



Quest

March 2009

Josh's Journal

As many of you probably know by now, our pledge drive is starting this month. Our theme is "A New Direction." Our pledge brochure lists some of the new initiatives in next year's budget that we are hoping to fund. A new direction is great, but it needs to be unpacked. What does it mean to go in this new direction? What is new about it? What are we going to be doing with this money, and how does it move us forward as a congregation? Here are some of my thoughts:

One of the key goals for next year is to expand the hours and responsibilities of the Membership Coordinator to include not only welcoming and greeting new people, but also helping to actively find a place for them within the church. Visitors and new members should be made to feel like they have come home when they join First Unitarian Church. Having a Membership Coordinator looking at connecting people, in addition to welcoming them, helps us live out our values as Unitarian Universalists.

We are planning to have additional administrative support for our Director of Religious Education. This will allow the DRE to take a more active role in articulating the vision, with the CYRE Team, for our program for children and youth. The CYRE Team and Catherine already do an amazing job. But what could they do, what could our church be, if we freed them up to dream really big? The possibilities are exciting to contemplate.

In this next budget we will move toward compensating Rev. Barbara Gadon at a fair, just, and competitive level. Rev. Barbara has done fantastic ministry to this church for many years. She helped heal the wounds of division and pain that many experienced in the turmoil of ministerial transition. That healing is evident now, but it took a great deal of compassion and hard work to make it happen. Our debt and our gratitude to Rev. Barbara are immense.

We will also be moving closer to becoming a Green Sanctuary. We will be making great strides to become more efficient and eco-friendly with our building. This is not only good use of our financial and space resources, but it is good for the earth too!

These next steps along the new direction will be a challenge, but they are not impossible. We face some tough realities this year: a slowing economy and a number of income streams for the church that will not be available next year. However we have some powerful forces working in our favor, forces that have impressed me since my first day on the job. These are the care and love people have for First Unitarian Church, the affection and respect they hold for one another, the generosity people share when they are inspired by a compelling vision, the excitement they feel about the future, the community that is coming together to move forward along a new direction.

Please join me in being as generous as possible this year. Even a small increase in your pledge would make a difference, and a large increase would put us over the top toward making these visions a reality. Thank you in advance for your generous gifts!

May You Be Blessed Always,

Rev. Dr. Joshua Snyder

Upcoming Services

Sunday, March 1: First Unitarian Youth Group — This Sunday is the Annual Youth Worship Service. Join the youth as they contemplate change.

Sunday, March 8: Rev. Dr. Snyder — "**A New Direction**" This Sunday kicks off our annual pledge drive for next year. There have been many new things spring up at church in the past few months. There is a new sense of life and energy throughout the congregation. At the same time, there has been difficult and scary news coming out at the national level. How do we celebrate with caution? How do we move forward energetically as a church while the world seems to shrink back? What we need, is a new direction.

Sunday, March 15: Suzanne M. Marsh, Intern Minister, Community Church of New York — "**Can You Hear Me Now?**" Cell phone callers are only the latest in a long line of folks to ask this question. What might it mean to each of us, our community and our world if we were to listen a little more carefully to what others are saying? The old Beatles song tells us that "all we need is love", but I'm thinking that maybe all we need is to listen more to each other and to our own inner truths. This Sunday we will explore what it means to authentically listen to each other and how it feels to really be heard.

Sunday, March 22: Rev. Dr. Snyder — "**A Thousand Arms of Love**" One of the primary roles of a church is to take care of the members. We often call this the "pastoral" role, from the biblical image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd. While that is an important image for some, not everyone likes to be thought of as sheep! Buddhism has a very different, even exotic, image of caring for each other. The Buddhist Goddess of mercy and compassion, Kuan Yin, uses her thousand arms to help all beings. We are the compassion the world most desperately needs right now.

Sunday, March 29: Rev. Dr. Snyder — "**Hope and Courage**" The Father of Universalism in America, John Murray, famously said that we should go out into the highway and byways of America and give the people not the fear of hell but rather hope and courage. What do we bring to our culture and our society now, three centuries after Murray's vision? What message does the world desperately need to hear right now from us?

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:

Ned Gladfelter and **Rebecca Fischer** for providing such inspiring and entertaining stories for our "Time for All Ages" during Rev. Barbara's sabbatical!

