

Crossroads

THE MONTHLY NEWSFORUM OF THE BULL RUN
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS MANASSAS, VA



Upcoming Services Sunday at 10:00 A. M.

February 3rd – “Servant Leadership,” Rev. Nancy McDonald Ladd. Most images of leadership (both moral and institutional) in our society have to do with big bossy folks getting their way. What kind of leadership could we share if we saw ourselves as servants to one another and to our world?

February 10th – “A Sacred Spaciousness,” Rev. Nancy McDonald Ladd. As we approach Valentine’s Day, this we’ll look at how we can not only be in deep relationship with one another, but leave room for sacred spaciousness between us.

February 17th – “Mormonism: An American Faith,” Part Four of the “Religion in America” sermon series, Rev. Nancy McDonald Ladd. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, commonly known as the Mormon Church, is probably the most successful example of a uniquely American faith tradition. What exemplifies American religion and what can this particular tradition teach us about how religion has grown on this soil?

February 24th – “The 3 am Miracle”. Join visiting preacher Amanda Poppei as she considers the joys and struggles of new parenthood, and explores how the lessons learned at 3 am might extend beyond the nursery. Amanda Poppei is a Candidate for the Unitarian Universalist ministry visiting today from Washington, DC.

March 2nd – “Religion in Civil Society” Part 5 of the “Religion in America” sermon series, Rev. Nancy McDonald Ladd. From civil rights and environmental justice to hot-button issues like abortion and cloning, religion has long acted as a force to change or maintain society in America. This sermon will look at the highs and the lows of sacred power in the secular world.



Formations

During the holidays, my mother, my sister and I took a trip to New York City for a little bit of mother-daughter bonding. We had a wonderful time. We saw all the sights you see on TV and ate at one restaurant fancy enough to have a few too many utensils.

It was a magical weekend, full of the vibrant sounds of the city, the smell of chestnuts *actually* roasting on an open fire, and lots and lots of churches.

That’s right – lots and lots of churches. You get the McDonald women together in the city that never sleeps – and what do we do? We visit houses of worship. That’s just who we are. Of course, by now I have seen most of the Unitarian Universalist churches in New York, so we took this special weekend as an opportunity to branch out and visit some of the great houses of worship we had never seen before.

We visited St. Patrick’s cathedral, the seat of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York, paid two dollars to light a candle, and craned our necks upwards to see the high gothic arches of the nave. It was a stunning place, but as I read about the cathedral and its history, I learned something that bothered me a little. Despite its beauty and its grandeur, I learned that the cathedral actually has no congregation of its own. It’s a church for special events and tourism, for the funerals and weddings of the very wealthy and the pomp and circumstance of formal events. Suddenly I felt sad. Here was this grand structure, a monument to piety and beauty, and when I learned that no congregation regularly met there, suddenly I felt like I was standing in a church without a soul. What is a church anyway without a living breathing beloved community that makes it real in the world? What is a church without its people?

The next day, on Sunday, right around the time you all were gathering for the Sunday service here in Manassas, I trekked up to the north end of central park to see the largest cathedral in America, the Episcopal cathedral of St. John the Divine.

St. John the Divine has been under construction since the late 1800’s and will probably never be finished. The builders were so ambi-

tious with their plans that it isn’t entirely clear they can ever be completed, and when a fire burned down a significant portion of the church a few years ago, it kicked off an expensive and dramatic restoration process.

Like St. Patrick’s cathedral, the artistry and devotion that went into creating St. John the Divine was breathtaking. The dome over the central aisle is so high that the naked eye can’t even see all the way to the top of it. It just disappears into blackness. The side-chapels alone could house the entire BRUU congregation for a regular Sunday service, and the attention to detail used in the sculptures merited an hour of observation all on their own.

I arrived at St. John the Divine right as their service was ending, just in time for coffee hour, but as I walked around admiring the church building, my tourist’s attention was drawn away from the architecture and toward the people themselves.

I watched as the people of this thriving congregation did all the same things we do on Sunday morning. Somebody was working the Social Justice table, handing out literature about free trade coffee. Somebody was making the rounds with raffle tickets. Little clumps of people were gathered together laughing about whatever jokes they had to share with one another, and the ministers were moving from group to group, trying not to spill coffee on their pulpit robes and generally loving the fact that they were there doing the work of the church. And suddenly I felt joyful, and I missed you.

Watching them go through the little dance of coffee hour and community, I missed BRUU. I thought of the fact that right at that moment you were probably gathering for coffee hour and somebody was working the Social Justice table and all of you were trying not to spill coffee on yourselves and laughing about whatever quirky insights you gleaned for that Sunday’s service. The church, after all, is not its building. The church is its people. The church is you, and the living, breathing soul of this place lies at the wonderful, wacky, faith-filled intersection of all our lives.

Peace, Nancy

From the President's Corner



Leadership training, like messages in valentines, can be filled with "same old thing" conversations. Fortunately, the recent leadership training program at BRUU is unusually relevant. We're blessed to have Angie, Greg, Nina, and others who can tune the training to match our interests and style at BRUU - and the food was especially tasty, Rick.

As I attend these sessions, I'm discovering how I can serve BRUU through the flip side of leadership: followership.

My title is President, but my leadership challenges are relatively easy. Many good ideas have been generated before my time. I could spend my remaining 18 months as President simply following through on good ideas that others have already articulated.

Hey, works for me. Shepherding someone else's ideas through the BRUU collaboration process adds value.

My measure of success as President: Board members, committee chairs, and anyone else who might have a dog in a fight understand what's being proposed, then everyone gets to share their perspective, then we make a clear decision - and then we actually implement the decision.

For example, the Worship Committee and others have been working on a proposal to provide video audiovisual capabilities in the Sanctuary. We could pipe images as well as sound into the Fellowship Hall downstairs.

