



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

NEWSLETTER

February 2012

Year 47, Issue 2

1301 Gladewood Drive
Blacksburg, VA 24060
Website: www.uucnr.org
E-mail: info@uucnr.org
Phone: (540)552-9716

From the Interim...

Some of the most difficult lessons of my life have centered on the challenges of boundary setting in relationship. As the first-born child of a preacher, I spent much of my early life trying to learn all that could be done to please others without giving much attention to what was needed to please myself. Later in life, as I took on the work of pleasing myself, I had to battle with the discomfort and tensions that such work for self could sometimes kick up in others.



type process again and again. As new people, new thoughts, new perceived to be nothing more than self-pleasing without regard for the discomforts and tensions that others feel.

Much work has been done within Unitarian Universalism over the last twenty years to grow understanding of how covenantal boundary setting is essential to minimize the tensions that can come of new ways of being in a congregation. An interim is a good time to intentionally focus on this work again.

With this newsletter column, let me invite you into communal consideration of our boundaries at UUC.

for myself:

1. Thursdays are my Study Days, when I want to be myself. Call me on my cell if you have critical need to reach me, call me on my cell, 336-471-5580.
2. I do Pastoral Counseling, usually meeting with a congregant, or friend of the congregation, about a specific challenge no more than 3-4 times before making a referral to another counseling source. I may meet with a person 3-4 times for each of multiple challenges.
3. I am committed to preach, per UUMA (Unitarian Universalist Ministerial Association) guidelines, 32 times per year at UUC. I may take on responsibility for another Sunday, or two or three, out of conversation with the Worship Committee, but the commitment is for 32 Sundays.
4. Like all ministers, I determine the break-out of my compensation package. That break-out is be changed up until the last day of the fiscal year.
5. I avail myself of the long-g h U b X] b [i b] h U f] U b i b X Y f g h U b X] b [c Z i Z f Y Y g d Y U _ " = d f Y U W \ k \ U h = U a i W U \ Y X i h c d f Y U W \ z b c h h c X

of some of my boundaries may have kicked-up some discomfort in some of you. Let me encourage you to talk with me and others over the next three months about discomforts that come out of good boundary setting. The more easy this conversation about the discomforts that come of boundary setting, the more healthy the congregation.

I continue to be thankful for the opportunity to be your Interim. Much heart, RevAlex

Reflections from the Back Row

I Darrel Clowes, President



A third organizational step is planning the management of our outstanding debt. At the February Board meeting, the Finance Committee is hoping to present a plan to retire the outstanding member loans. The interest rate on our building mortgage will reset shortly, and plans are being discussed to explore refinancing the

mortgage at that time.

Enough about organizational matters. I do want you to know that we are working hard to you or me to lose sight of the goals we are pursuing. Let me end by restating our goals as a congregation and then stating some others that guide me as President.

We are in the third quarter of my time as your President. Like those who came before me, I have tried to work with the Board, the staff and the congregation to understand our current state and what we wish and need to become. In these first two quarters, the Board and I, working with Alex and the staff, have tried to ready us for the time ahead. Earlier metaphor by identifying the currents that were swirling and affecting this sea change. Now I would like to describe some of the concrete steps we are taking because of these currents. We hope these steps will shape us as we work to become the congregation we wish to be.

The first step identified by the Board was to become a well organized congregation. The Long-Range Planning Committee was asked to develop an organizational plan reflecting a congregation led by a leadership shared by the Minister and the Board. They presented such a plan at the January Board meeting and will engage with the Board in a work session on this proposal. The outcome of that work session should be a proposed organizational structure that the Board can adopt at its February 9 meeting. This should provide the structure through which the congregation can organize, plan, support and achieve its visions.

A second major step in organization is fully implementing the budget process for the 2012-13 budget. For the past two years, pieces of the process have been used. Committees have had a more active role in setting their budgets, in visions, and to the roles of their committees. Now the Board is engaged in setting goals and priorities against which these requests can be evaluated and available resources assigned. Studies have been, or are underway, on staffing needs and appropriate remuneration levels, on facilities needs, on the ministerial compensation package, on the possibility of a summer ministerial presence, and on the needed support for the Ministerial Search Committee. The Stewardship Campaign and related fundraising efforts determine the monies available to us. The budget process, when properly implemented, ensures we make wise use of the funds entrusted to us.

