



unitarian universalist congregation
of princeton



Skylights newsletter

Upcoming Sunday Worship Services

March 4, 2007 at 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. (Two Services)

Dream the Impossible Dream

Worship Leader: **Rev. Forrest Gilmore**

Music: **Marjorie Herman, Beth Ertz, the Adult Choir**

Throughout the ages, many great women and men have dreamed what seemed like impossible dreams. Despite the odds, they stood for their vision and accomplished what many thought could never be. In keeping with those grand lives, what is our impossible dream? Today's service kicks off our Stewardship campaign. As part of the service, you will have a worshipful opportunity to offer your financial pledge in support of our "impossible dream."



March 11, 2007 at 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. (Two Services)

A Servant's Heart

Worship Leader: **Rev. Forrest Gilmore**

Worship Associate: **Jeffrey Bock**

Music: **Marjorie Herman, Beth Ertz, Handbell Choir**

Throughout the ages, saints and saints have told us to live with a servant's heart. St. Francis said it simply, "Let us strive to love others more than to be loved." Yet, many of us fear burnout, fear giving away too much. How can we live a life of service with a heart full of love?

March 18, 2007 at 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. (Two Services)

Youth Sunday: "Perspectives"

Worship Leaders: **Youth**

Worship Associate: **Caroline Kulesza**

Music: **Marjorie Herman, Beth Ertz**

Our high school youth share their lives and feelings and perspectives with us in a meaningful service that celebrates the religious growth of all our children.

March 25, 2007 at 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. (Two Services)

Neuroplasticity

Worship Leader: **Rev. Forrest Gilmore**

Worship Associate: **Michael Piscetelli**

Music: **Marjorie Herman, Beth Ertz, the Adult Choir**

Today, we'll explore your ability to change your mind... or perhaps more precisely, your capacity to rewire your brain. Is your level of happiness destined to be the same? Are you as compassionate as you will ever be? We have been told that once we grow out of childhood, the pathways of our brain become fixed. Yet an interesting dialogue between scientists and the Dalai Lama has revealed another more powerful truth.

Reflection

By Reverend Forrest Gilmore

As our Stewardship campaign prepares to kick off, Chris and I have been listening to many of you share your dreams for the future of our congregation. These are the major budgetary hopes we've heard so far (listed in no particular order).

A full-time youth, young adult and campus ministry coordinator.

10% of our income dedicated exclusively to our social justice work in the community.

Full funding of our building's scheduled maintenance plan.

A full-time ministerial intern

A half-time membership/volunteer coordinator.

A half-time social justice coordinator.

A full-time administrative assistant & bookkeeper.

Significant funds dedicated to our music program, especially guest musicians

Significant funds dedicated to publicity.

Our former interim minister, Robert

Latham succinctly wrote, "Our mission is our reason for being; our ministry is all that we do to fulfill our mission; our pledges determine the extent of our ministry."

I know that some of us feel uncomfortable when talk of giving money comes up. However, I think that last idea – our pledges determine the extent of our ministry – is such a powerful and important one. While this congregation absolutely depends on the tremendous gifts of our shared ministry together, it is our financial giving that will lead us to the next level as a community. The extent of our ministry is dependent upon it.

As Chris and I looked at all the amazing ideas we've heard from you and thought about the great possibilities that could come with your suggested additions to our community, we determined that it would cost us approximately \$300,000 to get us there. Our current budget is \$720,000 with a pledge income of \$575,000. With approximately a 50% increase in pledging we could get there.

While such a leap may seem extravagant, I believe it is within our reach. I honestly believe that we have all the resources we need to make all our dreams come true.

Some years ago, we began asking for each of us to give 5% of our income as able to support our work together. We calculated based on the average income of the area that if all of us were to give at that level, we would raise well over \$1.5 million – and likely more, given that UUs tend to have a higher income than people from other faith traditions. Over these last few years, I have been so inspired by the many of us who have responded with enormous generosity to this call.

We have some members giving as high as 10% of their income to better our community. Others have given 5% and many have made a commitment to get to 5% within 2-3 years.

So, in keeping with the theme of our Stewardship campaign – Dream the Impossible Dream - \$300,000 might at first seem like an impossible dream, yet I choose to dream it. Who we seek to be is up to us. I can't convey that important idea any more powerfully or directly. Who we seek to be is up to us. Please be as generous as you possibly can to support our profound mission together. It makes such a difference!

A Contemplative Retreat

Take the time to deepen your spiritual life. Slow down. Be still. Let the moment nourish you, body and soul. Join us on **Saturday, March 10th from 9:00-3:30** for a day-long contemplative retreat led by Rev. Forrest Gilmore. Together, we'll have the opportunity to meditate, prepare a meal and eat in silence together, engage in a work practice, and learn more about the spiritual journey. All are welcome, regardless of experience. Wear comfortable clothing that you would feel good about working in. Come to this incredible opportunity to restore and deepen your life.

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Reflection

By Reverend Chris Reed

The dreamscape in the Founders' room grows longer and richer in visions of our congregation in 2020. Everyone will have an opportunity to add your vision sometime in March during the stewardship campaign. But I also invite you to read them. They are incredibly inspirational visions with a fluidity between our congregation and the community and a focus on the changing needs of our world.

Jumping from the future to the present, we have two new programs this month.

Exploring Our Faith is a participational program, for newcomers or any who are interested to explore the basic history and the various faith stances and practices of Unitarian Universalism. We usually end up talking about spirituality, Jesus, paganism, creed vs. covenant, understandings of God, past religious experiences, and more. The program is offered twice a year and will meet from 12:30 to 2:00 on three Sundays in March and April. Please see the write up on the adult programs page.

Also, Linda Benson will be joining me again in leading a Loss and Grieving group. We offered this group for 5 sessions last year, and are considering having an on-going group that meets twice a month, with breaks in the summer and winter. People can attend, join or leave at any time. Again, please see the write up on the adult page for

particulars.

And jumping from the future to the present to the perennial...

We are always looking for opportunities for the "upstairs" adults and "downstairs" children and youth and teachers, to mix. Two great events are happening this month.

We hope that all can attend Youth Sunday on March 18. It is a wonderful experience to hear and receive from the youth, as worship leaders, and in the same service to witness and celebrate the religious growth of all our children.

Our 8th grade Coming of Age youth participate in a mentoring program in March. Thanks to the teachers and to the 19 mentors who will be spending time with our youth, mutually sharing their experiences, ideas, beliefs and feelings.

May we have a great month, welcoming Spring, stewarding our religious community, celebrating our children, being present to one another, and sharing our resources, talents and compassion with the greater community.



***The Mission Covenant
of the Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Princeton***

We come together in a free and open search for meaning within the mysteries of life.

We draw inspiration from the wisdom of the ages, guided by reason, intuition, and experience.

Transformed through our shared explorations, we are compelled to build a better World in harmony with all existence.

We commit to love, respect, and nurture each other in our lifelong spiritual journeys.

We pledge our hearts and hands, our minds and means to this sacred bond.

Set Your Clocks Ahead
2nd Sunday in March!!!!
This year Daylight Saving Time begins at 2:00 a.m. on the second Sunday in March

MARCH 11



Next *Skylights* Deadline
Monday
MARCH 19

Religious Education for Children and Youth

RED Room March 11 (Religious Education Discussion)

Continuing the Discussion with Chris and Forrest About The Vision for RE at UUCP!

The February RED Room was a big success. With over 50 UUCP congregants in attendance it was the largest Red Room in recent memory (if not ever). The downside of such a large turnout was that many people did not get a chance to speak. It seems clear that many people have a view of the future of Children's and Youth RE. Therefore, due to popular demand the March RED Room will be a continuation of the discussion.

Therefore, let me invite all interested parties to come to the Red Room on March 11, 2007 at 10:30-11:05am to discuss with our ministers what is possible for us. Let's use this discussion to begin to formalize what we need to do to make the dreams become a reality.

Here is a great chance to ask the ministers your own questions about children's RE and to tell them the direction(s) you want to see RE go!

Childcare (for all ages) will be provided in Room 7.

