



New River News

February 2010

New River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
911 South Kanawha Street, Beckley, WV 25801

E-mail: newriveruuf@yahoo.com

Phone: 304-252-4016

Website: www.newriveruu.org

President's Update

The winter weather has certainly affected our recent activities at the Fellowship. We also had to cancel a planned holiday visit in December to the Women's Shelter because severe winter weather made travel dangerous or even impossible. Regardless, thank you to everyone who donated gifts and helped in any way for this project. Several bags of gently used toys and clothes donated by the Beckley Drum Circle are in the basement and need to be taken to the Women's Resource Center. If you can help, please let me know.

We will have a **Type II**

Congregational Meeting and Vote on **February 21** after the service. This will be on a tentative agreement concerning the sale of property at Maxwell Hill. We need at least 50% of our voting members to participate so we can conduct business and vote. Details about the agreement are available at the Fellowship. Please see me if you have any questions. Many thanks to the trustees for their excellent work putting together this tentative agreement.

The Beckley Drum Circle is hosting **Hand Drumming Workshops** (Beginning, Advanced, and Master) **Saturday, February 20** at the Fellowship. A guest instructor is teaching the workshops. This is a fundraiser with all proceeds to be donated to a nonprofit educational organization. Please see pg. 2 for details.

Covenant House of Charleston has recently contacted us with a request to rent space at the Fellowship. As you may know, one of their staff has been using Fellowship space to perform outreach work generally one day per week to help folks with HIV/AIDS apply

for housing and other assistance in the Beckley area. Covenant House has received funding to expand their outreach program in Beckley, the city with the second-highest rate of HIV/AIDS in West Virginia. The organization needs workspace during weekdays for their full-time project coordinator. The program has a strong educational (prevention) component as well as a social component. Our support of this project is a reflection of our UU commitment to work for social justice. Board members are planning to meet at the Fellowship with Covenant House staff this month to ascertain if our facility could accommodate this project. We will keep everyone informed as to the outcome of our meeting.

I am pleased to share the news that I have nominated three members for District awards for their outstanding service to our congregation: April Puzzuoli, our Media Coordinator, for the Visibility Award; Teresa Rose, our Board Secretary, for the Unsung Hero Award; and, Cathy Abernathy, our Board Treasurer, for the Rising Star Award. Each one goes above and beyond expectations in her commitment to our congregation. Each nominee is richly deserving of recognition. Other members and friends also deserve recognition. Thank you for the many ways all of you help us thrive!

District Assembly will be held at the end of March. To learn more, please go to www.ohiomeadville.org or see Teresa Rose, who has printed off information about DA. Folks registering before the deadline in February are given a discount, and the Fellowship can help cover costs.

Evelyn Phillips, President

Treasurer's Report

We are now 6 months into our fiscal year, or at the 50% mark. This month I will review the income for the past 6 months, and next month, the expenses. We continue to take in slightly more than we have spent, which is good news. Our total income for this halfway point is \$9,911. We are somewhat behind in our pledge payments (\$7,079 or 40% of expected revenue), probably in part a result of fewer services due to weather. However, our (unbudgeted) Maxwell Hill rental money has helped bridge this gap (\$1,750). We have also taken in much more from our Plate than we had expected (%538, or 82%). Our Luncheon fundraisers continue to be good for us (\$418 or 47%). Our checking account has paid us \$13 in interest. With \$56 received so far in our Miscellaneous category, we have nearly reached what we had budgeted for the whole year (94%). We have also received \$57 in our Holiday Fair/Other fundraiser category, but that is only 9% of the total amount (\$720) we had budgeted for the year. This means that unbudgeted income monies, such as rental monies, have been an important resource for us. However, I believe we are in good shape overall, despite not making what we had hoped in pledges and major fundraising events.

Cathy Abernathy, Treasurer

Joys and Concerns

Bethany Sweeney is expecting a baby in March. Our best wishes and love go out to Bethany and her baby-to-be.

