

First Unitarian E-News – Worship and Events

Friday, June 5, 2009

Check out our website at www.firstuuwilm.org

Included in this issue are:

1. ADULT RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION CLASSES
2. SUMMER CYRE
3. THIS SUNDAY – “FLOWER COMMUNION” – THE REV. DR. JOSHUA SNYDER
4. NEW MEMBER CLASSES
5. CHALICE LIGHTERS SHARE VIDEO
6. CHALICE LIGHTERS
7. CARING AND SHARING
8. PRUNING PARTY!
9. NEXT SUNDAY – CHALICE LIGHTERS SUNDAY: “A COCKEYED OPTIMIST” – SHELLEY PAGE
10. A CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE MONTHLY OFFERINGS
11. PAYING OFF OUR MORTGAGE WITH THE UUA
12. THIS SUNDAY’S VOLUNTEERS
13. THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

The Annual report is now available online at www.firstuuwilm.org.

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 7**, Ethics and World Religions will discuss "Grain used for US automobile ethanol could feed a quarter of a billion people in the third world. So what..." The discussion begins at 9:30a.m. in Brunner Chapel and is facilitated by Jim Davis. (Please note the time start at 9:30 rather than 9:00.)

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.

2. SUMMER CYRE

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

This Sunday we are going on a field trip to the Arden Composting Center! RSVP to Catherine if you would like your children to attend.

All summer long:

Nursery care is available for Newborns to 3 year olds in room 7. Supervised activities for children 4 years old through entering 6th grade are also available. Enjoy stories, games and crafts! Parents can sign their children in as early as 10:00 am and should pick up their children immediately following worship. Visiting families are welcome!

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

3. THIS SUNDAY – “FLOWER COMMUNION” – REV. DR. JOSHUA SNYDER

June 7: We will celebrate the Flower Communion created by Rev. Norbert Capek. Please bring a flower to

church; preferably from your own garden or a place very dear to you. It is also the day we celebrate our Youth in the Bridging Ceremony. One of our congregation's young ladies will share her musical talents with us as well.

Music next week:

Miriam Priest - Benedict and Lori Weddell will sing music by Rogers and Hammerstein.

4. NEW MEMBER CLASSES

Our membership class series *Our Faith, Our Tradition, Our Community* continues this morning with "The Priesthood of All Believers" at 11:45a.m. in Brunner Chapel. Bring your coffee and meet with Susan Madison and a number of other church leaders who will describe their ministries to the church.

5. CHALICE LIGHTERS TO SHARE VIDEO

The DVD of the building dedication of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore (*abbreviated version thanks to Randy Windle*) will be shown in the Music Room at noon after the service on June 7th - the week before our *official* Chalice Lighter Sunday on the 14th.

6. IN THE PARISH HALL: CHALICE LIGHTERS

Learn more about Chalice Lighters and the joy of people throughout the area who have found a UU church near them. Chalice Lighters has helped to make this possible. You can become a Chalice Lighter, too. Find out how.

"Growth is vital to the UU movement and the JPD Chalice Lighter funds are the primary resource for expansion in our region." Karel Toll

7. CARING AND SHARING

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

We offer our condolences to the Pinson family, on the loss of Paul's father, who passed away June 2. Services will be held in South Carolina on June 13. Cards and phone calls are welcome.

Subu Subramanian is recovering at Christiana Hospital following a successful surgery. Cards are welcome.

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
Fouk Manor North, 2103
1212 Fouk Road
Wilmington. DE. 19803-2744

Congratulations to two of our church family who were honored by the Joseph Priestley District this year: **Karel Toll** for his leadership of growth in the district and **Chris Kane** as outstanding district youth.

8. NEXT 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!

9. LAST CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE MONTHLY OFFERINGS

It has been our recent tradition to have a special monthly offering dedicated to an organization or worthy cause that is aligned with the mission or principles of our church. We are again asking for your suggestions for recipients for our monthly Social Justice offerings for the upcoming months. Several local, national, and international causes have been recipients in past years. Feel free to nominate past recipients but we also welcome new suggestions.

Please make your nomination in writing, either sent to the Social Justice Team mailbox in the Church Office or sent to Maggie Duffy (mdu@verizon.net) **no later than June 10** to be considered for collections for the balance of the calendar year. Include the name of the organization, the contact person (and your name, if you are not the contact person), a description of the organization/cause and how the resources we might contribute would be used. It would be helpful to know if there happen to be any matching funds, to what extent the nominee is already funded, and what type of accountability is provided.

10. 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.

11. THIS SUNDAY’S VOLUNTEERS:

WELCOME TABLE:	Jan Blanchfield
USHERS:	Cindy and Steve Cohen, Chris Frazer, Robert Gadon
GREETERS:	Dee Burdash and Barbara Lenahan
OFFICE:	Kathi Weiss

BOOSTER CARDS:

Bill Hardham

FIRST U LIBRARY:

Open Sunday mornings, 9:30 a.m. to noon, in the RE wing.

12. THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"Way of my life, I would like to be like the stars
So that roses would bloom wherever I walk.
Why look around to see who will join us in the march?
Whoever knows their purpose marches, even though
they march alone."

-- Rev. Norbert Čapek