



Quest

September 2009

Josh's Journal

Upcoming Services

I promised in my July newsletter article that this would be the year of "First Unitarian Church Unleashed." As you can tell by the many exciting new programs happening this month, my promise is coming to fruition. Please take some time and carefully read through our electronic newsletter. There are lots of new things happening this month. Your effort will be rewarded.

Let me kick off the new church year with an introduction of a new program of my own: worship themes. Rev. Barbara and I have developed (OK lovingly borrowed from our colleagues!) a series of themes for every month of the church year. These are themes that will guide sermons, small group discussions, and possibly even classes, meetings, and other programs. We will introduce each new theme in our newsletter column that month. These themes act as a common thread that will run through at least one of the sermons each month as well as the program life of the congregation. This will give us a greater degree of focus and direction to the ministry we do as a church. By rotating these themes every month it ensures that the church gets a balanced diet, if you will, of spiritually relevant topics. It also prevents me from giving you yet another sermon on the same passage of Thich Nhat Hanh, or some other source, every Sunday!

Our theme for the month of September is: Trust. Trust is a fundamental part of every relationship, but it is particularly important to a church community. Trust is the currency of ministry. Without your collective trust in me to lead, my ministry would fail. Without my trust in your support, energy, and dedication to the mission of First Unitarian Church, my ministry would fail. We need each other, you and I. Granted we are not fused together, enmeshed into one body unable to think independently. Codependence is not healthy. But for us to achieve the middle way of *interdependence* we need one fundamental tool in our relationship toolbox: trust. Trust says that I can be me, and you can be you, and we still understand ourselves to be connected. Trust is what holds a church together.

Last year I spoke at Ingathering on "the journey of 10,000 miles begins with a single step." This year the journey continues into its second year. We have no illusions anymore. You know who I am and I know who you are. Any myths of perfection or infallibility on either the minister's or the congregation's part have probably been pretty well dispelled at this point. I submit to you that that is a good thing. It clears the decks for something much more solid and secure: a relationship between a minister and a church based on trust. May we enter this second year of ministry together with that spirit in our hearts.

May You Be Blessed Always,

Rev. Dr. Joshua Snyder

Sept 6: "Medium Music Sunday" — Scott Ward. A celebration of the music of J. S. Bach. With professional soloists, instrumentalists from the Wilmington String Ensemble, and our own Chamber Choir. Also, Linda Henderson and I will perform the Bach Passacaglia, for two pianos, in place of a sermon. Come enjoy the music, learn more about the life of J. S. Bach, and there will a message about the role of music in our lives, written by me, and read by Evan Krape.

Sept 13: Ingathering Sunday. "A Fish Tale" — The Rev. Dr. Joshua Snyder. What did you do over your summer vacation? Rev. Josh went fishing, and just wait until you hear what he caught! Please join us for our annual coming together as a whole religious community. Our children and youth will join us and there will be lots of fun both during and after the worship service. Join us and channel your inner Papa Hemingway.

Sept 20: "Covenants of Strength and Love" — The Rev. Dr. Joshua Snyder. The worship theme for this month is "trust." Trust is the defining characteristic of that often named relationship known as "covenant." It is our covenant, rather than our creed or theological beliefs, that bind us together as a religious community. Part of our celebration will include a covenanting ritual with our DRE Catherine Williamson.

Sept 27: "Angels Unaware"/"Strangers in the Heart" — Rev. Josh Snyder, co-lead with Rev. Gadon. Today is the kick off for signing up for "Open Circles" our new small group program. These small groups are open to everyone and are an important way for us to practice radical hospitality as a church. Both Rev. Josh and Rev. Barbara will talk about how building spiritual connections with strangers and friends alike is an important aspect of our Unitarian Universalist faith and heritage.

