



TURNS
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Towson Unitarian Universalist Church

A Welcoming Congregation

www.towsonuuc.org

Lutherville, Maryland

November 2009

Upcoming Services

The theme of our November worship services is gratitude for those who have gone before and how they inspire our dreams for the future. - Rev. Clare

November 1, 2009

Good Grief

9:30 and 11:15 AM

The Reverend Clare Petersberger

Music: TUUC Choir and Joseph Gascho, piano



Halloween. Samhain. All Soul's Day. El Dia de los Muertos. This is the time of year when cultures around the world honor the relationship between the living and the dead. The novelist, Anne Roiphe observes that "Grief is in two parts. The first is loss. The second is the remaking of life." This morning we shall reflect on both as we explore "good grief."



November 8, 2009

We Shall Overcome

9:30 and 11:15 AM

Music: Celebrating Seeger and Springsteen; TUUC Choir; Bald Mountain Bluegrass Band; Joseph Gascho and friends.

TUUC's fall special music service will feature the stories and music of two great American singers – Pete Seeger and Bruce Springsteen. A plethora of TUUC musicians will take part in singing and playing, and the dramatic and magical arts will also be featured.



November 15, 2009

Sharing the Grain

9:30 and 11:15 AM

Mark Bernstein

Music: Marianna Mujica, voice; Donn Teubner Rhodes, flute; and Richard Schroeder, piano.

For over 20 years, the Chalice Lighters Program of the Joseph Priestley District has aided more than 50 congregations and contributed nearly two million dollars in funding to promote growth in both our institutions and in our overall faith. In this sermon, Mark Bernstein, Director for Growth of the Joseph Priestley District, will discuss the influence of the Chalice Lighters Program in the context of sacrifice and selflessness, two qualities that are inherent in our Unitarian Universalist principles.

Mark Bernstein is the Director of Growth for the Joseph Priestley District of the UUA. He has been a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Delaware County since 1993 and is currently the President of its Board of Trustees. Mark lives in Delaware County, Pennsylvania and has just recently given up his dream of playing second base for the New York Mets.

November 22, 2009

All Kinds of People Around That Table

9:30 and 11:15 AM

**Rev. Clare Petersberger, Marilyn Thorn, and
a Guest At Our Table**

Music: Alta Haywood, piano, and friends



In his one-act play, *The Long Christmas Dinner*, Thornton Wilder traces, in 30 minutes, 90 Christmas dinners in the Bayard home. Repeatedly, the question, "Cranberry sauce, anybody?" is asked family stories are retold and politics argued; long lost relatives return and the younger generation moves for better jobs; the weather and the day's sermon are discussed; babies are welcomed and older family members die. Who will be around your table this Thanksgiving? How will this gathering differ from last year? How might inviting a guest to your table (whether or not you serve cranberry sauce) make all the difference in the coming year?

November 29, 2009



“You Are ...”

10:30 AM

Rev. Clare Petersberger TUUC Choir and Joseph Gascho, piano

The twentieth century poet, Rainer Maria Rilke, went to Russia as a young adult. Inspired by the spirituality he encountered, he returned to Germany and wrote poems that address God as “You are.” This morning, we explore some of these poems and how they speak to our own relationship with what we have found to be worthy of our most faithful love.

Clare’s Colloquoy

By Rev. Clare Petersberger

First, heartfelt thanks to all who made the first TUUC 50th anniversary event in October such a grand celebration! After the weekend, I was able to share with Ed Talbott, a TUUC founding member, that an interview with him was included in “The DVD” about TUUC’s history. When Ed learned that over 200 people attended the dinner on October 3, he smiled. Ed died a week later. A service celebrating his life will be held at 11 AM on November 7th.



I have been thinking about our collective story as I anticipate attending the Unitarian Universalist Minister’s Association convocation in Ottawa this month. The theme is “Tell a tale...touch a life...transform the world.”

