



Quest

April 2009

Josh's Journal

Upcoming Services

This month is a very exciting one for Sharon and me. We are expecting our second child on Monday April 13th. We will have another little boy whose name will be "Matthew Lawrence Snyder." The long wait is nearly over. While babies are always a challenge, they are also a blessing.

I say long wait, but it has gone so fast! It was just last summer that we learned that Sharon was pregnant; a gift we had been hoping for months. And now the time is here. We have been so blessed as a family not just by our newest addition, but by the warm acceptance we have found at First Unitarian Church. So many of you have been so kind to us that we could never fully thank you all. But here is trying: Thank You!

One group in particular that deserve a huge thank you is the Board of Trustees. They were kind enough to grant me four weeks of paternity leave in order to be with my family at this important transition. I will be out of the office and the pulpit from April 13 until May 11. This is a generous gift to me and my family from the Board on behalf of the congregation. I am so grateful for their decision and for their extraordinary leadership.

And have I mentioned Rev. Barbara Gadon yet? Rev. Barbara comes back from her sabbatical this month, and from leading a group of church members through Israel. I am so appreciative of her ministry here, and never more so now that I did parts of her job for three months! What a blessing she is to me and to this entire community. Welcome back Rev. Barbara! We look forward to hearing about all that you have done and learned.

All of these thank yous indicate what a caring and considerate congregation First Unitarian Church truly is. One of the reasons we form churches is to make real, in bricks and mortar, the ideals and values of our liberal religious heritage. It takes effort, commitment, and most of all the celebration of life to transform those ideals into a church. I see that very clearly in the response I have received from you in these first few months of my ministry among you. Thank you.

I know that it can be worrisome not having the Senior Minister around every day in the office. There is a certain stability that the church needs and expects from its leaders. Of course we have been planning for my time away for many months now, and we have a solid vision for how this will go. I have all the faith in the world in Rev. Barbara, Marina, and the rest of the staff. And if something unexpected should come up bear in mind that I am taking my paternity leave in Hockessin, Delaware, not the far side of the moon! I will be checking in regularly with how things are going. Fear not!

Thank you for this special time. I will miss you, and look forward to being in church again—if somewhat bleary-eyed from lack of sleep!

May You Be Blessed Always,

Rev. Dr. Joshua Snyder

April 5: Rev. Dr. Joshua Snyder — "**UU Ancestors: Hosea Ballou**" Unitarian Universalists stand in a long and noble tradition. One of the most prominent figures in Universalist history was Hosea Ballou. He authored "The Treatise on Atonement" which stood as the primary theological statement of Universalism for decades after his death. A powerful and folksy preacher, he spread Universalism throughout New England. Come hear about this important figure of our past.

April 12: Rev. Dr. Joshua Snyder — "**Can You Spare Some Change?**" Today is Easter Sunday! Easter is the central holiday in the Christian tradition and is the celebration of the resurrection of Christ. Bringing life from death is the ultimate transformation. How do we deal with change, both big and small? How might we learn, not only from the life and death of Jesus, but the Christian tradition in general, regarding coping with change? One example of change will be that this is Rev. Josh's last Sunday before he goes on paternity leave for four weeks, and the first Sunday with Rev. Barbara back from sabbatical and the Holy Land.

April 19: Rev. Barbara Gadon and Friends — "**Report from the Holy Land**" On March 22, Rev. Barbara and a group of First U members and friends set out to visit Israel, Palestine and Jordan. We talked with Jews and Arabs, visited mosques, synagogues, and churches, a kibbutz, the Dead Sea, the cave-tombs of Petra, and more. We learned about multi-faith dialogue, non-violent protest, empowerment, liberal religion in a land of orthodoxy and secularism, and Palestinian family life. We made friends. Come and hear all about it!

April 26: Rev. Barbara Gadon — "**Love Your Enemies**" Karen Armstrong's "Charter for Compassion" is a multi-faith project that seeks to take seriously the words, "love your enemies" - and the Golden Rule, which is at the heart of every major religion. (See charterforcompassion.org.) It expresses a profound hope that compassion can be evoked in all of us. Rev. Barbara will explore the charter and what it means to "love your enemies." Is it really possible?