For more information, questions, or comments, please email **Tom Prusa** (tjpprusa@hotmail.com)

Youth Volunteers Needed for Earth Spirit Week

If you are in the 8th through the 12th grade and would like to join us for the fun and creativity of Earth Spirit Week, give **Shelle Summers** a call at 609/924-1604, ext. 14, or e-mail her at sumners@uuprinceton.org. This is a great leadership opportunity!

Earth Spirit Week Registration is Underway!

By now all RE families should have received in the mail a registration form for our UUCP Earth Spirit Week summer camp for kids ages 4

Children's RE Calendar

March 4

Special End-of-Class Worship with the Congregation in Channing Hall

Teachers bring kids from classes at 10:00 and 12:00

Summer Chalice Program Planning Meeting

10:30-11:10, Fahs Theatre

All who are interested in helping plan summer RE are welcome!

March 11

Meet John Murray

9:15 and 11:15, Fahs Theater

RED Room

(Religious Education Discussion)

Our Vision for RE, Part 2

10:30-11:10, Fahs Theatre

Childcare available in Room 7

March 18

Youth Sunday Intergenerational Services

9:15 and 11:15, Channing Hall
No RE classes

New Parent Orientation

10:30-11:10, John Murray Room

Those parents who are new to the UUCP RE Program are asked to participate in an orientation session. This will allow them to become acquainted with the goals and methods of our learning program.

Childcare available in Room 7

March 25

Children's Worship: The Difference We Make

9:15 and 11:15, Fahs Theater

If you have any questions, call Shelle Summers (609/924-1604, ext. 14)

to 10. This year's camp will take place from **July 9 to 13**, from 8:45 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Our exciting theme is "Can UU Dig It?" We will explore the materials that make up the earth, things that grow and are contained in the earth, and how in dirt, rocks, and fossils we find the fascinating history of living things on our planet. We will participate in games, activities, music, and crafts that encourage a sense of responsibility and genuine connection with the earth. Camp tuition is \$50, and we encourage you to register early, as space is limited! Call **Shelle Summers** at 609/924-1604, ext. 14, or e-mail her at sumners@uuprinceton.org for more information.

Summer Chalice Program—Help Make it Happen!

It is time to start planning for our third year of summer RE programming. The past two summers were very successful, in terms of attendance and enthusiasm, so we are excited about this summer's possibilities!

We need summer RE teachers and facilitators. We know that summer schedules usually involve family travel plans, so we will continue with the "standalone" Sunday lesson format, meaning that volunteers could choose to help out for a single Sunday, or more, as summer plans allow. We will be looking for new ideas for fun activities and small-scale service projects. If you have an interesting skill or area of expertise that you could share with our children on a summer Sunday morning, please tell me about it!

We will have our first Summer Chalice planning meeting on Sunday, **March 4, 10:30-11:10 in Fahs Theatre**. If you are interested in being involved in any way, please call or email me, and try to attend the meeting (childcare can be arranged if I know in advance that you're coming). I look forward to working with you to develop another wonderful summer program for our children!



Newcomers

Exploring Our Faith

Sundays **March 11, April 1, April 22** - 12:30 to 2:00 in Channing Hall

This participational exploration of our faith focuses on the history and theologies, traditions and practices of Unitarian Universalism. We encourage all, members, friends, and newcomers, and those who are thinking about membership in our congregation to attend this program. Three Sunday afternoon sessions led by Rev. Chris Reed. We encourage participants to attend all three sessions, if possible. Sign up at the Welcome Circle on Sunday or contact the office at office@uuprinceton.org.

Meet the Ministers

First Sunday of March (3/18) and April (4/15) after each service at 10:30 A.M. and 12:30 P.M., unless there is only one service, in the John Murray Room for an informal conversation with a minister. Gather at the Welcome Circle 15 minutes after the service.

Introduction to Membership Class

Third Sunday of the month (3/18 & 4/15) from 1:00-3:00P.M. in the John Murray Room. After attending the church for a time and you're considering membership, learn the benefits, opportunities and expectations of members. Sign up at the Welcome Circle or contact the office at office@uuprinceton.org by the **Thursday before (3/15 & 4/12)**. Be sure to indicate if you need childcare when you sign up for the class.

Signing the Membership Book Ceremony

This is for those who have taken the Introduction to Membership Class and want to become members. Please contact one of the ministers: 609-924-1604, to arrange a time. Alternatively, an opportunity for becoming a member is provided at the conclusion of each Introduction to Membership Class. ~Polly Ramstad & Ted Fetter Co-Chairs, Membership Committee

Covenant Circles

Get "plugged-in." Join the 130 people in covenant circles this year. We have an incredible sign up this year, and four new covenant circle leaders. All the circles started meeting in October. The formal sign-up time is over, but if you would like to join a circle or try out a sample circle, you can do so throughout the year by calling or e-mailing Shelle in the congregation office. sumners@uuprinceton.org, 609/924-1604 x14.

It is a practice of the circles to always include an empty chair, for the person who is not yet part of the circle.

If you have any questions about our small group ministry program, please speak with **Shelle Sumners** or with one of our ministers.

Adult Education & Programs

LOSS and GRIEVING GROUP

Some people in our congregation, both new and old alike, have expressed interest in a group for those who have experienced the loss of someone close to them. People who have lost a partner, or child or someone else who has been a part of their lives, go through similar experiences that we can share with each other. It is often meaningful, honoring ourselves and those we have lost, to share our loss and grief in a community whose understanding and compassion is grounded in like experience.

While this group is for those who have lost someone through death, those who have lost loved ones through estrangement or illness or in some other way may also find it meaningful.

We offered this group last spring, and due to the response and the need, we are considering an on-going group that people can enter and leave as they would like. The group will be co-led by Linda Benson, one of our pastoral associates, and Rev. Chris Reed. It will start with a series of 5 meetings on the 1st and 3rd

Wednesdays at 7:00-8:30 in Fahs Theater. The first session will be on **March 12, and then on April 4 and 18, and May 2 and 16.**

The group is open to all who come at any time and for however many sessions. At the same time we anticipate that people will attend regularly as the group meets their needs for sharing their experiences in an understanding community.

If you would like to attend or try it out, or have any questions, please call or email Linda Benson at 609 497-1866, lbenson5@verizon.net or Rev. Chris Reed at reed@uuprinceton.org.

THE HAUNTING CHURCH— Owning Your Religious Past

Many of us grew up in other faith traditions and chose to leave them behind for any number of reasons. We may have put that past on a shelf or buried it deep in a closet, never again to revisit. We may

continue to hold those religions in contempt, bristling each time we hear a word from that past. Trying to accommodate everyone by sanitizing our vocabulary of religious language has, however, not served Unitarian Universalism well. It doesn't serve us well either, to simply run away from that past. In this 5 session class we explore the religious traditions of our youth. The intent is to understand that those traditions are a part of the continuum of our religious journey. Maybe you'll discover some things worth remembering or rediscover 'gems' that can be incorporated into your life today.

Dates: Wednesdays, April 11, April 25, May 9, May 23 and June 6 **Time:** 7 – 9 p.m.

Place: Founder's Room **Class Size:** Minimum of 5; Maximum of 10 **Class leader:** Kathy Lehmann Sign up sheets will be in the lounge or email the office at office@uuprinceton.org

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

The Young Adults Group is a diverse, fun

(Adult Edu & Programs Continued on page 6)

Adult Education & Programs, continued

UU Buddhist Group

1st & 3rd Sundays of each month, 12:45–2:45 p.m. in Fahs Theatre or the John Murray Room. Contact **Fay Moore** (fay@elliottmoore.com), 609-933-1625 or **Nancy Keene** (nancy@nancykeene.com), 609-844-1260.

CUUPS (Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans): Full Moon Circle

Friday near the Full Moon, 7:00-9:30 pm, Memorial Garden in fine weather, classroom 11 otherwise. All are welcome. Contact **Elissa Hoeger** (609) 683-4409, hoeger@princeton.edu. Upcoming Dates: **March 2 and March 30**.

