



Towson Unitarian Universalist Church

A Welcoming Congregation

www.towsonuuc.org

Lutherville, Maryland

October 2009

TUUC Kicks Off Our 50th Year With a Homecoming Party!

Saturday, October 3, at 5 PM

The party will feature a fascinating video about TUUC's founding and growth in the first 50 years, preceded by dinner (chicken, wine and nibbles provided; you bring the potluck extras). After the video our own TUUC Bald Mountain Band will provide music for listening and dancing. All ages invited (free). If you have not sent an RSVP, do so now to the church office.

Upcoming Services

The theme of our October worship services is social justice and healing the world. - Rev. Clare

October 4, 2009

TUUC's 50th Anniversary Special Service

Who We Were, Are, And Ought To Be

9:30 and 11:15 AM

The Reverend David Hicks MacPherson

Music: TUUC Choir and Joseph Gascho, piano

The Reverend David MacPherson, TUUC's first Minister, will remember what TUUC represented in the community, in the 1960's, when he served as our minister. We have a rich history of community involvement which shapes our mission, today. What is the theology behind it? And how can it guide TUUC's future?



Turns
50



October 11, 2009

Promoting an Active Commitment to the Wider World

9:30 and 11:15 AM

Rev. Clare Petersberger and The TUUC Social Action Committee

Music: First service - TUUC Choir, Joseph Gascho, piano

Second service - Joseph Gascho, piano

In her September 20th worship service, The Rev. Dr. Rebecca Elon quoted a commencement address by Kurt Vonnegut in which he extolled the virtues of "...building or strengthening... communities." Vonnegut went on to say, "Please love such a destiny, if it turns out to be yours -- for communities are all that is substantial about what we create or defend or maintain in this World. All the rest is hoop-la." Part of TUUC's mission is to promote an active commitment to the wider world. This morning, through PowerPoint presentations, members of the TUUC Social Action Committee will share the ways we are currently building and strengthening communities in order to inspire you to love such a destiny and make it yours.



October 18, 2009

Civility

9:30 and 11:15 AM

Rev. Clare Petersberger

Music: Toby N. Ounzt, piano

In September, Jon Meacham and Sally Quinn wrote, "We have entered what columnist Kathleen Parker calls a 'political era of uninhibited belligerence' that is finding expression in sermons, at town hall meetings, on radio talk shows, even on the floor of congress—especially when we differ. Why are people so angry and belligerent, and so willing to express their anger publicly? Why has our civil discourse become so uncivil? What does this public anger say about our private faith? What should we do about it?" This morning we shall explore these questions as well as "What does our Unitarian Universalist faith tradition teach us about civility?"

October 25, 2009

Three Five O

9:30 and 11:15 AM

Rev. Clare Petersberger

Music: First service, Joseph Gascho, piano

Second service, TUUC Choir, Joseph Gascho, piano



This weekend, from the Great Barrier Reef to Greater Baltimore, from the Taj Mahal, to TUUC, people around the globe are engaged in projects to meet the 350 goal. What is the 350 goal? Why is TUUC's Green Sanctuary Committee and the UUA's Ministry For The Earth part of this grassroots movement? Why and how might you want to join it as a spiritual discipline? Today we celebrate a Sabbath for the earth.

Clare's Colloquoy

By Rev. Clare Petersberger



At the September meeting of the Towson Ministerial Alliance, Dr. Dan Tesh, Director of Emergency Management at the Greater Baltimore Medical Center spoke to clergy about the H1N1 virus and what we may expect. The virus is contagious for 24 hours before symptoms appear. The incubation period is 36 hours. And symptoms of flu generally last for 5-7 days.

The good news is 1) the virus has NOT become more deadly, over the summer, as in 1918 and 2) those who are sixty-four years or older are NOT at increased risk for complications.

The bad news is that the virus is highly contagious and children and few adults younger than 60 have existing antibodies. Most disturbing is that between April to August, there have already been 36 pediatric deaths. Children appear to be at greater risk from this flu. While most will heal rapidly, symptoms to look for include:

- Difficulty breathing
- Bluish or gray skin color
- Not drinking enough fluids
- Severe or persistent vomiting
- Not waking up or interacting
- Being so irritable that the child does not want to be held
- Flu like symptoms improve only to return with fever and a worse cough

Dr. Tesh highlighted that if you have flu like symptoms which improve and then return with fever and a worse cough, you need to get to your doctor, immediately. He asked us to educate our congregations that GBMC will only be admitting people of all ages with the above symptoms.