*Sunday morning services begin at 10:30;
Children's Religious Education starts at 10:30
Childcare is available from 10:00 to 11:50
Visiting families are welcome!*

Leap of Faith

I recently visited Boston for a leadership workshop, and stayed with Eric Cherry, a dear friend from seminary and his wife, Linda. He directs the UUA's international resources office, which helps congregations reach out in service to other countries. For four days, I commuted in with him on the train, to 25 Beacon Street, or "25" for short. All week I was struck by the pairing of old and new, history and future. You see portraits of our ancestors at 25 - William Ellery Channing, Theodore Parker, Sophia Lyon Fahs - portraits which have probably hung in this graceful old building since the 19th century. It's easy to be proud of our past when you're there. And you are surrounded by people whose job it is to keep us looking forward. The UU World magazine, Beacon and Skinner House presses are at 25. I met our new UUA president, just elected at General Assembly this June - Rev. Peter Morales. He is eager and excited about our future, and communicates that up, down and sideways.

I also had many personal moments of past abutting the present - seeing many old friends from seminary at the workshop. I had to juggle my old ideas about who we were then, with the people we are now. I could still remember my friend Eric as a 21-year-old, long-haired, guitar-strumming hopeful. And I had to see him as an approaching-middle-age, Boston professional (as well as the funny, adventurous, kind soul I remembered.) I was delighted for the chance to know people again.

At First Unitarian in Wilmington, a church founded in 1866, the old does certainly abut the new. Who we were "in the day" is not who we are now. "The day" has changed, and we have changed. We are no longer the church you first joined, whether that was in the 1940s or last year. Some of you have not been here for a few months, or even a few years. Some of you are reading this column, nonetheless. You are unsure whether or not this is still your church. I don't know. I hope very much that it can be. *But you won't know unless you come and check it out.* I guarantee you that it will be different in some ways. I hope that you can find the essence of what you first loved here. I hope you can find delight with who we are now. "Taste and see" as the gospel says. The start of a new church year is an excellent excuse to begin again.

In that spirit, let me tell you all some of what is cooking for this fall:

- Open Circles, a new form of small group ministry, Josh and I are concocting. Open circles meet twice a month and explore the spiritual questions that matter - God, death, love, meaning. You will get to know others in your church community on a level of trust and depth. They are never "closed" formally to new members, and they offer a radical hospitality. On Sunday, September 27, we will unfold our vision for them, and offer sample sessions in the weeks that follow.
- Friday Night worship - a lively new kind of monthly worship service we're introducing that includes jazz, pop, and other fun forms of music, multi-media messages, art, photography, poetry, and a homily by yours truly. We are aiming it toward the young and young at heart. It begins October 2.
- A fall retreat on Spiritual Practices, October 9-10 at Temenos Retreat Center. Try four practices throughout the weekend from excellent instructors - Rev. Jim Walsh will teach mindfulness meditation, Robert Gadon will introduce yoga, Joan Leof will lead writing as a healing practice, and I will teach prayer. After the retreat, you'll be able to continue in some form with each instructor if you wish, or be part of an ongoing group at church that desires to continue the practice. Sign up in the church office.

I look forward to a new church year with all of you, curious about who you are now, and who we are becoming as a church.

In Faith,
Rev. Barbara

Unitarian Universalist Christians

We are starting up again! At 7:00 p.m., Thursday, October 1, we will start meeting for fellowship, study and communion.

Each of our meetings begins with a short service of communion. If that makes you nervous, perhaps it should. We don't reclaim and recover a powerful old ritual without some trepidation! Our faith tradition, however, teaches that it is ours as much as anyone's.

This year, we will do some Bible study, looking at what the text means to us personally, as well as learning some of its background and liberal scholarship. We will also practice "lectio divina", an Ignatian spiritual discipline of meditating on the text.

And finally, we will read *Teacher, Guide, Companion: Rediscovering Jesus in a Secular World* by Rev. Eric Walker Wikstrom, a UU minister. This Skinner House book is a wonderful, concise description of what it could mean to be a UU Christian today.

