



# UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ARLINGTON VIRGINIA

A Place to Connect, Grow and Serve

December 19, 2018

## Board Update

The end of the year brings an opportunity to reflect on what 2018 brought this church. As many of you know – because you lived through it – the beginning of the year was a difficult time for UUCA. Many people had questions about what was ahead for our church. Through the congregation's strength, the guidance of Reverends Beth and Terasa, the stability of staff, and the commitment of lay leaders, I believe we have become a stronger community because of our experiences over the past year.

As I think about UUCA's 2018 and the many things that our congregation has accomplished, I am humbled and awed – the two aspects behind this month's Soul Matter's theme of mystery.

Early in the year, during what was arguably the peak anxiety for the church, our congregation still came together for Celebration Sunday to kick off our annual pledge campaign and celebrate UUCA's 70th anniversary. I remember the large number of people who came to the church for services, the chili cook off, the music recital, and church supper. But it wasn't just the number of people but also the feeling of community that blew me away.

Throughout the year, congregants shared their musical gifts and helped feed our spiritual needs. The choir filled our sanctuary with their voices every week, members shared their mastery of handbells, and the children gave us a glimpse of their musical talents. In addition, members of the church came together as Chalice Theatre put on Peter and the Starcatcher. We also had musical visitors who brightened our Sundays with their abilities.

I saw the positive impact Religious Education had on UUCA's children. With the guidance of RE staff and volunteer teachers, our young ones learned about UUCA's principles while the older kids took those principles and lived them at home and in our communities – be it in Arlington or elsewhere in the world.

Members came together to reflect on our past year – as well as UUCA's longer past as a whole – to help us determine our next steps for governance. People also began the work for the search for our next senior minister.

These efforts represent just a small slice of what you all – the foundation of our church – have accomplished over this past year. I know that I will continue to be humbled and awed by what our UUCA community will achieve in the coming year.

With Appreciation,  
Hieu Nguyen, Member of the Board of Trustees