

# CEDAR LANE NEWS

Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church  
9601 Cedar Lane • Bethesda, Maryland 20814

Volume LVI, No. 7

December 15, 2009

## Sunday Services 9 and 11 a.m.

**December 20, 2009**

### “The Joy of Santa”

*Rev. Roger Fritts*

How did Nicholas, the 3<sup>rd</sup> century Bishop of Myra, Asia Minor, get to be one of the prime symbols of our December culture? And does our love of the Santa myth have a spiritual element? Service includes the procession of our Haunting House children with their animals. Please bring sweaters, mittens, scarves or other new warm clothing for children and teens at Beacon House. They will be brought forward as young people leave for RE classes.

**December 24, 2009**

### Christmas Eve Services

**4:30 p.m.** We enter the church in daylight and leave in darkness after the sunlight is gone. A 45-minute service, ideal for young children and everyone who loves to feel the excitement of Christmas in young children. Our Youth and Handbell Choirs will provide music for the service.

**6 p.m.** An hour service for older children and adults. We will light candles for children born or adopted this year. Our Youth and Handbell Choirs will provide music for the service.

**10:30 p.m.** Our adult choir practices for this service until 10:15 and you cannot enter our worship space to find a seat until they finish. But it is worth the wait! The Adult Choir, will present Benjamin Britten’s “Ceremony of Carols” and prelude music with harp, violin, handbells, and organ. We will sing carols with organ and harp accompaniment, have short readings, a short sermon and light candles.

**December 27, 2009 10 a.m. only**

### “Before and After”

*Rev. Heather Janules*

Life is a series of transitions, shaped by one grand transition—birth to death. As we pause on the threshold of the transition from one year to the next, this service will reflect on the many symbols of change in

human life and how we can serve as *bridge people*, companioning one another from the places of *before* and *after*.

**January 3, 2010**

### “What Gives Life Meaning?”

*Rev. Roger Fritts*

A New Year. A time to recall what is really important.

**January 10, 2010**

### “The Prophetic Tradition”

*Rev. Roger Fritts*

Moses was a politician. Buddha was a prince. Mohammed was a business and military leader. Jesus was a leader of the oppressed. Gandhi led a revolution. As inheritors of these prophetic traditions, what is our role in the world today?

**January 17, 2010**

### “Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King”

*Rev. Susan Archer*

Cedar Laners of all ages will gather to celebrate in song, story and affirmation of the values that unite us and call for our commitment. The service will be lead by clergy and laypeople. **NO RE classes.** Childcare available for ages 5 and younger.

**Sunday Morning Forum meets 10:10 - 10:55 a.m.**

**in the Chalice House.**

Coffee will be served.

**Dec 20** *How Can Muslims and Unitarians Talk to Each Other?*

**Dec 27** *No Forum*

**Jan 3** *Ethical Eating: Personal in Nature, Global in Reach* with the Ethical Eating Study Group.

**Jan 10** *All About the National Organization of Women (NOW)* with CLUUC member Terry O’Neill, President, feminist attorney, former law professor, and social justice activist.

*See Adult Programs section for further descriptions.*

## Notes from the Ministers

*Roger Fritts*

Do you have a memory of a favorite Christmas? I remember I was 12 the year my mother took me to attend a candle light Christmas Eve service. Apparently, the Unitarian Universalist Church where we were members had not yet started holding a Christmas Eve service, so we went to a service at a Methodist Church on Central Ave, in Phoenix. I remember the minister preached about going to visit his girlfriend in the snow at Christmas, and what a struggle it was. I could only imagine what it was like, because having grown up in Phoenix, I had little experience with snow.

At the end of the service, they turned out the lights and ushers walked down the aisle lighting candles. As a child I did not know why they did this (perhaps the Bible said something about Jesus being born in candlelight?), but I liked it. I also liked the service because my mother took just me, not my older sister, or my younger sister or brother.

