



# UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ARLINGTON VIRGINIA

A Place to Connect, Grow and Serve

April 25, 2018

## **Pastoral Care Matters**

**By Rev. Beth Miller**

**Temporary Senior Minister**

Pastoral care is a fundamental congregational ministry, especially in large churches and at times of ministerial transition. It begins with **Ministers** who are trained to respond to a wide variety of pastoral needs in the congregation including spiritual guidance, pastoral counseling, and rites of passage (Child Dedications, Memorial Services, Weddings). This year our Intern Minister, Christin Green, has been invaluable as part of this work and I have especially appreciated her help as I've come into the congregation.

Here at UUCA, in addition to ministerial support, Pastoral Care Ministries include: our **Helping Hands** volunteers who provide practical, short-term help such as transportation to medical services, occasional rides to church, meals, or errands; members of the **SHINE Choir** who are available to bring the healing and calming energy of song to those who need it; and the **Lay Pastoral Care Associates** who are trained as "compassionate companions" to offer emotional support as congregants face unexpected challenges in their lives.

Today I want to lift up and make sure you're aware of our **Lay Pastoral Care Associates (LPCAs)**. Prior to her departure last year, Associate Minister, the Rev. Linda Olson Peebles, was responsible for recruiting, training, deploying and supervising LPCAs and was the "point person" for the congregation's pastoral care. Since her departure, this part of UUCA's pastoral care ministry has been in flux. Prior to his departure In January, the Rev. Aaron McEmrys had recruited additional members of the team and begun to envision a new structure with them.

Since then, as longtime LPCA team members continued to provide services in consultation with me as your temporary minister, we have finalized the team, had an intense training weekend with the Rev. David Pyle from the Central East Region of the UUA who specializes in such trainings, and clarified the structure and scope of what LPCAs will provide. The team is working on a new brochure and website presence to make sure congregants are aware of the scope of Pastoral Care Ministries at UUCA.

The congregation will commission our LPCAs at both services on May 6. They are an extension of the professional ministry with special training who have accepted a charge and a discipline to minister to members of the congregation. The act of commissioning recognizes and affirms their role. I hope you will be at church to participate next Sunday. There will be cake!

The LPCA team is chaired by Diane Ullius who is currently a candidate in the UUA's Commissioned Lay Ministry program and will take Clinical Pastoral Education at Sibley Hospital this summer. The LPCAs are Dawn Bennett, Bob Blinn, Barbara Buzzell, Hank Dahlstrom, Sally Determan, Brian Griss, Barbara Hatheway, Helen Hensgen, Cecilia Javier, Marianna Johnson, Irv Lachow, Marcy Leverenz, Melissa Nuwaysir, Juliet Purll, and Ron Teeter. I hope you will take a moment to thank them for their service in this ministry.