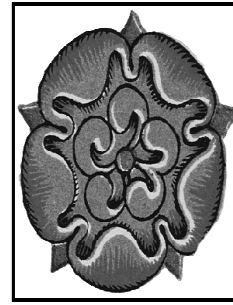




*Bellingham Unitarian
Fellowship*

2011 - 2012



Unitarian Universalist
Association

www.uua.org

Pacific Northwest
District

www.pnwd.org

Unitarian Universalism

*We are part of a larger denomination
with a rich history and legacy.*

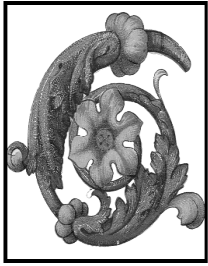
SEVEN PRINCIPLES

- 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
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process
- 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.

SOURCES OF INSPIRATION

The living tradition we share draws from many sources:

- Direct experience of transcending mystery and wonder
- Words and deeds of prophetic women and men
- Wisdom from the world's religions
- Jewish and Christian teachings emphasizing love
- Humanist teachings emphasizing science and reason
- Spiritual teachings of Earth-Centered traditions



Who We Are At BUF

An inclusive religious community encouraging lives of purpose, service, and joy!

Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship

Physical Address
1207 Ellsworth

Mailing Address
1708 I St.
Bellingham WA, 98225

Office: 360-733-3837
Minister: 360-733-2301

www.buf.org

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

We the members of the Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship are a liberal religious community which values the diversity of individuals and affirms the Unitarian Universalist principles. As a community, we aspire to provide a creative and nurturing environment where social, spiritual, and personal development are encouraged and acknowledged. Therefore, we celebrate in ritual, music, art, literature, and humor; and we endeavor to teach, to learn, and to serve both our community and the world.

BUF MISSION STATEMENT

Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship is a welcoming and diverse community of individuals and families. Through fellowship, worship and service, we nurture the personal, spiritual, and intellectual development of our growing congregation and promote respect and compassionate action for all people and our interdependent world.

OUR COVENANT

Love is the spirit of this fellowship,
And service gives it life.
Celebrating our diversity,



Worship at BUF

Sharing transcendent truth in our quest for meaning.

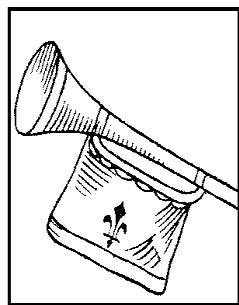
Rev. Doug Wadkins
360-733-2301
minister@buf.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES AT 9:15 & 11:15

Two identical worship services are offered each Sunday, between Labor Day and Easter, and typically include chalice lighting and other rituals, music, readings, meditations and sermons. We understand “worship” to center on its oldest meaning: a time that reminds us of what is most important and worthwhile in our lives. Our services are respectful of the Judeo-Christian heritage, but we also draw from a variety of religious and ethical traditions. Readings and music come from a wide range of sources, including Eastern Spirituality, Earth Centered Traditions, Religious Humanism and spirituality found in great works of poetry and prose. Each Sunday morning we come together to be reconnected to life's ultimate concerns. All who come in a spirit of good will are welcome.

VESPERS

Contemplative and intimate services are offered regularly on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 p.m. with an optional silent meditation beginning at 5:15 p.m. These services use rituals, readings, meditation, music, and chanting to inspire the direct experience of awe and wonder that make life spiritually rich.



Music At BUF

Making magic in our sanctuary!

Andy Marshall
Music Director
360-220-3969
andymarshall
@gmail.com

MUSIC PROGRAM

The goal of BUF's music program is to enhance the quality of worship by creating meaningful and engaging music that is diverse and of high quality to uplift our congregation and support the excellent themes explored at BUF.

BUF CHOIR

The BUF Choir is our main musical force. This is a mixed Choral ensemble of 30-50 singers who rehearse on Wednesdays from 7:00-8:30 p.m. and perform once a month. We perform a diverse range of choral music from the classical choral repertoire to traditional African, jazz, spirituals and other popular styles.

BUF CHAMBER CHOIR

The BUF Chamber Choir is an auditioned group of 12 - 16 singers who perform once a month and rehearse from 8:45-9:15 p.m. on Wednesdays. In order to be in this group, it is necessary to have some experience reading music and be able to sing in several different styles.