Stillness Circle – Always open to newcomers

Meditation is an ancient spiritual practice used throughout the world to help people embrace the moment, engage our shadow and awaken to our interconnections. Join us each week for a chance to sit with others and practice the settling of our minds. Open to beginners and advanced meditators alike. Contact **Rev. Forrest Gilmore** for information.

Great Books Frankenstein Cinema Fest

Great Books will meet Sunday, March 11th at 1 PM for cake & coffee and a viewing of two Frankenstein Movies! It's a double feature! Please join us -- to compare and contrast the monster on film to the monster on the page. Contact **Karen Siracusa** at kn.siracusa@att.net 896-1016 -- Or -- **Linda Benson** at lbenson5@verizon.net; 609-497-1866 and join us.

Minds on Fire now on Thursday

Come set your minds on fire!! Join us on **Tuesday, March 6th from 7-9 pm** for Minds on Fire, our monthly opportunity to explore significant issues through an intellectual lens. Each month, we'll have a reading available in advance at UUCP or via e-mail that will serve as the basis for our discussion. Our topic this month will be Global Warming. Contact Rev. Forrest Gilmore for information and to sign-up.

Post-Ulysses Reading Circle is open to all

Next readings: **March 8 and 22**. This reading group, that meets at 7:30 p.m. differs from most others in that we read texts that we would not read on our own, and we read them aloud together. In May 2006 we finished reading Joyce's *Ulysses*, a labor of love that took a little over 3 years. This year we are reading aloud three texts that are related to *Ulysses*. The first is Fagles' translation of the *The Odyssey*. Call the office or leave your name and number with **Shelle Sumners** or **Chris Reed** if you are interested, or just join us.

Creative Journaling

Come join us for writing and art for anyone. Ever kept a journal? We get together and share the experience of journaling. We share our words and our ideas in a check-in, and work in our journals in a meditative setting. Creative techniques are shared, and writing prompts are provided if you wish. We meet at 7 in the Founder's Room on the first Monday of every month. Join us on **March 5, April 2, and May 7**. Please e-mail **Emily Townsend** (em@etstudio.net) to sign up or for more information.

(Adult Education & Programs Continued from page 5)

group of people ages 18-35 who get together regularly for conversation and spiritual exploration.

Please join us for our Sunday circle, which typically takes place the fourth Sunday of each month after the second service. Our next circle will be on **March 25**. We meet in Room 1, which is located downstairs. In addition to our Sunday circles, we take turns hosting potluck dinners at which the host or hostess chooses the activities for the night. We also enjoy group outings and gather for special events, such as Thanksgiving dinner. Some of the things we've done have included rock climbing and volunteering as a group to help out at the congregation's Spring Fair. We welcome new faces, ideas, and perspectives! If you'd like to be added to our e-mail list, send a note to youngadults@uuprinceton.org.

Christi Surmont

TAG (35-45)

Are you in the age range of 35-45? Are you in search of where you fit in with in UUCP? Are you in search of spiritual bonding, social justice, travel, new friends and your next adventure? Then why don't you come out and check out our brand new group = TAG (The Adventure Group). If you feel like this may be something you would be interested in to learn more about or would like to inquire further please contact **Jeffrey Bock**

732-939-5460 or FF32NJ@hotmail.com we look forward to you joining us in the next adventure!

UUCP ADULT SINGLES

UUCP Single Adults? What's It All About? Who's It For?

Some time in December Rev. Forrest Gilmore said during one of his sermons, "Look around you. This room is filled with people who could have chosen to stay in bed on a Sunday morning and read the Times, or go for a walk, or do any number of things. But they are here because they want to be here."

I was very moved by the recognition of the intentionality of our community. Unlike our geographic community, many of us drive here for spiritual enrichment, comfort and enlightenment and/or to be in the company of other like-minded folk, to feel one with others. Many of us come here as part of a nuclear family that may or may not support us and join us in our connection to this intentional community. Some of us come here alone—a family of one, or one adult with child or children. Many of us live alone, eat alone, etc. or lack adult companionship by choice or a circumstance. We may enjoy our solitude and privacy and yet, at times, also feel a sense of isolation.

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(Adult RE Continued from page 6)

There is no age restriction to join us, other than being an adult. There are no other criteria, and in recognition of how busy we all are, no meetings! Just a desire for companionship to share an occasion movie, dinner, walk, concert, museum trip, lecture....and/or to see a friendly face on Sunday and perhaps someone to sit with. For a single person first joining the congregation, this can be especially helpful.

The group is in its infancy. There are currently under a dozen of us. Hopefully we will grow and as we do, we can change to meet the needs of those who are a part of it. For now, we are a very informal social group of FRIENDS, with no intent of seeking a "date" or romantic interest. We have a simple email list and send out requests or suggestions to get together.

If you are interested in being added to the email list, or if you have any questions, drop me a note at SilverDove@comcast.net or catch me at a second service on Sundays. ~Mirah Riben

A COURSE IN MIRACLES

March 4th - Love is in you now and holds the hands of all your brothers and sisters. Seek to know this reality through forgiveness.

March 11th -Your salvation from fear is the realization that you, your brother and sister are one with God.

March 18th - How bitterly does everyone tied to this world defend the specialness he wants to be the truth.

March 25th -What gives you life cannot be housed in death. Therefore you are not within a body. The body needs no healing, but the mind that thinks it is a body is sick indeed. ~Hil Anderson

**Spring Film Series 2007
the lives of children**

Friday, March 9 **Jesus Camp** (2006) PG-13
"A wake-up call for liberals and progressive Christians about the training of evangelical children soldiers in the culture wars."—Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat, *Spirituality and Practice*

Friday, March 16 **Lost Boys of Sudan** (2003) not rated
"This tidy and fascinating documentary follows the plight of two young African refugees transplanted to the U.S. to make a better life."—Elvis Mitchell, *NY Times*

Friday, March 23 **Born into Brothels** (2003) rated R
A tribute to the resiliency of childhood and the restorative power of art. A portrait of several unforgettable children who live in the red light district of Calcutta where their mothers work as prostitutes. Zana Briski, a New York based photographer, gives each of these youngsters a camera and teaches them how to take pictures, simultaneously causing them to look at their world with new eyes.

Friday, March 30 **Two shorter documentaries:**
The Hobart Shakespearians (2005) not rated
With genuine passion and ironclad conviction, teacher Rafe Esquith turns the Asian American and Latino children of a violence-stricken central Los Angeles neighborhood on to the wonders of Shakespeare, Mark Twain, and mathematics. At the end of the semester they pull together--with a little help from famous actors Ian McKellen and Michael York--their final triumph: a student production of Hamlet.

Trust Me: Shalom, Salaam, Peace (2003) not rated
An emotional chronicle of 33 children attending a North Carolina interfaith summer camp for Christians, Muslims and Jews, *Trust Me* was filmed in the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the United States.

All showings begin at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. in Fahs Theatre.
Discussion following each screening.

Contact Shelle Sumners, RE Coordinator 609/924-1604, ext. 14, sumners@uuprinceton.org

Dream the Impossible Dream

Stewardship Campaign Kick-off is March 4th!

Join the Stewardship Campaign Captains as we celebrate our shared responsibility for the well-being of the church and the creation of the beloved community. The theme of this year's campaign is "Dream the Impossible Dream."

The Stewardship Committee invites you to enjoy refreshments on March 4th - either between services or after second service. We'll be featuring mimosas, muffins and other brunch treats.

During this kick-off event you will also have an opportunity to share your dreams for the congregation – and learn what fellow congregants envision. These are sure to be fun events – with good food and good fellowship. Please be our guests!

Stewardship Committee Members

- Jon & Susan Sachs, Co-Chairs*
- Betty Ashwood, Standing Pledge Chair*
- Rona Henry, Co-Chair*
- Rev. Forrest Gilmore*
- Rev. Chris Reed*

Please see Stewardship article on Page 11

Women's Alliance

The monthly meeting of the Women's Alliance will be held Thursday, March 15. Luncheon will begin a 12:00 noon and the meeting will start at 1:00. Our guest speaker will be Cecelia B. Hodges. She is a dramatist and former professor at Rutgers and Princeton Universities. Her topic will be "*Wonderful Women and Their Men: Scenes Through the Ages*". All are welcome. Please bring a salad to share. Dessert and beverages will be provided. Hope to see you there. ~Lorraine Anderson, President.

