



Windmill

*To affirm and
promote the in-
herent worth and
dignity of every
person*

Mount Vernon Unitarian Church November 1, 2009

... 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



Mark and I just saw the new Michael Moore movie, ***Capitalism: A Love Story***. I recommend it if you haven't seen it yet. Moore is an entertaining documentary maker, and knows how to evoke emotion without a single Spielberg technique (well, maybe some small ones).

I suspect there is lots of debate amongst Unitarian Universalists on the pros and cons of Moore's op-ed on capitalism. Before the debate begins with me, let me draw your attention to one segment that is sticking with me that I offer up as a reflection on religious values: Franklin D. Roosevelt's 1944 presentation of the "Second Bill of Rights." The bill, had it been enacted, would have guaranteed economic security via living wage jobs, medical care, and a home. These echo the famed psychologist Maslov's ideas on basic needs: breathing, clothing and shelter.

Roosevelt said "Unless there is security here at home, there cannot be lasting peace in the world."

There is more truth in these words than a mere job, health care, and a home. These are the basics, the fundamental needs in order to feel secure in a world often overwhelming and oppressive. Without these, there is no self-actualization and little happiness. Without these we can't mature, maintain friendships, have intimacy, and develop self-esteem.

While there has been some critique of Maslov's hierarchy of needs, there remains a fundamental truth that all people should have access to the basics of life's sur-

vival. Otherwise, as Roosevelt said, "... there cannot be lasting peace in the world," physically or spiritually. It seems we have yet to believe in Roosevelt's dream.

Buddhism teaches that all people have a basic human right to be happy. Jesus gave his time and attention to those at the bottom of the social ladder, making sure they had food and good health. Mohammed taught that all Muslims should engage in *zakat*, one of the five pillars of Islam, which requires charity.

Seems simple enough, until one attempts to live by these through action. The gap between good ideas and implementation of those ideas often proves insurmountable for humanity. The challenge of removing obstacles and creating clear pathways toward happiness and basic needs can be akin to creating world peace—beyond our grasp.

Whatever your opinion of capitalism—source of salvation, or source of evil—we can all see that too many people are not getting access to basic human "rights." Might ensuring access to the basics of survival be our mission as a faith? Our seven principles are wonderful lofty ideals to which both the religious and the secular can aspire, but none of them call us to ensure basic human rights. Might our Mission here at Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church be that? Imagine a world in which Roosevelt's dream had become reality.

Cheers,
Kate R. Walker

Be sure to vote in Virginia, Tuesday, November 3!

Rev. Kate R. Walker

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The Windmill is published monthly. Deadline for articles is the 15th of the month. Items will be edited to fit available space. Please e-mail articles to newsletters@mvuc.org.

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Program Highlights Mark Your Calendar!

UNICEF Halloween Carnival

Sunday, November 1, 10:30 am to 11:15 am

See page 3 for details.

First Wednesday Fellowship Dinner

November 4, Dinner 6-7 pm, Vespers 7-7:30 pm

Contact Georgia Pourchot for information

gpourchot@yahoo.com or 703-721-0595

Home for the Holidays

Friday, November 6, 5 to 9 pm

Hollin Hall, \$75/person

Cocktail Reception & Specialty Vendors

Hosted by Friends of UCM

<http://www.ucmagency.org/NewsandEvents.html>

Fort Hunt Preschool Rummage Sale

Saturday, November 7, 8 am to Noon

See page 5 for details

2010 Virginia Legislative Preview

Saturday, November 7, 10 am to 2:30 pm

Fairfax Unitarian Universalist Church

See <http://www.novaluup.org/> for further information.

Lunch with a Book

Sunday, November 8, 12:45 pm

at the Village Wharf Restaurant

See page 5 for details.

Good Companions

11:45 am to 1:45 pm—see page 7

Tuesday, November 10—Judie Booth

Tuesday, November 24—Jim Potter

Holiday Pageant Rehearsals

Beginning November 9 at 7 pm

See Page 3 for details

Cabaret & Celtic Coffeehouse

Featuring Angel Collins and Points of Roguery

Sunday, November 15, 7 pm

See page 6 for details.

Holiday Shop

Saturday, November 21, 9:30 am to 4 pm

See Page 5 for details.

Partner Church Brunch

Sunday, November 29 after the single 10 am service

See page 8 for details.



