



# Quest

January 2009

## Josh's Journal

January is a time for New Year's resolutions. It used to be that I would not make New Year's resolutions because they always failed. Why put myself through the guilt and the emotional agony every year, I thought. However, in recent years I began the practice again. Partly this is an act of humility; I am more aware of my own shortcomings and imperfections now than I was when I was younger. Mostly, it is a sincere wish to live a better life.

Of course this can go too far, we can start to feel guilty or ashamed of the things we wish to change about ourselves: the bad habit, the few extra pounds, the broken or lost relationship. I think this was why I stopped doing resolutions for so many years. Now I see resolutions differently. I think in striving to be better in one or more of these areas we still make progress even when we fall short. The problem is not with resolutions but with our attitude toward them. We expect perfection and a quick fix. When we give up these unrealistic demands upon ourselves, then we are able to make slow and steady progress in all of the areas of our lives that need improvement. Shame and guilt for lack of success run contrary to the UU principle of the inherent worth and dignity of every person. That includes ourselves!

Instead I like to think of resolutions in the new year as an opportunity to make promises to myself. These are promises not of things that I shouldn't do or avoid, but of things that I should actively work toward. In the new year, smile more, even when it is hard to do so. Take more time for yourself. Relax. Read that book that you always meant to get to. One year I read "The Republic" by Plato just because I always wished I had read it. It was such a great feeling to have finished it (not that I understood it all!) Perhaps that is a lesson too—new year's resolutions should be attainable. Give yourself a fighting chance.

Take some time early in the year to think about those one or two things that you would like to be able to say at the end of the year you accomplished or at least moved closer toward accomplishing. It can be fun and exciting to dream and hope about ways life could be better in the new year. Good luck, and happy dreaming!

May You Be Blessed Always,

*Rev. Dr. Joshua Snyder*

## Upcoming Services

**Sunday, January 4:** Rev. Dr. Snyder — "*Service of the Living Tradition Part 1: Honoring the Past*" This week we will honor our members who have served our congregation as members for many years. We will also remember those who have passed away in the previous year. We have arrived at where we are today thanks to the many contributions they have made. Let us remember with awareness and thanks.

**Sunday, January 11:** Rev. Dr. Snyder — "*Service of the Living Tradition Part 2: Envisioning the Future*" Just as we remember the past, we must attune ourselves to the future. Traditions, for them to live, must be in preparation of what is to be. Thus for the second part of our celebration of our living tradition at First Unitarian Church we will consider what our own legacy will be. We will explore our vision for the future; of who we are and the good we strive to achieve in this world.

**Sunday, January 18:** Rev. Dr. Snyder — "*Martin Luther King Jr. and His Legacy*" Martin Luther King Jr. was an important religious figure in America. This morning we will examine what his legacy is for us as Unitarian Universalists and for us as Americans who are about to inaugurate the first African American President.

**Sunday, January 25:** Charlie Clements, President of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) will be in First Unitarian's pulpit to bring us a first-hand look at the work of this independent membership organization. UUSC has been a powerful voice for human rights in the United States and internationally since 1939, when its founders helped victims of Nazi oppression in Europe. Through a potent combination of advocacy, education, and partnerships with grassroots organizations, UUSC supports programs and policies that empower women, defend the rights of children, support the struggles of oppressed racial, ethnic and indigenous groups, and advance the human right to water. In addition, UUSC responds strategically to disasters, especially where human rights are threatened. Our January Special Social Justice Offering will go to UUSC. Please plan to give generously.

*Sunday morning services begin at 10:30;  
Children's Religious Education starts at 10:45  
Childcare is available from 9:00 to 11:50*

## Thank You from the Executive Team!

This month, the Executive Team would like to thank some new groups that have recently been formed here at First Unitarian Church. These Teams are new, but are already making their presence felt around the church:

**Stewardship Steering Team** is the group working on next year's canvass for the pledge drive. It is never too early to be thinking about next year's pledge drive! This group is a sub-team of the Finance Team.

