricate details, and hopefully the essence of each moment that we are graced to continue to exist. Children are good at navigating through life at a slow pace, but they don't usually have the ability to integrate their life into any semblance of a big picture. That's the gift and the burden of an adult perspective.

As you head into the holidays, when so many moments should be a gift and not a stress, may you experience the joy of the big picture. May you find appreciation and reassurance that if you had a mulligan, a do-over, you wouldn't change a thing.

Happy holidays, for each day is holy.

And, get some sleep.

Peace, **Kate Walker**

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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!

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
(Except where noted differently)*

December 7

Holidays Reds and Blues

Rev. Kate R. Walker

December 14

Where is the Hope?

Rev. Kate R. Walker

December 21

In the Twinkling

Rev. Kate R. Walker

(10:00 am Service Only)

December 28

Myth Metaphor and the

Coming of the Light

Peg Bartel

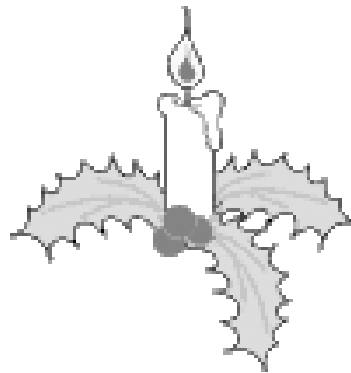
(10:00 am Service Only)

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SEASON
FILLED WITH PEACE
AND LOVE**