

Volume 36  
Edition 9  
September  
2018



# CROSSROADS



## Bull Run Unitarian Universalists

### **Rev. Charlotte's Word-Weavings**

Greetings!

Thank you for the warm welcome to BRUU that included a freshly painted office and many hands to make light work of unloading each of the three 16' PODS containing our household belongings in the week following my arrival in Manassas. Gwen Talbot organized the BRUU moving crew that included youth and young adults, long time members and those new to the congregation. Having done the loading mostly on my own, I am ever so grateful to have had so much help on this end.

Since early August, I have been settling into both the house and my church office. Lisa is still in Tallahassee working up until she departs for Peru. She's going on a spiritual adventure that involves a 4-day trek on the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu. She'll return to Tallahassee after 3 weeks and then make her transition to Manassas by way of Atlanta at the end of September.

A quote from Robert Fulghum has been running through my head of late: "Live a balanced life – learn some and think some and draw and paint and sing and dance and play and work every day some." I figure if I clean some, unpack some, and organize some every day along with the learning, thinking, creating, playing, and working, I might just manage to be settled in by then.

(continued on page 2)

## September 2018 Crossroads

Over the summer, I have been thinking about BRUU and what might explain the high level of volunteerism in the congregation. It seems to me that this is related to BRUU being a self-described “extroverted congregation.” You enjoy each other’s company. So, whether you are socializing or engaging in social justice, whether you are celebrating or doing committee work, whether you are giving or governing, you are fully in community with each other. Work and play aren’t polar opposites, but different communal forms of gathering in relationship.

We will celebrate the start of the “church-year” on September 9<sup>th</sup> with the annual Ingathering Service during which what makes us a covenantal community will be celebrated with the ritual of Water Communion. As we gather together and co-mingle the waters that individuals bring representing their summer adventures, we acknowledge our shared journeys and the collective wellspring that keeps our spirits hydrated.

It is good to be here among you.

Blessings,  
Rev. Charlotte

Christine Sunda and Amy Hamilton  
spruced up Rev. Charlotte’s office  
with a new coat of paint



Thanks to all the helpers who lent a hand to assist Reverend Charlotte’s move:

Mike Freeland  
Michael Oliver  
Henry Hastings  
Helen Elkin and Sterling Rush  
Gretchen Almstead and Eric Trumbull  
Mary, Nick and Sophie Kadlubowski

Dave Feser  
David, Martin & Katherine Crim  
Robin Fegeas  
Bev Reusser  
Marilyn and Bob Hamburg  
Gwen Talbot

## BRUU BBQ Potluck!! Sunday, Sept. 9, after Service in the Fellowship Hall

We will have sign-ups in late August for people to bring salads, condiments, hotdog, hamburger rolls, desserts, drinks, sliced tomatoes/lettuce, and so forth! Please sign up to bring the things we need to make this event happen! Fellowship-Activities Committee will provide the meat – hamburger & hotdogs.  
POC: Liesl Main, Lisa Stewart, Margo Davies, Lori Connolly [fellowship@bruu.org](mailto:fellowship@bruu.org)



## SEPTEMBER 2018

9/02	Men's Group, 9 A	9/16	LGBTQ, 11:30 A
	Social Justice Ctme, 9 A	9/17	NuuNers, noon
	Fellowship Ctme, 11:15 A	9/20	Master Naturalists, 6:30
	RE Parents Welcome, 11:30	9/21	USDA Food Pantry
	LGBTQ, 11:30 A	9/22	MAC Work Day
9/03	SASS, 1:30 P		Games Night, 5 P
9/09	Membership Ctme, 11 A	9/23	Men's Group, 9 A
	Finance Ctme, 11:15 A		Committee Fair, 11 A
	BRIC Investment, 11:30 A		Owl Parent Meeting, 11:30
	BRUU Barbeque, 11 A		RE Committee, 11:30 A
9/10	Immigration Info, 6 P	9/25	Food Pantry
9/11	Food Pantry, 9:30 A	9/30	New UU, 11:30
	Board Meeting, 6:30 P		Owl Class
9/15	Ministerial Start Up 10-2		RE Committee, 11:30

## From the Treasurer's Office

### Use that Memo Field

I can't emphasize enough how important it is to use the memo field on your check every time you make a contribution to BRUU. You are the only one who knows how you want your contribution applied and it is up to you to convey that information accurately to the Treasurer's office. Here are some tips for avoiding some of the most common areas of miscommunication.