Dinner Discussion

Mark your calendars now for Tuesday March 27, when the speaker will be William A. Stoltzfus, Jr., who will address us on one of the hottest issues of the national scene today: "East vs. West in the Middle East." Mr. Stoltzfus, Princeton 1949, is well qualified for this topic: former Ambassador to Kuwait and other mideast countries plus State Department duties in Egypt, Libya and Ethiopia. He visited the Middle East as recently as this fall. Mr. Stoltzfus also has had extensive experience in international banking and is active in the Princeton Nassau Presbyterian Church and the Princeton Middle East Society. He enjoys hiking and trail maintenance along the Appalachian trail as well as spending time with his six grandchildren. Sign up with **Mal Durbin** between services Mar. 18 or 25. Arrive 7 PM for snacks, beverages and dinner (all for \$8; late-comers \$10, if food is available). Talk is at 8:10 PM. You can skip dinner and the fee by arriving just for the talk.

Denominational Connections

DISTRICT MEETING TO BE HELD IN APRIL IN CONNECTICUT

Metro New York UU District Annual Meeting will be April 27-28 in Stamford, Connecticut, at the Marriott Hotel. The theme will be "Rich, Warm, & Full, Nurturing Our Congregational Life." The Rev. Calvin Dame, a specialist in small group ministry, will be the keynote speaker. The Rev. Meg Barnhouse, humorist and songwriter, will provide Friday night entertainment and solidarity building.

Look for fliers in Robinson Lounge or go to www.uumetrony.org for details and for the list of enticing workshops. Last year UUCP had nine people at the district meeting. It is a great opportunity to touch base with other UUs. ~Carol Allen UU CONNECTIONS COMMITTEE

Chalice Lighter Spring Drive to Benefit Plainfield Church

The First Unitarian Society of Plainfield, New Jersey, will receive the Spring 2007 UU Metro New York District Chalice Lighter funds. Their project will be a "marketing plan" to let more people in their wider community of over 40 towns know about their wonderful programs. They will distribute fliers, take out small advertisements, hang posters, and generally publicize church activities in a welcoming manner. UUCP will have an opportunity to hear from a member of the Plainfield church, so watch for an April date and give generously. ~Carol Allen UU CONNECTIONS COMMITTEE

TO UUCP Leaders, Activists, Dreamers, Funlovers:

Just say YES! UU General Assembly (GA) this year in Portland, Oregon, from June 20-24 (note change from dates previously listed in Skylights). On March 1 registration (at a reduced fee) and first choices in lodging become available at www.uua.org. Note that the more economical lodging sells out quicker. Program notes are at the UUA website.

For some who have pondered, the answer is YES! Yes, GA is worth the cost and lost work; Yes, it will enhance your sense of belonging to a strong, diverse faith group; Yes, you will learn a lot that you can bring back to our local congregation; Yes, it will give you a big spiritual lift. Yes, you will come home tired with new colorful T-shirts, 10 pounds of new books, a dozen new organizational contacts, and a sense of cosmic connection. Is this the year for you to attend GA? ~Carol Allen UU Connections Committee

UUs to Convene on Earth Charter Principles

in Columbus, Ohio Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community (UUJEC) is sponsoring a conference on "The Great Turning" in Columbus, Ohio from March 30 to April 1. GA delegates will recall the great response to speaker David Korten who introduced the concept of "the great turning from empire building to earth community." The Earth Community would be based on the principles of the Earth Charter, a declaration of fundamental principles for building a just, sustainable, and peaceful global society in this century based on community and not on personal or national greed. The conference will include speaker David Korten and representatives from numerous groups involved in The Great Turning and in the Earth Charter. The workshops will provide opportunities for individual participants to tell their own

stories of working for a better community, nation, and world and to engage in framing concepts which unite our many fragmented struggles for greater equality, more democracy, less environmental degradation, better distribution of resources, and replacing militarization with diplomacy and communication. Most of our seven UU principles are contained in these concepts. Study materials will be available for UU Adult Education groups to pursue The Great Turning for future learning and reflection. For more information about the conference, look for a flier in Robinson Lounge, go to website www.greatturninggathering.org, or phone 614-439-4768. Come to Columbus and discover!!! ~Carol Allen UUJEC

Peace Coalition Events in Princeton, Trenton, and Lambertville-New Hope

The Coalition for Peace Action is sponsoring two events in observance of the Fourth Anniversary of the Iraq War. On Sunday, March 18, there will be a rally and regional demonstration starting at 2:00 PM at Lambertville, NJ. This event will include a walk across the Delaware River to New Hope, Pennsylvania. A similar event two years ago drew 350 marchers and attracted thousands of observers.

The second event will be a rally on Monday, March 19 at noon on the steps of the State House in Trenton at which it is hoped the press corps will be present.

Two other peace events for March are a film *The Last Atomic Bomb* at 7:00 PM at the Princeton Public Library with Director Kathleen Sullivan leading the discussion and a concert by Dar Williams on Saturday, March 31 in Princeton. For concert reservations, call 609-924-5022. ~Carol Allen

Pat Radtke To Be Honored by Peace Coalition

On Sunday, March 25 at Princeton Theological Seminary, UUCP Leader Pat Radtke will be honored at the annual meeting of the Coalition for Peace Action. Pat serves as chair of the Peace Education Committee of the coalition; this committee presents lectures, films, forums, and an annual conference and chapel service. Also honored will be Congressman Rush Holt, Larry Hamm of Peoples Organization for Progress, and Rev. Al Krass, Peace Organizer in Bucks and Montgomery Counties of Pennsylvania. The annual meeting speaker will be Hans Blix, who opposed the Iraq War based on inspection by the UN Monitoring, Verification, and Inspection Commission which he headed. For details and reservations, go to www.peacecoaliton.org.

Social Justice



Our congregation will host a screening of the award winning film HOME on

Sunday March 4, 2007 at 6:00 p.m.

The filmmaker, Jeffrey M Togman will join us for a discussion following the film.

HOME provides a thought provoking, realistic glimpse into the struggles faced by New Jersey residents living in poverty. The film takes an in-depth look at one family struggling with issues of affordable housing, credit, neighborhood violence and other aspects of poverty in Newark, NJ. This community event is free of charge.

FILM: THE GROUND TRUTH

"The Ground Truth" will be shown at 7:30 Friday March 2 in Fahs Auditorium. This film is a powerful documentary told through the eyes of veterans of the Iraq war. It is part of a series on the morality of war. The current training of troops is shown in detail as well as graphic and open to all. It may be particularly valuable to young people considering a career in the military. All sides of the issue of war and its consequences are shown. Soldiers who have returned, their injuries and their feelings are explored in detail. A comparison to training and aftermath in earlier wars is shown, as well as the difficulty soldiers face in putting their lives back together after they return. Email or call **Mary Ellen Marino** for information. mmarino@patmedia.net 609-921-6002

UUCP Habitat Project Update

Neil Hartmann, the Volunteer Coordinator for Habitat for Humanity/Trenton reports that work on the framing on our home building project at 640-654 North Clinton Ave. has been postponed due to the wintry weather. Our first major workday has now been scheduled for Saturday, May 26. We are looking for 15-25 (or more) members of our congregation to work that day. Please contact **Ray Nichols** (609-737-7442 or acer-nichols@verizon.net) to sign-up for that date. Additional large group workdays will be scheduled once the framing resumes.

Meanwhile, volunteers are needed to help complete the interiors of three homes that are nearly done. Neil would especially welcome volunteers who can work during the week to help with the interior finishing of those homes. If anyone wants to volunteer to help finish one of these homes please contact Neil Hartmann directly at 393-8009 ext. 228. He will then add you to the construction schedule, based upon your skills and interests.

To see the volunteers' schedule, go to www.habitatnj.org, pull down the menu under the Events heading and click on Events Calendar.

Legislative Ministry Steering Committee Report

The committee has been meeting since January to develop strategy and steps to explore the feasibility and planning of a statewide legislative ministry. As a beginning, we are seeking endorsements from individuals and congregations to garner statewide support for this concept.

