



New River News

April 2010

New River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
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President's Update

Please mark your calendar! Our **Annual Congregational Meeting & Potluck** will be held after the service on **April 18th**. All members and friends are encouraged to attend. Please also bring a dish to share. We need as many voting members present as possible so we can vote on approval of the proposed budget, have our election of the board and one trustee, and conduct other official business. Voting members unable to attend are encouraged to vote by proxy. If you have any questions, please contact me at (304) 466-5787.

Al Youmans, Teresa Rose and I attended District Assembly March 26-27. Our beautiful banner was on display. We volunteered in various capacities, from ushering at Sunday morning services to providing lunch assistance. We also voted at the business meeting. The following nominees for district awards were mentioned: Teresa Rose (Unsung Hero), April Puzzuoli (Visibility), and Cathy Abernathy (Rising Star). We attended informative sessions and picked up resources relating

to RE, leadership, and singing meditation.

The Mpowerment (HIV/AIDS Prevention) Project has started up at the Fellowship. A huge "thank you" goes to members and friends who have been helping us to accommodate this project.

Happy Spring! Best wishes for abundance in all its variety in the life of our congregation and in the lives of our members and friends!

Evelyn Phillips, President

Treasurer's Report

It is almost time for our Annual Congregational Meeting. I had hoped to have the budget available to present to you, but we are still fine-tuning some details. Instead, I am aiming to have it available at church on Easter Sunday, or I can mail it to any member who requests it. We are looking at increasing our projected revenues for rental income but, with some members moving on, decreasing our pledge monies received. However, overall we seem to be in a good financial position for the coming fiscal year.

At the annual meeting, I would like to propose that during this next year we consider a "Share the Plate" program. This has been

used in many UU churches to allow for short-term charitable contributions. If the congregation agrees, the Board has elected to share 30% of the plate (non-pledged monies) we collect. The Board and/or congregation would select charities throughout the year to receive these monies. For example, we could have sent monies for Haitian relief, UUSC, Amnesty International, etc., during the past year. Congregation members can tell Board members which organizations they would like to have monies sent to, and the Board would vote on them. In 2009, we collected \$1,220 in the plate. At 30% shared, this would have meant an additional \$366 sent out in charitable monies (about \$30/month). I believe we can well afford this amount at this time. This would not replace our current charity commitments to Helping Hands and Pine Haven, but be an additional way to make contributions both to local and world-wide worthy causes. The only requirements for charity nominations would be that they not be controversial or political, so that the entire church community could support them.

If you have any questions related to church finances, please let me know.

Cathy Abernathy, Treasurer

Joys and Concerns

We keep Burchell Pierce, Dolores Wender, Teresa Rose, Bob Worth, and Wally Johnson in our thoughts and hearts. We miss John Newby and wish him well in Indiana.

Upcoming Events

The **Annual Congregational Meeting and Potluck** will be held after the service on **April 11**. We will conduct important business, including the election of the board. If you are a voting member who is unable to attend, we'd still like you to be able to vote. Please send or give your signed proxy to a voting member prior to the meeting. Proxies must be received before the start of official business at the meeting. Please also bring a dish to share for the potluck. If you have questions, please call Evelyn at (304) 466-5787.

The **Monthly Fundraiser Luncheon** will not be held this month.

Board Meeting

For more information, contact Evelyn Phillips at (304) 466-5787.

Pagan Circle Meetings:

Sunday, April 4, 1:00 pm.

Informal gathering.

Sunday, April 25, 9:30 a.m.

A formal meeting with a service and pagan ritual will be conducted..Lunch will be served. For more information, contact Al Youmans at (304) 497-3810 or yurya2@yahoo.com.

The **Beckley Drum Circle**, will meet and jam **April 17** from **3:00-5:00 pm** at the

Fellowship. All are welcome. Admission is free. For further information about the Drum Circle contact Seby Bell a.k.a. Computer Chick at (304) 222-6873 or check the website for important updates at BeckleyDrumCircle.com.

Sunday Services

@ 11:00

April 4 "Universal Salvation"

will be presented by Al Youmans. He will be giving a perspective that is interfaith and cover what the term "salvation" may mean to people of many faiths and from a historical perspective that predates Christianity by several millennia.

April 11 "God Who? What the Right Gets Wrong"

will be presented by Kelly Kaufmann. The conversation about the nature and existence of God is ongoing, but it has really heated up recently and more folks are staking everything on an improvable point. In this service, Included will be the newest development on the God front and who is guilty of the shakiest reasoning.

April 18 "Earth Day Remembered"

will be presented by Teresa Rose.

April 25 The service will be presented by Tom Kinraide.



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.