I am looking forward to a workshop facilitated by The Reverends Carl Scovel and Marta Flanagan on “Spiritual Direction.” What are the aims of spiritual direction and the work of spiritual direction?

Thomas Moore, author of *Care Of The Soul*, will be the keynote speaker. He addressed these questions in a pre-convocation interview:

I think there’s been a big mistake in separating the spiritual from the worldly, the earthly and the ordinary. We think if we could only retreat from this horrible materialistic world and find some spiritual bliss that everything would be fine.

I don’t think it works that way. I think the way it works is that the world itself is the source of spiritual nourishment. Everyday life, the things of the world and everyday pleasures are really what we are looking for. You know, this is our goal ultimately. And when we don’t separate those things (spirituality and everyday life), there is a better chance of us understanding them both.

I look forward to hearing Thomas Moore; learning from my colleagues; exploring, with six hundred of my colleagues, the stories that inspire us to transform the world; and bringing back the good news from Ottawa! I am grateful to be representing TUUC---a vibrant Unitarian Universalist congregation that knows that the world itself is the source of spiritual nourishment and knows how to celebrate! Happy Thanksgiving!

Board of Trustees

By Catherine Morris

On Sunday, October 18th we held a congregational conversation to update you about our financial situation. Paul Konka, TUUC Treasurer, explained that we ended the last fiscal year with a \$6,845 deficit – slightly better than projected. We began the fiscal year with a \$22,891 deficit budget that included extraordinary cost-cutting measures including no increases in staff salaries and shutting the church down for two weeks in June 2010.



As we end the first quarter of this year, our income is on track and got an extra boost from an additional \$4,615 (non-pledge) contributions that came in over the summer. Our current net income is positive, however, we have a number of outstanding expenses like snow removal and building insurance payments that we haven't booked yet. While remaining optimistic at the start of the year, it is too early to know definitively whether we can avoid all or a portion of the staff furlough.

I reiterated at the meeting that as the financial picture becomes clearer, our priority will be to restore employee time first and then to restore other cost cuts as we can afford it. Many thanks to the special fundraising activities that have been undertaken to help reach this goal, including the cookbook and bake sales. We'll make another financial report in December.

The Trustees tested the Committee on Ministry's on-line survey this month, which is designed to gather information from members and friends about how we are doing in our many areas of ministry – worship, religious exploration, social action, caring for each other, creating a vibrant inner life, music, financial stewardship and taking care of our building and grounds. I hope everyone will take 20 minutes to respond when you receive the survey so the Trustees and Operations Team can use the information to set our priorities in the coming years.

We meet the second Tuesday of each month at 7 PM. Please join us.

Operations Team

By Mike Robinson

The active, able and committed members of the O-team (our council heads working with the loyal paid staff of TUUC) have been working hard to bring to fruition some recent projects that were established and set in motion. Unfortunately, there have been delays. The playground project, spearheaded by Tom Zeller, has been delayed as we pursue some assistance to complete the preparatory leveling of the area. Stay tuned for requests for final volunteer assistance to install the equipment on the properly leveled playground area. Our long awaited new front doors have been pushed ahead by John Venables and Derek Perner and, though originally backordered, should be installed before year's end.



You should read elsewhere in this newsletter about fundraising efforts to offset our deficit budget and projected staff furlough. Plan to support the church auction scheduled for November 21 in the evening. Any offers of auction items should be sent to Jason Braspennickx or Patty Smith. Please remember that your input is welcomed; as mentioned before, each committee and council has a mailslot. Please pass on any concern or offer of help with a note in the mailslots. Finally, please consider helping with the regular hospitality efforts of preparing coffee, tea and snacks for the services on Sundays . A sign-up is posted on the wall next to the kitchen area.

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.