Because this virus is spread so easily, Dr. Tesh urged us to dissuade our members and friends from hugging and shaking hands on Sunday mornings. So during our time of welcome, I invite us to put our own hands together and greet the divinity of our neighbors with a gesture of “Namaste.”

Children in our religious exploration ministry have already taught me the proper way to cough--- into my shoulder. (Actually, the best thing to do if you have a new cough is to stay home!) The Caring Committee is providing antibacterial soap in the foyer. Please use it, liberally, during coffee hour!

Many of us will be exposed to the flu in the coming months. We can help one another to stop its spread. Let us greet one another with our hands together to signal that “All that is best and highest in me greets/salutes all that is best and highest in you.” In all we do during the upcoming months of flu, may we promote health, healing, and wholeness!

Board of Trustees

By Catherine Morris



The water communion service in September was the ceremonial beginning of the church year, but our financial year began in July. The first meeting of the Trustees was focused on where we stand financially after three months. We will provide a formal update to the congregation on Sunday, October 18th, between services. Although we had to dip into our cash reserves to finish 2008-09 fiscal year, we are meeting our pledge commitments and more for 2009-10 fiscal year thanks to the Bobbie Pehr Challenge last June and the efforts of the fundraising committee.

To begin the year, we also reviewed the Covenant Statement and reinforced that we will carry out our vision and mission in the spirit of “mutual acceptance, openness and friendship.”

Marilyn Maze and Marcia Reinke, the co-chairs of the Anniversary Committee, joined us to report on events and expenses in Anniversary planning. Nine hundred people, including past members and friends, have been invited to our “Homecoming Party” on October 3 and the “Founders’ Day Luncheon” on January 10, 2010. A video has been produced about TUUC over our 50 years, banners are ready for hanging, and guest speakers have been booked.

Tom Farrell, chair of the Committee on Ministry, joined us to talk about their work on a member survey that is designed to evaluate our ministries (Worship, RE, Music, Social Action, Caring and Diversity), and solicit long term planning goals and our collective vision for TUUC. Tom will present a draft of the survey to the Trustees at our October meeting and we hope to launch the on-line and paper option of the survey before the year end. We meet the second Tuesday of each month at 7 PM. Please join us.

CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATION ABOUT TUUC'S FINANCIAL FUTURE

We promised to keep you informed about our financial situation and the first opportunity to hear how we're doing will be between services (10:30-11:15 AM) on Sunday, October 18th. Paul Konka, TUUC Treasurer will make a presentation and the Budget Executive Committee will be there to try to answer all your questions.

Operations Team

By Mike Robinson



The church year is into full swing and the Sundays and many evenings are buzzing with activity and reflection and dynamic spirituality. Efforts continue to prospect for additional financial resources to close our budget shortfall and eliminate the need for the two week staff furlough at the end of this church year. You will hear elsewhere about future opportunities for members and friends to be brought up to date on the details.

Meanwhile, the Auction Committee is planning for exciting times in November; and the fund-raising committee is trying to come up with initiatives that might bring more revenue. Please be aware that, as you read this Threshold and the Weekly News in the order of service each Sunday, the many volunteer leaders of this church would welcome ideas or input from anyone regarding the many projects and challenges here at TUUC. Please consider leaving a note in the mailslots next to the main office for the various committee chairs, council heads or officers. E-mail messages are also welcome though they may pass through more hands before they are actually delivered.

Please note that, especially with the fall of leaves in the autumn and the current efforts to install new playground equipment, there is need for much person power to keep our grounds appealing, cleared and safe. Please consider coming to assist with the calls for help. Even if you are not as physically able, there are often tasks that require coordination of efforts or arranging material for the other workers to be done.

Youth Religious Exploration

By Joyce Duncan, director



Downstairs, we are: playing games, singing, getting to know new friends, reconnecting with old friends, squeezing into the packed Youth Group room, enjoying comfy sofas in the Coming of Age room, starting the Our Whole Lives program, putting footprints on our Faithful Journeys path, and learning about tools of our faith, such as questioning, represented by a magnifying glass.

