



# Stirrings From Windmill Hill

## *News and Notes from Mount Vernon Unitarian Church*

December 16, 2004

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Editor: Mimi Stevens (mimis@erols.com)

### **The Board in brief (Doug MacCleery)**

At our regular meeting on December 7, the Board heard a report from **Tony Barkume**, Chairman for the 2005-2006 annual pledge campaign, on the proposed strategy and timeline for the campaign. **Karen Tyson** gave an update on the Capital Campaign, which will be completed early next month. **Linda Walton** discussed the recommendations to the Board flowing out of the fall retreat of RE Council. **Nance Cedar** summarized a visit by members of the Green Sanctuary Committee and Board to view an innovative "green roof," which reduces energy costs and run-off and may be a viable option for the prospective addition to the Meeting House. Reports were received from the Minister, DRE, Business Administrator Program Council and Treasurer.

For details, see the minutes, which will be posted in the Commons and on our website after approval at our next Board meeting..

### **From the Treasurer ... (Joan Wamsley)**

The November 30, 2004, financial report shows:

	November	Year to date	Budgeted
INCOME	\$ 22,515.70	\$135,294.26	\$491,550
EXPENSES	\$ 34,210.74	\$138,290.55	\$491,550

Remember that the tax year ends soon. If you want your pledge/contributions to be included this tax year, get those payments in quickly.

Preliminary Holiday Shop Financials: Gingerbread house raffle- \$161; Quilt raffle- \$1,305; Boutique- \$1,024; Jewelry-\$663; Country Kitchen- \$3,006; Lunch & cookies- \$783; Women's Group- \$760; Vendors- \$5,413. General expenses- \$491. Net income-\$12,642 before late sales.

### **Something to celebrate (Ron Brandt and Joanne Masterson)**

What a wonderful way to end 2004 — we have gathered \$1,260,000 toward building new space at MVUC.

While our stretch goal of \$2 million seems a far reach, we HAVE made it within the range our UUA consultant outlined for a successful Capital Campaign. This is indeed something to celebrate. With \$1.26 million, we can make a real difference in building a new, stronger future for our church community. Our celebration is scheduled for January 9, details to be forthcoming.

Want to join in with your support? Just call one of us at the number below and we'll add your pledge to those who've made such a difference for MVUC — Thank you!

**Joanne Masterson; Ron Brandt; Donna Bledsoe (703-765-5950)**

### **Coming up in RE (Barbara Gay Stoddard)**

**WINTER PAGEANT DRESS REHEARSAL - Saturday, December 18** from 10am (sharp) – 12 noon. Be on time and we'll be able to start on time and get out early.

Please note that the Winter Pageant is the service on **December 19, 2004**, and that it will be held at 10:00 am.

**There will be no RE on Sundays Dec. 26 and Jan. 2.**

#### **INTERGENERATIONAL EVENTS**

**Jim Kerr** is coordinating the ever popular MVUC "Games Night" on Saturday, Jan. 8, starting at 7 pm in Hollin Hall.

#### **ADULT RE**

Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness – A mini-movie night series.

Join us for a movie and discussion on Fridays - January 7, 21, and 28 at 7:30 pm in the Commons. Jan. 7 – SANKOFA – a spiritual journey of an African-American woman. Jan. 21 – SALT OF THE EARTH – called by some "the only blacklisted American film" and written in 1953. Jan. 28 – UNCONSTITUTIONAL – a new documentary about the current rollback of civil liberties since 9/11. Films and discussions to be led (in order listed above) by **Pam Tinker, Al Searle, and Bill Alsmeyer-Johnson.**

**Special services in December: Dec. 21 - 7 pm; Dec. 24 - 5:30 and 7:30 pm; Dec. 31 - 5:30 pm**

## Solstice service December 21

On Tuesday, December 21st at 7:00 PM, **Barbara Gay Stoddard**, **Nance Cedar**, and **Rev. Lou** will lead a celebration of the Winter Solstice. All are invited to come to the Chapel and participate in this service, which honors both the darkness and the light.

## Christmas Eve services

MVUC will hold two services on Christmas Eve. At 5:30 pm, there will be a service especially for families with children, led by DRE **Barbara Gay Stoddard** and **Rev. Lou**. **Anyone interested in having their child dedicated at the 5:30 PM Family Service on Christmas Eve should speak to Barbara Gay Stoddard, our DRE, or Rev. Lou as soon as possible.**

*Wherever the Star May Lead* will be the topic as **Rev. Lou** leads the 7:30 service. A special offering for UCM will be received at both services.

## Wisdom Years (Bev Southerland)

On **December 28th**, after all the gifts have been stored away and the "tree" is down, **Ginny** and **Bev** will present a program about the many questions those of us in the Senior category have in planning for our future.

Steve Gold, an attorney and member the Memorial Society of Northern Virginia Board, will address these subjects and take questions. As usual, we'll be meeting in Hollin Hall from 10:30 til noon. Come join us!

## New Year's Eve Vespers

On **Friday, December 31st** at 5:30 PM, **Rev. Lou** will lead a special New Year's Eve Service. All are invited to come to the Chapel and share in a time of readings, music, and meditation.