Leap of Faith

As part of my sabbatical, I started a blog, also called "Leap of Faith." You can find it at revbleapofaith.blogspot.com. Below is one of my favorite entries, slightly modified.

‘Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.’ - Matthew 13:45

Just what would you have if you did this? You'd have a really great pearl, and nothing else. Today you would also have maxed out your credit cards. What could possibly be worth that?

In early January, Robert and I visited my parents in Phoenix. My dad is 85 and his body is rigid and slow. He takes several tries at things like dialing phone numbers. He is tired most of the time; the bypass surgery didn't restore his energy as we had hoped. And he is the sole caregiver to my stepmother, Marilyn, who has Alzheimers disease. She seems to me like a frame with a very faded picture inside. She can't follow many conversations, and she dozes a good part of the day. My father takes her to the bathroom and tells her when it's time to go to bed, guiding her by the hand in their slow shuffle step, because she cannot find the bedroom. He gets her ready. In the morning, he pours her cereal and juice. After a few bites and she's lost interest, he points to the bowl, "You got cereal there, Kid."

She falls infrequently, and he does her exercises with her to build strength. There was a note from the visiting nurse after she was in the hospital, saying she should have 24-hour care. So far he hasn't mentioned it.

We all say they'd be in much better shape if they were in "assisted living." Someone could track her pills with greater precision. They could have prepared meals. He could have someone look after his own fragile health. And it's not likely to happen.

One morning I go into the kitchen and hear them laughing. I touch her back, and she startles, greeting me by name (which I'm not always sure she knows). Her voice is bright and youthful, her face somehow released from its sleepy mask. I ask about a gingerbread-making kit on their counter, and my father tells me that Marilyn used to make the best gingerbread cookies. Now they're just a memory. She smiles and sings, "Thanks for the memories..."

He says her granddaughter Betsy came to visit them awhile back, and asked Marilyn to make some; they were her favorite as a child. "Remember that?" he asks.

"Nope," she says cheerfully, as if she might, just not this time.

"Marilyn couldn't remember what she put in them," he continues. "They were awful."

With perfect comic timing she sings loudly, "THANKS for the memories..." We laugh so hard.

This must be his pearl, I think. These flashes of her as she once was. He gives everything he has for this - mind, heart, body, everything.

What about you? What is your pearl of great price?

In Faith, Rev. Barbara

Thank You from the Executive Team!

The Executive Team at First Unitarian Church of Wilmington would like to thank the following volunteers for their contributions of their precious time and talent in service to our church:

The financial life of the church is so important to accomplishing the mission of our congregation. Without financial commitment from our members and friends, church would just be some nice ideas that were never made real in the world. Asking for money can be hard, but these folks make it easy for all of us to express our generosity to First Unitarian Church: **Glen Barbaras, Bill Barry, Noreen Bayly, Jan Blanchfield, Dee Burdash, Jane Cislo, Ed Cluff, Cindy Cohen, Suzie Cornell, Jim Davis, Doyle Dobbins, Pam Finkelman, Kathy Granger, Bill Hardam, David Harrell, Roxanne Harris, Lynn Ingersoll, Tom Jenkins, Bob Johnson, Joan Kilburn, Bill Lawrence, Jeff Lott, Barry Marrs, Ruth Mette, Marge Meyerman, Frank Murray, Jerry Oakeson, June Peterson, Nancy Pinson, Paul Pinson, Joan Priest, John Priest, Barbara Roewe, David Sheppard, Ib Steinmetz, David Weiss, and Lani Zlupko.** Thank you to all of these fantastic people for volunteering to be pledge stewards this year!

Of course we need leaders with vision to run any stewardship campaign, particularly one that involves so many people. The Executive Team would like to particularly thank the members of the Stewardship Steering Team for all of the hard work they have put into this campaign: **Joan Priest, Bill Hardam, Steve Cohen, Drew Hansen, and David Harrell.** Great work!

