



The Spiral

Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists

A Welcoming, Worshiping, Witnessing Community

December 13, 2007

Visit the website for more information
<http://www.wuu.org> or the web log at
www.wuu.org/wordpress

Tonight, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Adult LFD Class, “Prove It!”

Uncovering what lies beneath the debate called science vs. religion Childcare will be provided.

The canons of Science and Religion fire their salvos of holy ordinance with ever-increasing intensity these days -- back and forth, one argumentative book, speech, web site after another. This is no departmental dispute among academics - it is a battle for the heart and mind, the loyalty and affection of all humanity. Do you believe in things you cannot detect with your senses, cannot measure with your rule? Is it better to live by rule or by ritual? Or, is there yet another path, a way to transcend the smoke, the acrimony, and the canons?

Saturday Night, December 15: Cool Yule Sing, 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary

All WUU members and guests are invited to our next intergenerational evening of food, song, and community. Features include a pot luck supper, music from the WUU recorder ensemble, singing, decoration, craft projects, and a special surprise guest! We invite you to donate canned goods and underwear for FISH. RSVP to mbrecker@cox.net with number attending and the potluck item you plan to bring.

This Coming Sunday at WUU

11.00 a.m., Rev. Preston Moore “A Symphony Called Grace”

When rewards come to us “unearned,” what meaning do we make of them? If grace defies our usual causative explanations for what happens to us, how can we trust it? There is great spiritual value waiting for us underneath this five-letter religious word.

ABOUT THIS SUNDAY'S MUSIC

Our worship service will include musical contributions in two significant styles. The first is klezmer (from the Hebrew *kley zemer*, or musical instrument), which is chiefly a product of Eastern European Yiddish culture. The second is from the extraordinary outpouring of deeply affecting music composed in the Jewish ghettos of Europe during the years leading up to and including the Holocaust. Today's solo, "Shtile, Shtile" ("Quiet, Quiet"), was written in the Vilna, Lithuania ghetto, set to a lullaby in order to confuse the Nazis. The composer was an eleven-year-old boy, Alek Wolkoviski. Known today as Alexander Tamir, he lives in Israel where he is a professor of music and renowned pianist. We are grateful to Dr. Evan Feldman, Director of Bands at William & Mary, and David Tetrault for their klezmer stylings; and to Karen Richardson for her selection and presentation of “Shtile, Shtile”.

LFD Classes for All Ages at Fahs House and Parker House

Youth Choir Practice

12:15 – 12:30 p.m., Sanctuary, Contact: Jamie Bartlett

Next Week's Events

Monday, December 17: Monday Small Covenant Group

7:00p.m., Fahs House - space shared with another group (no drop in attendees)

Monday, December 17: Environmental Stewardship Group

7:00p.m., Fahs House - space shared with another group, Contact: Donna Stanford

Monday, December 17: Monday Men's Covenant Group

7:00p.m., Activity Room (no drop in attendees)

Monday, December 17: Dream Group

7:00p.m., Parker House, Contact: Sherri Powers

Tuesday, December 18: Silent Meditation

6:30 p.m., Sanctuary, Contact: Kathi Mestayer

Tuesday, December 18: WALT Steering Committee Meeting

7:00 p.m., Activity Room

Tuesday, December 18: Tuesday Men's Covenant Group

7:00p.m., Fahs House (no drop in attendees)

Wednesday, December 19: Choir Practice

7:30 p.m., Sanctuary, Contact: Dr. Jamie Bartlett

Thursday, December 20: Staff Holiday Luncheon (offices closed for interim)

12 noon – 2 p.m.

Thursday, December 20: WUU Board Meeting

7:15 p.m., Fahs House

Friday, December 21: WUU Newsletter Submission Deadline

12 noon

Next Sunday at WUU: December 23, 2007

11.00 a.m., Rev. Jennifer Ryu "Be Still: A Winter Solstice Celebration"

Come, step away from your holiday busy-ness. Come, listen carefully to the Earth as she invites us to be still and sit comfortably in winter's darkness. There, you will find light and hope and a real reason to celebrate this season!

(GUEST AT YOUR TABLE gifts should be turned in at this service.)

LFD Classes for All Ages at Fahs House and Parker House

Youth Choir Practice

12:15 – 12:30 p.m., Sanctuary, Contact: Jamie Bartlett

Sunday Men's Covenant Group

7:00p.m., Activity Room (no drop in attendees)

Other Upcoming Events

Read more about these at the WUU web site (www.wuu.org) or on the web log

December 24: Christmas Eve Service

5:30 p.m., Sanctuary, Rev. Preston Moore

The sermon will be entitled, "The Lost Father". Joseph's significant role in shaping the radical ministry of Jesus will be the topic.