This idea has been gestating for several years, but we have not implemented it yet.

True, there's not an urgent need for Sunday services to include video clips from Comedy Central. Showing excerpts from "High School Musical" (or "The Wire") might spice up a program, but BRUU offers powerful programs already. Do we really need to project responsive readings on the screen, with a bouncing ball showing what to say next? (*Anyone old enough to remember singing along to Mitch Miller's TV show?*)

Personally, I'd like to upgrade our video capabilities, to allow more creativity in programs that use the Sanctuary. Adding video could allow an overflow crowd at a wedding, or someone with a crying baby, to see a program from the Fellowship Hall downstairs.

However, I've learned in six months that when I ask "why don't we..." that I will not hear "Wow, what a unique idea." Instead, I hear "Yeah, and so-and-so has been trying to make that happen, but..."

I'm discovering that the not-implemented-yet ideas at BRUU have a back story. I get an earful on BRUU's barriers to change, or on the institutional inertia that even a beloved community can experience.

This is my clue that followership for the next 18 months could be constructive. I don't need to worry about generating more new ideas, just to keep BRUU stimulating. We bubble over already.

Why the delays? It makes sense to look before we leap, and to talk sideways before we move forward. Even an apparently simple task such as moving a busted Coke machine involves multiple, and real, complications.

To enhance our audiovisual capabilities (run wires through the floor, hang a camera on the balcony or suspend it from the ceiling, etc.) requires coordination betwixt our different committees. Transmitting sounds and pictures, even just to one floor away, requires understanding some complex copyright issues.

But we need to get to closure. For each proposal, BRUU needs to either do it... or clarify why we won't do it, at least not now. Otherwise, we'll just frustrate BRUU'ers who expect action on their good ideas. It's not just Larry the Cable Guy who wants to git 'er done. (He'd probably say "Fish, or get off the pot.")

So I'll focus on follow-through. We'll see what gets finished in 18 more months.

~Charlie Grimes

BRUU is a Welcoming Congregation which celebrates and supports the lives, the relationships, and the individual and group contributions of its lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender members and friends. We affirm and promote their full participation in the life of the congregation and community. We pledge our congregation's commitment to continue dismantling the belief that heterosexuality is the only normal, acceptable, and healthy sexual orientation.

Notes from Annease



BRUU Coffee House returns on February 9!!!

This is always a fun-filled evening with lots of amazing talent. The show will start promptly at 7:00 and run until 9:00, with one short intermission. We will be serving snacks and beverages. Children are welcome to enjoy the show with their parents. The entertainment will be appropriate for all ages, so childcare will not be provided. This event is being brought to you by the Music Liaison Committee (Pierce McMartin, Twila Johnson, Brenda Reiner, Jerry Smith, Joanne Tyrell).

"Passages of Life" - Our next evensong service is on February 15 at 7:30. Through music and words we'll share recollections of our lives' many transitions, from childhood, to young adults, to parents, retirees and more. What better way to end a busy work week than with music and fellowship. A wine and cheese reception will follow the service.

Change your e-mail address?

To subscribe your new e-mail account to BRUU-Broadcast, send a message from that account to [BRUU Broadcast_subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:BRUU_Broadcast_subscribe@yahoo.com) with SUBSCRIBE in the Subject line.

Religious Education

As many of you know, I am a great West Virginia University football fan. I developed my interest in Mountaineer football when my husband, Andy and I began dating back in 2003. I became fully engaged in the fall of 2005 when I watched two amazing matches where the community of fans (60,000 of my closest friends) were so engaged that I believe they made a difference in the outcome of the game. The spirit and confidence of the community inspired tired and frustrated players! It was at these games that I discovered the true power of community. When a group of people come together for a common cause and set their minds on a single mission – a difference is made.



This concept of community is acted out daily on a local and national Unitarian Universalist level. We see it often here at Bull Run Unitarian Universalists. The amazing thing is that our common mission is created out of such diverse beliefs and life experiences. Currently, growth in number and maturity of community leads us to make new decisions about HOW to be in community. When a congregation is young, a family style of ministry is appropriate but now we are too large in number and program to count on informal relationships to make things run effectively. Now, we need intentional systems of communication, welcoming, networking and decision-making that give all people an opportunity to participate. If we stick with a family based style of organization, many people (especially new people), will be left out. The informal needs to be replaced with the intentional because we want to be sure that everyone who comes through our doors understands where to go and what to do for their various needs.

Let me elaborate on one example. Up to this point the Religious Education program has been organized by the efforts of the Director of Religious Education and the Religious Education committee. The Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU ages 14-18+) organized their own activities and had one representative on the Religious Education committee. The Adult Religious Education program also

had its own committee to organize adult programming and had a representative on the Religious Education Committee. The Professional staff implemented and organized Discovery Dinners. Yet, there is no specific group organizing children's programming; therefore, whenever the Religious Education committee met it spent most of its time dealing with children's programming. Since there was no intentional organization to cover all programming bases, youth and adult religious education representatives felt like committee meetings were a waste of their time.

Now, it is time to be intentional on all levels of religious education. A committee for Children, Youth (YAC- the Youth-Adult Committee) and Adult Religious Education can meet to deal with the various age-level programming and policy building needs. Then, a Religious Education council can meet four or more times a year to bring together representatives from all aspects of Religious education for overall policy building, communication and theme setting. This is one step from informal family based polity (appropriate from congregations with 150 or fewer members) to a program style ministry which helps congregations with more than 150 members and several visitors each week develop a more effective community.

We are all on the same team and at our core – have common dreams and wishes. We are interested in peace, a better world and a community where we can learn and grow as creatures of this world. What great possibilities we have for our future!!

