

Windmill

Mount Vernon Unitarian Church

AUGUST 1, 2009

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

... is a Welcoming Congregation. Its Mission is to inspire a transforming journey, to embrace our interconnectedness, and to build a loving community of fairness, equality and respect.

Taking Note . . .

by The Reverend Kate R. Walker



The bird lay on the bike path, the breath of life recently gone from its lungs. Its wings were relaxed at its side, its beak slightly open, and eyes unblinking. I pedaled past, unable and unwilling to stop and give the bird a nudge to a better place for death to satisfy its hunger.

Most of the time we humans pedal past death. We choose to not stop. It's better left at the side of the road, out of the way. Life is precious, yes, but we often pedal through life too, as if in a race. To what we race is rarely answered with any satisfaction.

It is only when death hits hard in our hearts, close and personal, that we're forced to stop and face death in its full form.

Death is one of those experiences that pierces through the frivolousness at the surface of life. We suddenly stopped in our headlong push forward—that constant pursuit to always get something accomplished so we can feel good about our day. And, when dreadful words come toward us, we're unable to stop them and the pain that slowly emerges from the softest part of our heart.

In these moments, life is suddenly full of depth, meaning, and challenge. We're faced with those life-changing questions that lead to a mixture of answers and more pain and fear.

Somewhere in the swirl of emotions, our values are what hold us together as we wrestle with those questions—questions such as:

How have I used my gifts in this world?

Where and how do I find meaning in my life?

Do I remember to be grateful enough?

For what am I grateful?

*Have I really learned to love to the full force
that I yearn for?*

*Am I open to intimacy, vulnerability, tenderness,
communion with others?*

*From where do I draw my strength, courage and
power? How does my faith sustain me through
this pain?*

There are more questions—many more questions.

The answers may change with time and more experience with death. What guides us can make the ride more or less comfortable.

In the end, comfort may be the destination to which we're pedaling so hard. To some degree we need to pursue comfort with death, the pain, and the waves of grief. This doesn't mean we like it, but maybe we can accept that which we can not change.

Please take a look at the article on page 3 about *Theme-Based Ministry*. The idea behind it is to help us with the questions before we're forced to stop pedaling.

Keep the love flowing, it's what keeps us sane.

Cheers, **Kate Walker**

**MOUNT VERNON
UNITARIAN CHURCH**

MINISTER
The Rev. Kate R. Walker

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Reid Adler, Chair, '10
Joan Darrah, Vice Chair, '11
Dan Cohen, Secretary '12
Tamara de la Camp, Program
Council Convener, '11
Birgit Robbert, '10
Mike Walker, '10
Bill Alsmeyer-Johnson, '11
Jamie Barnett, '12
Lisa Gillispie, '12
Ian Anderson, Youth Representative '12
~ ~ ~

Meagan Henry, *Director of Religious Education*
Mark Zimmerman, *Director of Music*
Al Erickson, *Church Treasurer*

S T A F F

Branka Bijelovich, *Church Administrator*
Anne Bredeck, *Office Manager*
Farhat Chaudhry, *Nursery Caregiver*
Leah Choudhury, *Property Manager*
Norman Comfort, *Custodian*
Jim Kerr, *Religious Education Assistant*
Nina Tisara, *Rental Events Coordinator*

WINDMILL NEWSLETTER

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

Proof Readers: barbara barry, Phyllis Gonigam,
Curtis Hunter, Mimi Stevens,
Herb Tyson, Lynn Alsmeyer-Johnson

Webmaster: Bill Alsmeyer-Johnson
webmaster@mvuc.org

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.

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

**Program Highlights
Mark Your Calendar!**

Good Companions will not meet in August;
meetings will resume in September.

Small Group Ministry Training and Information
Rev. Kate Walker and Georgeta Pourchot,
Wednesday, August 19, 7:00-9:00 pm
Sunday, August 23, 11:30 am-1:30 pm
(Page 4)

Partner Church Brunch
August 30
Following Sunday service

Pastor's Summer Schedule

The Rev. Kate Walker will be on vacation and study leave
through August 16.

