

First Unitarian E-News – Worship and Events

Friday, June 12, 2009

Check out our website at www.firstuuwilm.org

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Sunday Sermons: Copies can be found in the rack in Parish Hall (on the back wall) or on the website at www.firstuuwilm.org. Or you can place an order by signing the notebook in the office. Audio CD’s are \$5.00. Video copies on VHS are \$5.00, DVD’s are \$10.00.

1. SUNDAY ADULT RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION CLASS

Sunday, June 14: The “Religions of the Axial Age” lecture series continues with “The Quest for Liberation.” The class meets on Sundays from 9:30 to 10:20a.m. in Brunner Chapel.

Next Sunday, June 21: The “Religions of the Axial Age” lecture series continues with “The Vedantic Solution.” The class meets on Sundays from 9:30 to 10:20a.m. in Brunner Chapel. **We will not meet during the months of July and August.**

2. SUMMER CYRE

“Carrying Capacity of the Interdependent Web, a.k.a. What to Do With the Leftovers?” – June 7, 14, 21, & 28.

- 4 years old through entering 6th grade in the Youth Center starting at 10:30 am.
- Childcare is available for Newborns through 3 years old in room 7.
- Please pick up children immediately following the worship service.
- Visiting families are welcome!

Adults, Youth and Jr. Youth: Interested in helping out this summer? Contact Catherine Williamson if you are interested in assisting or leading activities on Sunday mornings at catherine@firstuuwilm.org or (302) 478-2384.

3. THIS SUNDAY – CHALICE LIGHTERS SUNDAY: “A COCKEYED OPTIMIST” – SHELLEY PAGE

CHALICE LIGHTERS SUNDAY: “A Cockeyed Optimist” Our guest minister for this special service is an Intern Minister serving The Unitarian Universalists of Central Delaware (UUCD) in Dover and is a recent winner of JPD’s anti-racism sermon contest. We will celebrate with the music of Rodgers and Hammerstein. As in the song, a cockeyed optimist is “stuck like a dope with a thing called hope.” Thanks to help from Chalice Lighters and dedicated people, the hopes of “cockeyed optimists” became realities, as the newly chartered

UUCD became a presence in the state capitol. Don't miss this special service and a special surprise gift!

Shelley Page has been a UU for 26 years, and her leadership roles have included being the founding "mother" of the UU Church of Canandaigua, New York. Her previous careers included marketing and communications management for businesses and not-for-profit organizations. Currently, she is a candidate for UU ministry and a recent graduate of the Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, California.

Miriam Priest - Benedict and Shirley Peters will share their talents singing music by Rogers and Hammerstein.

4. MEMORIAL SERVICE THIS SUNDAY

MEMORIAL SERVICE: We will hold a memorial service this Sunday, June 14 at 2:30 p.m. for Sandy Merriman, a former member of our church for many years.

5. IN THE PARISH HALL: CHALICE LIGHTERS

Are you a Chalice Lighter? If you are not, sign up today. Small contributions can make a big difference to expanding congregations.

"Growth is vital to the UU movement and the JPD Chalice Lighter funds are the primary resource for expansion in our region. Based on the last decade of experience that the Growth Committee of First Church Wilmington has had as sponsor and financial supporter of our new congregations, I would urge any of our members who are not Chalice Lighters to sign up today (or any time during the year). The few dollars from each of us to join go a long way toward spreading our faith and making a difference in the world." Karel Toll, former chair of the First UU Growth Committee.

6. MEMBERSHIP IS LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD CHURCH MENTORS!

Church Mentorship is an exciting new program in our congregation and is open to all. A Church Mentor is anyone who assists new members as they become acclimated to the church: finding their way around, meeting other members, learning about programs and activities. It may be sitting with a new member during the worship service; accompanying the new member to coffee hour and introducing them around; visiting the playground after church if the new members have children; inviting them to go with you as you participate in church activities; it may even be attending new member classes with them, just to keep them company.

This is an important ministry of radical hospitality at our church, and a helpful, friendly way to welcome new members into our community. If you are interested in becoming a Church Mentor, please contact Membership Coordinator Susan Madison. (susan@firstuuwilm.org)

7. THANKS! GREAT JOB!!

Thank you to Robert Gadon for his lesson on pruning and for leading a successful pruning party on Saturday, June 6. And, thank you to the participants: Jim Weddell, Noreen Bayly, Jenny Brown, Dee Burdash, George Roewe, Bill Flack, Cathy Cambridge, Jenn Phillips, Judy Windle, Pat McGee, Suzie Cornell, and Bob Burtner. We hauled all of the trimmings to the county yard-waste collection center. Robert and Suzie Cornell's lunch was delicious!

You may have noticed we weren't able to finish the pruning job on the azaleas to the left of the entrance, so watch for another pruning party later this summer. We can give training to anyone who missed Robert's pruning lesson.