- First, the Visions that are guiding our congregation :
- z We will provide meaningful worship.
 - z We will have positive relations with the community around us, and
 - z We will focus on our youth and children.
 - z We will be a warm and welcoming congregation, and
 - z We will practice social action/social justice.
- Next, the goals from which RevAlex and I are working (to be in place by July):
- z Stabilize Worship Associates and the Worship Team,
 - z Provide a summer ministerial presence (beyond RevAlex),
 - z Establish a financial accounting system that also provides needed membership data, and
 - z Develop linkages with local UU congregations especially Roanoke.
- Next, my goals for the Board (to be in place by July):
- z Install a functioning new governance structure,
 - z Approve a member loan repayment plan,
 - z Approve a three-year plan for growth, program development and facilities improvement,
 - z Approve a three-year plan to achieve appropriate staffing levels and compensation, and
 - z Approve a funding plan for the three-year plans above.

Contact Information

Interim Minister:

Rev. Alex Richardson
336-471-5580
<minister@uucnr.org>

President :

Darrel Clowes
961-2423
<president@uucnr.org>

Director of Religious Education :

Karen Hager
540-577-8043
<dre@uucnr.org>

Administrator/Newsletter :

Lisa Evanylo
552-8050
<administrator@uucnr.org>

Music Director :

Goldie Terrell
951-8050
<music@uucnr.org>

Web Site/Listserv :

Arthur Snoke
<webmaster@uucnr.org>

UUC Web Site :

<uucnr.org>

UUC Office Phone :

(540) 552-9716



Minister Emerita :

Rev. Christine Brownlie

Staff Office Hours:

Minister :

Available noon on Monday
through Wednesday evening.
Please call to schedule an
appt.

Administrator :

Mondays 9-12, Fridays 1-4

DRE:

Mondays 9-12

Staff may be called at home -
please respect the dinner
hour.

Stewardship Campaign Begins



Mark your calendars for
Sunday, April 1 at 10 AM

Last year was so special, so inspiring and so successful that we will again hold a special Stewardship/Worship service to kick off our Z i b X f U] g] b [' W U a d U] [b " ' K Y Ð ' ' ' a i b W \ / ' k Y Ð ' ' V i b W \ " ' = h Ð g ' h] a Y ' h c ' W Y ' Y V f U h Y ' c i f ' [Y b Y f c and the promise of the coming year. Lives are being transformed. K Y Ð f Y ' a U _] b [' U ' f Y U ' ' X] Z Z Y f Y b W Y '] b ' h \ Y ' W with one another is creating a compelling sense of value.

Claim your stake, be a contributing member of our dynamic UUC community.

**EXPERIENCE the ENERGY
CATCH the SPIRIT**

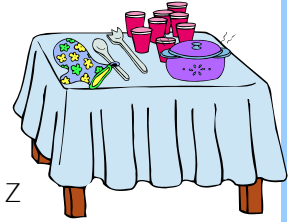
Our Mission

We are a caring and diverse community
bringing spirit, love, justice, learning, and
reason to our Congregation
and to the larger world.

Upcoming Events

Second -Sunday Potluck

Everyone is invited to enjoy lunch with the Congregation following the service on February 12 . A wonderful opportunity to meet new people while sharing a delicious meal. You are encouraged to bring a large dish to share as we have many guests each month.



The main dish will alternate each month (A to Lam in odd-numbered months, Lan to Z in even-numbered months). In months that you are not bringing a main dish, please check the newsletter to see if you are scheduled for a side dish or beverage/set-up.

This month, if your last name begins with Boo to Cm , bring a beverage and plan to arrive by 9: 30 to set up for the potluck and to assist with moving items from the kitchen to the tables. Instructions are posted in the kitchen for set-up and clean-up. Membership Committee members will be on hand to direct and assist with set-up and serving. If your last name begins with Lan to Z , bring a main dish. If your last name begins with A to Bon or Cn to Lam , bring a side dish or dessert. A general announcement will be made asking for people to help with cleanup. 8 c b Ð h ` Z c f [Y h ` m c i f ` `] g h ` ingredients in your dish to assist those with food allergies.