- If it is a pledge payment be sure to indicate which pledge year is being credited with your payment; for the past pledge year use: "Pledge 2017-18" and for the current pledge year use: "Pledge 2018-19".
- If you are using the white envelopes located in the pews to make a general donation of cash to the operating fund, write your name clearly on the envelope and specify "Donation".
- If it is a Split-the-Plate cash contribution use a white envelope and besides your name; indicate on the envelope if 100% of your contribution should go to the STP organization. If nothing is indicated on the envelope your contribution will be split 50/50 between BRUU and the STP organization.
- Here are some other popular memo field designations:  
"Auction YYYY", "Food Pantry", "Community Assistance Fund", "Yard Sale"  
"Adult Retreat YYYY", "Memorial Fund in memory of \_\_\_\_\_", "Soup for Social Justice"

As a final note, you can split a single check between as many funds as you wish to support. There isn't any need to write a separate check for each fund, just indicate in the memo field or on an attached note how you want your check split. For instance a check for \$500 could be split between the food pantry, community assistance fund and pledge with the following designation in the memo field: "\$100 Food Pantry, \$150 CAF, \$250 Pledge 2018-19.



Henry Hastings, Treasurer



Family calendar dates for September:

16 - children's choir 11:15-11:45

16 - youth choir 11:45-12:15

23 - youth choir 11:15-12:15

23: Mandatory Parent Meeting for participants in OWL Grades 10-12

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30: OWL Grades 10-12

30 - children's choir 11:15-12:15



## FROM ANNEASE

"If you cannot teach me to fly, teach me to sing." Sir James Barrie

September means that choirs resume - hooray!! Fellow UU choir director Bill Adams says this is why he teaches people to sing: "so you will be human; so you will recognize beauty; so you will be sensitive; so you will be closer to an infinite beyond this world; so you will have something to cling to; so you will have more love, more compassion, more gentleness, more good... in short, more life." Don't we all want this? Now's the time to join a choir at BRUU and experience the joy of singing with others. For more information on UuPBeats, children's, youth and adult choirs contact me at [music@bruu.org](mailto:music@bruu.org).

I've spent the summer researching pianos and visiting piano dealers in the D.C. area. Hope that a decision is near at hand, and will let you know when the instrument has been purchased.

Annease Hastings, Music Director



## September Worship Services

- 9/2 **Is the Universe Biofriendly? Dr. Larry Underwood**  
Traditionally, scientists have viewed the universe as a giant machine, unfolding according to scientific principles, processes, and procedures, completely mindless and without purpose. How or why such a universe should produce life has remained a mystery. Recently however some scientists, including some physicists, have concluded that the laws of physics are specifically structured to make life inevitable. They have concluded that the universe is, in fact, biofriendly.
- 9/9 **Ingathering Water Communion, Rev. Charlotte**  
Covenant/Community/New Year/New Beginnings - We will celebrate that More than 50% of BRUU membership has signed the Congregational Covenant as part of this traditional Water Communion service. Bringing together our community after summer adventures, co-mingling the Waters symbolizing our journeys, bathing the world that without which We cannot live.
- 9/16 **Atoning for the sins of our Forbears, Rev. Charlotte**  
Sermon will touch on recent PA Catholic Diocese revelations but more broadly be about making reparations for damage done by those who've gone before us.
- 9/23 **On being a Good House Guest: A Recipe for Peace, Rev. Charlotte**  
International Day of Peace occur on 9-21. How can we create peace in all aspects of our lives?
- 9/30 **Birthday of American Universalism, Rev. Charlotte**  
John Murray preached his first sermon in America on this day in 1770. At one-time Universalism was the 6<sup>th</sup> largest American denomination. What is Universalism's message for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?

# The Way I See It

What a difference a year makes!

Yes, I know that may sound inane, obvious and overused, but for us at BRUU, it falls under the category of something that is both “trite and true.” If you look back just twelve months, the big news in our community was the movement to adopt a BRUU Congregational Covenant. Our drafting group had just completed an initial text, and we had scheduled a presentation of the Covenant for the September Board Meeting, to be followed by a discussion by the congregation at our October Town Hall.

As we say in the videos-on-demand business, you can fast-forward to now, and here we are with a BRUU Covenant that has been signed by over half our members. I have seen how the Covenant makes a difference in the way we interact with one another, as we aspire “to help each other to thrive, to seek the truth in love, and to dwell together in peace.” As the new church year begins, we’ll be looking for ways to commemorate and celebrate the fact that we have successfully embraced our Covenant.

