



New River News

December 2011

New River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
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President's Column

Angels are among us! Our Fellowship will have angel gifts for the children and youth of our congregation this holiday season. We ask everyone who can to consider making a difference in the life of a child or youth by purchasing a gift. For all contributing to this effort, thank you for your compassion.

Congregational leaders are invited to attend a Healthy Congregations retreat January 14-15. Current members of the Board are already planning to attend. Up-and-coming, new, and current congregational leaders (Board members, committee chairs, and others) are welcome and encouraged to participate. The retreat is being hosted by the First UU Society of Marietta, Ohio. Registration is \$10 per person; free lodging provided by members of

the host congregation. For more information, please email me at evelynrphillips@hotmail.com or call me at 304-466-5787.

Thank you to everyone who brought wonderful dishes to our Thanksgiving fundraiser luncheon. The money from this fundraiser was given to member support. Our next fundraiser luncheon and Board meeting will be held December 18th. You can be of service to our congregation by signing up to bring a dish to the luncheon. Please see Teresa Rose or send an email to newriveruuf@yahoo.com if you would like to bring a dish to share. All proceeds support our Fellowship!

We continue to accept non-perishable food items for our food pantry. Canned meats, peanut butter, and other highly nutritional, easily prepared foods are appreciated.

Members in need may help themselves. In order to keep our pantry well-stocked, please indicate if any items need to be replenished in the pantry or if different types of items are needed. Should a member have need of food not found in our food pantry, a limited supply of \$20 Kroger gift cards is available. For more information, please contact Debbie Thompson at deborah.thompson54@gmail.com

The furnace in the basement was repaired at a cost of \$600. Also, the fan in the RE room was replaced by a solidly-attached new fan. Thank you to both Dave and Debbie Thompson for taking care of these.

I am grateful to our congregation for the spiritual, personal, and financial support you have given to help those in need in our spiritual family. Al Youmans is now cancer-

*Delores Wender
Long Time Fellowship
Member, passed away
November 30. She
will be remembered
as a lady of grace and
intelligence.*

Meditation

All I Want for Christmas

This is a time of year when we ask – and are asked – what do you want? Shall it be another tie, a new pair of gloves, a book? We ask and we answer. We shop, we wrap, we ship. And the season usually comes and goes without us ever really answering the question:

What do you want?

Some of the things we want we might be afraid to ask for because we can't be sure what we would do if we got them. Many things we want we don't know enough to ask for. Most things we can't ask for because we know no one can give them to us.

Most people ask the question without any interest in really knowing, yet it can be a question for each of us to hold on to for a time in mind and heart. What do we want? Not

what would we like, but what do we want to give us a deeper connection with life and to help us give expression to our love? Not a long list of things, but a sense of clarity that illuminates what it is we are doing and why. Not outward signs of generosity, but an internal sense of caring that guides us to give in any season. Not just the reflex of always giving, but also the courage to truly answer some of those people who ask us, "What do you want?"

Dare to answer. Think of the things you want, and the things that others close to you would want. Imagine the ways they might be given and received.

What do you want?
By David S. Blanchard
*A Temporary State of
Grace*, 1997
From *100 Meditations:
Selections from Unitarian
Universalist Meditation
Manuals*, collected by
Kathleen Montgomery



NRUUF Angel Gifts

The NRUUF is having an Angel Gifts for children associated with the

Fellowship. There are a couple of ways that you can participate. A. You can provide financial support. Twenty dollars will support items for one child or B. purchase and wrap all gifts for one or more child(ren). See April to make a contribution and or sign up for child(ren).

- A. If you would like the financially support a child, someone else will be assigned to purchase and wrap gifts for specific child(ren).
- B. To select a child. Clothing and shoe sizes, as well as toy or gift preferences will be provided by April. You are agreeing to be responsible for purchasing and wrapping the items for one or more children. Please, put the child's name on each package. Note: as several of the children may be from the same family, we are asking that the expenditures for each child remain close to \$20 so that no one child receives a lot more than another.

All gifts are to be brought to the Fellowship Office by Wed. Dec. 21.

Angel Gifts Committee:
April Puzzuoli, chair;
Cathy Abernathy; Wilma Meadows; Evelyn Phillips; Teresa Rose; and Deborah Thompson

free and on the road to recovery. He and I believe the prayers, good wishes, and blessings of so many of you have helped him to heal. Others have greatly benefitted from the love and compassion you have shown. Thank you for being a truly caring congregation for so many.

At this holiday season, as we transition into Christmas, Hanukkah, Winter Solstice, and other traditions, I want to thank each board member and congregational leader, member, friend, and visitor for sharing your unique self, gifts, talents, and perspectives with our Fellowship. You have enriched my life, and you enrich the life of our congregation. Into the New Year and beyond, may we continue to weave together the diverse strands our lives represent into a beautiful, never-ending tapestry. May your holidays be filled with peace, beauty, joy, and hope.

Evelyn Phillips, President



Joys and Concerns

We hold in our thoughts and in our prayers the following people: Lars Swanson, David Gelman, Burchell Pierce, Wally and Joy Johnson, Bev Kinraide, Kim Atterson, Teresa Rose, Al Youmans and others with issues related to their well-being.



Coming Events

Dec. 4, New River Pagan Circle. 9:30 am.

Saturdays, Martial Arts Classes Saturdays, Martial Arts Classes.

Contact James Lilly for further information, ninpo_arts@yahoo.com

Dec 10 Appalachian Indians will meet if the weather permits.

Dec 18 Fellowship Luncheon and Board meeting will follow service.

Sunday Services at 11:00

Michelle Addair of Fayetteville. Her topic will

be "Spiritual Healing with Essential Oils". She has been studying aromatherapy and essential oils for over ten years and is in the process of obtaining a certificate of training in the topic.

Dec 11 "A Musical Program," Tish and Greg Westman

Dec 18 Andrew Caldwell

Dec 25 Merry Christmas Note: The Fellowship will be closed.

Jan. 1 "Open Forum," New Years Resolutions

Jan. 8 "Occupy Wall Street," Bob Worth

Jan. 15 "Occupy Everywhere: How to Participate in a Revolution," Evie Vanderweil

Jan. 22 "Belief Systems and Health," Randy Grumpelt

Jan. 29 Service, Carol Sieburth

