



Quest

October 2008

Josh's Journal

What does it mean to be connected? I remember when I was a seminary student at Meadville Lombard Theological School, I felt very connected to Unitarian Universalism. Meadville is a small school and the student body is very close. Indeed, most of the buildings are bunched around the same intersection at 57th and Woodlawn on Chicago's south side. One of the other buildings there happens to also be the First Unitarian Church of Chicago. At least for the time being, until Meadville's relocation plans take effect, the UUs own one corner of the city of Chicago.

When I was a student there I remember that my whole life was in that one intersection. I went to school there, I lived there, I even worked there in the Wiggins Library and later as a research assistant to the professor of religious education. For awhile I attended First Unitarian Church of Chicago—so I stayed at the same UU intersection on Sunday morning and Friday evening vespers. Most of my friends in Chicago were other Meadville students.

Three years of being that close to that many Unitarian Universalists could be exhausting! About my second year, I started traveling to the north side to the Second Unitarian Church of Chicago just to widen my sense of the world beyond that one intersection. But you know, ever since I graduated along with all of my friends, part of me has longed for that intense connection to other Unitarian Universalists. I still see my old friends of course. I know Rev. Barbara from those days, and my good friend Rev. Dr. Justin Osterman just began his new ministry as the Senior Minister at Main Line Unitarian Church not far from here. Those old connections are dispersed around the country, but still there. We get a little of the intense feeling of being Unitarian Universalists at General Assembly every year, but it is a hard thing to recreate.

Unitarian Universalism is about community. It has been ever since the Polish Brethren set up the first Unitarian congregations in the sixteenth century. It continued to be about community when the Unitarians in New England broke away from the more orthodox Congregationalists in the nineteenth century. In the twentieth century, the Unitarians and the Universalists merged together to form the same community and rewrote the principles which our religion strives to bring to life. And now in the twenty-first century our dream is to expand our community, to make it more vital and to transform more lives through the healing, life-giving message of liberal religion.

It is an ambitious undertaking. It requires something from all of us. This month our congregation will join others around the country in celebrating Association Sunday. This is a special fundraising Sunday that names the many gifts and contributions we as a church have experienced while being a part of the UUA. But it is more than that. It is a time to not only remember the past, and express our gratitude for our heritage, but it also provides us with a time to dream of the future. What new things could be in Unitarian Universalism for the rest of this century and beyond? How can we have more of those "intense" feelings of being a Unitarian Universalist in the future? Please join us on October 5th and be a part of the celebration.

May You Be Blessed Always,

Rev. Josh Snyder

Upcoming Services

Sunday, October 5: Rev. Dr. Snyder — **"Association Sunday"** The second annual Association Sunday will build on the overwhelming success of last year. We will explore what it means to be in "association" with other UU congregations and how First Unitarian Church contributes to the larger UU tradition, while at the same time drawing upon it. In short; a light and bouncy sermon!

Sunday, October 12: Rev. Dr. Snyder — **"How to Tame a Monkey"** One of the most popular spiritual practices in the world is meditation. However, this practice is relatively new to modern American culture. Continuing this year's series on spiritual practices, Rev. Josh will talk about the theory and practice behind controlling the "Monkey Mind." Enlightenment guaranteed for people sitting in the first three rows.

Sunday, October 19: Rev. Gadon **"Prayer: An Evolution"** Ever pray for something and not get it? Not just greedy prayers like "Give me a Mustang Convertible", but reasonable things like the safety of a loved one, or the survival of a marriage? Rev. Barbara will explore the evolution of a prayer life - and an understanding of God - that experience gives us.

Sunday, October 26: Rev. Dr. Snyder — **"Unto the Seventh Generation"** There is a Native American saying that says that we are to preserve the Earth "unto the seventh generation." This Sunday we will look at the challenges facing us and the planet upon which we live. What might it look like if we thought of our care of the planet beyond a year or a decade, and looked instead to how things will be for the "seventh generation?"

