

THRESHOLD



Towson Unitarian Universalist Church

A Welcoming Congregation

www.towsonuuc.org

Lutherville, Maryland

June 2009

Summer Worship 2009

"From Whence Cometh Hope" is the featured theme of TUUC's Summer 2009 Worship program. The Lay Worship Associates are excited to bring moving, thought-provoking worship opportunities to the congregation each week during the summer months, and we look forward to your feedback.

June 7, 2009

9:30 and 11:15 AM

This Is the Church That We Built

**Joyce Duncan, director of Youth Religious Exploration,
Lelah Mahoney, the TUUC Children's Ensemble, and the teachers
and class members of the YRE program**



Why have religious exploration classes been learning about Abraham and Sarah, Moses and Miriam, and Jesus and Mary? Trying out meditation at the Bodhicitta Buddhist center? Talking about religion founded by Mohammed? These and many other activities were part of the YRE Ministry exploration of the Unitarian Universalist sources, particularly those that honor wisdom from the world's religions and teachings from the Jewish and Christian bibles. In this service we honor those that helped found and support our church and our religion. Our youngest class will sing our chalice lighting; 2nd-4th graders will challenge our bible knowledge; 5th-7th graders will share a skit on the Unitarian Universalist sources; the 8th graders will share the closing words they wrote for this service. OWL participants will be recognized and bridged into the youth group.

June 14, 2009

10:30 AM

Lasting Reverence

Rev. Clare Petersberger

Music: Joseph Gascho and TUUC Choir

This year marks the 400th anniversary of the arrival of Samuel de Champlain on the shores of a lake in the New World. This year marks the 20th anniversary of my ordination to the Unitarian Universalist ministry. This morning I would like to explore what these two anniversaries have in common. My reflections are informed by the memories of Helen Smith, a faithful friend of TUUC, who spent summers, as a child, on the shores of Lake Champlain.

June 21, 2009

10:30 AM

Father's Day

Worship Associate: Greg Koren

Greg, whose previous service "Magical Thinking – An Atheist's View of Spirituality" was one of the most well attended and received TUUC services ever, is sure to bring a fascinating and provocative perspective to the celebration of both being and having a Dad.

June 28, 2009

10:30 AM

The Poetry of Hope

Worship Associate: Tara McIntyre

Today we will showcase contributions, both original and cited, from TUUC members and friends. If you have a favorite poem about hope, or if you'd like the opportunity to compose something especially meaningful of your own, we would LOVE to hear from you! You can submit a piece to be incorporated into the Order of Service (as opening words, meditation, etc.), or if you'd like, you can share your poem with the assembled congregation during the 'sermon' portion of service, which I hope to make interactive, along the lines of today's poetry slams. There are no requirements as to length, rhyme, meter or voice. All we ask is that the subject of the piece reflects some aspect of losing, finding, understanding or giving Hope. Unless there's an unusual deluge of submissions, all contributions will be featured in the service. The love of- and talent for- all things literary runs deep in this congregation. Please take a moment to consider becoming part of this moving service. You can email me with your contributions, along with any questions you might have.

PLEASE CONSIDER BECOMING A WORSHIP ASSOCIATE

The Worship Associates committee has experienced the loss of several committee members recently, due primarily to logistical and scheduling issues. We are currently down to three active members (plus Clare), and at that participation level, will have considerable difficulty mounting the number of services needed to get through the summer. We need new committee members all the time, but the need is especially serious now. If you've ever considered contributing to the lifeblood of this church -- its worship services -- now is the time. We need your heart, your mind, your perspective and your voice. We are a flexible, accommodating, and friendly bunch. Please join us.

TUUC Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, June 7, 2009
Potluck 5:00 PM Meeting 6:00 PM
Childcare will be available.

Year-end reports and acknowledgements
Election of lay leaders
Approval of the 2009-2010 operating budget

All members are asked to attend.
All friends and interested parties are welcome to attend and participate but
only those persons who are active members may vote.