Religious Education (RE)

By Meagan Henry, Director of Religious Education (DRE)

Music in Children's RE

Many thanks to **Betsy Lowry** for putting together a band of Roving Minstrels. These folks travel from classroom to classroom one Sunday each month, teaching children songs and giving them an opportunity to make music on a variety of instruments. This is something new we are trying in RE this year, so please ask your child(ren) about it and share their feedback with us. And if you notice your little one spontaneously breaking out into song or playing rhythms on your pots and pans, now you know the possible roots of this inspiration.

MVUC Annual Holiday Pageant

This year we are doing the Holiday Pageant, *Spirit of the Christmas Tree*. The pageant presents the Nativity Story from a UU perspective, with much music and merriment. There will be multiple roles available for children who like to sing! Rehearsals begin Monday, Nov. 9th, 7 pm – 8 pm and continue on Monday evenings through Dec. 14th. There is an additional dress rehearsal on Dec. 19th and the presentation is Sunday, Dec. 20th. Watch for announcements regarding sign-ups for children to participate and parents to volunteer. Sign-up sheets will be in the

Commons on Sunday mornings or you can contact **Meagan** at dre@mvuc.org for more information.

UNICEF Halloween Carnival

Sunday, November 1, 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m., on the Carriage House grounds. The Annual MVUC UNICEF Carnival will be held once—between services. Everyone is invited to come in costume and celebrate Halloween with games and treats. This is a social action project—prizes and goodies are donated so all proceeds go to UNICEF. *Warning: The Snake Pit will be haunted by the 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Youth Group!*

Adults and kids can help by running carnival games and supplying baked goods for the cake walk and bake sale. Helping with the carnival counts as community service for school civics requirements. *Please* bring a cake for the cakewalk, which is always a big hit. Ribbons will be awarded for the best cakes! Bring baked goods to the Commons before the 9:30 service or directly to the carnival after the service. Contact **Suzanne McDonnell** shortenzdc@aol.com about the cake walk and **Jan Vaughan** jansvaughan@aol.com about the carnival—or sign up in the Commons to help.

Holiday Craft Workshop: Join us for the annual Holiday Craft Workshop on Saturday, December 5, 2-4 p.m. The workshop will feature crafts for children and adults of all ages, including the ever-popular gingerbread houses for children, and boxwood wreath-making for adults. Dinner follows at 5:30 pm. At 7 pm, join in the Holiday Sing-along—complete with piñata, tree decorating, and *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, energetically and hilariously led by **Marty Bredeck**. Volunteers are needed to lead crafts, dinner prep and clean-up. Sign up in the Commons to attend, reserve wreaths and gingerbread houses, and/or volunteer.

Boxwood Picking: Help prune boxwood in our gardens for the Holiday Craft Workshop. No experience needed! We'll gather during the first week of December (TBD) under the guidance of "Senior Picker" **Wendy Burns**. Please join us for a fabulous day on the Grounds! Volunteer for an hour or for a day. All assistance is welcome. Contact **Seileen** at smurphy@sentinelconsulting.net or 703-283-5130.



RE Youth November Birthdays



5	Malcolm Kerr	18	Chloe Sinn
6	Patrick Brown	23	Nathan Kuhns
7	Jonathan Erickson	26	Nikki Bak-Brevik
9	Jessica Masterson	26	Ewan Thompson
11	Emilia Stapleton	30	Erin Conway
18	Adam Schramm		

Monthly Worship Theme

GRATITUDE

To educate yourself for the feeling of gratitude means to take nothing for granted, but to always seek out and value the kind that will stand behind the action. Nothing that is done for you is a matter of course. Everything originates in a will for the good, which is directed at you. Train yourself never to put off the word or action for the expression of gratitude.

[Albert Schweitzer](#)

With these words, I find myself looking for things, people, events, experiences for which I am grateful. This makes for a pretty good day, one much improved compared to when I look for excuses for why I'm miserable. **Kate Walker**

Sunday, Nov. 1, 2009: *Thank You*—The Rev. Kate R. Walker. The theme of the month for November is gratitude. Can this be something we practice like a new skill, or is it a virtue, or perhaps the key to happiness? Many wisdom keepers have spoken to all of these.

Sunday, Nov. 8, 2009: *Finding Freedom*—The Rev. Kate R. Walker, Joan Darrah, Larry Jackley, and Ron Brandt come together for a reflection on Veteran's Day.

Sunday, Nov. 15: *The Heart of Gratitude*—Peg Bartel and the Contemplative Group explore gratitude from a contemplative perspective.

