

Volume 36

Edition 6

June 2018



CROSSROADS



Bull Run Unitarian Universalists

WORDS OF INTRODUCTION FROM OUR MINISTER CANDIDATE...

It is with distinct pleasure and excitement that I send greetings to all BRUUers in advance of my candidating week with you beginning June 3rd.

The Unitarian Universalist ministerial search process is as grueling for the minister as it is for the congregation's ministerial search committee. I know that they are as relieved to get to this stage as I am. My partner, Lisa Stewart, is also relieved and excited that we know where we are heading next.

Not that candidating week is a walk in the park, but the palpable energy of anticipation and delight in starting to get to know who we are going to be in relation to each other will carry us through the week up to and including the culminating congregational vote to call your next settled minister on June 10th.

I am impressed by BRUU members' high level of participation in programs and leadership. The depth and breadth of the Music Program, under the decades long and able leadership of Annease Hastings, is a tremendous asset. Your direct involvement in social justice including anti-racism and anti-oppression actions and commitment to the wider Manassas community provides many opportunities for prophetic ministry.

I am aware that there is much to learn about you as I grow more fully into who I am as a minister. I am eager to support and guide staff, leaders, members, friends and neighbors of the congregation. I know that my ministry at BRUU will be full and well-rounded allowing me to utilize and hone all of the skills necessary in a congregational setting.

Lisa and I are looking forward to meeting you soon! Charlotte Lehmann, Minister Candidate

The Way I See It

As I put pen to paper (scratch that, the correct expression these days is keystrokes to screen). Reset. As I set about to write this, it's still the middle of May – we have a modified production schedule for Crossroads this month, so you see this earlier than you normally do. As usual, a lot is going on at BRUU, especially since we have identified a candidate to become our Settled Minister, something you'll be hearing a lot more about in other communications venues. So what I'd like to do at this juncture is focus on just a couple of very important events coming up in June.

As we used to say back home: God willin' and the creek don't rise, there will be a **Special Congregational Meeting on June 10** to vote on extending a "call to service" to our ministerial candidate. This will be an extremely important event in the history and evolution of BRUU. We are poised to embark on a new phase of our congregational life, and I urge every member who can possibly participate to do so.

The following Sunday, **June 17**, we will hold our **Annual Congregational Meeting**. The draft agenda includes votes on: a proposed bylaw change regarding our Endowment; our operational and capital improvement budgets for the coming fiscal year; and the slates of candidates to fill vacant positions on the Board of Directors and the Endowment Committee. And as always, members will have the opportunity to state their concerns and aspirations for BRUU.

Solid attendance by the congregation at both of these meetings will be critical to their success, and I want to reiterate here what our Bylaws say about quorums and proxies:

Quorum. Thirty percent (30%) of the total Members shall constitute a quorum at any properly called and properly noticed meeting.

Proxies. At all meetings of Members, any Member may hold the written proxy of one (1) other Member. Such written proxies shall be ... recorded as Members present in voting and for determination of a quorum.

Come to these two congregational meetings if you possibly can, you'll be glad you did, and depending on your personal philosophy, either your reward will be great in heaven, or you will merit an enormous amount of self-satisfaction here on Earth for being a stalwart supporter of BRUU. Maybe both!! And if you are simply unable to attend, find a member who can participate in person and give them your proxy – information on how to register a proxy is available with the meeting notification packets. Given our current membership of just under 250, we need to ensure that 75 of us come to both meetings, either in person or by proxy. Let's make it happen, and ...

See you there!!!

Art Muirhead, President, BRUU Board of Directors, president@bruu.org, 703-266-1949
May 16, 2018

Annual Church Picnic June 2nd

The BRUU Annual Picnic is fast approaching. It will be held again at the Sundas, [on Saturday, June 2nd](#) starting [at 3pm](#). Come for fellowship, music, volleyball, pool (bring towel & swimsuit), and bonfire. Meat & vegan burgers & dogs provided along with condiments & non-alcoholic drinks. Bring a dish to share & BYOB.



June 17th BRUU's Annual Meeting

Please read "The Way I See It," otherwise known as Art Muirhead's Presidential column, for details about the protocols and voting procedures. Items on the agenda include:

- Bylaw revision
- Slate of candidates for Board and Endowment
- Operational and Capital Improvement budget



NOTES FROM ANNEASE

June 17 is our annual spring music service. This year's theme is "Let Your Life Sing."

One of our songs asks us to imagine a silent world, where no choir sings to change the world, where there are no alleluias and no lullabies. For many of us, such a world would leave our souls empty and bereft. Therefore, let us sing - for ourselves and for a world in need of music's healing power.



Please join us in celebration of Annease Hastings's 30th year sharing music with us here at BRUU. Her job description and duties may have changed over the years, but her enthusiasm, creativity, skill, and energy are still going strong!

We'll have a short ceremony with light refreshments between the music service and the start of the Annual meeting on **Sunday, June 17th**.

Two Endowment Fund Grants

The Endowment Committee has approved two grants in the 2017-18 "church year."