To the ad hoc Installation Planning Team: **Marilyn Hyte**, **Dale Stratton**, and **Maggie Duffy**. They have worked diligently to plan childcare, food, and working with more than half a dozen ministers to make our installation a tremendous success.

All of our greeters for making us feel so welcome on Sunday morning: **Cindy Cohen**, **Steve Cohen**, **Jim Davis**, **June Peterson**, **Renee Anderson**, **Charlie Anderson**, **Jackie Watson**, **Barbara Perry**, **Dee Burdash**, **Barbara Lenahan**, **Marilyn Hyte**, **Pat McGee**, **Phil Dowd**, **Marie Oakberg**, **George Huhn**, **Glen Barbaras**, **Kathryn Lloyd**, **Rita McWhorter**, **Roxanne Harris**, **Judy Govatos**, **Mary Jo Metz**, **Nancy Pinson**, **Paul Pinson**, **Pat Johnson**, **Bill Johnson** and **Dale Stratton**.

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!"

COME AND CELEBRATE!!

SERVICE OF INSTALLATION OF
REVEREND DOCTOR JOSH SNYDER

AS SENIOR MINISTER OF
FIRST UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF
WILMINGTON

MARCH 15, 2009 AT 4:00 PM

RECEPTION FOLLOWING THE SERVICE

RSVP BY MARCH 6

installation@firstuuwilm.org

OR CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE

302-478-2384

PLEASE INDICATE CHILDCARE NEEDS

Adult Religious Education

Join us for this exciting Sunday morning series beginning April 5:

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.

Around the globe, sages and moralists, philosophers and priests grappled with novel ideas about the nature of humanity, the world, and ultimate reality, approaching these issues with fresh ways of thinking. This era was of such great importance that we moderns continue to live out our moral and religious lives through the traditions integral to the faiths they shaped.

These 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 W. 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 in the Axial Age.

Class facilitator Susan Madison invites you to relate your own spiritual questions to this variety of ancient quests for meaning and transcendence. The classes will begin the first Sunday in April; a full listing of dates and subjects are available in the membership office. The topics for the month of April are:

- April 5: What was the Axial Age?
- April 12: The Noble Ones
- April 19: The World of Zoroaster
- April 26: Zoroaster's Legacy



Wednesday Nights at First UU!



Wednesdays in March will continue the exploration of World Religions focusing on Buddhism (March 4), Islam (March 11 and 18) and Hinduism (March 25). Discussions leaders include Jim Curtis, Dr. Tom Goodrich, and Subu Subramanian.

Join us for dinner at 5:45 pm, worship at 6:30, and discussion immediately following the service. Children's programs will include: Spanish for grades K-3, a fun room (including board games, open art studio and the ever-popular Wii sports game) and a homework room.



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

RE ~ minders

Sunday, March 1: Youth Sunday Worship Service.

Friday, March 13 - Sunday, March 15: Lepre-CON! The UU Church of Delaware County is hosting a Youth Conference. Contact Margo if you are interested in attending:

margo@firstuuwilm.org. Keep an eye out on the Joseph Priestly website for registration forms! <http://www.jpduua.org/>

Sunday, March 15, 4:00 pm: Dr. Rev. Josh Snyder's Installation. Childcare is available.

Friday, March 27: Nick Page Concert at First Unitarian.

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- markable!

Souper Bowl Success

First Unitarian Church raised \$622.00 at our Souper Bowl Sunday Fundraiser! The money will be donated to the Emmanuel Dining Room. Thank you to everyone who made soup, donated ingredients and assisted the children in making soup for the fundraiser!

Great Big THANK YOU

Maggie Duffy, Matt Pinson and Amy Gunderson work hard behind the scenes for the CYRE program. Amy has been typing stories, creating inventory lists and stocking the Sanctuary Goody Bags. Matt Pinson and Maggie Duffy assist Catherine in prepping classroom materials and stocking the CYRE class containers with lesson supplies. Thank you for all of your hard work!

Check it Out!

Regina Quigley designs the bulletin board across from the CYRE mailboxes near the Library. The bulletin board has information about upcoming events for CYRE children, families and friends. Take some time to look it over, and remember to check it regularly.

RE~marks



Children in kindergarten through fifth grades are exploring our Unitarian Universalist Sources for the remainder of the year. The Sources are part of the covenant made by UUA member congregations. They can be found in the hymnal, *Singing the Living Tradition*, and on the UUA website.

