



# New River News

December 2009

New River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
911 South Kanawha Street, Beckley

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## Invocation

by [Forrest Church](#)

Some people have trouble believing in a God who looks into any eye but theirs. Others have trouble believing in a God they cannot see. But that none of us can look directly into God's eyes certainly doesn't mean God isn't there, mysterious, unknowable, gazing into, perhaps even out from, ours—gazing through the windows of the Cathedral of the World.

Source: [The Cathedral of the World](#), by Forrest Church. Beacon Press, 2009.

## President's Update

Warmest wishes of the holiday season! Rejoice, rejoice – the long-awaited-for new signage has been built and soon will be installed! We also have quality services lined up, including one that celebrates the true spirit of Christmas (a holiday from one of the many faith traditions we honor) and a musical service. There also will be plenty of opportunity for folks to share the joy of the season this month. On the afternoon of Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, we will sing holiday songs, give gifts, share refreshments, and put up a tree at the Raleigh County Women's Shelter. Unwrapped gifts for the women and children are welcome. If you can provide transportation, instrumental accompaniment,

refreshments, or do something else, please see or contact me. We also continue to collect personal care items for the VA Hospital. Please contact Cathy Abernathy or Teresa Rose about that project. We are indeed fortunate to be able to give and receive – to share. Blessings and peace to you!

*Evelyn Phillips, President*

## Treasurer's Report

Last month, I discussed our income sources for the first 3 months of the NRUUF fiscal year. This month, as promised, I will discuss where our money went during the months of July, August and September. Our biggest single expense was our yearly payment of insurance for both our 911 Kanawha and 312 Maxwell properties (\$1,397).

We also paid out \$499 in property tax on Maxwell Hill. (We pay taxes on this property because it is a rental, income-producing property.) We also paid \$200 to charities, \$350 to speakers and \$19 in maintenance expenses. All these are Reserves categories expenses. (Total=\$2,397) Utilities are always a large part of our monthly expenses. We paid \$835 to Mountaineer Gas, and \$217 to Verizon (phone/internet). We also paid \$114 to Appalachian Electric Power, \$94 for sewer, \$79 for trash removal, and \$65 for water. (Total=\$1,403) Other expenses these months were mortgage on both properties (\$600), Office Expenses (\$108 – primarily ink for the printer), and \$55 in miscellaneous (renewal of our PO box and lunch for a visitor). (Grand Total=\$4,563)

*Cathy Abernathy, Treasurer*

## Upcoming Events Our Monthly Fundraiser

**Luncheon** will be held Sunday, December 6 following our service.

### Board Meeting

The board meeting will be held Sunday, December 6 at 1:00 pm. For more information, contact Evelyn Phillips at (304) 466-5787.

### Pagan Circle Meeting

Sunday, December 27, 1:00 pm. A service and pagan ritual will be conducted. Lunch will be served. Contact Al Youmans at (304) 497-3810 or [yurya2@yahoo.com](mailto:yurya2@yahoo.com).

## Share the Joy of the Season

**Sunday, Dec. 20**

Come with us after the service to sing holiday songs and share refreshments, gifts, and fellowship with residents at the Raleigh County Women's Shelter. We will donate and put up a tree. We need volunteers to provide refreshments, songs/musical talent, and

unwrapped gifts for the women and children (ages 2-late teen). For more information, please see or call Evelyn Phillips at (304) 466-5787. We also continue to collect travel-sized toiletries for residents at the VA Hospital. Please contact Cathy Abernathy at [abergump@aol.com](mailto:abergump@aol.com) or Teresa Rose at (304) 890-2557 for more information.

## Sunday Services

**@ 11:00**

**December 6**

***Getting into the Spirit of Christmas***

We will sing carols, enjoy holiday reading, and look at the commercial Christmas spirit and the real Christmas spirit. Cathy Abernathy leads the service.

**December 13**

Kelly Kaufman, ministerial presenter, leads today's service.

**December 20**

***A Musical Program***

Musician and dulcimer-maker Bob Worth returns after a "hiatus" to share his musical

talent with us. Please join us for this treat.

**December 27**

***Literary Open Forum***

Please bring in a favorite reading to share with the congregation. This is entirely voluntary, and children are encouraged to participate. The reading could be a favorite adult or child's poem, a reading from our music book, *Singing the Living Tradition* (including song lyrics), or any other inspirational written piece that could be read, sung, or recited from memory.

### Publications

Forrest Church, acclaimed author of more than two dozen books and longtime minister of the Unitarian Church of All Souls in New York City, died on September 24, 2009. *The Cathedral of the World* (2009) offers the culmination of a lifetime of thought and lived theology.

*Love and Death: My Journey Through the Valley of the Shadow* also is on CD.

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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.