**Buildings and Grounds Team** is a new group that is concerned primarily with the maintenance of the building and all of the church's property. This group works very closely with the Building Supervisor, Terry Walls, and offers the Executive Team advice and council on issues pertaining to the physical plant.

**Leadership Development Team** is a very exciting new group that is working on ways to help members and friends of the church to understand their potential for leadership in the congregation. This is a group that encourages everyone to explore their talents, gifts, passions, and skills in life and how to use those talents and skill in service to the greater ministry of the church as a whole.

The Executive Team would like to thank everyone who has participated in these teams for their energy and vision. We would also invite anyone who is interested in joining any of these groups to contact us. All of these teams are open to anyone and everyone, and new energy and vision is always welcomed.

Thank you to everyone who works so hard, in ways that are seen and unseen, to make First Unitarian Church a healthy and vibrant church community!

Namaste,

The Executive Team

Rev. Dr. Joshua Snyder, Rev. Barbara Gadon,  
Helen K. Foss, Ruth Mette

## Membership

Please welcome **Deborah Haskell** who signed the Book of Names on November 30<sup>th</sup>; Deborah has been attending our church for about four years.

We welcome all who wish to become members of our church to "Signing Sunday" on **January 11<sup>th</sup>**.

Those who have expressed an interest in joining and have met informally with Membership Coordinator Susan Madison will be invited to come forward following the worship service to meet with our ministers and sign our book of Names. For complete information about membership, stop at the Welcome Table any Sunday morning or contact Susan at:

[susan@firstuuwilm.org](mailto:susan@firstuuwilm.org)

## Emmanuel Dining Room

A great 2008 ...  
and we're COOKING in 2009!

After five years, David Weiss is hanging up his well-worn EDR apron. The face of First U's efforts at EDR these last five years, David has been tirelessly recruiting volunteers to serve lunch on the 20<sup>th</sup> of month. Many thanks to him for his "behind-the-scenes" efforts, and to all of you who said "yes" when asked to help out, including Dottie Ashcraft, Cindy Cohen, Letty Diswood, Bill Donovan, Maggie Duffy, Joan Flack, Robert Gadon, Stephen Harlin, Cindy & Jay Heck, Linda Henderson, Kelly & Steven, Barbara Lenahan, Maureen Magner, Diann Moore, Patti Nash, Pam Orris, Barbara Perry, Herb & Marian Sargeant, Gina & Pete Small, Carolyn Toll, Betty Wier, Kathi Weiss.

The new face of EDR will be Cindy Cohen, who is excited to unveil plans to not only serve on the 20<sup>th</sup> of month, but to prepare the meal here at church on the 19<sup>th</sup> as well. "For me, *food=love*, and *service=life*. Put them together and you have the very definition of EDR. And how great is it to expand that love to our church family where we can come together in small groups to prepare a meal together that we then serve to others? It's an amazing and humbling experience. I encourage everyone – adults and children – to be a part of this."

The menu is still in the planning stages, but don't despair – there are opportunities for everyone! No experience is needed, just a willingness to help others. And don't forget we will still need servers at EDR on the 20<sup>th</sup> as well as cooks at church on the 19<sup>th</sup>. For more information please contact Cindy Cohen at 475-5814 or [cindyscohen@comcast.net](mailto:cindyscohen@comcast.net)

## Kindling the Flame IV Workshop

The Philadelphia/Wilmington Growth Team will host "Kindling the Flame IV" on Saturday, February 21, 2009 from 9:00am to 3:00pm at the UU Church of Delaware County in Media, PA.

The theme will be "Our Compelling Message".

Wayne Clark from the UUA will be the keynote speaker in the morning and his topic will be "Stewardship in Challenging Times". The afternoon session will focus on "Raising Awareness of Unitarian Universalism Outside our Church Walls".

The cost is only \$12.00 for the workshop and it promises to be a very worthwhile day for UU congregations in the Philadelphia/Wilmington area.