Open Circles - Small Groups Are *Big!*

To connect with one another and experience radical hospitality, we are creating Open Circles this year. An Open Circle is a small group that meets twice a month in members' homes and discusses the important spiritual questions we are all seeking to understand: What is trust? How do we have hope? What happens when we die? What about God? Revs. Josh and Barbara will roll out what we mean by all of this on Sunday, September 27, in worship. The next two weeks, October 4 and 11, there will be opportunities before and after worship for you to try a small group to see if you like it - and on October 18, we will have a special lunch for groups to have their first meeting! We are still looking for a few good facilitators for our groups, too - we will offer training, and you don't necessarily have to have facilitated a group prior to this. To apply, contact either Reverend Josh or Reverend Barbara - soon!

Adult Religious Education

Our Sunday morning lecture series “Religions of the Axial Age” resumes Sunday, September 13th!

These lectures discuss the years 800-200 B.C.E., one of the most creative and influential eras in world history. This era was of such great importance, in fact, that we moderns continue to live out our moral and religious lives through the traditions birthed during this six hundred year period.

Class facilitator Susan Madison invites you to relate your own spiritual questions to this variety of ancient quests for meaning and transcendence. The classes meet on Sundays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:20 a.m. in Brunner Chapel.

The lectures for September are:

Sept 13: The Life of Siddhartha Gautama

Sept 20: “I am Awake”

Sept 27: Why We Suffer

Save the Date!

Fall Festival has moved up to
Saturday, October 24th

Watch your October Quest for more details.

Spiritual Practice Sampler — Fall Retreat

October 9-10

Led by Rev. Barbara Gadon

7:00 p.m. Friday, October 9 until 4 p.m. Saturday, October 10

Temenos Retreat Center, West Chester

Cost: \$145 both days; \$80 one day

Instructors:

Rev. Barbara Gadon -
Prayer (Friday night)

Rev. Jim Walsh -
Mindfulness Meditation (Saturday morning)

Robert Gadon -
Yoga (Saturday morning)

Joan Leof -
Spiritual Journal Writing (Saturday afternoon)

This is a chance to try yoga, prayer, meditation and journal-writing in a bite-sized sample. It's also a chance to bond with people from your First U community in a lovely retreat setting. We will begin and end both days with worship, led by Rev. Barbara and Susan Madison. Pay \$145 for both days, including double room (single room, pay an added \$20), meals, and all workshops; or pay \$80 for Saturday, including meals and workshops for that day. After the retreat, there will be opportunity to continue with our instructors for a 4-week class at First Unitarian Church, or to join an ongoing class he or she already leads in the community. Interested? Sign up in the church office.

Activities at First Unitarian Church



August 2009: Our building gets a fresh coat of paint, and in some places, more than that!



Emmanuel Dining Room meal preparations take place on the 19th of each month here at First Unitarian Church. Although it was a hot steamy day, our crew came in and made quick work of preparing the meal that would be served by our volunteers the next day at the Emmanuel Dining Room in Wilmington. Upwards of 200 people are served a hot, nutritious meal daily there. Our prep cooks could be heard laughing and conversing as they snapped beans, baked chicken and cooked rice.

NEIGHBORING FAITHS AND JR. YOUTH

This year the Jr. Youth are participating in the Neighboring Faiths program. This is an opportunity for Jr. Youth to begin to recognize the human needs religion serves in a historical context, while at the same time examining the most popular religions today. The group will explore the beliefs and values of a variety of religions. Then they will visit and participate in worship services. These religious explorations will help youth grow in their Unitarian Universalist faith and build authentic relationships in our increasingly diverse world.

DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER FOR CYRE!

Have you registered your children for CYRE at First Unitarian Church?

Registration and Medical forms need to be filled out every year. We've made it extremely easy by creating ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION forms!

Go to the First UU Wilm CYRE website at <http://sites.google.com/site/firstuuwilmcyre/> and follow the link to register.

DRE COVENANTING

September 18, First Unitarian Church leaders, program staff and CYRE committee members are participating in a DRE Covenanting Workshop with Pat Infante, Joseph Priestley District Director of Lifespan Faith Development.

What is the purpose of a Religious Education Covenant? It is a set of mutually agreed upon commitments between the religious educator, minister and congregation to promote excellence in lifespan religious education. It sets the stage for congregational change and transformation and deepens and strengthens the bonds of Unitarian Universalist community through intentional commitment to the common vision, awareness of faith development, and growth and change.