*In case of pastoral emergency, please call
the church office, 703-765-5950, ext. 103 or 106,
for the office staff.*

Katie Tyson Fund

There have been many inquiries about donations in Katie
Tyson's name. To honor her memory and continue her pas-
sionate leadership, her parents and friends have initiated the
Katie Tyson Fund to train and develop leaders among Uni-
tarian Universalist youth & young adults. Electronic dona-
tions can be made at [http://www.mbdoua.org/news/?arti-
cle=159](http://www.mbdoua.org/news/?article=159).

Checks can be made out to: Mass Bay District, with "Katie
Tyson Fund" in the memo line, and mailed to: Massachusetts
Bay District Office, 182 Main Street, Watertown, MA 02472.
Questions? Call 617-393-4216.

Theme-Based Worship

This year the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church joins with other Unitarian Universalist churches in North America in a new worship and program event. Using a three-year cycle each month, from September to May, we'll focus on one theme. On the fourth year, the cycle will begin again.

Our monthly theme will be integrated into our religious community in multiple layers:

***Sunday Worship:** On the first Sunday of each month, **Rev. Kate Walker** will focus the entire Sunday worship on the theme, and integrate elements of the theme into the other Sunday services that same month. Worship lay leaders will be invited to do the same.

***Newsletter:** There will be a reflection on the theme in the Windmill, with suggested readings for further personal study.

***Electronic Media:** A twice-a-month e-mail will be sent to all church members for reflection.

***Committees and Community Programs:** Suggested short readings will be sent to all committee chairs and event leaders for use in opening meetings and events.

***Small Group Ministry:** Study sessions will be given to facilitators for discussion and study.

***Religious Education:** In addition to the Sunday story time, we're looking at other ways to integrate the theme into religious education programs.

Why are we doing this?

From the website of All Souls Unitarian Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma:

Mission: To engage and empower our congregations and members to think theologically and live their ministry and calling at home and in the wider world.

Vision: To provide North American Unitarian Universalist churches with a transformational approach to ministry that includes the entire congregation and equips their members with resources for living each day with faith, integrity and wisdom. Unitarian Universalists prepared with the language and religious understanding to play a substantial role as shapers of our country and its

culture, and to engage in dialogue with people of other backgrounds regarding issues of faith, values, ethics and religion.

The hope is to help our members explore, in greater depth, core theological questions and concerns through story, metaphor, and symbols, and then apply them to daily life. The expectation is for members to personally decide the level and depth they want to engage a particular theme. The themes offer all generations a common set of stories, ideas and topics to be in conversation about each month. The story each month is from multiple sources, including the Bible, famous Unitarians and Universalists, or from other world religions and cultures. This way, members attain greater biblical literacy and are given the opportunity to develop a theology, informed by many faiths, that is rooted in Unitarian Universalism.

Why is this model important?

Again, from All Souls Unitarian Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma:

Offering a systematic approach to theological learning in churches gives people the resources for dealing with life's challenges prior to encountering particular challenges. It is often difficult to suddenly try to develop a spiritual life and an understanding of the most important concepts for living when one is in the midst of dealing with a major life crisis. For example, it is often when someone receives a terminal diagnosis that they begin to explore death and the meaning of life, or when they have been betrayed that they begin to try to understand forgiveness. However, when a person has a basic understanding of major life issues prior to encountering them and also has an ongoing spiritual practice, this allows the person to move through life's travails with greater integrity, gracefulness and acceptance.

With a theme-based approach, people develop resources for living throughout their lives, and at times when they are not in the midst of a crisis. Therefore, they carry these religious resources with them and are able to draw on a well-established religious understanding and perspective as they deal with the vicissitudes of life.

See Page 4, Theme-Based Worship

Activities On and Off the Hill

From Page 3, Theme-Based Worship

Schedule for Theme-Based Worship			
Month	Year 1 (09/10)	Year 2 (10/11)	Year 3 (11/12)
September	Community	Life	Hospitality
October	Forgiveness	Death	Creation/Creativity
November	Gratitude	Faith	Democracy
December	Hope	Joy	God
January	Justice	Commitment	Freedom
February	Love	Prayer/Spiritual Practice	Evil
March	Wholeness	Generosity	Atonement/Redemption
April	Transformation/Resurrection	Liberation	Mercy
May	Transcendence	Vision	Peace

Small Group Ministry Training and Information
Rev. Kate Walker and Georgeta Pourchot,
Wednesday, August 19, 7:00-9:00 pm
Sunday, August 23, 11:30 am-1:30 pm

Small Group Ministry (SGM) is an adult program to help deepen relationships between members, in small groups of no more than 12 people. The groups meet two to four times per month; they are open and always welcome new members. They are structured, yet flexible, for life's inevitable unexpected events. The purpose is to offer a path to better realize our mission as a congregation and religious community. SGM supports four primary areas of our congregation: Worship, Community, Learning, and Service.

