



Windmill

Mount Vernon Unitarian Church

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

August 1, 2011

... MVUC is a loving and inclusive community. Our mission is to encourage one another on our spiritual journeys and to work together to build the common good.

Taking Note . . .

by The Reverend Kate R. Walker



Taking Note Part 2 of 2:

The younger folks walking in the door of most Protestant churches are looking for spiritual fulfillment and connection, and they want it as soon as possible. If they don't get it they'll walk out and find it somewhere else. They're used to being in transition; it's about the journey, not the destination. Thus author Gil Rendle, in "The Multigenerational Congregation," calls them the consumer generation because they've been raised in a culture that caters to their needs and wants in a fast paced digital world.

Reflecting an advertising world that is directed to distinct audiences via pure market methods, this generation is highly individual. They are bombarded with sophisticated "voices" telling them what they want. Information is flowing far faster than most human beings can process from a multitude of media.

They show up for worship in casual dress, looking for an emotionally sincere, creative, inspiring and spontaneous experience, which may include applause. They're seeking spiritual experiences in prayer, meditation or chanting. They don't have any rejection of traditional liturgical language such as God, Jesus, prayer or soul. They're seeking connection, wholeness and integration. They want to sing, talk and be friends on Facebook.

The consumer generation wants to think about ideas, but also find reassurance in a world that is full of despair due to global climate change and secret networks of terrorists. They're looking for quiet in a world that is often too noisy with polarized screaming matches.

This generation accepts and expects differences in ways their parents and grandparents never quite understand. They're action-oriented, work long hours, are having kids later in life, who then have crazy schedules, leaving little time to spend on long process-oriented committee meetings. They have student loan debts and mortgages that makes most of us pale. But they know they're worth it and believe in their world just as much as the generation that is running the church.

For folks born between 1946 and 1970, who largely don't go to church, folks like me born in 1963, I'm a bridger, both for when I'm born and because I'm on staff at a church. Being a bridger is not entirely comfortable, yet critical in keeping the conversation going. We play an important role in encouraging people to tell their story, be descriptive rather than evaluative, and don't ignore the edges of our community where change usually flourishes.

So how does a church find common ground? What are our common values? What holds us together during this conversation? I've observed again and again, that there is enormous respect between these generations. It is deep and profound, providing an opportunity for connection. During this conversation, my best advice, backed up by a few academics and colleagues, is focus on the Mission and Vision of MVUC. It's what can guide us forward when we bump into each other.

In good faith,

Kate Walker

Rev. Kate R. Walker

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**Program Highlights
Mark Your Calendar!**

Social Justice Movie

The Real Dirt on Farmer John

Friday, August 5, 7:00 pm

Chapel

See page 7

Partner Church Brunch

Sunday, August 14

Brunch with a Book

Sunday, August 14

After Partner Church Brunch

See page 5



Lifespan Spiritual Growth Meagan Henry, Director

New Orleans Youth Service Trip

In the six years since Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans has been slowly recovering. Sixteen youth and five adults from MVUC helped with the rebuilding process from July 6 to July 11. With great assistance from the Center for Ethical Living and *Social Justice* Renewal, based at the First Unitarian Church of New Orleans, the group stayed busy and well fed. The youth painted a mural and built a shed at the Langston Hughes Elementary School, laid sod at Clarke High School, and tore out flooring in the Ninth Ward, among other projects. The evenings were spent exploring the city, going to a jazz concert and eating New Orleans-style snowballs. The youth also learned about the history of the city, the origins of Creole culture, and ongoing race issues. Hopefully this will be the first of many MVUC youth service trips!

“Big Picture” to Fight Local Hunger: Complete the Circle Event Sunday, October 16

Register by September 1. Even in one of the most prosperous counties in the U.S., hunger is a persistent and growing reality for many. Here in Fairfax County, nearly 70,000 people do not know where their next meal is coming from. You can help feed hungry families in our area by participating in **“Complete the Circle,”** an upcoming community event and Food Drive sponsored by local non-profit Our Daily Bread, Inc. Participants of all ages, sponsors, and volunteers are needed to make this an impactful event that will benefit our neighbors in need. Our goal is to collect at least 2,500 lbs. of non-perishable food items to replenish ODB’s Food Pantry before the holidays.