The covenant will be written by workshop participants on Friday evening. Then on Sunday, September 20 a celebratory worship service will take place honoring the promises made by the congregants and our DRE, Catherine Williamson. Following the worship service we will have a celebration!

Please plan to attend the special event on Sunday, September 20.

COMING OF AGE

First Unitarian Church is offering "Coming of Age" to 8th and 9th graders this year.

"Coming of Age" is a year long program focused on providing opportunities for youth to explore beliefs and values, as well as individual gifts, strengths and weaknesses. The program is designed to be mentally and physically challenging. It aids youth in their personal growth and understanding of self; culminating with an Affirmation Worship Service.

The Coming of Age class will take place on Sunday evenings, generally twice a month. In addition we will have 3 overnight retreats and a 4 day trip to Boston. Interested in signing your child up for this amazing program? Contact Catherine Williamson, Director of Religious Exploration, at Catherine@firstuuwilm.org or 478-2384.

Youth Group Retreat

The Youth Group Opening Retreat takes place September 4th – September 6th.

Don't miss out on this amazing retreat!

~~~

Your Youth must be registered for CYRE (completed registration and medical forms) in order to attend. In addition, a permission form needs to be submitted. Please check the CYRE website at <http://sites.google.com/site/firstuuwilmcyre/> and follow the link for CYRE registration forms. In a box on the left is a link to Forms and Files.

Go there to obtain a permission form!

~~~

All families with a youth participating in the retreat will be asked to provide specific ingredients or food for meals

Susan's Membership Message

Whether you are a newcomer or have been navigating your way around the church for several years, deciding to *join* our church is a momentous occasion. It is not only a time of thoughtful commitment to our covenantal way of living and community service, but more importantly, a time when you decide with whom you will share your spiritual journey.

Whoever you are, wherever you came from, and whenever you first crossed our threshold, we welcome you and hope at some point you will consider making this your church home. Before making that decision, though, we encourage you to attend our *Journey Toward Membership* class series which acquaints you with our faith, our traditions, and our expectations of membership.

Our first series this year begins in October and continues for four consecutive weeks. In these classes you will have an opportunity to meet our ministers and staff and ask questions about who we are:

Oct 4: Exactly Who Are We? The Concept of Free Religion and Personal Theology

Oct 11: Finding Yourself at First Unitarian: The 'Open Circle' Experience and a Church Tour

Oct 18: What Are Our Roots? Our History as a Denomination and the Meaning of Membership

Oct 25: The Priesthood of All Believers: Church Citizenship and Shared Ministry

Classes will meet in Brunner Chapel from 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We invite you to get yourself a cup of coffee after the service and meet us in the chapel. The series will culminate with an opportunity for you to sign the Membership Book and officially join the church!

Registration for the series is requested and may be made at the Adult Religious Education Table on Sunday mornings or by emailing me at susan@firstuuwilm.org. We hope to see you there!

Susan Madison
Membership Coordinator

Office Ministration

Re-building Our Church from the Inside Out

It is the start of a new church year and there is lots of excitement in the air. With Rev. Josh starting his second year, new programs and new members, our congregation is changing. With our switch to electronic mailings and the sign on Concord Pike, church communications are undergoing a major makeover.

Our dear old building is seeing some renovation as well. Over the summer, we repaired and painted wood trim around the exterior of the building.

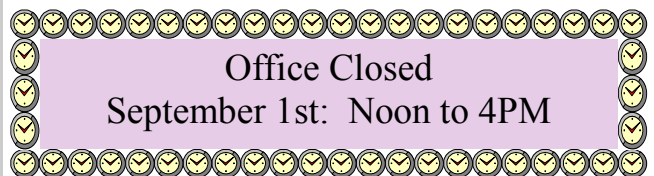
These repairs are necessary, and will be funded out of our capital expenditure reserve fund which exists thanks to a bequest from Phyl Wynn. The extent of the repairs will exceed the approved budget for this fiscal year, so next fiscal year we will need to concentrate on replenishing that fund rather than using it to fund additional projects. We also discovered some roofs require urgent repair. This expense will further reduce our reserve funds, but must be completed before winter.