~Michele

Minister's Weekly Schedule

Monday - Day off
 Tuesday - 9:30 AM - 5:00 PM
 Wednesday - 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM
 Thursday - 9:30 PM - 2:00 PM
 Friday - Sermon writing day,
 by appointment

Nancy's telephone number is
 (703) 772-3977

Email: RevNancy@BRUU.org

Office Assistant's Hours:

9:30 AM - 2:30 PM
 Tuesday through Friday
 Email: office@bruu.org

BRUU

9350 Main Street
 Manassas, VA 20110-5150
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Minister

Rev. Nancy McDonald Ladd
 703-361-6269

Interim Director of Religious Education

Michele Townsend Grove

Director of Music

Annease Hastings, 703-368-4542

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Tina Cox, 703-361-6269

BRUU Administrative Board

President

Charlie Grymes, 703-577-1740

Vice President

Mark Hempen, 703-369-0445

Secretary

Beth Roemmelt, 703-754-3627

Finance Director

John Wernitz, 703-878-3878

Social Justice

Ed Day, 540-364-9712

Facilities Director

Ed Walsh, 703-330-5963

Ministry Director

Gretchen Almstead, 703-335-2970

Immediate Past President

Greg Rouillard

Treasurer

Paul Galvin 703-361-7925

Adult Religious Education Coordinator

Pat Malarkey 703-266-1589

Membership/Fellowship

Becky Miller 703-361-8640
 Karen Fitzgerald 703-791-3200

Un-elected volunteers

Newsletter Editors

Ellen Percy Miller & Tom Miller
 703-754-2301



Wiki is Open For Business

How often do you hear "huh? I did not know we will do that at BRUU..." or "ugh, I'm willing to help on this committee, but how do we..."?

In a community of our size, it is a constant challenge to explain what's happening. It's fun to just schmooze over coffee, but some communications (i.e., how to operate the audiovisual equipment in the Fellowship Hall) require more focus.

There is no one-size-fits-all solution for overcoming this challenge.

UU Congregation Management 101 training says organizations such as BRUU need to transmit information multiple times, using multiple tools. (In some church management textbooks, they also advise praying for success. Hey, whatever works.)

The new-and-improved BRUU wiki is one more tool in our communications toolbox. It will include answers to Frequently Asked Questions, plus how-to information on a zillion standard operating procedures. If you want to keep in touch with the actions of the BRUU Board, then the monthly agenda, minutes, and background reading materials are posted.

Looking for that flyer about Discovery Dinners? It's on the wiki.

Curious about the search for a permanent Director of Religious Education? It's on the wiki. Want to see the current budget, and where we stand in matching expenditures with income? It's on the wiki. Want to know who is in charge of a committee? It's on the wiki.

To get to the wiki, follow the link on the BRUU home page at BRUU.org If you don't have a computer, or a working Internet connection, relax.

We do, in the Byer Library at BRUU. You can get to the wiki from there.

The wiki is our internal "intranet." If you're a member of BRUU, or a close friend who is active in our community, then we'll give you an account. We'll even train you, so you too can add/revise the content on the wiki. Everyone in BRUU can become a wiki writing wizard.

In our constantly-shifting membership, we'll always have conversations where someone says "Ugh, how do..." Hopefully, someone else may say "I don't remember either. I bet old so-and-so knows, but he/she is on vacation, so let's start by looking at the wiki."

Contact Charlie Grymes at president@bruu.org to get wiki access.

- Charlie

BRUU Administrative Board Actions

January 2008

- Motion to accept membership status changes. APPROVED
- Motion to schedule Congregational meeting for March 9, 2008, to vote on the proposed changes to BRUU Bylaws required for completion of incorporation process. APPROVED
- Motion to authorize Nancy & Carl Winter to serve as General Contractors for the kitchen renovation and to authorize them to purchase 'good used' equipment. APPROVED
- Motion to authorize DRE Search Committee to advertise the DRE position with a salary/benefits package at a cap of \$43,720 with the support of a ¼ time DRE assistant. APPROVED

Meeting focus: Chris Pappas provided an update from the DRE Search Committee and distributed draft job description/job announcement.

Reminder, the Admin Board meets monthly in the BRUU Fellowship Hall at 7 PM on the second Tuesday. Our regular board meetings are open to all members and friends. Executive Sessions are closed (and are also rare). The complete minutes of Admin Board meetings are available for review in the Church Office.

The next meeting date will be Tuesday, February 12, 2008

~Beth Adams Roemmelt, Secretary

Susan Sinclair and Dave Feser are Witnesses against Torture

It was a cold, rainy morning January 11, the day of the D.C. March to Close Guantanamo and to End Torture. Not a lot of supporters turned up, roughly 350, but the March was well-run by Witness against Torture. Along with everyone else, Dave and I and our granddaughter Sarah put on the bright orange prison jumpsuits and black hoods that we'd seen so often in the news. The sponsors wore Army fatigues and shouted orders as they lined us up on the mall, six feet apart and two abreast, and ordered us to march, hands behind our backs, heads down, in total silence, to the Supreme Court Building. Shuffling along, straining to see curbs and to avoid murky puddles, fingers growing numb, and the eerie silence punctuated by harsh commands, all heightened our sense of identification, even briefly, with the prisoners at Guantanamo.

Reaching the Supreme Court, we knelt while about 20 of our members slowly climbed the steps, but were stopped by the Capitol police before they reached the doors. There they knelt and refused to move. When asked their names they gave the name of a Guantanamo prisoner. One by one they were read their rights and arrested. As the last was led away, we began a loud clapping that continued for minutes. We finally stood up, tore off our hoods, and as the sun broke through the clouds, a man with a guitar sang loud and clear over the microphone, "You Are Not Alone!" We prayed that someone inside that building heard our message.

~Susan Sinclair
Member, Social Justice Committee



Protesters at the D.C. March to Close Guantanamo and to End Torture demonstration.