## RE ~ Minders



### PICK UP SOUP CONTAINERS

January 11 and January 19, In Parish Hall

### BRING IN SOUP TO DONATE

Sunday, February 1

### PURCHASE SOUP

Sunday, February 1

### HELP CYRE FEED THE HUNGRY

#### ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

- ◆ **Ethics and World Religions:** Sunday, January 4, from (9:30 to 10:15 a.m. in the Brunner Chapel. Topic of discussion is "Religion and America's Role in the World", from PBS' Religion & Ethics Newsweekly. Host Jim Davis.
- ◆ **Emerson, Thoreau and Transcendentalism:** This on-going video series facilitated by Susan Madison discusses American Transcendentalism and the many prominent UU's who reshaped our country's social, intellectual, and political character. On Jan 11<sup>th</sup> we will discuss "Transcendental Utopias—Living Experiments;" on Jan 18<sup>th</sup> our topic will be "Transcendentalism and Education;" and on Jan 25<sup>th</sup> "Thoreau, Abolition, and John Brown." The group gathers on Sunday morning (except the first Sunday of the month) from 9:30 – 10:20 a.m. in Brunner Chapel.
- ◆ **Meditation Group:** Led by Dr. Jim Curtis, these sessions include discussions from 9:30 – 10:00 a.m. followed by meditation practice until 10:20 a.m.
- ◆ **Godfrees,** a non-theist group, meets 7:15 to 8:45 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Mondays to discuss moral, ethical and social issues driven by a belief in human capabilities. All are welcome. For information Email Jim at [jedphd@aol.com](mailto:jedphd@aol.com) or Marian Sargeant at [hmsargeant@msn.com](mailto:hmsargeant@msn.com).

## Children & Youth Religious Exploration (CYRE)

### RE ~ Marks... HAPPY NEW YEAR!

My husband enjoys sharing a reading in *Singing the Living Tradition* by Howard Thurman at this time of year. It is: The Work of Christmas #615:

When the song of angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins:  
    To find the lost,  
    To heal the broken,  
    To feed the hungry,  
    To release the prisoner,  
    To rebuild the nations,  
    To bring peace among the brothers,  
    To make music in the heart.

The Children and Youth of First Unitarian Church did an amazing job working to help others during the 2008 Winter Holiday Season. In conjunction with the Social Justice Committee, they raised approximately \$3,000 for the Emmanuel Dining Room and Heifer Project.

#### *Now the work of 2009 begins.*

The Children and Youth are gearing up for the **SOUPER BOWL OF CARING!**

The Souper Bowl of Caring is a national movement of congregations, schools, community organizations and compassionate individuals caring for others on Super Bowl weekend. The program started in 1990. It equips and mobilizes youth to positively impact their communities by collecting money or food on or near Super Bowl weekend. 100% of the collections are donated directly to the charity of each group's choice. We are collecting for the Emmanuel Dining Room by selling homemade soup on February 1, 2009 (the day of the BIG football game.)

The Children and Youth of First Unitarian Church will make soup on January 25, 2009. If you have children in our program, please check the CYRE website at <http://sites.google.com/site/firstuuwilmcyre/Home> and read CYRE News and Notes to find out what ingredients or supplies are needed on January 25 when all of our children are cooking! We also encourage members and friends of First Unitarian Church to make soup at home to donate for us to sell. 32 oz and 16 oz biodegradable soup containers and lids will be available in Parish Hall for members and friends interested in making soup to donate to our Souper Bowl of Caring.

Then on February 1, Souper Bowl Sunday, the Jr. Youth Group will sell all of the soup to raise money for the Emmanuel Dining Room. In addition, we will have empty soup pots in Parish Hall. Please consider dropping at least \$1.00 in the soup pots to help feed the hungry in our area. Last year we raised \$220.00. Can we double, triple, or even quadruple that amount this year?

*Catherine Williamson, DRE*

## Office Ministration

Thank you all for your generous donations to the church in 2008! We finished the year with a “bang,” our accounts payable administrator, Fran Grubb, was very busy in December processing checks and credit card payments to our operating fund, as well as other donations.