YOUTH BAND

The BUF Youth Band is a dynamic ensemble directed by the talented Chad Knuckles-Flinn, 756-2483. This band is customized to the instruments that our youth play. All those interested are encouraged to participate!

FAMILY CHOIR

The BUF Family Choir is an intergenerational group open to anyone;



Hospitality and Membership

Creating a welcoming environment where all may be included.

Liz Weber
Hospitality Chair
360-738-7161
elizweber@msn.com

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The hospitality team ensures that BUF is welcoming to all members, friends, and newcomers. Hospitality greeters and hosts welcome folks as they enter the building and answer questions about the congregation. The team stocks the Welcome Corner with printed information about UUism and BUF. Team members write new member introduction and volunteer appreciation articles and ensure we all have name tags.

ACCESSIBILITY

In order to be accessible to all, BUF offers large print order of service documents, listening devices for use during Sunday services, classes, and meetings. We label food items with ingredients so people with allergies can make safe choices, and we educate our congregation about common chemical sensitivities including perfumes, soaps and fabric softeners.

CONNECTING THROUGH ACTIVITIES

We want you to feel welcome here! Please join us for:

- **Coffee Hour**— refreshments are served between 1st and 2nd services.
- **Sunday Brunch**— Many folks find community after the 2nd service by going out to brunch. Look for a person in the back of the sanctuary with a sign-- newcomers are always welcome!
- **Happy(2Meet UU) Hour**— a quarterly, informal get together with new and long-timers; enjoy conversation, wine and appetiz-



Pastoral Care at BUF

Rev. Doug Wadkins
360-733-2301
minister@buf.org

Finding support in our loving community

PASTORAL CARE TEAM

The Pastoral Care Team is a lay-group of trained care providers who receive ministerial supervision and support in their pastoral work with members. Pastoral work typically involves short-term emotional support and counseling. If you are in need of pastoral care, please contact the BUF office, at 733-3837.

CHALICE CIRCLES

Small group ministry is offered in stable groups that meet regularly in people's homes. Groups establish a covenant and discuss various topics facilitating deep interpersonal connections and spiritual growth. Contact Carl Nyblade, 739-4847.

INTERFAITH COALITION

BUF is a member congregation in the local Interfaith Coalition which provides people with emergency and low income housing, medical/dental care, and companionship for the elderly in our community. Our Interfaith representative is Connie Cogburn, 733-8615

GOING WITHIN: PERSONAL WORKSHOPS FOR THE SECOND HALF OF LIFE

We will be offering workshops that address issues like: making peace with the past, grieving the loss of once strong youthful bodies, as well as family members and friends, changes in health, maintaining a sense



Lifelong Learning at BUF

Crystal Neva
Director of Lifelong
Learning

Encouraging the spirit of individuals, in community through learning, service and celebration.

360-224-1984
uuneva@gmail.com

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION & CORE VALUES

The Lifelong Learning Program operates under the assumption that religious education is relevant to people of all ages, is evident in all church related functions and activities and is fundamentally relational in nature.

Our programs strive to put our UU principles in action by promoting: Intergenerational involvement, leadership development, respectful communication, global & social awareness, inclusion and accessibility, creativity and fun.

PROGRAM VISION

Lifelong Learning Programs help BUF become a community where individuals:

- experience an inclusive and affirming place to explore the mystery and sacredness of all existence and search for personal truth and meaning
- feel love, acceptance and belonging through work, play, celebration and ritual
- understand our faith tradition, can articulate our Unitarian Universalist principles, and feel encouraged to craft their own UU identity
- are aware and engaged members of a global community with a passion for putting UU principles into practice

Sunday Morning Classes for Children and Youth

CHILDSPACE OFFERED AT 9:15 AND 11:15

We have regular childcare providers who play with and care for your children while you attend worship. We work with parents to help the young ones feel comfortable. Our space is equipped with interactive toys, art supplies and music.

SPIRIT PLAY

All Ages Class at 9:15 Grades K-1 at 11:15

Spirit Play is a UU curriculum that employs a Montessori approach to spiritual development. The Spirit Play Greeter (one of the teachers) helps the children get ready to enter the classroom. The Storyteller leads the circle in the story of the day, followed by the wondering (a series of open ended questions that are asked to get kids to think about the story they heard). Children engage the themes through art and retelling the story.