Clare's Colloquoy By Rev. Clare Petersberger



He first noticed her during a worship service at TUUC. He planned to introduce himself after the service. But he couldn't find her. (It turns out she left quickly that day to get to work.) He inwardly vowed that "the next time," he would speak to her.

She had noticed him biking to church. He not only wore a biking helmet, he also sported a giant backpack. She wondered, "What is in that backpack?"

The next Sunday, she was near the aisle of the third row, in the front, on the right, when she felt a tap on her shoulder. She turned and he said, "Hello. What is your name?" After speaking for 25 minutes, they exchanged phone numbers. From there, they made plans to a hike the next weekend. That's when she discovered some of the contents in the backpack--- five different kinds of dried fruit---enough for a whole meal!

More formal meals followed. More walks followed.

He supported her good work to launch the TUUC Green Sanctuary Committee.

She supported his decision to become a TUUC Youth Advisor.

They got engaged and began a new life together in Oregon. And on May 23rd, they will celebrate their wedding where they met---in the Meeting Room of the Towson Unitarian Universalist Church.

This is part of Tom and Uta's personal love story.

But it is also part of our story of faith.

For on any given Sunday, a stranger might be looking for us---for a smile, a greeting, a conversation, a shared meal. On any given Sunday, we might encounter someone whose life experience illuminates our own, whose encouragement is just what we need, whose passion for justice making inspires our own, and with whom to discover new truths walking together. On any given Sunday, we arrive with our own metaphorical backpacks filled with wisdom, compassion, and strength that another needs. And others bring their own metaphorical backpacks, filled with the fruits of their life, to nourish our spirits.

So while the rhythm of our collective life slows for the summer, consider attending worship at TUUC at 10:30 AM. The theme of our summer worship services is, "From Whence Cometh Our Hope?" If you are traveling, visit the local Unitarian Universalist congregation! Even when we don't realize it, on any given Sunday, someone is looking for us. Even when we don't realize it, on any given Sunday, there's someone we need to meet. This is how we cultivate our faith. This is how we discover the sources of our hope. And this is how we celebrate the love which unites us all.

Board of Directors

By Linda Talley, president

The following statement from the Board's policy manual guides the trustees as they assemble each month to conduct the business of the Church: Working on behalf of the congregation the Board of Trustees will ensure that TUUC will make the best use of its resources to accomplish its vision, mission and covenant and to further the Church's ministry.



At their May 12th meeting, the trustees:

- Received the monthly update on the church's operating budget. Treasurer Paul Konka reported that we are now showing a modest deficit of income over expenses due to a shortfall in pledge payments. Letters are being sent to all members and friends who have not yet fulfilled their 2008-2009 pledge to remind them of their pledge status.
- Reviewed and approved the proposed operating budget for 2009-2010. The budget proposal will now be mailed to all members of TUUC and formally submitted for their approval at the congregational meeting in June. As discussed at the "congregational conversation" held on April 26th, TUUC's income projections for the next church year are down 17%, principally due to reduced pledge commitments from our members and friends. The decreased income led to some very difficult and unprecedented spending recommendations to keep the projected deficit within reasonable bounds including: no pay increases for our minister and staff; a two week furlough (unpaid leave) for our minister and staff; closing of the church for two weeks; use of unspent auction funds for general income; and stepping back from our fair share commitment to the UUA and the Joseph Priestley District.
- Reviewed a proposal for a replacement copier for the church office. Our current copier is 7 years old and nearing the end of its useful life. The trustees concurred with the O-team's

recommendation that we acquire the new copier and with the treasurer's recommendation that we lease, rather than buy, the copier. Subsequent to the board meeting the contract was executed and the new copier will be installed on May 18th.