A \$1,000 grant will result in a multi-color UU chalice being added to the big glass window that faces Main Street. It (and the rose window above it) will be illuminated at night, making our building in downtown Manassas more-identifiable as a UU community.

The chalice will be made from transparent plastic stuck to the inside of the glass window. The plastic itself will cost only several hundred dollars. If we like it, we can keep it. If we don't like it, or want a different design at some point, then we can peel off the plastic and consider the project an experiment that can be revised.

The second grant was for \$20,500 to cover costs of the Search Committee in 2017-18 and the new minister's moving costs in 2018-19.

The Endowment is intended to fund future activities that support BRUU's mission and purpose:

1. To strengthen BRUU as an organization and enhance its long-term sustainability.
2. To enhance the impact of BRUU in the community.
3. To implement the principles and purposes of Unitarian Universalism.

You can make a contribution to the Endowment Fund at any time, but are especially encouraged to make BRUU a beneficiary for your bank/brokerage account. That will trigger a one-time donation, when it is 100% certain that you no longer need the money.

For more details, see the Endowment brochure in the rack in the Fellowship Hall.

More info about the Jerry and Mary Sherman Endowment Gift Fund is available on BRUUnet at <http://www.bruunet.org/page/endowment>



Bruers in action on various building maintenance and improvement projects inside and out. Check out our work!

FROM THE DRE...

“In a world governed by corruption and arrogance, it can be difficult to stay true to one’s literary and philosophical principles.”

- Secret phrase that alerts another that you a member of the VFD.

Lemony Snicket may lean towards librarians, but the essence of the quote rings true. Life *is* a series of events, for sure. Unfortunate? Depends on how you look at it. I’ll assume we can all agree that there are good times and bad times as we travel on this journey called life. And depending on the circumstances, it may be really easy to stay true to your principles.... Or not so much.

The Bhagavad Gita, Hinduism’s major scripture, tells a tale of Arjuna, faced with battling a fierce army, made up of many of his family members. On the eve of the battle, Arjuna is conflicted. He questions how he could possibly kill members of his own family. He wonders if he is just a warrior or if the cause is most important. Because he cannot reconcile the various roles he plays, he first decides to quit all together. His charioteer, Krishna (remember him?) has many conversations with him that might be summed up like this. In life there are moments of wonderful pleasure. It is our given right to experience these pleasures, and deserve every single one of them. There are also moments of pain. It is our given right to experience these pains, and deserve every single one of them. (To be clear, deserve, meaning it is an honor to have them.)

Rumi might jump in here with his poem, “The Guest House.”

This being human is a guest house.
Every morning a new arrival.
A joy, a depression, a meanness,
some momentary awareness comes
as an unexpected visitor.
Welcome and entertain them all!
Even if they are a crowd of sorrows,
who violently sweep your house
empty of its furniture,
still, treat each guest honorably.
He may be clearing you out
for some new delight.
The dark thought, the shame, the malice.
meet them at the door laughing and invite them in.
Be grateful for whatever comes.
because each has been sent
as a guide from beyond.

(Continued on page 7)

(DRE, continued from page 6)

And Krishna would agree. He explains to Arjuna that the purpose of life is to achieve that place where we know one-self so profoundly to remain the same person, whether in joy or sorrow. Whether encountering corruption or arrogance; or greeting everything that makes you giggle with sheer delight. That, he says, is when we have figured it all out.

The Baudelaires may have just done it. No matter what Count Olaf throws at them, they craftily move forward, inspired by their deep love of family & friends. (If you know something I don't know, don't spoil it for me. I haven't read "The End" yet).

Blessed Be,

Kristin Worthington, Director of Religious Education



Family Calendar

May 26 OWL grades 7-9 10 am – 4 pm with parent celebration at 4 pm.

May 27 Seekers class visit from MoonFire, UU Arlington's CUUPS circle

June 24 All Ages Solstice Celebration/last week of RE

July – August

Ages 3-10 will meet together with UU Dr. Seuss activities.

Ages 11-17 will attend service. Senior Youth will meet at various times over the summer.

From the Treasurer's Office

Pledges VS Donations

Since we just completed the pledge drive for fiscal year 2018-19, it seems like a good time to talk about the difference between pledges and donations. Anyone can make a pledge by simply filling out a paper pledge form or the online form. The form simply indicates that you are willing to give to BRUU a certain amount of money, usually in monthly installments, during a certain fiscal year: for instance July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. The finance committee then uses the anticipated pledge total to plan the budget for the next fiscal year. Pledges account for about 70% of the income to our operating budget. Pledge contributions are tracked and quarterly statements are sent out to everyone who made a pledge during the current fiscal year. These statements are only sent out as a reminder and should not be interpreted as a bill or demand for payment. You can make past pledge payments as well as current pledge payments at anytime. Some people even make payments toward future pledges. Just indicate on the payment to which fiscal year the pledge payment is to be applied.

Donations are any contribution to BRUU that are not part of a pledge payment. Donations could be given for a specific purpose such as the food pantry, community assistance fund, Split-The-Plate organization or to the operating budget. For budgetary purposes the finance committee estimates how much we will collect in donations based on how much BRUU received in donations in the previous fiscal year. Donations are also tracked and one statement is sent to the donor at the end of each calendar year for tax purposes. Please use the white donation envelopes in the back of the pews to have your cash donations recorded accurately.