When we got home, everyone was asleep except my Dad, who was assembling a dollhouse for my sister that she would find on Christmas morning. My mother told my Dad that she had not liked the sermon. Now I wish I had a copy of the sermon and a record of her comments. Although my mother died long ago, in my imagination, I still preach to her and to my father who is also deceased.

Forty-six years later I know that we light candles because it is the winter solstice, the darkest part of the year in the northern hemisphere.

The carols and candles in church on Christmas Eve are my favorite part of the Christmas season. I hope you will join us.

*Heather Janules*

"It begins," he said, "with a good amount of silence."

I invited a member of our congregation, Maury Merkin, to share his experiences of serving as a spiritual director with one of our support groups. Spiritual direction is a practice where one companions another through examining spiritual issues in their lives. On the surface, a spiritual direction session looks a little like psychotherapy, with one trained leader engaging another person about their personal life. Yet, while people often enter therapy to address a behavior or problem, spiritual direction is not problem-driven. Spiritual direction seeks to increase awareness and space for the sacred—what some know of

and call *God*—throughout times of stability and chaos, joy and sorrow. Spiritual direction also differs from therapy as it often includes spiritual practices, such as prayer, meditation and a *good amount of silence*, along with conversation.

Maury's words came back to me on Sunday as I watched a clip from the film "What Would Jesus Buy?" The film states that 75% of Americans dread the holidays. If these statistics hold any truth, I suspect that a lack of silence has something to do with this dread: too much food, too much spending, too many expectations, too much travel. Just too much everything. As I get ready for another Christmas, my past experience tells me that there is often a fine line between festivity and too much noise.

Yet, much of my fondness for the holidays comes from my experience of this season as a deeply quiet time. Every year I enjoy moments when the sight of the bare trees, the low whistle of a December wind or the streets, finally still once people get to their places of celebration, make me pause and listen. To me, these times of profound silence make this season meaningful. These moments of quiet are what make this time feel holy.

Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza or the solstice, my holiday wish for all is that we experience this time with not only our hearts and minds, but also our spirits. I hope that each meal, each gathering, each song, each gift brings us closer to inner wholeness and to the silence that is always with us, no matter how much noise we make.

## We Care

### **We Care: A Ministry of Community Support**

The We Care program is a network led by volunteers who reach out to address short-term needs—food deliveries, rides to doctor's appointments, a listening ear in the event of a loss. The Cedar Lane congregation is organized geographically by neighborhoods; each neighborhood has at least one chairperson to coordinate support. Look at your name tag or the map in the church office to find your neighborhood.

It is with sadness that we announce the death of **Barbara Winslow (N21)** who died on November 29 at age 94. Barbara is remembered fondly by many as a renowned viola musician and music teacher.

Healing wishes are with **Burke Peterson (N10)** as he recovers from bypass surgery of the carotid artery. Burke is expected to be transferred to the Hebrew Home on Montrose Road in Rockville for rehab care soon.

Our hearts go out to **Steve and Ardene Shafer (N18)** as they mourn the death of Ardene's mother, who died on December 8 after a long illness.

And, as announced in our electronic newsletter: We send...

Congratulations to:

**Frank and Sharon Adler (N10)** with the birth of their new grandchild, Leah Rose Irwin.

**Elizabeth and Michael Benefiel (N13)** with the Ordination of their daughter, Rebecca Benefiel Bijur, into the Unitarian Universalist ministry.

**Jerri and Cal Perkins (N21)**, with the birth of their granddaughter, Katilyhn.

Condolences to:

The friends and family of **Frances Willoughby (N8)** who died on November 22. A Service in Celebration of Her Life will be held sometime this Spring.

**Bannon Preston and John, Madison and Ethan Ruppenthal (N12)** with the death of Bannon's father after a long illness.

**Glenis Bellais (N25)** with the death of her brother Roger.

The friends and family of **Dorothy Brethouwer Dutton**, a former Cedar Laner who was once a long-time, committed member of the congregation. Dorothy died on November 22 at age 98 after a long decline.

Healing wishes to:

**Natalia Dunn**, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade daughter of **Catherine and John Dunn (N11)**, who broke her leg.