- Received an update on the 50th anniversary planning committee's progress from trustee Lois Hybl. Three special events are being planned for the anniversary year starting with a reunion weekend on October 3-4, 2009.
- Learned with regret that trustee Anne McCall, who is completing her third year of service on the board, will be stepping down at the end of this church year. Anne's thoughtfulness, insight and deep caring for our church will be missed.
- Discussed the plans for the annual meeting on Sunday, June 7th.

The final meeting of the 2008-2009 board will be Tuesday, June 9 at 7:30 PM at TUUC.

Operations Team

By Catherine Morris, President-elect/Operations Team Leader



08-09 BUDGET

Our Finance Council Head, Jason Braspenickx reported on the status of our income and expenses for this year. We are 83% into the year, but have received only 76.7% of the pledge income and about 78% of the total income. We discussed the possibility of finding additional reductions in expenses, including cutting the 4th dues payment to JPD/UUA (which saves \$6,000). The office will send out letters to those who still owe payment for the 13th month collection from last year as well as those with a significant balance on their current year pledge commitment.

09-10 BUDGET

In our final review of next year's budget, the O Team discussed three ways to increase the revenue for the coming year.

Increase in RE registration fees.

We asked the Director of RE and the Chair of the RE committee to discuss with the Committee the idea of raising the registration fee amount from \$35 to \$50/child, with a \$100/family maximum. While the increase is modest, the O Team agreed that the nominal fee is a representation of the value we place in YRE, and perhaps could be raised further in the future.

Increasing the visibility of our rental space

Currently the Church Administrator has been taking the lead on placing ads and handling interest in our rental space. Given the potential for substantial revenue from renting the downstairs, we are looking for additional members of the rental committee to think of new ways to market our space. Neal Cohen told a member of the O Team that he would consult with the committee to develop a plan. If you have any experience in real estate or marketing or simply the energy to help, please let the Church Administrator know.

Ad Hoc Committee for fundraising

A number of people at the Congregational Conversation talked about creative ways to raise money over the coming year to supplement our pledges. The O Team endorsed the creation of an ad hoc committee to take on this challenge. Jason Braspennickx and Melissa Reuland offered to join the committee and recruit other members. If you have ideas or time to help, Jason will be the point person.

NEW PLAYGROUP

A new preschool playgroup has formed and is meeting regularly at the church. As a matter of policy, the O-Team agreed that the playgroup will be officially sponsored by RE Council Head. Even as we face this difficult budget year, it is wonderful to see new activities led by our members and friends get underway.

Join us for our final meeting on Tuesday, June 2nd, 7:30 PM, in Room 5 at the church.

Youth Religious Exploration

By Joyce Duncan, director of Youth Religious Exploration

END OF YRE YEAR

We look forward to an energetic ending of the religious exploration year. The YRE Service and celebration on June 7 will feature participation by all classes from Kindergarten through high school in the service, followed by a bagel and fruit brunch. Members of OWL will be recognized and bridged over into the Youth Group, who will be there to welcome them. Our youngest class will sing our chalice lighting; 2nd-4th graders will lead us in singing with the younger class, and challenge our knowledge of Bible stories; the 5th-7th graders will share a skit on the Unitarian Universalist sources; the 8th graders will share closing words that they have written for this service. We hope all the teachers who ministered to our children this year can be present to be thanked.



Besides teachers, we also thank parents, YRE committee members, and others who helped make this a meaningful year by helping with social events, social actions, and worship. We had five trips to places of faith, class trips to paint-balling places and bowling alleys, and youth retreats. Many events inaugurated this year will, I am sure, return next year, due to their success!

We expanded our opportunities for families to get out into the community and show their faith through action (our joint SAC, IAC, YRE effort) by bringing an all-ages party to East Side Shelter. We hope to expand these opportunities next year, both at the shelter and by giving families a chance to get involved at Banner Neighborhoods.

In terms of worship and spiritual growth, we offered age-appropriate children's worship downstairs integrated to the theme of the RE year for the first time this year. Most classes also had a chance to meet with Rev. Clare and discuss ideas about God and any other questions they had. We also added more opportunities for children and adults to participate in worship services by supporting and working with the newly founded Intergenerational Arts Coalition (IAC), whose efforts enriched four different services this year.