Welcome to a new era of creativity!

Join us each second and fourth Sunday from 11:30-12:30 in room 305/307 with work you wish to share. Fiction, non-fiction, expository, poetry, letters, essays...all are fair game! We read aloud, give out copies to other group members, provide feedback, and support one another through the writing process. No experience necessary. Feel free to come and just listen, if that's what you choose.

If I can't make it, I will ask one of our very capable members to facilitate the session. Even if I CAN make it, if you feel the drive to facilitate, just ask! Different facilitators bring different perspectives--always helpful in any group. And if you have an interesting, outside activity you would like to share with us, please do tell!

In the summer, our schedule might change, since people go on vacation. We will make a collective decision on how to proceed as we get closer to summer.

Here are the meeting dates planned through May 2008:

- February 10 and 24
- March 9
- No workshop March 23, Easter
- April 13 and 27
- No workshop May 11, Mother's Day
- May 25

Happy Writing! Hope to see you there!
~Katherine Mercurio Gotthardt

Director of Religious Education (DRE) Search Committee Update

The DRE Search Committee is finalizing the advertisement, announcement, and description for the DRE job search. The next step is developing procedures for receiving, responding, reviewing, and evaluating job applications. Once these tasks are completed, the position will be advertised in late January or early February. The committee hopes to begin interviewing candidates in March. The committee members are Susan Padgett, Chris Pappas, Cynthia Rouillard, and Denise Smith. Please contact any of the committee members with comments or questions.

LDC News

There's a structure to BRUU, just like there's an Order of Service every Sunday. The structure (20-25 committees/task forces) is flexible, but BRUU exists because we have volunteers who repair the building, handle rental arrangements, keep track of pledge donations, teach RE (including adult Discovery programs), restock the Food Pantry, manage the Yard Sale, etc.

We have divided up the work to avoid a "see how many straws we can pile on a volunteer's back until it cracks" exercise. We also recruit and train replacement volunteers, so agreeing to do some BRUU work is not a 15-years-to-life sentence.

If you want to be a leader at BRUU, we have tools to help - including online training from the Joseph Priestly District. The webinar is a new way to get training and "lessons learned" without traveling to a meeting. All you need is a computer, Internet access, and a telephone.

For upcoming topics, check out <http://person.y.uua.org>

For more details, please contact Nina Lomax, head of the Leadership Development Committee, at ninalomax@comcast.net
- Charlie



BRUU Mime Troupe Goes on Tour with Mime & Music Worship Service

The BRUU Mime Troupe, under the direction of Cynthia Rouillard and Mary Kadlubowski, presented its 2007-2008 worship service "The Shape of Worth: Our Seven Principles in Mime and Music" at BRUU on January 13 to the great enjoyment and acclaim of the enthusiastic attendees.

Besides performing at home, this unique and talented group of performers is taking its worship service on the road this year. The troupe is sharing this one-of-a kind worship experience with the congregations of six area UU churches from Ellicott City, MD to the Shenandoah Valley. The worship service integrates seven mime sketches reflecting the UU principles with an abundance of live music, hymns, readings, and often humorous narration.

In addition to touring the worship service, the troupe is performing community outreach at the Annual Paw-Wow in Montclair, VA, and will present its annual comedy show at BRUU in the spring. The highlight of the touring season promises to be a performance as part of the opening ceremonies of the Joseph Priestly District (JPD) Spring Conference in Bethesda, MD, in late March.

The BRUU Mime Troupe features Nell Drake, Alex and Ben Giffen, Brionna Harris, Alex and Sophia Kadlubowski, Buddy McGrath, Alex and Caitlin Muir, Devon and Monica Norton, Ryan Rouillard, Hannagh Smith, and Cady Wilsey. The parents of these dedicated performers have been a great help in providing organizational, logistical, and musical support to Cynthia and Mary.

The troupe, open to youth 5th grade or older, rehearses every Thursday evening in the BRUU sanctuary. Contact Cynthia Rouillard or Mary Kadlubowski for more

The BRUU MIME troop prepares to perform a "sketch" at Fairfax UU on Jan. 4.

Photo by
Becky Miller

Welcoming Congregation Column

Part 1 of 4 from "Between and Beyond: Common Questions about Transgender Identity" located on the UUA Office of Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian and Transgender Concerns website at:

<http://www.uua.org/members/justicediversity/bisexualgay/identity101>

The Basics - Gender

Our culture tends to limit its understanding of gender to man and woman. The Office of Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Concerns (OBGLTC) believes there are more than two genders. OBGLTC uses the word "transgender" in its title as an umbrella term to describe the following people: crossdressers/transvestites, genderqueer, intersexuals, third gender, transsexuals, and any self-identified trans people. But even this is not necessarily completely accurate. Read on!

Sex and Gender

People are assigned a biological sex (Male, Female, Intersex). People define their own gender (Man, Woman, Transgender).

Gender Identification and Sexual Orientation

Gender identification expresses how you identify your gender. Sexual orientation refers to whom you are sexually, affectionally, or romantically attracted. A trans person can be of any sexual orientation. These are often lumped together, despite being different, because of societal expectations around sex and gender. Women and men are expected to look and act a certain way and to be attracted to the "opposite" sex. Bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgender people do not always meet this expectation.

Gender Identity

Gender identity refers to an individual's sense of being a man or a woman.

Gender Expression

Gender expression describes how people manifest feeling masculine or feminine through their appearance, behavior, or dress.

Common Questions

Crossdressers

Are people who crossdress gay?

Most of the people who crossdress are men who identify as heterosexual, though this is not exclusive. Women have greater

leeway in dress than men, according to most cultural norms in the West and women who identify as crossdressers tend to be extreme in their crossdressing. People who crossdress may completely crossdress or crossdress partially, for instance only with undergarments.