To the Installation Planning Team: **Maggie Duffy, Marilyn Hyte, and Dale Stratton.** These ladies pulled off an amazing Installation for the Senior Minister that members and ministers will be talking about for many years to come. The food was fantastic and all of the little details were well thought out. Congratulations on accomplishing such a tremendous event.

Suzanne Cornell coordinated all the decorating and had several assistants including Bella Gier, Florence DeRosa, Noreen Bayly, Pat Kent, Donna Curtis, and the many members who loaned cobalt blue vases and decorations. Her brilliant idea of using Yellow and Blue (U of Mich.) colors worked well. All the forsythia was donated by church members as well. So, all in all, the decorating costs were about \$0. Thank you all!!

To everyone who has turned in a pledge card last month and this month, the Executive Team thanks you profusely for your support and commitment!

If you know someone we have unintentionally left out who volunteers for the church, someone who goes above and beyond, please let us know. We would love the chance to say "Thank You!"

Namaste from your Executive Team,

Rev. Dr. Josh Snyder, Rev. Barbara Gadon,
Helen Foss, and Ruth Mette

Adult Religious Exploration

We've started an exciting lecture series and hope you will join our Sunday morning class at 9:00 a.m. in Brunner Chapel.

Religions of the Axial Age: An Approach to the World's Religions

The years 800-200 B.C.E. comprise one of the most creative and influential eras in world history. This era was of such great importance, in fact, that we moderns continue to live out our moral and religious lives through the traditions integral to the faiths birthed during this six hundred year period.

Our lectures will focus on the developments of Zoroastrianism in Iran; Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism in India; and Confucianism and Daoism in China. Through sacred texts, modern scholarship, and thoughts arising from his own personal experiences, Professor Mark Muesse, Chair of the Department of Religious Studies at Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee, will reveal what it meant to be a conscious, morally responsible individual during the Axial Age.

Membership Coordinator Susan Madison invites you to relate your own spiritual questions to this variety of ancient faiths. A full listing of dates and subjects are available in class and in the Membership Office. The topics for April and May are:

- April 5: No Class
- April 12: What is the Axial Age?
- April 19: The Nobel Ones
- April 26: The World of Zoroaster
- May 3: No Class
- May 10: Zoroaster's Legacy
- May 17: South Asia before the Axial Age
- May 24: The Start of the Indian Axial Age
- May 31: Death and Rebirth

RE ~ minders

Friday, April 24 - Sunday, April 26: Joseph Priestly District Spring Conference: "Navigating Changing Times." Have you ever attended the Joseph Priestly District Spring Conference? This year it is in Wilmington! This is an intergenerational conference which offers classes, seminars, worship and more! Activities are provided for children and Jr. Youth as well. The district youth groups will have a Youth Conference at the same time and they are using First Unitarian Church as their base! Please plan to attend this inspiring UU event!

Check out the Joseph Priestly web site for registration information. <http://www.jpduua.org/>
Place: Double Tree Hotel, Wilmington, Delaware.

RE~marks

Many of the second and third graders at First Unitarian Church of Wilmington are preparing for the Age of Reason rite of passage. You may be familiar with other Unitarian Universalist rites of passage such as Child Dedications, Coming of Age and wedding ceremonies. Perhaps you have even heard of a second/third grade rite of passage, just by other names such as: Stepping Stone Year or Joyful Journey. Why do we celebrate and honor our children at this point in their lives' though?

A rite of passage marks a time when a person reaches a new and significant change in life. Child psychiatrists Theodore Shapiro and Richard Perry noted in their 1976 article, "Latency Revisited: The Age of Seven, Plus or Minus One" that at this age children experience a surge in moral and mental maturity. Another significant change is that children begin to reason when problem solving at this stage. In the book, Stages of Faith, Fowler states that children this age focus on what makes their religion special or unique from others, noting that the practices of the religion become important. The Age of Reason rite of passage offers children and families the opportunity to honor these milestones in the child's development.