## Partner Church committee news (Janice Fitzpatrick)

THANK YOU to all who helped make the November 28 brunch a great success. A special thanks goes to **Sarah, Kelly & Kathie Watson, Amanda Griffin**, and **Ilene Gillispie** for being such great cooks!

The perfect chance to discuss your holiday activities and New Year's resolutions with your church friends will be at the **January 2 Partner Church Committee brunch**. The brunch will take place right after the 10 a.m. church service in Hollin Hall. \$10 for all 7 and over; \$5, under 7. This is a benefit for your well-being, plus, for our partner congregation in Romania.

As usual, members and friends of MVUC have shown great generosity in supporting the scholarship program for students in Szentháromság. We have just received word that one additional sponsorship is needed. An additional \$220 is requested for a high school student who is working during the day and attending evening classes. If you would like to help, please contact **Janice Fitzpatrick**.

## An invitation... (Jeanne Simuro, President - Fort Hunt Preschool)

### Please Join Us for a Family Heritage Potluck Dinner!

Fort Hunt Preschool would like to invite the members of the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church to join us on Saturday, January 15th for our second annual Family Heritage Potluck Dinner. Dinner will be held in the Carriage House from 5:30-8:30 p.m. The supper serves dual purposes - to honor Martin Luther King and to celebrate the diverse heritages (or ones we admire) of our Fort Hunt Preschool community. Last year, on what must have been the coldest day of the year, we had a pretty good turnout. As each family walked through the door, those of us who had already settled in waited in anticipation to see what type of dish was arriving next. We certainly had some delicious dishes to choose from. So please bring your family! Bring a dish that reflects your heritage or one that you admire. Bring a beverage - we'll supply cups, napkins, plates and utensils. (No alcoholic beverages please.) And if you want costumes or native dress would be fun! (The kids love this part.) We look forward to seeing you there. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at 703-799-8255.

## Save the date - January 22 (Bill Alsmeyer-Johnson)

The Reverend Richard Gilbert, UU minister to several churches, for over 30 years minister to the First Unitarian Church of Rochester, author of several books such as *The Prophetic Imperative*, *Building Your own Theology 1 & 2*, and others, will present a major forum on social justice at MVUC on February 12, 2005 from 10:00AM to 2:00 PM.

As we get close to the actual date we will announce further details. We hope to be able to provide copies of his book *The Prophetic Imperative* at or near cost. So stayed tuned for more on this important event.

## Summer 2005 (Janice Fitzpatrick)

Do you enjoy MVUC's lay and guest speaker led church services? It is our custom to have these types of services in the summer months. If you are interested in helping plan the summer services, consider joining the Sunday Services Committee. We are looking for a variety of church services for summer 2005 and it is not too early to begin planning. The Sunday Services Committee will next meet in early February. Contact **Janice Fitzpatrick**.

## Upcoming Events, on and off the Hill

### December:

21, 11:45 am	Good Companions: Per Jartby	Hollin Hall
21, 7 pm	Solstice Service	Remington Chapel
24, 5:30 pm	Family Christmas Eve Service	Remington Chapel
24, 7:30 pm	Christmas Eve Service	Remington Chapel
25	CHRISTMAS!	
28, 10:30 am	Wisdom Years	Hollin Hall
31, 5:30 pm	New Year's Eve Vespers	Remington Chapel

### January:

2, after service	Partner Church Brunch	Hollin Hall
4, 11:45 am	Good Companions: Peg Bartel	Hollin Hall
8, 7 pm	Games Night	Meeting House
15, 5:30 pm	Fort Hunt Cooperative Preschool Potluck	Carriage House
22, 10 am	UUSJ Advocacy Training	Silver Spring UU
22, 2 pm	End of Life Choices meeting	Sherwood Hall Library

## Good Companions (Bev Southerland and Elaine Bronez)

**11:45 to 12:45 - BYO lunch; program - 12:45 to 1:45 in Hollin Hall**

DECEMBER 21 - PER JARTBY - WHAT YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT SWEDEN

PER will describe the experiences of Christmas in the winter darkness of his home. He also will show slides and tell us what it was like to grow up in Stockholm. Per has been a teacher for over 30 years in several countries. While he was in Botswana, he first met his wife, Julia. They live in Tauxemont, and he now teaches math locally

JANUARY 4 - PEG BARTEL - AN UPDATE ON IRAQ

PEG worked with Dr. Chalabi of the Iraqi National Congress. She lived in Iraq for a year during much of the upheaval. She has been very active here at MVUC, especially in the RE area where she leads a meditation group.

## Mildred Elizabeth Hamilton (1909 - 2004)

Mildred grew up and was educated in Missouri, graduating from Warrensburg State Teachers College. She met and married Daniel Russell (Russ) Zimmerman, and they soon moved to the San Francisco, California, area, where their two daughters, Oma Lynn and Sandra Ann, were born. Subsequently, they moved to Ridgewood, New Jersey, where they enjoyed many happy years as prominent members of that community while raising their children. In their later years, they returned to Missouri, settling at Gladstone, near Kansas City. After Russ's death, Mildred moved to live near Oma in Alexandria. While living at Paul Spring Retirement Community, she married John Hamilton. They enjoyed several years of happiness before he passed away.