SGM starts by training facilitators and continues with the actual formation of groups. In August, we will train facilitators. Depending on the congregation's response to the training sessions, the program will start full swing in Fall 2009. If you are interested in being a trained facilitator and helping promote this new program, please join us. You can attend either training session—they are the same. After August 17, you may contact **Rev. Kate R. Walker**, minister@mvuc.org, or 703-765-5950, ext. 104, for further information.

2nd Annual Murray Grove Drum and Dance Retreat!
August 14-16, 2009

Express yourself creatively and spiritually! Workshops on Afro-Brazilian, Latin and West African Drumming, and African Dance and Belly-Dancing: Ancient practices with roots in ritual, religion and celebration! Only \$250 per person for the weekend, double occupancy, including meals! Or sign up just for the Saturday afternoon and evening session for \$75. Space is limited, so register quickly! For information and registration: Murray Grove Retreat and Conference Center, PO Box 246, Lanoka Harbor, NJ 08734, 609-693-5558, (e-mail murraygrove@murraygrove.org, or visit www.murraygrove.org).

From UUSJ E-News

Activities On and Off the Hill

LGBQ Volunteers Needed

Researchers at George Mason University are studying the work lives of lesbian, gay, and bisexual individuals (LGBQ) who have been at their current place of employment for less than one year. Participants receive \$50 in gift cards or charitable donations for completing surveys about workplace interactions over a three-week period. Participants must hold a full-time job in the DC region. To learn more, contact **Dr. Jon Mohr** and **Dr. Eden King** at work_xperiences@gmu.edu or visit their website at <http://mason.gmu.edu/~jmohr/workexperiences.htm>.

Get Updates on Health Care Reform from the White House

Reforming health care should also involve you. Think of other people who may want to stay up to date on health care reform and other national issues and tell them to join here: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/EmailUpdates>. Health care reform can't come soon enough. We spend more on health care than any country, but families continue to struggle with skyrocketing premiums and nearly 46 million are without insurance entirely. It is a priority for the American people and a pillar of the new foundation we are seeking to build for our economy.

UU Service Committee Working with Gaza Youth

With UUSC's help, youth in Gaza are leading efforts to rebuild their communities after the recent conflict. Youth-led projects include counseling trauma victims and repairing homes. To read more about the heroic efforts of Gazan youth, go to http://www.uusc.org/content/young_people_gaza_renewing_communities.

President Obama Launches New Volunteer Web Site

United We Serve, a new initiative endorsed by the Obama administration, encourages all citizens to take an active role by volunteering in the community. The Web site will show you ways to volunteer in your community and how to develop your own service projects. Go to <http://serve.gov> to learn more this exciting project to create a better future!

Report from the Stewardship Committee

MVUC's support has been evident throughout our FY 2009-2010 Stewardship Campaign. Despite the difficult economy, 217 pledge units (17 above our goal) have committed \$387,717 (\$12,283 less than our goal) to support MVUC in 2009-2010. These results were made possible by our 53 visiting stewards. MVUC is a caring and generous community.

This report concludes the 2008-2009 Stewardship Campaign. We thank you for caring, and we thank you for your financial support. Let us keep on keeping on building our hill of dreams.

~**Jim Potter** and **Jamie Barnett**
Co-Chairs, Stewardship Committee

The Holiday Shop Is Coming!

The annual Holiday Shop will be held Saturday, November 21. Please mark your calendars!

The Every Thursday group is beginning its plans for this big event. Please check your jewelry boxes for old and unwanted jewelry suitable for resale—also, scarves, belts, purses, etc. (no clothes) are desired. Donations of decorative household items will be used in the Holiday Shop boutique (our own upscale/retail boutique). Now is the time to begin creating crafts for sale. (We have a special table for donated crafts). Also, the Every Thursday group currently needs wooden yardsticks for one of its craft projects. Please leave your donations on the table in the Hollin Hall kitchen, with a note stating your name and that the item is for the Holiday Shop.