If you have any questions, please let me know!

Taking care of business,

Marina VanRenssen

Business Manager



Notes from Scott

The new church year is upon us, and I want to offer you some musical opportunities.

We will have Medium Music Sunday, September 6. A celebration of the music of J. S. Bach. With professional soloists, instrumentalists from the Wilmington String Ensemble, and our own Chamber Choir. Also, Linda Henderson and I will perform the Bach Passacaglia, for two pianos, in place of a sermon. Come enjoy the music, learn more about the life of J. S. Bach, and there will a message about the role of music in our lives, written by me, and read by Evan Krape.

I invite all of you who might be interested in singing in our choirs, to a choir retreat. Saturday, September 12, from 8:30 to noon. Worship, food, and fellowship. You are welcome even if you have no desire to sing in the choir, but just want to sing, and learn more about singing. We will start with a light brunch at 8:30, then a worship service led by me and one of our ministers at 9:00. The rest of the morning will be filled with fun musical workshops, then at 11:30 we will rehearse for Ingathering Sunday, the next day.

If you want to sing with the Ingathering Choir, which will sing September 13, but don't want to attend the whole workshop, come to the music room at 11:30 Saturday (September 12), and we will work on the piece we will be singing. A sort of a tradition, we will sing "We Are One" by Brian Tate, accompanied by the University of Delaware Faculty Jazz. Any singer is welcome, regardless if you plan to sing with the choir for the full year.

Music and Arts will be playing a larger role in our church this year. Watch Quest and other publications to learn more. Interested, or have ideas? Give me a call. I can be reached at the church Tuesday - Friday from 8:15 - 3:00, assuming I am not out for special services or pastoral care, Saturdays by appointment, and Sundays after church.

The excitement is building - we are thriving church! Looking forward to a great year -

Scott Ward , Honorary Minister of Music

Caring and Sharing

Our condolences go out to **Dane Cox** whose mother was killed in a motorcycle accident August 20th. Dane is the talented young tenor whom ILYA and the choir supported as he completed his degree in vocal studies at the University of the Arts. He now begins graduate studies at the Manhattan School of Music. If you wish to learn how you might support Dane at this difficult time, please contact Betty Wier (bwier@udel.edu).

Our condolences go to **Rita McWhorter** for the death of her husband, Don Smathers on Tuesday, July 21. He was surrounded by family. Cards appreciated. There will be a private memorial service held later this fall.

Turning the Tables on Coffee

Exciting changes are coming to coffee hour. During our coffee hour summit last year, many great ideas were suggested to help ease traffic flow and create a more welcoming environment. One of those is a change in how we set up the room.

In the past, any group could ask for a table, either through an email to our Building and Grounds supervisor, Terry Walls, or by just grabbing a custodian on Sunday morning. Sometimes there were so many tables it was difficult to move around or even see what was there.

Beginning in September, we will have a more formal process. Every Sunday the following tables will be set up: Booster Cards, Coffee, Social Justice, Membership, Adult Religious Education, and Children and Youth Religious Exploration. Other Groups who want a table will need to submit a request by email to the Business Manager, marina@firstuuwilm.org.

Within some of the categories represented by the tables listed above, there are groups who will man the tables on a rotating schedule.

Please let Marina or Susan Madison, our membership coordinator know if you have any questions.

Our Quest Newsletter is going DIGITAL!

If you want to sign up for email delivery of our newsletter, please go to www.firstuuwilm.org, at the bottom of the menu list click "Church Mailing List" and then click the "Sign up for our E-mail Newsletter"

Executive Team Council

Are you the chair of a team here in the church? The Executive Team is trying something new this year. We will be having three meetings throughout the year for all chairpersons of all the teams under the ET. This group is called the "Executive Team Council" and it will be having its first meeting on Saturday September 26th from 9 AM to 12 PM in the Parish Hall.