Sunday morning services begin at 10:30;

*Children's Religious Education
starts at 10:45*

Childcare is available from 9:00 to 11:50

Leap of Faith

How to Build a House in Six Weeks

We UUs struggle to describe ourselves, and to articulate what we hold in common as a faith. What does a religion that stresses the importance of conscience and freedom of thought have as a shared worldview? In our own church, what do the Godfrees hold in common with the UU Christians? What do our scientists share with our mystics? The first round of worship services and discussions of our Wednesday night series will explore exactly this. Instead of “building your own theology”, which *is* very important for everyone, we will work for awhile at building our *shared* theology. So, from October 1 – November 5, we will learn about the theology that is uniquely ours with the useful “house” model created by Rev. Rebecca Parker, president of Starr King School for the Ministry.

October first, I will start us in building the floor, or the foundation of our house; this is our *theology*, having to do with our sense of ultimate reality. On October 8th, Rev. Josh will help us add some walls. He will lead us in worship on the topic of *ecclesiology* - what the church is for, how we “do church” in the UU tradition and why. On October 15, I will put in some windows, called *mis-siology*, exploring our relationship to other religions and to the world outside our walls. October 22, Scott will slap on a roof, and explore in music and words the idea of shelter, or what “saves” us – *soteriology*. On October 29, we’ll add a front door to symbolize leaving the house: Dr. Jim Curtis will lead us in worship, and I will lead a discussion of *eschatology*, or end times. Finally, on November 5, I will talk about the sun, air and water that permeate our house; this is called *pneumatology*, or spirituality, e.g., what do we mean when we say “spirit of life”? In all our discussions, we will add our own individual beliefs, seeing how we relate to the whole.

I hope you will join us in this new opportunity to share and learn together. Should be fun!

In Faith, *Rev. Barbara*

Wednesday Nights at First U

It has a little something for everyone:

- At 5:45, come and feed yourself – and your family – with a catered meal from Seasons restaurant, at the bargain price of \$6 for adults and \$4 for children.
- At 6:30, we have lively, informal worship in the Brunner Chapel, led by one of our ministers, or by someone in our community.
- Follow this with stimulating discussion for the adults, and programs for children of different ages – OWL (Our Whole Lives) for fourth - sixth grades, OWL for seventh –ninth grades and Spanish for Kindergarten - 3 grades.
- This spring, we will have the Age of Reason for second and third graders, which celebrates our children’s ability to choose for themselves what is true and right.
- For siblings, and for parents who want a night out with their community, there are homework and activities rooms.



Wednesday Night Services

Wednesday, October 1 “Building a House: Laying the Foundation: Ultimate Reality” Rev. Barbara Gadon

Wednesday, October 8: “Building a House: Putting up Drywall: What is church for?” Rev. Dr. Josh Snyder

Wednesday, October 15: “Building a House: Looking out the Windows: Relating to the Outside World” Rev. Gadon

Wednesday, October 22: “Building a House: Keeping out the Elements: What saves us?” Scott Ward

Wednesday, October 29: “Building a House: Walking out the Door: What is the future?” Dr. Jim Curtis.

Leap of Faith

Radical Hospitality in Small Groups

If you would like to meet some new people, and join a warm and inviting discussion of the spiritual quest, consider joining a small group. We will have some new opportunities starting in October. On Thursday, October 2 at 2:00 p.m., Jan Shay will lead a small group discussion, continuing on the first Thursdays through May.

Share on life issues and starting Thursday, October 9, at 7:00 p.m., Rev. Barbara will begin her pilot group, which will meet twice a month, on the second and fourth Thursday of the month. This group will experiment with a new form of small group, meeting more frequently than we have previously, committing to a service project together, and remaining open and “radically hospitable” to new members throughout the year. Watch for more groups forming. Call or e-mail Rev. Barbara at barbara@firstuuwilm.org if interested.

UU Christians

There is a lively gathering the first Thursday evening of every month of Unitarian Universalists who want to explore Christianity in a new and liberal way. (Actually, this has been a Unitarian and Universalist tradition for centuries, it's just gotten a bit lost during the expansion of our faith to other theologies.) Meet with us at 7:00 p.m. to share communion and watch and discuss interviews of some of the great liberal Christian thinkers of our time - Marcus Borg, Dominic Crossan, Matthew Fox, Amy-Jill Levine, and more. UU Christians - it's not an oxymoron, it's us! Starts October 2.

