



Open Minds & Open Hearts

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church in Cherry Hill

Volume 57, Number 5
September 2013

A Month of Sundays

All services begin at 10:15 a.m. unless otherwise noted

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Online Only Option

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September 1 "The Fruits of Our Labor: Making a Difference Through All We Do"

Reverend Manish Mishra-Marzetti and Renny Roker

Join us as we share reflections on the meaning we can find through our personal efforts, be they through a job, as a volunteer, or whatever familial or other roles we may have. Visitors, friends, and family are especially welcome this holiday weekend as we join in honoring the spiritual meaning of Labor Day

September 8 "Homecoming: Our Annual Water Communion Sunday"

Rev. Manish, Rev. Julie-Ann, and Ministerial Intern Donna Renfro

This Sunday Rev. Manish, Rev. Julie-Ann, and Ministerial Intern Donna lead us in our annual "homecoming" celebration, as we usher in the beginning of our new church year and participate in water communion. For our communion, we invite you to bring to the worship service a container with a small bit of water from your summer travels, from a body of water near you, or from your home to share in our water communion ceremony. (We will also have some water from the church available for those who are unable to bring any in.) Bring the whole family and join us this Sunday as we 'officially' launch our new year! Church-Wide Pot-Luck Lunch immediately after the service. Please bring a lunch entrée to share!

September 15 "Reaching Within, Reaching Beyond"

Reverend Manish Mishra-Marzetti Reverend Brian Funk

This Sunday Rev. Manish is joined in the pulpit by Rev. Brian Funk, an ordained metaphysics minister, who leads a small group worship experience and teaches classes on our church campus. What is the metaphysics movement? What common ground might Unitarian Universalists and metaphysicists share in terms of our social values and spiritual values? More broadly, how do we each, in our own unique ways, reach within ourselves and reach beyond ourselves in finding deeper connection and meaning in our lives?

September 22

"Harvest in our Heart"

Donna Renfro, Ministerial Intern

At this time of harvest, we look at the hard work we have already done, why we can be grateful, what we have to celebrate, how wonderful it is to have balance. As we begin a new church and school year, let us savor and celebrate the blessings abundantly flowing into our lives.

September 29

"All Will Be Well"

Reverend Manish Mishra-Marzetti

In the midst of struggling with uncertainty, anxiety, and even fear, is it possible to know, to trust, that somehow all will turn out well? Join us this Sunday as Rev. Manish leads us in worship reflecting on this important spiritual theme. Come explore how we might tap into our sources of strength and resiliency.

UUCCH is proud to be a Welcoming Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Reflections for the Journey

Reverend Manish Mishra-Marzetti, MMishra@aol.com

September is already upon us, and with it, you will find in this issue of the newsletter a cavalcade of information related to upcoming programs, activities, events, and social and service-related opportunities. If you are new to our community – a warm welcome! You will find here a wealth of ways to connect meaningfully to others who are similarly seeking a deeper experience of community.

One of the points my spiritual teacher likes to hammer home is that we each get out of any experience what we put into it. If the energy that is invested is that of anxiety, we will have an anxious experience. If the energy that is invested is worry, our experience will be unsettled and critical. In contrast to those kinds of more stressful experiences, our congregation can be a place where we choose to invest our love, our passion, and our care (for ourselves, for each other, and for the world).

When that kind of energy is invested in community – without any preoccupation for what will be received in return – lo and behold, a bounty of riches more often than not emerges both for ourselves and for those whose lives we touch! The urge to truly love and freely give of ourselves requires letting go of “transactional thinking,” of spiritual community is a place where we can practice letting go of the transactional obsessiveness that permeates our culture.

Give freely of yourself – share with others who you are, let them in. Give freely of your time – take just a

peek at the wide range of activities listed in this newsletter, and try something new. Give freely of your resources – share what wealth you can, whether it is sharing your wisdom, volunteering your time, and/or donating whatever you might be able to financially. AND THEN...buck everything our culture has taught you, be revolutionary, challenge yourself spiritually: don't expect a single thing in return. Enjoy what it feels like to be truly expansive, truly generous, discarding the lens of transactionality. This is where the magic happens. This is when others see us as intentionally and amazingly generous individuals. This is when the universe, as a whole, responds to that selfless generosity with gifts and bounty that we could not have imagined.

The greatest gifts often come when we expect nothing at all, when we are just being our best, most authentic, most grounded selves. Take a look at the myriad opportunities listed in this newsletter and give it a try. Give of yourself in new ways. Ask for or expect nothing in return. Then, just watch what happens. Allow the beauty that is possible within community to naturally unfold. It is a form of beauty that is nothing short of miraculous and lifesaving. What a joy it is for my family and I to begin our fifth year together with you! Welcome to our new church year, I am so looking forward to all that we will experience and learn together in the months ahead.

With much love and deepest appreciation,

Rev. Manish

Moving in Spirit

Donna Renfro, Ministerial Intern, bdonna7568@aol.com

"Our growth as religious people happens when we engage with pain--our pain and the pain of others--in ways that help us expand compassion and a deep sense of our interconnectedness." One of the greatest strengths I feel in this congregation is its ability to care for each other, to have that deep sense of connectedness, of interconnectedness. Last year there was so much pain and loss among congregants. Love, faith, and memories carried many through those unexpected losses. Hope for acceptance of those losses, and for better times ahead sustained us.

