

New River News

January 2010

New River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
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President's Update

This is the time to reflect on the past year and look toward the new year with hope and dreams. It's wondrous to see how our ideas manifest – sometimes as planned, sometimes in unpredictable ways. A hope to increase our visibility came to fruition when our beautiful new handcrafted cedar signage was installed just before the winter holidays. We expect soon to have moveable lettering that will allow us to display upcoming events at the Fellowship. We are grateful to each Chalice Lighter in the Ohio-Meadville District who donated to help our congregation with this project. Also, the assistance of our Media Coordinator, April Puzzuoli, over the past year has made a world of difference not only in our visibility in the community but also in our communications within the congregation (newsletter, display board, and more). Thank you to April for all she has done in her labor

of love. The seeds of new dreams and ideas already have been planted and are starting, slowly, to manifest. Al Youmans has proposed to the board a big idea - that our Fellowship host a panel discussion among representatives of different faith traditions within the community. It will be exciting to see how that idea unfolds and takes shape. Randy Grumpelt and Al Youmans are collaborating to create a means whereby environmentally responsible and affordable funerals are accessible to more people. Also, the sale of the house at 312 Maxwell Hill appears imminent; thank you to Bev Kinraide and the Trustees for their tireless work on this. I hope you will join me in anticipating the promise of the new year!

Evelyn Phillips, President

Treasurer's Report

We are now halfway through our 2009-2010 fiscal year. Beginning next month, I will review our income and expenses for

this milestone. This month, I just wanted to mention a few points. A major expense in December was our sign - \$2,500 of Chalice Lighter's Grant monies – many thanks to the Ohio Meadville District for providing the monies to help us become more visible. We are collecting for Guest at Your Table, and I plan to pick up envelopes/boxes by January 17. If you need more time, please contact me before then. We have made our first half-year Fair Share payment to both the UUA (\$476) and the OMD (\$178.50), a wonderful accomplishment for us in these troubling financial times. We are continuing to support charitable agencies in our local community that supply needed food and shelter – we help make a difference with our \$100 monthly offerings. We also are still a local meeting place for groups, and receive monies from them (as they are able) that offset our utility costs for that. In other words, we have a lot to be proud of and to be thankful for, at the close of this calendar year. Happy New Year, everyone!

Cathy Abernathy, Treasurer

Joys and Concerns

We keep Burchell Pierce, Dolores Wender, Teresa Rose, and Wally Johnson in our thoughts and hearts.

Upcoming Events

Our **Fundraiser Luncheon** has been cancelled this month due to inclement weather.

Board Meeting

The board meeting will be held following the service on **January 17** at the home of Wally and Joy Johnson. Lunch will be served. For more information, contact Evelyn Phillips at (304) 466-5787.

Pagan Circle Meeting Sunday, January 24,

1:00 pm A formal meeting with a service and pagan ritual will be conducted. Members and non-members of the Pagan Circle are welcome to attend. Lunch will be served. For more information, contact Al Youmans at (304) 497-3810 or yurya2@yahoo.com.

The **Beckley Drum Circle** will gather for a percussion jam **Saturday, Jan. 16, at 3:00 pm** at the Fellowship. Free admission. All are welcome.

Sunday Services @11:00

Jan. 3: *Buddhism: The Religion Without a God*

John Newby will lead a discussion around the movie.

Jan. 10: *A Musical Program*

Dulcimer-maker and musician Bob Worth presents our service.

Jan. 17: *The Art of Happiness*

Al Youmans will present a program based largely on the work of the Dalai Lama and Howard C. Cutler, M.D.

Jan. 24: *The Joy of Work and Craft*

Today's service will be presented by Bob Worth.

Jan. 31: *The Triple Goddess in Your Life*

The service will be given by guest presenter Lady Rae Blackhood. She will discuss ways Goddess energy affects us on a daily basis, how to recognize it, and how to get in tune with it.

Principles and Purposes

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;

Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;

The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;

The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Benediction

When the song of angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flock, the work of Christmas begins: To find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among the brothers [and sisters], to make music in the heart. Rev. Howard Thurman, the great twentieth-century African-American preacher and theologian