We are also continuing our program of informal RE class get-togethers; we had lovely weather for the first one, in which both K-3rd grade classes met between services in the picnic area to socialize. We hope that these will encourage fellowship and give families, especially ones new to TUUC, a way to connect with other church

families. I hope all families remember to continue in this spirit by reaching out to old and new friends alike! Ask a new family to go for bagels or try a new playground!

Remember that coming frequently will help your child make friends and feel like part of his or her group. Make a promise to yourself and your children to attend RE and other church events as much as you are able so your child gets the optimal experience at TUUC.

YRE COMMITTEE

Meetings of the Youth Religious Exploration Committee are open to all and are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm. Please let Joyce (tuucdre@towsonuuc.org) know if you are interested in attending or joining.

YRE CALENDAR

October 2 - 4 YG camping trip

October 3 and 4 TUUC Homecoming Weekend

October 11 both services YRE Car Wash

October 24 TUUC Halloween Party

Music Notes

By Joseph Gascho, Music Director

It has been great to hear some really good congregational singing lately. It is also great to hear the sound of silence – that is, the sound of no clapping after the choir sang its prelude and musical meditation a few Sundays ago. I think I speak for all of our musicians in saying that appreciative silence often contributes more to what we're trying to create through our music than applause.



It reminds me a little of a Zen story I read years ago, which I'll do my best not to misquote too badly...a master and a disciple were climbing a mountain and at some point, the pattern of clouds and sunlight became especially beautiful. They stopped to admire the view, and the disciple remarked, "Master, this is such an amazing sunset, isn't it?" The master replied, "Such a beautiful scene, such a shame to say so."

I'm sorry to announce that our pianist Ina Allen has resigned her position at TUUC. Ina phoned me this week to let me know she's taken an accompanying job at a Lutheran church. I've appreciated Ina's talents and abilities over the last several years, and wish her well in her new work.

Following a brief discussion with Reverend Clare and with the music committee, I think we're in no hurry to find an immediate replacement – I can do many of the Sundays myself, and I'm hoping that members of the congregation can fill in, as well, as often occurs in the summers. I want to give some real thought and have some good conversations about how we should proceed. I'm personally interested to take on some more responsibility at TUUC, not only in playing and directing the choir, but also in worship and service planning. I

also think we need to carefully consider what kind of skills and interests the church needs from a professional musician.

I'm in the midst of working on the Seeger and Springsteen special music service for Nov. 8. If any of you have experiences from concerts or listening to music of either of these two that you'd like to share, please let me know – it would be great to have a broad and personal perspective on their music and lives. It looks like we'll have a great ensemble of musicians for this service, and I'm really looking forward to it.

Finally, I'd like to say a personal thanks to Sue Shankroff for her years of serving the music committee - she's needed to step down from the music committee as she steps up to other commitments at TUUC. We'll miss you, thanks!

People To People Auction

Save the Date! Our most anticipated fellowship event of the year, the TUUC People to People Auction, will be held on Saturday, November 21. Our theme for this year's auction is A Pot Of Gold-Find Your Pot of Gold At The TUUC Auction. The festivities for the evening will begin with a potluck dinner at 5:30 PM, followed by the voice bid portion of the auction, which will begin at 7 PM. In addition to the voice bids, we will have our silent auction, sign up lists for events both inside and outside of TUUC, a children's raffle, and opportunities to win exciting prizes thru our raffle.

Child care will be provided throughout the evening. Please see **Joyce Duncan** if you need child care.

Donations can be made at our auction table by filling out a donation form, or by e-mail at Auction@towsonuuc.org. If you are unsure of what to donate, or if you do not remember what you donated in the past, please visit our table between services or after the second service between now and October 25. October 25 is the last day to make donations before we have to print the auction booklets listing all of the donations that will be available at the auction.

In addition to donations made by our members and friends, the Auction Committee is very excited to announce that we will have additional donations available for our raffle and silent auction from the local business community. Gift certificates to restaurants, discounts to stores, and other prizes will be made available at the auction, courtesy of our local business community. Please purchase raffle tickets and participate in the silent auction for your chance to take home one of these donations.