Let us continue to care for one another in our immediate community so deeply in spirit and practice, especially as those unexpected situations occur. Let us begin again with fresh plans and commitments. This is a time to discern our own gifts to the community, and commit to supporting each other in new ways.

One place for hope and healing can be moving beyond our own individual losses and circumstances, and helping others. As we begin this new year, let us again look at ways to rekindle our commitment to helping those beyond our walls. The title quote above was from a Standing on the Side of Love letter about contemporary racial inequity. It is an issue I am passionate about, yet struggle to move beyond naming the history that brought us here, to finding the action to go with the compassion engendered by the pain. I was thrilled to have Leslie MacFayden contact me with an effort to work on these issues, the new Jim Crow and mass incarcerations. I am thrilled to have a congregant member partner in the effort, so that it can continue at UUCCH after I finish my internship in June 2014. Watch for email announcements, flyers and posters with when and how we will begin.

As we start this new year together, know how deeply grateful I am to you for all the learning I have already had, and how much more prepared I expect to be after this year. Let us grow and build together!

~ Donna Renfro, Ministerial Intern- Donna Renfro, Ministerial Intern

Faith-Full Thoughts

Reverend Julie-Ann Silberman-Bunn, revja@aol.com

Fall comes with such a mix of emotions. I remember as a child trying to find the exact right outfit for the first day back at school. For some reason my 8th grade year sticks out in my mind. When I was in 8th grade I was into layering, I often wore a sweater over a turtleneck or a blouse...that year the sweater was a shiny gray but it had an inset panel at the top with stripes and there were stripes at the bottom too- the stripes were rainbow colored and I loved that sweater. The challenge that year as so many years was that it was hot on the first day of school so this awesome new outfit was really pretty inappropriate for the day, but I wore it anyway. I wonder how many of us make decisions about things and stick with them even if we know they aren't the best calls we could make.

There were many times I remember my first day of school being blazing hot, there was no air conditioning and the discomfort of a new school, new teachers and a new situation were compounded by my own self-imposed physical discomfort. Looking back, many of my decisions were made based on what I thought the expectations of others would be and of course, how I could fit in. Fitting in was more important to me for most of my life than being myself. Today I still struggle at times with being who I think others expect me to be and being myself, really my hippy groovy relaxed self. There are times and places when

being professional, or situationally appropriate are important. It is equally important however to be able to know when and where we can really be ourselves.

Family and friends who know me as me, and love me even when I am silly, crazy, tired or otherwise out of step are the greatest blessing any of us could have. I like to believe that our church family is made up of people who will accept us for ourselves. Even as a minister I hope you know that I have good and bad days and sometimes my attempts at being perfect just miss the mark. We are all human after all, even on the first day of school or the first day of the church year when we are excited and scared, glad and anxious. Sometimes we pick the right outfit and sometimes we don't-- but those who love us really don't care and that is the important thing for all of us to remember.

Greet one another with love, we never know what emotions are running rampant in another and love will make all of us feel more comfortable, more welcome and more relaxed.

I hope your year is filled with love and acceptance, I'll see you in Church!

~ Julie-Ann



Music Notes



Music Notes

Ken Ewan, Music Director, kewan783@comcast.net

Here we are, another new season to explore and celebrate. I trust your summer was filled with good things. My sincere thanks to all the folks who shared their talents this summer and for Natasha's leadership. I am sure there were a few things you might not have expected (people you haven't heard before and some good musical/worship offerings). I am indeed looking forward to sharing some things and ideas that inspired me on Helen's and my trip to Europe. My thanks also to our new music committee chair, Bob Stewart and Barb Barnett-Stewart and Rich McGeehan for their work over the summer in continuing work on better organizing and cataloging our music files, including procuring a new file cabinet storage system. A time for the first fall music committee meeting will be posted.

Adult Choir rehearsal will begin on Wednesday, **September 4** at **7:30 p.m.** I will also be leading the Kids Choir at **6:30 p.m.**, same evening, and will talk with you all about a new idea Rev. Julie-Ann and I have discussed concerning Kids Choir moving forward. **ADULT CHOIR WILL SING** at the Sunday Home Coming service September 8. Hand bell Choir practice will begin on Sunday, **September 15** at **12:00 p.m.** in **Classroom C202**. Folks interested in joining either of the choirs are encouraged to come to practice, jump right in, or observe OR contact me first if you have questions...kewan783@comcast.net OR home

856-258-4030 OR cell 609-413-1380. As anyone will tell you, I am always available and glad to great you.

Adult Choir every Wednesday from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.
Kids Choir every Wednesday from 6:30 - 7:15 p.m.
Hand bell Choir every Sunday from 12:00 - 1:15 p.m.

Many other, new musical events will be posted (fund-raiser coming end of October.)