This is a great opportunity for teams to connect to the new Executive Team and to do some goal setting for the year. We will also be hearing from the Leadership Development Team on "How to run effective meetings the First U way" and how to tend to one's spiritual life while serving as a leader and volunteer. Please plan to come! If you have questions feel free to contact Rev. Josh.

Policy Governance for Churches Workshop

Policy Governance is a model for boards of nonprofit institutions to use as the foundation of their stewardship and oversight. There has been a great amount of interest in using this model with Unitarian Universalist churches. If it is used and understood as a totality of interrelated parts, the model brings clarity and accountability to any church that uses it.

Event Info

Policy Governance for Churches

Saturday, October 10, 2009

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. First Unitarian Church of Wilmington,
730 Halstead Road, Wilmington, DE 19803

www.firstuuwilm.org

\$25.00 per person

(Full Fair Share Congregations receive discount of \$5.00 per registrant.)
(Includes lunch and all materials)

This workshop will explore the model in depth discussing both the advantages and pitfalls found within our congregations. Congregations that currently are using the model and want further depth as well as congregations contemplating using this model will gain from this workshop. Both implementation as well as ongoing review of policies will be discussed. Special emphasis will be devoted to Ends development as well as monitoring of policies. Policy Governance is the registered Service Mark of John Carver. The authoritative website for the Policy Governance model can be found at www.carvergovernance.com. Leader: Rev. Dr. Richard Speck, JPD District Executive Richard Speck attended the Policy Governance Academy in 2008 and is a consultant to congregations using this model. The JPD has been using the model since 2003.

SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR HOSPITALITY!!

We've off to a running start in September with the Coffee Hour now including church committees and groups providing beverage and refreshment for our members and friends.

Would your Brown Bag or Spirituality group like to participate? Here is an opportunity to be of service to our congregation and be a visible part of our church community.

If your group would like to participate or if there are any questions, please contact Maggie Duffy (mdu@verizon.net).



Board Planks



The Long Range Planning Committee (or LRP), a subcommittee of the board whose members include Marie Oakberg, Chair; J. Harry Feldman; Lani Nelson-Zlupko; and Rev. Josh Snyder, was convened by the Board last fall. They have been meeting since that time, and have submitted their initial findings and recommendations to us. We are in the process of meeting with them to review the report, but also wanted to share the work they have done with you.

Back in October 2008, three “Why do long-range planning?” sessions were held with the congregation, hosted by Paul Pinson. We heard from you that we have more than enough congregational feedback gathered during the Capital Campaign, Ministerial Search Committees, Mission workshops, and Covenant of Right Relations. The LRP has been using that data, as well as the Expansion Task Force renovation plans and Percept demographic data about our area, to formulate their recommendations. They have identified key themes that align with our Ends statements and drafted a multi-year action plan.

Many thanks to everyone on the Long Range Planning Committee – and those who assisted them in their work – for all their hard work on our behalf. We are looking forward to reviewing their recommendations and discussing their proposed plan with them. Rest assured you'll be hearing more about this in the future.

Building and Grounds Committee

A Big Project!!



The Building and Grounds Committee elected to undertake painting and repair of the building as our major project for the year. It has been many years since the building was last painted. We estimate 15+ years, but are not sure. Time has taken a toll. More than 200 of the decorative squares on the fascia boards have rotted as have some fascia boards. Much of the damage was hidden; examples are on display in the parish hall. Repairs are underway and painting is scheduled to be complete prior to Ingathering Sunday. We look for the repairs and paint to protect the building for the next 10 years.

We have also discovered significant deterioration in the roof that covers the main entrance to the church and anticipate replacement and major repairs will be required. We are currently investigating the scope and cost of this additional project.

Maintenance is never fun, but always necessary!



Submitted by Ken Hostelley

SOCIAL JUSTICE OFFERING — September 2009

EDUCATE THE CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL

Educate the Children works with women and children in Nepal to overcome poverty, illiteracy and discrimination through integrated community development. Their approach has three interlocking components – children’s education, women’s empowerment, and agricultural development.