**Jim Jacobson (N30)**, Update: Due to his treatments and a lung infection, he is not up for calls or visits right now. However, as cards have buoyed Jim and his family, they are welcome and encouraged! Please send notes to The Weinberg Building at the Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center/Room 5C-02/401 North Broadway/Baltimore, MD 21231. Judy will let us know when in-person contact is appropriate.

Should you know of a member of our community in personal need, you are encouraged to reach out to them. If you learn that this person wishes to receive a response from the church, please

contact Heather Janules at x204 or [hjanules@cedarlane.org](mailto:hjanules@cedarlane.org). All ministers offer pastoral care to our members so you are also encouraged to contact any member of the ministerial team.

## Music Notes from the Director of Music

**December 20** marks the intergenerational service leading up to Christmas, and there will be plenty of beautiful music from our young musicians. The Children's Choir will sing *This Little Light of Mine* and *Born, Born in Bethlehem*. The Youth Choir will favor us with wonderful three part singing in *I Saw Three Ships* and the Swahili song, *Habari Nzuri*. The Youth Handbell Choir will ring a spirited rendition of *Good King Wenceslas* and the Adult Choir is preparing a jazz arrangement of *Go Tell It On the Mountain*. During the procession of the animals we will all sing "Jesus, Our Brother."

**Christmas Eve Family Services** – The afternoon and early evening family services will feature our Children's Choir, Youth Choir, and Youth Handbell Choir, singing and ringing many of the same songs from Sunday's intergenerational service.

**Christmas Eve Late Service** – Sounds of harp and voice will permeate the air as the Adult Choir sings selections from Benjamin Britten's hallmark composition, "A Ceremony of Carols." The service will begin at 10:30 p.m. with seasonal music featuring the Choir, solo harp and violin, and organ. Plan on arriving at 10:15 to get a seat.

**Concerts at Cedar Lane** is gearing up for its benefit concert on January 16, 2010; an all Mozart program with orchestra, the Adult Choir, and special guest, Barbara Wing, performing Mozart's *Piano Concerto in A Major*. The performance is free and all donations will be gifted to John Kelly's Children's Hospital Campaign. To learn more visit [CedarLane.org](http://CedarLane.org) and click on Concerts at Cedar Lane.

**Ad Hoc Choir** – Start the new year out with a sing-for-all. Everyone is invited because we love to hear your voices! The next gathering will be on Sunday, January 10 at 12:30 in the Chapel. Hope to see you there!

## Religious Education Notes

### Burning Wishes

Children in Grades K–6 will be invited to add their *burning wishes* to our fire at Luke’s Circle (by the playground) during our first Sunday of the new year, January 3. Classes will be invited to bring paper on which they have drawn or written their burning wishes for the world in the year to come. There will be a schedule so that groups will not all arrive at the same time. Susan and others will be there to tend the fire and to lead a ceremony. If there is too much wind or it’s too wet for a fire, we will postpone this activity. No separate chapel is planned for that day.

### 7th Graders Rock!

Both sessions had very successful sales at Holiday Craft Day. Session I was supporting literacy projects, Session II, the Heifer Project and another alternative giving cause. Ryan Young and Annie Schmidt each made an incredible gingerbread house, which they donated to be auctioned off as part of Session II’s fundraising. Many kudos to both groups who are passionately determined to make change in the world (I happened to overhear one student observing with great excitement that they almost had enough money to send one girl to school!).

### Parents of Children Through Grade 6

Ever wonder how to respond to those really pesky questions, like “What is God?” or “Why did my cat die?” or “My friend says I am going to hell!?” or so many more? Do you ever wonder how to help your child or your family develop a sense of spirituality? Is ritual something that would strengthen your family time together? What kinds of faith learnings are appropriate at different stages of child development? Come meet other parents for two sessions with our Minister of Religious Education, Susan Archer, on January 23 and 30, 9:30 to 11 a.m. Register through Adult Programs, “Raising UU Kids: Parents as Resident Theologians and Spiritual Guides.” Childcare available if requested one week in advance of program.