IMPORTANT REQUEST of our MEMBERS who serve or have served in our US Military Forces. Our All Music Sunday (November 10) will be looking at celebrating your contributions in honor of Veterans Day...what role music may play or have played in your day-to-day duties, recollections, dreams, family connections, etc. What songs were helpful or encouraging to you? The music can be any style, kind or form (pop, classical, country, etc.). The Sunday is a few months away, but it helps us to prepare a service that is meaningful.

A BIG Welcome to all new and returning members. Congratulations to our former music committee Chair, Ryan Ketner and Cynthia, new mom and dad to-be!

~ Ken Ewan

Happy September Birthdays

03 – Reeve Baldassari
07 – Kevin Schindler
09 – Joe Suboleski
10 – Ted Nickles
11 – Bethany Uhle
13 – Mike Doheny
14 – Bill Abrams

16 – Diane Baker-Hallowell
21 – Emerson McDonald, Bill Shimmin
25 – Sheran Roach
26 – Carol Carofiglio
27 – Emmi Anderson
28 – Terry Jacobs

If you would like to be included in the monthly birthday list, please call or email the church office.

Member Anniversaries

Congratulations to those in our church community with milestone membership anniversaries during the month of September:



55 Years: Roy Potts, Pat Potts
25 Years: Brooke Tidswell, Pamela Tidswell
20 Years: Anthony Infante, Patricia Infante
10 Years: Chris Spigel, Keith Spigel
1 Year: Peter Jackson, Harry Dillon, Lynda Dillon

SEND US YOUR NEWS

Via web at <http://uucch.org/newslettersubmissions>
or via email at uucchnl@gmail.com or via the
"Newsletter" box in the church office

NEXT DEADLINE:
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From the Board of Trustees

What's New with the Board of Trustees (BOT)?

The Board of Trustees began our August meeting with a selected reading by Judy Woods from Eboo Patel's 'Acts of Faith', which recounted the sobering and life-saving sacrifices made by a Hindu and Muslim in the movie Mr. And Mrs. Iyer.

This month the board approved a status change of Sandy Koch to inactive, and reduced our membership count by one due to the death of Jack Hinger, which leaves our membership count at 343 members, 8 associate & 7 emeritus members.

Rosemary White shared in her President's Report the signed internship agreement for Donna's second year with us. This year we will conduct an audit of our financial operations. We consider it prudent to involve outside eyes in this process along with volunteers from the congregation. This month we also received a Honor Congregation letter from Peter Morales, Pres. Of UUA board, which recognizes our ability to pay our 'fair share' in 2013. The BOT thanks all of you for your generosity and the stewardship volunteers for putting forth outstanding effort to make this happen.

The Chief Executive reported that in his absence, the Emergency Succession Plan worked well. Rev. Julie-Ann's expert guidance in ministry and Lise Neely's operational management proved invaluable. Our financial picture is solid. We ended the year with a budgetary surplus in excess of \$9000, part of which has been directed into our restricted reserve account, and part of which will be bolstering our balance in the church's operating account. We should be thrilled with our success, and the generosity overwhelms us!!! Thank you all!

At an upcoming retreat on August 21st, the board will be working on creating a covenant. Rosemary lifted up concepts discussed in the book by Peter Block 'Community' around keeping a 'gifts inventory' of our members. We will also be benefitting from the consulting expertise of Mark Bernstein through our participation in the CERG Threshold Program. He will guide us in looking at the full spectrum of what the word 'growth' means, both reactivity to growth and proactively pursuing growth.

The board discussed the importance the congregation celebrating our tireless volunteers who have generously given their time to ensure that our church has been a beacon of UU throughout southern New Jersey. We are excited to share in this process with you. Look for more about this on Page 6.

~Charlotte Baldassari, Board of Trustees

In attendance were Rosemary White (President), Rob MacIver (first Vice President), Judy Woods (2nd Vice President), Bill Abrams, Robert Downie, Joe Winter, Lise Neely (Lay Ministry Leader acting as Chief Executive) and Rev. Julie-Ann Silverman Bunn.

The following topics were discussed. The Board will continue follow-up with members who spoke during the Annual Meeting to assure we are aware of concerns raised. The Leadership Development Task Force is moving toward a joint meeting in August with the Leadership Development and Nominating Committee to ensure a smooth transition for the work they have initiated. Rosemary will be working with Manish on an Adult Program Offering inspired by a new UUA Commission Report titled "Who's In Charge Here?: The Complex Relationship Between Ministry and Authority."

Rev. Julie-Ann has been invited to join in discussion with Camden Churches Organized for People. She thinks this organization could be a great partner for our church.

Technical upgrades: Needed for both the church voicemail and the old duplication machine (fixed or replaced). Chuck Nankivell as Lay Ministry Leader for Communications is looking at these issues.

Rosemary provided information on "Basics of Appreciative Inquiry" and an exercise.

The Board reviewed the current Governance Process and BOT Policies under Policy Governance, last updated in

September 2011. We discussed improving our orientation of new Board members. The manual Charlotte provided was helpful. We discovered that members of the Board are required to sign a conflict of interest statement.

Annual Meeting Follow-up and Minutes Review: Minutes are to reflect the business of the congregation and cannot fully represent all comments shared. The Board will review minutes for accuracy in the next meeting.

