

Volume 36

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July 2018



# CROSSROADS



## Bull Run Unitarian Universalists

Greetings to all y'all from Tallahassee! (From Rev. Charlotte on 06.16.18)

It's been almost a week since we were in Manassas, and Lisa and I are still celebrating that I have been called by BRUU to serve the congregation for the foreseeable future as its settled minister.

I am also acutely aware of how exhausting candidating week was and am still working to replenish my energy stores even as I get ready to travel again. I am heading to Kansas City, Missouri for a week of collegiality and immersion in all things Unitarian Universalist: UUMA Ministry Days, LREDA Professional Day, and UU General Assembly. I look forward to running into the BRUU delegate contingent there during the week.

I have a lot to do here in Tallahassee before my arrival in Manassas and the start of our shared ministry together in mid-August. My responsibilities to the Tallahassee congregation officially continue into August: I will be in the pulpit through July 15<sup>th</sup> and then I will be on vacation for the final four weeks of my contract, but that means if there is a pastoral emergency, I can be called back in to address needs beyond the capacity of the congregation's leadership. I don't anticipate this.

Instead I will be devoting all of my time and energy to packing and moving our household to Manassas and then starting to settle in. Lisa has plans to go on a trek to Machu Pichu in Peru; so she will remain behind up until she leaves for that in order to work. That means she doesn't join me in Manassas until the end of September.

July 2018 Crossroads

Until I officially start in the role as BRUU’s minister, I request that I be contacted by BRUU leadership, and only if *absolutely* necessary. I will be holding off on joining the listserv and Facebook groups and pages until mid-August. Just as it is important for me to leave Tallahassee well, it is important for me to hold excellent boundaries and practice good self-care as I start up at BRUU. When it is time, I will be deliberately and intentionally “joining the system” and begin the process of getting to know you and BRUU’s systems (beyond what I experienced during candidating week).

You will start to see me around the church on or after August 15<sup>th</sup>. I look forward to starting to plan the year ahead at that time. My first Sunday in the pulpit will be on September 9<sup>th</sup>, when we will celebrate the beginning of the church year with the annual Ingathering/Water Communion service. Please don’t forget to collect a little water over the summer to signify your spiritual adventures.

Until then, have a blessed summer filled with growth and renewed energy!

In faith,

*Rev. Charlotte*



Some of the many banners from UU congregations on display at General Assembly. Photos courtesy of Bev Reusser

## **BRUU Board of Directors: June 2018 Meeting Highlights**

Under announcements, the Board took note of the calling of our new settled minister, and Heather Berthold volunteered to draft a press release around the time of Rev. Charlotte's arrival. The Board bade farewell to departing members Beth Roemmelt, Wade Stephenson, and Amy Hamilton. Art Muirhead shared information about the donation made by Charlie Grymes and Cathy Ring for the purpose of developing and training volunteers at BRUU.

In lieu of a June Journal Club reading assignment, Board members discussed options in this area for the upcoming year, and agreed to break from the Journal Club for the summer, with plans to pick up again once Rev. Charlotte has provided her input on possible selections.

**Wade reported that taking into account changes in status of several members after our recent canvass campaign, current membership stands at 240.**

Mike Cleary shared information on the most recent changes regarding member signatures on the BRUU Congregational Covenant. Around half of our members have now signed the Covenant.

Art updated members on the status of planned efforts for our transitioning and welcoming phase with Rev. Charlotte. The most important matter at present is recognizing that Rev. Charlotte is not BRUU's settled minister until August 15, and she needs to conclude her current ministry without engaging with BRUU on policy matters until then. Art and Rev. Charlotte did have a conceptual discussion about setting up a new Committee on Shared Ministry. She adheres to the model advocated by Robert Latham in his "Church Folly Lane" text; this is something we can implement after her arrival. A thorough cleaning and preparation of the minister's office is in order, and Amy Hamilton will follow up on MAC-related issues prior to Rev. Charlotte's arrival.

Kathy Sobrio led a discussion of her written report to the Board that summarizes the status and accomplishments of our communications and information technology programming. BRUU Webmaster Stephe Giese was on hand to discuss the material and answer questions. Members offered suggestions on revitalizing RoundUp (chronology, duration of posts, table of contents/links, etc.). Discussion ensued on website services and ideas for improvements and changes, as well as our social media campaign and the need to empirically validate its perceived impact. Data collection from the Membership and Communications Committees, and evaluation of that data, may be a good start. There was also a proposal that upon reconvening in the fall, the Program Council should evaluate communication needs of the PC committees and examine potential solutions.