This is not an event to be missed. Please contact me if you have any questions. See you on November 21.



TUUC 50th Anniversary Events

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2010, FOUNDING DAY: CELEBRATE THE PRESENT

Our Minister, Music Director, and RE Director will create this celebration of our congregation as it is today. The service will include a procession of banners, recognition of members, and special music created for this event, with a reception between the services. A luncheon at the Hunt Valley Inn will follow the service. The Unicorn Gallery will display art of members past and present during January.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2010: NICK PAGE MUSIC SUNDAY

Nick Page, a talented leader who draws music out of ordinary people (yes, even our congregation can sing), will be with us for a very special service on Love this Valentine's Day.

MARCH 11, 12, 13, APRIL 13, 14, 2010: 50TH ANNIVERSARY PHOTO DIRECTORY

To commemorate the members and friends of our church on our 50th anniversary, we have asked Olin Mills to help us compile a Photo Directory. An illustrated history of our church will be included, with comments from our past and present leaders. Please make sure your photo is included!

SATURDAY APRIL 24 AND SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 2010: IMAGINE THE FUTURE:

Reverend Bill Schultz, who was UUA President from 1985 to 1993 and head of Amnesty International USA from 1994 to 2006, will be with us this weekend to inspire us for the future. Saturday evening Rev Schultz will join a Q & A session, with light refreshments. Sunday, Rev. Schultz will deliver the sermon. In order to turn the church over to Music in the Great Hall at 1PM, services are scheduled for 9AM and 10:45, with a reception between services.

SUNDAY, MAY 16, 2010: ENDOWMENT PRESENTATION

The Endowment Committee and experts from the Joseph Priestly District will lead us in focusing on the financial future of our church.

SUNDAY, JUNE 6, 2010, ANNUAL MEETING

The photo directories will be available at this final event of our 50th anniversary year.

TUUC Caulking Party

Carel Hedlund, chair, Green Sanctuary Committee



October 24th is International Day of Climate Action, and UU Congregations are encouraged to take an affirmative action that day to help lower atmospheric CO2 levels to **350** parts per million (PPM) – the amount of carbon in the lower atmosphere above which we cannot sustain a planet similar to the one we know, and the amount of CO2 to which life on Earth is adapted.

Our **350** action will be to hold a caulking party here at church, on Saturday October 24th from 9:30 am to noon, to further reduce TUUC’s carbon footprint. We’ll be working on caulking and weather stripping to further the energy improvements we made to TUUC this past summer.

So, have you ever wondered how to handle a caulking gun, or weather strip a door? Join us for an hour or two on October 24th. You’ll be helping TUUC to take an action to achieve **350**, and learn how to make similar improvements to your own home!

Just a reminder - **Green Coffee** sales will be held on Sunday October 11th at both services.

Join the UUA Campaign to Stop Oppression

The Unitarian Universalist Association launched a new public advocacy campaign this summer, “Standing on the Side of the Love,” aimed at helping UU congregations mobilize support in their communities for marginalized groups.



STANDING ON THE SIDE OF
LOVE

The campaign’s new, expanded website, standingonthesideoflove.org, went live on September 3. It offers photos and videos, extensive resources for organizers, social networking tools, inspirational stories, and guidelines with best practices.

Standing on the Side of Love (or SSL, which campaign organizers pronounce as “sizzle”) is based on Unitarian Universalism’s First Principle, which affirms and promotes the “inherent worth and dignity of every person.” Funded by special donations for one year, the campaign calls Unitarian Universalists to form local groups to address discrimination in their own communities. This might include lobbying for same-sex marriage, calling for immigration reform, or protesting hate crimes. The groups are encouraged to form coalitions with other religious or community groups. As part of the campaign, clergy and religious leaders will be trained in dealing with the local media to maximize their group’s message.

Social Action Committee Invites YOU to Follow Your Passion

What do you care about? What moves you to action? <http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org/> How would you like to be involved? So many needs, so little time. What can/will **YOU** do?

Members of the Social Action Committee want you to know about our current projects and invite YOU to join us in action, or suggest new project ideas.