Sr. Ministerial Review Planning: Bob Downie provided a handout with helpful tips for annual ministerial reviews. The handout suggested keeping the compensation review separate from the ministerial review. It also suggested that those who are most in contact with the minister be surveyed rather than surveying every member of the church. Rosemary mentioned surveying by demographic.

The Board is coordinating the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on September 28. Rev. Julie-Ann suggested working with Mike Redford since the dinner is tied into the Fall Festival this year. She also suggested a Sundae Bar might be fun and family-friendly.

~ Bill Abrams, Board of Trustees

Due to an error, last month's article is included on the following page. Our apologies.

In Consideration of Vision

Since it was approved at the congregational meeting of June 2008, the Vision Statement of UUCCH has been: We will become a beacon of liberal-religion in southern New Jersey. We welcome questioning minds and growing spirits. We nurture civic, social and environmental justice.

With the start of Policy Based Governance as an operational system for the church in 2011, we have used this vision to guide the work of the church. The vision is the basis of the "Ends Statements" the Board of Trustees provided to guide the work of our Ministry Team. These statements are intended to express the values we strive to promote in the activities and programs we undertake throughout the church.

The Ministry Team is composed of a group of dedicated church leaders working closely with our professional staff to provide for excellence in all areas of ministry at UUCCH. A list of the individuals currently serving in these positions and their respective portfolios was distributed at the June 2013 Annual Meeting and was emailed to all church members and posted on the church website in July. Copies of the list are also available in the Commons.

Over the past two years, the Ministry Team has been delving into just how we demonstrate these Ends values through the many programs and activities that support our church community, our members and our property. You may have noticed this as you read the 2012 and 2013 Annual reports.

The Ends were also a key focus during a joint BOT and Ministry Team retreat in June where we shared in an activity

to define the terms in item '(B)' of the first Ends Statements: "We will be a beacon of Liberal-Religion when . . . the church is recognized for its leadership in the larger religious community." This led to a deep conversation and the discovery of some interesting and enlightening aspects of our aspirations for UUCCH, as well as insights about who we are, and what we can be, and the value of a vibrant UU community in Southern New Jersey.

Here is a selection of key words and range of meanings discussed at the retreat:

Beacon: Light to save; Guide; High point; Seen by a wide audience; Always present for everyone; Reliable; Needs a keeper; Visible Liberal Religion: Open; Questioning; Non-Creedal; Flexible; Evolving; Personal; Non- Rigid; Challenging norms; Pioneering, Recognized: Known for; Acknowledged; Credible; Identifiable; Widely known; Perception by others; Understood; Accolades
Leadership: Forefront; Respected; Direction; Navigator; Sets an example; Followed; Mentors; Proven & tested; Integrity; Always on; Trendsetter; Visionary; Principled

You are encouraged to share your thoughts about our vision with a Board Member and to find ways to participate in the ongoing process to express our shared values and support our vision as well as our UUCCH mission . . . Learn, Value, Serve.

This is intended to be the first in a series of articles about the Boards Involvement with Policy Based Governance to provide a strong framework for Growth in Excellence at UUCCH.

~ Rosemary White, Board President

UUCCH (Global) Ends Statements: [as of November 7, 2012]

UUCCH is a beacon of Liberal Religion when...

- (A) We affirm and promote throughout our congregation and our world the Unitarian Universalist values stated in the Seven Principles.
- (B) The church is recognized for its leadership in the larger religious community.
- (C) We actively publicize our church and faith, both as a congregation and individually.
- (D) We welcome and value people of different ages, cultures, races, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, abilities, opinions and beliefs
- (E) UUCCH welcomes questioning minds and growing spirits when . . .
 - We act with compassion and courage, inviting people into growth of the spirit.
 - Members foster a positive climate and environment.
 - We offer programs that attract and keep people of all ages.

UUCCH nurtures civic, social and environmental justice when...

- (A) We recognize bias based on race, sex, class and education, or other injustices, and work to overcome them.
- (B) Our worship services and programs address issues of diversity and the need for deeper understanding.
- (C) We promote peace and justice for all people

UUCCH is a healthy congregation when...

- (A) Members actively engage in the life of the church.
- (B) The church possesses adequate resources.
- (C) Participation and length of membership increases.
- (D) We plan for physical facilities that accommodate our programs and ministry.
- (E) We have the financial resources that accommodate future needs.



Programs & Events

Fifty Years Ago

From the Sept 1963 Newsletter (Vol. 8; No 1):

Another delightful summer get together was held at the home of Bea and Marty Smolens at their lakefront home on Lake Pine near Medford.

Subscriptions to mimeographed copies of Ed Lane's sermons are available at \$5 a year. This will include all of Ed's sermons plus those of guest speakers when manuscripts are available. Ed stresses that it is not cricket to buy a subscription just so you can stay home from church.

Moffa's Farm on Almonesson Rd in Blenheim will be the site of the Adult Halloween Party on October 25. There will be dancing and prizes for best costumes.