Letters seeking individual personal endorsements from Presidents, Ministers and Social Justice Chairs will go out to the 21 congregations in NJ the last week in February.

Those UUCP congregants who have expressed an interest in the LMP will be our Advisory Group. We will keep them updated through e-mail and advisory meetings every 3-4 months at the "Forum" between services to give status reports and seek input. In addition, we will draw from this group for specific expertise and help as our work progresses. Those who are on the Advisory Group are **Carol Allen, Betty Ashwood, David Bonk, Sharon Copeland, Lauren Foss, Carl Haag, Rona Henry, William Koggan, Judy Malsbury, Mary Ellen Marino, M. J. Mazure, Greg Nagy, Maggie Pack, Dana Powsner, Todd Royer, Christi Surmont, Bob Tucker, Tony Tucker, Kathryn Turnas, and Circe Urbanski**. Anyone interested in joining this Advisory Group should contact anyone on the Steering Committee.

We will be having an information table and presence at the Metro District April meeting. In the fall we will have a statewide event inviting participation from all NJ congregations. Other events will be scheduled throughout the coming months.

Later organizational steps will be to get statewide UU Congregations and Boards endorsements and financial commitments, to get prioritizations and consensus on advocate issues, to set up 501(c)3 and 501(c)4 non-profits with Boards for policy decisions and oversight of the project and staff, hiring staff, on going operations in NJ congregations' and individuals' involvement. This process of developing UULMs in other states has taken a few years, a time frame we can expect here as well. Information about other UU state legislative ministries', history and advocate issues are listed on the UU State Advocacy Networks web site www.uusan.org; California's LM website is uulmca.org.

This is an exciting project that we have all been looking forward to over the last year. We will keep you updated and welcome your on going support for and input to the UUNJLM!

The Legislative Ministry Steering Committee
Elaine Nigam, Co-chair (Administration, Policy, Planning), **Peg Caruso**, Co-chair (Non-profit Development, Paralegal), **Doug Rhodes** (LM Development & Denominational Communicator) **George Easter** (Finance & Strategy), **Forrest Gilmore** (LM Development & Minister)

Successful Auctions Raised Funds for Outreach

Many thanks to the organizers, donors and participants of our recent Fellowship Auction! Not only was it a fun evening, but we raised over \$14,000 for our Social Justice Ministry. These proceeds will be combined with \$13,000 from our Spring Auction for outreach activities. The Social and Denominational Outreach Committees are currently reviewing grant applications from area charities and UU organizations, and will announce awards later this spring. ~Pat Radtke

Board of Trustees

Midyear Report by Jordan Corn, President

On Sunday, February 10th, I presented as part of a mid-year forum, a sort of “State of the Congregation” report. I was joined by Aaron Torrance, chair of the Congregational Council, and Chris and Forrest. Each of us talked in turn – I about the Board’s work this year, Aaron about the Council’s, and Chris and Forrest about the Executive Team’s. This month’s article affords me a great opportunity to share with a broader audience what I discussed that evening.

I started my conversation about the Board’s work by noting that our new form of governance reflects one of the key initiatives of the 2005-2008 Strategic Plan, which called for “governance changes that will result in new, more effective structures for oversight and allow the Board to focus on policy making”. This is exactly what the Board has focused on for the past year and a half. Last year, the Board did a significant amount of policy making. This year, the Board’s focus has been in four areas. Each is described below.

Communications

Much of the Board’s responsibility is in understanding the Congregation and its wishes and desires around Ends – that is, the difference that the Congregation believes we should make in the world. The Board is also accountable to the Congregation to demonstrate progress toward our Ends. Both of these require significant dialog with the Congregation. This has been a key goal for us this year. Our communications channels have included:

- Congregational meetings and forums
- Informal gatherings in the lounge
- A January Vision Quest
- Outreach on Sundays (in Robinson’s lounge, with youth, and soon with children’s worship)
- Open time at Board meetings (so far, in November and February)
- “Skylights”

This communication program will continue for the remainder of the year.

Ends Statements

Returning to Ends statements, this year, we have crafted a set of Ends that focuses on the “Beloved Community” concept we began discussing last year. We have interacted with the congregation in developing and tuning these Ends, and held significant dialog about them at our January Vision Quest. We are now in the process of clarifying and further detailing these statements and exploring whether we can use them to help allocate resources in the coming year. The process of refining, clarifying, and dialoging around these statements will continue for the remainder of this church year – and beyond.

Policy Interpretation

In order for the Board to fully clarify our expectations of the Executive Team, it is important that we work with them on the interpretation of our governing policies, which were written last spring. This is also essential for several reasons: First, it defines the role we want the Executive Team to have, and the freedom – and limitations – they have in running our congregation’s programs. Second, it is critical in that it defines what the Board will monitor in order to ensure that the Executive Team is work-

ing effectively. We have been at this for several months now, and anticipate it lasting through the remainder of the church year.

Monitoring

As policies are interpreted, we are building a monitoring schedule. To date, we have focused on financial monitoring, a key obligation of the Board. We are expanding this into other areas as defined by our policies. We have significant work to do in this area, both in regard to monitoring our policies with respect to the Executive Team, and in regard to monitoring progress toward our Ends. Defining monitoring will likely extend through and well beyond this year; monitoring itself will always remain a key Board function.

I closed my report by sharing some observations about how the Board has been working, which I summarized in three words: “Fantastically well together!” Our team spirit, camaraderie, empathy, and shared sense of mission are incredible. Our meetings are strategic in nature, and filled with good ideas, good work, and good humor. While we have accomplished a lot, all of us feel that there is enormous work ahead of us – and for future Boards – in continually reevaluating the difference we want to make in the world, and in monitoring our progress toward making that difference.

The Committee on Ministry Welcomes Your Comments

The Committee on Ministry (COM) is a committee composed of six lay members of the congregation together with our professional ministers who serve as ex officio members. COM’s purpose is to strengthen the quality and effectiveness of our ministry. Since ministry is, essentially, all the things we do to fulfill the mission of the congregation, the committee exists to support and promote the full range of the congregation’s activities.

COM members work with the professional ministers to ensure that congregation members and friends understand the values and the mission of the congregation, that they are aware of the strengths and weaknesses of their ministry, and that they remain in right relations among themselves. COM’s focus is the whole congregation and not any one part or program. We seek to promote the general welfare, and we do not represent specific components. Instead, we want to ensure that the success of each specific program contributes to the mission of the whole congregation.

In pursuing its role in the congregation, the Committee on Ministry will:

- Seek every opportunity to promote awareness and higher levels of commitment to the congregation’s mission;

(COM Continued on page 13)

Stewardship 2007-2008

The opportunity to commit our means in support of living our values is upon us! Stewardship committee volunteers – Betty Ashwood, Jonathan and Susan Sachs, and Rona Henry – have been working closely with the ministers to plan the 2007-2008 Stewardship Campaign. There is a real sense of excitement throughout the congregation as we consider short and long-term possibilities and what our stewardship ministry can mean for UUCP.

The theme this year is “*Dream the Impossible Dream.*” In a way, our UUCP *Impossible Dream* is to build the beloved community on earth. It’s also a powerful vision, and our new outreach efforts of the past year are tangible projects of service and care as we build this dream. Our “in-reach” efforts are also evidence of our building this dream. Over the past several years, our emphasis on safe congregations and right relations policies, the development of a Committee on Ministry that focuses on the well-being of our community and our various ministries, expanding our paid staff positions, the pastoral associates and worship associates programs, covenant circles, and the challenge from Forrest to engage in “Radical Hospitality” are just a few examples that I see of building the foundation for a beloved community on earth. There are dreams as well. A paid youth advisor, ways to encourage and allow parents more access to the “upstairs” church on Sundays, a greener building and full access for those with differing physical abilities, and ways to build more social action into children’s and youth religious education are just a small sampling of some that I have heard. I find these dreams for UUCP exciting and our outreach as evidence that we are making becoming a beacon in the community a reality... now to build the beloved community on earth.