Why do people crossdress?

There is no one reason why people crossdress. The best thing to do is to ask without judgment. Generally, but not exclusively, straight men who crossdress do so because it makes them feel better. Gay and bisexual men, performing in drag, often do it for entertainment, fun, and to earn money. While there are some who believe that drag queens are making fun of women, OBGLTC believes that drag queens are more likely making fun of men and what it means to be a man. Women who crossdress can be referred to as DRAB Kings, though "drag" is often used now for both genders.

Is there any difference between transvestites, crossdressers, and female impersonators?

Usually it's a matter of personal preference, though "crossdresser" seems to be the current favored term. Female impersonators are generally people wishing to entertain and earn money. Some see "transvestite" now as a derogatory term, though there are some who are trying to reclaim the word with pride.

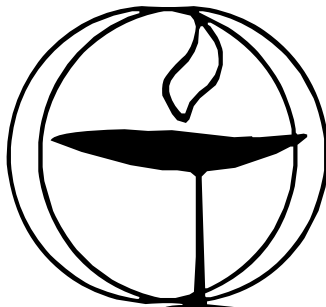
Where did the word "DRAG" and "DRAB" come from?

DRAG = DRessed As a Girl
DRAB = DRessed As a Boy

Part 2 will have more common questions.

(This column is edited by members of the Welcoming Congregation Committee; please send questions, insights, comments and submissions to wchair@bruu.org or place in the WCC mailbox)

~Ron Bracy, WCC Point of Contact



Inclement Weather Policy

In case of bad weather, floods, plagues of locusts, etc., the buildings at BRUU may be closed. Events scheduled for the buildings, or in other locations, may be cancelled. If Prince William County schools are closed, there is a strong possibility that BRUU events will be cancelled as well.

Cancelling weekday activities:

The leader for small group meetings (on any day of the week, including committee meetings on Sunday afternoons) is responsible for determining if the meeting should be cancelled. People planning to attend the meeting should call the point of contact, as listed on the online calendar, to determine if the meeting will be cancelled.

Cancelling Sunday services:

It is always our intention at BRUU to have services every Sunday, but it is important for all of us to consider our own safety in regard to travel conditions during inclement weather. The President, in consultation with the chair of the Worship Committee, the minister, and others as appropriate, will make the decision whether to cancel Sunday services no later than 8:00am Sunday morning (but, ideally, by 10:00pm on Saturday night, so everyone can arrange schedules accordingly).

Information about event cancellation and closing BRUU buildings will be recorded on the church answering machine, posted on the church web site, and circulated via e-mail.

Mark your Calendars for the next BRUU Work Day!

Our next work day will be on Saturday, February 16TH from 9:30 AM until 2:30 PM. Lunch will be provided. As always we have many jobs to do that will beautify our church. Some, but not all, include working on the ground floor (some call it the 2nd floor) men's bathroom, putting in the shed, touching up the paint in the foyer, installing the baseboard coving in the Flamingo lounge, and touching up paint and sanding various areas around the church. You don't need to come for the complete time if you have other commitments—but all help is greatly appreciated. Even if you have no experience, we are willing to teach, so please come! If you know of anything you think we need to fix around the church, feel free to let the MAC committee members know. SEE YOU FEBRUARY 16TH!
~Christine Sunda, MAC Chairperson

Social Justice News

SERVE Benefit a Huge Success

Social Justice thank everyone involved for the wonderful time we all had on January 12 at the Manassas Elks Lodge. We raised more than \$1,500 for SERVE, plus we had so much fun! 100+ people mingled, ate, drank, danced, and generally had a great time, thanks to the help of all the volunteers, who did everything from playing music (The Band!) to taking tickets, arranging for the hall and the barkeep, getting the door prizes, bringing the food and drink, and on and on.

The Elks practically donated the space (charged us only the cost of operations and clean-up), the barkeep gave us a reduced rate, we received donations from several grocery stores for the food provided, we dug into BRUU's wine cellar for the wine, and we garnered a dozen door prizes from local businesses.

Thanks to:

Mark Owens and Catfish Honeymoon,
 Terri Owens, Randy Earl,
 Jeanette Muir, Star Muir,
 Samar Adi, Becky Miller,
 Shelby Oros, Nina Lomax,
 Ray Spicer, Ed Day,
 Cathy Ring, Karen Newlun,
 Sandy Feulner, Steve Collins,
 Martha Walsh, and Paul Galvin.

We plan for a repeat sometime in the spring, by the way, so keep tuned.

ACTS Food Pantry

The ACTS Food Pantry also needs support in the way of volunteers. If you can volunteer to pick up food from local grocery stores or to "man" the pantry at any time, call Michael Hinz at 703.221.3186 ex.24.

Special Donations to Social Justice Recognized

We want to thank Jerry and Mary Sherman for a **major** special donation to the Social Justice Committee, to be used for the Food Pantry and whatever other causes we select; and from Ed Davis, who donated both money and time in building the shelves in our new Food Pantry. Blessings to these generous folks!!

Emergency Food Pantry Needs Your Stuff!

Social Justice is instituting a Fourth Sunday Bring Food to BRUU initiative to help support our food pantry. The Capital Area Food Bank is receiving less and less food as the economy sours, and we need to step up and involve more of our own congregation in supporting the hungry in our neighborhood. So on every Soup and Bread Lunch for SERVE Sunday, we're also asking everyone to bring at least one item for the food pantry. We'll have the box out for donations every Sunday near the snack table, but on Soup and Bread Sundays we'll have it over where the line forms for soup. So as you purchase your soup, you can drop your donations into the box.

Our goal is to have at LEAST 100 items donated every fourth Sunday---on top of the regular weekly donations.

So let's get into the habit--**EVERYONE** bring at least one item every fourth Sunday.