~ Caroline Ringo, UUCCH Archivist

Everyday Spiritual Practice Discussion Group

All are invited to the September meetings of the *Everyday Spiritual Practice* Discussion Group. The book, *Everyday Spiritual Practice*, is a collection of 38 essays by prominent UU ministers and laypeople. At the September meetings, we will discuss the essay, *Anti-Racism*, by Rev. Dorothy May Emerson (pp. 205-210). Please join us!

The September meeting times are:

- Thursday, September 19 from 7:30-9:00 p.m. in the Horsch Room
- Saturday, September 21, from 10:00-11:30 a.m. in the Horsch Room

For questions, please contact Robert Schindler (rschindl@camden.rutgers.edu, 856-304-6006) or Mitch Newcomer (mitchnwc@gmail.com, 609-314-0054).

~ Robert Schindler, *Everyday Spiritual Practice* Discussion Group

Anthropological Studies in Religion

Sunday, **Sept. 8, 12:15 p.m.**, **Room C102** features "The Chapel of Sacred Mirrors: The Spiritual Art of Alex Grey," with Steve Kressel. Info: (856) 979-6052.

~Lorrayne Baird-Lange

Sanctuary Meets September 18

Sanctuary will meet on Wednesday, **September 18 at 7:30 p.m.** in the **Horsch Room** to continue its reading of *The Shack: Where Tragedy Meets Eternity* by William P. Young. Ron Neely will lead us again this month; participants are invited to read Chapters 8-11 prior to the meeting, noting any passages they would particularly like to discuss or offering questions for discussion. All are welcome.

~ Libby Pontillo, Sanctuary

Religious Education Wish List

- Bendy figures
- Small matchbox type cars
- Stress reduction squeeze toys
- All craft supplies
- A laminator

~ Rev. Julie-Silberman-Bunn,
Religious Education

Yom Kippur Pot-Luck Dinner:

Join us on Saturday, **September 14 at 7:00 p.m.** for this first of its kind pot-luck dinner in **Fellowship Hall**, held jointly by our church and the Secular Jews of South Jersey, one of the community groups that meet on our site, commemorating the end of Yom Kippur. All are cordially invited to this community meal (whether you are of Jewish heritage or not) as our two communities (UUCCH and SJSJ) jointly commemorate the meaning and significance of Yom Kippur. Please bring a dinner entrée to share.

~ Reverend Manish Mishra-Marzetti

Church-Wide Pot-Luck Lunch:

Sun. Sept. 8 - As our community re-gathers in our annual Water Communion worship service, all visitors, friends, and members of the congregation are invited to stay afterwards for a special pot-luck lunch. Please bring a lunch entrée item to share. Lunch items can be dropped off in Fellowship Hall prior to the start of the worship service.

~ Reverend Manish Mishra-Marzetti

Fall Fellowship Festival Campfire -- Sept. 28

Autumn is just around the corner, and so is the UUCCH Annual Fall Festival! Mark your calendars for Saturday evening, **September 28**. Once again, we will cap off the Fall Festival with camping and a campfire in the circle behind Fellowship Hall.

We will have activities for the kids, refreshments for kids and adults (including s'mores, of course), fellowship by the roaring campfire late into the night, overnight camping for those who want to stay and pancakes the following morning in **Fellowship Hall** for all the campers. Plan to arrive at **7:00 p.m.** to help light the fire, and stay as late as you like.

Look for upcoming announcements with more details on the evening's activities and on what to bring. Meantime, if you have any questions, please contact Keith Spirgel at kdspirgel@yahoo.com.

~ Keith Spirgle

Animal Blessing Ceremony:

Sat. **Sept. 28, 2:00 p.m.** - We are delighted to offer this opportunity to bring your family pet(s) to the church for a blessing ceremony. Bring your pet(s) to the church's yard this Saturday afternoon, as a part of our annual Fall Fest celebration, for an opportunity to have them "blessed" by our clergy. In addition, this year courtesy pet health checks will be offered on-site by our very own Dr. Lisa Aumiller-Anderson, of House Paws Mobile Veterinary Clinic. Join us for this special opportunity to care for the spiritual well-being and physical health of your beloved family pets! (Please ensure that pets are appropriately leashed or caged, and that you bring any clean-up supplies that may be needed for your pet.)

~ Reverend Manish Mishra-Marzetti

Leading In a UU Context

Mini-Retreat Sept. 20-21, 2013

The Leadership Development and Nominating Committee (LDNC) will sponsor a mini-retreat on Friday evening and Saturday morning, **Sept 20 and 21 at UUCCH**. The Friday session will be held between 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m., with snacks available at 6:30 p.m. A continental breakfast will be available at 8:30 a.m. Saturday morning, with the session itself running between 9:00 a.m. and noon.

Topics will include Emotional Intelligence, Generational Sensibility, Skills to Teach other Leaders, and Management Skills.

All are welcome – everyone is a leader in some aspect of their lives. We hope you will attend both sessions – but come to one if that is all for which you have time.

Contact any member of the Leadership Development and Nominating Committee to RSVP or for more information. LYNC members are Larry Solow, Debbie Pelzer, Tammy Muehlenz, Peg Willard, Julie Gandy, Peter Jackson, Karen Nowicki, Susan Duncan, Carrie Rupnow-Kidd, and Kathy Sloan.