The living tradition which we share draws from many sources:

- ☞ Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- ☞ Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion and the transforming power of love;
- ☞ Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- ☞ Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- ☞ Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
- ☞ Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.



Grateful for the religious pluralism which enriches and ennobles our faith, we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision.

The Sources can be used to guide us as we make decisions and develop our credos. For example, when considering the effects of our words on others, the Rainbow Walkers (K/1st), heard the story *Yettele's Feathers* from the Jewish Source. Through this story they considered the idea that words have power and can't be taken back once something is said. Questers, in 4th and 5th grades, are using the Sources to explore different views of God throughout cultures, religions and time. For example they explored the idea that god is earth (Gaia) from the Ancient Greece and god is breath based on an African tradition.



Adult RE is focusing on the Sources this year as well. Wednesday evening programs are each focused on a Source. Susan Madison is leading a class on Sunday mornings focused specifically on Transcendentalism, which is part of the final Source mentioned: Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature. Pay attention to the readings during the worship service. The Ancient Reading and Modern Reading ultimately are drawn from a UU Source. Take some time to explore our hymnal as well. It is arranged according to our Unitarian Universalist Sources.

In faith,

Catherine Williamson, DRE



Office Ministration

Did you know we have a set of mail slots in the hallway outside the church office? These slots are available for use by our committees and organizations, if they choose, to leave items for one another or hold snail mail received by the church addressed to a specific group.

In these days of email and web pages, these mail slots are not used as much as they were in the past, but may still be useful.

Please let me know if your committee or group needs to have a mail slot. We plan to update the labels soon, so please get back to me by March 15. If you plan to make use of the mail slot, please make sure your committee members are aware that you plan to use the slots.



Taking care of business,

Marina



Notes from Scott:

Mark your calendars for an exciting all-church event! Friday, March 27, potluck at 6:15, followed by a fantastic program. UU Song Leader Nick Page will present a program of singing and stories for people of all ages!

Nick is known throughout the country as a song leader and teacher of music of just about every style. He specializes in making world music accessible for all. Nick has been to our church before, but it has been a few years - so now is your time to come have a wonderful evening of singing and sharing.

Come for an All-Church Pot Luck Dinner - Starting at 6:15. (Please bring a salad or main dish - dessert and beverages will be provided). Nick's program will start at 7:00. Please RSVP either by calling the church office, or e-mailing Scott: iamscottw@aol.com so we can plan food accordingly.

Contact Scott Ward if you have questions. All are welcome - all will have a good time!



Scott Ward,

Honorary Minister of Music

Flowers for Installation: You Can Help!

Spring is approaching rapidly, and so is our Installation Ceremony for Reverend Snyder. The decorating committee is hoping that some of you who have copious forsythia can cut some, then put them in water indoors to force the blooming. We would like to have them here in the church by Friday, March 13. Also, if you might have any cobalt blue vases that we could borrow, we can use them as well. Any questions or suggestions, please call or e-mail Suzanne Cornell at (610) 925-0510 or suzcornell@verizon.net.

Membership

Please welcome **Donald Whitely, Sarah Silverstein, and Ben and Ruth Fleury-Steiner** (*and their children Anna and Robin*) who signed the Book of Names in February. Please reach out to them and welcome them warmly into our community.

Our next "Signing Sunday" will be March 8th! If you have made a decision to join the church, please reserve the date so that after the worship service you can sign our Book of Names. If you have questions about membership in the church, please stop by the Welcome Table on Sunday morning or contact Membership Coordinator Susan Madison directly at susan@firstuuwilm.org.



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Caring and Sharing

Congratulations to Melissa and Ed Sugzdnis

on the birth of their baby **Carter Riley Sugzdnis**

born January 14th, 2009, weighing in at 8 lbs. 10 oz. and 20 inches long.

Our condolences go out to **Phil Dowd** and his family upon the death of his sister, Ginny Davidson.

We are pleased to announce that your generosity toward the UUSC on Sunday, January 25th, resulted in a gift in the amount of \$2166 for the mission of protecting human rights and improving the quality of life for many throughout the world. Thank you for your generosity.

A memorial service honoring the life of **Jean Spengeman** was held on Sunday, February 15th. It was well attended by family and friends. Jean was a long-time, very active and caring member of our congregation. A piece of her calligraphy art hangs in our front office.