Mildred will be especially remembered at MVUC for her significant sponsorship of the restored windmill on the church grounds. She was an inspiration to her friends, neighbors and extended family members.

## Caring Community (Jo Jackley)

**Heather Harts'horn** is at home, following knee surgery. We wish her a speedy recovery.

MVUC extends condolences to the family of **Ric Sears**, whose father died December 5.

We offer heartfelt best wishes to **Steve Phinney** who on Friday, December 3, 2004 received Preliminary Fellowship in the Unitarian Universalist Ministry! Steve and his wife **Cynthia** traveled to Berkeley, CA, where Steve had his interview with UUA Ministerial Fellowship Committee. The Committee overwhelmingly gave him their approval for fellowship in Parish Ministry. Steve is planning to have his ordination sometime in the spring of 2005. And rumor has it that our congregation might be asked to be involved in the proceedings. . . . Congratulations, Steve!

## UCM — Community solutions (Bev Southerland)

United Community Ministries is THE not-for-profit community based social service agency in the Route One corridor. Their mission is to assist families and individuals to improve the quality of their lives in a manner which builds their self-esteem and fosters their ability to function at the greatest level of their capacity - socially, economically and emotionally.

It is this agency to which we donate food and clothing on a weekly basis. Over the past five months we have donated a total of 964.5 pounds of food to UCM. Before we congratulate ourselves, let's make a pledge to continue this work as a promise to the future of the families who count on us.

**Sunday Worship Themes:**

Services in Remington Chapel. 9:30 and 11:15 am

There will be one service at 10:00 am on December 19 and 26 and January 2

December 19:	<i>"Festivals of Light"</i> Children and Youth of MVUC, Barbara Gay Stoddard, Rev. Louis V. Schwebius	
December 26	<i>A Festival of Lessons and Carols</i>	MVUC Contemplative Group
January 2	<i>What Shall We Do with These New Days?</i>	Rev. Louis V. Schwebius
January 9	<i>God Rested ... Why Can't We?</i>	Rev. Louis V. Schwebius

**Serving Our Congregation****Board of Trustees**

Karen Tyson, Chair '06	Joanne Masterson, Vice-chair '07
Doug MacCleery, Secretary '04	Daria Bergen-Hill '05
Nance Cedar, '06	Jack Hinman '05
Hal Holtzclaw '07	Eben Kuhns, '05
Jane Nelson, '07	Ric Sears '06

**Program Council** (Ric Sears, Convener)

Sally Joy Remington, <i>Our Home Community</i>	Carolyn Slenska, <i>Worship</i>
Bill Alsmeyer-Johnson, <i>Our Larger World</i>	Becky Brandt, <i>Property</i>
Linda Walton, <i>Religious Education</i>	Tony Barkume, <i>Administration</i>

The Reverend Louis V. Schwebius, **Minister**Barbara Gay Stoddard, **Interim Director of Religious Education**Dr. Lisa Billingham, **Director of Music**

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**Unitarian Church**  
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*for more information on these and other activities, please check the bulletin boards***Beyond the Hill ...****January 7 registration deadline for WinterCon 2005**

The Joseph Priestley District will hold a Youth Anti-Racism Conference at the UU Church of Annapolis on January 21, 22 & 23. Anti-racism is the highest priority of the continental YRUU. Youth who wish to attend need to mail in a registration form with \$27 by January 9 (\$29 after that.) Adult advisors get to come free, but (unless they have already done so) must submit an "Application for District Youth Advisor" form to the JPD Director for Lifespan Faith Development not later than January 7, 2005 - NO EXCEPTIONS! Attendees should bring: sleeping bag, pillow, cup, personal hygiene items, skits, poems, music, ideas and talent for the Coffee House on Saturday night. Registration forms for youth and adults are available at the church.

**End of Life Choices**

Jim Rapp, who spoke to Wisdom Years in November, informed us that the December 11th meeting of the group was canceled, in order that members could attend a special meeting on December 5, to hear Faye Girsch, senior Vice President of End of Life Choices.

The next meeting of our local group will be held at 2 PM on Saturday, January 22 at the Sherwood Hall Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. You do not need to be a member to attend. All are welcome. at [arose@uua.org](mailto:arose@uua.org) or (202) 296-4672 x21. Visit our website <http://www.uua.org/uuawo/results> to learn more about the collaboration.

**UUSJ advocacy training**

Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice and the Unitarian Universalist Association's Washington Office will present Claiming Our Power, Speaking Our Truth: A U.U. Legislative Advocacy Training on Saturday, January 22 from 10a.m. till 3:00p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring, 10309 New Hampshire Ave, Silver Spring, MD 20903. The event will include portions on grounding advocacy in our religious faith, organizing our congregations for action, training in effective legislative advocacy, and an opportunity to meet with others in your state or district. There is a registration fee of \$20 which includes the cost of lunch. For more information contact the UUSJ office at [info@uusj.org](mailto:info@uusj.org) or 301-588-1951.

*Happy Holidays!*