~ Larry Solow, Leadership Development and Nominating Committee

Debut of Neighborhood Caring Groups This Fall

Neighborhood groups are coming this fall as an opportunity for people to get to know each other beyond the church walls. The intent is for people/families living close to each other geographically to get together once every few months for a coffee/dessert, picnic or potluck dinner (or use your imagination to come up with other events). By having these events, our hope is that people will get to know each other multi-generationally, and be there for each other in time of need, i.e. rides to church services and other church activities; calls or visits; support during illness or incapacitation. We have identified the following neighborhood for our church community; Cherry Hill East, Cherry Hill West, Medford & Surroundings, Mt. Laurel & Surroundings, Merchantville & Surroundings, Moorestown, Haddonfield & Surroundings, Greater Burlington county, Voorhees & Surroundings, Blackwood/Clementon/Berlin & Surroundings, Deptford & Surroundings, Collingswood & Surroundings. Mt. Laurel & Surroundings, Greater Burlington County, Deptford & Surroundings need hosts for the depute events. If you live in these neighborhoods and can host an event in your home, a neighborhood park, or a community/park/library meeting space; please contact Swati Boggi at swatiboggi@gmail.com or 856-904-4431.

Look for information on the first event in the order of service. If you need information on an upcoming event in your neighborhood, contact Swati Boggi at swatiboggi@gmail.com or 856-904-4431

~ Sandy Hughes, Caring Committee

Dinner Discussion Groups

This is a great way to make new friends and enjoy food and fellowship in a relaxed setting. Email Chris Spigel at cmspigel@yahoo.com by Friday, September 6 if you are interested in participating in this year's dinner discussion groups. Sign up with a friend if you would like to be together in the same group. Groups meet approximately bimonthly in members' homes, in the Horsch Room, at a local picnic ground, or wherever that month's host decides. Host duties rotate among members with the host being responsible for the main course, choosing a discussion topic, and assigning side dishes. You will get a brief questionnaire about dietary restrictions, group size, pets, etc. and hopefully groups will be formed by the end of the second week in September.

~ Chris Spigel, Dinner Discussion Groups

New Fellowship Group Season Begins in September

Grow deeper. New Fellowship Groups (FGs) are forming. FGs offer a way to get to know a small group of fellow church members and friends more deeply through thoughtful reflection and sharing about questions that we often ignore in the hustle and bustle of daily life. These 75 to 90 minute meetings will be held monthly between September and May.

Guided by facilitators, people with different beliefs and perspectives share of themselves, listen deeply, learn from each other, and seek to deepen their understanding of what it means to be human.

With more facilitators available, we are able to offer a variety of monthly meeting dates:

- Third or fourth Sundays of each month (after church)
- Third or fourth Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday of each month (evenings)
- Fourth Wednesday of each month (evening)
- Something new: a "virtual" FG meeting, held online via Skype, Google "Hangout" or conference call. These can be held any time on which a group of people and a facilitator agree.

Please contact John Nielsen, Libby Pontillo, Larry Solow, or any FG facilitator for more information (We will be wearing green "Fellowship Group" buttons). A sign-up form can be found on the UUCCH website at <http://uucch.org/fellowship-groups1>. Look for our table at Coffee Hour after service in Fellowship Hall.

~ Larry Solow, Fellowship Groups Planning Group

Community Outreach Work (COW) October 5 – 27

Please join friends and members of the Unitarian Universalist Church in Cherry Hill in service projects supporting the local community.

No matter your age, no matter your ability...COW has a great service opportunity perfect for you. Families with children, teens, neighbors, work colleagues, and friends are all welcome to be part of this effort.

2013 COW Activities at a Glance

- Saturday, October 5: Utensil wrapping for Cathedral Kitchen at Medford Leas
- Sunday, October 6: Grounds clean-up at UUCCH
- Monday, October 7: Large mailing project for Alzheimer's Association
- Tuesday, October 8: Pantry duties at Cherry Hill Food Pantry
- Thursday, October 10: Pantry duties at Cherry Hill Food Pantry
- Saturday, October 12: Neighborhood cleanup with Heart of Camden, Tree planting for the NJ Tree Foundation, Thrift shop duties for Habitat for Humanity's ReStore, Lunch service for Cathedral Kitchen

- Tuesday, October 15: Pantry duties at Cherry Hill Food Pantry
- Thursday, October 17: Pantry duties at Cherry Hill Food Pantry
- Saturday, October 19: Help with pet parade/ activities at Collingswood Manor, Tree planting for the NJ Tree Foundation
- Sunday, October 20: Utensil wrapping, PB&J making, & placemat decorating for Cathedral Kitchen
- Saturday, October 26: Activities for medically-frail children at Voorhees Pediatric Hospital, Shelter and "trash-to-treasure" projects at Animal Welfare Association, Large mailing project for CASA of Camden County, Breakfast service at Ronald McDonald House
- Sunday, October 27: Trail maintenance & community bike ride with Rails to Trails

For more information, please contact Bobbie Keane bobbun81@comcast.net or Steven Burch steven.burch818@gmail.com. Look for more information on uucch.org. Project registration begins Sunday, September 8, 2013

~ Bobbie Keane, Community Outreach Work

Children's Religious Education will begin on September 15.