And here I should add the small detail that our new Settled Minister is here to help lead us in these celebrations, and in all the ways we come together to acknowledge the things that connect us as a community. There may be one or two members out there who were recently abducted by aliens and are not fully up to date on what’s going on at BRUU, so I’m pleased to inform you that Rev Charlotte arrived safely at the beginning of August and seems to be settling in nicely. And I want to commend all the folks who responded to the call and helped unload their shipping pods. And repeat the sentiment of all of us at BRUU that we are delighted Rev Charlotte is here.

Now, I’m always a fan of looking back to origins in order to understand things better, and it occurred to me to try to figure why is it we talk about a “Settled Minister” in the first place. There’s lots on the UUA website about the whole process of the “settlement system,” and how congregations progress from the interim phase to the settled phase, and all the work that goes with it – in our current state, we are very mindful of this process. But I couldn’t find an answer to how we came up with the term “Settled Minister,” which does not appear to be all that common in the scheme of religious titles.

Thanks to living in the times we live in, you can get a lot of help from Google when you have questions like these. Hence, I found myself directed to the “Unitarian Register,” Volume 94 of July 8, 1915. (You could subscribe to the “Register” at six cents a copy or five dollars for the year, quite a bargain by any measure.) In Lewis G. Wilson’s article, “As to Candidating,” it’s clear from the description of the process that even back then (and probably long before) candidates for vacancies accepted invitations from congregations to come and preach, and if they were successful, they were called and *settled*; i.e., invited to stay on for an indefinite term. It is richly ironic to read Mr. Wilson’s main premise, that the “problem of practical adjustment [for Unitarian congregations in search] is far from being settled, ... nothing has yet been done which can facilitate and simplify this difficult undertaking on the part of the churches and the ministers.” I leave as an exercise for Rev Charlotte and for our Search Committee to comment on whether the struggles of over a century ago still hold relevance for today.

So a year can make a huge difference, and the passage of a hundred years proves that the more things change, the more they remain the same. That’s why we’re UUs, to be intrigued by life’s little mysteries!

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

# From our DRE

Welcome back! Religious Education kicks off on Sunday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> with small group RE and a Parent Orientation following the service. We are in our Judeo-Christian Heritage curriculum year (which rotates with UU Identity and World Religions). Sunday morning lessons center around learning how to navigate the Bible; the central figures and stories that shape Christianity and Judaism; and how that history developed into our own UU faith. We have these discussions to better understand the faith tradition that permeates our culture, and to help our children and youth apply this knowledge to their own beliefs as they continue to grow spiritually.

BRUU's Religious Education Ministry is evolving as a whole. We are adding a variety of Mindfulness practices to our activities and focusing on the relationships that children and youth form. Leadership opportunities will be offered, within the RE small groups and ideally, the larger congregation. Senior Youth are bringing back the popular "Senior to Senior" Teas, and we are creating opportunities for Fellowship between the Senior Youth & junior high youth and the Senior Youth & BRUU's young adults. We are also returning to 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Social Justice work, this year focusing on UNICEF, especially our children's roles as Global Citizens.

Supplemental offerings this school year include OWL (Our Whole Lives) for Grades 10-12, and Grade 4; a Book Club – "Lamb, the Gospel According to Biff, Christ's Childhood Pal" for Junior and Senior High youth, facilitated by Lois Montgomery & Margo Davies. Don't miss "The New UU, "offered as a part of the path to membership, but a great UU/BRUU 101 for long time members as well. Kelly Maitland will join me again offering an adult course "What We Choose: Ethics for Unitarian Universalists." The content is sure to bring about lively and stimulating discussion. Great Thanks and Gratitude to All of our Amazing RE Volunteers! I'm looking forward to a fruitful year.

Blessings,  
Kristin Worthington, Director of Religious Education



## Ministerial Start Up Workshop

On **Saturday, September 15**, our Central East Regional Lead, **Rev. Megan Foley**, will present a **Ministerial Start-Up Workshop at BRUU**, and all members and friends of BRUU are invited.

This will be a wonderful opportunity to take advantage of a structured setting where we can all get better acquainted with Rev. Charlotte, and for her to find out more about the BRUU community – past, present, and our dreams for the future. The tentative schedule is from **10:00 am to 2:00 pm with a break in the middle for lunch** – more details on timing and the exact location will be available in future editions of Round-Up. For now, please **contact Tina Cox ASAP at [office@bruu.org](mailto:office@bruu.org) or call at 703-361-6269** (press \*, then # for her extension) to let her know that you'll be able to attend.