REGISTRATION FOR FALL

Don't forget to register for fall before you go off for the summer. The YRE committee will be hard at work during the summer setting up classes and will need to know if YOUR children will be attending in the fall. The biggest gift you can give us is to register so we can be sure to have classes ready in September. Thank you to those who have already handed in their forms.

SUMMER PROGRAM

Multiage classes will be provided on June 14, 21, and 28. In July and August parents are invited to bring children seven and older to the service. Parents may check the website or *Threshold* for the topic of the service.

CALENDAR FOR JUNE - AUGUST

May 31	Two services; RE classes
June 7	Youth Religious Exploration Sunday (will include Teacher and OWL Recognition) YRE end of year bagel party after each service
June 14	Multiage summer program 10:30 only (childcare for six and under)
June 21	Multiage summer program 10:30 only (childcare for six and under)
June 28	Multiage summer program 10:30 only (childcare for six and under)
July	Childcare only for six and under
August	Childcare only for six and under

TUUC IS TURNING 50

In July, TUUC will begin a year-long celebration of 50 years as a church! During the year we are planning a number of events, including:

HOMEcomings WEEKEND - SATURDAY & SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3 & 4

Saturday evening we will have a potluck and party at the church. Sunday, our first minister, Rev. David McPherson, will provide the sermon. We are inviting all of the former members and RE youth to return for this event. A video of our history is in process.

CELEBRATION OF TUUC TODAY - SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

Joe Gascho is composing a piece for TUUC, and the choir will be preparing additional music to celebrate our UU values.

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE NEXT 50 YEARS - SUNDAY, APRIL 25

Bill Schultz, a former UUA President and head of Amnesty International will be our Sunday speaker and help us focus on the future. We hope to include a picnic/cookout in the grove.

Please join in the celebration. There is much to do. We are contacting past members and RE youth. Please let us know if your adult children were part of our RE program and invite them to the Homecoming Weekend. We are working on a video that will include the founding members of TUUC and vignettes from our history. A booklet is also planned, with photos and writings from past Ministers, RE Directors, and Presidents. For the January service, we want to prepare banners and are seeking people with artistic and sewing skills. We hope the RE children will also prepare banners, but we need some artistic guidance. We also need artists for our special TUUC Members art show in January featuring works that our members have hung in our great hall over the years. For all of these events, we will need a lot of help. Please volunteer by contacting Marilyn Maze, Marcia Reinke, or Lois Hybl, or email membership@towsonuuc.org.

Outreach Council
Bill & Salli Ward, co-chairs

PLAN A VACATION THAT HELPS OR VOLUNTEER A DAY

The 26th annual BALTIMORE COUNTY CHRISTIAN WORKCAMP, scheduled for July 19, 2009 through July 24, 2009, offers individuals the opportunity to devote part or all of their vacation to helping Baltimore County residents with the Repair of their homes.

Interested parties need to be 16 years or older, or if under 16, must be accompanied by adults. Special skills needed include carpentry, masonry, plumbing, house painting, electrical wiring and roofing. All participants must have their own medical/accident insurance.

Work in past camps includes building ramps, laundry rooms and bathrooms; removing and reshingling roofs, repairing ceilings, floors, steps, gutters, porches, screen doors and sidewalks; weatherstripping, insulating and caulking; installing stoves, refrigerators, bathroom sinks and new windows; relocating appliances, installing hand railings and safety bars; scraping and painting the inside and outside of buildings, and numerous other repairs.

There is no overnight sleeping for participants who are served daily breakfast at the host church, Hunts Memorial UMC in Riderwood, their evening at local churches, and carry their own lunches.

For more information or a brochure, contact Chip Day (410/744-2794) or Frank Thomas (410/667-1725). In addition to volunteer workers, the BCCW can always use supplies and donations. BCCW is a 501(c)3 organization, and donations are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.