Items that have recently been requested: baby formula, nutritious protein drinks, diapers.

Susan Sinclair is our NEW Soup and Bread co-coordinator, so she'll be working with Randy Earl regularly to keep our Soup and Bread lunches going. Thanks, Susan!

Next SERVE Soup and Bread Lunch is February 24

When the broadcast goes out asking for people to bring soup, please respond by contributing a tureen of soup toward this worthy cause. And the rest of you, join us for food and camaraderie on Feb. 24.

December's soup and bread lunch brought in \$300 for SERVE.

Split the Plate

BRUU raised \$341 for the Virginia Organizing Project in our Split the Plate January 13. Thanks to all!

February's Split the Plate will be for Tenants and Workers United, an organization that helps low-income people in Northern Virginia. So bring you check-book or that extra BIG bill to put into the offertory on Feb. 10!

SERVE News

Attention, Bowlers! It's time to get those bowling shoes dusted off to participate in the **17th Annual "Strikes for SERVE" Bowl A Thon**, scheduled for **March 1, 2008** at the Bowl America, 9000 Mathis Avenue in Manassas. This is considerably earlier than in previous years, and you can thank the early Easter holiday and early spring break for public schools for the change in date. However, a fun time is still guaranteed for everyone! Bowlers can form teams of five (5) participants, and each bowler is asked to raise a minimum of \$50.00. All bowlers will receive three (3) free games of bowling, free rental of a bowling ball, free rental of bowling shoes, a "Strikes for SERVE" t-shirt and the chance to win exciting door prizes and raffles. For more information, please call me at 703-367-6742 or email jhawkins@serveinc.org. Come bowl for a great cause, and celebrate the waning days of winter!

I have a couple of volunteer needs for someone looking to help out one or more days each week. I need a volunteer Administration Receptionist on Monday mornings from 9:30am to 12:00pm to help answer phones, transfer calls, assist with some administration projects and answer questions about SERVE. This particular volunteer slot also calls for a person with some computer literacy, as job openings are downloaded from the Internet each Monday for our clients. It is not difficult to learn, so if you'd like a challenging position while helping out the less fortunate residents in our community, please contact me.

The Family Care Shelter is looking for a someone willing to be a volunteer Shelter Driver to help transport residents in our passenger van to doctor appointments, social services appointments or other appointments and meetings. If you have free time on Mondays, Wednesdays or Thursdays, please contact me for more information. Drivers must be 21 and up, and must have a driving record check done by Department of Motor Vehicles. The cost for a records check is \$8.00, and is paid for by the volunteer.

~Jan Hawkins, Volunteer Director

Congregational Meeting March 9, 2008

The BRUU Board has scheduled a short Congregational Meeting for March 9, right after the Sunday Service in the Sanctuary. We propose to shift our legal structure as an institution from an "unincorporated association" with trustees to a standard Virginia "non-stock corporation."

This shift requires the congregation to adopt bylaws. Even though the new bylaws would be very similar to the current bylaws, the process requires a Congregational Meeting.

Why incorporate BRUU?

This change will reduce the personal liability of the Board and staff, in case anyone ever sues BRUU (perhaps if there is a dispute over paying for a building repair contract, or an automobile accident when someone is on official church business).

After incorporation, the assets of BRUU will still be vulnerable in such a lawsuit, especially if a legal award exceeds our insurance coverage with Church Mutual. However, the leaders of BRUU will not have to worry that a sharp trial lawyer might find a way to attach the houses, retirement accounts, and other personal assets of the members of the Board and the minister.

Why incorporate BRUU now?

When BRUU was formed, incorporation was not an option. Virginia law required that we select trustees to manage our real estate, including getting a mortgage. Trustees (currently Star Muir, Carl Winters, and Cathy Ring) are separate from the BRUU Board, and new trustees must be approved by the local circuit court.

Approval of BRUU's trustees and BRUU's real estate transactions by the local Circuit Court judge protects the trustees from personal liability regarding those arrangements. However, there is no other "shield" protecting the other leaders of BRUU from liability related to other BRUU-sponsored activities.

Fortunately, Virginia just recently changed its laws to allow religious organizations to incorporate. Synagogues and churches of various denominations in the state are going through the incorporation process now. The restriction dated back to

the Revolutionary War, and only Virginia/West Virginia required the trustee-based structure for churches.

BRUU would be the first Virginia UU congregation to incorporate, so we hired an experienced local law firm to guide us through the process.

The next step in this process is to adopt bylaws that match the simple articles of incorporation that BRUU files with the state.

What would change after incorporation?

After adoption, BRUU would no longer need to have trustees or get court approval for real estate transactions, and the leaders of BRUU would have more legal protection against liability lawsuits. BRUU would have to file an annual report with the State Corporation Commission and pay a minor (about \$25) annual fee to maintain our legal existence, just like all other non-stock corporations.

Incorporation would have no impact on BRUU's tax status. Contributions to BRUU will remain tax-deductible. Members will continue to elect the Board as we do now, but the positions of trustee would be eliminated.

How do I learn more about this proposal?

Information regarding this process will be provided on the wiki and in various meetings later in February/early March. In addition, all members of BRUU are encouraged to talk with the current trustees and members of the Board, to get a better understanding of this proposed change in our legal structure.

- Charlie Grymes

Child Dedications

In our congregation, we have the honor of celebrating the birth of each new child as the miracle it is. We celebrate those miracles with a ceremony we call a "Child Dedication." Our theology teaches us that each child is born whole and blessed and all we have to do is celebrate them for who they are, so the child dedication is a celebration of the unique individuality and developing gifts of each new child.

The Child Dedication ceremony is an opportunity for children and families to dedicate themselves to one another and to a shared journey of spiritual growth. In many cases, it's also an opportunity for the congregation to dedicate itself to the care and nurturance of our children.