You will notice some changes in how the campaign runs this year. Stewardship Sunday is March 4th. We hope that all of you will join us for worship that day during which a new UUCP ceremony will be introduced. At that time you will have the opportunity to be recognized for your own financial stewardship of the congregation and to complete and submit your pledge card. We will have a CD-Rom of the service made for the folks who will be doing their ministry with RE that day and may not be able to participate in the service. After the service, you and your family are invited to enjoy a brunch – complete with mimosas and muffins - as guests of the Stewardship Committee. While at the brunch, you can add your dream for the congregation by posting it to the “Dreamscape” on the wall in the Founders Room.

The pledge box will also be available on March 11th. We encourage you to drop your completed card in by then (if you cannot do so on March 4th) to reduce the workload for the volunteer pledge captains in terms of follow up. Captains will begin their calls the week of March 11th to members and friends who have not yet pledged. The Stewardship Dinner will be March 24th at UUCP (another delicious catered meal). This event during the campaign will allow us to enjoy fellowship and good food and celebrate UUCP.

Please do the following now:

- Consider how you want to share in adequate measure so that UUCP can sustain and increase its generosity, be a beacon

in the community, and build the beloved community on earth.

- Figure out what 5% of your income is and sketch out a plan to reach that goal.
 - Consider your level of generosity this year and decide on your pledge.
 - Plan to attend worship services on March 4th and participate in the Stewardship ceremony.
- Put March 24th on your calendar and plan to attend the Stewardship Dinner.

Remember, as Michael Durall states, stewardship is not about asking people for money. Stewardship concerns what kind of people the congregation calls us to become, and how a community of faith uses its resources to serve with love and compassion. Our pledges provide necessary resources to build our dreams, live our values, and serve others.

~Susan Bakewell Sachs

yoUr UUCP Photo Directory

Will not be complete without you...

and you, and you!



Make **yoUr** appointment NOW to secure a spot for **yoUr** sitting:

Tue-Fri March 20-23 – 3-9:20PM
Wed-Fri March 28-29 – 3-9:20PM
Sat March 31 – 9 AM – 4:20PM



Appointments can be made online from the “Schedule Now” Photo Link on the members page of UUprinceton.org

OR



Sundays at the Photo Registration Table in the Robinson Lounge



OR

Contact Mirah Riben:

732-329-3769

silverdove@comcast.net

Don't yoU be...

yoUr UU needs yoU!

...left oUt!

Hear and See Iraq Soldiers Speak

“The Ground Truth” a film will be shown at 7:30 Friday March 2 at the Unitarian Church in Princeton on 50 Cherry Hill Road in the Fahs Auditorium. This film is a powerful documentary told through the eyes of veterans of the Iraq war a will be shown as part of an occasional series on the morality of war. The current training of troops is shown in detail as well as graphic illustrations of the actions they are frequently encountering in combat. The film is free and open to all. It may be particularly valuable to young people considering a career in the military.

All sides of the issue of war and its consequences are shown. Soldiers who have returned, their injuries and their feelings are explored in detail. A comparison to training and aftermath in earlier wars is also shown, as well as the difficulty soldiers face in putting their lives back together after they return. ~Pat Radtke

Crisis Ministry

Footprints: Walk the path out of poverty. On April 21, 2007, The Ministry will sponsor a walk against hunger and homelessness. The walk will take place on the tow-path between Kingston and Princeton, approximately 5 miles. Create a team! Volunteers are needed to assist in this important event. There is a need for a variety of volunteers prior to the event, as well as the day of! Please contact Marcia at marciam@thecrisisministry.org or visit the Crisis Ministry website, www.thecrisisministry.org for more details and materials.



2007 Farm Bill Reauthorization. The Farm Bill will be reauthorized this year, with particular movement most likely in June. Funding and policies for federal nutrition programs, including the Food Stamp Program, will be determined through the reauthorization of this bill. Federal commodity support, conservation, food assistance, agricultural trade, marketing, and rural development policies are governed by this legislation. The Food Stamp Program is the nation's first line of defense against hunger. It is vital that lawmakers renew the program and address shortfalls in benefit adequacy and improve access for vulnerable people. Here are a few ways that you can speak to your legislator about this bill:

- **Adequacy of Benefits Must Be Improved.** The first step to reducing hunger in the U.S. is to ensure that everyone in the Food Stamp Program has the resources to assist them in purchasing and preparing a nutritionally adequate diet. Neither the average food stamp benefit level of \$1 per person per meal, nor the \$10 per household monthly minimum benefit is sufficient to help families purchase an adequate diet. *Ask your representative to increase the minimum benefit.*
- **Access to the Program Must Be Expanded.** Too many people in our communities are in need of food stamps but cannot get them. Only 33 percent of the people in food bank lines are enrolled in food stamps.
- **Program Simplification and Streamlining for Caseworkers and Clients Must Continue.** While food stamp outreach and nutrition education are achieving important advances, these efforts need more resources, and enrollments are hampered by shortfalls in state technology and supports. Too many eligible people—especially working poor and elderly persons—are missing out on benefits.

Contact your local representatives about your interest in your low income neighbors. Go to: www.house.gov. ~Lauren O'Neil

(Social Justice continued from Page 9)

East Trenton Happenings

Not all is quiet while we wait to begin work on the Habitat House.

Nancy Gardner and Michelle Hunt have joined the partner family committee and look forward to coaching a partner family through all the steps necessary for them to assume ownership of a home. More family coaches are needed!

Kate McGinnity and Kathy Lehmann met with Habitat/East Trenton Center staff to begin to explore a vision of a vision for adult and children educational programs. We've been given use of center's large rooms to transform learning center! Picture a cozy reading corner, tutoring, a bank of computers, tables for books, comfy chairs, pillows and rugs!



To make this happen we need:

- several people to help clear the room of building supplies
- a painting crew (*we anticipate help from some Trenton High youth – this would be a perfect opportunity for our Youth Group*)
- two – three people to be a part of this exciting educational planning committee; we already have a Trenton High senior and a Habitat staffer as part of this advisory/planning committee
- One of the next steps is to gather partner family parents to introduce ourselves and to listen to what they need for themselves and their families. Then we can plan together.

Contact **Kate McGinnity** at 397-7582 or katemcginnity@aol.com or **Kathy Lehmann** at Lehmatt3@aol.com

EARTH FEST APRIL 21, 2007

SAVE THE DAY -- SAVE THE EARTH

An intriguing program is being planned for an experiential encounter with the Great Story of the Universe. Come walk the eons, imagine the Big Bang, wander through the millennia to our modern era. Learn about the challenges to the environment. Explore current technologies available to us for Sustainable Living.

Wanted: scientists, artists, musicians, craftspeople – creative minds of all sorts. Want to know more?

Contact: **Forrest Gilmore, Bill Waltrip, Leslie Ashman, Ted Fetter, Todd Royer, Linda Benson, Nancy Gardner, Mirah Rubin or Carol Haag**



UUCP PHOTO DIRECTORY



Appointments can be made online from the “Schedule Now” Photo Link on the members page of UUprinceton.org or visit the Photo Registration Table in Robinson Lounge on Sundays. ~Mirah Riben
732-329-3769, silverdove@comcast.net

Get Out !

That's what the Pharaoh finally said to Moses. What took him so long? It took flies, frogs, bugs, and seven other plagues to convince him to free the Israelites from bondage.

Please join us as we go back in time to learn more about the story of Passover. You need not have a Jewish background to enjoy our Seder (Passover storytelling ritual and dinner). If you appreciate your freedom, you're set.

Our UU Seder is on April 6th. Beginning at 6:30 p.m., we will retell the ancient story of how the Jewish people were redeemed from slavery in the land of Egypt. Foods symbolic of springtime and freedom will be shared, along with a good amount of wine or grape juice. Children will participate in this ceremony with songs and fun surprises, and they will hunt for the afikomen (matzoh) after a potluck dinner. A prize will be awarded to every child who finds one! **Please call Jennifer Niemeyer at 215-428-1416 by March 30** if you would like to attend. Let her know what dish you will share, (she has lots of easy recipes), and how you would be willing to help (set-up, clean-up, etc.).