Sunday, Nov. 22, 2009 : *Across the Sea with UUSC*—The Rev. Kate R. Walker. This is our annual intergenerational service celebrating the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, our outreach to others in need around the world. The Children's Choir will be singing.

Sunday Nov. 29: *One Wild and Precious Life*— A service celebrating the gift of life, based on the poetry of Mary Oliver. Betsy Yarrison, moderator.

Question Box Sunday

Q. What is MVUC's elevator speech? Do we have one?

A. Hmm, do you? I hope we each have a short explanation of what MVUC is all about. I don't recommend a statement that we all vote on and recite, since whatever we say should be authentic and from our own passion for MVUC. Having said that, I hope that MVUC goes through the process of creating its own Mission Statement. That helps clarify for everyone why MVUC is so important. If someone asks me about MVUC, I would say something akin to "Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church is a liberal religious community serving the Mt. Vernon area with insightful ideas and energy in creating a more just and compassionate community."

Q. What can we do to be more welcoming to, tolerant of, inclusive of believing Christians who are disenfranchised or no longer enchanted by the Christian church?

A. The same question can apply to other faiths such as Judaism or Islam. As UUs we have a commitment to be inclusive through our use of language and actions, which means a constant awareness of our words and what we do. It's particularly important around key holidays such as Easter, the High Holy Days, and Ramadan. Just knowing when these occur and the theology behind them helps, which means we need to make sure we read, ask questions, and explore other faiths. That's probably the biggest action that anyone can do: Learn more about other faiths—including Christianity.

Q. What will be your initiatives for the coming year (Sept.-June 2010) for the congregation and yourself? How do we help?

A. These are the goals that I submitted to the board at our retreat in August, subject to further consideration and refinement:

- *Work closely with the Music Director (Mark Zimmerman), Director of Religious Education (Meagan Henry), and Worship Committee on improving high-quality worship activities*
- *Establish and develop the monthly theme-based worship program*
- *Establish and set up a process to sustain a small group ministry program that is not minister-dependent by fall 2010*
- *Create an environment that can hold a healthy level of anxiety around a capital campaign and possible shift toward a policy governance model for functionality*
- *Establish relationships with the larger Route 1/Mount Vernon mental health community and find a niche for my ministry in those settings*

Sub-goals:

- *Finish adult curriculum on death, and present to MVUC by winter/spring 2010*
- *Work with the Director of Religious Education (Meagan Henry) on renewing/enhancing adult RE*
- *Untangle/reorganize the MVUC library*
- *Prepare to support the anticipated ministerial intern in 2010/2011*

How do you help? Show up and be a part of the Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church community! Be a positive participant in activities, provide constructive and respectful feedback to the appropriate person, listen intently to those around you, and find your ownership of this community by stepping up for leadership.

On and Off the Hill

HOLIDAY SHOP SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2009 9:30 AM TO 4:00 PM

Before you know it, Holiday shop will be here and **your** involvement is needed. This is our greatest all-church activity—one that is both fun and financially rewarding for the church.

How can I be involved now?

- *Come to the church on Thursdays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm and join in making chutney, or work on crafts.*
- *Come some evenings to the cooking group that meets in the Hollin Hall kitchen—for further information, please call **Ruth Ann MacCleery** at (703) 360-6528.*
- *Bring your old/unwanted jewelry to sell, and leave it in the Hollin Hall kitchen*
- *Donate decorative items for the Holiday Shop Boutique, our own upscale resale shop*

Starting on November 1

- *Sign up to bake food to sell in our Country Kitchen—call **Ruth Ann MacCleery** at (703) 360-6528.*
- *Sign up to help with set up during the week before Holiday Shop—call **Mary Barnett** at (703) 360-7152.*
- *Sign up to help on the day of Holiday Shop. There are lots of jobs (greeters, cashiers for lunch, help with jewelry and at the Boutique, and much more). They're all fun and will take just a few of hours of your time. There are many small jobs with big rewards. To volunteer, call **Marge Witting** at (703) 768-5212 or look for people with sign-up sheets in the Commons after services.*

November 21, 2009

- *Come and help*
- *Shop, eat lunch, buy baked goods, etc.*
- *Have a great time!*

FORT HUNT PRESCHOOL RUMMAGE SALE

Saturday, November 7th 8 am to Noon. The annual Fort Hunt Preschool Kids Rummage Sale features high-quality used infant, children, and maternity gear—including clothes, toys, games, books, furniture, and much more. There will also be great household bargains on linens, kitchenware, decorative, and seasonal items. The sale will be held rain or shine at the Fort Hunt Preschool, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria VA 22307.

