

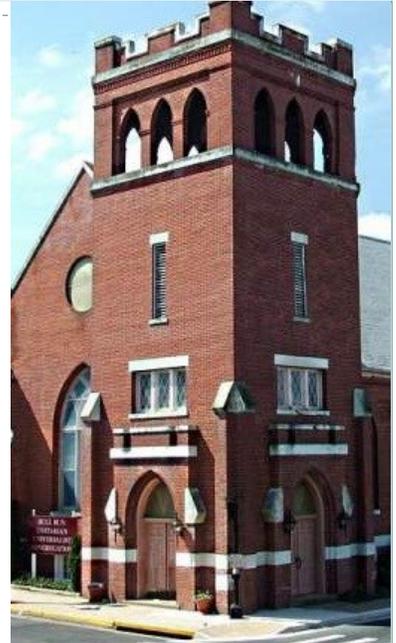


BULL RUN
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

April 2022 Volume
40, Issue 4

Crossroads

The monthly BRUU Newsletter



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Words from Rev Charlotte	2
July Sermon Descriptions	4
COVID Policy Update.....	5
President's Report	6

SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS IN THIS ISSUE

Green Team Hike.....	9 and 19
St Paddy's Dinner	20
Puzzler.....	23

DONATE @ www.uusc.org

WHAT'S A SABBATICAL?

So, it may be that some are still unsure about my upcoming sabbatical leave, which will begin on July 1 and end on October 31; this newsletter column hopes to address at least some of the questions you may have.

First, the word *sabbatical* is the English equivalent of *savbbaton* (Greek) and *t'B;v* (Hebrew), which mean “of the Sabbath,” the day of rest that happens every seventh day. That’s the biblical and theological grounding: in the Book of Genesis, God worked for six days and rested on the seventh. In the Hebrew scriptures, there are two additional references to the concept of sabbatical. One is the week of sabbath rest following the end of every seven weeks (50 days) and the other is the Sabbath year – the 50th year – during which the land was lie fallow and to be at complete rest. Resting, clearly, is a necessary and holy endeavor!

Since our day of worship is Sunday, my weekly sabbath is on Mondays. On those days, I do not engage in the ministry of the congregation. I attend no meetings; I do not read or respond to emails. It is my one day completely off from work each week. I guard it as a holy day.

As a UU minister, our best practices provide for taking a sabbatical every several years. This is written into my letter of agreement (LOA) with the congregation. According to the Sabbatical Leave section of the LOA, “Sabbatical leave accrues at the rate of one month per year of service, with leave to be taken after four but before seven years of service. No more than six months of sabbatical leave may be used within any twelve-month period.” It was in my 3rd year of ministry that then-President of the Board, Martin Crim, reminded me that I would be eligible to take sabbatical starting the next year. At the time, we were still deep in the COVID-19 pandemic and I couldn’t envision being away from the congregation during such a challenging time. I told him I would wait until after my 4th year of ministry and take a four-month sabbatical. We decided that the first four months of the fiscal year would be a better time for me to be absent than later in the year.

As you may note from the definition of the word sabbatical, a sabbatical is expected to be a time of rest and rejuvenation. Replenishment and renewal of energies is a primary goal. Ministry, in general, has been especially exhausting during the past two years. Many clergy are actually leaving the profession because the overwhelming demands for pastoral care, preaching, prophetic witness, and administration, have utterly worn them out. (There are more congregations looking for ministers than there are ministers looking for congregations right now!)

With the impacts of the pandemic still ongoing, it hasn't been easy to make very definite plans, as I have mentioned previously. As I have indicated in previous newsletter columns and conversations, I have plenty of ideas. And also, as I have written, I see a need to remain flexible even as I try to make these plans more concrete. Nothing has been taken off the table in terms of my original ideas.

In addition to the goals of rest and renewal, a minister may choose to use sabbatical leave for study, education, writing, meditation, and other forms of professional, religious, spiritual, or personal growth. To that end, one of the ideas I had on my list is being coupled with the re-scheduling of the LREDA "Fall" Conference (from April to October). The conference theme is "Faith Made Real: Living the 8th Principle" and includes a day trip to the Legacy Museum & Memorial in Montgomery, AL. I plan to visit several sites associated with the Civil Rights Trail while in Birmingham and also on my drive down and back from the conference.