In the coming months, there are several different opportunities for Child Dedication ceremonies that you and your family might want to consider. One is to share a dedication with the entire congregation. We do have a dedication scheduled to take place this spring during our annual Flower Communion service on Easter Sunday but we can also provide a dedication with the congregation on another Sunday, as appropriate for you and your family.

Another option is to share a more private dedication with any children or youth who may have come to our congregation long after their baby-hood was over but might still find meaning in symbolically dedicating themselves as Unitarian Universalists.

If such a ceremony, either private or public, seems like it might be important to your family, or if you have any questions, contact Rev. Nancy in the church office at 703-361-6269 or at Revnancy@bruu.org.

BRUU Family Worship

Please join us for BRUU Family Worship in the 3rd floor chapel each Sunday at 9:15. This is a worship opportunity for the entire BRUU family, and we have tons of fun. Our topics for February are:

- February 3rd: Random Acts of Kindness (suggested by Shelby Owens) We will explore the idea of random acts of kindness, and commit some of our own.
- February 10th: Alone and Together: The importance of having time to ourselves so we are better when we come together.
- February 17th: Faces of Love. We will read the story King and King and discuss the many faces of love.
- February: Unsuspecting Leadership (inspired by Zoe Pappas). We will discuss the ways we can help, even when we feel helpless.

Remember to check out our Family Worship bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, suggestions, or need further information, please contact Reverend Nancy, Mark or Terri Owens, or Chris McCann.

Upcoming in Religious Education

Classes, lectures, & groups

UU in A Nutshell

Facilitated by Rev. Nancy McDonald Ladd and friends with lunch included, BRUU Fellowship Hall

1st Session: February 16th 10-2 or
2nd Session: April 26th 10-2

Come learn more about our congregation and our Unitarian Universalist religious tradition. Choose the one day session that best fits your schedule. Either one-day session of conversation and learning covers all the bases. In the morning, we'll talk about our tradition and in the afternoon we'll get more specific with information about our congregation. This is the easiest way to get oriented to our beloved community.

Cost: \$10 per person

Discovery Dinners

Thursdays, February 21 - March 13,
2008 Dinner at 6:15 \$5 per person \$15
per family

Please be sure to register at least by the Tuesday before the dinners you wish to attend, we need an accurate headcount to provide enough food. You may register for several dinners at once. Please indicate which dates you are registering for. Dessert is pot luck.

Classes at 7-9 pm (no charge)

Register through the office, some classes may have limited space, so early registration is encouraged.

Child Care Available on request

If you are in need of child care, please alert the church office at least one week before the class begins and it will be arranged.

Drum Making Class

Facilitated by Martha Slover

NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

Saturday February 23 &

Sunday March 2 12:30-3:00

Class size: 8 maximum

Cost: \$100.00

Build your own drum and learn to play it. Drums will be 13 or 15" wooden hoop drums with a cow hide head. Limited space available so register early.

Cost: \$100 per person to cover the cost of materials

For further information contact:

Michele Grove Interim DRE
dre@bruu.org

Winter 2008 Discovery Dinners Program Schedule

Week	1	2	3	4
Date	Feb 21	Feb 28	Mar 6	Mar 13
Menu	Chili & Baked Potato Bar	Barbecue	Taco Night	Oriental Surprise
Class 1	Amateur Massage <i>Star Muir</i>	Amateur Massage <i>Star Muir</i>		
Class 2	Maxed Out <i>Emily Cameron</i>			
Class 3	Complementary & Alternative Medicine <i>Stephanie Wright & Cathy Schmader-Kopak</i>	Complementary & Alternative Medicine <i>Stephanie Wright & Cathy Schmader-Kopak</i>	Complementary & Alternative Medicine <i>Stephanie Wright & Cathy Schmader-Kopak</i>	Complementary & Alternative Medicine <i>Stephanie Wright & Cathy Schmader-Kopak</i>
Class 4	Out of Our Personal Paradigm <i>Angie Carrera & Susan Padgett</i>		Out of Our Personal Paradigm <i>Angie Carrera & Susan Padgett</i>	
Class 5		Emerson's Essays <i>Rev. Nancy McDonald-Ladd</i>	Emerson's Essays <i>Rev. Nancy McDonald-Ladd</i>	Emerson's Essays <i>Rev. Nancy McDonald-Ladd</i>
Class 6		Do you know who your God is? <i>Youth & Ryan Johnston</i>		Do you know who your God is? <i>Youth & Ryan Johnston</i>
Class 7			Bruu Players <i>Star Muir</i>	Bruu Players <i>Star Muir</i>
Music	Youth Choir <i>Annease Hastings</i>	Family Music <i>Annease Hastings</i>	Orchestra <i>Annease Hastings</i>	Rhythm <i>Annease Hastings</i>

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FEBRUARY, 2008

Crossroads

THE MONTHLY NEWSFORUM OF THE BULL RUN
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS MANASSAS, VA

Did you know that the BRUU newsletter is available electronically? Using this delivery option saves BRUU publication costs, postage, paper, and volunteer labor. You also receive the newsletter much sooner because it is delivered instantly to your e-mail inbox and arrives in vivid color in Adobe Acrobat format (PDF). You can sign-up for electronic delivery at the following address:

[http://groups.yahoo.com/
group/BRUU_Newsletter/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BRUU_Newsletter/)



The
BRUU
MIME troop
prepares to
perform a
"sketch" at
Fairfax UU
on Jan. 4.

Photo by
Becky Miller

The Bull Run

Unitarian Universalists

Bull Run Unitarian Universalists exist to nurture ourselves, our children, our community, and our natural world in the pursuit of spiritual and intellectual growth. We give expression to our mission through celebrating our diversity and giving of our talents and resources with justice, equity and compassion. We work toward our goals through an open democratic process, respecting the views of each individual and seeking to protect the interdependent web of life.