LUNCH WITH A BOOK

Sunday, November 8th, 12:45 pm. The November Lunch-with-a-Book will meet at the Village Wharf restaurant in Hollin Hall Shopping Center. We will be discussing ***The Poet of Tolstoy Park*** by Sonny Brewer. It is based on a true story of Henry, “a nonconformist with influence.” Please join us. For more information, contact **Louise Werner-Rhoades** at louron13@cox.net or 703-619-1369.

Fall Circle Suppers - Saturday, November 7, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

We are looking for “host tables” for the first Circle Supper of the year. These are casual, potluck style dinners in members’ homes for 6 to 10 participants. If you are interest in hosting - or joining - a Circle Supper, please contact Mike Walker at CircleSuppers@gmail.com. Members of MVUC and friends are welcome.



Musical Notes from Mark Zimmerman, Director of Music

Sunday, November 1st: We begin our month of “gratitude” with a new anthem titled *Treasures*. In the footprint of Ken Burns’ National Parks documentary, it sings of our many wonders of land and animals and our responsibility in passing these on.

Monday, November 9th, 7 to 8 pm in the Fireplace Room in Hollin Hall is our first rehearsal for the Holiday Pageant *Spirit of the Christmas Tree*. Be sure to register your child with Meagan Henry prior to the first rehearsal.

Sunday, November 15th. Circle the date for MVUC’s **Cabaret & Celtic Coffeehouse**. At 7 pm, our very own **Angel Collins** headlines an evening of secular cabaret music in a casual coffee house setting in the Chapel, followed at 8 pm with Celtic folk music by **Points of Roguery** from the **USAF’s Singing Sergeants**. After our show, the band heads off for 52 shows in 60 days entertaining troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Coffee, desserts, beer, and wine will be offered. Proceeds benefit MVUC music programs. *Don’t miss this one!* This is a **perfect** evening to invite friends up to the Hill. Contact: **Trish Waters**, 703-799-9274 or pwwaters@cox.net.

Sunday, November 22nd. Look for our Children’s Choir to lend their voices at the Intergenerational Services.

National Equality March

On October 11th, MVUC members marched and rallied in Washington, DC with UUA President Peter Morales and other UUs, along with tens of thousands of others from around the country, demonstrating support for repealing Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell and the Defense of Marriage Act, and asking the government for equal treatment for all Americans, regardless of gender orientation.



On and Off the Hill

Ann McDowell

Ann McDowell, an MVUC member since 1966, and her husband, Charley, moved in October from their Tauxemont home to Atlantic Shores, a Virginia Beach retirement community. Ann is a recognized painter and photographer who has had a studio at the Torpedo Factory since 1983. Charley was a correspondent for the Richmond Times-Dispatch for 49 years and a panelist on *Washington Week In Review* for 16 years, after moving to Washington. He wrote a political and humor column until he retired in 1997. Ann was a member of MVUC's first Caring Committee. They plan to keep up with MVUC through the newsletter.

Jim and Bev Sutherland

Long-time members Jim and Beverly Southerland have moved to Sunrise of Columbia to be near their son. Bev was the church secretary under Rev. John Wells, an active choir member, and chair of the Volunteer Receptionists. Jim was parliamentarian at our annual meetings. Jim and Bev each served a term as chair of the Board of Trustees. We will miss them and we wish them well.

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, 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.

Good Companions

11:45 am to 12:45 pm BYO Lunch

12:45 am to 1:45 pm Speaker

Tuesday, November 10, 2009—Judie Booth: *From Prison to Cultural Arts Center*. When the DC Workhouse and Reformatory in Lorton, Virginia, moved away in 1997, the community and Fairfax County decided to use the 55 acres as a cultural center. Judie Booth, Community Relations, is coming to tell us about the Workhouse Art Center and its galleries and studios

Tuesday, November 24, 2009—Jim Potter: *What am I Going to Be When I Grow Up?* Jim looks at his past. He is from a big loving family in Ann Arbor, Michigan (and still returns for 4th grade reunions). He has a PhD in Electrical Engineering. Jim was an Anglican and now is in MVUC as a “born-again Unitarian.” He will share his ideas and welcomes views of others.