Here is how Rev. Megan describes her workshop:

The core of my start up workshop is telling stories – the congregation telling stories about themselves, and the minister telling their own story about how they came to serve the congregation.

- Stories where you did something awesome as a congregation.
- Stories where you made a mistake and learned from it or where you want to do something differently next time.
- Stories of dreams spoken but not yet realized.
- Stories of how the congregation became the congregation it is today. What are the most critical incidents in the congregation's recent life.

### **Then a story review:**

- What elements of our history do we want to carry forward into the future?
- What elements of our story do we want to do differently in the future?

For the minister, there's a time for the Minister to ask clarifying questions of the congregation about the stories.

### **Then she can tell her story:**

How and why you became a Minister

Main inspiration for your work in ministry

Expectations for your time at the congregation

## BRUU Activities Fall 2018-Winter 2019:

- ◇ We have a lot of fun events coming up at BRUU this Fall and into next year! Be sure to save the date for these activities!
- ◇ **Fellowship – Activities Committee Meeting** – Sunday, Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> (and first Sundays of the month) The first Fellowship Meeting of the year will be in the Conference Room from 11:15am to noon. New members are welcome! Help plan out the fun events at BRUU! If you'd like to run BRUU's Fall Movie night you get to pick the genre (drama, comedy or whatever!!), the date, and the time! Just tell Liesl ([activities@BRUU.org](mailto:activities@BRUU.org))
- ◇ **BRUU BBQ Potluck** – Sun. September 9<sup>th</sup> (Sign ups to bring dishes to share will be with Lori Connolly, Lisa Stewart and /or Margo Davies Sun. August 26<sup>th</sup> and Sun. Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> or email feel free to email [activities@BRUU.org](mailto:activities@BRUU.org)) (POC Liesl Main, Lori Connolly Lisa Stewart) – Remember this is Rev. Charlotte's first day in the pulpit! 😊
- ◇ **BRUU Games Night** – Sat. Sept. 22, 5-8pm Fellowship Hall – Bring your favorite board game. All ages!
- ◇ **Circle Dinners** – Sign-ups will be in mid to late September with meals /get-togethers in October. (That's the tentative plan!! Stay tuned!)
- ◇ **Evensong** – October 19<sup>th</sup>
- ◇ **Volunteer Fair** – September 23<sup>rd</sup> after Service (on Soup for Social Justice Sunday) POC: Nina Lomax
- ◇ **BRUU Boo** Sat. Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> 4-7pm (Families) – (POC Lisa Stewart)
- ◇ **Sherman Adult Retreat** Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> -28 (POC Janette Muir) – Country Inn Berkeley Springs, WV
- ◇ **Shenadoah Run Concert** – Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> 7:00 PM (POC Janette Muir)
- ◇ **BRUU Auction** – Saturday, Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>
- ◇ **BRUU Thanksgiving Meal**, Thurs. Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> (POC Mary Kadlubowski)
- ◇ **Craft Fair** – Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 Fellowship Hall (POC Christine Sunda)
- ◇ **Children's Christmas Party** Sat. Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>, 1pm-3pm (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Rooms) (POC Lisa Stewart)
- ◇ **Holiday Service** Sunday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>
- ◇ **BRUU Games Night** – Sat. Jan. 12, 2019 5-8pm
- ◇ **Evensong** – Jan. 25
- ◇ **Variety Show** – Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>
- ◇ **History/Cultural Fair** -- Bring an ethnic dessert to add to Soup 4 Social Justice! (Probably 4th Sunday in February 2019)
- ◇ **Evensong** – March 8
- ◇ **Evensong** – April 26

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

Under announcements, we gave a warm welcome Reverend Charlotte! Art Muirhead mentioned he had phoned that afternoon to say goodbye to Rev. Madelyn, who is now working with her new congregation in Ellicott City, MD. He also noted that Stephe Giese agreed to be the Board rep to the Endowment Committee.

The Board held a dialogue with Cathy Ring and Charlie Grymes on implementing new policies on volunteer leadership development. Cathy and Charlie wish to see their directed donation used for supporting items such as workshops and training, books, videos, registration or hotel fees, and sending volunteers and leaders to outside training. It is expected that this seed money will allow the concept to grow over an initial three-year period, and that dedicating BRUU budget funds on a recurring basis can be addressed in the process of updating our long-range plan. We will also work toward expanding the purview of our Nominating Committee to include year-round work on leadership development. The next step for the Board will be to draft a one-page scope paper on project implementation that includes an process plan and measures of success.