UUCP and the Coalition for Peace Action will co-sponsor the film **'The Last Atomic Bomb'** on Thursday, March 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fahs Theater. Film producer, Kathleen Sullivan will present the film and answer questions. 'The Last Atomic Bomb' The 'Last Atomic Bomb' relates the story of 10-year-old Sakue hiding in a shelter near ground zero when the bomb exploded 60 years ago, and the aftermath of that day. Her emotionally wrenching experiences are interwoven with rarely seen archival footage and never-before-told accounts of what happened to her in 1945 and in subsequent years. If you have any questions please contact **Pat Radtke** at 609 426-1913.

EMERGENCY CHURCH REPAIR FUND BRUNCH MARCH 25

Stuff happens, and when it happens at UUCP a certain building and grounds V.P. can be found fixing clogged plumbing etc. at all hours of the day and night. Is it because he thrills at the challenge? We think not; we have a "maintenance" budget but no emergency repair funds.

SOOO COME and/or **CONTRIBUTE** to **OUR EMERGENCY REPAIR FUND BRUNCH!** If you have a good recipe for **SWORD**fish stew, Snail **NAIL** Esgar-got, **HAMMER**head Shark & Ham Soup, **SCREWDRIERS** or **DRILL** pickles we need your culinary genius. If you want something good to eat, don't worry; we'll throw out all of the above and serve you up something yummy! If you can contribute food or service, please contact **Lauren O'Neil**, loneil7@juno.com (609) 921-8541



(COM Continued from page 10)

- Make itself available to all members and friends of the congregation;
 - Continually monitor congregational life and coordinate periodic evaluations to assess the effectiveness of every facet of the congregation's ministry;
 - Make all recommendations in a positive way, focusing on potential rather than problems;
 - Respond immediately to any conflict that might have an adverse effect on the congregation's ministry;
 - Work to educate the congregation about ministry and clarify the roles of ministers and members alike;
 - Model right relations and good communication within the congregation;
- Consult with the ministers, support their planning for professional development, and submit an annual compensation recommendation to the Board of Trustees.

As members of the Committee on Ministry, we encourage congregants — whether members or friends of the congregation — to share with us any and all recommendations, suggestions, and ideas for improving the congregation's ministry. Look for us in Robinson Lounge on Sunday mornings. You can recognize committee members by our name-tags, which bear a dove of peace in blue. You may also call or e-mail us.

Current members of the COM for 2006-2007 are:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| Sharon Copeland (609-737-2971) | sharon.copeland@gmail.com |
| Dana Powsner (609-924-5891) | dpowsner@patmedia.net |
| Doug Rhodes (215-295-6921) | DougRhodes2@comcast.net |
| Susan Sachs (609-737-8891) | sbakewel@tcnj.edu |
| Cathy Stolle (609-921-0693) | stolle@email.chop.edu |
| Rev. Forrest Gilmore , ex officio | |
| Rev. Chris Reed , ex officio | |

The Miracle—and Joy--of Uncluttering

The 2007 UUCP Annual Spring Fair is your golden opportunity! It is coming Saturday, **May 5th (9-1)**. Mark the date. Donations will be accepted beginning the afternoon of Sunday, April 29th.

We love stuff. We hate stuff. How did we get so much? And how can we ever dig out? Don't miss the opportunity to find the joy of minimizing and simplifying your life...while helping others who buy your treasures as well as helping a multitude of charities. ~Mirah Riben

Searching for a Calling – Maybe you'll find it as a Worship Associate

One of the best things about shared ministry is that each of us gets to participate deeply in the life of our congregation. The Worship Associate program at UUCP is one reflection of our congregation's commitment to shared ministry, providing an opportunity for lay people to play a leadership role in our Sunday morning worship services. Worship associates enjoy the deep satisfaction of contributing to community worship.

We are looking for four or five new Worship Associates for the 2007-2008 church year. Many of us are rotating off, allowing space for new voices and new perspectives.

It is our intention that our Worship Associates reflect the diversity of our congregation and our community. All congregants that are committed to the UU worship experience are encouraged to apply. Successful worship associates have the following qualities:

- Flexibility and a commitment to working in a collaborative relationship with the ministers and lay service leaders;
- Desire to help plan and participate in leading a quality worship experience;
- Willingness to grow in worship leadership "presence" Responsibilities:
- Serve at both services on 6 or 7 Sundays throughout the year. The WA is needed from 8:30 a.m. Sunday morning, to ensure the sanctuary is fully prepared for the service, through 12:30 p.m. During the summer months there is one service at 10:00 a.m.; therefore the commitment is from 9:30 a.m. until 11:15 a.m.
- Contact the minister a couple weeks prior to a particular service to plan the service and your role in delivering it.
- Attend WA training on **Saturday, June 9, 2007** (8:30 – 3:00)
- Attend Sunday services regularly throughout the year

The Worship Associates and the Worship Committee have now been folded into one committee. The additional responsibilities include two or three additional meetings throughout the year to plan:

- guest speakers for those Sundays when neither Forrest nor Chris is in the pulpit;
- coordinate the usher schedule/provide usher training;
- logistical planning for the Gathering of the Waters, Hanging of the Greens and Flower Communion Services.

Talk to any of the current associates. We can all share what being a WA has meant to us. ***If you think you can't do it, please think again.*** If you are interested in becoming a WA for the 2007-2008 congregational year, must submit an application by April 20, 2007 to the church office or via e-mail: office@uuprinceton.org

~Kathy Lehmann

Joys and Sorrows

This 'Joys and Sorrows' column provides a regular place for informing the whole community of major events in member's and friend's lives. Sometimes people are pleased to have their news shared; sometimes privacy and confidentiality prevail. Thus all items for the 'Joys and Sorrows' column should be sent to skylights@uuprinceton.org for inclusion in the next issue of *Skylights* and will be reviewed by the Pastoral Associates leadership before publication. As always, we invite you to reach out to those you know.

Tara and Ed Grunde-McLaughlin and siblings Madeleine, David, and Andrew are happy to announce the early arrival of baby brother Jonathan on January 29th! Baby weighed in at 4 lbs 10 oz and spent 2 weeks in the ICN, but now is home and doing very well.

Two of our members "celebrated" Valentine's Day by having surgery:

Our wishes for a speedy recovery are extended to **Laurie Powsner** as she recovers at home from abdominal surgery. The surgery went well and now she and her family are dealing with recovery.

Our wishes for a speedy recovery are extended to **Beth Nichols** as she recovers at home from throat surgery for sleep apnea. She would appreciate notes, as speaking is difficult right now.

LOAVES AND FISHES—BE PART OF THE MIRACLE Friday, March 30 and Saturday, March 31

700-800 men women and children, depend on "Loaves and Fishes" for food on the weekends, when the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen is closed. Once a year the 3 Unitarian Universalist congregations of Princeton and Trenton collaborate to provide two meals, a bag lunch and a Saturday dinner. We provide these meals for very little money (about \$2 per person) and with a **very large crew of volunteers.**



Here are the ways you can be part of this modern day miracle:

- ♥ **Publicity** - put notices in "Happenings", on the list serve, on the web page, at brunches
- ♥ **Recruit volunteers at coffee hour** -Sundays March 4, 11, 18 and 25
- ♥ **Shoppers** - buy the food we'll need (reimbursed by our budget) from Sam's Club, Wegman's, Pennington Market -- list provided
- ♥ **Food transporters** - take food to St. Mary's Cathedral in Trenton by 9am Saturday
- ♥ **Bakers** - brownies, cookies and more brownies - 500 needed of each
- ♥ **Friday evening 6:30-8pm Sandwich Makers** - 10 people to assemble bag lunches at the Washington Crossing Congregation in Titusville

Saturday at St. Mary's Cathedral, 151 N. Warren, Trenton

- ♥ 9-11am **Set-up** - 3 people to start the process
- ♥ 10:30am-12:30pm **Food Preparers** - 4 people to prepare and warm the food
- ♥ 11am-1:30pm **Food Servers** - 11 people to serve dinners to seated guests and visit with them
- ♥ 12-2:30pm **Clean-up crew!** - we need to leave the church in the condition we would like to find our own on Sunday morning