Without your financial support, the church would not operate. Just think, no services, no pastoral care, no children’s religious exploration. No building, no heat, no electricity, no coffee. Your support is essential!

Look for year end giving statements for tax purposes to arrive near the end of January. When you get yours, please take a moment to reflect on what your donations really mean to this community. Thank you again.

*Taking care of business,*

*Marina*

## Office Holiday Closings

The church office will be closed on the following January dates:

January 1 – Office closed

January 2 – Office closed

January 19– Office closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day

## Growth Committee Revised Mission Statement

*The First Unitarian Growth Committee is passionate about growing Unitarian Universalism in the Joseph Priestley District (JPD) through identifying areas for potential congregations, supporting new and growing congregations, engaging sponsoring congregations, and involving First Unitarian members in this transformative work.*

*We work in collaboration with the JPD office, JPD Growth and Extension Committee, Chalice Lighters, and the UUA.*

*We make a difference in the lives of others, and nurture our own growth through sharing our UU message.*

If you are interested in joining us in this important work please contact Karel Toll (302 328 7230, [ka-rel.toll@verizon.net](mailto:ka-rel.toll@verizon.net)) or David Sheppard (302 737 3405, [deshep@udel.edu](mailto:deshep@udel.edu))



## Notes from Scott:



The new year is upon us, time to start new things. Why not join the choir? We meet Thursday nights at 7:00 in the music room. We sing a diverse repertoire, and are always looking for singers to join us. No experience required. Contact me, or any choir member for more information.

Thanks to a successful Counterpoint drive (Thank you!) I am scheduling up some great special music for the rest of the year. This will include a special evening with Nick Page in March.

We will have Jim Scott, Scott Davidson, Elisa Matthews, and by popular demand, my friend Martin Hargrove.

If there is a certain type of music you would like to hear in church - now is the time to make a suggestion. E-mail is the best way.



[iamscottw@aol.com](mailto:iamscottw@aol.com)

Happy New Year!

**Scott Ward,**

Honorary Minister of Music

## Wednesday Nights at First UU!

**We’re back! Please join us for a meal at 5:45 p.m. - \$6 for adults, \$4 for children. Worship with us 6:30-7:00, and then join us as we continue our discussion of the Unitarian Universalist “sources.” This month, we honor Humanism!**

### January 7: Jazz Funeral for the Year 2008

We will celebrate the New Year, New Orleans style! In this combined service and program, we will hear Dixieland music from our own UUpbeats, and place items in the coffin to release our spirits from the old year, and items in a cradle for our dreams in the new.



**January 14 – February 4: Ken Wilber’s View of What’s going on in the ‘Kosmos’** — Philosopher Ken Wilber has collected wisdom from religion, spirituality, psychology, philosophy, sociology and systems theory, and strung them together into arguably the most comprehensive theory of what’s going in the universe. Taught by **Gene Thompson**, instructor for the Academy of Lifelong Learning, and Ken Wilber enthusiast.

## Executive Team Portfolios

Rev. Josh Snyder:

Finance

Personnel

Leadership Development

Rev. Barbara Gadon:

Pastoral Care

Adult RE

CYRE

Helen Foss:

Social Justice

Growth

Denominational Affairs

Ruth Mette:

Strategic Planning

Membership

Buildings & Grounds

## January's Special Social Justice Offering

### UUSC

On January 25, UUSC President and CEO, Dr. Charlie Clements will be in First Unitarian's pulpit to bring us a first-hand look at the work of this independent membership organization. UUSC has been a powerful voice for human rights in the United States and internationally since 1939, when its founders helped victims of Nazi oppression in Europe. Through a potent combination of advocacy, education, and partnerships with grassroots organizations, UUSC supports programs and policies that empower women, defend the rights of children, support the struggles of oppressed racial, ethnic and indigenous groups, and advance the human right to water. In addition, UUSC responds strategically to disasters, especially where human rights are threatened. Currently, UUSC is involved in tsunami relief, bringing aid to the earthquake victims in Pakistan, helping war-torn citizens of Afghanistan and bringing the world's attention to the on-going conflict in the Sudan. It has also launched a campaign to stop torture worldwide. Please plan to give generously.