8. CARING AND SHARING

A long-time member, Fritzi Buss will celebrate her 100th birthday on June 18! We would like to add our good wishes to the celebration, so we hope that you might bring cards for her to church by June 14th, or send them to her: **Fritzi Busse/ Foulk Manor North, 2103/ 1212 Foulk Road/ Wilmington. DE. 19803-2744**

Please pray for the members and friends of Westminster Presbyterian Church in this difficult time. A bouquet of flowers has been sent from the First Unitarian Church staff to their staff to express our sympathies for their loss. The Rev. Chad Miller, 34, Associate Pastor for Mission at the Wilmington church, and his brother were lost in a kayaking accident on the Brandywine River.

9. NEXT SUNDAY – “FROM ONE GENERATION TO THE NEXT” – THE REV. DR. JOSHUA SNYDER

June 21: Rev. Dr. Joshua Snyder — “From One Generation to the Next” We will be celebrating Father’s Day. What do we learn from our Dads? How do fathers impact our lives? Come celebrate Dad on his special day.

10. WEEKDAY OFFICE VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Would you like to make friends and meet new people? Get the inside scoop on what it takes to run the church? Why not volunteer for the church office? We have an opening on Wed. mornings. Duties include answering the phone, helping with light office work such as copying and filing, and greeting visitors to the office. Please contact Marina in the church office at officemgr@firstuuwilm.org or call 478-2384 between 9am and 3pm.

11. CONCORD PIKE SIGN UPDATE

The sign on Concord Pike is now operational! Staff training was completed at the beginning of June. It has been a long journey but we finally have an attractive sign on Concord Pike.

There are some county regulations regarding the sign which we need to follow. We are not allowed to have moving messages and can only change the message once every 12 hours. However, within those parameters we can share our message and promote our liberal faith to the many people who pass that corner everyday.

12. VACATION PLANNING?

Don’t forget to buy Booster Cards! They can be used to buy:

- GAS
- SUNSCREEN
- BOTTLED WATER
- ICED COFFEE!
- GROCERIES

It’s a gift card that also gives to the church. When you purchase Booster Cards a percentage of the value of the card is donated to the church, automatically! And it costs you...Nothing! Support the church while spending money on things you already buy.

Cards are available for purchase in the Parish Hall after services every Sunday. You can also purchase them in the office during the week. Call ahead, if you can, to make sure Marina, Karen or Fran are available to complete the sale.

13. PAYING OFF OUR MORTGAGE WITH THE UUA

After weighing the benefits and risks of each of the options for funding First Unitarian Church’s 2009–2010 budget—as outlined in our letter of May 4 and presented to the congregation in two meetings leading up to the Annual Meeting—the Board and Executive Team concluded that elimination of ongoing debt was preferable to continuing to carry debt, even loans from our own members. We view paying off our mortgage as a positive step toward future expansion. With a successful credit history, we expect the church to be viewed positively in the future if the need arises for a similar mortgage to bridge a gap between capital funds raised and the cost of a new sanctuary and expanded parish hall. In the interim, eliminating our mortgage gives us welcome breathing room in our ongoing operational budget and allows us to focus our pledge dollars on the achievement of our

mission. Our vision continues to include increased membership and expanded facilities and we are taking intermediate steps to move the congregation forward until the time is right to embark on phase two of our capital campaign.

The following motion was presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on May 17th:

Move to spend \$106,000 from the Capital Campaign Building Fund to pay the balance of First Unitarian's mortgage held by the UUA. The church will honor requests by contributors to the fund who prefer that their contributions not be expended for this purpose. These contributors must make their wishes known in writing to the Business Administrator by June 15, 2009.

After significant discussion about this option as compared to others considered, the congregation voted in favor of the motion, 64 to 14. Our plan is to pay off the UUA loan effective June 30, 2009.

In recognition of the expressed wishes of some members to restrict their capital campaign gifts to the specific purposes of the campaign, the motion included an opportunity to "opt out." If, as a contributor to the Capital Campaign, you believe that eliminating the mortgage does not honor the intent of your contribution, you may submit your "opt out" request to our church business administrator, Marina VanRenssen, by June 15, 2009. If you are in agreement with the motion, you do not need to take action. All original contributions to the Capital Campaign Fund have been proportionally adjusted to reflect "First 500" expenditures, as appropriate, and other expenditures already designated by the congregation for the expansion project, including air conditioning the sanctuary, landscaping the library property, and installing the new sign on Rt. 202. All members who have made contributions to the Capital Campaign Fund have been sent a letter concerning the vote and path forward.

14. THIS SUNDAY'S VOLUNTEERS:

WELCOME TABLE:	Sandy Shipman
USHERS:	Peggy Cairncross, Eleanore Morrow, Margaret Sheridan, Jackie Watson
GREETERS:	Marilyn Hyte and Pat McGee
OFFICE:	Peggy Rawheiser
BOOSTER CARDS:	Pete Small
FIRST U LIBRARY:	Open Sunday mornings, 9:30 a.m. to noon, in the RE wing.

15. THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"When the sky is a bright canary yellow,
I forget every cloud I've ever seen,
So they call me a cockeyed optimist,
Immature and incurably green."

Sung by Nellie Forbush in South Pacific