The Age of Reason program provides the opportunity for children, working with their parent(s), to consider how Unitarian Universalist values and principles apply to their lives. They do this by reading and working through a workbook created specifically for Unitarian Universalist 2nd and 3rd graders. The experiences and knowledge gained through this activity empowers our children to use their faith beliefs when faced with moral dilemmas. This program also helps children to articulate the beliefs of their religious community, helping them to understand what makes their religion special and unique. During special classes, children meet with First Unitarian Church staff and volunteer leaders. This helps the children know that their religious leaders are accessible. The program culminates with the children writing their first credo. The children then participate in a worship service and present their credos to the congregation. This provides the opportunity for the children to participate in the practices of our religion. Ultimately, the Age of Reason rite of passage fosters the Unitarian Universalist tradition of searching for truth, asking questions and thinking for ourselves.

It is my hope that by offering this rite of passage to our children they will develop "a sense of being enfolded in the wings and rooted in the strength of a loving Unitarian Universalist faith community." (Layne Richard Hammock, DRE) Please plan to attend the Age of Reason Worship Service on May 10, 2009.

In faith,

Catherine Williamson, DRE

Wednesday Nights at First UU!

Wednesdays in April: 4/1 World Religions focusing on Hinduism; 4/8 Judaism — Passover Seder; 4/15 Judaism — Rev. Gadon; 4/22 Spring Break; 4/29 Israel trip report — Rev. Gadon.

Join us for dinner at 5:45 pm, worship at 6:30, and discussion immediately following the service. Children's programs will include: a fun room (including board games, open art studio and the ever-popular Wii sports game) and a homework room.

Office Ministration

We are now in the midst of our annual operating fund drive, and our pledge stewards have been contacting as many of our donors as possible. When renewing your pledge for fiscal year 2009-2010, why not consider using our electronic giving option? You can fill out a form when you fill out your pledge card, or go to our web site and click on electronic giving. It's easy and safe!

If you have been using electronic giving already you know how easy it is to use. With the start of the new fiscal year, please fill in a new form and return it to Marina in the church office. We ask for a new form each fiscal year for greater security and to make sure we have the most up to date information on your account.

If you have any questions about electronic giving or pledging please contact the church office and ask for Marina or Fran. We are happy to help!

Taking care of business,

Marina

From the Membership Table

Special thanks to Rev. Josh who conducted a workshop for twenty-four of us on "Radical Hospitality," a spiritual practice we intend to lift up in all of our subsequent congregational development work. To demonstrate Radical Hospitality, we will be required to embrace the full humanness of every stranger who comes to us...and to embrace the full humanness of each other, as well. It means we will need to see to it that **NO ONE EVER FEELS EXCLUDED** from or within our community.

As our new Membership Team comes together to share the ministry of implementing this new vision for what membership will mean in this church, we invite you — whether you are new to the church or have been a member for 40 years — to share your ideas with us. We welcome those who want to be part of a visioning team as well as those who love being "doers." Please contact Susan Madison at susan@firstuuwilm.org to be part of this vital growing team!

Joining the Church

Because of the wonderful confusion of fellowship following each Sunday service, it has been difficult to conduct "Signing Sundays" in a way that lends itself to the seriousness of joining the church. For that reason, we will discontinue Signing Sundays in April, but invite anyone interested in signing the Book of Names to contact Membership Coordinator Susan Madison directly. Those who join will sign the book at the time of their meeting with Susan.

Caring and Sharing

Update on Bob Doss:

Bob's condition has improved a little since his fall four weeks ago. However, he is still in the ICU at Christiana Hospital since he has several problems, especially his lungs. We are mostly at the hospital. Ken comes over from work. Kathy drives back and forth from Boston. We all appreciate your cards, visits and calls. (I'll respond to messages the next day.)


Peggy, Kathy, Ken & Alicia and the Grands at U.D.

Please keep Barry Marrs in your prayers as he recovers from a recent illness.