PRIMARY GRADES 2-3

Welcoming Ourselves and Others

This is an original curriculum for our students that focuses on all areas of welcoming. Our students will learn to welcome themselves—to appreciate their own unique gifts and character and to express them. We will explore the characteristics

of welcoming places as well as the various needs of different people who might wish to join us in community at BUF including people with differing abilities, ethnicities, primary languages, family structures including single headed households and gay/lesbian headed households, and theological orientations. Finally we will examine the meaning of the statement, “All who come in the spirit of good will are welcome here.” 11:15 only.

INTERMEDIATE GRADES 4-5

Welcoming Ourselves and Others

This curriculum is the same as the Primary curriculum with modified activities for the older group. Offered at 11:15 only.

MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADES 6-8

Video Discussion Curriculum

This class uses Popcorn Theology and The Gospel According to the Simpsons to engage in theological discussions in the context of various movie clips and episodes from The Simpsons. Offered at 11:15 only.

YOUTH GROUP GRADES 9-12

Young Religious Unitarian Universalists

The youth and advisers employ a variety of techniques to encourage responsible identity formation, community building and

Extra-Curricular Programs for Children and Youth

PEACE ON EARTH SUMMER CAMP

The Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship hosts a summer camp for children in our community. This year’s camp, held in our beautiful new social hall, featured “land” as our theme for activities and activism. The curriculum was built on the foundation of our Seventh UU Principle, stating that we have “Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we all are a part.”

This year’s camp theme added a bit to that principle, stating, “We will help take care of our world with an emphasis on habitat, sustainability and peace.”

OUR WHOLE LIVES (OWL)

OWL is a comprehensive sexuality curriculum that has several complete courses that make it appropriate for people of all ages! The Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship offers several of these classes on a rotating basis by age, including adult classes. This year we are offering a formal session of Our Whole Lives for our 7th and 8th graders.

Although we do not currently offer the high school curriculum, our high school youth bring in trained facilitators to present certain portions of the curriculum

throughout the year.

COMING OF AGE GRADES 7-8

Coming of Age is a Unitarian Universalist program created to support the natural developmental process that adolescents go through in the long and fascinating transition from childhood to adulthood. It is a program that recognizes and celebrates the beginning of the journey. It is also a program that offers support, guidance and tools that will become a part of the journey as well.

The main goal of this program is to help youth understand and appreciate Unitarian Universalism, their own developing beliefs and values and how these intersect. Participating in this program will provide youth with the opportunity for religious exploration and emerging ownership of a religious identity.

Youth are accompanied on this journey by a mentor from the congregation who is available to support, inspire and advise youth on their journey.

This program is offered every other year and will be offered again during the 2012-2013 church year. Look for announcements about it next fall in the Midweek Update.

Lifelong Learning 2011-2012

Activities and Celebrations

ALL CHURCH RETREAT

A weekend getaway to Camp Kirby on Samish Island. The focus this year is on being welcoming! We play, sing, eat, dance, perform for each other, and contemplate deep questions (9/30-10/2).

CIDER PRESSING

An annual tradition of turning our abundance of Washington apples into a golden elixir of life (10/1).

PUMPKIN CARVING

Bring a pumpkin to BUF Community Night (10/26)!

POSADA

BUF borrows a Mexican tradition. We join for dinner and then go caroling with a young Mary on a mule (pony), in search of an Inn. The celebration ends back at BUF with hot chocolate and Piñatas (12/9).

FAMILY CRAFT NIGHT

The BUF community joins the Bellingham Cooperative School in hosting this fun craft night to help our families make affordable Christmas presents and decorations (12/14).

ILLUMINATIONS & SOLSTICE

Celebrate these festive holidays at BUF

Community Night (12/21)!

INDOOR GAMES NIGHT

Bring your favorite games to BUF Community Night (2/15)!

MARDI GRAS

BUF Community Night Celebrates Mardi Gras (2/22)!

BUF ANNUAL AUCTION

The annual auction is a great event for community building and fundraising. Let generosity guide your bidding on donated items, local services, and great getaways! Come for the food, come for the music, come for the fun (3/10)!

WOMEN'S RETREAT

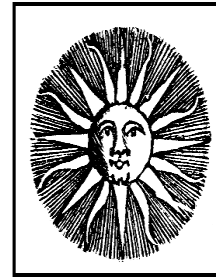
This year we return to Camp Alexandra, in White Rock, B.C. It is our 15th annual, and will undoubtedly be the best ever! Set aside March 23-25, 2012, for a weekend of transformative fun, spirituality, tears and laughter in community with other BUF women.

