

**Spiritual Renewal &  
Commitment  
FY2011**

**“Preparing for Growth”**



**BuxMont Unitarian  
Universalist Fellowship  
BMUUF**

*"...it is in our lives, and not from our words, that our religion must be read".*

*Thomas Jefferson*

*Aug 6, 1815*

Dear BuxMont Members and Friends:

We want to thank you for being an important part of our Fellowship, and for sharing your time, talent, and treasure with us as we strive to fulfill our Mission and Vision. BuxMont has many strengths, including our status as a Welcoming Congregation, our RE programs, our musical programs, and our dedicated staff and volunteers. We have many reasons to be proud of our heritage and history.

As we plan for our future, each of us should take this opportunity to assess how we live our faith in our daily lives and ask ourselves whether we are Stewards of our faith. The teachings of the founders of Unitarianism and Universalism - acceptance of all, hope, courage, responsibility for improving the world, "deeds, not creeds" - can serve us well in this reflection. These teachings can guide us in our daily actions, and reinvigorate our commitment to live a life of peace, love, and integrity.

This year, the eve of our 50th Anniversary as a Fellowship, provides us a perfect opportunity to reflect honestly on the history of BuxMont, celebrate the spiritual gifts we derive from our Fellowship, and begin to plan for our collective future. We have a responsibility to continue the work of BuxMont's founders here, where we live. We may not change the world, but through our volunteerism, social action, and collective financial generosity we will continue to improve our programs and really become the Beacon and Haven we have claimed we want to be.

Growth is a high priority for our Fellowship because we strive to embrace all who want a liberal religion. One of BuxMont's three goals in the FY09-11 Strategic Plan, our guide for growth, is to be "*a vibrant, growing congregation with sufficient resources to provide high quality personnel, programs and facilities that enable us to achieve our mission.*" Growth in this context is not for its own sake; it is a reflection of our success in spreading our message to like-minded people in our surrounding communities. We must prepare for this success.

The pledge goal for FY2011 is to raise sufficient funds to support a vibrant, growing religious education program and the exciting projects of our many committees. BuxMont can do this by increasing the religious education and administrative staff from ½ to ¾ time and by paying our UUA/JPD dues. To accomplish these goals we need to raise an additional \$50,000. This may seem like a lot, but in practical terms it amounts to an extra \$1/day from each member. We can reach this goal if each of us makes a fair share pledge (see the packet for more information). Now is the time to make BuxMont UUF shine as a beacon for positive change in our community.

As you make your financial and volunteer pledge for FY2011, consider how this faith community can be part of positive change for you and our neighbors. Consider the potential benefits we can bring to others who need our unique, compassionate and caring community. Your generous financial and volunteer support ensures that BuxMont continues to offer its spiritual gifts to each of us and to the world we envision.

Karen Reeve

President, Board of Trustees

Jeff LaSalle and Jerry Johnson

Co-Chairs, Annual Stewardship Campaign

## Our Mission and Vision

*It is our Mission to:*

*Live, teach and promote Unitarian Universalism and our liberal religious values.*

*Respect and care for one another, supporting the spiritual growth of each individual and providing a safe, tolerant and welcoming spiritual haven.*

*Provide religious education for children, youth and adults that will enrich our lives and the spiritual life of the broader community.*

*Match our actions to our values inside and outside our Fellowship, becoming a fulcrum for environmental, spiritual, and social change in our community.*

*Our Vision:*

*The BuxMont Unitarian Universalist Fellowship will be a diverse, welcoming and caring religious community that fosters the spiritual growth of adults, children and youth. We will be well known in the community as a beacon for Unitarian Universalist values, including social justice, environmental stewardship, and service to others. We will be a vibrant, growing congregation with sufficient resources to provide high quality personal programs, and facilities that enable us to achieve our mission.*

*Adopted by the Congregation  
May 2007*

## ***FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS***

*What is spiritual renewal and commitment?*

This is the moment we step back and consider the interdependent web between us, our Fellowship and our Fellowship community. We talk openly about our faith and evaluate our ability and willingness to provide the financial and human resources that keep us a vibrant, welcoming and caring community.

*I attend BuxMont UU Fellowship fairly often but am not a member. Does the commitment process apply to me?*

Non-member friends are an essential part of our community. While we would love for you to become a full member, we understand and honor that you may not be ready. We hope that you feel cared for here and are willing to pledge to support our work both financially and through volunteering.

*I'm a BuxMont member. Do I need to renew and commit this spring in order to maintain my membership?*

We ask that all members renew their commitments each year. As members, we agree and provide for this congregation together through our participation, personal involvement and financial support.

*What if I am facing financial difficulty and feel I can't pledge (at all or more) at this time?*

There is no minimum on the size or increase of your gift. Only you can decide what is right for you at this time. We hope that this Fellowship is one of your financial priorities, even if in small amounts. As an alternative or supplement to your financial support, you may want to consider volunteering in ways that save BuxMont UU Fellowship resources. If you are in a life crisis, please let the Stewardship Committee know how we can help you.

*When does my financial commitment need to be paid?*

Between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011, the Fellowship's 2011 Fiscal Year. We encourage automatic monthly payments. Write the pledge year on the check to ensure your payment is credited properly.

*I pay my financial commitment with cash in the Sunday offering.. How will I get credit?*

Please use an envelope with your name on the front. We will then credit your donations and be able to send you an end of year tax statement.