Nepal is one of the poorest countries in the world; per capita annual income is around \$470. Nepal remains the poorest county in South Asia. There is a lack of social and economic infrastructure in the county as a whole, especially in rural areas. People in lower castes and ethnic minority groups in particular suffer from poverty and exclusion. Within these groups, women suffer the most. **Educate the Children is committed to making a difference.**

Note: Phyllis Wynn, a wonderful benefactor and friend to First U, was a long time supporter and board member of Educate the Children. Her efforts throughout the years raised thousands of dollars for the women and children of Nepal. *Please be as generous as you can be.*

Alliance News

As the new church year begins, the Women's Alliance is preparing for its 114th year! A notable change this year is the date of our Fall Festival which will be on **Saturday, October 24**, two weeks earlier than usual. Plans for the pancake breakfast, the shops, and signing up participants are already under way. Please let us know how you want to help on this fun and profitable day.

Alliance members and friends have luncheon meetings at noon on the first Monday of each month from October through June. This very congenial group welcomes all women of the church. Whether you are a newcomer or have been here a while, do come and get acquainted with us. You'll find it enjoyable and time well spent! Hope to see you at our meeting on October 5.

Mary Collat, Alliance President

JPD 5th Annual Anti-Racism Conference

**Joseph Priestley District of the UUA
Announcing the
5th Annual Joseph Priestley District
Anti-Racism Conference!**

www.jpduua.org.

MULTICULTURAL FAMILIES

Saturday, October 17, 2009

Programming from 8am to 7:30pm
Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis
333 Dubois Road
Annapolis, MD 21401

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Social Justice at First Unitarian

First U's Social Justice Team includes all who work "under the umbrella of social justice." Do you have information to share about your social justice activity? Next Quest deadline is September 15. Contact: lynningersoll@hotmail.com

Coalition Based Community Organizing Workshop

Save The Date! Saturday, October 3, 2009 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
First Unitarian Church of Wilmington – right here at our own church!
Do you want to know how to work in your community to transform it?

Do you want to know how to partner with others outside of your faith community to do this work?

The Joseph Priestley District is offering training and networking opportunities for congregations involved in Coalition Based Community Organizing or those interested in how CBCOs can help congregations do transformative work in the larger community.

Rev. Louise Green, Social Justice Minister of All Souls, Unitarian, Washington, DC, longtime community organizer and community organizer trainer, will provide you with examples of various Interfaith Coalitions, will explain how they function as agents of change, and explore how *OUR* congregation can become part of an interfaith CBCO.

Registration forms for the meeting will be made available on-line on the JPD site soon.

Coalition for Climate Change Study and Action (C3SA)

The other night I had dinner with Chris Paine, writer and producer of the film, *Who Killed the Electric Car?* He was the speaker at a UD symposium, *Energy and Sustainability 2009*. If you have not seen the film, you should. It shows how GM made an abortive attempt in the 1990's to introduce an all-electric car called the EV-1. A few hundred were leased in California to test public acceptance. The car was quiet, energy efficient, nearly maintenance free, and peppy. People loved it, but the gas guzzler/trucker/SUV members of the GM Board of Directors had a majority. The project was abandoned and the electric cars recalled and crushed, in spite of public protests. Rick Wagoner, the GM CEO, said that the decision to kill the electric car was probably the worst one he ever made.



Now GM has a new electric car (the Volt) that it hopes will help pull the company out of bankruptcy. Pay attention. We are going to see a lot of new all-electric and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles. Electricity is a lot less expensive than gasoline, and can be produced by renewable energy sources like wind and solar power. A large vehicle fleet that stores electrical energy in its batteries can be used to supply electricity to the grid at peak demand times (called V2G for Vehicle to Grid), avoid building new power plants, overcome the intermittency problem (the wind and sun are not always producing peak power), and greatly increase the percentage of our electricity that comes from renewables – getting us away from both imported oil and dirty coal, and improving both our national security and our health. I don't know about you, but I'm planning to make my next car electric. Contact Chad Tolman: ctolman@udel.edu.

Emmanuel Dining Room... Soup, anyone?