EASTER EGG DYEING

Bring your hard boiled eggs to BUF Community Night (4/4)!

EVERYBODY'S BIRTHDAY

All ages mix it up and decorate cakes with



Deb Cruz

Adult Forums

360-392-8552

dwcruz@comcast.net

Michelle Magee

Young Adult Programs

360-820-5190

mageem_98

@yahoo.com

Adult Programs at BUF

*Helping adults find their niche by
feeding mind, body and spirit.*

RELIGIOUS/SPIRITUAL EDUCATION AND WORKSHOPS

Doug Wadkins and Crystal Neva offer many one time as well as ongoing classes throughout the church year to help you develop spiritual maturity as a Unitarian Universalist, including, but not limited to, some of the following: UU 101, Articulating Your UU Faith, Building Your Own Theology, What Moves Us, Unitarian Universalist Theology, and more!

ADULT FORUMS

Programs feature guest speakers from our community to discuss politics, ecology, economy and more. The structure will be a facilitated presentation followed by questions and answers and general discussion. These forums will be held at 9:30 a.m. most Sundays in the Conference room.

YOUNG ADULT GROUP (YAG)

Our young adult group provides an opportunity for 20somethings and 30somethings to deepen relationships and explore what it means to be a spiritual/religious community. Programs range from intentional group participation in various BUF and community events, to service projects benefitting BUF and the larger community.

In service to our united mission, many adult programs, classes and events will be co-sponsored by Lifelong Learning and our other Prin-

Lifelong Learning Affinity Groups

*Keep up with group projects, events and discussions through the
BUF Online Community Page!*

BUF COMMUNITY NIGHTS

All members and friends are invited to share a home cooked, reasonably priced dinner on Wednesday nights at 6:00 and bask in the friendship and community.

1ST WED MOVIE NIGHT

The Social Justice, Green Sanctuary, and Lifelong Learning Program take turns hosting movies after dinner on the first Wednesday of the month in the flex room.

LIFE EXERCISE

A program of gentle movement drawn from Chinese Tai Chi and Japanese health exercises. All levels of fitness welcome. Fridays, 1-2. Led by Lee Seaman, 676-8543.

BUF WRITERS' GROUP

Share memoir and other projects. The group meets 1st and 3rd Wednesdays. Contact Mary Siebold, 734-3576.

BUF BOOK GROUP

Monthly book discussion group held in members' homes. Contact Joan Mackay 393-3260

BUF HIKING CLUB

This is a group of folks who enjoy the great outdoors. Schedule is informal. Con-

tact Kara Black, 676-2300.

DRAGON FLY QUILTERS

Monthly meeting of quilters to work on projects benefiting BUF. Quilts are used for decoration and fundraising. All skill levels. Contact Kay Witter, 398-1772.

KNITTING GROUP

Come share patterns, tips, conversation, and laughter to the clicking of needles on the second Thursday of the month at 6 pm. Contact Dorothy Davis, 647-0959.

EMPTY NESTERS

A periodic gathering for parents of children leaving home, children who have left home, and children who return home after a time away. Contact Heidi Alford, 733-6282.

FLOWERING CHERRY

SANGHA BUDDHIST

MINDFULNESS MEDITATION

BUF Member Ken Lane, 738-7161, offers a beginning meditation class for individuals who wish to try a spiritual practice that explores deeper answers. The class provides instruction on sitting and walking meditation as well as discussion of meditation's purposes and challenges. Teachings are based on the Buddhist Mindfulness tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh. Readings and other resources are often provided.



Linda Fels

GSP Co-Chair

360-647-8029

gr8fels@msn.com

Deb Cruz

GSP Co-Chair

360-392-8552

dwcruz@comcast.net

Ecology and Economy

Addressing the needs of our local and global community.

GREEN SANCTUARY PROGRAM

BUF, as an accredited Green Sanctuary Congregation, encourages members to actively and consciously deepen their connection within the interdependent web of life on earth. The team's main focus for 2010-11 is to encourage the creation of Ministry Teams based on members' passions for environmental issues. The team continues to coordinate with the Social Justice and Lifelong Learning Teams when programming goals overlap. This fall, the 8-session UUA "Gather The Spirit" class on water, is one example. We continue to co-sponsor local events with other environmentally-conscious organizations in Whatcom County.