## Family Calendar

### December:

- 20 (Sun.)** 9 and 11 a.m.: Intergenerational beginning in sanctuary; Haunting House children process; Last RE classes before break.
- 24 (Thu.)** Christmas Eve Services:
  - 4:30 p.m.:** Especially good for families with young children; about 45 minutes; no child care available

**6 p.m.:** Especially good for families with children; about 60 minutes; includes candle-lighting for new children born or adopted; no child care available

**10:30 p.m.:** Especially good for adults and teens; about 90 minutes; no child care available

**27 (Sun.)** 10 a.m.: One service; no RE or childcare  
**January:**

**3 (Sun.)** Burning Wishes for Gr. K–6 at Luke’s Circle

## Youth Notes

### Youth Activity Group Youth Activity Group (7th & 8th Grades)—Busy December

Ushers are needed for the two Family Christmas Eve Services on December 24. Services begin at 4:30 and 6 p.m., and last about an hour. Ushers need to arrive 20 minutes before the service begins to get instructions and greet guests, and stay about 10 minutes after to straighten up for the next service. If you would like to join the fun, call John (301-946-5509) to volunteer.

Manna Food packing comes up on Tuesday, December 29. Since we last packed, Manna has moved south of Gaithersburg so we will have a new meeting/eating routine. The new facility is near Route 355 and Shady Grove Road at 911 Gaither Road. An announcement will be sent to all students about the packing. This is Manna’s busiest time of the year—there is a bigger need than ever to help Montgomery County’s needy families. Do your share of helping and join us for packing!

## 2010 Events

**January 22 (Fri)** – Pizza & Movie at the church

**February 7 (Sun)** – Youth-sponsored Super Bowl Party

**February 21 (Sun)** – Orienteering at Wheaton Regional Park after RE classes

**February 26-28 (Fri-Sun)** – Ski Trip

Information will be sent to all students before the events.

The Youth Activity Group is open to 7th and 8th graders at Cedar Lane. If you have questions about the group or its activities, contact John Daniel (301-946-5509), Kim Clarkson (301-587-3051) or Susan Archer.

### Senior High Youth Group (SHYG)

There has been lots of fervor around activities for our group—we hope to see all parents and youth at the next SHAG (Senior High Action Group) meeting on Sunday, January 10, at 12:15 p.m. in the Chalice House!

For information on the Senior High Youth Group (grades 9-12) contact Archene Turner at 301-493-8300

x205, aturner@cedarlane.org or [archene@gmail.com](mailto:archene@gmail.com).  
Details of activities and permission forms are on our  
Website at [www.cedarlane.org](http://www.cedarlane.org).

### Upcoming Events

#### December

20 Christmas Lights at Brookside Gardens\*

#### January

3 HangOut

10 SHAG

\*Permission and Contract forms required.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS to YOU and YOURS!**

### Young Adults (Ages 18-35)

The UU Young Adults of Maryland (UUYAM) group plans activities for local UU Young Adults. Visit <http://groups.google.com/group/uuyam> to join the UUYAM e-mail list and view schedule of upcoming events. For resources and information on Joseph Priestly District (JPD) Young Adult events, visit the JPD Young Adult Network at [www.jpduuyan.org](http://www.jpduuyan.org). Join other Young Adults for Brunch: Meet in the vestibule at the back of the sanctuary 15 minutes after the end of the 11 a.m. service. We will car pool to a local restaurant for lunch or brunch and fellowship.

### Adult Programs Notes

There is a Welcome Workshop coming up on Saturday, January 9, please see the article under Around the Church in this newsletter. And we are wrapping up the fall session with "Raising UU Kids: Parents as Resident Theologians and Spiritual Guides," with the Rev. Susan Archer. The description is listed under Religious Education Notes. Register for these classes through Adult Programs.

Clear your 2010 calendar to make room for the amazing programs being offered this spring through Adult Programs! The ongoing classes are all there, plus lots to expand your mind and strengthen your body. The brochure will be mailed the first week of January.