Set for Sunday, October 16 at a field near GMU in Fairfax, **Complete the Circle** is a creative, meaningful service project for groups and families. On that afternoon, hundreds of

community members will join together to create a “living painting” of the “complete the circle image” that will be photographed from the sky. Participants are asked to donate \$15 in advance for a color-coded T-shirt to wear that day and to bring a food donation. Food items collected will “complete the circle” of giving by framing our “living painting” and then be used to feed our neighbors in need this winter. Resource materials on local hunger and food insecurity will be available for service project and/or classroom use.

Complete the Circle provides many positive opportunities for MVUC: from expressing our faith through action, to intergenerational fun and team-building, to collaborating on a service project that meets a basic need in our community. For more info or to sign up before the September 1 deadline, contact Sky Captain for MVUC: Colleen O’Malley at omalleyce@comcast.net and 703-683-5394

Full information and FAQs about **Complete the Circle** are at the Our Daily Bread website: www.ODBFairfax.org. ODB is seeking sponsors and community partners for the event, and food as well as cash donation are welcome. All proceeds benefit Our Daily Bread’s efforts to help struggling families in the Fairfax County area achieve self-sufficiency.

August Youth Birthdays

- 12 Maggie Farley
- 13 Hunter Bailey
- 13 Sam Sabo
- 17 Faith O'Rourke
- 20 Jack McNulty
- 22 Cailyn Lager
- 24 Julius Bredeck
- 24 Morgan Walton
- 25 Evie McNulty
- 27 Andrew Sabo
- 30 Kiara Perea

Monthly Worship Theme

The Theme of the Month runs from September to May and rotates every three years.
For 2011-2012 the themes are:

September: Hospitality
October: Creation/Creativity
November: Democracy
December: God
January: Freedom
February: Evil
March: Atonement/Redemption
April: Mercy
May: Peace

Cheers, Kate Walker

Monthly Worship Services

August 7, "Be Here Now My India" Ilene Gillispie

August 14, "Melting the Ice in the Heart of Man" Suzanne Cleary and Pam Tinker

A sacred teaching from the Eskimo tradition—seeing the beauty in each other and the interconnected web of all life.

August 21, "Question Box Sunday" the Rev. Kate R. Walker

This is my annual service when I attempt to answer questions submitted on very small cards about very large topics.

August 28, "Why Is the Liberal Church Important?" the Rev. Kate R. Walker

Numerically there aren't many Unitarian Universalists in the world, yet we play a significant part in the evolution of and tension within humanity's religious progress. A good sermon if you're church shopping!

Minister's Summer Schedule

Reverend Kate is on study leave and vacation until August 18. In case of emergency please contact church administrator Carol Graves, board chair Becky Brandt, or board vice-chair, Eric Pourchot who can reach Kate.

Unitarian Universalist History

Unitarian Universalist History

Aug. 1, 1774 Unitarian Joseph Priestley discovered oxygen calling it "dephlogistical air."

Aug. 4, 1875 Famous Universalist storyteller and author Hans Christian Anderson died at Rolighed, Denmark, at the age of 70.

Aug. 13, 1910 Florence Nightingale, a Unitarian nurse who devoted many years to public health reform, died at age 90.

Aug. 22, 1920 Unitarian fiction writer Ray Bradbury was born in Waukegan, IL.

On and Off the Hill

Sad News

With much sadness we announce that Noel Gayler died on July 14. A memorial service will be held at Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church led by the Rev. Kate Walker, on a date to be announced. Notes of condolence can be sent to Jeanne Gayler, 2111 Mason Hill Drive, Alexandria, VA 22306. He will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery with full honors, on a date to be announced.

Gathering of the Waters

Everyone is invited to collect small samples of water during your travels this summer for our annual ingathering of the waters ceremony on Sunday, September 11.

Brunch with a Book

You may have seen one or both versions of the movie *True Grit*, but do come and join us in a discussion about this story by Charles Portis. We will be meeting Sunday, August 14 after the Partner Church Brunch.

For more information please contact Louise Werner-Rhoades at louron13@cox.net or at 703-619-1369.