THREE PILLARS GROUP

Unitarian Universalism is a Living Tradition that evolves and changes in accordance with the changing needs of our complex world. BUF recognizes that one of our current challenges is to address sustainability in our nation's economy. We believe that our world needs a transcendent message that takes us beyond a desire to return to business as usual. We also recognize that this will take new vision and creative ways to help people in this difficult transition in our communities. This group focuses on the intersection of economic, ecological and social justice



Social Justice at BUF

Todd Jones
Social Justice Chair
360-647-4590
tjones@nas.com

*Insisting on peace, justice, and equality
for all.*

Beth Brownfield
Native American
Connections Chair
360-738-8899
bethbrownf@aol.com

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE (SJC)

This committee affirms and promotes peace, justice and equality through action, education and raising awareness within our community and the wider world. This committee plans and hosts several speakers, films, and other events raising awareness of social justice issues and provides sponsorship/partnership to community organizations. They sell fair trade products at coffee hour and organize monthly social justice collections from the congregation. This committee is expanding it's scope with a new charter and is actively seeking new members.

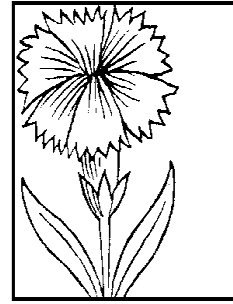
NATIVE AMERICAN CONNECTIONS COMMITTEE

This Principles in Action Ministry Team is working to support, honor, appreciate, and work compassionately with, and for, indigenous peoples locally, nationally, and internationally.

IMMIGRANT RIGHTS ACTION TEAM

This Principles in Action Ministry Team is committed to supporting the immigrant population of Whatcom County and beyond. They support policies that improve and de-criminalize the lives of working im-

Kara Black
Immigrant Rights Chair
360-676-2300
kara@treefrognight.com



Leadership Teams at BUF

Carl Oekerman
Board President
360-739-3442
coekerman@comcast.net

Erin Malone
BUF Administrator
360-733-3837
administrator@buf.org

Heidi Alford
Leadership Coordinator
HRT Chair
360-201-7915
familyalford@comcast.net

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

BUF's Board of Trustees operates within the model of Policy Governance, articulating and interpreting the congregation's vision for BUF. The board establishes policies and oversees the fiduciary responsibility of the church. Our seven board members serve three year terms, with two or three being elected each year at our Spring Congregational Meeting. The Board meets monthly, typically on the second Thursday of each month. Items for board consideration should relate to policy matters and can be submitted in writing at least ten days prior to each meeting via Board@buf.org.

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

The administrative team consists of the Minister, the Administrator, the Director of Lifelong Learning, the Leadership Development Coordinator, and the Treasurer. Their job is to ensure that the vision set forth by the board, within the policy parameters that the board establishes, is realized.

STAFF

BUF employs a full time minister, administrator, and director of lifelong learning. We also employ a part time music director, two keyboard artists, a summer services & music coordinator, a bookkeeper, a sexton, a building monitor, a part time custodian, and several childcare providers.

HUMAN RESOURCES TEAM (HRT)

The HRT ensures that BUF adheres to proper employment practices and assists staff in personnel planning and hiring decisions.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Behind the Scenes at BUF

SHARED MINISTRY TEAM

The shared ministry team provides a forum for collaboration in areas of ministry including worship arts, pastoral care, and principles in action. They oversee ambiance in the sanctuary and coordinate guest speakers for open pulpit Sundays. Contact Leslie Clark, 756-9226.

MINISTERIAL RELATIONS TEAM

The Ministerial Relations Team is a dedicated group of informed, active members who ensure that issues and concerns in the congregation are directed to the proper teams for resolution, while also providing the minister with ongoing advocacy and an honest and compassionate ear. Contact Kay Witter, 398-1772.

PUBLICITY

Our publicity team ensures that BUF has a visible presence in the larger community. Because of this team, our worship services and public forums and events are featured in the Bellingham Herald and other community publications. Contact Rachel Smith Manrique, 920-7638.

ADMINISTRATIVE RELATIONS TEAM (ART)

The Administrative Relations Team serves to support, advise, and prioritize the many administrative needs of the congregation. They work with our administrator to define and redefine the ever changing and expanding scope of responsibilities of our growing congregation. Contact Karen Peter, 733-9221.