Be sure to bring your non-perishable food donations (canned meats, fruits, vegetables, macaroni and cheese, rice, beans, cereal, peanut butter, jelly, coffee, sugar, etc.) for the [Interfaith Food Pantry](#) . The donation basket is in the lobby just outside the Meeting Room doors.

BIG Wednesday Mardi Gras Party



February 15 , 6-7: 30 PM. Young, old and in between are invited to a potluck, king cake, a parade, music, beads and a c f Y " ` 7 c a Y `] b ` Wc g h i a Y `] Z ` m c i ` send the children off to childcare and take some time to talk our faith. Bring a dish to share for the potluck! why not try a new Cajun recipe?

NEW! Poetry Group Forming

The success of our biannual UUC poetry services has shown that many of our members and friends enjoy reading and/or writing poetry. We invite you to translate this interest into joining a group that gathers to read original or other poems. If there is enough response, we'll come together to talk about dates and time to gather, and any necessary guidelines. Contact [Dick Bauman](#) if you would like to be part of this group or for more info.

F Y j 5 ` Y I Ð g ` 7 c b j Y f g U h] c b g ` Vegetarian Potluck



Gather with RevAlex on Wednesday, February 8, 11: 30 AM É1 PM in Elarth Hall to talk about our UU faith. Bring a bag lunch to eat while in conversation. All are invited. Prior attendance not required.

If you enjoy vegetarian food, come to the vegetarian potluck in Elarth Hall on Saturday, February 17 at 6: 30 PM. Bring a veggie dish to share, meet new people and enjoy the meal. Contact [Liz Shooltz](#) for more information.

Service or Event Cancellation

In the event of snow or ice resulting in our canceling the Sunday service, a message will be sent to all those on our listserv by 8: 30 AM. You can also check for a message on our [website](#), on our [Facebook page](#), or go to [wsls.com](#) and look under the list of church closings. This should also run across the top of your TV screen on the News Channel 10 station. The same procedure would be used to cancel an event other than a service.

Calling All Men of UUC

A Y b Ð g ' 7 c Z Z Y Y ' U b X ' A Y b Ð g ' 7 c j Y b U b h ' ; f c i Breakfast Group

All men are welcome to gather at 8 AM each Monday morning for coffee and/or breakfast at Panera Bread in Blacksburg. This new location provides a quieter ambiance for conversation. Come enjoy the stimulating conversation and fellowship to start your week.

The long-g h U b X] b [' A Y b Ð g ' 7 c j Y b U b h ' is open to all men seeking a group for serious discussion with emphasis on self- \ Y ' d ' U b X ' g i d d c f h ' Z c f ' g Y f] c i g ' The group meets the 1st and 3rd Sundays at 11:30 AM in our library. Contact [Dick Bauman](#) for further information or to join.

Calling All Women of UUC

K c a Y b Ð g ' @ i b W \ ' ;

In February all UUC women are invited to meet for lunch on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month. On February 3 we will gather at an old favorite, *5 a Y ']*, **UUC** Cambria St., Christiansburg. All the G \ Y f] Z Z Ð g ' X Y d i h] Y g ' g Y Y a ' h c ' [U h \ Y f ' h \ Y f ' V Y ' U h ' D c ' ' m ' G h] a ' so it must be good! On Friday, February 17, we will try the recently opened Japanese restaurant, *Sakura*, close to Kmart in Christiansburg near the] b h Y f g Y Wh] c b ' c Z ' D Y d d Y f Ð g ' Y Y f m ' U b X ' Business 460. Newcomers and old-timers alike are warmly invited. We gather at noon. Contact [Marilyn DuPont](#) for more info or with restaurant suggestions.



Women, Wine & Fellowship

All women are invited to come together for an afternoon of fellowship and fun. The next [U h \ Y f] b [' k] ' V Y ' U h ' D c ' ' m ' G h] a ' Mt. Tabor Rd, Blacksburg on Wednesday, February 29 at 2 PM. Bring yourself, a snack to share, and a bottle of wine and/or non-alcoholic beverage. U b X ' .

K c a Y b Ð g ' 7 c Z Z Y Y ' ; f c i c

All women are welcome to gather at 7 AM each Monday morning for coffee and/or breakfast at Panera Bread in Blacksburg. Enjoy good conversation and build friendships.