Other plans will become clearer later this spring, but one thing I do know is that my vegetable garden beds are getting a sabbatical, too, this summer and fall. Since I am the gardener in our household and I will be away most of those four months, I am not planting anything this spring; the gardens will lie fallow this growing season. They will rest in a sabbath of their own.

I trust that the congregation's sabbatical experience will also provide opportunities for rejuvenation. You'll be in experienced hands with the Reverend Kimberley Debus as BRUU's contracted Sabbatical Minister. The Committee on Shared Ministry (COSM) will take on the role of Sabbatical Team during those four months. Beginning on July 1, the team will consist of the following individuals: Betsi McGrath (Chair), Wade Stephenson, Helena Kennedy, Ally Turner Hamilton, Regina Perry and Liam Arne. The latter three are all new to COSM; until that transition occurs, Martha Muirhead, Tony Main and Tom Cooke are on COSM. The Sabbatical Team/COSM will serve the congregation as a communication conduit, a source of support and information for Rev. Kimberley, and the group that will synthesize the experiences and insights and pass them along to me when I return. COSM will be distributing a Sabbatical brochure soon, look for it in your email inbox.

We have so much to be thankful for; I am grateful to BRUU for the chance to take my sabbatical before the demands of ministry put out the flame that called me into this honorable profession.

Yours in faith,
Rev. Charlotte



BULL RUN
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS
APRIL SERMON DESCRIPTIONS

April 3: *Teachings of the Tipi Poles: Good Child Rearing*
(Rev. Charlotte Lehmann)

Mary Lee, a Cree Elder enumerates the teachings of the 15 poles used to construct a Cree tipi. According to the Cree, the twelfth pole teaching, “Good Child Rearing”, is about nurturing the next generation. Children are a manifestation of the continuing circle of life and gifts to be cherished.

April 10: *Teachings of the Tipi Poles: Hope*
(Rev. Charlotte Lehmann)

Mary Lee, a Cree Elder enumerates the teachings of the 15 poles used to construct a Cree tipi. According to the Cree, the thirteenth pole teaching, Hope, addresses the need to look forward to the seeds we plant bearing fruit for the good of the whole community.

This month, the **2nd Sunday Split-the-Plate** recipient is **The ARC**

April 17: *Easter Sunday: Surviving, Recovering, Thriving*
(Rev. Charlotte Lehmann)

This special family Easter service will be held on The Manassas Museum lawn. The newly formed BRUU String Octet will provide music, we’ll celebrate they people who officially joined BRUU as members since April 2020, and we’ll enjoy some light refreshments, fellowship and fun after the service. Bring your own lawn chair or blanket!

The service will also be on-line, thanks to our commitment to multi-platform worship.

Please note: In the case of weather that is wet (or threatens to be so), the service will take place in the BRUU sanctuary.

The **3rd Sunday Split-the-Plate** benefits
BRUU’s Community Assistance Fund.

April 24: *Environmental Justice Close to Home:*
Coal Ash at Possum Point
(Green Team)

The Green Team’s Earth Day this year is sure to be informative and engaging, with practical suggestions about how to address this local issue.

COVID Policy Changes

On March 24, the BRUU Board received a report from its reopening task force.

After discussion, the Board adopted the following changes in the rules applicable to Sunday services and coffee hours.

As before, these rules are a policy decision, balancing numerous considerations, with the goal of keeping BRUU members safe while opening up to in-person events.

BRUU will continue to provide online services for those who find that in-person services do not meet their assessment of the risks and benefits.

BRUU will therefore:

- * Drop the mask mandate effective April 24, while encouraging continued mask wearing in the building to increase confidence;
- * Invite in-person attendance by members of the broader community as of April 3;
- * Retain vaccination card verification (except for outdoor services, such as April 17) until further notice;
- * Coffee hour with food continues, recognizing that people in Fellowship Hall will drop masks but encouraging those gathering in Sanctuary to wear them;
- * Singing: The congregation will not sing but performers will sing; up to two performers or podded groups may sing together but larger ensembles will wear masks when singing.



BULL RUN
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS
PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings Bruuers!,

Greetings from South Carolina where I am pulling grandmother duty in caring for my 4 year old granddaughter and 6 year old grandson while my daughter searches for another nanny. I am very blessed to be trusted with caring for these two cherubs and delight in being able to hang out with them day and night.

Thank goodness for Zoom which allowed me to still run the BRUU board meeting last night.

Here are some highlights from the Board meeting:

-accepted the recommendations of the Re-opening Task Force with some modifications. Two changes will be made at this time in our Covid protocol. Starting April 3 we will be inviting the general public to join us. Starting on April 24 the mask mandate will be dropped, although people are still encouraged to wear masks.

- updated the agreement we have with Rev. Charlotte

-approved of the use of our sanctuary for a program that the Manassas Museum is conducting. The program is called Stories of Preservation and Progress and our own minister, Rev. Charlotte, will be the main attraction.

Lastly, have you discovered The Magic of Membership? I have. I've made my pledge and increased it by 5%. We are hoping to have enough funds to pay for a part-time custodian and a part-time bookkeeper. These responsibilities are very difficult to maintain on volunteer power alone. We had a most enjoyable potluck dinner to kick off the Stewardship Campaign. Thanks to those who organized it and provided entertainment. Thanks as well to all of you who brought food to share!

Warm Regards,
Rita Romano

CALL FOR 2022 GENERAL ASSEMBLY DELEGATES

Bull Run UU (BRUU) is a member congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA). We are in covenant with the UUA and all of the other UU congregations around the U.S. As a member congregation we contribute to the Annual Program Fund (APF) and we benefit from the resources of the UUA (curricula, support, trainings, etc.). The UUA has staff and a Board of Trustees who work on behalf of the UUA in much the same ways as BRUU's own staff and Board of Directors.

As it is with BRUU, the UUA has an annual meeting during which specific business is conducted such as approving the annual budget, hearing reports, and voting on business and responsive resolutions. The voting is done by representatives from each UU congregation who serve as delegates to the General Assembly (GA), the annual meeting held every year in June.

BRUU is entitled to five (5) delegates to the General Assembly and we are looking for individual BRUU members who would like to attend as our congregation's delegates. In addition to congregation delegates, UU ministers and religious educators have delegate status.

In addition to the business of the Association, GA is an opportunity to meet, learn and have fun with UUs not just from across the country, but from all over the world! During the program slots, there are workshops, lectures, worship services, and much more to take in.

This year GA will be held both on-line (virtually) and in-person in Portland, OR from June 22-26.

Information about GA may be found at www.uua.org/ga and you can register to attend. The cost of registration whether in-person or on-line depends on when you register. Save money by registering now; prices increase on May 1st. All delegates must be registered in advance. There is a costless "business-only virtual registrant" option for delegates, but they do not have access to all of the wonderful programming available to other registrants.

Please Note: There may be funds available for interested individuals to help pay for the cost of registration.

Please contact **Rev. Charlotte** (minister@bruu.org) or BRUU **President Rita Romano** (president@bruu.org) if you are interested in being one of our 5 delegates in June.

NEWS FROM ANNEASE



Adult choir has restarted in-person rehearsals on Wednesday nights at 7:00 in the sanctuary. All participants must be vaccinated and masks are required. Contact me if you have questions or want to join us (music@bruu.org)

Many of you have probably heard through the grapevine about my retirement. I've come to realize that I'm ready for a new chapter in my life, one that holds more time for play and a relaxed pace of life. I just recently made the decision that December will be my last month at BRUU. It's a good time for me and for BRUU to make this transition. We've all had to adjust and restructure during the pandemic, and so we know how to live into new situations and embrace something different. My retirement will be a continuation of that learning.

In the meantime, I'm going to initiate some new opportunities for groups to make music together; last month a small string group got started and in April/May a junior and senior choir will meet. Most of these ensembles will meet for 2-3 months, as opposed to a year-round commitment. Stay tuned for what might be coming...

Western Carolina University on July 17-23

SUUSI Returns in Person This Summer!

Many BRUU'ers have attended this "church camp" in the mountains. It is an extraordinary, family-friendly festival of music, workshops, nature trips, and worship services. Great way to feel connected to others and make new friends, and the Youth program is especially powerful.

For details, see www.suusi.org or ask the Muirs, Mike Freeland, Cathy Ring...

The Southeast UU Summer Institute (SUUSI) will be held in-person again.



The Green Team is organizing
monthly hikes on the
Second Sundays of each month in
2022

Every month on the second Sunday,
an organization belonging to the Coalition
sponsors a “get out and explore” experience.

April 10

The Prince William Conservation Alliance
will be offering different hikes between

11:00am-3:00pm

during the Bluebell Festival at the Merrimac Farm
Wildlife Management Area

Joe Jencks fundraising musical concert

Friday May 6th

Joe Jencks is an international touring performer, songwriter, en-
tertainer, educator and fellow UU.

MORE INFO COMING SOON



Do you have questions about BRUU? Would you like to know more about Unitarian Universalism? Have you considered membership?

Please, join us in the Explore BRUU Class at 10:00-12:00 on April 9th.

Rev. Charlotte and other leaders of the church will be there to tell you about our UU history, BRUU history and our opportunities.



Please let us know your preference when you contact us at membership@bruu.org

SPRING SOUP & SALAD VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON

After our BRUU service on Sunday, April 24th, the Program Council will be sponsoring a Soup & Salad buffet in the Fellowship Hall for everyone who would like to participate. This is going to be a remodel of our former Soup Sunday & the Volunteer Faire of old – a two-fer! Plus it will be a multi-gen experience. There is no fee for the food as the committees will be bringing the soups & salads – and anyone may bring a dish to share, too.

The plan is to label each table with a different BRUU committee name, and a representative from each of those committees will act as at the host of the table. Besides everyone gathering to eat and chat, the table host will be able to explain what their committee does for BRUU & the larger community throughout the year. The Table Host will also share the types of activities that are being planned for the coming months that could use some additional volunteer support. All committees like to share their passion and welcome your interest, whether or not you can make a short- or long-term commitment to their projects and priorities.

This will be a great way for new folks to get to know others through small group seating. Why not make the most of your meal and have salad at one table and move on to have soup at another!

The Cleanup Queen II

It has been more than an annual Spring Cleaning of the 3rd Floor Supply Room! Our intrepid Kathy Sobrio took on a grand task of re-organizing the materials that have been stored & available for use – even when we were not using our building during Covid for the usual activities of our congregation.

The Supply room is located between the Studio/Chapel and the 3rd floor RE classroom hallway. It was one of the first spaces when we moved into our building that got a professional overhaul to create storage shelving units. We had already accumulated a lot of children’s religious education curriculum & craft supplies, and now currently occupies about a third of the room. The longer we have been in the building the more materials and decorations we collect and keep for most of our decorations for the sanctuary, holidays, and party events. It can also be used as a work area for creating floral arrangements. Ever wonder where all those big banners are kept between seasons and demonstrations?!?



As a result there are quite a few “excess” supplies, art pieces, and equipment that are available to folks who might have a better use and/or home for them. Keep your eye on the BRUUnet.org site for pictures and a listing of items – sort of a BRUU Free-cycle. You know: Reuse – Recycle – Reduce or Remove!

Kathy took on this project as a precursor to other aspects of the now forming Aesthetics Team. If you are interested in knowing more about all this, please contact her at dkSobrio@verizon.net

BRUU Has A Social Justice Closet?!?

Yes! And it is an even bigger & better under-the-stairs- hiddie-place than Harry Potter had at his Uncle’s home! This is where the Social Justice Committee has been storing all kinds of project materials for their various programs & activities and such items as poster stakes, and banners for our vigils & information tables. Remember our “Write Here – Write NOW” table during Coffee & Fellowship Hour – well we still have the information and resources to assist you in contacting our elected officials about pertinent & timely issues.

Thanks to Susie Eastridge and Christine Sunda (spending no less than 5 ½ hours together) this small room has been purged of outdated pamphlets & posters and has been reorganized for better access and usage. Great job gals!!

In addition to the closet the Social Justice Committee maintains the Free Trade rolling cabinet to sell those delicious chocolate bars, fabulous coffee blends and other items of interest that are advertised on RoundUp for purchase. Look for this cabinet in the Fellowship Hall during Coffee Hour now that we are returning to the building and the public is invited to join us.

SASS Goes to the Roof

After a lunch at a nearby Manassas restaurant the Society of Audacious Silver-haired Sisters(SASS) took their March meeting to new heights. Lead from the Flamingo Lounge by Christine Sunda, and assisted by Helen Elkin who operated the BRUU “Lift,” the intrepid group of 10 clambered thru the 3rd floor attic door to view the vistas of Manassas from the BRUU roof. It was a beautiful day, which made the views of the city and the BRUU courtyard a uniquely lovely experience for the gals.