Children and Youth Religious Exploration (CYRE)

RE-Marks:

One of the goals for the congregation this year is for each person to develop his or her own spiritual practice. Our children are discovering a variety of ways to experience the holy in their everyday lives. The Rainbow Walkers (kindergarten/first grades) are enjoying walking a labyrinth as a spiritual practice every Sunday. Prayer or meditation beads are being used by the Seekers (second/third grades.) Each Sunday the Questers (fourth/fifth grades) close their time together with a Council Circle. During this time they reflect on what they experienced together that day, listen to one another's Joys and Concerns, and then voice a way they plan to use the quality of faith that was explored during their time together throughout the week. The Chalice Children (preschool and nursery) "light" a felt chalice every week and then recite opening words together. This is a spiritual practice which they all can take home and use every evening before dinner or as a way for the entire family to begin their day together.



CYRE Guides and Assistants experience a spiritual exercise each week as well. Every lesson offers a Spiritual Preparation activity for the leaders. This is a time to call forth life experiences, beliefs, and spirituality and relate these to the session they are about to lead. These exercises provide a way for our dedicated volunteers to grow spiritually as leaders.



Taking it Home activities assist families in developing spiritual practices. These resources may include games, conversation topics, online sources for the session's themes, and ideas for incorporating Unitarian Universalist rituals into the home environment. Check out the CYRE website at <http://sites.google.com/site/firstuuwilmcyre/> and begin your own family and individual spiritual practices!



First U Youth Group



Writing on the Wall

News from the First U Youth Group

The youth group is very excited about the 2008-2009 church year. With the addition of 2 new youth group advisors, Margo Price and Ernie Dun, as well as a large group of new members, the group is looking forward to a good year filled with fun and games, meaningful worships, and solid community building. After the annual youth group retreat at Camp Pecometh along Maryland's Chester River, the youth are already off to a great start in their mission to build a strong community. This fall is filled with lots of exciting adventures, including re-painting the room, joining the Congregation in celebrating Russ Peterson's birthday, the AIDS walk, a road cleanup along Centerville Road, and a spooky Haunted House during the church's Halloween festivities.

Children's Spanish Class

Children in grades K – 3 are invited to learn basic Spanish vocabulary and phrases through fun activities, songs, and games. The class, taught by Edris Harrell, will run from 6:30 – 7:30 Wednesday evenings. The Fun Room and Homework Room are available following Spanish for children with parents participating in classes or other Wednesday evening activities!



TVUU Seven Weeks After....

By Suzanne Cornell

Both doors opened wide; welcoming words were spoken as I set foot in Tennessee Valley UU Church early on a September Sunday morning, seven weeks after the horrific shooting in their sanctuary, while Greeters Allan, Cynthia, and Frony were doing their jobs with vigor, even though they are still hurting mightily. (Tears welled up in the eyes of several folks during our conversations.) When I presented them with the scroll of good wishes with our special offering check rolled up inside, then accepted it graciously and escorted me to the Welcome Table---but of course, where else?

The entrance to the sanctuary is (*The Art Gallery*) hung heavy with the artwork of Knoxville artist Cynthia Markert. On August 3, one week after the shooting, the congregation held a service of "Reclaiming the Sanctuary." This coming Friday evening they will hold a gathering in The Art Gallery in hopes of bringing back the joy to such a sacred space.

This Sunday service (the 8 o'clock version) was so very meaningful, from the sunlight streaming in the wall-of-windows on the east, where a lush garden fills in the view; to the music of the Chalice Singers; and the inspiring sermon, High Definition Spirituality, from the Reverend Chris Buice.