Notes from Scott:


Looking toward Big Music Sunday

UU Revelations: Discover Through Music

Our upcoming Big Music Sunday, May 17, will be a program of favorite anthems that the choir has sung, accompanied by chamber orchestra. 

Also, a new large piece by Scott Ward will be debuted. And there will be readings to accompany the anthems.

The topic is UU Revelations. The book of revelations is in the bible, but we will approach the idea of revelations through music. Intrigued? Come May 17.

 There is still time to join the Big Music Sunday choir. Contact Scott Ward at the church office: 302-478-2384 or via E-mail: iamscottw@aol.com

Scott Ward,
Honorary Minister of Music

Pledge Drive Continues:
"A New Direction"

The Stewardship Campaign continues through this month. By now a pledge steward (formerly a "canvasser") should have contacted you to set up a face to face meeting. We have heard amazing stories of people sharing their wishes and dreams for First Unitarian Church, and actually having FUN talking about money. The discussion of money is really a conversation about your commitment to the church and the work that it does. If you have not heard from a pledge steward, and would like to have a meeting with one, please contact the church office. Set up a meeting, and enjoy yourself! There are lots of opportunities to give, through electronic withdrawal or stock. Unburden your soul of the demon of procrastination and turn in your pledge card early with your steward.

And most of all: Thank you for your generous pledge! Regardless of the amount we are very grateful to everyone who pledges their hard-earned income in these difficult economic times. Your commitment helps make the church what it is. May the church be worthy of your gifts.

Alliance News



Members and friends of the Women's Alliance will meet at noon on Monday, April 6. Please bring your own lunch and we will provide dessert and beverages.

We will make plans for the Togs and Treasures event later this month. Your help is needed and you'll enjoy the company. This sale is a shopper's delight!
Submitted by Mary Collat

Plan now to attend the big annual Togs and Treasures Sale on Saturday, April 18

Held in the church Parish Hall, this activity is sponsored by the Alliance and proceeds go to the church. We need good, clean clothing, household goods, toys, tools, china and crystal, and jewelry. Please, no computers, books or shoes.

In addition to the three co-chairs, Jackie Watson, Peggy Rawheiser and Wendy Gladfelter, other chairmen are Donna van Name, household items; Suzanne Cornell, plants, and Kathie Thomas, jewelry. If you can help set up the sale on Thursday or Friday, April 16 and 17, call a chairman. We'll be glad to have you.

The sale begins at 7:30 am. and ends at 1:30 p.m.

Pacem in Terris Spring Series

Listening, Looking and Longing for Peace: Israel-Palestine: The Spring Series continues Thursdays, April 2, April 16, at 7 to 9 p.m. Place: Grace Hall, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1506 W. 13th St. & Pennsylvania Ave. Free parking on 13th Street across from the church.

April Titles:

April 2: Tim Seidel, Director of the Mennonite Central Committee of U.S. Peace and Justice Ministries, will speak about his recent 3 years in Palestine. He will show the film "Children of the Nakba."

April 16: "THE LEMON TREE: An Arab, a Jew and the Heart of the Middle East." A young Arab man and a young Jewish woman meet at the house his family built many years earlier and that she now lives in. This is the start of a remarkable relationship between two families and their dialogue as they search in good faith for solutions to the issues that divide them. Written by Sandy Tolan from his award-winning documentary. Books on sale at Pacem events.

Free and open to the Public. **Non-perishable food items accepted for the food closet.**

OUTDOOR GROUNDS CLEAN UP - MAY 9

The Buildings and Grounds Committee is organizing an outdoor grounds clean up by the church on **Saturday, May 9**. Come help the church and make some new friends as we weed and mulch together.

Passover Seder at First Unitarian Church, April 8

Rev. Josh Snyder will lead a Passover Seder in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, April 8, 2009. Gather at 5:45 PM, and the Seder will begin at 6 PM. Dinner will be served around 6:45 PM, and the Seder will conclude by 8:30 PM.