*What are the budget goals for next year that this pledge will support?*

**We need \$250,000 in pledges** to maintain our current level and quality of services, programming, and staffing, to meet our fixed expenses, to restore funding for deferred maintenance, to invest in the growth of Religious Education, community outreach, and environmental stewardship, and to meet our \$84 per member UUA/JPD dues obligations. If you would like a detailed breakdown please ask Treasurer Elaine Barkan or one of the Stewardship Co-Chairs.

*I don't know what to volunteer for; what should I do?*

There is something for everyone on the list of volunteer opportunities in this book. Feel free to ask for help in selecting. Call committee chairs found in the directory, or email the Stewardship Campaign Co-Chairs **Jeff LaSalle (jlasalle@LaSalleEng.com)** and **Jerry Johnson (revjerry@verizon.net)** for assistance.

*How much should I pledge?*

We encourage everyone to strive for a fair share pledge. Look over the chart and consider what feels meaningful and possible to you. Your commitment should matter - both to you and the congregation. We hope that you will consider the needs of our community as well as your current situation. In addition to the costs of salaries, programs and maintenance of our property, **we will pay \$84.00 per member to the Unitarian Universalist Association and the Joseph Priestley District.** We strive to be a fair compensation congregation as part of our vision of economic justice. We also have a number of building improvements that are overdue, a need for increasing staffing for RE, and growing enthusiasm for environmental and social responsibility issues.

Included with this packet is the UU Fair Share Guide for giving. If you can, please consider making a financial commitment that moves toward one of these fair share levels.

## **Spiritual Renewal and Commitment Forms**

Three forms are enclosed for you to complete and return.

### Part 1: For Our Records

This information will be used to ensure that our demographic information for our members and friends is current and accurate.

For adult couples, one person will be designated as “Person A”, the other as “Person B”. For singles, use “Person A” only.

“Career / Occupation” is requested to enable BuxMont to reach out to you if a need arises for a particular skill which is typically associated with your occupation.

This part continues on the back page, where there is a place to add the children in your household.

At the bottom of the back page are two questions.

- Check the first question if you would like to receive the *Liberal Voice* newsletter by regular mail. Otherwise, it will be sent to your email address. Note: using email saves the Fellowship considerable costs for printing and mailing.
- Check the second question if you would *not* like to be added to the Fellowship-wide email distribution list.

### Part 2: Volunteer Pledge

There are two categories of information requested on this part of the form.

The left-side table lists many of BuxMont’s committees. Enter your name(s) at the top of the first (or first and second) column(s), and place an ‘X’ next to each committee for which you currently or would like to volunteer.

The right-side table lists many skills and experience categories for which BuxMont can use help. If you have one or more of these skills and/or experiences and are willing to share them to support BuxMont, Enter your name(s) at the top of the first (or first and second) column(s), and place an ‘X’ next to each one.

At the bottom of the page, please indicate whether you are available for short term or long term tasks.

### Part 3: Financial Commitment

This information will be used to indicate your financial commitment to BuxMont for the fiscal year (FY) 2011, beginning in July 2010.

Note: This information will be kept confidential. It will only be visible to the Stewardship Campaign Treasurer (Frank Klein), BuxMont’s Treasurer (Elaine Barkan), and Assistant Treasurer for Collections (Linda Klein).

The first information box should be completed by singles or couples who are pledging jointly.

- Enter your financial commitment amount either by year, month, or week. Note: If you enter the amount by year, it will be converted to a monthly amount when you receive your giving statements from BuxMont, due to limitations in our accounting system.
- Please print your name legibly, and *be sure to sign it* where indicated.
- If you are a couple pledging jointly, both of you should sign in this box. Otherwise, leave the second signature area blank.

The second information box should be completed by the second person if part of a couple who is pledging separately.

- Enter your financial commitment amount either by year, month, or week. Note: If you enter the amount by year, it will be converted to a monthly amount when you receive your giving statements from BuxMont, due to limitations in our accounting system.
- Please print your name legibly, and *be sure to sign it* where indicated.

**Please return all three forms to the Green Box in the social hall by February 28, 2010.**

If you prefer, you may email your pledge form to Frank Klein, the Stewardship Treasurer at **[fk1k2@verizon.net](mailto:fk1k2@verizon.net)**

## **BuxMont Contact Information**

BuxMont Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
PO Box 188  
Warrington, PA 18976  
(215)343-0406  
www.buxmontuu.org

### **For questions about Stewardship please contact:**

Jeff LaSalle and Jerry Johnson  
Stewardship Campaign Co-Chairs  
Email: [jlasalle@LaSalleEng.com](mailto:jlasalle@LaSalleEng.com) or 215-675-8765  
[revjerry@verizon.net](mailto:revjerry@verizon.net)

### **For questions about your current pledge please contact:**

Frank Klein - Stewardship Campaign Treasurer  
215-343-0596  
Email: [flk2@verizon.net](mailto:flk2@verizon.net)

## **CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATIONS Still Have Questions?**

Join us during coffee hour in Room 105 for an open discussion on these relevant topics. Someone will be there to answer your questions during or after discussion.

- February 7 - How are my spiritual beliefs, values and gifts reflected in the Fellowship's use of resources?
- February 14 - How can I become engaged in the community and volunteer when my life is already so full and busy?
- February 21 - What is liberal theology and what kind/level of personal commitment does that require of me?
- February 28 - What is the impact of our religious faith beyond the Fellowship itself? How can we change the world?