With the economy down, we will all have to work hard to make this another successful Holiday Shop!

~**Anne Ulm** (703-751-6210 or asulm@aol.com)

Joseph Priestley District (JPD) Women & Religion Fall Retreat

JPD Women & Religion announces its annual Fall Retreat (October 16-18), scheduled this year for the Bishop Claggett Center in Buckeystown, MD. View the beautiful retreat site at www.bishopclaggett.org. Please go to www.jpddwr.org to see the announcement and other news. For further information, contact **Anne Slater**, Registrar, 610-896-6468, slater.anne@gmail.com

Activities On and Off the Hill

Learn What Happened at UUA General Assembly This Year

The UUA General Assembly this year was an exceptionally important one, with a new president elected, important votes taken on a number of issues, and UU University offering valuable information in many areas.

Bill and Meg Clontz have filed an article all about their experience as UUs in Salt Lake City along with 4,000 other UUs. Check the MVUC web site (www.mvuc.org) for the article (see the link on the home page), or just enter *Salt Lake City* in the *SEARCH* box on the home page.

Also, check the UUA web site (<http://uua.org/events/generalassembly/2009>) for a very full report.

MVUC is getting Automatic Emergency Defibrillators (AED)

We will have these life-saving devices installed in the next few weeks—one each in the Meeting House, copy room, and the Hollin Hall kitchen.

They are quite easy to use, following the instructions that come with the equipment, and we will have a cadre of people trained in their use and in CPR. Names of these individuals will be posted adjacent to the AEDs.

Looking through the "Green Lens"



Easy Green!

Please buy as little as possible in plastic containers. Aluminum and glass are recyclable. They can be reformed into what they were originally. Plastic is a petroleum-based product and can only be down-cycled. For example, plastic bottles can be made into Trex boards. Plastic stays in the environment for at least 1,000 years. It only becomes more toxic over time as it breaks down. Please look for alternatives before buying anything in plastic containers or accepting plastic bags. Just a thought.

~Wendy Burns

MVUC Membership Milestone Anniversaries

We wish to recognize the following members for their years of membership to MVUC.

Happy Anniversary to those who joined during the months of March, April, May and June.

50 years ago: Elaine Bronez

46 to 49 years ago: Bev and James Southerland, Golden and Ralph Slawson, Dotty Ann McClelland

45 years ago: Alice Lauthers

36 to 40 years ago: Bob Schultz, Talbot Hoover

35 years ago: Karna Schwimmer, Jean and Susan Elliott

30 to 34 years ago: Dorothy and Ron Brandt, Carole Willis

25 to 29 years ago: Carl Lohmann, Betty Jo and Howard Middleton

20 to 24 years ago: Laura and Rob Jernigan

15 to 19 years ago: Leila Goodman

10 to 14 years ago: Bonnie Brandt, Lisa Napier, Bob Kuhns

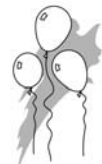
Thank you for your long service to our community.

~Sandy Peterson

Membership Committee



RE Youth August Birthdays!



3	Madalena McNeil	17	Abigail Zevin
8	Alec Coakley	19	Sophia Passacantando
8	Fares Hasan	22	Caitlyn Lager
8	Zachary Gauger	24	Morgan Walton
12	Maggie Farley	24	Julius Bredeck
12	Myah Lasky	25	Evie McNulty
13	Sam Sabo	28	Andrew Sabo
13	Abby Swenson	30	Sarah Watson
15	Marcus Picado		

Katherine Anne Windau “Katie” Tyson



Pictured above is **Katherine Anne Windau Tyson**, age 21, a student, rights activist, environmental activist, and young adult Unitarian Universalist leader, who died on July 2 in Colorado when her car was struck head-on by another car just south of the Wyoming border. **Katie Tyson**, as she was known to friends and family, died instantly in the crash, which is still under investigation by Colorado State Police.

Katie was born in 1988 to **Karen** and **Herb Tyson** of Alexandria. She was a Girl Scout for 13 years and held a second-degree black belt in karate. She was a 2006 graduate of the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, a **National Merit Scholar**, and recipient of a **University Scholarship** to attend Boston University. She graduated **magna cum laude** in May 2009 from Boston University, where she received her BA degree in mathematics and statistics in only three years. She had planned to begin graduate studies for her doctorate in biostatistics in September, also at Boston University, where she worked as a math and statistics tutor. She was also a summer research assistant at BU, working on the Framingham Heart Study. Earlier, she spent three summers working as a research assistant or consultant for Economic Systems, Inc., in Falls Church, Virginia.