**The next Board meeting will be held on July 10, 2018 (second Tuesday) at 7 pm. Contact me if you have questions or concerns at [president@bruu.org](mailto:president@bruu.org) or 703-266-1949 (home).**



Scenes from General Assembly. Photos courtesy of Rev. Madelyn Campbell, Art Muirhead and Bev Reusser



## Notes from Annease

Shortly after moving into our current location, I heard of a man from the Rockville UU church looking for someone to keep his piano while he attended seminary. I jumped at the chance and he loaned us the instrument. After several years, in 2006, he contacted me and asked for us to either buy the piano or return it. Since the price was quite low (\$4,500), we purchased the piano from him. There's a reason for the low price; it's the cheapest and smallest grand that Yamaha makes. Most piano manufacturers make 3-4 different grades/tiers of grands, from consumer grade/economical to highest quality. Our piano is 21 years old and is in the lowest tier. Its sound is bright and tinny; action\* is uneven, and sympathetic string vibrations make it sound out of tune even before it gets there. The accompanist I hired for the choir service complained repeatedly that she couldn't control the dynamic level of the piano and we needed to voice it (voicing is a much longer discussion and a tricky and costly procedure).

Annease Hastings, Director of Music

\*A piano's action is what controls the instrument's responsiveness, how much or little pressure it takes to get consistent sound. The action should be even so that some notes don't stick out more than others or are harder to control with finger pressure.



*Editor's Note: When I was in my late 20's, we were shopping for a used car. After checking out several possibilities, my heart was set on a shiny black Ford coupe. We did indeed get that car, against my husband's better judgment, but we didn't keep it long. I don't know much more about car engines now than I did then, but there's clearly a lot under the hood that matters. (Gretchen)*

### Astounding news!

Because of the issues with the sanctuary piano, a piano replacement fund was initiated in 2013. Over time, several fundraisers, annual choir collections, and individual donations had gradually grown the fund to \$3500. Within the past couple of months, anonymous contributions have ballooned the balance to an amazing \$33,638.52! Annease has just begun the process of shopping for a replacement, so hopefully we can look forward to a quality instrument to grace our sanctuary soon.

## From the Treasurer's Office

### Tips for Expediting your Expense Reimbursement Form (ERF)

When filling out a paper ERF form **PLEASE** don't staple your receipts to the form use a paper clip instead. **The Treasurer's Office will not process stapled ERF forms after July 1**

Paper ERF forms can be found in the Treasurer's mail box in the office.

#### **But you don't have to fill out a paper form**

1. If your receipts are in any digital format whatsoever send them as an email attachment to [treasurer@bruu.org](mailto:treasurer@bruu.org) with "ERF" somewhere in the subject line. In the body of the email put the following information:

- Payee's Name
- Payee's Address (If not in the directory or on the invoice)
- Expense Description(s) and Amount(s)
- Total to be reimbursed
- BRUU Account(s)/Fund(s) used to pay expense
- Approver's Name
- Any additional information or comments you want to include.
- **( A single payee can be paid/reimbursed from multiple accounts on the same ERF request.)**

#### **OR**

2. Take a picture of the receipt(s) or invoice(s) that renders the text and numbers readable with your phone and follow the steps in 1 above.

Since moving to the new accounting system, an expense or part of an expense paid by a member or friend cannot be converted into a contribution from that member or friend. If you have any questions concerning your expense reimbursements please contact the treasurer.

## Contacting the Treasurer

There are several ways to contact the treasurer. For email please use [treasurer@bruu.org](mailto:treasurer@bruu.org) for all BRUU related business.

By phone the following information will be helpful: 703-361-6269 (main & voice mail) 571-364-8939 (Treasurer's direct line, no voice mail), 703-927-0783 (cell, voice & text messages)

BRUU Voice Mail:

\*# Office Administrator, 1# Minister, 2# Treasurer, 3# Music Director, 4# DRE

(go straight to the extension of the person you are trying to reach by pressing one of the codes listed above; extension will ring 2X or 5X before going to voice mail)



Cake, gifts and remarks in appreciation for Annease Hasting's 30 years of music leadership and performance at BRUU during and after the June 17<sup>th</sup> service. Brenda Vann created lovely decorations in the Fellowship Hall.

The quilt wall hanging, to be displayed above the sanctuary piano, was made by Nicki Moering .

It was presented in honor of 30 years of choir participation. Gretchen Almstead and Ann Hempen's names are the first of many to eventually be added to the quilt.