Return Service Requested.
9350 Main Street
Manassas, VA 20110-5150



February 17th is the deadline
for the March Newsletter!
Newsletter@bruu.org

We're on the Web at
www.bruu.org

February 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	

2/1 First Friday Food and Film Night, 6 PM, location varies
 2/3 RE Classes, 9 - 11:30 AM
 2/3 Family Worship, 9:15 AM, Chapel
 2/3 Sunday Service, 10 AM, Sanctuary
 2/3 RE Activity Group, 11 AM, Rooms 304 and 306
 2/3 Worship Committee, 11:30 AM - 1 PM, Library
 2/3 Membership/Fellowship - 11:45 AM, Lounge
 2/3 CUUPS Monthly Ritual - 12 PM, Sanctuary
 2/3 CUUPS Monthly Feast - 1 PM, Hall
 2/3 Children's Choir, 11:30 AM, Music Room
 2/3 Youth Choir, 5 PM, Music Room
 2/4 BUC Meeting, 7 PM, Room 208
 2/4 Spiritual Study Group, 7:30 PM, Room 204
 2/6 Playgroup, 10 AM
 2/6 NVC Chalice Group, 6 PM, Youth Room
 2/6 Adult Choir, 7 PM, Music Room
 2/7 A Course in Miracles, 7:00 PM, Library
 2/7 Mime Rehearsal, 7 PM, Sanctuary
 2/8 Exploring Retirement, 7:30 PM, Hall
 2/9 BRUU Coffee House, 6 PM, Hall
 2/10 BRUU Men, 8:30 AM, Library
 2/10 RE Classes, 9 - 11:30 AM
 2/10 Family Worship, 9:15 AM, Chapel
 2/10 Sunday Service, 10 AM, Sanctuary
 2/10 RE Activity Group, 11 AM, Rooms 304 and 306
 2/10 Youth Choir, 11:30 AM, Music Room
 2/10 Bull Run Investment Club (BRIC), 11:30 AM, Lounge
 2/10 Writers' Group, 11:45 AM, Room 305
 2/10 Social Justice Committee - 11:45 AM,

Room 208
 2/11 Spiritual Study Group, 7:30 PM, Library
 2/12 Board Meeting, 7 PM, Library
 2/12 Global Threat Adult RE, 7 PM, Library
 2/12 Stitch and Bitch, 7:30 PM, Room 208
 2/13 Chalice Group, 10 AM, Lounge Room
 2/13 NVC Chalice Group, 6 PM, Youth Room
 2/13 Adult Choir, 7 PM, Music Room
 2/14 A Course in Miracles, 7:00 PM, Library
 2/14 Mime Rehearsal, 7 PM, Sanctuary
 2/15 Evensong Service, 7:30 PM, Sanctuary
 2/16 UU in a Nutshell, 10 AM, Hall
 2/16 Jr. Youth OWL, 10 AM, Lounge
 2/16 MAC Work Day, 10 AM, Lounge Room
 2/16 Spanish Language Ministry, 3 PM, RE Office
 2/17 RE Classes, 9 - 11:30 AM
 2/17 Family Worship, 9:15 AM, Chapel
 2/17 Sunday Service, 10 AM, Sanctuary
 2/17 RE Activity Group, 11 AM, Rooms 304 and 306
 2/17 Library Committee, 11 AM, Library
 2/17 Web Team, 11:15 AM, Room 206
 2/17 RE Committee Meeting, 11:45 AM, RE Office
 2/17 Children's Choir, 11:30 AM, Music Room
 2/17 Green Sanctuary Committee, 11:45 AM, Room 208
 2/17 Writer's Group, 11:45 AM, Rooms 305 and 307
 2/17 Youth/Adult Committee Meeting, 11:45 AM, Youth Room
 2/17 Crossroads Newsletter Deadline, 6 PM
 2/18 Spiritual Study Group, 7:30 PM, Room 204
 2/20 Playgroup, 10 AM, Hall
 2/20 NVC Chalice Group, 6 PM, Youth

Room
 2/21 Discovery Dinners, 6:15 PM, Hall
 2/21 Youth Choir, 6:30 PM, Music Room
 2/21 A Course in Miracles, 7:00 PM, Library
 2/21 Mime Rehearsal, 7 PM, Sanctuary
 2/23 Drum Making Class, 12 PM, 3rd floor classroom
 2/24 BRUU Men, 8:30 AM, Library
 2/24 RE Classes, 9 - 11:30 AM
 2/24 Family Worship, 9:15 AM, Chapel
 2/24 Sunday Service, 10 AM, Sanctuary
 2/24 RE Activity Group, 11 AM, Rooms 304 and 306
 2/24 Drumming Circle, 11:30 AM, Sanctuary
 2/24 SERVE Soup and Salad, 11:30 AM, Hall
 2/24 Personnel Committee, 11:30 AM, Library
 2/24 Gifting Committee Meeting, 11:45 AM, Room 208
 2/24 Writers' Group, 11:45 AM, Room 305
 2/24 Andean Spirituality Group: Hakuchis, 1 PM, Lounge
 2/25 Spiritual Study Group, 7:30 PM, Room 204
 2/26 Global Threat Adult RE, 7 PM, Library
 2/26 Stitch and Bitch, 7:30 PM, Room 208
 2/26 Book Group, 7:30 PM, Member Homes
 2/27 Chalice Group, 10 AM, Lounge Room
 2/27 NVC Chalice Group, 6 PM, Youth Room
 2/28 Discovery Dinners, 6:15 PM, Hall
 2/28 A Course in Miracles, 7:00 PM, Library
 2/28 Mime Rehearsal, 7 PM, Sanctuary
 2/29 Children's Choir lock-in, Music Room