FIGHTING HUNGER

Assistance Center of Towson Churches (ACTC) is a food pantry and resource center serving the needs of people in the Towson area. It continues to have increasing numbers of people asking for help. The demand is so high that often food supplies are depleted. Luckily, for much of the summer, two grants-one the Weinberg and the other stimulus money from the government provided money to purchase food. Unfortunately, both of these will be used up by the end of October. It is hoped that all participating churches will greatly increase their donations of canned goods and money. Volunteers are needed to stock the shelves and to meet with the people who come in seeking help.

ACTC received \$552 from the Feinstein Challenge. Thanks to all who donated to this important challenge. Fall is here and with it ACTC is getting ready for the Thanksgiving Basket project. The signup sheet will be posted in the lounge in the beginning of October. All the necessary information will be included. Sue Shankroff is the contact person for this project.

Our Daily Bread provides a daily hot lunch for the hungry in Baltimore City. TUUC is committed to providing AT LEAST 60 casseroles in every month with a 5th Saturday. Casseroles can be the traditional Texas Hash, one of the vegetarian recipes, or a bought party-size Stouffers Mac and Cheese. Casseroles are due to TUUC by 8:30am on the fifth Saturday, but can be brought to TUUC ahead of time and stored in one of the freezers. **Casseroles are needed for Oct. 31, 2009.** **Salli Ward** is the contact person for this project.

HELPING THE HOMELESS

The **Eastside** facility continues to be a shelter at night and a resource center during the day for up to about 140 people. Most of the population are children. There are now thirty-five children under 4 years old. The little ones are all involved in a child development program, and the school-age children are immediately enrolled in school. There are tutors in the afternoon. Three levels of service are provided for the adults, depending upon each guest's physical and mental condition and potential for employment, with the goal to move him or her into housing.

As we have in the last 4-5 years, we are continuing to provide hot lunches monthly, using Social Action Committee funds. Following their hugely successful party at the shelter in the spring, the youth group plans to return and help prepare and serve a dinner meal. Volunteers are welcomed to teach knitting or other hobbies to the guests. A WISH LIST of constantly needed items at the center will soon be listed on the bulletin board. While the goal of the shelter is to move people into their own home, the homeless move in faster than others

are ready to move out, so the numbers and the needs keep growing. **Marilyn Thorn** is the contact person for this project.

Habitat for Humanity For the past 5 years, TUUC has been a United Church partner with Chesapeake Habitat for Humanity. We are in search of a new Coordinator (or co-coordinators) for this project so we can contribute \$5,000 and volunteers to rehab another home in the Ward Street area of Baltimore. Here is the job description:

- 1) Attend 3-4 organizing meetings of the United Churches per year. The meetings are typically held after work hours at the Chesapeake Habitat Headquarters (which may be moving).
- 2) Share the information about the project's progress and needs with the SAC at monthly meetings.
- 3) Recruit volunteers from TUUC to work on-site. That means writing articles for the Threshold and Weekly News to share updates and instructions for getting involved, and setting up a table each Sunday (or as often as possible) to raise awareness and get contact information from all interested volunteers.
- 4) Maintain a group email list of all volunteers. Send out periodic reminders to the potential volunteers to sign up for upcoming TUUC workdays and other volunteer opportunities.
- 5) Ensure that there is a fundraising plan to raise the minimum \$5,000 contribution required.
- 6) Attend the house dedication if possible.

This year Chesapeake HfH is using an on-line registration system, so volunteers can manage their own sign up. That has made the job of coordinator much easier. I would be happy to help advise anyone willing to step up. It is a rewarding experience. Contact me, Catherine Morris, for more information.

Baltimore County Communities for the Homeless (BCCH) is a community-based group that, through public education, advocacy, and action-oriented solutions, works to alleviate, and ultimately eliminate homelessness in Baltimore County. Started in 1987 the group originally met monthly at TUUC and now meets at Valley Baptist. Members are from churches like ours and employees of agencies who work with the homeless and are interested in seeing they are housed. Arnold Shapiro, a TUUC long time member, was one of the early presidents. Learn more at www.bcchcares.org Anne Lee/Kathy Martin are the contact people for this project.