*Helen K. Foss, Executive Team liaison to Social Justice*

## Green Sanctuary

### COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Green Sanctuary Committee is continuing to work toward "UUA green certification," and has prepared a Household Assessment survey for members. This will allow us to determine where we are as a community, and show us which areas need improving upon. Take the survey today! You can access it online at [https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=8oYNbuEg6qSxfqSn0f7cwg\\_3d\\_3d](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=8oYNbuEg6qSxfqSn0f7cwg_3d_3d) or pick up a paper copy in the church office. The online link will be made available through the First UU website

Also, note that CFL lighting has been installed throughout the Parish Hall and Sanctuary!!

Look for the trash RECYCLING bins throughout the building. (*Note: these bins should be used only for material used at the church*)

**2009 will be a BUSY Year for our activities in becoming a "UUA Green Sanctuary" Please join us!! We would love your input and help. The committee meets monthly on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday – out next meeting is January 27<sup>th</sup>; 6:00 – 7:30pm in the Library.**

## Mentors Needed

**Needed:** Mentors for ILYA youth participating in the S.A.V.E. program.

First Unitarian Church, in conjunction with NET and West End Neighborhood House, has been involved in setting up a program for ILYA youth who open savings accounts. Deutsche Bank Trust Co. of Delaware has put up \$50,000 to start a matching savings program for the youth. Now we need mentors to encourage the youth to continue to save and to help with making wise financial decisions.

If you are interested, please contact Elyse Reznick (658.1149) or [reznick@comcast.net](mailto:reznick@comcast.net).

## Caring and Sharing

In December we lost two very active and well loved long-time members. Lois Kaylor's memorial service was held on December 14th. Anne Smock passed away and plans for a First Unitarian memorial service are being made. Both ladies will be truly missed.

## Men's Brown Bag Fellowship Groups

Are you retired or retiring soon? If so, consider joining one of First Unitarian Church's men's brown bag fellowship groups.

Each group, consisting of about 8 members, meets for lunch at a member's home once a month. These meetings offer a combination of food, fellowship and informal talk. Groups stay together for years and develop strong relationships.

For more information contact one of the following:

|                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Bob Johnson     | (302) 235-2356 |
| Jim Davis       | (302) 478-7529 |
| Mark Fries      | (302) 478-7331 |
| Ralph Rawheiser | (302) 478-0429 |
| Lew Collat      | (302) 994-0237 |

## Alliance News

Members and friends of the Women's Alliance will gather on Monday, January 5, at noon in the Parish Hall. Bring your lunch and we'll provide beverages and dessert.

As we welcome the New Year, we will take this time to make important plans and offer our hopes for the future, both personal and for our group. We need everyone's input! So please plan to come on Monday after the holiday.

With warmest wishes for a safe and happy holiday season and New Year.

*Submitted by Mary Collat*

## Board Planks



### A Mid-Year Update on our Ends – We ARE Making a Difference!

We're halfway through the church year, and the Executive Team (ET) has reported to the Board on all of our "Ends" – the difference we hope to make in the world. We're happy to report that we ARE making a difference at First Unitarian.

**End #1:** Toward our vision of *being a vibrant community of religious learning*, we have had Sunday morning sermons on a variety of topics and theologies with a diversity of music, and children's and youth religious exploration programs are a rich source of religious learning for us. With the Sunday morning program on Emerson, Thoreau and Transcendentalism and our Wednesday night programs, we are seeing a renewed energy for adult religious exploration – and for other initiatives as a result. We are making a difference.

**End #2:** As a *community of spiritual seekers* experiencing meaningful spiritual enrichment, Rev. Barbara is piloting a new format for small group ministry, and we have successful affinity groups, such as the UU Christians, Women's Spirituality and the Godfrees which add a focused, personal approach to individual spiritual growth. We are making a difference.