After the service I attended the forum, "How Far We've Come," conducted by a clinical social worker, now on staff. Attendees shared many perspectives on their grief journey. Someone noted that this experience has changed everyone forever. But in getting the wider community to know what UUs are about, it has been an invaluable lesson. Apparently the Knoxville folks were quite demanding in their pleadings of "Don't shut us out, let us in!" The UUs did, and have been so enriched and comforted by the experience. (*In fact, their membership is growing quickly!*)

Leaving the building I encountered hundreds of origami doves, posters of love and support (now ours was being displayed prominently among them,) many scrapbooks filled with notes and cards; a map dotted with places from which the greetings had been mailed; pillows of love, stuffed toys, and on and on...

The parking lot was filled to capacity; the side streets parked full, as people streamed in for the 11:15 service. I drove away slowly, filled with many emotions. But the over-riding one was a feeling of great joy and confidence in the atmosphere of re-energizing, of re-dedication to peace, love, and---LIFE!

Office Ministration



It is the start of a new church year, and with it lots of meetings and activities, as well as Sunday morning activities. The church building is busy!

Planning committee meetings and special events? Be sure to contact Fran Grubb in the church office with your dates as soon as possible. Remember, we rent meeting space to a variety of outside groups, and the income they generate is an important part of our operating budget. Rooms are filling up fast! Fran Grubb works T, W and Th from 9AM to 4PM. Please contact her for your calendar needs.

Please also keep in mind that one of our tenants is a day care center. In an effort to increase their peace of mind and security, we ask that church members and friends enter from the Memorial Garden door on weekdays. Please stop by the table in the hall outside the church office to sign in and put on a pink visitor badge before attending meetings in the Education Wing. The badges help both church and day care staff members identify our members and visitors.

Taking care of business, Marina



Notes from Scott: Music In Our Church



Successful Choir Retreat

On Saturday September 6, the choir had a half day retreat. It was a great success, and a lot of fun. A worship service led by Rev. Snyder, Marcie Nagoski and Scott Ward started off the morning. Singing, sight-reading and music program discussions rounded out the morning. Listen for more contemporary and international music from our choirs this year.

Thanks Ingathering Crew!

I give my **most heartfelt thanks** for all who helped Ingathering Sunday be a success. As I promised, “many hands make the work light”, and fun. Thanks to the Youth for decorating the tents with balloons, and to everyone else who helped!

More Thanks!

Thanks to Gina and her Crew!

Thank you Gina Small for spearheading a “remake” of our Whitby Road entrance way. The hard work of Gina and Pete Small, Nancy and Paul Pinson, Cindy and Steve Cohen, Terry Walls and floral arranger Suzanne Cornell really paid off.

Thank you to Rev. Gadon for lending artwork, and to our Library Committee for lending us a sculpture created by Glen Barbaras many years ago as commissioned by the Library Committee.

Didn't know the J. McKinnon Library had artwork? Come to the library and see what other exciting things you can discover.

Speaking of Artwork...



I am looking for artists (of all ages) who would be willing to hang their work in the upstairs hallway by the Brunner Chapel. The artwork must be able to be hung on a wall; otherwise there are no restrictions.

Join the Choir!

Now is a great time to join our Choir. We are learning new and varied music, and are looking forward to an exciting year of music, a couple of “road trips”, Big Music Sundays and more! No experience is required. See me for more information, talk to any choir member, or simply show up any Thursday night at 7:00 PM in the music room. Anyone age 12 or older is welcome.

Counterpoint Drive

Later this month you will be receiving a brochure about the annual Counterpoint Society Membership drive.

What is Counterpoint you ask? The Counterpoint Society is a group of people who love music and are able to donate funds directly to the music program above their annual pledge. These funds make Big Music Sundays, special guest soloists and ensembles (i.e. Faculty Jazz, Medium Music Sunday) and more possible. More information to follow.

Concerts! Concerts! Mark your calendars!

Sunday October 19, 3 PM. Martin Hargrove returns for his first solo concert here in many years. A combination of classical arias and contemporary Broadway music. Tickets \$10 at the door. Anyone age 12 or under is welcome as our guest.

Sunday November 16, 7:30 PM. The world-renowned Wister String quartet in concert. We are so lucky to have this amazing group back this year! More information to follow!