# The Way I See It

I just returned from attending my very first UUA General Assembly in barbeque-friendly (and UU-friendly!) Kansas City, Missouri. These are a few (hopefully-not-too-random) impressions of what took place over five days of meetings, seminars, lectures, worship, and lots of stimulating conversations with UUs from all over.

It became abundantly clear from the outset how focused our denomination has become on the issues of confronting white supremacy culture and dismantling institutional racism. From the first morning session reports of the Commission on Social Witness, Commission on Institutional Change, Board of Trustees, Co-Moderators, and Public Witness by members of Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism; through the clear call to action by 2018 Ware Lecturer and social justice activist Brittany Packnett; and up to the admonition at the Sunday Morning Service to stay strong in the fight for social justice, this was the most pervasive theme throughout GA. We, the members of BRUU, are called upon to reflect upon our values as a congregation, and determine how we can contribute to this struggle to do right for what is right.

There was an abundance of options throughout GA for attending practical information sessions designed to help deal with the recurring issues that are common to almost all our congregations. I attended presentations on identifying, developing and nurturing congregational leaders; bringing better focus to social justice ministries through assessment, discernment and planning; finding the right resources to support our environmental justice and climate justice programs; and using the right techniques to attract new members, integrate them into the community, and keep them around for the long haul. Come and ask me about any of these and I may be able to give some useful pointers – and if I think you're the right person to lead the way, I may just come and buttonhole you!!

Guess who won the Commission on Social Witness Sermon Prize this year? None other than our very own former Interim Minister Rev. Greg Ward. Martha and I heard Greg deliver his sermon on Thursday afternoon. It began with a recounting of the run-around he went through in trying to get his dying father's insurance company to attend to even the most basic necessities, and moved to an exhortation to UUs to use our talents and resources to force America's government and corporations to focus on people, not profits. Greg told me later he is engaged in a potentially long-term developmental ministry at the Santa Monica, CA UU Church. It was nice to see him, and he seemed very content.

Being at GA reconfirmed my firmly-held belief that one of the main benefits of any conference-like event is the chance to meet and share experiences and insights with fellow delegates. We had some wonderful conversations at lunches and breaks. Believe it or not, there are all kinds of congregations out there, big and small, that face the same challenges we do on a daily basis, and having the chance for some give and take with folks that share your concerns is both informative and reassuring.

Next year's GA is in beautiful Spokane, WA. Give a thought or two to attending – you'll learn a lot, get energized and have a good time with fellow UUs.

Art Muirhead, President, BRUU Board of Directors, [president@bruu.org](mailto:president@bruu.org), 703-266-1949  
June 26, 2018



This year's recipient for the Ed Day Memorial Social Justice Award goes to Elaine Phillips! (Last year's award went to Chris Kuchnicki)



This year's Unsung UU Award for exceptional service was presented to Cathy Ring.

Photos on page 7 and 8 courtesy of Tom Miller

# FROM OUR DRE

“It is human nature to collect things. Yet we can go overboard. In the 1700’s, Margaret Cavendish Bentinck, Second duchess of Portland, helped fund expeditions that expanded the British Empire – all to increase her shell collection. Captain James Cook, who mapped the Pacific, dredged up specimens for her. After she died, the auction of her curiosities lasted 38 days. Times have changed. We no longer see the ocean as a bottomless treasure chest, though it remains subject to our acquisitiveness. A tangle of dried bull kelp; a spent sand dollar; urchin; conch; and clam shells: Back home, these long-cherished “souvenirs” on display, I think about the duchess and the echo of her impulse I have in me. Nowadays, when I spy a stray shell, I consider who once lived there, and who might use it still. I snap a picture of it. Then leave it be. - Betsy Andrews

The words above, from a piece in a 2015 issue of *Organic Life* magazine, dare I say, haunt me. The windowsills of my kitchen hold a collection of rocks from various hikes in the Blue Ridge, several pieces of quartz from Pocahontas State Park, hunks of blue agate from the Rock Mills swimming hole, which I’m told is a rock unique to this area.

Tucked in special areas of my home are several rocks from many other river hikes and a bunch of heart shaped rocks from anywhere we spotted them. Oyster shells from the Rappahannock river & a larger spiraling shell that appeared on a shore in Connecticut are there for my memory and comfort. Recent additions include bleached sand dollars and pristine purchased shells from my Grandmother’s home. My desk at home has a pile of snail like shells from a family trip to Lake Anna, rocks from my friend’s cabin on the Potomac, and a bowl of shells and sea glass from Star Island.