### Sunday Morning Forum

The Sunday Morning Forum meets between services from 10:10 to 10:55 a.m. in the Chalice House. Everyone is invited.

**December 20** *How Can Muslims and Unitarians Talk to Each Other?* Our speakers are Zeyneb Salim, a graduate student in the Department of Theology at Georgetown University, and her husband, Salih Sayilgan, a graduate student in the Religious Studies program at the University

of Alberta. They share a deep interest in interfaith dialogue and building bridges among religious groups. They will begin with a basic introduction to the Muslim faith, including the Islamic understanding of God; the core ideas of the faith, its tenets and practices; and the role of the Qur'an as scripture in the Muslim community. Following this introduction the speakers welcome all kinds of questions.

**January 3:** "Ethical Eating: Personal in Nature, Global in Reach" with the *Cedar Lane Ethical Eating Study Group*. The current UUA focus on ethical eating comes at a time when many of us are wondering what more we can do to help our planet and its people. Several positive changes that each of us can make relate to food. Why does food matter? Come hear the ideas of the *Cedar Lane Ethical Eating Study Group*. They also want to hear yours. This issue is being studied throughout the denomination and in 2011 will be drafted as the Statement of Conscience to be voted on at the UU General Assembly that year.

**January 10:** *Terry O'Neill*, President of the National Organization of Women (NOW) will find another platform here at her own church to discuss the mission of NOW, the largest organization of feminist activities in the United States. Founded in 1966, NOW's goal has been to bring about equality for all women. How well has it succeeded? What are its current priority issues?

### Labyrinth

The **New Year's Eve Candlelight Labyrinth Walk** will be held Thursday, December 31, from 6 to 9 p.m. Please wear socks. There is no charge, but donations are appreciated. For more information, contact Chris Mauro at 703-847-5820 or [chris.mauro@baesystems.com](mailto:chris.mauro@baesystems.com).

The annual **Silent Retreat** will be held from 7 p.m. Friday, January 8, to 6 p.m. Saturday, January 9, led by the Reverend Heather Janules. It will begin with an ingathering service and end with reflections and refreshments. The labyrinth will be available during the entire event. Fast if you like, or bring your own food. Participants may sleep over at church. Registration required by calling 301-493-8300. For more information call Miriam Pemberton at 301-495-3429.

### Connection Circles

Most Connection Circles are on-going and welcome new members. They are a great way to get to know other Cedar Laners in a small group setting, through worship and reflection. Register through Adult Programs.

## Board Steps

Happy Holidays from the Board of Trustees to each and every one of you. No matter who you are, no matter who you love, we wish you a pleasant holiday season. We are pleased and honored to serve you as your Board of Trustees.

**Board Goals:** This year the board is trying something new. At our June retreat we discussed possible future directions for our church. Since then, we have refined these and chosen one goal and a set of sub-goals for this year's focus:

***Goal: Increase the membership of Cedar Lane, with emphasis on:***

Subgoal 1: Expand the role of the youth in the church's services and take steps to integrate youth into other church activities.

Subgoal 2: Expand efforts to attract more young adults into church membership.

Subgoal 3: Foster a more welcoming, lively and compassionate church—the features of Cedar Lane that are the tangible and attractive manifestations of our spiritual commitment.

Subgoal 4: Redouble our efforts to welcome visitors and integrate new members into the life of Cedar Lane through close collaboration with the Membership Coordinator and the Member Services Committee, with Board liaisons serving as principal contacts.

Subgoal 5: Develop ways to increase recognition within the congregation and by the public of instances of compassion within Cedar Lane or between Cedar Lane and the community at large.

We have shared the goal and sub goals with Cedar Lane committees via Board committee liaisons and at the Committee Chair Annual Round Table discussion in November. At this meeting the committee chairs brainstormed ideas about how we might move toward these goals. The Board is open to any and all ideas about ways we might pursue these goals. We value your input. Please feel free to share ideas with any member of the Board (look for those with blue name tags at church) or with committee chairs. You may also contact the Board via email at [board@cedarlane.org](mailto:board@cedarlane.org). Remember this is *your* church. The Board and our committees are here to serve you.