**End #3:** *A Congregation where all are welcomed ...* This year, with the addition of Susan Madison to our staff, we have renewed energy for welcoming newcomers, helping them to learn about Unitarian Universalism, and connecting them to our church community. Visitors have gone on to participate in other activities, such as small groups, Wednesday nights, and social justice – keys to being a welcoming community. We have two teams who visit the homebound, follow up with members with long-term care needs, bring meals and send cards, among other caring activities. Our work to be a welcoming community to all is never finished – and we know there is much more we will do. And still – we are making a difference.

**End #4:** *A community of people with a passion for social justice and the environment.* Over 100 people of our congregation are engaged in our all-church ILYA project, providing support for young adults aging out of foster-care. Other program participation includes Delaware's Women's Alternatives to Violence Project, launched and led by Paula Maiorano; Emmanuel Dining Room; the Faith Center; the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee; the Coalition for Climate Change Study and Action, an interdenominational forum led by Chad Tolman; our Green Sanctuary initiative; and our enhanced recycling program. And we provide funds through our monthly special collections to other important social justice efforts. We are making a difference.

**End #5:** We are *dedicated to the growth of Unitarian Universalism.* Through our welcoming and membership activities, we are beginning to see new growth in our own membership. Beyond our walls, the First U Growth Committee works tirelessly to support new and growing congregations in the Joseph Priestley District, including the UU's of Southern Delaware and the South Jersey Shore as they became official members of the UUA and obtained new buildings. Most recently we have supported our new Dover congregation through the chartering process – finally – a UU presence in our state capital! We are making a difference.

Many thanks to Rev. Josh and the Executive Team, and for our work together as a leadership team. And thanks to all of you in the congregation who are helping us in making the difference – we couldn't do it without you!

### **THIS MONTH'S REFLECTION ...**

*Mid year check-in ... how do YOU think we're doing so far this year? What have we done well? What can we improve upon?*

*Feel free to **email us** at [theboard@firstuuwilm.org](mailto:theboard@firstuuwilm.org) with your thoughts, **or join us at our monthly Chat with the Leadership** after the service on January 18<sup>th</sup> (always the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month).*

## Social Justice at First Unitarian

**F**irst U's Social Justice Team includes all who work "under the umbrella of social justice." Join representatives of initiatives below for monthly meetings at First U on the second Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Information to share? Next Quest deadline is January 15. Contact: [lynningersoll@hotmail.com](mailto:lynningersoll@hotmail.com)

### Coalition for Climate Change Study and Action (C<sup>3</sup>SA)

As we welcome the New Year, we recognize that the winter solstice has now passed and winter is well underway. Our days have started to lengthen, bringing the promise of yet another spring, and a rebirth of hope. In both Dover and Washington we have new leaders and new promise. But it is not only their responsibility. Perhaps as never before, it is also ours. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, Jan. 13 at 7:30 PM in Room 29. All are welcome to attend, to learn about actions that will make a difference in controlling climate change, and to share ideas. Contact Chad Tolman: [ctolman@udel.edu](mailto:ctolman@udel.edu)

### Children and Youth for Social Justice

We thank the congregation for their participation in the **Gifts That Give Fair on December 7**. Thanks, too, to the children and youth of First U, whose energy and enthusiasm resulted in raising an impressive \$1415 for the Heifer Project, \$1455 for Emmanuel Dining Room, \$265 for ILYA (which was collecting both money and gifts at an adjacent table). Their efforts also boosted activity at the YWCA Home Life Management Center table's sale of house pins in support of transitional housing for women. Our young folks created Christmas tree ornaments, straw hearts and clay chalices, which were available to all the generous donors who helped us exceed \$3,000 in "gifts that give." Contact Charlotte Grabau: [charlottegrabau@comcast.net](mailto:charlottegrabau@comcast.net)

### Emmanuel Dining Room

**NEW for 2009 - COOKING!** If you can help out with our monthly serving duties (10:00 am to 1:00 pm on the 20th of every month) or our new cooking efforts (probably the 19th of the month, but flexible) contact Cindy Cohen (302-475-5814 or [cindyscohen@comcast.net](mailto:cindyscohen@comcast.net)). Come meet new folks, and feel great about helping others - either in the church kitchen, or at EDR.