Volunteers are needed to help prepare and serve the meal, arrange the tables, and clean up. Contact Robert Gadon at rgadon@verizon.net or call 302-762-5959 if you would like to volunteer or donate food storage containers for the meal. The following items are requested from the congregation to prepare the meal: Plastic storage containers with lids, 4 qts or larger (to store soup and food); Angel-food pans, circular cake storage containers.

Fees: Adults (age 13 and older): \$15, Children (ages 6 - 12): \$8, Children under the age of 6: Free.

Preregistration is required. Payment should be submitted in the Church office. Make checks payable to 'First Unitarian Church' and include 'Passover Seder' in the memo line.

Registration deadline is Tuesday, March 31 by the close of business (4 PM). The deadline is necessary to allow time to place food orders for the meal a week in advance.

A WORLD OF GOOD THINGS™ AUCTION

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 5:30 TO 8:30 — Save the date for a fun-filled evening of food, entertainment, and auction items ranging from the practical to the wonderful. Silent auction begins at 5:30, accompanied by delicious hors d'oeuvres and luscious libations. Live auction, dessert, and entertainment from 7:30 to 8:30. Tickets go on sale at \$20 per person in the Parish Hall starting March 22. Child care will be available. To donate goods or services, call Cindy Cohen at (302) 475-5814 or cindyscohen@comcast.net. To volunteer to help out with the auction, call Suzanne Perry at (610) 358-4405 or e-mail perrypad@aol.com.

Fabulous Food

Family Friendly Focus on Festive

Save the Date

**First UU FunRaiser
Goods and Services Auction
Saturday, May 2**

Function Opens at Five-thirty

Filled with your Friends

Board Planks

Do you know the UUA Presidential Candidates?



As you may know, at General Assembly this year we will be electing a new Unitarian Universalist Association President, to replace Rev. Bill Sinkford. How well do you know the candidates?

Below are the candidate's brief bios. Other info includes:

A **President's Forum**, to be held at the upcoming Joseph Priestly District (JPD) Conference in Wilmington, April 24-26th (see <http://www.jpduua.org/media/New%20You%20Can%20Use/March%202009/2009%20Spring%20Conference%20Brochure%20-%2020021209.PDF>)

General Info at the UUA website (see <http://www.uua.org/aboutus/governance/elections/>)

An ongoing "Fact-Driven forum" **blog** (see <http://uuapresidentialdebate2009.wordpress.com/>)

We encourage everyone to read up about the position and the candidates, and to consider coming to the JPD conference in April, and GA this summer, to be a part of history.

Rev. Peter Morales is Senior Minister at Jefferson Unitarian Church in Golden, Colorado. Peter is a candidate for the presidency of the UUA. He recently worked for two years as the UUA's Director of District Services. Peter is a former member of the UUA Board of Trustees, serving as the trustee from the Mountain Desert District. He also served for a year on the UUA Exec as the first person to carry the new anti-racism, anti-oppression, multiculturalism portfolio. Before entering the ministry he worked as a newspaper journalist in Oregon. He was a Knight International Press Fellow in Peru and is a former Fulbright Lecturer in American Studies in Spain. He and Phyllis Windrem Morales have been married for 41 years. They have two children, Muguel and Marcela.

Rev. Dr. Laurel Hallman has been the Senior Minister of the First Unitarian Church of Dallas for 22 years. In January, she became Minister-at-Large, so that she can campaign for the position of President of the UUA. She is the author of *Living by Heart*, a DVD and workbook about engaged spirituality and the practice of memorizing poetry. She has also published a recent book of sermons, *Reaching Deeper*. She is known as a consummate leader, a sensitive pastor, and a clear voice about our faith and its possibilities.

Come Chat with Us!

Join us at our monthly **Chat with the Leadership** in the sanctuary after the service – always the third Sunday of the month – this month: **Sunday, April 19th**.

Check Out the Books in Our Library!