MVUC/FHP Natural Playground Project by Wendy Burns

I was thrilled to see how much progress there was on the MVUC/Fort Hunt Preschool playground over the summer! I was away for almost 3 months. When I returned, it was wonderful to walk down the hill toward the Carriage House and see how the whole entrance area seemed transformed. Last spring, our committee and volunteers worked hard on the sandbox area, based on Dan Avrit's plans. First, we had a brick walkway installed. Then, we built the sandbox (big and with parent/grandparent seating). Next, we put in the bog garden, with lots of water-loving plants. We installed benches in front of the Carriage House. We were pleased with what we had accomplished.

But, it wasn't quite finished. Over the summer, FHP parents, led by Laura Cohn and Nancy Renner, brought in river rocks to fill in the ditch, planted liriopie along the walk to deter erosion, and built a bridge and closed storage to give the whole area a wonderful welcoming feel. This fall, more mulch was placed in the storytelling area, the serpent's back was shaped, and weeds and endless vines were pulled.

Please take a walk down the hill. You'll be glad you did! And, please work with us this year as we continue to develop the area. Thank you!

Volunteers Needed

Last year, Groveton Elementary School's Reading Companion Program was a success—with the help of volunteers from the community. The Groveton PTA would like to continue this program and expand it to add a Math Companion Program. The programs will pair adults with students who need additional practice with Reading and Math. The school will conduct a workshop and provide written materials. A once-a-week commitment can make an immeasurable difference in the life of a child.

If you are interested in becoming a Reading Companion or Math Companion (or both) at Groveton Elementary School on Harrison Lane, please contact **Ellen Giblin** at ellengiblin170@gmail.com or by phone at 703-721-2005.

Groveton's principal and teachers understand that it takes an entire community to help each student along the path to literacy and developing math skills. Thank you for your participation.

Stand up for Climate Justice

As part of their engagement with the global 350.org campaign, the UUSC has launched the Climate Justice Offset Program. For more information, please visit <http://www.uusc.org/climatejustice>.



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.

Social Justice Council Disaster Relief Fund

The Social Justice Council agreed to distribute \$500 to the Unitarian Universalists of the Philippines due to the recent storms and subsequent flooding in September. On Luzon Island and in the metro Manila area, there are more than 300,000 homeless people and over 540 known dead due to the storms.

Many of the UUs on Negros Island (where most of the Filipino UUs live in small agricultural/fishing villages) sustained serious damage to their crops, and heavy rains since then have caused life-threatening situations on the island. Here are the words of **Nihal Attanayake**, International Relations Officer for the UU Church of the Philippines:

September 30, 2009. *On Negros Island, because of the heavy down fall of the rains, many farmers lost their crops. Among them are UU families which I have visited during the past two weeks. As I have reported, the need for them is food in the coming weeks and months. Because of the heavy losses they are experiencing, they need food. Still the rains are coming and more floods are occurring on the Island.*

We do not have information from the most remote areas where our members live, and I am expecting to hear the difficulties they are facing in time to come. There are places that I cannot travel to because of the distance and the bad road conditions. The rains will continue till the end of the month. As I write, heavy flooding is being reported in Siaton, 50 kilometers from Dumaguete City where the UU headquarters is situated. One rescuer lost his life yesterday.

Negros Island is not receiving aid from governmental or international relief organizations. For more information about the UUs of the Philippines and to find out what you can do to help them through this very difficult time, please contact **Lee Boeke Burke**, UUPCC Networker for the Philippines, at chickadeetree@earthlink.net

To contribute to the MVUC Social Justice Relief Fund, please make out your checks to MVUC, with Disaster Relief Fund in the memo line.

Partner Church News

November brings Holiday Shop, and with Holiday Shop comes the start of the Partner Church Alternative Gift program. If you need a gift for a special someone who does not need a thing but instead would like to be honored by helping MVUC's partner churches in India and Romania, then an Alternative Gift is a great choice. Your recipient will receive a lovely card with information about MVUC's partner churches and how we help them. This year, we are raising funds to help our partner in Mawlat, India build a permanent brick fence around their new school building, and our partner in Szentháromság fund scholarships. See our booth in the Nursery at Holiday Shop.

We have a number of students still seeking sponsors for trade school, high school, and university for our scholarship program in Szentháromság. This is a great way to have a huge impact on the life of a student and their educational opportunities.

Please contact **Lisa Gillispie** for more information regarding Alternative Gifts or student sponsorships.

Our next Partner Church brunch will be held on **Sunday, November 29** after the service (one service that day). Come enjoy a delicious spread, including scrambled eggs, sausage, ham, potatoes, cheese strata, pastries and fruit. Adults \$12, children \$6.