On March 1, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. there will be a gathering of remembrance to honor our dear friend **Anne LaSalle** who passed away on January 19th. She will be missed. Anne was an active member whose most recent leadership role here was organizing the Supper Club. Please feel free to come, hold hands, be together, and share your memories.

Please keep Jim Watson in your prayers as he continues to recover at home from recent hip surgery.

Congratulations to Leslie Stanford who received the YWCA Rita Turner Award as a staunch advocate for women and women's rights in order for them to learn and grow without fear of gender bias or pressure in the workplace, as well as her active engagement and support of the YWCA Delaware. The YWCA honors women at an Evening of Style to celebrate women in our community who exemplify the characteristics of power, style and brilliance, and inspire other women to embrace their own potential.

Alliance News

Members and friends of the Women's Alliance will **NOT** meet on March 2. Please join us as usual on Monday, April 6. Do enjoy the arrival of Spring!



Submitted by Mary Collat

Considering God 200 Years After Darwin

Delaware Dialogues on Science, Ethics, and Religion (D-DoSER) is sponsoring a special talk by Reverend Keith Ward, 2008-09 Metanexus Senior Fellow and Regius Professor of Divinity Emeritus at the University of Oxford.

"Considering God 200 Years After Darwin" Friday, March 20 - 1:00 PM - Lecture and book signing at the Academy of Lifelong Learning - University of Delaware, Wilmington, Arshat Hall (new building.) Reverend Ward will discuss several aspects of Darwin's theory of evolution, natural selection and random mutations which if properly understood are not inconsistent with a belief in God, a conscious Creator who has a purpose for the universe and the positive impact that Darwin has had on religious faith. Note the special location and time.

Pacem in Terris Spring Series

Listening, Looking and Longing for Peace: Israel-Palestine : Thursdays: March 5, March 19, 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.

March Titles:

March 5: Two facilitators from the Compassionate Listening Project will show a film "Children of Abraham" and discuss their recent trip to Palestine & Israel where they listened to the people. They are non-political but trained in understanding communication.

March 19: Americans for Peace Now will send a speaker from one of their Washington or New York offices. APN is an organization of Jewish Americans who believe that Israel's security and democratic character cannot be maintained unless it finds mutual peace with its Arab neighbors including the Palestinians.

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - Non-perishable food items accepted for the food closet.

Building and Grounds Committee

A new Building and Grounds Committee has recently formed. Current members include: Noreen Bayly, Bill Flack, Ken Hostelley - Co-Chair, Pete Small, Terry Walls, Jim Weddell, Randy Windle - Co-Chair. Our first work has been to develop a Mission Statement, followed by a "Wish List" of projects and needs. If you have suggestions for additions to the "Wish List", or have concerns regarding the Building or Grounds, please contact one of the committee members.

SAVE THE DATE!

Passover Seder at First Unitarian Church, April 8.

The church will host a Passover Seder on Wednesday, April 8, starting at 5:45 PM. in the Fellowship Hall. Passover is a Jewish holiday that commemorates the liberation of the Jewish people from Egyptian slavery over 3000 years ago. The Seder retells the exodus story of the Jewish people and preserves the collective memory of that time through a communal, ritualistic meal.

Reverend Josh Snyder will lead the Seder, using a Unitarian Universalist written haggadah ("order.")

Volunteers are needed to help arrange tables and prepare the meal. Please contact Robert Gadon if you would like to assist (phone: 302-762-5959,

email: rgadon@verizon.net). Advance reservations to attend will be required in order to prepare the meal. Look for further publicity about the event during March.



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

March Special Offering

Unitarian Universalist House is a non-profit, non-denominational retirement community in Philadelphia which offers residential, personal care, assisted living and nursing care in a homelike setting, as well as community outreach programs and services to the homebound elderly. Dating from 1887, the charming Victorian mansion was originally a family home, an ambiance that continues to this day. In 1933 it was purchased by members of the Unitarian Society of Germantown to establish a home for the elderly that provided quality retirement services. In 1998 the UU House merged with Lycoming House and began its Outreach Program. This free program provides access to nursing and social work care to individuals helping them to remain safely in their homes. Policies of the House are designed to be in keeping with the Unitarian Universalist Association's Principles and Purposes, providing an atmosphere of dignity, love and respect for each individual.



Board Planks

So what do we do?