LIFELONG LEARNING COUNCIL

The Lifelong Learning Council consists of leaders that make our ongoing adult programs and children's programs flourish. The council operates under the direction of the Director of Lifelong Learning (DLL). One key function of the Lifelong Learning Council is to support and advise the DLL in prioritizing programming for children and in evaluating program success. Major leadership areas include:

LLL Support Team-- Ann Lackland

Events and Traditions-- (open)

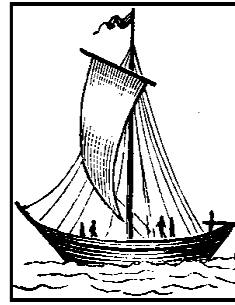
Peace On Earth Camp-- Martie Olson

Lifelong Learning Music--Dee Dee Marshall

Community Night Dinners-- Susan Thurn

Principles in Action--(open)

Youth Programs--(open)



Carol Blaney
Building and
Grounds
360-676-2300
blaneycarol@
Yahoo.com

Cathy Campbell
Custodial Team Chair
360-398-0878
Cathy.campbell@
siriusbilling.com

Dan Witter
360-398-1772
danwitter@yahoo.com

Building and Grounds

*Creating sacred space in our
beautiful facility.*

BUILDING AND GROUNDS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (BGOC)

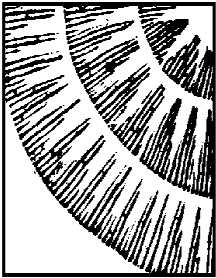
The Building and Grounds Oversight Committee is responsible for coordination of activities necessary for the care of our church property. There are four sub committees of the BGOC: Maintenance and Repairs, Yard and Landscaping, Custodial, and Ambiance and Design.

CUSTODIAL

The Custodial Team consists of the leaders of several volunteer cleaning teams made up of members and friends of the congregation. These teams are responsible for many of the janitorial services in the building. Under the direction of Cathy Campbell, who oversees all aspects of custodial concerns from training and feedback for team leaders to purchasing and maintaining cleaning supplies, each team cleans 4 times per year. We are also fortunate to employ Dan Witter, who attends to many ongoing custodial responsibilities especially, maintaining the beauty of our new floors! The responsibility for the cleanliness of our building is a shared responsibility. If you see something wrong, take ownership and clean it!

AMBIANCE AND DESIGN

This team is responsible for all design decisions which include wall colors, furniture selection, wall hangings, and future phases of building modifications.



Financial Health & Growth

BUF STEWARDSHIP TEAM

The BUF Stewardship Team facilitates generosity in support of BUF's people, programs and ministry. They coordinate the annual pledge drive based on the congregation's current mission and assist new members in understanding how stewardship fits into life within this faith community. There is also an Endowment Team that helps our community look to the future of BUF in their estate planning.

Jim Lott

Treasurer

360-647-5925

jimlott@gmail.com

Sue Sayegh

Bookkeeper

360-738-9838

suesayegh@yahoo.com

Lee Seaman

Stewardship Chair

360-676-8543

lee@lifeexercise.net

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

Our administrator oversees the day to day fluxuations of incoming and outgoing cash. She is assisted by a part-time bookkeeper and Sunday morning collection counters, under the advisement of the treasurer.

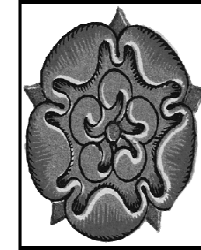
FUNDRAISING

BUF relies on the generosity of its members for our existence, but that doesn't always have to hurt! We have some great annual fundraisers that really give our budget a boost and provide great bounty, fun and entertainment as well. Major Fundraisers this year include:

Winter Fest-- November 5, an arts and crafts holiday fair, contact Evonda Martin.

The BUF Auction-- March 10, contact Evonda Martin.

The BUF Plant Sale--Featuring a plethora of vegetation, contact Virginia Prowell.



The Task of the Religious Community

*The task of the religious community is to unveil
the bonds that bind each to all.*

*There is a connectedness, a relationship discovered
amid the particulars of our own lives and the
lives of others.*

Once felt, it inspires us to act for justice.

*It is the church that assures us that we are not
struggling for justice on our own,
but as members of a larger community.*

*The religious community is essential, for alone
our vision is too narrow to see all that must be seen,
and our strength too limited to do all that must be
done.*

*Together our vision widens and our strength is re-
newed.*