Mike Cleary provided an update regarding the BRUU Covenant. A service on the Covenant took place last month, and the three Covenant classes will be repeated in the fall. The number of members who have signed now exceeds 50% of the congregation, and commemorations to highlight this achievement will take place soon, including during the Ingathering/Water Communion Service on September 9 that will mark Rev Charlotte's first service as our settled minister.

Regarding the Program Council, Kathy Sobrio reported on her work with Committee Chairs to update their Standard Operating Procedures as a follow-up to last year's efforts on refining Committee Charters. Board members discussed how this and other information is posted on BRUUnet, and whether Committee Chairs can have the autonomy to control content on their own pages. There will be further discussion at the working level on how to optimize the process of adding data to BRUUnet.

Art distributed a draft of what we might adopt to continue the monthly in-depth discussions/evaluations about major issues regarding BRUU that the Board needs to address. We agreed that the agenda for the coming fiscal year could be finalized via email exchange over the coming week.

The Board discussed preparations for holding its annual retreat. Art explained some of the difficulty in finding both a venue and mutually available times for holding an overnight retreat. There was consensus that we should examine a different approach that would involve an all-day retreat on a Saturday followed by a social gathering with spouses/significant others in the evening. Kathy offered to host the event at her home. Art will explore the possibility of securing the same CER facilitator for the meeting that we worked with last year. Once we have a date, we will develop a draft agenda and put together a Working Group to talk about deliverables.

The next Board meeting will be held on September 11, 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).

**Art Muirhead, President, BRUU Board of Directors**

*NOW IS THE TIME will be a monthly column dedicated to stewardship.*



Welcome home!

*“No-one realizes how beautiful it is to travel until he [or she] comes home and rests his [or her] head on [an] old, familiar pillow,” - Lin Yutang*

Wherever our journeys took us this summer — cruising up the coast of Alaska, experiencing the Earthship Biotecture, soaking up safari in Africa, watching the sunset over the vastness of an ocean, or receiving a life-renewing organ — travel renews our spirits. It helps us realize we human beings are more alike than different and renews our spirits.

In fact, being away from home just might make us better UUs. Travels helps us:

- Plan for the unexpected
- Understand that price and value are two different things
- Find our own path
- Appreciate what we have in each other
- Open our minds
- Realize who we love and why we love them
- Understand the bigger picture

By travelling we surround ourselves with a variety of people from across the globe. We expose ourselves to new cultures, languages and ways of life. We see people going about their daily existence in ways that may be very different from our own. Travel truly expands our horizons.

But it's good to be home!

*It's a funny thing, coming home. Nothing changes. Everything looks the same, feels the same, even smells the same. You realize what's changed is you. - F. Scott Fitzgerald*

(Continued on following page)

Even the US Department of State recognizes the importance of feeling at home and in community. (<https://www.state.gov/m/fsi/tc/c56075.htm>) "...Our concept of "home" is built on these ideas of familiarity, routine, communication and identity. Home is more than the physical place in which we live. Home is associated with all of the people, actions, feelings, emotions and cues that make us feel "at home. Craig Storti says the following: *"The essence of home can be described in three key elements: familiar places, familiar people and routines, and predictable patterns of interaction."* These three elements associate the feelings of security, understanding, trust, safety and belonging..."

Are not these the elements we receive from BRUU, through each our own relationship with others, freely expressing our beliefs through our actions, being with others who feel the same way about our path in the world, feelings of reciprocal love and generosity, being able to grow our own spirituality without hindrance, from this faith, with this community, in this place, and at this time in our lives? Is it not timely to consider what we give in return for such a full existence here?

Bev Reusser, Sept 2018

## A Bed 'n Breakfast Stay in the Poconos

*Inviting Other UUs in our District  
To Experience the Natural Beauty of our Area*

- Where:** UUFPP Members homes in Stroudsburg PA
- When:** Indigenous People's Day weekend October 5th-8th
- What:** Overnight accommodations with breakfast up to 3 nights, children welcome. All funds go to the church.
- Cost:** Family rates : 1 night \$85 (family = up to 3 people)  
2 nights \$160,  
3 nights \$225

Deposit of 1/2 required to secure reservation.

### For More Information :

Contact: [uupoconos.org](http://uupoconos.org) or  
[barbara.harteis@gmail.com](mailto:barbara.harteis@gmail.com)  
484 619-6716

A list of "things to do" will be sent upon request.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Of The Poconos  
118 Knight Street, Stroudsburg, PA 18360  
(570) 730-4122 (please leave a message)