Holiday Shop Celebrating 50 Years of a Fine Tradition

While it may seem too early to start talking and thinking about Holiday Shop -- it isn't.

ET invites you to begin going through your house for donations to **Helene's Attic**. If you are downsizing or throwing away stuff to help simplify your life, please remember the **50th Annual Holiday Shop!** We are looking for wedding presents (seldom used), silver, glass, bowls, vases and much more. Clean out your closets, check your basement and share your findings with us.

Additionally, ET hopes that you will go through your jewelry boxes to find items for the **Holiday Shop Jewelry Store**. Last year we made a **LARGE** profit on the jewelry and we hope to do so again this year!

New thing for this year ... in honor of the 50th anniversary ... we hope that all of you who have been lucky winners of the quilts over the years will allow us to **borrow** them so we can hang on the walls as decorations. Contact Mary Barnett if you will be able to share the quilts for the one day. Thanks.

Please deliver any items that you wish to donate to the Hollin Hall kitchen with your name and "for Holiday Shop". We appreciate your help with this.

Mary Barnett, Chair, Holiday Shop

Anne Ulm, Convener, ET



MVUC Summer Music 2011 Yee Von Ng and Mark Zimmerman

Hi All –

Hoping this finds you all enjoying your summer season!

August 7--Ilene Gillispie will be performing on the harmonium accompanied by a guest tabla player from Sterling, VA. She will sing two hymns from the Sikh tradition following her experience studying in India.

August 14--Based on the poem 'Speaking of Tongues', Pam and Becca Tinker will be leading the service in meditation with tabla drums and chant. Suzanne Cleary plans to share her experience in Greenland through a slide show of photographs and meditative music following her sermon 'Melting the Ice in the Heart of Man'. Bart Hewitt and Herb Tyson are guest soloists.

On the 21st, we have a professional husband and wife duet coming to sing. Eric Sullivan sings with the "Singing Sergeants", and he and wife Carolyn both have permanent cantor positions at a nearby Catholic church. They met at University of Illinois, and now have as family of 5. You might remember Eric as singing with the Irish group from our Cabaret last year.

Choir News

MVUC choir resumes on Wednesday, August 31 at 7:00 pm. Reception, then rehearsal.

Our first Sunday is Ingathering on September 11. New members are welcome! Please contact Mark Zimmerman prior at mszofnote@gmail.com. Church members feel free to send Mark suggestions of good singers to invite :-)

Choir News, Continued

Singers, please save Saturday morning, September 10 for our annual Retreat in Hollin Hall. Also, we are *honored* to be singing with the Fairfax church choir at Kären Rasmussen's Ordination service at 4:00 pm on Sunday, September 18.

I am so pleased to be continuing my music position with MVUC. I have completely resigned from American Airlines. I am indebted to Reverend Kate, the Board, MVUC musicians, and the entire church family for allowing me time to make this important decision for my future.

I look forward to our time together, striving to make music which adds to your worship and church life experience here with this wonderful congregation.

Sincerely, Mark Zimmerman

and Yee Von (who adds): Thank you everyone for a great summer of making music!

Yee Von

MVUC Summer Music Associate 2011

From Our Board of Trustees

Becky Brandt, Chair



At our July 12 meeting, the Board of Trustees confirmed officers for the new church year: Eric Pourchot - Vice Chair; Lisa Gillispie – Secretary; Dick Youngflesh – Program Council Convener; and myself as Board Chair.

The Board approved a request from the committee investigating possible expansion of the Commons for funding up to \$3,000 for professional fees and expenses. The money is needed to prepare plans needed to request approval from Fairfax County for the project, which is small enough to be classified by the County as a “minor modification.”

Remodeling plans will be submitted to the County only if first approved by the congregation. Throughout the fall, we will provide complete information with regard to each of the proposed “intermediate” building projects so that members of the congregation can be fully prepared to cast their votes.

The Board also took a few moments to appreciate the many joys and blessings of MVUC:

- We continue to celebrate our great good fortune to have Mark Zimmerman continue as Director of Music.
- In recognition of the leadership of Georgia Pourchot and the heartfelt efforts of many other dedicated people, UUSJ [UUs for Social Justice] has announced that MVUC has been awarded the Mid-Size Congregation Social Justice Award for our outstanding social justice program.
- The transition to geothermal energy for the Meeting House is well underway, with both units in the chapel now functioning properly. We expect that the two units for the administrative wing will be installed by the time this newsletter is published and the final component – solar panels – will follow shortly.
- The work of the new Membership Development Council has had a positive impact already; we now have 347 members – the highest level since 2008 – and 36 new members have joined in the last 12 months.