EarthSpirit Sisters

The EarthSpirit Sisters, an earth-V U g Y X ' k c a Y b Ð g ' f] h i U ' ' [f c i c a V Y f g is open to all who seek sisterhood and desire a deeper understanding and spiritual awareness of ancient Earth-centered traditions, invites all women members and friends of the Congregation to celebrate the full moon on Tuesday, February 7 at 7:30 PM. Our celebration usually lasts an hour and is followed by social time so we can get to know one another better. Contact [Laureen Blakemore](#) for more info.





Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Sunday Services

February 2012

Services at 10:00 AM in the Meeting Hall
Religious Education Classes and Nursery Care
All are invited to share coffee & conversation following the service.

February 5: RevAlex , *Forgiveness É Part One*. Forgiveness and Reconciliation are essential practices in healthy congregations. We begin an ongoing Interim conversation on Forgiveness k] h \ ' h c X U m Ð g ' g Y f j] WY " ' 7 c a Y ' k] h \ ' U b m ' [f i X [Y g ' m c i ' a] [\ community, can grow in our ability to make blessings of them.

February 12: F Y j 5 ` Y *Andugl Sermon on Sex* . An embodied theology always has facets of sexuality to it. Religious communities that are doing the hard work of deepening their theological understandings, both personally and communally, need to study themselves towards discerning the facets of sexuality that are woven into their beings. On this Sunday V Y Z c f Y ' c i f ' Wi ` h i f Y Ð g ' U b b i U ` ' WY ` Y V f U h] c b ' c Z ' f c a U b h] W ' embodied UU theologies. The Choir will sing at the service.

Please join us for our Second Sunday Potluck following the service.

February 19: As our newsletter goes to press, details of this service are still in the making. Stay tuned to ongoing e-a U] ` ' Wc a a i b] WU h] c b g ' U b X ' i d [Upcoming Services page](#) k Y V h c ' ` Y U f b ' a c f Y ' U V c i h ' h \] g ' G i b X U m Ð g ' Y I W] h] b [' [i Y g h ' g d Y

February 26: RevAlex , *Forgiveness É Part Two*. On the 5th of this month, the sermon will be a macro-view of the challenges and gifts that come of being a faith community of forgiveness and reconciliation. On this last Sunday of February, we gather in worship to get personal about what being a people of forgiveness and reconciliation may mean for us as individuals of faith striving to be a healthy congregation. The Choir will sing at the service.

Sunday Circle

The Sunday Circle meets on the first and third Sundays of the month beginning at 8:30 AM. All are welcome to join us for stimulating conversation in Room A.

February 5 : Carl Hansen , UUC member, will discuss the book, *Mothers and Others : The Evolutionary Origins of Mutual Understanding* by Sarah Hrdy. The author synthesizes her decades of work on the g c W] c V] c ` c [m ' c Z ' a c h \ Y f g ' U b X '] b Z U b h g ' h c ' h f U W _ ' h \ Y ' Y j c ` i h] c b g h Y d " Í

February 19 : The Ministerial Search Committee will go over the results of the congregational survey and use the Sunday Circle as one of the announced cottage meetings. This is an opportunity for you to give additional input to the committee, to see if the survey results seem valid and to understand where we are in the search process for a settled minister.

MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

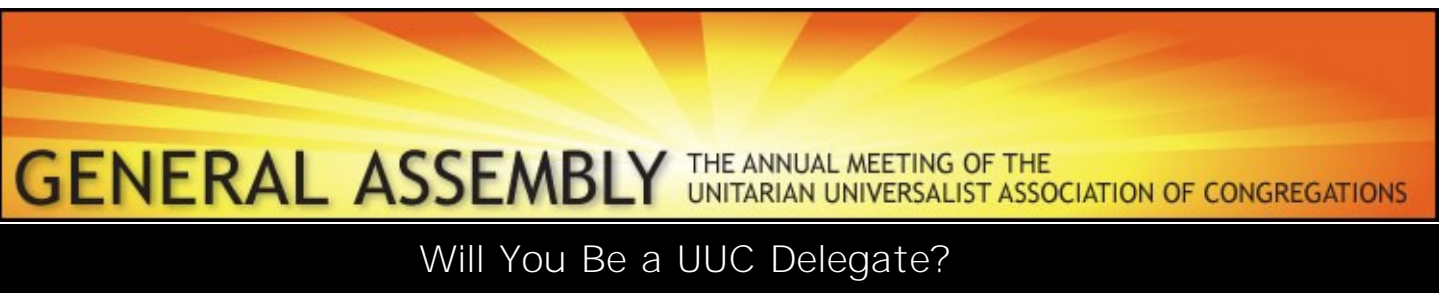
Molly Lazar

The Ministerial Search Committee would like to thank everyone who participated in the survey last month. We got a total of 204 responses! This is an incredible response rate. We will be processing the data and presenting it to the congregation in various ways over the next month. Please look at our Ministerial Search page in the members section of the website for a summary of the responses.

The committee will be holding cottage meetings over the next few months to provide you with another way to discuss the characteristics desired in a minister in a smaller group setting. We hope to have everyone in the congregation attend one of the cottage meetings. The Ministerial Search Committee will also be meeting with every RE class down to the preschoolers. We will be contacting groups in the congregation to request meeting with them. We will be scheduling multiple open meetings for those who

Additionally, the Ministerial Search Committee is working on the packet that we will send to ministers to tell them about our congregation and community.

Please feel free to contact a committee member if you have suggestions or questions. Dave Warner, Isabel Berney, Molly Lazar, Dave Lievsay, Margo Walter, Jane Keppel-Benson, and Barbara Taylor look forward to working with you.



Two important opportunities to broaden our interface with our larger denomination are coming up soon. The district of which we are a member, the newly-renamed [Southeast District](#) (SED), will hold its annual meeting on May 4-5 in Richmond, hosted by First UU Church of Richmond. The theme will be *Multiplying Ourselves in the 21st Century*. The emphasis will be on use of social media, virtual small group ministry, UU communities, and satellite campuses. The venue for this weekend is relatively close, and the \$60 registration will be paid by UUC. Deadline for registration is April 28 .

Our annual General Assembly of Congregations will take place June 20 -24 in Phoenix, Arizona. H \] g \] g \ V Y] b [\ d f c a c h Y X \ U g \ U \ heavy emphasis on immigration issues from the basis of our Faith as UUs. Material available on the UUA website (www.uua.org) includes the information that there will be many opportunities for indoor involvement for those concerned about the likely hot weather. However, our social justice

component is only part of the offering to attendees. Most years there have been approximately 200 workshops and other events from which to take home practical and inspirational materials and information. Registration is March 1 through April 30 at a cost of \$320 per person and increases to \$365 after April 30. All or part of the fee may be paid by UUC, depending on how many wish to apply for delegate status. Be advised that you may attend as a non-delegate paying your own registration.

The UUC Board approves all delegates, and preference is given to those who have not attended in the past. Please give both of these important events your serious thought, and do not hesitate to contact [Marilyn DuPont](#) for further information about what goes on at General Assembly. Also contact Marilyn (not Board members) to submit your name for consideration to the Board. Delegates will be approved at the 6 c U f X Ð g \ 5 d f] \ \ a Y Y h] b [\ h c \ U \ \ c k registrations.

Job Squad Update



Our UUC Job Squad was formed to provide labor services for home repairs or other household tasks for local families that were unable to do the work themselves or to hire someone else because of age, disability, or lack of funds. Members and friends of UUC were eligible if they met these criteria. Some referrals were received through the RSVP program of United Way coordinated by Dick Kates, as well as through UUC. However, the requirement that beneficiaries pay for the necessary materials has severely limited the program.

Members of the Job Squad propose to expand their boundaries by offering labor services to any member or friend of UUC in exchange for a freewill donation to UUC that will then be used to buy materials for those in the community who cannot afford them. The Squad would need to determine the scope and nature of the work before agreeing to undertake it as their skills, time and energy are limited. Those who can afford to will still be expected to pay for materials.

Some fundraisers are being considered, pending any necessary Board approval, for seed money for projects, and the Job Squad is scheduled as this (page 13). It is hoped that the congregation will give support to and benefit from this program as a service to the community and UUC. If you have questions or comments, or would like to volunteer to join the Job Squad, contact [Dick Bauman](#) or [Dick Luke](#). Especially needed are those skilled in a trade and/or have a strong back.