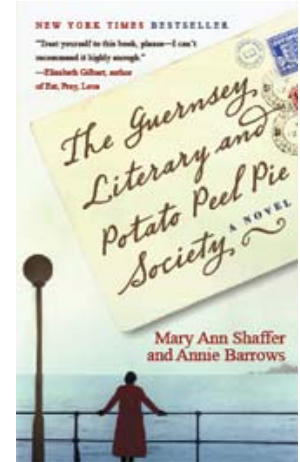
Upcoming events

TUUC SINGLES POTLUCK – SATURDAY, JUNE 6 @ 6PM

Due to a schedule conflict with the Treasure Hunt, the singles potluck has been rescheduled . The May potluck has been rescheduled for Saturday, June 6 at 6 PM. Our host, **Rick Zapf**, would appreciate an RSVP. Rick is in the directory.

EVENING BOOK GROUP – WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3 @ 7:30 PM

The Evening Book Group will meet to discuss *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows. A compilation of fictional letters written from the isle of Guernsey during the Nazi occupation, this novel "affirms the power of books to nourish people during hard times." Please call Mike Robinson at number in directory if you have any questions.



ETHNIC LUNCHEON - WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10@ NOON

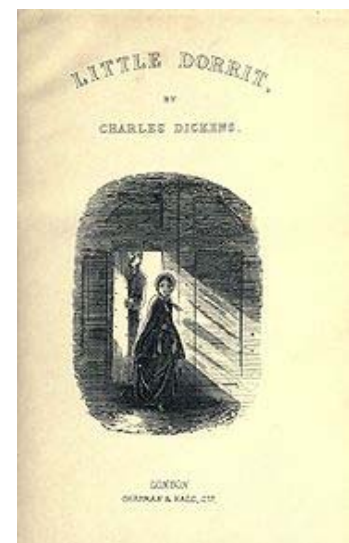


P.F. Chang's China Bistro, 825 Dulaney Valley Road in the Towsontowne Center will be our lunching place in June. Remember - the day has been changed to Wednesday and the time is 12:00 noon. Please let me know by Sunday, June 7th if you will attend. Thanks very much. Ethnic Lunches will "close" for the months of July &

August and "re-open" the second Wednesday in September. Have a lovely summer!

ANITA GREGORY BOOK GROUP – TUESDAY, JUNE 2 @ 2 PM

This month's selection is *Little Dorrit*, a semi-autobiographical classic by Charles Dickens. We are looking for new members; all are welcome! Refreshments will be served.



Wider Connections

By Lois Hybl

BANNER READING CLUB UPDATE

The after-school Reading Club is scheduled to end May 20 for the current school year. We don't yet know the dates for the summer program. However, the students in the Friday afternoon cooking club have taken up the gardening project with the leadership of Banner organizer Eric Imhof. The club has a blog at <http://cookingclub-eatwell.blogspot.com>. If you are able to help with either of these projects, contact Betty Lou Anderson or Lois Hybl for updates.

RELIGIOUS PUBLIC WITNESS IN WASHINGTON, DC, THURSDAY, JUNE 11

The National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT) will sponsor a major religious public event on June 11 in front of the White House asking President Obama to create a Commission of Inquiry. A press conference at the National Press Club will be followed by a noon gathering in front of the White House on Pennsylvania Avenue. To keep updated and learn about other resources on this issue, check http://www.nrcat.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=346&Itemid=260.

SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTING

When Bill Ward and I attended the May 9 conference on "Money, Values and Impact," we received an overwhelming amount of inspiring information. You can access some of the ideas we heard at <http://www.uua.org/leaders/leaderslibrary/responsibleinvesting>. I was intrigued by the description of four components of socially responsible investing: (1) [Negative Screening](#)--- avoiding stock ownership in corporations that make harmful products) or that have patterns of egregious behavior (e.g. "sweatshop" suppliers, excessive pollution, (2) [Positive Screening](#) -- proactively investing in firms known for corporate responsibility or positive contributions to society or the environment,. Shareholder Advocacy --seeking to change corporate behavior through proposing and representing resolutions at annual stockholder meetings. [The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) works together with other religious organizations through the [Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility](#) to influence corporate behavior in this manner. Recent shareholder advocacy has focused on excesses in corporate pay, global warming, and sexual orientation discrimination], and (4) Community Development—designating part of a portfolio for credit unions, non-profit banks, or funds that make loans to enterprises in low-income communities. See the UUA website above for more details and resources on these strategies.

Among ourselves

AGING TOGETHER -- CHANGE AND CHALLENGE

TUUC will be 50 years old in 2010. How old will you be? The changes we experience as we grow older have their own special set of challenges. Some areas of concern are: how to stay active; how to assist older family members and friends; what are current findings in the area of health. We are planning a get-together for TUUC members and friends on June 29th after the morning service to share ideas on what we could be doing for ourselves and others to help in the changes and challenges of aging. Special invitations are going to be extended to our members and friends in the retirement communities. If you have any questions or suggestions please contact Joan Kolobielski; her number is in the church directory.

Correction: Mary-Ellen Haisfield-Wolfe graduated from the University of Maryland School of Nursing Baltimore Campus.

Prime Towson Location for Lease

Please help us rent our church during unoccupied times. Approximately 4900 square feet of space available for lease. It is perfect for a pre-school or other non-profit educational or service related program for children or adults. There is a small playground on the premises which will be receiving new playground equipment and new landscaping in the near future. We have an area of picnic tables and an outdoor grill in our Grove which may be used as well for outside activities.

Please contact 410-825-6045 for more details or visit our website at www.towsonuuc.org.

Summer Threshold Schedule

Please note there will be a combined July/August Threshold.

Deadline for this issue will be Sunday, July 11, midnight. Remember information on upcoming Worship services can be found on our website www.towsonuuc.org and in our Weekly News.

JUNE 2009 Calendar <http://my.calendars.net/towsonuuc>

June 1	Monday	Meditation Group 7:15 PM
June 2	Tuesday	Anita Gregory Book Group 2 PM Operations Team Meeting 7:30 PM
June 3	Wednesday	Improv Jam 6:15 PM ARE Committee Meeting 7 PM Evening Book Group 7:30 PM
June 4	Thursday	Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM
June 5	Friday	Men's Breakfast Group 8:30 AM
June 7	Sunday	CONGREGATIONAL POTLUCK 5 PM CONGREGATIONAL MEETING! 6 PM
June 8	Monday	Meditation Group 7:15 PM
June 9	Tuesday	Board Meeting 7:30 PM
June 11	Thursday	Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM YRE Committee Meeting 7:30 PM
June 14	Sunday	SUMMER SERVICES BEGIN! 10:30 AM Gallery Unicorn Reception 2 PM
June 17	Wednesday	Worship Program Associates 7 PM
June 23	Tuesday	PFLAG 7:30 PM
June 28	Sunday	Listening Ear Group – Potluck 12 Noon

Our Minister

Reverend Clare L. Petersberger
revclare@towsonuuc.org

Our Leadership

Board of Trustees:

President, Linda Talley
President-Elect, Catherine Morris
Treasurer, Paul Konka
Secretary, Kay Terry

Trustees: Anita Cox, Mary Ellen Haisfield-Wolfe
Lois Hybl, Anne McCall

Operations Team:

President-Elect, Catherine Morris
Communications Council, Susan Seim
Finance Council, Jason Braspennickx
House and Grounds Council, John Venables
Inner Life Council, Mimi Marks
Outreach Council, Bill & Salli Ward
Religious Education Council,
Melissa Reuland
Sunday Services Council, Mike Robinson

Our Staff

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Bookkeeper:

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Pianist:

Ina Allen

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Custodian:

Joseph Ellis

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