As per our governance model, the Board and the Executive Team are both responsible to **ensure our church stays focused**, not only on our UU principles, but also on the Ends we as a congregation have established. The Executive Team keeps focused on the day-to-day operations toward those Ends, and the Board focuses **on the longer-term visions**. But what does that really mean the Board does?

Our monthly meetings tend to focus on **reviewing our policies**, such as Executive Limitations. "Limitations" are the type of policy the Board constructs in which we set boundaries conveying our expectations to the Executive Team. The Executive Team reviews certain of these limitations each month with the Board, and that way we stay on the same page. As we review these in systematic fashion, we try to stay focused on how we can make changes to help the church achieve the Ends in the most rewarding way we can. We also review other policy types on a regular basis.

And what are we up to currently?

As spring approaches we've begun planning for the Annual Meeting in May. We have charged the **Nominating Committee** who are actively in search of 3 new board members for next year. (If you are interested in being a part of our visioning work, please contact Ned Gladfelter, Chair of the Nominating Committee. If you have questions about our board work, please feel free to speak with any of us. We'll be more than happy to share how meaningful this important work is for the church.)

The Board also has subcommittees who report to them. One is the **Long Range Planning Committee**, which includes Rev. Josh, Lani Zlupko, J. Harry Feldman, and Marie Oakberg (chair.) They have been working with the congregation's input from previous surveys, focus groups, and October feedback sessions. They have connected your thoughts with our vision and ends statements, and are developing strategies and plans they'll be sharing with all of us in the spring. (Keep an eye on the next few Quests, or feel free to speak with Marie and her committee for more details).

And probably our greatest spring effort is the monitoring of the **Stewardship Campaign**. While officially an activity of the Executive Team, the Board is actively engaged in the oversight of this financial activity. We have reviewed a draft budget for next year, and recognize that while the economic climate may be an unsettled one, the board has every confidence that if we all pull together we can fund a budget that allows us to continue to be the denominational and community leader we have been for almost 150 years. In unsettled times the church is a place where people come for community and caring. We will continue to be that for years to come, with your help.

Join Us!

Join us at our monthly **Chat with the Leadership** in the sanctuary after the service on **March 22nd** – although it is usually scheduled for the third Sunday of the month – this month it is on the **fourth** Sunday because of the Installation Service 3/15.



We Cooked!

Our first cooking attempt at Emmanuel on January 19th went amazingly well!

The morning crew prepared 100 lbs of chicken, 144 cups of sauce, and 38 pounds of rice. Thanks to Janet Jones, Henrietta McKelvey, Barbara Perry, Nancy Pinson, Bob & Penny Pleasance, Elyse Reznick, and Lori & Darin Wardwell for not only helping figure out quantities for 300 people, but for cleaning up along the way (Bob is a pan-cleaning machine!).

The afternoon crew then jumped in and finished up the meal prep. Melissa Samworth brought along her high-school friends who snapped two bushels of green beans in record time. Along with Betty Wier they finished up the casseroles, and then we delivered the meal (all 12 trays) to Emmanuel Dining Room – all by 3 pm!

The next morning Barbara Perry and I headed down to Emmanuel to reheat and serve our meal. While the country watched history unfold during the swearing-in ceremony for President Barak Obama, we served 240 meals to those in need. The staff gave us rave reviews about the meal and about how well we did as first-time cooks.

But of course none of this is possible without a great crew. If you want to be a part of the fun, we will be cooking on the 19th of each month, and serving on the 20th. We'd love to have you join us, just contact me at 475-5814 or cindyscohen@comcast.net.

-submitted by Cindy Cohen

Pledge Drive A New Direction

March 8 is the kickoff of our annual pledge drive! Our Church has a new minister and a new sense of life. We are headed in a new direction together. These are difficult times around the country and in our church. Some of the income streams we have been relying upon this year will not be available to us next year. In addition, we have some great ideas about how to move our church forward along this new direction. Even a modest increase in your pledge over last year can make a big difference. A significant increase can make a huge difference!

This year we will be doing a face to face canvass for all of our members. You will be getting a call from one of our pledge stewards (people we used to call "canvassers"). We ask that you set up a time with one of our pledge stewards to meet and discuss your dreams and visions for First Unitarian Church in the coming year. You will also fill out your pledge card (and an electronic withdrawal form if you wish) to give to your pledge steward. Let's make this the best pledge drive ever, by getting those pledge cards in nice and early!