Ethical Eating

What is Ethical Eating, the 2008-2012 UUA CSAI (Congregational Study and Action Issue)? It is our bodies and global in reach... aiming to help us feel confident in making easy, tasty, nutritious food choices that *fit our individual and ethical values as UU's*. We can pool our knowledge providing political advocacy and service. More topics to come.

A Task Force is meeting monthly using ideas from the UUA *Congregational Resource Guide* available on the [UUA website](#) and soon to be linked to our UUC website. Our next meeting is Monday, February 13 at 7 PM. Contact [Cynthia Luke](#) or [Monte Hager](#) for more information. The March Second Sunday Potluck will be focused on vegetarian choice.

Computer Exchange

At the January meeting, the Board approved instituting a computer exchange. UUC would act as broker where members could donate unwanted computers/printers and receive an income tax credit. UUC



would in turn give or lend the computers/printers to members of the congregation in need of one. The one constraint is the need to ensure that the computers are purged of all personal data. We are seeking individuals with the requisite knowledge and skill to perform this function. (One member has offered, but more are needed.) If you are willing to help, please contact [Lisa Evanylo](#). Once we have sufficient volunteers to purge the computers, we will be able to institute the exchange.

Identifiable Donation\$ to UUC

By now, all who donated to UUC in 2011 should have received a letter identifying all tax-deductible contributions to UUC. However, many of you put cash in the basket, often in addition to your pledge payment checks for which you do not get credit. If you would like for these cash donations to be included in your year-end tax letter, simply place the cash in an envelope with your name on it and indicate whether it be for the Fourth Sunday Collection, your pledge, supplemental to your pledge, or other.

A Message from Religious Education

Karen Hager,
Director of Religious Education



Spring Semester Begins: Our spring semester begins on Sunday, February 5 through our classes:

PreK: *Chalice Children* continues. Based on the premise that children learn best through experience, this program helps nurture spiritual growth, creativity and a sense of community through imaginative activities and rituals such as rhymes and fingerplays. Classes introduce children to concepts such as birth and death, dreams and the natural world. PreK will be taught this spring by Alison Armstrong, Leonore Nadler, Barbara Taylor, and Dan Taylor.

Grades K-1: *Stories about God*. This liberal and eclectic theology looks at God as the central symbol in a religious communication system. It is story-based and addresses the spiritual and theological needs of young children, allowing them a variety of experiences with the entity called God, and to explore the ultimate reality, values, and mystery about life. K-1 will be taught this spring by Michael Barrett, Karen Gray, Frank Napolitano, and Diana Zaldivar.

Grades 2-3: *UU Super Heroes*. This values-based UU identity curriculum encourages children to explore the lives of famous people who were Unitarians, Universalists or Unitarian Universalists. Each lesson of this curriculum explicitly incorporates one or more of the Unitarian Universalist Principles. This curriculum has lessons on the UU core values of letting your conscience be your guide, welcoming people of all abilities, and caring for the earth. Gr. 2-3 will be taught this spring by Brett Jones, Molly Lazar, Angela Parrish, and Amy Pruden-Bagchi.

Grades 4-5: *Holidays & Holy Days* continues. Holidays are the age-old vehicle of religious socialization, setting time aside to remember a great person or event, and to give thanks for life's bounty: harvest, safety, freedom, warmth, or to invoke light and gladness for overcoming darkness and danger, death and drought. Festivities tell a story which children absorb through experiences far more than through words. The class will learn about and celebrate holidays and holy days of world religions throughout the year. Gr. 4-5 will be taught this spring by Rachel Craine, Carol Kern, Peter Lazar, and Amy Stilwell.

Grades 6-7-8: *The Gospel According to the Simpsons*. This eagerly-awaited curriculum explores the religious themes prevalent in the popular animated comedy series, *The Simpsons*. Each session will include a viewing of an episode prior to discussion of a relevant topic. Topics include prayer, morality, God, pluralism,

the institutional church, and the Bible. Gr. 6-7-8 will be taught this spring by Nancy Bodenhorn, Dick Kates, Jim Kern, and Alan Moore.

Thanks to the Kindergarten Family for catering our Spring Teacher Training!