All children should be registered by that time, if you have any questions about registering children please speak with Rev. Julie-Ann.

Some great changes have been scheduled for RE this year. This fall we will be offering Our Whole Lives (OWL) age appropriate sexuality education to our first and second graders while Spirit Play sessions will be available for those families who choose not to have their children participate in OWL, as well as newcomers to our community. The fourth and fifth graders will be working with the very creative, hands on program "*Jesus and his Kingdom of Equals*". Our Junior High Youth will participate in the Neighboring Faiths Program on Sunday mornings, and one weekend a month. The seventh and eighth graders will gather for 4 hours to experience the more intensive Junior High OWL program. We will see more of our senior high youth as they have chosen to sell fair trade coffee as a major part of their fundraising for the year.

We are still looking for some additional adult leaders at every age. If you are interested in a hands on approach to growing and deepening your faith please considering spending one or two Sundays a month with our children or youth. I am almost certain you will find it to be a rewarding experience!

~ Rev. Julie-Silberman-Bunn, Religious Education

Committee Corner

Have It, Share It

We pledge "liberty and justice for all". Yet, some of us "have it", but not all of us want to "share it". Please help to unlock the civil right to marry for all gay families.

You have the opportunity to make history by being a part of the New Jersey United for Marriage (NJUM) coalition's campaign for Marriage Equality (ME) in NJ. The UUCCH is gearing up for a major drive, now, before Jan. 2014, to override the Governor's veto. We urgently need: 1. Volunteers from District 8 to visit with their legislators and tell them their stories; 2. Connections with friends, relatives or coworkers of those in the District 8 office. Can you help with either of these?

In addition, we will be asking how you will make history with us. You can: 1. Call your representatives, especially in District 8, and tell them to vote, "Yes," in support of ME; 2. Send them an email; 3. Sign a petition; 4. Write a personal, handwritten letter, for the most impact, and mail it to them, especially in district 8; 5. Volunteer at the NJUM phone bank here in our very own church. (Watch for upcoming dates and times.)

Please contact Nina Scarpa, 856.663.9437 and tell her how you plan to make history.

~ Nina Scarpa, Social Justice

Cow with a White Heart

Did you know that the cow on your COW T-shirt has a heart in the center? That heart is really visible in this year's COW T-shirts, which are royal blue with a white logo. They're different, they're stunning, you'll want one for every member of the family... and the dog. T-shirts cost \$7 for kid sizes, \$8 for adults and 2XL are a steal at \$10. You can order them after service on September 8 and September 15 for pickup on September 29 and October 6. Payment is requested at time of order.

Buy a T-shirt and get involved with one or more COW activities in October. It will do your heart good.

~ Bobbie Keane, Community Outreach Work

Cherry Hill Food Pantry Says Thank You & Please, Save the Dates

As UUC's representatives to Cherry Hill Food Pantry, we would like to say a giant Thank You to our faithful congregation for your very generous contributions to our fourth Sunday & other collections. Your kindness, in both food & money donations, has been inspiring.

The upcoming dates for our next volunteering opportunities are: Tuesdays, October 8 & 15, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. & Thursdays, October 10 & 17 from 9:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Duties include: packing bags with non-perishables, sorting food, filling shopping carts and escorting our clients to the parking lot. We get to work with other volunteers from a variety of religious groups & get to be seen as contributions to the local community. Please, let us know (scamlin1@comcast.net or Sue at 856-266-3394) if you will join us this October for a few hours of service.

The Pantry is located 1 ½ blocks from our church at St Michael's Lutheran Church. The Pantry, created in May 2006 with 30 families & 6 churches (we are one of the six founding churches) now consists of 10 religious congregations & distributes groceries to over 500 families each month. We are one of over 200 agencies who buy food from the Food Bank of South Jersey and Philabundance.

Again, thanks to all who support us & thanks to our wonderful COW committee who included us in their Community Outreach Work.

Yours for Love through Action, Sue Camlin & Felix Ullrich

From COW (community outreach work)

Thank you to everyone who donated backpacks for Operation Backpack. We collected 48 backpacks surpassing our total from last year. The backpacks were greatly appreciated by the Center for Family Services.