Thank you for your generosity! —Stewardship Steering Team

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 below for monthly meetings at First U on the second Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Information to share? Next Quest deadline is March 15. Contact: lynningersoll@hotmail.com

Coalition for Climate Change Study and Action (C³SA)



Chad has been working with one of the five workgroups (Workgroup 2, Reducing the Environmental Footprint of the Energy Delawareans Use) whose reports have been submitted to the Governor's Energy Advisory Council, which will submit its own report to Governor Markell, after public meetings in each of the three Delaware counties in March. (See the report at: [http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/Admin/Pages/](http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/Admin/Pages/ReducingEnviroFootprintWorkgroup.aspx)

ReducingEnviroFootprintWorkgroup.aspx) One of the recommendations, written by Chad and Phil Cherry of DNREC, is that Delaware should be a national leader in reducing its per capita carbon dioxide emissions. The reasons include: 1) per capita energy consumption in Delaware is now 10% higher than the U.S. average--one of the highest in the world; 2) Delaware is especially vulnerable to sea level rise, as it has the lowest average elevation (65 ft) of any state in the country; 4) Delaware has a huge renewable energy resource in the form of offshore wind; 5) making the transition to a sustainable energy future will bring new industries and jobs to the state; and 6) by becoming a leader we can show others how it can be done when people work together for the common good. Though consensus was not achieved in the workgroup, this recommendation has gone directly to the governor. Stay tuned. Contact Chad Tolman: ctolman@udel.edu about future meetings and activities of C³SA.

Children and Youth for Social Justice

As you can read in RE-marks, our **youth are busy making a difference!** In February, CYRE sponsored a Valentine Pot Luck Dinner, where attendees made Valentine's Day cards for First U members living in Nursing Homes or unable to attend church. The Kindergartners - Eighth graders were busy making soup and sold it on Souper Bowl Sunday with a whopping \$600 going to Emmanuel Dining Room. Contact Charlotte Grabau: charlotteg.r@comcast.net

Emmanuel Dining Room



The launch of our Emmanuel Dining Room (EDR) cooking efforts in January went great! (see separate story in this Quest). We'd love to have widespread participation in these monthly efforts, and encourage you to consider joining in on the fun (no experience necessary!). We cook here at church on the 19th and serve at EDR on the 20th. Contact Cindy Cohen (475-5814 or cindyscohen@comcast.net) for more details.

Green Sanctuary Task Force

Thank you to everyone who completed our survey. During March the results will be compiled and analyzed.

Your input will guide us in our Action Plan in the steps toward certification. We will report on the results soon.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, March 24, 2008 at 6:00 pm in the Library. Please join us! Contact Maggie Duffy at 610-358-5587 or mdu@verizon.net.



ILYA (Independent Living for Young Adults)

A service project of First Unitarian Church, ILYA provides support for eighteen-year-olds as they "age out" of the foster care system. ILYA works with social service agencies, helping to fill existing gaps in service for this particular group of young people. Some volunteer positions require training and/or experience; some require background checks. We will arrange an interview to answer your questions and to help you decide how, where and when to begin, and provide orientation and training when needed. Contact Betty Wier: bwier@UDel.Edu for ILYA information.

UUSC (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee)

In January, Dr. Charlie Clements, the President and CEO of UUSC visited First Unitarian, meeting with church leaders on Friday evening and offering Sunday's sermon. He inspired us with information and stories of social justice work being done on our behalf through UUJSC. He also challenged us to do our part, to be actively engaged in supporting social justice projects both locally and around the world. Opportunities for support range from financial contributions to active participation, including work in environmental justice, civil rights, humanitarian crises, economic justice, and experiential learning through Just Camps and Just Journeys. Contact Doyle Dobbins: d.dobbins@verizon.net.

Our church offering on January 25th, plus Guest-At-Your-Table boxes, was to support the work of UUSC. The total giving was \$2,241. A generous "thank you" to everyone.

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.



Church Staff

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

Board of Trustees

Nancy Pinson	President
Cindy Cohen	Trustee
Phil Dowd	Trustee
Pam Finkelman	Trustee
George Huhn	Trustee
Marilyn Hyte	Trustee
Jeff Lott	Trustee
Barry Marrs	Vice President
David Weiss	Trustee

Non-Board Officer

Steve Cohen Treasurer

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