We are a vibrant community of which I am proud to be a member. With an open mind and heart,
Becky Brandt



Social Justice Programs at the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church

Love is the teaching of this church, and service is its prayer.

MVUC Wins Award from UUSJ

Every year, UUSJ presents a number of awards for distinguished work in social justice done by churches in the greater Washington area. Of the 27 churches in this area, MVUC has been selected for recognition of its social justice program in 2011. The award will be presented in October and details will follow in a future Windmill.

CONGRATULATIONS MVUC!

VIC-HOP Award

VIC-HOP (Ventures in Community Hypothermia Project) has been selected by Fairfax County NAACP to receive an award for its work on Combating Homelessness. MVUC is one of several VIC churches that participate in the program, December through March, on Thursday nights. Congratulations to all!

Congratulations to Our Youth and Their Advisors

The home community and social justice contributions of our youth and young adults give us perspective and much to be grateful for. Here are some highlights:

- High School Youth help prepare Partner Church brunches. They grill burgers for the Ingathering picnic and participate in clean-up.
- They run the UNICEF carnival every year in October, a traditional fundraiser for the organization.
- Middle and High School Youth participate in VIC-HOP, the feeding the homeless program that MVUC has been involved in for the past five years.
- The Middle school youth group and Young Adults collaborate on Valentine's Day cookies and hand-made cards that are delivered to 'shut-ins' as well as older members of the

congregation who are either alone, or not well.

- All RE kids learned about the Unitarian orphanage in India this year, and donated gently used play clothes to be mailed there.
- Twenty YRUU participated in a service trip to New Orleans in July (see Lifespan Spiritual Growth page for story).
- The youth occasionally participate in viewing social justice movies and in the discussion that follows.
- They help with the annual book sale, participate as a group in Workennany, and set up the Easter Egg Hunt for the younger children.
- Families with children of all ages participate in caring for the organic garden, whose produce we donate to low income families on Route 1.

Kudos to you young people, our future; and to your parents and advisors for this continued dedication to making our world a little better.

The Social Justice Council

Social Justice Movie Series

Social Justice Movie Series, Friday, August 5 at 7:00 pm in the Chapel features *The Real Dirt on Farmer John*. An outcast in his community, Farmer John bravely stands amidst a failing economy, vicious rumors, and violence. By melding the traditions of family farming with the power of art and free expression, this powerful story of transformation and renewal heralds a resurrection of farming in America.

Please note that **we are not having a movie in September due to Labor Day weekend**, we return in October with *A Most Unlikely Hero*, details to follow. Information from Georgia Pourchot, 703-721-0595, gpourchot@yahoo.com.

**Mount Vernon
Unitarian Church**
1909 Windmill Lane
Alexandria, VA 22307

Address Service Requested

A Month of Sundays

***One service at 10:00 am unless
otherwise noted***



Sunday, August 7
"Be Here Now My India"
Ilene Gillispie

Sunday, August 14
*"Melting the Ice in the Heart of
Man"*
*Suzanne Cleary and Pam
Tinker*

Sunday, August 21
"Question Box Sunday"
the Rev. Kate R. Walker

Sunday, August 28
*"Why Is the Liberal Church
Important?"*
the Rev. Kate R. Walker

See Page 4 for Sermon
Descriptions

TIME VALUE MAIL — PLEASE EXPEDITE DELIVERY

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 is willing to assist you during normal business hours. Please direct any questions or concerns to Betsy Stephens betsys@cox.net.

Please Tell Us When Your Email Changes

If your email address changes, please notify Esther Dickinson if your email address changes, esthergertrude@verizon.net.

Thank you!

Sermons for Your Re-Hearing

Each Sunday's service is recorded and available within a few days on the MVUC web site (www.mvuc.org - worship/sermons). The services are also available on CD; to request a copy, see **Raleigh Romine**.