Scott Ward, Honorary Minister of Music



October 26 Special offering— June J. & Russell W. Peterson Environmental Education Fund

Help support the new Environmental Education Center at the Russell W. Peterson Urban Wildlife Refuge on Wilmington's waterfront. Our contributions to this rare opportunity for students and nature lovers to learn about native species of plants and wildlife in an urban area will also serve as a tribute to our very own, former Gov. Russ Peterson.

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Meditation Group: Led by Dr. Jim Curtis, these sessions include discussions from 9:30 – 10:00a.m. followed by meditation practice until 10:20 a.m.

Emerson, Thoreau and Transcendentalism: Facilitated by Susan Madison, this on-going video series discusses American Transcendentalism and the many prominent Unitarian Universalists who not only launched and sustained the movement, but also reshaped our country's social, intellectual, and political character. The group meets every Sunday morning (except the first Sunday of the month) from 9:30 – 10:20 a.m. in Brunner Chapel.

Ethics and World Religions: This video lecture and discussion, hosted by Jim Davis, will begin on October 5th (and continue on each first Sunday of the month) from 9:00 – 10:00a.m. in Brunner Chapel. Contemporary topics are drawn from Pew Research, Ethics and Religion Newsweekly, etc.

Heritage Society

Now is the time to make your commitment to this church for your legacy to sustain the vitality of Unitarian Universalism in this area far into the future. If not you? Who else? You need not worry about your savings running out because you can continue to earn income at a guaranteed high rate for the rest of your life with a charitable gift annuity via the UUA's endowment assets. Upon death the remaining principal can go to the First UU Endowment, or to the UUA; you decide. In addition there can be several tax advantages. There are also other options for making a bequest for our endowment: shared income fund; insurance policy; unit trust, etc. A member of our Finance Committee will be happy to discuss any of them with you.

Submitted by Glen Barbaras

Alliance News

On Monday, October 6, members and friends of the Women's Alliance will meet at noon in the Parish hall for a bring-your-own lunch. Dessert and beverages will be provided by our hostess of the month.

Let's welcome back old friends and hope to see new faces. We'll be getting ready for Fall Festival and making plans for the year. Now is the time to choose how you will be part of Fall Festival. It's only a month from now!

Please gather your donations for Books, White Elephant, Plants and Jewelry. Plan what you'll make for the Bake and Gourmet Shop and choose your time and place to join our team of helping hands. This is a great fun way to be part of our annual fund raising effort which this year will support the RE programs for Children and Youth. See you all for lunch on Monday the 6th!

Submitted by Mary Collat

Check out our library!

Want to learn more about Emerson, Thoreau, and other Transcendentalist thinkers from this fall's video lecture series? Browse the card catalog and shelves in our church Library for titles including: *Emerson among the eccentrics: a group portrait* (Baker, 1996) *The Maine Woods* and *Thoreau on birds* *Henry Thoreau: A life of the mind* (Richardson, 1986) *A mind with wings: The story of Henry David Thoreau* (Hausman, 2006) and *Channing day by day* and *Channing, the reluctant radical* (Mendelsohn, 1971)

Our lending Library has books for all ages and is open on Sunday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to noon, in the RE wing just past the church office. Please follow the posted instructions, sign out all books and return them promptly. *Submitted by Judy Windle, Library Committee, John G. MacKinnon Memorial Library*

Fall Festival!

Mark your calendars - Saturday, November 8, 8am to 1pm

This year's proceeds underwrite the Children & Youth Religious Exploration program - make plans to help, donate goods and attend! Bring a friend or two along, too. The Pancake & Sausage breakfast (7:30-11:30) is not to be missed - delicious!

A wide variety of items are needed for the shops - your donations of gently used items and yummy homemade goodies will ensure our success! Many hands are necessary to pull off this event, and volunteers are needed the day before, during and after the event. This is a fun event and a great way to meet people, so if you are available for a few hours please come out and lend a hand. (If you help setup the night before, you get to shop early!)

Call or email the contacts below with your offers of help and your donations. Thanks for your support!

