

2007 Annual Report – MoonFire

MoonFire's mission is to explore, learn, and share traditions of earth-based religions as a UU fellowship in a sacred and safe community, and celebrate holidays marked by the solstices and the four seasons. All participants have the opportunity to express their creativity by helping to plan and participate in our monthly rituals. MoonFire is democratically led; each year we elect our leadership from members of our Steering Committee. All who show up and contribute are eligible to participate on the Steering Committee.

MoonFire is a path to UUCA membership; thirteen of our members and friends currently belong to the church, and newcomers to both the church and the DC area frequently attend. We reach out as representatives of the UU community, both through our booth at Pagan Pride Day, as well as on web sites such as WitchVox and NOVA Pagan Network. Our new web site, www.moonfireuuc.org, is part of that outreach process. In addition to our having a clear web presence, it provides a central location for news and events.

As part of our participation in Pagan Pride Day 2006 we sponsored a drumming circle / potluck that were well attended by members of MoonFire and other pagans of the DC Metro community. Members of MoonFire are involved in the planning of the first Northern Virginia Pagan Pride day event which will kick Pagan Pride Week for Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia in September of 2007.

We are self-sufficient, having no UUCA budget line item. Our Contribution of Record to the church for 2006 was \$300.

Our rituals this year reflected the diversity and eclecticism of our group. Some of our rituals this year have included a Samhain ritual where we celebrated the Witches Sabbath. Our Samhain ritual is our yearly large, public ritual, and was well attended this year. We also held rituals and drumming for Beltane, a ritual for affirming ourselves thru positive practice, a ritual for spreading the light of MoonFire, a ritual involving handicrafts, a ritual celebrating Lughnassa of the Stregherian tradition, a ritual celebrating community thru the Andean despacho, our annual Native American Thanksgiving ritual, a Yule celebration involving play of the Oak and Holly King, a ritual involving the manifestation of household protection, two Imbolc Water and Fire rituals, and a Spring Equinox Wind Empowerment ritual. Attendance has increased over the past year with having between twenty to thirty people for each past ritual

This year, in addition to our third Sunday rituals, we have been hosting four special Sabbat rituals (Imbolc, Beltane, Lughnassa, and Samhain) very close to, or on the day of the Sabbat itself. These rituals have been very successful with attendance anywhere from ten to twenty people per Sabbat ritual.

MoonFire held two Family Camping Weekends at Little Bennett Regional Park in the past year; in June, we celebrated the Summer Solstice with a ritual involving a guided meditation followed by finger painting. In September we took a nature walk, drummed

by a big bonfire, and participated in a Fall Equinox ritual using themes of the ancient Zoroastrian spirituality. Our group also made a pilgrimage to the Maryland Renaissance Festival in October.

Representatives from MoonFire were again busy this year sponsoring a Paganism 101 class from a Unitarian Universalist perspective. This class is still ongoing having started in February of 2007 and ending in June of this year. The classes are held at the church on the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month. We have nine sessions scheduled with anywhere from ten to eighteen showing up per session.

MoonFire has endorsed the Covenant of the Goddess (COG) awards curriculum for awarding the religion in life badges required by organizations like the Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, and Boy Scouts (not that the latter would recognize us).

We are committed to charitable works and social activism. MoonFire held one special collection this year, one for the Native American Heritage Association in South Dakota. Twice a year we volunteer to help with the Arlington Street People's Assistance Network (ASPAN) Bagged Meal program, this year in September 2006 and February 2007. MoonFire sponsored one of the UUCA Coffee Hours for a second service in April. We intend to regularly sponsor these Coffee Hours throughout the coming year.

Our current officers are Co-coordinators: Ed, Leah, and Patrick ; Secretary: Raina ; Treasurer: Erich ; and Webmaster: Ed. Leah, Raina, and Ed are all active members or friends of UUCA.