Donations of Cream of Chicken Soup are welcomed! Each month we go through 12-15 large (26-oz) cans of the soup, and donations would be a great way to keep our costs down. (You can usually get the bigger cans at ShopRite for \$2.59 each, but other stores probably carry them too.) Please leave your cans in the EDR basket in the church narthex. (Please note we only need Cream of Chicken Soup – not other varieties of soup.) If you want to help cook or serve our monthly meal (19th and 20th) contact Cindy Cohen at 475-5814 or cindyscohen@comcast.net.



Green Sanctuary

One of the Focus Areas in Green Sanctuary Accreditation is Sustainable Living and Energy Management. The committee has invested in Kill-A-Watt meters and Thermal Leak Detectors that can be used throughout our facilities. In addition, these meters will be loaned out to the members and friends of First U for personal use in our homes. We plan to charge a rental fee for the use of these meters. Funds raised by the rental fees will be used as part of the funding required to have an energy audit completed for our church. Look for details coming soon!! Green Sanctuary meets on the 4th Thursday evening; beginning at 6:30 p.m. Please join us! Contact Maggie Duffy at mdu@veriaon.net

ILYA (Independent Living for Young Adults)

College "Care Package" Contact People Needed... Young Adults who have "aged out" of the foster care system are beginning college or postsecondary training. Imagine going off to school without someone to send you "care packages," encouragement or, even, birthday wishes. How about becoming a contact for a college student this year? Each contact is paired with a student to whom they send about five packages over the year. Contact Betty Wier (bwier@udel.edu) or stop by the ILYA table after church services.

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF WILMINGTON

INGATHERING INTERGENERATIONAL CELEBRATION!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2009

THE REVEREND DR. JOSHUA SNYDER AND THE REVEREND BARBARA GADON
WILL LEAD THE SERVICE BEGINNING AT 10:30 A.M.

REVEREND SNYDER'S SERMON IS

“A FISH TALE”

(YOU WILL HAVE TO COME TO HEAR WHAT THAT MEANS)

SPECIAL MUSIC DURING THE SERVICE BY
THE UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE FACULTY JAZZ, AND OUR INGATHERING CHOIR.

WE WILL CELEBRATE WITH OUR CONGREGATION OF ALL AGES,
(CHILDCARE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PEOPLE FIVE YEARS OLD AND YOUNGER)

After the service, we will have our traditional picnic under the tents,
we will have a new People Scavenger hunt, designed by Reverend Gadon,
and music by our in house Dixieland band, the Upbeats.

If your family's last name begins with A-K, please bring sandwiches to share.

If your family's last name begins with L-Z, please bring salads to share.

If you have multiple last names, bring whatever you wish to share.

Bring your food to the kitchen, and it will be put in the appropriate place.

HERE WE HAVE GATHERED,
GATHERED SIDE BY SIDE!

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
Charles Wooden	Night Custodian
Reverend Dr. Robert Doss	Minister Emeritus

Board of Trustees

Nancy Pinson	President
Marilyn Hyte	Vice President
Cindy Cohen	Recording Secretary
Phil Dowd	Trustee
Maggie Duffy	Trustee
Barbara Lenahan	Trustee
Jeff Lott	Trustee
Michael Toll	Trustee
David Weiss	Trustee

Non-Board Officer

Steve Cohen Treasurer

Executive Team Portfolios

Rev. Snyder—Membership, Leadership Development, Social Justice, Growth, Long Range Planning

Rev. Gadon— Pastoral Care, Adult RE, CYRE, Family Ministry

Marina VanRenssen—Finance, Personnel, Buildings and Grounds, Green Sanctuary

This *QUEST* covers September 1 to 30, 2009. The **next** *QUEST* newsletter will cover events from October 1 to 31, 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.



First Unitarian Church
 730 Halstead Road
 Sharpley
 Wilmington, Delaware 19803
 Phone: 302-478-2384

Fax: 302-478-2622

Web: FirstUUWilm.org

NON - PROFIT

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

ROCKLAND, DE

PERMIT NO. 4

September 2009

Our Purpose:

First Unitarian Church is a caring, diverse faith community, rooted in UU principles, inspiring and celebrating lives of inclusion, justices, and love.