



# New River News

March 2010

New River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
911 South Kanawha Street, Beckley

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## President's Update

The oh-so-welcome coming of spring also heralds new developments at the NRUUF.

We are very pleased to announce that the agreement between the board of the NRUUF and Bob Worth on the sale of property at Maxwell Hill was approved at our congregational meeting and vote in February. Thank you to all of our friends and members who attended the meeting, and to our members who voted in person or by proxy. We had a good discussion and excellent participation in the vote (16 total votes). We are very sorry, however, that Bob recently was involved in a work-related accident that resulted in a fractured hip followed by surgery and some physical therapy. Bob will have much time at home as he recovers, and would appreciate if members and friends stayed in touch with him. He can be reached at (304) 228-0620.

Other important good news is that the board of the NRUUF and the Mpowerment Project (through Covenant House in Charleston) have arrived at an agreement for the use of space at the Fellowship

house. NRUUF board members recently met with Covenant House / Mpowerment Project staff to discuss the use of our facility for this project in Beckley. Beckley has the second highest rate of HIV/AIDS infection in the state across all demographics. The Mpowerment Project's goal is to use educational and social means to prevent the contraction and spread of HIV/AIDS among young gay men, a high-risk demographic. A staff member recently was hired for the Beckley Mpowerment Project. A temporary agreement is in place until a formal rental agreement is established between NRUUF and Mpowerment Project. It is expected that the formal rental agreement will be established in the next 1-2 months after we have had time to look into our electrical system (evaluation and possibility of upgrade) and enhanced security. In the meantime, Mpowerment Project's newly hired staff person will start working out of the Fellowship house, with a workspace next to ours set up in the upstairs office. Mpowerment Project also will use space in the green room, though NRUUF friends and

members still will have access to it for private conversations and reflection. The sanctuary will be the main meeting space for Mpowerment Project activities with clients. Regular Mpowerment Project work hours will be Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Other Mpowerment Project activities occasionally will take place in the evenings during the week, not weekends. We have communicated the fact that the Fellowship occasionally needs to use the sanctuary during the week for activities and events such as weddings and union ceremonies. NRUUF members and friends are asked to give plenty of advance notice if space is needed in the Fellowship, especially the sanctuary, during Mpowerment Project's regular work schedule. Both the Mpowerment Project and the NRUUF understand the importance of trying to accommodate each other's needs and schedules whenever possible. We are happy for our partnership with Covenant House and are pleased to support this project that will address an issue that urgently needs attention.

## Joys and Concerns

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

## Upcoming Events

Our **Monthly Fundraiser Luncheon** will be held on **Sunday, March 7** following our service. Please donate what you might spend to eat out after a service. All donations support the Fellowship.

## Board Meeting

The board meeting will be held **Sunday, March 21** following the service. For more information, contact Evelyn Phillips at (304) 466-5787.

## Pagan Circle Meetings

### **Sunday, Mar. 7, 1:00 p.m.**

An informal meeting after the UU service. All are welcome.

### **Sunday, Mar. 28, 9:30 a.m.**

A formal meeting before the UU service. Will include meditation and/or healing. All are welcome. For more information, contact Al Youmans at (304) 497-3810 or [yurya2@yahoo.com](mailto:yurya2@yahoo.com).

## The Beckley Drum Circle

will meet and jam Saturday, March 20 from 3:00-5:00 p.m. at the Fellowship. All are welcome. Admission is free. For further information, contact Computer Chick Seby Bell at 304-222-6873 or check for updates at [BeckleyDrumCircle.com](http://BeckleyDrumCircle.com)

## Sunday Services

**@ 11:00**

### **Mar. 7 “Accountability**

**Factor: Religion in the Classroom”** will be presented by Kim Lilly

### **Mar. 14 “Life, Death, and Spirituality”**

will be presented by Gavin and Yvonne Frost. We begin with an attempt to define a spiritual life. From there we look at what is the generally accepted definition of spirituality if you are a member of an Abrahamic religion, a pagan, a Hindu, a Buddhist, or a Taoist; and by defining what we jointly mean by spirituality.

### **Mar. 21 “This I Believe”**

will be presented by Yvonne Frost and other members of the congregation.

### **Mar. 28 Open Forum**

will allow for topics of discussion according to those present.



## Meditation

*It is wisdom to know others;*

*it is enlightenment to know one's self.*

—Lao Tzu

## 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.

A big “thank you” goes to Wilma Meadows, Teresa Rose and Kim Lilly who are working together to obtain and organize Religious Exploration materials for children and youth of all ages. We look forward to having accessible, easy-to-use, meaningful RE materials/lesson plans available on Sundays when children and/or youth attend the NRUUF. We would like to develop a pool of friends and members to call on to present RE when the need arises. A teaching background is not required. The most important requirements are a loving heart, patience, willingness to learn and try new things, and hands willing to serve. The rewards are intangible yet you would be making a real difference in the lives of young people. Ideally, we'd like to have two people per Sunday available to present RE with children and/or youth. Can you help? To sign up, learn more, or help in any way, please see Wilma, Teresa, or Kim, or send an email to [newriveruuf@yahoo.com](mailto:newriveruuf@yahoo.com). Our young people are the future not only of Unitarian Universalism, but of the world.

We also are seeking sign-ups for Hospitality Coordinator. This is a rotating position. Sign-ups ideally would be for all Sundays in a given month. If you can cover some Sundays in a month, please let us know; we'll be glad to work with you. We also would like to have signups for alternates. Folks signing

up will greet those attending Sunday services at the door, paying special attention to visitors; invite visitors to sign their names and give contact information in the guest book; offer visitors an order of service and current newsletter; and, especially important, follow up with visitors within two or three days of their visit to the NRUUF. To sign up, please send an email to [newriveruuf@yahoo.com](mailto:newriveruuf@yahoo.com) Thank you!

*Evelyn Phillips, President*

### **Treasurer's Report**

Last month, I reviewed our income for the past 6 months. Before I review our expenses, I wanted to mention that we have also taken in \$153.29 from our Birdhouse during the past 6 months. That money goes directly to our Building Maintenance Fund, to pay for maintenance expenses.

What have we spent our monies on? Utilities continue to be our biggest expense category. We paid \$1,586 to Mountaineer Gas, and \$433 to Verizon (phone/internet). We also paid \$282 to Appalachian Electric Power, \$163 for sewer, \$159 for trash removal, and \$109 for water. (Total=\$2,732) While these amounts may seem like a lot, they are only 43% of what we had budgeted (compared to we are now at 50% of the fiscal year). This means we are actually doing a bit better so far than we had thought.

Our two other biggest areas of expense are insurance on both our 911 South Kanawha and

312 Maxwell Hill properties (\$1,328), and payments to speakers (\$1,100). We also paid out \$499 in property tax on Maxwell Hill. We paid \$450 in charities, \$172 in maintenance expenses (\$325 expenses minus \$153 from the Birdhouse), and \$75 in lay leadership expenses. Finally, we paid half our Fair Share pledges to both the UUA (\$476) and the OMD (\$179). All these are reserves categories expenses. (Total=\$4,279) We are at the 44% mark for these past 6 months.

Other expenses these months were mortgage on both properties (\$1,200), Office Expenses (\$187), RE (\$80) and \$135 in miscellaneous. (Grand Total=\$8,614) This is 42% of our total fiscal year budget.

As always, please let me know if you have any comments or questions.

*Cathy Abernathy, Treasurer*

### ***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.*