That’s just a short confession of treasures that I’ve taken home with me. My intentions were good at the time, and I don’t now regret having the collections from nature. When I see them, I am taken back to the moment that I was in when I put each one in my pocket.

However, the writing above for the most part halted my souvenir gathering, as it reminds me that left as is, shells and washed up sea plants create habitats for local creatures, and help prevent erosion. The duchess echoes in my head as I reach for that iridescent something to remind me that “just this one rock” has a voluminous effect when each and every one of us take “just one rock”.

Over the last few years I’ve come to adapt the camper’s adage “Pack it in, pack it out” to include “Here when you got here, leave it there.” Now, that being said, straws, cans, and other trash, go ahead, pick ‘em up! I still wander beaches and forests keeping my eyes open for unique treasures, who can help it? But I’ve learned to fill my pockets with items that are not meant to be there rather than things I think should be mine.

Kristin Worthington, Director of Religious Education

## July Worship Services Schedule

- 7/1 "Gimme that Old Time Religion" - Charlie Grymes
- 7/8 "Is there Extraterrestrial Life Out There?" – Frank Gregorio
- 7/15 "Exploring the Blues" – Tom Drake, Randy Freed, and Dave Hamilton
- 7/22 "What We Learned Through the BRUU Covenant" – Mike Cleary
- 7/29 "Post Blues – Happy Stuff" – Jennifer Deavers

## JULY 2018

- |      |                             |      |                            |
|------|-----------------------------|------|----------------------------|
| 7/01 | Social Justice Ctme, 9 A    | 7/15 | LGBTQ, 11:30 A             |
|      | Fellowship Ctme, 11:15 A    | 7/16 | NuuNeers, 11:30 A          |
|      | LGBTQ, 11:30 A              | 7/19 | Master Naturalists, 6:30 P |
| 7/06 | Church Yard Sale, 8 A – 2 P | 7/20 | USDA Food Pantry, 9:30 A   |
| 7/07 | Church Yard Sale, 8 A – 2P  | 7/22 | Men's Group, 9 AA          |
| 7/08 | Membership Ctme, 11 A       |      | Soup for Acts, 11 A        |
|      | Finance Ctme, 11:15 A       |      | RE Committee, 11:30 A      |
|      | BRIC Investment, 11:30 A    | 7/24 | Food Pantry, 9:30 A        |
| 7/10 | Food Pantry, 9:30 A         |      |                            |
|      | Board Meeting, 6:30 P       |      |                            |

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS  
AND EVENTS IN OUR AREA

## LEADERLAB: NEW RESOURCES FOR CONGREGATIONAL LEADERS



The UUA is delighted to announce a new website section dedicated to resources for congregational leaders. It's called [LeaderLab](https://www.uua.org/leadership) and here you'll find everything you need to answer those pesky "what's the best way to..." questions that are ubiquitous in congregational life. Visit it here and poke around a bit: <https://www.uua.org/leadership>. You can search it in the same way you would search WorshipWeb, and find articles, videos, blogposts, whole courses and more.

[Board Member Training](https://www.uua.org/management/board-training): 12 part series to help your board onboard and be the best they can be. There's information on governance, grounded leadership, change management, being a good employer, and more. <https://www.uua.org/management/board-training>

[Leadership Development](https://www.uua.org/leadership/programs): You finally have your reasonably capable leaders in place, but how do you teach them what Unitarian Universalism is all about along with the best principles for doing the work of leading your congregation? We now have four UUA-developed courses to take this work of developing leaders off your plate. For \$30 a course, your leaders or leaders to be can be trained in Unitarian Universalist practice to become centered, strategic and adaptive thinkers. See more at: <https://www.uua.org/leadership/programs>

The co-Deans of the Online Learning Center, Rev. Renee Ruchotzke and Rev. Dr. Johnipher Kwong developed the content together. You'll continue to see additions to LeaderLab highlighted over the next church year.

If you're interested in the Central East Region's curated collection of resources, be sure to check out the offerings at <https://www.uua.org/central-east/resources/topics>. These are your CER team's favorite resources on various issues from youth ministry to multicultural congregational life and much more. All of this is cross referenced with the LeaderLab material, but offers a more local take on these perennial topics.

We remain at the ready to help with your particular iteration of congregational life! Please be in touch with your Primary Contact (Rev Megan Foley ([mfoley@uua.org](mailto:mfoley@uua.org))) with any questions or concerns.