Children's Boutique:

Amy Gunderson - Amvg@del.net or 302/479-7826

White Elephant, Household Goods, Antiques, & Collectibles

Donna VanName - donnavanname@comcast.net or 302/792-9141

Bakery & Gourmet Goodies

Mary Collat - 302/994-0237



Books, Music, DVDs

Paul McGhee - haharemedy@del.net or 302/479-7826

Jewelry

Florence DeRosa - fdr16@juno.com or 302/421-8385

Crafts

Jackie Gellens - jgellens@aol.com or 302/764-0275

Plants

Suzy Cornell - suzcornell@verizon.net or 610/925-0510

Pancake Breakfast

Maggie Duffy (kitchen) - mdu@verizon.net or 610/358-5587

Marge Stitz (dining room) - marge@stenciledinteriors.com or 302/478-1949

General Questions

Mary Collat 302/994-0237

Suzy Cornell suzcornell@verizon.net or 610/925-0510

Barbara Marrs bmarrs@comcast.net or 610/388-7103



Board Planks



You are invited! Planning our Future

We're off to a great start this year, and our future is bright! Everyone at First U is part of realizing our goal to be a vibrant community of religious learning and spiritual seekers, a welcoming and caring community with a passion for social justice and the environment, and dedicated to the growth of Unitarian Universalism.

How do we make this happen? We need a plan - and everyone's voice and involvement is needed. The Board has asked Marie Oakberg to coordinate development of a long range plan, and Paul Pinson will be consultant to the process.

The first step - plan to attend *one* of the two hour sessions about long range planning, to find out more about the process, what it means to our church, and the many ways to be involved. Paul will lead three sessions in October (choose one) to get us grounded.

"You are Part of First U's Long Range Plan"

Thursday October 9 - 7-9 PM, Library

Friday October 10 - 10-12 AM, Room 25

Saturday October 11 - 10-12 AM, Room 25

If you already know a lot about strategic planning, come help us with the process - there is room for all, and all are welcome!

Please call the office to let us know you are coming so we can plan appropriately.

'END' REFLECTION OF THE MONTH ...

One of the main responsibilities of the Board is to review our progress toward the long-term goals (or Ends) we set for ourselves as a church. This month we're looking for your feedback on:

End #3 – A Welcoming and Caring Community, where all are lovingly included, celebrated and nurtured, no matter what their race, class, creed or whom they love.

Some questions to ponder include:

- Is this a priority for the church? How does it rate compared to our other End statements? (*A complete list of our Ends is available in the Members section of our Web site, under Board Policies.*)
- What does it say to you about our church?
- How do you think we're doing on a scale of 1 to 10 (where 1 is Poor and 10 is Excellent) in reaching this goal?

What evidence do you see of us working toward this goal?

Feel free to **email us** at theboard@firstuuwilm.org with your thoughts, or **join us at our monthly Chat with the Board** after the service on October 19th (always the 3rd Sunday of the month).

Chat with the Board on October 19, 2008

Join the Board after the church service on Sunday, October 19, for a discussion with the Board. Meet in the Sanctuary after the service.

First U Sign: Update

The present sign erected on Route 202 from November through December of 2007 was fraught with construction errors which made our LED inoperable. We have parted with this vendor without paying for their unacceptable product. That agreement was reached in May 2008. (The LED portion of the sign was purchased separately from Ads LED of Texas and will be removed by our new contractor.)



Requests for proposals for a new sign were sent out this summer and after checking out their facilities and references have chosen to accept the bid of American Signs of Wilmington. Look for the old sign to be taken down in conjunction with the new sign being erected this fall.

Membership Sunday

We welcome all who wish to become members of our church to "Signing Sunday" on October 19th!

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.



Help Wanted

Weekday office volunteers needed:

Believe it or not, work of the office is work of the spirit. Without it, the church would not be able to function, and office volunteers are essential members of the church staff.

We now have openings for Wednesday afternoons and Thursday mornings. Primary responsibilities include answering the phone, greeting visitors, and providing clerical support to staff as needed. Shifts are 3-4 hours long. Please call Marina in the church office, or email her at marina@firstuuwilm.org if you are interested.