EDUCATION

BANNER READING CLUB BEGINS FALL SESSION

The fall session of the after-school Reading Club began September 21. Children, ages 6-12, come to the Banner Neighborhood Community Corporation Center at 2900 E. Fayette Street in Baltimore City from 3-4:45 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays for a snack, homework help and/or reading, journal writing, and games. Periodically, on days off from school, students take special trips. Volunteers are needed Monday and/or Wednesday. Contact **Betty Lou Anderson** or socialaction@towsonuuc.org if you can help.

The Reading Club is one of several youth activities sponsored at Banner to keep neighborhood students constructively involved after school hours. Art Club meets Tuesdays and Thursdays, Cooking Club meets on Friday, and there are seasonal sports teams. Last spring the Art and Cooking Club organizer, Eric Imhof, led a gardening project with student involvement from the various clubs. During the summer, when Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) students worked with the Art Club, young people tried eggplant pizza, salsa, and other creative recipes from the garden produce.

AIDING IN RECOVERY

Earl's Place is a project of United Ministries that provides transitional housing and supportive services of up to 2 years' duration to homeless men who are all coming from lives with addictions. Many of the men have been in prison; all the men are committed to turning their lives around.

Since 2007, TUUC and its members have been supporting Earl's Place in a number of ways: individual computer tutoring; workshops on general health, stress, and cooking; consulting on grants and fundraising; cash, clothing and furniture donations; and participation in the holiday Adopt-a-Resident program.

For more information on ways you can offer your assistance to Earl's Place, please contact **David Schwartz**, whose phone and email are in the TUUC directory.

SOCIAL JUSTICE AREA WIDE

UUs for Social Justice (UUSJ) UUSJ is a Unitarian Universalist partnership of congregations, organizations, and individuals that work in the Baltimore-Washington and Northern Virginia areas to help UU activists carry out social and economic justice agendas. It acts as a regional social justice coordinator to enable collaboration and cooperation, provides leadership training and skill building workshops, and provides opportunity for networking among area UU social justice activists and interfaith groups. Current priorities have been promoting a variety of practical tools and resources for moving our UU Congregations towards being anti-racist and anti-oppressive, welcoming, and more diverse communities; freedom to marry; and climate change. This year our goal is to raise **\$1000** to help fund very part-time staff, the website, workshops to share news about social justice activities, and special projects. Church leaders and individual UUSJ members receive bimonthly e-newsletters with information about regional social justice projects.

Lois Hybl at and **Charlie Culbertson. Terry Ellen** is executive director.

Alternative Gift Cards will be available starting in October and will be sold in the lobby between the two Sunday services on the first Sunday in October and in November. There will be attractive new photographic designs as well as some which were available last spring. Each card has space for including your own personal message and comes with an envelope. Instead of giving your friends and family yet another gift of "stuff," consider purchasing an Alternative Gift Card. A minimum donation of \$5 per card is expected. All of the money earned from the sale of the gift cards will be given to the charities which TUUC supports. Then you and your loved ones will know that your donation is being used to help those in need. Think of Alternative Gift Cards for note cards, thank you notes, birthdays, anniversaries, or any special occasion. Buy them in advance so that you have them available when needed. In addition, Christmas/Holiday gift cards will be sold each Sunday between Thanksgiving and Christmas. **Bobbie Miyasaki** is the contact person for this project.

SOCIAL ACTION IN THE WIDER WORLD

There are opportunities to be involved as a UU/UN envoy and other projects that connect TUUC with the wider world of making a difference for mankind!

Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry (UULM)

Provides information on state legislation of importance to UU members. Has an annual conference where priority issues are presented and discussed.

How to Help: Become a member of UULM. Attend the annual UULM meeting and learn more about the issues. Contact your local legislators to support the issues. **Charlie Culbertson**, TUUC representative on the board of UULM.

A Personal Testimonial to Small Group Ministry

By Carrie Landfried

I have been a UU since the age of 6. My involvement in UU activities was rather sporadic during my college years and in my early 20 but when I moved to New York City for graduate school in 1998, I started attending All Souls church on the Upper East Side. All Souls had (and still has, I imagine) a thriving Young Adult group. Among the many activities organized for and by people in the 18-35 age bracket were monthly Circle Worship. At those gatherings, we would sit on the floor in a big circle and listen to songs and readings around a particular theme. Then, the session organizers would ask a series of questions, and we would take turns responding or reacting to them, sharing memories, beliefs and opinions. It was a safe place for self-expression, a sacred space. I LOVED the Circle Worship. And, as I would later realize, they were my first experience with a form of small group ministry.