Check out these and other new titles in our church Library, located in the RE wing:

Hot, Flat and Crowded, Friedman, 2008
Dreams from My Father, Obama, 1995/2004
(donated by Ruth Mette)

The Scent of God: a memoir, Bissell, 2006
(donated by Florence deRosa)

Earth and Spirit Songbook, Scott, ed., 2003
Worldchanging: A User's Guide For The 21st Century, Steffen, ed., 2006

Repair: The Impulse to Restore in a Fragile World, Spelman, 2002

And for kids, purchased from the Sagar Memorial fund:

Barack Obama: son of promise, child of hope, Grimes, 2008

I can make a difference, Edelman, 2005

Please follow posted instructions to borrow books, and return them promptly.

House Pins

Thanks to our loyal House Pin supporters, we were recently able to donate another \$1,000 to the YWCA Home Life Management Center in Wilmington.

This latest contribution brings the total we have donated to this worthy cause to \$18,500, entirely from pin sales! Your pin purchase for a family member (Mother's Day is coming up), a favorite teacher, or a special someone provides them with a unique gift, as well as the satisfaction of supporting a worthy cause.

Pin sales occur the fourth Sunday of the month. Each pin is \$15, half of which goes to the YWCA, and comes with a card describing how pin sale money is used. So come and visit us at the House pin table!

Changing the World, One Pin at a Time,
Bev Bach, Noreen Smith, and Anne Tolman

"Circle of Life" Group Coaching Experience coming to First U Adult RE Program!

Set your intentions, accomplish your goals... love your life!!

One of the challenges that many of us face is living a happy, healthy, peaceful life - - one that is more balanced, less stressed and more fulfilled - - while juggling the demands of daily life. The "Circle of Life" group process addresses these challenges and creates a path for moving forward in your life. A group is now forming. Limited space available. Six Tuesday evenings from 7-9PM beginning April 14th, 2009 through May 12, 2009. Contact the Church office now to reserve your spot. Contact Kathy Samworth with any questions. 302-584-5917, ksamworth@verizon.net.

Social Justice at First Unitarian

First U's Social Justice Team includes all who work "under the umbrella of social justice." Join representatives of initiatives listed here for monthly meetings at First U on the second Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Information to share? Next Quest deadline is April 15. Contact: lynningersoll@hotmail.com

Coalition for Climate Change Study and Action (C³SA)

At the March interfaith meeting of C³SA, we met three new representatives from St. Paul's United Methodist Church on Foulk Road. They are interested in starting a group focused on environmental awareness and action, and in learning from us and others. Judy Windle reported on the activities of First U toward UUA recognition as a Green Sanctuary church. She described the results of the recent environmental questionnaire to our members, thanks to the more than 80 of our households that responded. It is clear that many of you are taking actions in your own homes to reduce waste, conserve energy, and raise the environmental awareness of your family members and neighbors. Many could do more. There are lots of good ideas in the questionnaire itself (copies available in the church office).

Another good source of ideas for saving energy is the Consumer Guide to Home Energy Savings, by Alex Wilson, Jennifer Thorne, and John Morrill, available in paperback for under \$9.00.

The next step beyond changing our personal practices is to become politically active. Get to know your legislators and meet with them to discuss their views on statewide recycling, renewable energy standards, improved building codes, reversible metering, land use and public transportation, and fostering the development of offshore wind power. Remember, in a democracy agreement is not necessary; participation is. Contact Chad Tolman: ctolman@udel.edu about future meetings and activities of C³SA.

Emmanuel Dining Room

We now have 3 meals under our belt, and April brings a new menu. Come be a part of the fun! We cook in the church kitchen on the 19th of the month, and serve at EDR on the 20th. We'd love to have you. Contact Cindy Cohen (475-5814 or cindyscohen@comcast.net) for more details.