Association Sunday

Plan now to be in church on Sunday, October 5th, when we join with thousands of Unitarian Universalists across the nation celebrating our shared commitment on *Association Sunday*. In this service, we will strengthen the bonds of our common purpose and combine our resources to make Unitarian Universalism a stronger voice for liberal religious values in our country. We are better together.

We increase our spirit and influence. We honor the “inherent worth and dignity of every person.” Our values are needed to help heal the wounded world. So, we will be taking a special collection for the growth and vitality of our congregations. Funds raised will be used for new lay theological education and excellence in ministry projects. We hope each person will contribute \$50. If you can’t attend, please send in a check - envelopes will be available at your church. To donate online for *Association Sunday*, please visit us at <http://www.uua.org/giving>.

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 October 15. Contact: lynningersoll@hotmail.com

- **Delaware Women’s Re-Entry Program AVP** (*Alternatives to Violence*) trains mentors for women being released from prison. The next Mentor Support Meeting will be October 19 at 12:30 pm at the Newark Unitarian Fellowship. Contact Maggie Duffy at 610-358-5587 or mdu@verizon.net.
- **Emmanuel Dining Room** provides free lunch to those in need. First U helps with cash, food and volunteers on the 20th of each month. Contact David Weiss: david.weiss@state.de.us
- **Green Sanctuary Task Force**—The committee continues to work to complete the assessment phase of the Green Sanctuary process. Thanks to members of the committee and the church staff who have already begun to make our church “greener”: Terry Walls has caulked our windows, Single Stream recycling has been introduced, and the office staff has adjusted their purchasing to include more recyclable and green products. Plans to request a professional energy audit are underway. Our next monthly meeting is October 14, 7:30 pm. All are welcome to attend. Contact Bill Johnson, billj15@verizon.net
- **ILYA (Independent Living for Young Adults)** — ILYA is happy to report that, thanks to an anonymous donor, we have pledged a substantial rent supplement for a year for an 18-year-old who has an 8 month old son, and is studying online. ILYA learned of this young woman’s plight at a time when she was about to be homeless. She is remarkably open, mature and very appreciative. She has clear goals for her continuing education in order to be self-sufficient. Two ILYA volunteers, Marge Meyermann and Olga Beskrone, previewed the apartment with her and her landlady. The neighborhood appears to be quite charming and safe. ILYA will provide a mentor to her.
- **UUSC (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee)** — UUSC has four primary focus areas: Civil Liberties, Economic Justice, Environmental Justice, and Rights in Humanitarian Crises. The first focuses on the principle that all people are entitled to basic human rights and civil liberties, recognizing that without strong democratic institutions to protect these rights, people (especially women, low-income persons, people of color, and members of marginalized groups) are at risk of government abuse. UUSC works to empower those who denied their legal rights. Contact Doyle Dobbins: D.Dobbins@verizon.net.
- **The Welcoming Congregation** The Welcoming Congregation Working Group meets regularly at First Unitarian. Contact Kelly Green at greenhoops@comcast.net
- **Coalition for Climate Change Study and Action (C³SA)**

The first U.S. national workshop on offshore wind power was held in Wilmington, sponsored by the American Wind Energy Association, the Sierra Club, and the University of Delaware. Developing offshore wind power is a possibility in states including NJ, DE, MD, VA, GA, MI, TX and CA. Please call your U.S. Representative (in DE: Congressman Mike Castle @ 202-225-4165) and urge a vote for an extension of the Federal Production Tax Credit (PTC), a tax credit of about 2¢/kWh). Due to expire this year, the PTC provides a stimulus for the development of renewable energy sources.

C³SA’s fall meeting included reports of environmental activities at four churches: FirstU, Aldersgate Methodist, Trinity Presbyterian, and the New Ark United Church of Christ. Donna Gonzalez will teach *The Environment and You: Living Sustainably and Responsibly in a Finite World*, at the Academy of Lifelong Learning in the spring semester.