Small group ministry (or SGM) exists in many formats and in a variety of religious affiliations. In the UU tradition, these groups are typically composed of 8-10 people who meet once or twice monthly at the church or at a member's home.

From New York I moved to Paris, France. There I found the UU Fellowship of Paris, a group of mainly American, Canadian and British expats who meet monthly at a Protestant church in the city. I enjoyed the atmosphere and met some interesting people, but it was frustrating to go so long between services. When there was talk of starting up small group ministry, I went to the information session and signed up right away. Here was my chance to get to know members of the congregation more intimately and complement the monthly services with monthly SGM meetings.

In August 2007 I got a position teaching French at Goucher College and moved to the Baltimore area. I quickly sought out a UU church, and after finding TUUC, I signed up for a Chalice Group (the term we use at TUUC for SGM). The two, Unitarian Universalism and Small Group Ministry, go hand in hand for me now. I have found the experience to be transformative, as I know it has been for many others. In my groups, I have met people from various stages of life and different backgrounds; people with whom I might have spoken over coffee after a service, but I might not have, and I certainly would never have gotten to know them on such a personal and spiritual level. I particularly enjoy the fact that the groups practice deep listening. We aren't discussing or debating issues, we aren't asking questions of each other and challenging points of view, we are just sharing

and listening, truly listening to the words and their essence. The silences in between speakers can be as important as their words.

Sign-ups for this fall's Chalice Circles have already started. Whether you are new to the church or a long-time member, whether you have previously participated in Small Group Ministry or are discovering it for the first time, I hope that many of you will consider joining a group. It has been an integral part of my UU and TUUC experience.

Upcoming Events

DINNERS AT HOME SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

Our Dinners at Home provides opportunities for fellowship while enjoying good food. It's a terrific way to get to know other church members better. You can choose to be a host and decide how many guests you want to accommodate. You can choose to be a guest and prepare a dish for the meal. If you want to join us, please call Linda Prause at the phone number in the directory or email her at dinnersathome@towsonuuc.org.

The deadline for signing up is Monday, October 12.

TUUC HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARTY

Something wicked this way comes, and its name is the TUUC Halloween Costume Party! Set for Saturday, October 24th, from 7-9 p.m., the annual fright-fest will feature Unique Games and Activities for all ages; a Haunted Walk in the Woods; a three-dimensional Crime Scene for adults to solve; a Magic Show starring TUUC's very own man of magic, Greg Koren; and a cornu-corpse-ia of prizes and surprises. Come in costume and bring and spooky snack. We'll see you there! For more information, contact Greg or Amy Koren through the church directory.

TUUC FRIDAY CONCERT SERIES BEGINS OCTOBER 16TH

Our first concert will be held on 10/16. The potluck dinner starts at 7 and the concert begins at 7:30. The Todd Wolfe Band will get the season off to a fabulous start. It costs \$60 per person to subscribe (\$42 for children and full time students); application forms are available in the lobby or on-line. This works out to just \$10 per concert. If you choose not to subscribe, send in advance payment for you and any guests you would like to bring; please send a check (made payable to TUUC with "Friday Concert" listed in the memo line) for \$15 per person and have it postmarked no later than 10/12. If you prefer, you and your guests may pay \$20 per person at the door. So there you have it - 3 choices, subscribe for an average cost of \$10 per concert, send in advance payment of \$15 per person for individual show or pay \$20 at the door.

Todd Wolfe is former guitarist for Sheryl Crow. Between touring and recording commitments, Wolfe continues to play dates from coast to coast and across the Atlantic. He has shared the bill with the likes of The Allman

Brothers, Albert Collins, Black Crowes, Blues Traveler, Dickey Betts, Neville Brothers, Peter Frampton, Robin Trower, Sonny Landreth. etc. Todd Wolfe puts on an electrifying show featured in festivals internationally. Come join the fun and hear rock driven blues masterfully done.