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

Upcoming Events

Hand Drumming Workshops/ Fundraiser

Two Hand Drumming Workshops sponsored by the Beckley Drum Circle will be held **Saturday, February 20, 2:00 – 5:00 pm** at the Fellowship. This is a fundraiser with all proceeds supporting 'WV World Music Education Coop,' a registered WV non-profit organization aimed toward bringing world-culture education to WV students. Workshops will be taught by 'Drummer' David Bragg, Director of the WV World Music Education Cooperative who has been drumming and teaching hand-drumming and various other instruments for over 20 years. There will be a 1-hour 'Beginners – Hand Drumming Basics' Workshop followed by a 1.5 hour 'Advanced – Hand Drumming Techniques' Workshop and potentially a 'Masters' Workshop delving into complex rhythms and drumming techniques. Cost for workshops is \$10/one workshop or \$15/two workshops per person in advance or \$15/one - \$20/two per person at the door. Light refreshments will be provided and loaner drums will be available. No previous experience is required. Participants should be at least 10 years of age. This workshop will be in lieu of our regular Drum Circle. Please feel free to pass this information along to potentially interested persons. For more information, contact Seby Bell, Computer Chick, at (304)222-6873 or syberchick70@hotmail.com.

Attention Voting Members

We will have a **Type II Congregational Meeting & Vote** immediately after the service on **Sunday, February 21** on a tentative agreement concerning the sale of property at Maxwell Hill. We need at least **50% of voting members** (minimum 11) to participate in order for us to conduct business and vote. Of these, at least 70% must vote in favor of the agreement in order for it to be approved. Voting members who cannot attend the meeting are encouraged to vote by proxy. A proxy must be given in writing, signed, dated, and must state the name of the member who cannot attend and to whom they are giving their proxy. The proxy also must state the specific item on which the member wishes the holder to vote and if the member is in favor of or opposed to the tentative agreement on the sale of property at Maxwell Hill. Proxies must be presented to the President prior to the start of the meeting. Copies of the tentative agreement are available at the Fellowship. The meeting will be brief and will be immediately followed by the fundraiser luncheon. Please call Evelyn Phillips at (304) 466-5787 if you have questions. Thank you for participating!

Our **Monthly Fundraiser Luncheon** will be held on **Sunday, February 21** following our service. Donations are requested in the approximate amount of what you might pay to eat lunch out after a service. All proceeds support our Fellowship. Thank you!

Baby Shower

All Fellowship members and friends are invited to a baby shower for Bethany Sweeney **Sunday, February 7, 4:00 – 6:00 pm** at the Fellowship. Needed infant items include clothing, a crib, and more. Any gift given will be greatly appreciated. Please contact Teresa Rose at (304) 890-2557 or Kim Lilly at (304) 254-0786.

Board Meeting

The Board Meeting will be held **Sunday, February 21, 1:00 pm** at the Fellowship. For more information, contact Evelyn Phillips at (304) 466-5787.

Pagan Circle Meetings

Meeting with Ritual and Lunch: Sunday, February 28, 1:00 pm

Anyone who is interested is welcome. The NRUUF Pagan Circle meets at 9:30 am the first Sunday and 1:00 pm the fourth Sunday of the month. For more information, contact Al Youmans at (304) 497-3810 or yurya2@yahoo.com.

The **Native American Group** meets from 10:30 am – 1:30 pm the second Saturday of the month. Please see Dave Gellman for information.

The **Beckley Drum Circle** meets from 3:00 – 5:00 pm the first and third Saturdays of the month for percussion jams. The next regular jam will be in March. Attendance at regular jams is free. All are welcome. Some loaner drums are available. Find further information at www.BeckleyDrumCircle.com or contact Seby Bell at (304) 222-6873 if you have questions.

Sunday Services @ 11:00



Feb. 7 Open Forum

Feb. 14 “Love as a Gift and Weapon” will be presented by Kelly Kaufman. There will be a chocolate communion as part of the service.

Feb. 21 “The Cathedral of the World” will be offered by April Puzzuoli based on the book by Rev. Forrest Church.