### Green Sanctuary Task Force

The Green Sanctuary Committee is continuing to work toward "UUA green certification," and has prepared a Household Assessment survey for members. This will allow us to determine where we are as a community, and show us which areas need improving upon. Take the survey today! You can access it online at [https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=8oYNbuEg6qSxfqSn0f7cwg\\_3d\\_3d](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=8oYNbuEg6qSxfqSn0f7cwg_3d_3d) or pick up a paper copy in the church office. Contact Maggie Duffy at 610-358-5587 or [mdu@verizon.net](mailto:mdu@verizon.net)

### ILYA (Independent Living for Young Adults)

**Holiday Giving '08 concluded with approximately 280 gifts delivered to 35 households or 70 individuals**

(including family members). First U's efforts included gathering wish lists, buying gifts, wrapping and delivering presents. **The Mill Creek and Newark Unitarian congregations contributed generously. Thanks to Barbara Perry, ILYA holiday giving coordinator**, and to First U's members, families and groups who bought, donated, wrapped, delivered ... and cared. Contact Betty Wier: [bwier@UDeL.Edu](mailto:bwier@UDeL.Edu)

### UUSC (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee)

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was adopted by the United Nations, December 10, 1948, 60 years ago last month. It is a very Unitarian/Universalist document. At the UUSC web site, [http://www.uusc.org/universal\\_declaration\\_of\\_human\\_rights\\_preamble](http://www.uusc.org/universal_declaration_of_human_rights_preamble), you see that it reflects our UU values and beliefs. Charlie Clements, UUSC President and CEO, in a letter to President-elect Barack Obama, stated: "We hope the UDHR will inspire your administration with a vision of a world free from oppression and injustice, where all can realize their full human rights." It could inspire us as well in all of our human rights and social justice endeavors. Contact Doyle Dobbins: [d.dobbins@verizon.net](mailto: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](mailto:helenfoss@verizon.net).

## Church Staff

|                            |                                                                                |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Reverend Dr. Joshua Snyder | <b>Senior Minister</b><br>Josh@firstuuwilm.org                                 |
| Reverend Barbara Gadon     | <b>Minister of Adult Programs and Pastoral Care</b><br>Barbara@firstuuwilm.org |
| Scott Ward                 | <b>Honorary Minister of Music</b><br>iamscottw@aol.com                         |
| Catherine Williamson       | <b>Director of Religious Exploration</b><br>Catherine@firstuuwilm.org          |
| Marina VanRenssen          | <b>Business Manager</b><br>Marina@firstuuwilm.org                              |
| Fran Grubb                 | <b>Administrative Assistant</b><br>Fran@firstuuwilm.org                        |
| Karen Rockhold             | <b>Program Administrator</b><br>Karen@firstuuwilm.org                          |
| Terry Walls                | <b>Building Supervisor</b><br>Terry@firstuuwilm.org                            |
| Susan Madison              | <b>Membership Coordinator</b><br>Susan@firstuuwilm.org                         |
| Reverend Dr. Robert Doss   | <b>Minister Emeritus</b>                                                       |

## Board of Trustees

|               |                       |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| Nancy Pinson  | <b>President</b>      |
| Cindy Cohen   | <b>Trustee</b>        |
| Phil Dowd     | <b>Trustee</b>        |
| Pam Finkelman | <b>Trustee</b>        |
| George Huhn   | <b>Trustee</b>        |
| Marilyn Hyte  | <b>Trustee</b>        |
| Jeff Lott     | <b>Trustee</b>        |
| Barry Marrs   | <b>Vice President</b> |
| David Weiss   | <b>Trustee</b>        |

## Non-Board Officer

|             |                  |
|-------------|------------------|
| Steve Cohen | <b>Treasurer</b> |
|-------------|------------------|

### 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 January 1 to 31, 2009. The next *QUEST* newsletter will cover events from February 1 to 28, 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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# January 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.*