December 25: Christmas Breakfast

10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

For those who find themselves alone on Christmas morning, we invite you to share breakfast provided by the ministers. **Please RSVP** to minister@wuu.org in order to facilitate the food shopping!

December 31: First Night Fundraiser

The WUU concession will sell barbecue sandwiches, vegetarian chili, coffee, bottled drinks, and contributed baked goods to raise money and to promote community awareness of our church. We need set-up and clean-up crews, servers and cashiers in two hour shifts (5-7, 7-9, 9-11pm). Baked goods can be prepared in advance and delivered to the church on Sunday, December 30th. To sign up (or for more information) contact Cynnie Martin at celticmom@cox.net or call 741-2415.

January 6 - 13 - 20, February 3 10 - 17, 2008: Parents as Resident Theologians

9:00 a.m., Sundays, Fahs House, Contact: Sara Mackey Child Care will be provided. Minimum of 6 participants required. If you are interested in talking with other parents about your children's faith development, register now. Registration is required. Deadline is December 30. Register at registerafd@wuu.org

January 7, 2008: WUU Art Days Begin!

Monday mornings, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m., Fahs House, Contact: Gayle Henion

For the artistically inclined (or the artistically hopeful!), share your passion for painting, creating, designing or writing with other creative kindred spirits. Express yourself! Bring your own art supplies and clean up materials. Artists/creators of all levels are welcome.

January 13, 2008: Congregational Meeting

12:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Information will be mailed out next week to all eligible voting members.

January 14, 2008: 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Adult LFD Class, "Your Money or Your Life"

You are not your wallet!

Voltaire once remarked, "When it's a question of money, everybody is of the same religion." In its postmodern incarnation, what truths does this disturbing "church univer\$al" teach? What claims does it make on us? Can even the most determined heretic escape its influence? If not, can we be in this cathedral but not of it? There just might be a way to relate to money without it costing so much – spiritually.

Registration closes January 7. Register at registerafd@wuu.org and indicate childcare needs.

Other News of Interest

Guest At Your Table

Boxes due at service of December 23. The checks should be made out to UUSC. You will receive charitable contribution credit for your donated amount provided that the checks are written in 2007. **(The WUU administrator will be away from December 21 through January 4, so it is important to turn the checks in on December 23 so that the Finance Committee members receive them!)**

Annual Stewardship Campaign Dinner

Saturday, February 9: Annual Stewardship Campaign Dinner. (This event was formerly called the Canvass Dinner. Please note the earlier time this year.)

WUU Voting Eligibility

Please remember that if you have signed the Membership Book (particularly those who joined WUU in December) and have not yet made a formal pledge, you will be ineligible to vote in the Congregational Meeting on January 13th. This is because the WUU Bylaws specify that 30 days of full voting membership are required preceding eligibility; and full voting membership necessitates a written pledge, though it need not be a large one. Also please note that those members who join in January will not be able to vote because there will not be 30 days left prior to the Jan. 13 meeting.

Energy Saving Tip

(FYI: the energy saving tips of the week will soon be moved to the WUU Weblog.)

This weeks' tip: Be creative! Think "green"! Between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, Americans throw away more than a million extra tons of trash each week, including holiday gift wrapping, packaging, and miles of ribbon. Try alternative gift-wrapping materials such as recycled paper, alternative fibers, Sunday comics, reusable gift bags and kids' art. Accent your gifts with twigs of greenery, pine cones, or handmade ornaments.

Christmas Family Fund

Due by this weekend! Help a local needy family enjoy Christmas. Please be generous. Make your checks out to WUU.

FISH Socks and Underwear Donations

Please bring NEW socks and underwear (infant to adult, men and women) to the FISH barrels and Dolores Moyer will see that your gift is placed under the Christmas tree this year. Call Dolores at 564-0025 with any questions.

Secret Friends Program Begins in January

Coming in January...Sign up for Secret Friends in February! Sign-up sheets for adults and kids, plus guidelines for the Secret Friends program, will be in the narthex during January. Stay tuned!

Holiday Card Update from the Bookstore Chair, Pauline Gray-Snitwongse

Thank you for all the interest in the UUSC holiday cards. This year WUU members raised \$757 for the UUSC through these purchases. Please keep these lovely cards in mind next year.

A Ministerial Mea Culpa

Last Sunday my sermon included a statement, sharp in word and tone, concerning the Iraq war. War and peace – whether and how we wage the first and strive for the second – have profound religious implications and thus are a fit subject for comment from the pulpit. They should always be approached, however, with due regard for the emotions of soldiers and military families in our community. If the war is indeed a morally horrific venture, as I believe it is, then the suffering inflicted on such families is all the greater. Care is owed to avoid gratuitously worsening that suffering. My statement did not show that care. I hope everyone will understand that my inattention resulted from haste in preparation rather than a lack of appreciation for this pastoral value.

Rev. Preston Moore, Co-Minister