Auction Update



Our annual TUUC People to People Auction will be on Saturday, November 21. The theme for this year's auction will be "Find Your Pot Of Gold" in honor of our 50th anniversary. It will begin at 5:30 PM with a potluck, and voice bidding will start at 7 PM. If you have not already done so, please stop by our donation table in the lobby either between services or after the second service to give your donation. Donations can be made by e-mail at auction@towsonuuc.org. The deadline for making donations is Sunday, October 25. If you planning on making a donation and do not want a phone call from our Auction Committee, please make your donations by October 25.

In addition to donations made by our members and friends, members of the Auction and Fundraising Committees have been busy getting donations from our local business community for this year's auction. We have collected donations from CVS, Rite Aid, Mars, Target, Superfresh, Einstein Bagels, Dulaney Liquors, Cranbrook Liquors, and Greetings and Readings so far. Many more are sure to follow, so if you are interested in winning these and other exciting prizes, we have raffle tickets available from October 25-November 15. Please stop by the lobby after worship services to buy your tickets. Tickets will be \$1 per ticket, or six for \$5. You do not have to be present to win.

If you have any questions about donations or about the auction, please contact Jason Braspennickx via the information in the directory. Thank you and see you on November 21.



TURN
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THE MOVIE: TUUC, THE FIRST 50 YEARS

Have you seen TUUC, THE FIRST 50 YEARS? It was shown at the October 3 Homecoming event. If you missed that showing or would like to see it again, it is now available online or on DVD. TUUC, THE FIRST 50 YEARS begins with the founding of Towson Unitarian Universalist Church in 1960. It continues to describe the purchase of land, building of the church, expansion of the church, and recent restructuring of the church. Enjoy this historical and entertaining look back at the first 50 years of this congregation.

Go to our website and click on <http://www.towsonuuc.org/homecomingvideos.html>

It is also available as a DVD. The DVD can be purchased from the church for \$10 if you pick it up and \$15 if the church mails it to you (funds raised by these sales will contribute to the support of TUUC).

50TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION DINNER

On October 3rd, the first of a series of events planned to celebrate TUUC's 50th anniversary took place. An estimated 180 people came to a Potluck that evening and guests filled tables in the meeting room and overflowed to the downstairs. The church provided white wine (never red!) and Boston Market chicken dinners. 44 chickens disappeared without a trace; of course, the 'miracle' of every pot luck dinner kicked in and the dishes and desserts brought by our current members and friends insured everyone a bountiful and delicious dinner.

Nine of the original 88 Founders were present: Jay Cherry, Alex and Eleanor Kaufman, Anne and Charlie Lee, Joan Kolobielski, Hazel Talbott, and Phyllis and Robert VanBuiten. TUUC's first minister, Dave MacPherson (1962-1975) was an honored guest with his family, as were Richard Nugent, Interim Minister during the 1998-1999 church year, and his wife and young son. A number of "old" members, many of whom have moved away from the Baltimore area, also attended, so there was an excited air of reunion as people walked through the main door.

The highlight of the evening, however, came after dinner, when a video entitled "TUUC, the First 50 Years," began with the founding of TUUC in 1960 and continued to describe the building and expansion of the church and the recent restructuring of the Board. The video was entertaining, certainly, but more importantly it gave everyone an appreciation for the work of the founding members and the risks they took to begin a new community and build a church. The people who put this video together also deserve special recognition for a great deal of hard work. They are: Director: Marilyn Maze; Video Editor: Tony Bonta; Sound Editor: Andy Peterson; Script Writer Sue Walker; Researcher: Judy Cohen; Script Editor: Charlie Wunder; Interviewer: Chris Tarsell; Voices: Jane Beatty and Dan Everett; Digitizer: Mike Teirney.

My thanks must also go to the many people who helped to pull Saturday evening together, those who volunteered ahead of time, and those who pitched in where they saw help was needed. As we were watching

the chaos unfold with the cleanup, I mentioned to one of the volunteers (a new member) how nice it would be if we could just hire someone to put together these events. "Oh no," she replied. "This is what community is all about it. It was fun, and I met a lot of new people tonight."