Teacher Appreciation Event: The congregation shows its appreciation to our RE teachers and advisors through two events. The first event treats teachers without children to lunch out; the second event, for teachers with children, provides childcare for a Saturday evening while parents go out and have fun.

Our childcare event will be held on Saturday, February 11 from 5:30-9:00. Volunteers are needed to provide supervision to children as they enjoy dinner, planned activities and a movie. Volunteers are

Please contact me at dre@uucnr.org if you can volunteer to help. The entire congregation is asked to support this very worthwhile event.

Project Linus: Plan to attend as UUC participates in National Make a Blanket Day. Project Linus provides comfort in the form of homemade blankets to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need. The blankets are distributed locally to children in need at hospitals, homeless shelters, and wherever they can provide love, a sense of security, warmth, and comfort.

The church will be open on Saturday, February 18 from 10 AM until 3 PM so that everyone can come as they are able to help out. Project Linus accepts homemade blankets of all types: fleece, quilts, knit or crochet. Sizes may range from baby blanket to throws for teens.

It is not necessary to know how to sew, knit or crochet to help out, as fleece blankets require no sewing. Children old enough to use sharp scissors are welcome to help.

Lunch, refreshments and easy patterns will be provided. Sewers, please bring sewing supplies, such as rulers, cutting mats and rotary cutters.

Donations of fleece will be greatly appreciated! Fleece pieces should be a minimum of 1 yard.

This is a joint social action project for the RE and GcWJ. We will be making blankets for children in need. Please bring your fleece and help!



The grade 4-5 RE class celebrates the Chinese New Year as part of their *Holidays and Holy Days* curriculum by parading a dragon through Elarth Hall following the service.



Enjoying the Angry Birds KidSpirit Party.

Visiting Other Congregations/Churches

The Worship Team, along with RevAlex, have been discussing the format for the *Order of Service* on Sunday mornings. As you have probably noticed, we have separated *Joys* from *Concerns* and made some other changes as well. We feel that during this interim period, we should try different things.

In that spirit, we are gathering information about how things are done at other churches – UU and others – that we hear are very enthusiastically received by their congregations. Members of our team are planning to visit other churches in our area, and a few of us have attended churches during our travels. If you attend another church either locally or while traveling, we would appreciate hearing from you. Please share your thoughts with one of us in person or by e-mail.

Thanks in advance for your input! Worship Team members KC Arceneaux, Sharon Day, Stephanie Gilmore, Jane Mahone, Arthur Snoke, Goldie Terrell

Board Doings Highlights

- z The Lay Pastoral Care Program, designed to assist the minister, was discussed and should be in place within the next few months. More info to follow.
- z The Finance Committee performed our annual audit in December with plans for a monthly audit being made.
- z H \ Y ` d c g g] V] `] h m ` c Z ` g h U f h] b whereby members donate old computers for use by members needing one is being investigated (see page 9).
- z The purchase of a defibrillator is being considered.
- z The Staffing Needs task group gave an update. More info to follow.
- z Long-Range Planning presented a draft of a new governance structure which frees the Board to be policy driven and the congregation to be program drive and moves us toward becoming a Program Congregation.
- z A task group is being formed to develop an alcohol policy.
- z The next meeting is Thursday, February 9 at 6:30 PM. The agenda is posted on the kiosk in Elarth Hall the Sunday prior to the meeting and can be accessed through our web calendar. To receive a copy of the various reports sent to the Board prior to the meeting, contact [Lisa Evanylo](#). All are welcome to attend.

Board minutes are posted in the Member Area of our website.

From the Administrator

- z Please place bulletin covers in the basket on the blue lobby table following services. You are encouraged to take the insert with you as a reminder of upcoming events.
- z Need to schedule a meeting or event at UUC? Check out our online [calendar](#) to see if space is available and be sure to send me an email with the date, time, and room you are requesting.
- z Be sure to lower the heat if you turned it up, turn off all lights and lock all doors before leaving the building.

Green Living Tip for February



Did you ever consider finding a second use for the cereal liners from cereal boxes when you have finished the cereal? They are the best bags for freezing food such as garden produce, bread, meats, etc., as they are heavy and strong. Twist tightly and secure with a twisty tie. They are also great for storing produce in the refrigerator.

What about all those plastic and cellophane bags (that non-messy foods come in), such as nuts, W \] d g ž ` V f Y U X g ž ` Y h W" 3 ` 8 c b Ð h ` h \ f for all kinds of things, including sandwiches, veggies, snacks, etc. The trick is to dedicate a place in your kitchen for collecting these repurposed plastic bags so they are even handier to grab than your store bought box of plastic bags.

And what about those empty cat and dog food bags? Use them for trash bags! They are typically lined with heavy waxed paper or made of material that is substantially waterproof and go a long way to keeping plastic out of our landfills.

Contact [Kristine Reid](#) with your ideas for reducing, reusing, or recycling that you would like to share. The best of the tips received will be included each month.

Housing Sought for Summer Minister

We are advertising with Meadville-Lombard Theological School for a student to serve as a summer minister from Memorial Day to Labor Day. We are offering a modest stipend and accommodations for the summer. Is there anyone who would be willing to provide housing and/or meals for this student for that length of time--or for a substantial part of the time? We imagine that the student might not want to have a different place to stay each week. If so, please contact [Stephanie Gilmore](#) or [Rev Alex](#).

Happy
Valentine's
Day

Social Action Committee (SAC)

Fourth Sunday Collection : On Sunday, February 26, all cash and designated checks (written to UUC with Job Squad on memo line) will be donated to our very own Job Squad to buy materials for those in the community who cannot afford them. See the article on page 9 for more information about this dedicated group.

To Our House : In December, the Fourth Sunday Collection raised \$177 for the *To Our House* (TOH) program. Thanks to all who participated so generously on Christmas Day! From January 21-24, our congregation provided food and other volunteer support for TOH which was hosted by Luther Memorial Church. Sixteen people from the UUC volunteered their skills in a variety of ways: by driving, cooking, serving, cleaning-up, making lunches, and providing conversation and companionship to the participants. Many, many thanks to all of them! We will have an opportunity from February 25 to March 3 to help the TOH program once again, this time supporting Blacksburg Presbyterian Church. Visit the table in Elarth Hall after the next several Sunday services to sign up. Please contact [Polly Stimson](#) for more information.

Project Linus Day : The Religious Education Program and SAC are pairing up once again to sponsor a fun day on Saturday, February 18, making blankets for the Project Linus program (see page 10).

Caring Network : If you are experiencing one of the following with meals, transportation, child care, or a visit from someone who will listen, please contact caring@uucnr.org. When a request for help is received, an email goes out to the many people on the Caring Network list. If you are interested in having your name added or taken off this list, please contact [Polly Stimson](#).

The Caring Network is adding something new on February 1! Beginning on that date, there will be six containers of frozen soup (4 to 6 servings each) in the kitchen freezer that are available to ANYONE who wants or needs a meal. A container of soup can just be taken from the freezer at any time, no questions asked. Each of the soups will be labeled with its ingredients, as well as the date of placement in the freezer. If at a later time, anyone who took a soup would like to replace it with their own offering, that would be nice, but not necessary. We realize that some people may be going through stressful times that wouldn't necessarily cause them to contact the Caring

Network for formal help. These soups may be helpful for them or for anyone who just needs a bit of a lift.

Used Book Collection: For the second consecutive year, UUC members and friends have generously donated many used books for the annual book sale organized by the [Literacy Volunteers of the New River Valley](#). The sale will be held from February 16-19 at the New River Valley Mall. Proceeds from the sale support expenses associated with the tutoring of adults in the NRV.

Used books will be accepted at the LVNRV office at 195 West Main St., Christiansburg. For information about ways to assist with the sale, call 382-7262. Thank you for your donations.

Guest at Your Table (GAYT) Collection : In November, our congregation contributed a collection exceeding last year's contributions by \$237. With matching funds for contributions of \$100 or more, our locally recorded contributions for this particular fundraiser came to \$2732.48! Thanks to all who contributed to the good work of UUC around the world.

UUs in Action

Chantelle McGill has been a volunteer for the Blacksburg Volunteer Rescue Squad for seven years. Having taken training classes, she now has the title of Emergency Medical Technician Enhanced. Members and friends of UUC who are interested in learning more about volunteering for the Rescue Squad are welcome to contact [Chantelle](#).