FALL SINGLES POTLUCK

Saturday, October 10th at 6 PM - All are welcome to our first Fall Singles Potluck to be held at the home of **Emily Tarsell** in Sparks. Hope you will come to share food, friendship and fun. Contact information for Emily is in the Directory and an RSVP is appreciated.

ANITA GREGORY BOOK GROUP – TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6 @ 2 PM

Come join us for lively conversation about *People of the Book* by Pulitzer Prize winner Geraldine Brooks. Any questions, contact Alice and Howard Gamse at information in the directory.

EVENING BOOK GROUP – WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7 @ 7:30 PM

The Evening Book Group will meet to discuss *Loving Frank* by Nancy Horan. This historical novel, based on the true love affair between famed architect Frank Lloyd Wright and Mamah Borthwick Cheney, explores the dilemma of an well-educated woman and feminist in the early 20th century who choses to "stop standing on the side of life watching it float by" and instead "swim in the river and feel its current", with all the consequences such a choice entails. All are welcome! Please call Mike Robinson at number in directory if you have any questions.

GALLERY UNICORN

September 20 - October 25 Joseph Hart, "The Anatomy of Life" Recent Works
Reception: September 20 from 2 – 4 PM.

PHILOSOPHY BITES – WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 @ 7:30 PM

According to Wikipedia, there are three main ethical theories being discussed today: consequentialist ethics, which values the consequences of one's actions; deontological ethics, which focuses on duties; and virtue ethics, which emphasizes how a virtuous person acts. This will be the basis for our fall discussion series.

We begin with the following BBC podcast:

Discussion One – Walter Sinnott-Armstrong on Morality Without God

Walter Sinnott-Armstrong is a Professor of Philosophy and Hardy Professor of Legal Studies at Dartmouth College. We'll kick off our fall Philosophy Bites discussions with a discussion of why morality isn't necessarily dependent on religion for its origin(s) and development. Join us!

If time permits, we will continue with Anthony Appiah's discussion on experiments in Ethics.

TOWSON UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
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OCTOBER 2009 Calendar

<http://my.calendars.net/towsonuuc>

Oct 2	Friday	Men's Breakfast Group 8:30 AM
		Caring Committee 10 AM
Oct 3	Saturday	TUUC HOMECOMING PARTY 5 PM
Oct 4	Sunday	50 th ANNIVERSARY SERVICE 9:30 & 11:15 AM
		ARE Committee Meeting 8:30 AM
		Social Action Committee 10:30 AM
Oct 5	Monday	Handel Choir Rehearsal 6 – 10 PM
		Chalice Circle 7:30 PM
		Meditation Group 7 PM
Oct 6	Tuesday	Chalice Circle 7:30 PM
		Drumming Circle 7:30 PM
Oct 8	Thursday	Chalice Circle 7:30 PM
		Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM
		YRE Committee 7:30 PM
Oct 11	Sunday	ARE Program 12:30 PM
Oct 12	Monday	Handel Choir Rehearsal 6 – 10 PM
		Meditation Group 7 PM
Oct 13	Tuesday	Horticulture Society 6 PM
		Board Meeting 7 PM
Oct 14	Wednesday	Philosophy Bites 7:30 PM
Oct 15	Thursday	Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM
Oct 16	Friday	Men's Breakfast Group 8:30 AM
		TUUC House Concert 7 PM
Oct 17	Saturday	Dinners at Home TBA
Oct 18	Sunday	Town Hall Meeting on Budget 10:30 AM
Oct 19	Monday	Handel Choir Rehearsal 6 – 10 PM
		Meditation Group 7 PM
		Chalice Circle 7:30 PM
Oct 20	Tuesday	Aging Together 12 Noon
		Chalice Circle 7:30 PM
		Drumming Circle 7:30 PM
Oct 21	Wednesday	Worship Program Committee 7 PM
Oct 22	Thursday	Chalice Circle 7:30 PM
		Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM
Oct 24	Saturday	HALLOWEEN PARTY 7 PM
Oct 25	Sunday	Green Sanctuary Committee 10:30 AM
Oct 26	Monday	Handel Choir Rehearsal 6 – 10 PM
		Meditation Group 7:15 PM
Oct 27	Tuesday	PFLAG 7 PM
Oct 28	Wednesday	Women's Breakfast Group 8:30 AM
Oct 29	Thursday	Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM