

## **Greetings from The Reverend Beth Miller**

(an interim minister serving in the UUA Transitional Ministry Program)

I'm so looking forward to being at UCBR and accompanying you as you begin this most significant transition. The retirement of your beloved minister of thirty-six years is monumental. I must admit, I have no specific experience of this kind of transition. I would guess that very few of you do either. So you won't hear me say, "this is what happens and this is what you must do" as we begin this special time together. But I do have a lot of experience with the uncertainty of change and the anxiety it causes and with grief and the mixed emotions it can stir up. Most importantly, I have a lot of faith that we'll figure it out together.

I will make my way from Northampton, MA to Baton Rouge the week of January 15 and assist Rev. Nathan in the pulpit on January 20. My first sermon will be on January 27. Meanwhile, members of your Board are planning for my arrival and helping me find housing. Nathan and I are in touch and he's given me lots of information on the worship schedule and how planning happens. Everyone I've been in contact with so far has been warmly welcoming and helpful and I am grateful. If they are a representative sample of the congregation, the coming six months are going to be a joy. See you soon!