In Boston, Katie worked for GLAD (Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders) for the Human Rights Campaign, and as an advisor for the Interfaith Youth Initiative of the Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries. She was on the board of Boston University’s Spectrum, sang in the Symphonic Chorus, campaigned for the environmental group ForestEthics, and worked for fair wages for the Immokalee Tomato Pickers.

Katie was active in Arlington Street Church in Boston and served as one of its delegates to the Unitarian Universalist Association’s annual General Assembly, which was held in Salt Lake City this year. She was driving back to Boston when she was killed. This was her third General Assembly. She was an enthusiastic member of ASC’s young adult group and this year was a member of the canvass committee. She participated in a test of the adult Our Whole Lives curriculum.

Katie had avid interests in photography, music, baking, cooking, writing, computers, number puzzles, hiking, biking, and running, and was widely known as an unapologetic grammar purist and computer geek. She loved animals and was looking forward to getting a kitten this fall.

Katie had a wide circle of loving friends—young and old—in the Washington, DC and Boston areas. She was active in MVUC, where she served on church committees, sang in both the youth and adult choirs, and served as the youth representative on the Board of Trustees. She was a gifted pianist and singer and often provided music for worship services at MVUC. In 2006, she received the **Outstanding Youth Award** from the Joseph Priestley District of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Katie is survived by her parents, **Karen** and **Herb Tyson** of Alexandria, her grandmother, **Lois Tyson** of Alexandria, and her partner, **Elizabeth Weber** of Boston. She is also survived by four aunts, seven great-aunts, three uncles, four great-uncles, and nine cousins. Katie was preceded in death by her grandmother **Lola Light Windau** and by her grandfathers **Robert G. Windau** and **Herbert L. Tyson**.

Memorial Services honoring the memory of Katie Tyson (March 25, 1988–July 2, 2009) were conducted at MVUC on July 18, following a Celebration of Life Service that was held on the preceding evening.

MVUC members were devastated by the loss of Katie Tyson. It is incomprehensible that such tragedy should strike a lovely, young person like Katie.

We are reminded in our grief of the compassion and resiliency of our MVUC family. As a caring community, we come together in times of sorrow and need to help one another. Katie will live in our hearts forever.



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.

MVUC Members March to the White House and Urge President Obama to End *Don't Ask, Don't Tell*



Pictured above, left to right, are Joan Darrah, Len Pilkenton, Birgit Robbert, Al Robbert, Annie Mechanic, and Lynne Kennedy, kneeling in front.

On Saturday, June 27, the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall demonstration in NYC, MVUC members, **Al Robbert, Birgit Robbert, Annie Mechanic, Ken Pilkenton, Lynne Kennedy and Joan Darrah** joined the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN), veterans, service members and supporters in a march to the White House. The marchers urged President Obama to take action on repealing *Don't Ask, Don't Tell*. The 265 marchers represented the number of service members discharged under *Don't Ask, Don't Tell*, since President Obama and the new Congress were sworn in. This event was given extensive coverage on the *Jim Lehrer News Hour*.

In other developments, Joan participated in an event at the National Press Club on Wednesday, July 8, during which US Rep. Patrick Murphy, a straight Iraq War veteran, announced that he was taking over as the lead sponsor of the *Military Readiness Enhancement Act (HR 1283)* that will repeal *Don't Ask, Don't Tell* and replace it with a policy of non-discrimination based on sexual orientation. "I've seen great soldiers get kicked out of the Army, not because of misconduct, but because of their sexual orientation," Murphy said. "It hurts our military, and it's a policy that's long overdue for a change." As of July 9, *The Military Readiness Enhancement Act* had 158 co-sponsors. The House needs 218 votes to get a bill passed, so we are making great progress. According to Murphy, repeal of *Don't Ask, Don't Tell* will still take months, but "I'm optimistic that we're going to get this done. No one ever said change was easy." A similar bill is expected to be introduced in the Senate shortly.