UPCOMING 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.

Green Sanctuary

Carel Hedlund, chair



Have you noticed how green our coffee hours are becoming? Thanks to those who have donated mugs and silverware, we are slowing but surely weaning ourselves from plastics and throwaways. The Green Sanctuary Committee will next offer Green Coffee for sale on Sunday November 8th, between services and after the second service. We'll be selling local roaster Zeke's fair trade and organic coffee, along with hosting Sunday hospitality that day.

Look for us also at the Holiday Shoppes on Saturday November 14th. We'll again be selling Zeke's coffee, along with fair trade dark chocolate and interesting fair trade teas from Equal Exchange. Equal Exchange tracks their sales at UU churches, and at the end of each year donates to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. So by buying our Equal Exchange products you are not only supporting small-scale farming around the world, but also helping TUUC and UUSC. A win-win-win proposition!

Social Action Committee

The Social Action Committee was very pleased with the many people who have stepped forward to volunteer for our projects. Whether your interests are feeding the hungry, helping the homeless, educating the young, assisting men recover from addiction, or influencing public policy, there is a need for YOU to become involved. Please check out the Social Action bulletin board in TUUC's foyer with descriptions of the projects and photos of the people to contact to volunteer your talents.

Upcoming Events

HOLIDAY SHOPPES

We're Back!! Come One! Come All! Mark your calendar for Saturday, November 14th, 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM. The Holiday Shoppes has familiar and new crafters that are sure to please that special someone with unique handmade gifts over the holidays or for any special occasion. Please join us to support TUUC and the crafters in these economic times. Don't forget to bring lots of cash, checks and friends! See you there!

GALLERY UNICORN

Gallery Unicorn is pleased to present "Here and There" works in watercolor by Sylvia Hutt. From European landscapes to still-lives to little corners of the yard where sunlight creates magic, her subjects show the extra in the ordinary. November 1 through December 6. Please join us at a welcoming reception November 1st, 2 PM - 4 PM.

PHILOSOPHY BITES - DISCUSSION THREE

Brad Hooker on Consequentialism

Wednesday, November 18, 2009 from 7:30 to 9:00 PM upstairs.

Do consequences determine the morality of an action? Professor Brad Hooker of Redding University, a leading proponent of Consequentialism, discusses this question and others with David Edmonds and Nigel Warburton, the hosts of the PB program. Join us for a follow up discussion.

FRIDAY CONCERT SERIES – NOVEMBER 20

Cousins Mac Walter is local and toured for many years with Deanna Bogart. Cousin John Cronin has spent most of his adult life in British Columbia and spent many years touring with Canadian music icon Ian Tyson. Through their separate journeyman years, the two cousins continue to connect and play gigs. The musical connection developed so early in their lives still works brilliantly and both are “guitar wizards.” Their CDs represent the musical journeys they have taken down the roads of folk, jazz, country, blues and another road that is a bit indefinable. It’s their own style and the music just works! It’s an occasional rare treat when Mac and John perform together in the Baltimore area. Both are talented in their own right but when they play together, the fingerstyle, virtuosity, synergy and gorgeous harmonies always leave an audience on their feet and wanting more. The potluck dinner starts at 7 PM and the concert begins at 7:30 PM.

NOVEMBER SINGLES POTLUCK

Saturday, November 14th at 6 PM. Our host will be Len Proctor. All are welcome for food, fun and friendship. An RSVP is appreciated and Len's phone number is in the directory. All are welcome.

ANITA GREGORY BOOK GROUP – TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3 @ 2 PM

Come join us for lively conversation with the Anita Gregory Book Group. Our next selection is *Cop in the Hood*, a true story by Harvard-trained sociologist Peter Moscos, recounting his experiences while assigned to a drug-infested neighborhood in East Baltimore. Come join us! Any questions, contact Alice and Howard Gamse at information in the directory. December selection is *Olive Kitteridge*, a Pulitzer Prize winner by Elizabeth Strout. The work is a set of linked stories about a gruff, 60-something school teacher in a coastal town in Maine.