Green Sanctuary Task Force

Results of the Household Survey will be posted in the Parish Hall and available for review on April 12. The committee continues its work on our application for certification as a Green Sanctuary. Remember - April 22 is Earth Day!! Our next meeting is on Tuesday, April 28th at 6:00 in the library. Please join us!! Contact Maggie Duffy at 610-358-5587 or mdu@verizon.net

ILYA (Independent Living for Young Adults)

Many thanks to all who supported the February ILYA benefit concert at First U by guitarist Helen Avakian. We were happy to welcome Helen and her husband back to First U, where she grew up with her parents, Barbara and Peter Avakian, and sister, Lucille. And thanks, especially, to Lucille, who now attends the Unitarian Fellowship at Mill Creek. Last year, Lucille learned about ILYA's work and offered to make the concert possible. The good turnout to hear Helen guaranteed a successful financial benefit, but equally satisfying was the opportunity to tell ILYA's story to all those in attendance. Even a few of the former foster care youth whom ILYA has supported were present, and shared their personal stories. For more information about ILYA, or to help, please contact Betty Wier: bwier@UDel.Edu

UUSC (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee)

We all know that under the Taliban, women and girls in Afghanistan were not allowed to attend school. Even today, women's literacy rate in Afghanistan is only 12%. One of UUSC's newest program partners, Barakat, is committed to expanding educational opportunities for girls and women in Afghanistan. They have built schools, developed literacy and women's empowerment programs, and provide human rights training. It is your membership in, and support for, UUSC which is making this work possible. For more information, contact Doyle Dobbins: D.Dobbins@verizon.net

Welcoming Congregation

The Welcoming Congregation Working Group meets regularly at First Unitarian. Helen Foss is the interim contact. Feel free to reach her at helenfoss@verizon.net

APRIL SOCIAL JUSTICE SPECIAL COLLECTION: EMMANUEL DINING ROOM

The Special Collection in April will be used to support our Emmanuel Dining Room efforts. The EDR program currently operates 3 dining rooms in the Wilmington area and provides meals 7 days a week to those in need. Many of our members know first hand the benefits of this program by working at the Jackson Street dining room on the 20th of each month, or by helping to prepare our meal here at church on the 19th. In just the Jackson Street location, 100 breakfasts and 200-300 lunches are prepared and served daily. Men, women, and children receive a hot meal in a warm and caring environment.

The program functions under this belief: the poor should never be served poorly but with love, dignity, and respect. Help support this program through our collection on April 26.

Church Staff

Reverend Dr. Joshua Snyder	Senior Minister Josh@firstuuwilm.org
Reverend Barbara Gadon	Minister of Adult Programs and Pastoral Care Barbara@firstuuwilm.org
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Robert Warner	Night Custodian
Reverend Dr. Robert Doss	Minister Emeritus

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Executive Team Portfolios

Rev. Snyder — Finance, Personnel, and Leadership Development
 Rev. Gadon — Pastoral Care, Adult RE, and CYRE
 Helen Foss — Social Justice, Growth, and Denominational Affairs
 Ruth Mette — Strategic Planning, Membership, and Buildings & Grounds

This *QUEST* covers April 1 to 30, 2009. The **next** *QUEST* newsletter will cover events from May 1 to 31, 2009.

QUEST is a monthly newsletter publication of the First Unitarian Church of Wilmington, Delaware.

Submission deadline for *QUEST* is by noon on the 15th of each month for events the following month.

Any announcement suggestions for the **Order of Service** and the **Broadcast E-news** must be in by Tuesdays at noon and may also be sent to **Karen@firstuuwilm.org** and will be placed according to available space. If possible, please make submissions via E-mail. Otherwise, neatly prepared copy can be submitted to Karen Rockhold's mail box in the church office.



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April 2009

WELCOME:

The First Unitarian Church of Wilmington, Delaware, inspires lifelong spiritual growth. We promote religious freedom and joyfully offer the transforming message of our Unitarian Universalist principles to our community and the world. We share a freely chosen faith that opens minds and deepens understanding of life's enduring mysteries. We rely on reason, intuition, personal experience and diverse religious traditions. As individuals in community, we commit our hearts, minds and resources to this mission. Sunday morning services begin at 10:30; Children's Religious Education starts at 10:45.