From Our Board of Trustees

by Reid Adler, Chair

I'd like to start this column by asking a few questions of the MVUC community. The economy and recession are still taking their toll here as well as everywhere else in the country. And everyone knows that they can turn to Rev. Kate for spiritual guidance and practical advice. But can MVUC do anything more to support and assist anyone? We have a wealth of life experiences and connections in our congregation. Would it be helpful to anyone if we organized some mentoring or networking, or a few workshops on resume writing, job hunting or foreclosure counseling, or some coupon clipping groups, weekly pot luck dinners, stress counseling, etc.? My own company is very tight for funds and I generally don't talk much about the pressure this creates. For anybody else in this boat, would you be interested in support from our congregational family? Please let me or Rev. Kate know—in confidence—what MVUC might be able to do for you, either by email (boardchair@mvuc.org or minister@mvuc.org) or in person or by leaving a note in our mailboxes at the church.

Turning now to Board activities, Joan Darrah has graciously chaired our evaluation of having a potential cell phone tower on MVUC property. I am writing this a few days before the open Oct. 18 informational meeting to discuss it. This is an issue where reasonable people will differ about aesthetics. And public safety and convenience will both be served by providing cell phone reception in the MVUC neighborhood. There is also a revenue opportunity for MVUC. So competing interests and concerns will need to be weighed and balanced. I am confident that because "love is the teaching of this church," we will make the right decision.

At this time, members of the previous Building Task Force and the Stewardship and Finance Committees are preparing recommendations for the Board regarding the possibility of restarting our building program and conducting a capital campaign. Later this church year, the Board will

inform the Congregation about these recommendations and ask for a vote on proceeding. The Building Task Force and Stewardship Committees are looking for a few additional members, particularly among the relatively newer members of our church. If you might be interested, please contact Birgit Robbert, Jim Potter, or Jamie Barnett.

The Board continues to examine its role and interconnections with MVUC, and is planning to adopt some additional "best practices" for organizational governance. Recently, **Joan Darrah, Tamara de la Camp, Bill Clontz**, and I attended a one-day program in "Policy Governance" at a Joseph Priestley District class workshop by Rev. Richard Speck. Several members and Rev. Kate attended similar programs at General Assembly. These have given us some great ideas and validated several changes in approach that the Board already has made. We clearly need to move in the direction of policy-based governance, even if we don't adopt the full policy governance model. For more information, please see <http://www.carvergovernance.com>. If you are interested in getting involved with evaluating and improving church governance, please let me know!

While looking into governance opportunities, the Board has also considered whether the time has come this year to update our mission statement and vision. As I mentioned in my August column, our many spiritual, educational, and social justice activities do serve our current mission statement: "The Mission of MVUC is to inspire a transforming journey, to embrace our interconnectedness, and to build a loving community of fairness, equality, and respect." But this statement itself doesn't necessarily capture who we are today. Some conversation about our mission this year will help us clarify the questions and answers about the building program and capital campaign. Stay tuned!

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 and 11:15 am
unless otherwise noted****

November 1

Thank You

Rev. Kate R. Walker

November 8

Finding Freedom

Rev. Kate R. Walker

November 15

The Heart of Gratitude

**Peg Bartel and the
Contemplative Group**

November 22

Across the Sea with UUSC

Rev. Kate R. Walker

November 29

One Wild and Precious Life

**Betsy Yarrison, Moderator
(One Service at 10 am)**

*See Page 4 for Sermon Descriptions

**Mount Vernon
Unitarian Church**
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TIME VALUE MAIL — PLEASE EXPEDITE DELIVERY

Receive the *Windmill* via Email!

Here's another way to live our values of taking care of the environment and reducing our costs!

Beginning in January, the *Windmill* will be sent via email to everyone for whom we have an email address, rather than through the U.S. Postal Service. If we do not have your email address, you'll continue to receive the *Windmill* by slow postal mail. (If you need to continue receiving the monthly newsletter by postal mail even if we have your email address, please let Anne Bredeck know in the MVUC office, info@mvuc.org.)

But, why wait until January? Join over 100 readers who already **save money** and **trees** by opting to get the **color** edition by email! Get it **sooner!** Read it using Adobe's **free** PDF reader—choose your own text size for easy reading! Enroll or change your email 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 subscription list.

Reminder to All MVUC Email Users

To receive all weekly bulletins and special notices, please notify Esther Dickinson (esthergertrude@verizon.net) if your email address changes.

Thank you!