After the rooftop we toured many of the spaces that a lot of BRUU members rarely visit or know about: the recently painted & re-floored Studio/Chapel, (actually walked through!) the re-organized Storage Rm, the Byer Library with a new flatscreen , the Janitor & Maintenance Room restored to functionality (by Amy Hamilton & her mother, Marion);

the new Food Pantry;
and lastly peeked into
the large, dark, and dirty
Boiler Room with the
huge old furnaces.

Covering over 22,000
square feet of the BRUU
building was considered
a sufficient afternoon
exercise program.



Next SASS meeting is
Monday, April 11th.
Contact Geny Kaimoti
at
GenyLV@gmail.com
for more information
about what is planned
for visiting the Ster-
ling UU Church facili-
ty and the Lorton
Workhouse Arts Cen-
ter in the coming
months.

ALE Class on 1619 Project

We will read and discuss "The 1619 Project," by Nikole Hannah-Jones & The New York Times Magazine. Different people will take responsibility for leading the discussion of different chapters. We expect to uncover information new to us, expand our perspective so we understand better how we got here today, and examine why certain elements were controversial among respected historians.

(No, we won't exhaust this topic in just three meetings.)

Class will meet via Zoom on Sunday nights,
April 3, 10, and 17 from 7:30-8:30pm.

Grab a beverage and join us for one, two, or all three nights.
Register now at:

<https://www.bruu.org/www2/adult-life-enrichment-course-registration-/>

HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT?

SUBMIT announcements using this form

<https://www.bruu.org/www2/announcement-form/>

DO YOU HAVE A SPECIAL SHOUT OUT?

If you see something GREAT, say something Great

Make sure to send your BRUU KUUDOS to
newsletter@bruu.org & communications@bruu.org

Celebrate Easter with BRUU!

On **Easter Sunday, April 17th**, BRUU will hold its worship service **outdoors** on the Manassas Museum lawn at **10 a.m.**, followed by fellowship and fun. The theme is “Surviving. Recovering. Thriving.”

We are planning a special all ages worship experience for the whole BRUU family. Included in the service will be special music by the newly formed BRUU Strings Octet and recognition of all of the new members who have joined BRUU since April 2020. Following the service, there will be light refreshments and some fun activities for all ages.

We hope that being outdoors will bring out a large portion of our members and friends so we can be together in faith, fun, and fellowship. However, if you are unable to attend in-person, plans are to provide ZOOM and Facebook Live access as well.

The Manassas Museum lawn is at **9101 Prince William St, Manassas, VA 20110**. Plenty of parking is available across the street in the parking garage as well as on the street or in nearby parking lots.

Please note: in the event of inclement weather – any form of precipitating moisture in the air – we will meet in the sanctuary at BRUU instead.



**Celebrate
Easter
@ BRUU**

EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE

OUTSIDE on the Manassas Museum Lawn

10 AM

Passover Seder

April 16 Saturday

Against the backdrop of the current humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, the Jewish Passover Seder symbolizes for us what is all too real for them.



start time
5 PM
sharp!

Matzah reminds us that the Jews had to escape from Egypt in haste.

Maror, or bitter herbs, reminds us of lives made bitter by oppressors.

We open a door for Elijah the prophet in hopes of a new era of peace and freedom. We share wine to celebrate freedom from slavery in the 13th century BCE and reminds us that all should be free still today.

Please join us at BRUU fellowship hall for a sharing of the Haggadah reading and traditional Jewish food.

Gefilte fish, tzimmes, matzah ball soup, charoset, kugel...call/text or email Nina Lomax at 571-247-2811 or ninalomax@comcast.net to pick your food assignment/recipe.

Options for non-cooks as well. A fancy table is set per person so RSVP is a must. Family friendly.

April 16

Saturday

start time 5 PM sharp!

set up/ heat food 3:30



Green Team Hike: Climate Change and Leesylvania State Park

Most of us think of climate as static and stable. In Leesylvania State Park – like everywhere throughout the world – the climate has actually changed dramatically over the ages, with huge impacts on the landscape and the ecology.

This 1-hour talk, with Randy Freed and Charlie Grymes, will cover past climate (what the land now in LSP looked like during the world’s hottest and coldest periods; how the Chesapeake Bay bolide and the “year without a summer” affected the area), and how future climate over the next century (sea level rise; changes in temperature and precipitation) will change the face of the landscape and its ecosystems. We’ll also talk briefly about actions we can take to do our part to slow the pace of climate change.

The hike will start promptly at 10:00 am on Saturday, Apr 2. We’ll meet at the trailhead for Lee’s Woods Trail in Leesylvania State Park; it’s at the end of the park road (Daniel K Ludwig Drive).

If in doubt about weather, text Randy at 571-215-0822 and he’ll let you know if it’s go or no go

Canvass and St. Patrick's Day Dinner a Huge Success!

Christine Sunda

On Saturday, March 19th, over 60 BRUUs attended a combined Canvass and St. Patrick's Day dinner. We started with a delicious potluck dinner featuring Dorothy Greenhouse's yummy corned beef and cabbage. Everyone outdid themselves in the food they brought. It was so enjoyable to have time to reconnect with others from BRUU. I want to thank Mary Kadlubowski to stepping up to the plate and carried the dinner off seamlessly.





After dinner we all went up to the Sanctuary for a wonderful evening of entertainment. We began with Heather Berthold giving a few words about our Canvass this year and what it means to all of us. (The theme this year is 'The Magical Meaning of Membership'.) Following Heather was an enormously entertaining series of skits by the BRUU Players. Especially touching were some words from the heart by Lois Montgomery. Despite of having only 2 1/2 weeks to prepare and no time to rehearse, they still managed to put on a great show! Thank you Star and Janette Muir and the BRUU players for making this happen.



The last half of the entertainment was a musical production coordinated by Kelly Muzzin. I must say that all the musical pieces were outstanding. Leading off were a few numbers by Mike Cleary's new wife, Lee Bissel, who is a talented musician. Our amazing Jen Deavers also sang a few songs to much applause. There were many other numbers by the Full Circle Band, but the one that touched my heart was a French song sung by Kelly. It was pure and beautiful and reminded me of my mother. Way to go BRUU musicians! You too put together a great show in only 2 1/2 weeks. The whole show was broadcast over zoom so I must also thank the AV team for making that happen.



So many people came together to pull this event off. My sincere thanks goes to everyone of you! I knew this was going to turn out well, when eight of you showed up to set up on Friday night, many who weren't even able to attend the dinner!

On Saturday, Rob Barack washed most of the dishes and Glen Macdonald ran the bar. At the end of the evening everyone pitched in to clean up and put the chairs and tables away. I was the last out and it wasn't even 10pm! Many apologies to anyone else I failed to mention. So thank you everyone and let's do it again next year!



BULL RUN
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

THE PUZZLER

MARCH'S PUZZLER

I'm going to list nine states of union.

**Maine, Vermont, New York, Iowa, Florida, Texas,
Utah, Idaho, and Wyoming.**

What makes these states different from all the others?



**The HINT really
helped**

CONGRATULATIONS TO :

Nina Lomax

Martin Crim

Martha Walsh

Glen Macdonald

The States listed have no REPEAT letters!

BRUU

9350 Main Street
Manassas, VA 20110-5150

703-361-6269

Fax: 703-392-7995

Minister

Rev. Charlotte Lehmann
minister@bruu.org

BRUU Board of Directors

2021-2023

President

Rita Romano
president@bruu.org

Vice President

Diane Lanne
vicepresident@bruu.org

Secretary

Michelle Luman
secretary@bruu.org

Treasurer

Heather Berthold
treasurer@bruu.org

Directors at Large

Susan Kehoe
Jon Kostik
Sophia Kadlubowski
director@bruu.org

Immediate Past President

Martin Crim

Program Council

Cathy Ring
programcouncil@bruu.org

Director of Lifespan Religious Education

Kristin Worthington
dre@bruu.org

Director of Music

Annease Hastings,
music@bruu.org

Office Assistant

Tina Cox, office@bruu.org

THE PUZZLER

APRIL'S PUZZLER

STEPDOWN

Beginning at the top of the upside down pyramid, remove one letter from the word "strides" and rearrange the remaining letters to build a new six-letter word beneath. Continue the same process to each word until you get to the bottom.

(There may be more than one solution.)



Please email your answer to -

newsletter@bruu.org

Use the *Subject Line* - **BRUU PUZZLER**

From the correct answers, one random winner may be chosen to be featured in the newsletter and awarded bragging rights of course. Good Luck!