~ Linda Delaney, Community Outreach Work

Adult Programs

By now, you have received our new Adult Programs booklet entitled, "Opportunities for Learning, Playing, and Serving at UUCCH". The booklet is also posted on the church website, at www.uucch.org. We have 20 new or continuing Courses or Forums, 23 new or continuing interest groups, along with many community service opportunities. The possibilities are diverse, ranging from spiritual development to exploring various religions, philosophies, and approaches to religion to breakfast, lunch, and dinner groups to baking and jewelry making. In September, Rev. Julie-Ann Silberman-Bunn will lead a 3-session Introduction to Spirit Play for adults, which will provide an understanding of the model we are using for our children's religious education program. Other new programs starting in September include a 4-session Cakes for the Queen of Heaven program, which focuses on our female religious roots, Leadership Training in a UU Context, and a 10-week Tai Chi class. Please contact Paula Horton with questions at 856-439-9588 or phorton100@comcast.net

~ Paula Horton, Adult Programs Committee

Social Justice Reorganization Begins

A Social Justice Steering Committee met recently to begin the work to reorganize the structure of our social justice activities. Arising from the Social Justice Summit held in May, the steering committee is led by Social Justice Lay Leader Rohn Hein and comprised of Ed Fox, Gary Clayton, Kathy Sloan, and Neena Winter. The first meeting reviewed the summit that focused on the need for clear lines of authority, moving SJ to social responsibility, and getting church consensus on prioritizing social justice resources. It was also noted that a balance is needed between UUCCHs' advocacy and service projects.

The steering committee will be reviewing structures at other churches and making recommendation on how best to implement a plan at UUCCH that meets our own needs. The group decided to first develop a vision statement specifically for social justice at the church.

The steering committee agreed that whatever the committee resolves, it must incorporate congregational involvement and a procedure for encouraging advocacy and service.

Look for notices of congregational forums to discuss this process throughout the fall. A goal of implementing the new structure by year's end is hoped. The committee will meet again on August 29.

If you have thoughts or ideas, please reach out to one of the committee members.

~ Rohn Hein, Social Justice Lay Leader

For UUs, From UUs

CONTACT Community Helplines

For 42 years, CONTACT Community Helplines has helped people in crisis or need through our telephone hotlines. We operate a 24-hour Crisis Helpline for residents of Camden, Gloucester, Cumberland and Salem Counties who need to talk to someone who really cares, someone who will listen to them without judgment. CONTACT also operates a Telephone Reassurance Program for isolated and homebound senior citizens who live alone. The Telephone Reassurance program provides a daily call to these senior citizens each day – at a time convenient to the client -- to make sure they are alive and well, and to provide social contact. All of our services are provided by highly trained volunteers and are free and confidential. If you—or someone you know may be in need of any of our services, or might be interested in volunteering, please give us a call!

To reach the Crisis Helpline, call 1-877-266-8222.

To register for the Telephone Reassurance Program for Senior Citizens, call 856-795-4980.

To volunteer, call 856-795-5073.

~ Submitted on behalf of CONTACT

Interested In Participating In Or Leading Worship This Year?

Are you interested, as a layperson, in public speaking? Sharing your ideas/perspective with the congregation? Helping develop worship topics/themes? Interested in leading your own worship services? The Worship Team welcomes lay involvement and participation in our worship services, and will be offering an ongoing worship skills development program during this church year. No prior worship experience is required; introductory and more advanced coaching/training will be provided, based on individual skill levels. Please Reserve Saturday, **September 7, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**, for our first worship skills development retreat of the new church year. We are excited about helping our parishioners develop their gifts and talents in this regard and hope you will join us for this opportunity. Much gratitude, your Worship Team (Rev. Manish, Rev. Julie-Ann, Donna Renfro, and Ken Ewan). Questions can be directed to Rev. Manish (MMishra@aol.com).

~ Reverend Manish Mishra-Marzetti

Church of the Larger Fellowship

The [CLF](#) (Church of the Larger Fellowship, our UU congregation without walls) offers lively UU conversation during its weekly show called the VUU. Coming to a Thursday near you. [Join us](#). [Click here](#) for a sneak peak!

~ Beth Murray, Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF)

Another Unitarian Actor in Tough Cookies

If you missed the opportunity to see fellow Unitarian, Sue Camlin in her acting debut as Mammaw in “*Tough Cookies*”, she’s back.

You can see this dark comedy on Sunday, Sept. 8 or Monday, Sept 9, at 7 p.m. at the Adrienne Theater, 2030 Sansom St., Philadelphia. <http://fringearts.ticketleap.com/tough-cookies/>.

This play is sponsored by Together We Act, a non-profit acting company for stutterers, & is part of the Annual Philadelphia Fringe Arts Festival. Sue's daughter, former YA leader, Dawn Falato, is acting at the Fringe, also, in *The Ballad of Joe Hill*. Hope you will check us out.

Staff Hours

Senior Minister, Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti's Work Hours

Monday-Thursday Noon-9 p.m.

Appointments recommended. Please email (MMishra@aol.com)
or call Rev. Mishra-Marzetti to set up a date/time at cell 856-701-9302

Associate Minister, Rev. Julie-Ann Silberman-Bunn's Work Hours

Monday -- Thursday 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Appointments recommended. Please email (revja@aol.com)
or call Rev. Silberman-Bunn to set up a date/time at her cell 203-231-8243

Ministerial Intern, Donna Renfro's Work Hours

Tuesday - Thursday: 1 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Friday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Appointments recommended. Please email (Bdonna7568@aol.com)
or call Donna to set up a date/time at cell: 732-513-8867

Music Director Ken Ewan Office Hours:

Mondays: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Tuesdays: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Wednesdays: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Office Secretary, Kathy Wilson's Office Hours:

Monday - Friday: 9:30 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.