### ***Cell Tower Proposal:***

As I hope all of you know by now, a committee appointed by the Board has been studying a proposal by T-Mobile to build a cell tower on our site, behind the shed, off of the lower parking lot. I want to say up front that this process is still very much in the study phase. Contract negotiations with T-Mobile will not begin unless and until the Board decides that this proposal is worth consideration by the congregation. If and when the Board makes this decision, there will be a congregation-wide meeting to discuss and vote on whether to begin contract negotiations. At the time I write this, it appears likely that that meeting will be held in late January or February, again, if the Board calls for such a meeting. (If the Board decided not to call for a congregation-wide meeting, the cell tower proposal would be dead.)

The Cell Tower Study Group and the Board want you to be informed about this proposal and have sought, and continue to seek, your input. Two congregational discussions were held about the cell tower proposal in November. To learn more about the cell tower proposal, go to [www.cedarlane.org](http://www.cedarlane.org) and click on the "Cell Tower Study Group" link near the bottom on the left. On the Website you will find a lot of information about the proposal, including notes from each of the November discussions, as well as reports to the Board from the study group. You will also find responses to this proposal from Cedar Lane members and friends. To provide your own response and have it posted on the Website, send an email to the Bob Pechacek, the study group chair, at [celltower@cedarlane.org](mailto:celltower@cedarlane.org). We are also asking for input from our neighbors and are posting responses from them on the Website. A meeting with the neighbors about this proposal is in planning for early January.

This is an issue about which reasonable people can, and do, have differing opinions. I want all to know that the study group and the Board are taking all input from our congregation and from our neighbors very seriously. I believe that people who may favor or oppose this do so with good intentions and with the best interests of our church and their community in mind.

I want to thank each and every one of you for being a part of our beautiful Church Community. I, and the Board of Trustees, wish all of you a peaceful holiday season.

*Duncan Ferguson  
Chair, Board of Trustees*

## Denominational Affairs Committee

Denominational Affairs Committee (DAC) Co-chair Brian Belanger, has agreed to chair Cedar Lane's Auction Committee and is turning over his DAC co-chair reins to Nancy Janssen. (Thanks, Nancy!) Dino Drudi will continue to serve as DAC co-chair.

Two important denominational events will occur during the first half of 2010. The Joseph Priestly District's Spring Meeting will be held in King of Prussia, PA on April 16 and 17 (see [www.jpduua.org](http://www.jpduua.org) for agenda information). General Assembly will be in Minneapolis on June 23-27 (see [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org) for agenda information). We hope Cedar Lane will be well represented at both. Attending such meetings is a great way to learn more about what is happening in our religious faith and more important, to come away spiritually recharged.

If you think you might like to attend either event, please let the DAC know. The DAC can arrange car pools to the JPD event. The DAC also has some funds available to partially subsidize attendance at General Assembly, but we need to know with some lead time whether you plan to attend. Notify Dino ([drudi.dino@bls.gov](mailto:drudi.dino@bls.gov)) or Nancy ([nancyjanssen@peoplepc.com](mailto:nancyjanssen@peoplepc.com)).

## Pledge Drive Committee

*Why I pledge* ..... **Susan Clark**  
I pledge and give to Cedar Lane because it's so rewarding to be a part of this community and the many things it does. Our music inspires me more because I help to make it. Our labyrinth touches me on a deeper level because I helped create it. I enjoy the Kiplinger Lecture Series more because I helped to start it. Making a contribution to our community strengthens my commitment to it, and makes the rewards the community gives to me so much richer.

*Why I Love Cedar Lane* ..... **Nancy Janssen**  
It's the people.