Feb. 28 “The Joy of Work and Craft” will be offered by Bob Worth and is based on his experiences and reflections.

Worship Volunteer Opportunities

We are always seeking fresh ideas and talent for our Sunday morning worship offerings. Do you have an idea for a Sunday service topic you would like someone to present, or would you like to present a service yourself? Would you like to assist with finding presenters in the wider community, help select or present readings or musical selections for Sunday services, or enhance Sunday worship in another way? We'd love to work with you. To discuss volunteer opportunities, please contact Tom Kinraide at (304) 255-1728 or Al Youmans at (304) 497-3810.

Meditation: O Spirit of Life and of love, strengthen our faith, increase our resolve to give more generously of ourselves. We pray for the courage to take the risks of love. We pray for the insight to see ourselves and others in perspective. We pray for humility and understanding that we may always stand ready to forgive and begin anew. Amen.

Edward T. Atkinson

The Mission of our Fellowship is:

To maintain and develop our religious community in southern West Virginia; to support our members and those who come to our Fellowship in an atmosphere of love and mutual acceptance; and to encourage spiritual growth and development with intellectual freedom. Committed social action on behalf of the local and global communities will be a natural expression of this mission. Be it understood that we are a fellowship of seekers. We seek understanding about life, the world, and the nature of the universe.

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 congregation;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregation and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all.
- Respect for the interdependent web of existence of which we are a part.

Newsletter Submissions

Announcements, events, changes in meeting times and dates, and articles of interest to our readers are welcome. The deadline for the next *New River News* is **February 20**. Please submit items to apuzzuoli@frontiernet.net and newriveruuf@yahoo.com. Typed or neatly handwritten hard copy may be given or mailed by the same day to Media Coordinator April Puzzuoli, P.O. Box 694, Athens, WV 24712. April may be contacted by phone at (304) 384-9574.

Board Members:

President – Evelyn Phillips
Vice President – Tom Kinraide
Treasurer – Cathy Abernathy
Secretary – Teresa Rose
Members at Large – Wally Johnson, Wilma Meadows, John Newby

Media Coordinator:

April Puzzuoli

Trustees: Dave Gellman, Randy Grumpelt, Al Youmans

Type II Business – Congregational Meeting and Vote Sale of Property

Voting members will meet and vote on the following tentative agreement **after the service Sunday, February 21** at the NRUUF. **Minimum 50% of voting members must participate to constitute a quorum.** Voting members who cannot attend the meeting are encouraged to vote by written proxy. One proxy is permitted per voting member and per designated holder. Proxies must state the name of the member and designated holder and stipulate the matter on which the member wishes the holder to vote. They also must be dated, signed, and presented prior to the start of official business.

Outline of Sales Agreement with Bob Worth to Purchase House and Two Lots from the NRUUF at 312 Maxwell Hill Rd. in Beckley, WV

The Trustees (Dave Gellman, Al Youmans, and Randy Grumpelt) of the NRUUF have crafted a tentative agreement with Bob Worth to the effect that he agrees to pay \$68,000 for the house with two lots. The house sits on one of the lots. We will hold a 30-year mortgage bearing 6.00% per annum interest on the unpaid balance. Our agreement will entail a balloon payment for the remainder of the principal within five years of date of settlement.

Bob's payment to the NRUUF will be \$407.69 per month. Bob further agrees to make repairs including new bracing for the roof, some drywall and new paint. It will be stipulated the Bob may, at his sole discretion, add to any monthly payment whatever he can and such additional monies will be credited to principal.

It is also agreed that Bob will pay taxes in a timely fashion and will maintain house, fire, wind and accident insurance for the full value of the balance of the mortgage, listing the NRUUF as loss payee. Proof of insurance and payment of taxes will be furnished to mortgage holder upon demand.

Finally, it is agreed that Bob will pay all closing costs including, but not limited to, transfer taxes, stamps and legal fees associated with this transaction.

Dave Gellman has spoken to attorney Eugene Pecora who will make out the legal documents for the modest fee of \$200 if NRUUF will supply the legal property description.