Finally, Joan and Lynne attended the Freedom to Serve Forum at the Harry S. Truman Library in Missouri on July 27, 2009. The event commemorated President Truman's signing of an Executive Order that ended segregation in the US Armed Forces 61 years ago. Political commentator Juan Williams emceed the forum, which had a keynote address by historian Michael Beschloss. Joan was a member of one of the panels that focused on the state of diversity in the U.S. Military and remaining challenges.

~Joan Darrah

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** (meg@theclontz.net).

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.

From Our Board

by Reid Adler, Chair

This summer has been a time of transition. We lost several beloved friends and congregants who have inspired and challenged us, and who will be deeply missed. We celebrated a bridging ceremony for graduating high school seniors, and welcomed the “coming of age” of our eighth graders. And **Ron Brandt** passed the Church Administrator’s baton to **Branka Bijelovich**. His marvelous contributions as one of our most committed volunteers for the past two years have included vital congregational and board support, new policies and clear procedures, and rethinking and reorganizing many activities and programs. (Please welcome and introduce yourself to Branka as she gets up to speed!)

The Board of Trustees has also had its own annual membership transition, effective this year on July 1. We welcomed incoming Trustees **Lisa Gillispie**, **Dan Cohen** and **Jamie Barnett**, and thanked outgoing Trustees **Lauck Walton**, **Lisa Guide** and **Bill Clontz**. I was honored to be elected Board Chair and am joined on the Executive Committee by Vice-Chair **Joan Darrah** and Secretary **Dan Cohen**. My heartfelt thanks also go to **Birgit Robbert**, who served wisely and effectively this past year as Secretary.

The Board intends to focus in-depth on a selected number of “big picture” matters, including finances and capital improvements and their funding, and conducting some program and administrative gap analyses. As a few examples, we may consider the “experience of new members,” and look for ways that the Congregation, Board, relevant committees, and staff might better understand and enhance that experience. Another topic of interest and concern is how better to encourage and utilize potential volunteers. How might the Board provide or align resources to make our various programs more suc-

cessful and rewarding to participants? In general, we intend to rely even more extensively this year on our excellent permanent staff to handle operational and administrative matters.

At the July meeting, we discussed Church governance at length, including our bylaws and who actually is responsible for what. We need to clarify and optimize the respective roles of Board, Program Council, Program Committees, and staff. We’ll continue this discussion in August and expand the analysis to consider the roles and charters of our various committees. I expect to involve the Congregation in this conversation at an open meeting early in the fall.

You might be interested in reading about some of the best practices for non-profit board governance, e.g., http://www.managementhelp.org/np_progs/brd_mod/boards.htm. One of my favorite motivational outlines describes twelve behaviors that make for exceptional boards—an appropriate aspiration for the MVUC Board! See <http://www.boardsource.org/Bookstore.asp?page=sourcelogon>. Also, many UUA churches are moving toward “Policy Governance” as an appropriate way to balance Board responsibilities in the context of Congregational polity (which is to say that final authority rests with the Congregation). See, for example, <http://www.carvergovernance.com>. These topics will be part of the open meeting mentioned above.

In the meantime, the Board would welcome your suggestions for issues, topics and problems that should be addressed this year. Please share your thoughts with me and I will pass them along to the Trustees for our annual Board retreat in late August. You can write to me at boardchair@mvuc.org.

~Reid Adler, Chair
MVUC Board of Trustees

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 2

A UU Perspective on Public Education
Ron Brandt and Ben Whelan-Morin
(Special Collection)

August 9

*Congregation 2.0: Building
Citizen Evangelists Today*
Keith Brophy

August 16

Poetry Readings
MVUC Poets

August 23

*With a Small 'c': Living the
Second Principle*
Mimi Stevens

August 30

Question Box Sunday
Rev. Kate R. Walker
(Partner Church Brunch)

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

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Alexandria, Virginia
Permit #658

Address Service Requested

TIME VALUE MAIL — PLEASE EXPEDITE DELIVERY

Receive the Windmill via E-Mail!

Join our many readers who receive the Windmill early. You can get the newsletters faster and save money in the process by enrolling as an electronic subscriber. Read it on your computer and/or print it out, using Adobe's free PDF reader. Zoom to a comfortable text size for easy reading! Use the Search feature to find names and events faster! You can enroll or change your e-mail address at any time by notifying the webmaster at webmaster@mvuc.org. Please include your full name so we can remove it from the postal-version distribution list.

**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!