*Why I pledge* ..... **Ardene Shafer**  
The simple answer is, I want to. I was raised in an extremely fundamentalist, right wing religious home and while I did not end up believing the tenets of my early religious life, I did learn some important lessons about generosity. My parents never made a lot of money, but they were very generous with the little they had. My father tithed at an astonishing 10% of his income and gave to other causes as well. We never heard lectures

about being generous or giving to the church. My parents just simply demonstrated their generosity in their everyday lives. They both volunteered for various causes as well as at church, and they gave their money to supplement their volunteer time. That's how I feel about Cedar Lane. I don't feel it is my obligation or duty to give to Cedar Lane; it is my privilege and a true expression of my spiritual life. I give because I want to.

Do you have a pledge story you would like to share? Please send it to me at [srs.ars@gmail.com](mailto:srs.ars@gmail.com), and I will be responsible for submitting it to the newsletter.

## Around the Church

### Cup Washers Needed

Cup washers are needed after both services. It is quick and easy. It will be greatly appreciated if everyone takes a turn to help out. Please sign up at <http://spreadsheets.google.com/ccc?key=rgPgty2b6jZ2RSyOFhSb-4w> or let Molly Hauck know if you can do it. [mollyhauck@gmail.com](mailto:mollyhauck@gmail.com)

### Grieving a Loved One Through the Holidays NEXT SUNDAY

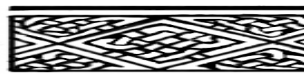
At their best, the winter holidays are joyous times with family and other companions. However, the death of a loved one can make the holiday season a difficult time of grief and renewed sadness. **On December 20 at 12:30 p.m. in the Chapel**, there will be a gathering of those who wish to share their thoughts and feelings about the people they miss this holiday season.

### December 20, 5 p.m. Winter Solstice Vespers Service

Sponsored by members of the Journeywomen and Living By Heart II Connection Circles

*Music Provided by: Carol Ireland, Harpsichord  
Margaret Turner, Blockflute*

Winter solstice marks the longest night of the year and the start of the lengthening days. Come join a vespers celebration with music, accompanied by readings of the mystery of darkness and the joy of light. Following the service, seasonal refreshments (not dinner) will be served. Optional donations to Beacon House will be accepted – hats, scarves, mittens, unwrapped toys, or cash.



## Welcome Workshop

A Welcome Workshop is scheduled for Saturday, January 9 (including class and lunch). It is especially for new members, although visitors and current members are invited to attend as well. The class is led by the ministers as an interactive forum to learn about Unitarian Universalism, our spiritual community, how we operate, what we offer, and ways to become engaged. It is also an opportunity for us to learn about you and for you to meet other new members. Welcome Workshops will be offered four times per year. The next one is March 20. Register through Adult Programs.

## Gifts of Warmth

Bring new sweaters, coats, hats, gloves, socks and scarves to put near our tree at the intergenerational beginning of the worship service on December 20. These will go to kids and teens through Beacon House.

## Lighting Candles for New Babies on Christmas Eve

Once again we will be lighting candles for children or grandchildren of members and attenders of our congregation. This will take place during the 6 p.m. service only. Please let us know of children born or adopted since December 25, 2008. Call the church (301-493-8300) and leave the information with the receptionist or RE Office (x207). Please provide the child's full name, date of birth and/or adoption, and the name(s) of parents, grandparents (if they are Cedar Laners) and siblings.

## Tuesday Travelers Welcome You

Our first trip took us to the new visitors' center at the Capitol. We got a full hour (lecture and viewing) on the art work on the lower level. We enjoyed it so much we went back for another non-art tour on the history and construction of the Capitol! In December, we visited Brookside Gardens to see an incredible model train exhibit surrounded by Christmas plantings. Multiple trains, a bit larger than the toys children play with, ran on a variety of tracks—forward, backward, into the tunnel—passing Kensington station, the Red Door store, and other local landmarks. Parked at various places were model-sized cars and trucks, and a full-time volunteer railroad man was there to answer questions.

Our next trip is a visit to Roxy Paine's "Graft," an outdoor sculpture of a tree, 45 feet tall, roughly 16,000 pounds of polished stainless steel. We'll use Metro that day. If you want to join us, meet us at Chalice House by 9:30 on January 12. Questions? Call Coralie Adler (301-460-3112) or Wanda Van Goor (301-652-0296).