Contacting the Treasurer

There are several ways to contact the treasurer. For email please use 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)





Board of Directors: May 2018 Meeting Highlights

Under announcements, the Board took note of the regrettable passing of BRUU members Sharon Bauer, Jerry Sherman, and Ed Walsh, and of the memorial services planned for each. Also noted were plans to commemorate Annease Hastings' 30th (!) anniversary as Music Director at BRUU. Finally, the Board expressed its thanks and tribute to Rev. Madelyn for her many accomplishments as Interim Minister, and presented her with a gift to remember us by (mention was made of the "sacrament of chocolate").

We discussed the Board Journal Club reading of a selection made by Wade Stephenson entitled "Leadership Development in the Large Congregation." The article provides guidance on how congregations can work toward identifying and cultivating new leaders as an ongoing enterprise. See: <https://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/documents/jonassonstefan/leaderdevelopment.pdf>.

Wade reported that taking into account the three deceased members cited above, current membership stands at 247.

Mike Cleary observed that the last of the classes designed to explore the BRUU Covenant, dealing with Conflict Resolution, was held with 12 attendees.

Regarding the Program Council, Kathy Sobrio reported on efforts to encourage committee chairs to update their content on BRUUnet, with a target date of the end of May. Kathy also referred to discussion within the Council of the need to develop "vision statements" for different programs within BRUU. Board member comments addressed: extending this work to the congregation as a whole, preferably with the participation of the new minister; the need to consider this in the context of updating BRUU's long-range plan; and the value of this type of exercise in making critical decisions on program direction and budgets.

Bruce Roemmelt proved an overview of the development of the Safe Congregation Manual, including ongoing work on evaluating risks, delineating tasks/responsibilities, and carrying out training. The Board recognized the efforts coordinated by Beth Roemmelt over the past month to edit the content of the Manual, and unanimously approved making it available for dissemination.

Wade led a discussion on the proposed annual meeting agenda. The 2017 Annual Meeting Minutes will be included as an action item for approval. Given the complications of having a candidating week and a subsequent congregational meeting to vote on calling a new minister, there was consensus on remaining flexible about the date for this year's meeting. Board members also discussed the merits of the traditional practice at BRUU of offering a second term on the Board to current members.

Heather Berthold and Robin Fegeas led a discussion on the evolution of the current proposed budgets. To date, the operational budget had fallen \$50K short of the all-inclusive aspirational goal presented by the Canvass Team, and this had been dealt with in the most recent Finance Committee proposal by imposing strict limits on staff compensation, contemplated healthcare benefits, and capital fund replenishment. Board members suggested a range of possible options to reduce this funding gap, including securing funds from the endowment, borrowing against building equity, carrying out a second round of the Canvass, and tapping reserves. On behalf of the Search Committee, Martin Crim explained that in order to make an attractive offer to the ministerial candidate, we would need to take into account the new UUA compensation guidelines, which recommend an increase of 4% over 2017 levels. The Board approved a motion to authorize the Negotiating Committee to make an offer to the ministerial candidate. The maximum level of the offer was to be in line with the salary recommendation of the Finance Committee, but with a full package of benefits according to UUA guidelines. Regarding the overall levels of the operational and capital budgets, the consensus of the Board was to continue pursuing the options suggested for securing additional revenues, and to request a new budget recommendation from the Finance Committee once these had played out.

The next Board meeting will be held on June 12, 2018 (second Tuesday) at 7 pm. Contact me if you have questions or concerns at president@bruu.org or 703-266-1949 (home).

Art Muirhead, President, BRUU Board of Directors



BRUU Clothing Donation --As we did last year, there will be a clothes giveaway during the BRUU Pantry on June 12.

Suggestions/Rules for Donated Items

Children's clothes especially wanted

Adult clothes

All should have no stains, and no rips or holes that can't be repaired

Thank you from the BRUU Pantry Folks



Bruu's First Pride Bingo, organized by Evelyn BruuMar and PFLAG, was a fundraiser for BRUU and a good time too. Photos courtesy of Mike Beatty



JUNE 2018

6/02	End of Year Picnic, 3 P	6/17	Reception for Annease 30 th Anniversary, 11 A
6/03	Social Justice Ctme, 9 A		Annual Congregational Meeting, 11:15 A
	Fellowship Ctme, 11:15 A		
	LGBTQ, 11:30 A	6/18	NuuNers, 11:30 A
6/04	SASS, 10 A		Search Committee, 7 P
	Search Committee, 7 P	6/19	PFLAG, 7 P
6/05	Uupbeats, 12:45 P	6/24	Men's Group, 9 A
6/10	Special Congregational Vote Minister Candidate, 11:15 A		RE Committee, 11:30 A
6/11	Search Committee, 7 P	6/24	Food Pantry, 9:30 A
6/12	Food Pantry, 9:30 A	6/25	Search Committee, 7 P
	Board Meeting, 6:30 P	6/26	Food Pantry, 9 A
6/15	USDA Food Pantry, 9:30 A		