EVENING BOOK GROUP – WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4 @ 7:30 PM

Last Night at the Lobster by Stewart O’Nan, termed the “bard of the working class.” Praised by critics as “a triumph in realism,” this novel “explores how the closing of one chain restaurant profoundly affects many lives.” It’s only 160 pages, so this could be your chance to try out the Book Group! (Or start on *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese, to be discussed at an upcoming book group meeting.) All are welcome! Please call Mike Robinson at his number in the directory if you have any questions.

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

Nov 1	Sun	Newcomers' Brunch	12:30 PM
		Gallery Unicorn Reception	2 – 4 PM
Nov 2	Mon	Handel Choir Rehearsal	6 – 10:15 PM
		Mindful Way Meditation Group	7 PM
		Chalice Circle	7:30 PM
Nov 3	Tue	Anita Gregory Book Group	2 PM
		Chalice Circle	7:30 PM
		Drumming Circle	7:30 PM
		Operations Team Meeting	7:30 PM
Nov 4	Wed	Evening Book Group	7:30 PM
Nov 5	Thu	Chalice Circle	7:30 PM
		Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
Nov 6	Fri	Men's Breakfast Group	8:30 AM
		Caring Committee	10 AM
		YRE Chili Cook	6 – 8 PM
		Choir Rehearsal	7 – 10 PM
Nov 7	Sat	Improv Group	10 AM – 12 N
		Talbott Memorial Service	11 AM
		Choir Dress Rehearsal	2 – 4 PM
Nov 8	Sun	Fall Music Special Service	9:30 & 11:15 AM
		Committee on Ministry	12:30 PM
Nov 9	Mon	Handel Choir Rehearsal	6 – 10:15 PM
		Mindful Way Meditation Group	7 PM
Nov 10	Tue	Horticulture Society	6 – 10 PM
		Board of Trustees Meeting	7 PM
Nov 11	Wed	Improv Group	7 PM
Nov 12	Thu	Chalice Circle	7:30 PM
		Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
Nov 13	Fri	Holiday Shoppes set-up	11 AM - ??
Nov 14	Sat	Improv Group	10 AM – 12 N
		HOLIDAY SHOPPES	9:30 AM – 3:30 PM
		Youth Group Chili Sale	"
Nov 15	Sun	Conversation on Growth	1 – 3 PM
		MIGH	3 PM
Nov 16	Mon	Handel Choir Rehearsal	6 – 10:15 PM
		Mindful Way Meditation Group	7 PM
		Chalice Circle	7:30 PM
Nov 17	Tue	Aging Together	Noon
		Chalice Circle	7:30 PM
		Drumming Circle	7:30 PM
Nov 18	Wed	Improv Group	7 PM
		ARE Philosophy Bites	7:30 PM
Nov 19	Thu	Chalice Circle	7:30 PM
		Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
Nov 20	Fri	Men's Breakfast Group	8:30 AM
		TUUC House Concert	7 PM
Nov 21	Sat	Improv Group	10 AM – 12 N
		TUUC AUCTION!	5:30 PM
Nov 22	Sun	Green Sanctuary Meeting	10:30 AM
Nov 23	Mon	Handel Choir Rehearsal	6 – 10:15 PM
		Mindful Way Meditation Group	7 PM
Nov 24	Tue	PFLAG	7 PM
Nov 25	Wed	Women's Breakfast Group	8:30 AM
		Improv Group	7 PM
Nov 28	Sat	Improv Group	10 AM – 12 N
Nov 29	Sun	ONE SERVICE	10:30 AM
Nov 30	Mon	Handel Choir Rehearsal	6 – 10:15 PM
		Mindful Way Meditation Group	7 PM

Our Minister

Reverend Clare L. Petersberger
revclare@towsonuuc.org

Our Leadership

Board of Trustees:

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