## Save March 13 on Your Calendar!

What is the most eagerly anticipated social event of the year at Cedar Lane? Why, it's the "Swing into Spring" Auction, which this year will be on Saturday, March 13. Where else can you share an evening of fun with some of the most interesting people in the Washington area while simultaneously coming home with unusual bargains, treasures and opportunities for adventure? Some of the auction items are available nowhere else!

Cedar Lane's quilters are working on a magnificent raffle quilt that will dazzle you. The ever-popular Nifty-Thrifty sale will be back again this year with an unbelievable cornucopia of inexpensive things you cannot live without. There is no reason for missing this event. Rides and childcare will be provided (the latter becoming a special event for our kids).

By tradition, every Cedar Lane member and friend donates something for the auction, so it is not too soon to begin thinking about what you might offer this year. This congregation is bursting with skills that, when offered at auction, will delight the recipients. More to come, but do save the date now so you won't miss Swing into Spring 2010.

*Brian Belanger, Auction Committee Chair  
(radiobelanger@comcast.net, 301-258-0708)*

## Social Justice Council

### Community-Based Shelter – 2010

Cedar Lane's Shelter week will begin on Sunday, January 3 and continue through January 9. Approximately 30 homeless women sleep at the Tier One Montgomery County Shelter located at 12250 Wilkins Avenue in Rockville. Teams of Cedar Lane Volunteers will prepare dinner meals for the entire week. Other teams will serve the dinners at the shelter, prepare bag lunches, or contribute breakfast food. Watch for the sign-up sheets at the Social Justice Council table after both services. If the dates don't work you, consider donating paper goods, cereal and juice boxes. If you have questions, please contact Sandy Shaw at 301-642-0083.

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**The Rev. Roger Fritts** *Senior Minister*  
**The Rev. Susan Archer** *Minister of Religious Education*  
**The Rev. Heather Janules** *Associate Minister*  
**The Rev. Archene Turner** *Coordinator of Senior High Youth Ministry*  
**The Rev. Leslie Westbrook** *Community Minister in Pastoral Counseling*  
**The Rev. Kenneth Torquil MacLean** *Minister Emeritus*  
**The Rev. Roberta M. Nelson** *Minister Emerita*  
**Dr. Henry Sgrecci** *Director of Music*  
**Thomas Guthrie** *Organist/Accompanist*  
**Duncan Ferguson** *Chair, Board of Trustees*  
**Sara Deshler** *Church Administrator*

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**TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL**

## **Cedar Lane's Social Justice Fair Sunday, January 10, 2010**

The Social Justice Council (SJC) will flood the lounge with justice after both services on Sunday, January 10. Help us create ways for Cedar Laners to make a better world. If you are working on a social justice issue and would like to share your passion and invite others to join you, please join us.

Cedar Laners are invited to commit to a certain number of hours of social justice work between January and March. (We don't want to discourage activity before and after that, of course, just want to concentrate our efforts to build momentum as 2010 begins!) We hope to provide lots of inspiring opportunities. You can help by setting up a table with:

- Information about an issue you are working on or care about
- A range of ways people can get involved including any or all of the following:
  - ▶ A one-time event you or your group organizes at a specific time/place
  - ▶ Things people can do on their own time

- ▶ Activities for families with young children (this is particularly important!)
- ▶ Service learning opportunities for high school students (this too!)
- ▶ An invitation to come to your group's next meeting, or join you to start a new group
- ▶ Service (stream clean ups, nursing home visits), advocacy (letter writing, lobbying), organizing (door knocking, phone calling), and/or fundraising activities
- ▶ Any other creative ideas you have!

You can reserve table space by stopping by the Social Justice Council table in the lounge or emailing [betsy@devlin-foltz.com](mailto:betsy@devlin-foltz.com). Non-profit organizations not (yet!) active at Cedar Lane are welcome. (We ask that outside organizations have a Cedar Lane *sponsor* (i.e., someone who thinks it's a good idea and can serve as a point of contact.)