This is how you become one of the miracle workers:

Sign up on Sunday March 4, 11, 18 or 25 during coffee hour
Call **Carol Haag**: 609-924-5857 Email Carol: RevCarolH@aol.com
Send a carrier pigeon to 73 Ridgeview Circle, Princeton, NJ 08540

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
				MAR 1 10:00a-Noon Women's Alliance Board Meeting—Founders 10:00a-12:00p Covenant Circle—Murray 6:00p-8:00p Stewardship Committee—Founders 6:30p-8:00p Youth Group—Room 15 7:00p-8:30p Bell Choir Rehearsal—Heald Library 7:30p-9:00p Covenant Circle—Murray	MAR 2 5:00p-9:00p CUUPS Full Moon Circle—Memorial Garden/Room 11 7:30—10:00 Film "The Ground Truth" - Fahs Theatre	MAR 3 Full Moon ☉ 8:30a-10:30a Building & Grounds Meeting—Murray
MAR 4—Two Services 9:15 and 11:15a.m. STEWARDSHIP KICK-OFF!!! 8:30a-2:30p—Wine & Cheese sponsored by the Stewardship Committee—Founders 10:30a Meet the Ministers—Murray 10:30a-11:15a Summers—Fahs 11:00a-12:30p Youth Group—Room 15 11:15a-12:3p Course in Miracles—Room 8 12:30p Meet the Ministers—Murray 12:45p-2:45p UU Buddhist Group—Fahs Theatre 3:00p-9:00p Social Justice Committee showing the film "HOME" - Channing Hall	MAR 5 6:00p-8:00p Social Outreach Committee—Room 1 7:00p-9:00p Creative Journaling—Founders Room 7:15p-9:15p Covenant Circle—Murray	MAR 6 12:00p-1:00p Office Staff Meeting—Murray 7:00p-9:00p RE Council Meeting—Founders 7:00p-9:00p Covenant Circle—Murray	MAR 7 10:00a-12:00p Covenant Circle—Murray 6:00p Stillness Circle—Fahs Theatre 7:00p-9:00p Covenant Circle—Murray 7:00p-9:00p Adult RE Council—Location TBD 7:30—9:00p Choir Practice—Channing Hall	MAR 8 5:30p-7:00p Social Justice Ministry Meeting—Founders 7:00p-9:00p Covenant Circle—Murray 7:30p-9:30p Post-Ulysses Reading Group—Founders Room 7:00p-9:00p Minds on Fire—Room 15 7:30p-9:30p Post-Ulysses Reading Group—Founders Room	MAR 9 9:30a-1:00p Film Series 2006/07—Fahs Theatre 6:30p-10:00 Film Series 2006/07—Fahs Theatre 7:15p-9:00p Covenant Circle—Murray FILM TODAY— <i>Jesus Camp</i>	MAR 10 8:30a-10:30a Pastoral Associates—Murray 9:00a-3:30p Contemplative Retreat with Rev. Forrest Gilmore 5:00p-11:00p 6th & 7th Grade Party—Channing
MAR 11—Two Services 9:15 and 11:15 a.m. DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS 9:00a-2:00p Brunch—Founders 10:30a-11:05a RED Room—Murray 11:15a-12:3p Course in Miracles—Room 8 12:30p-2:00p Exploring Our Faith 1:00p-3:00p Great Books—Murray 11:00a-12:30p Youth Group—Room 15	MAR 12 Last Quarter Moon 7:30p-9:30p Covenant Circle—Murray	MAR 13 6:30p-9:00p Covenant Circle—Murray 7:00p-9:00p—Board of Trustees Meeting—Murray 7:00p-10:00p Film "Last Atomic Bomb" - Fahs Theatre	MAR 14 6:00p Stillness Circle—Fahs Theatre 7:00p-9:00p Covenant Circle—Murray 7:30—9:00p Choir Practice—Channing Hall	MAR 15 12:00p-3:00p Women's Alliance Luncheon—Founders & Channing 6:30p-8:00p Youth Group—Room 15 7:00p-8:30p Bell Choir Rehearsal—Heald Library 7:00p-9:00p Covenant Circle Leaders Meeting—Murray	MAR 16 9:30a-1:00p Film Series 2006/07—Fahs Theatre 6:30p-10:00p Film Series 2006/07—Fahs Theatre 7:00p Mentor Dinner—Founders	MAR 17
MAR 18—Two Services 9:15 and 11:15 a.m. 9:00a-2:00p—Brunch—Founders 11:00a-12:30p Youth Group—Room 15 11:15a-12:3p Course in Miracles—Room 8 12:15p-2:00p Stewardship/Pledge Events —All Upstairs 1:00p-3:00p Introduction to Membership Class—Murray 12:45p-2:45p UU Buddhist Group—Fahs Theatre	MAR 19 New Moon ● 4:00p <i>Skylights</i> APRIL 2007 issue DEADLINE	MAR 20 8:00a-11:00p PHOTO DIRECTORY Sessions—Founders SPRING EQUINOX 7:00-9:00 Committee on Ministry—Murray	MAR 21 8:00a-11:00p PHOTO DIRECTORY Sessions—Founders 12:00p-1:00p Office Staff Meeting—Murray 6:00p Stillness Circle—Fahs Theatre 7:00p-9:00p Covenant Circle—Murray 7:00p-9:00p Loss & Grieving Group—Fahs Theatre 7:30—9:00p Choir Practice—Channing Hall	MAR 22 8:00a-11:00p PHOTO DIRECTORY Sessions—Founders 5:30p-7:00p Social Justice Ministry Meeting—Founders 7:30p-9:30p Post-Ulysses Reading Group—John Murray Room	MAR 23 8:00a-11:00p PHOTO DIRECTORY Sessions—Founders 9:30a-1:00p Film Series 2006/07—Fahs Theatre 6:30p-10:00p Film Series 2006/07—Fahs Theatre FILM TODAY— <i>Born into Brothels</i>	MAR 24 5:30p-8:30p Stewardship Celebration Dinner—Channing, Robinson
MAR 25 Two Services 9:15 and 11:15 a.m. First Quarter Moon EMERGENCY REPAIR FUND BRUNCH 9:00a-2:00p—Brunch—Founders 11:00a-12:30p Youth Group—Room 15 11:15a-12:3p Course in Miracles—Room 8	MAR 26	MAR 27 7:00p-10:00p Dinner Discussion—Robinson Lounge 7:00p-9:00p Congregational Council—Murray	MAR 28 8:00a-11:00p PHOTO DIRECTORY Sessions—Founders 6:00p Stillness Circle—Fahs Theatre 7:30—9:00p Choir Practice—Channing Hall 8:00p-9:30p Membership Committee Meeting—Murray	MAR 29 8:00a-11:00p PHOTO DIRECTORY Sessions—Founders	MAR 30 8:00a-11:00p PHOTO DIRECTORY Sessions—Founders 9:30a-1:00p Film Series 2006/07—Fahs Theatre 5:00p-9:00p CUUPS Full Moon Circle—Memorial Garden/Room 11 6:30p-10:00p Film Series 2006/07—Fahs Theatre LOAVES & FISHES UUCP & UU Washington Crossing	MAR 31 8:00a-11:00p PHOTO DIRECTORY Sessions—Founders LOAVES & FISHES UUCP & UU Washington Crossing

View the online calendar at: <http://plus.calendars.net/uuprinceton>

MARCH 2007

Ministers' Schedules



Rev. Reed and Rev. Gilmore observe the following office hours:

Rev. Chris Reed
11:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.
Tues through Thurs
Day off: Monday
Study day: Friday

Rev. Forrest Gilmore
12:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m.
Tues through Thurs
Day off: Monday
Study day: Friday

Office hours indicate when ministers are in the church building. However, ministry is not confined to specific hours, and our ministers may be attending meetings at any hour of the day. In the event of emergencies needing the attention of our ministers, please contact either of them first, irrespective of time or day. If necessary, contact Jordan Corn, President of the Board of Trustees.

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About Skylights

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**Next Skylights
deadline:**

MAR 19

Skylights

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