



# Skylights *newsletter*

May 2007  
Vol. 28, No.10

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
CONGREGATION OF PRINCETON

## Upcoming Sunday Worship Services

**May 6, 2007 at 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. (Two Services)**

*Passages—A Service for All Ages*

Worship Leaders: **Rev. Forrest Gilmore & Rev. Chris Reed**, Worship Associate: **Jeffrey Bock**  
Music: **Marjorie Herman, Beth Ertz, the Kids' Chorale, the Adult Choir**

As we begin the month of May, we celebrate the passages of the youngest among us. We will acknowledge our stepping stone kids, our coming-of-agers and our bridgers as they transition into their next life stages. We will complete our honoring of the circle of life by dancing the Maypole.

**May 13, 2007 at 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. (Two Services)**

*Original Wholeness*

Worship Leaders: **Rev. Forrest Gilmore** Worship Associate: **Alice Harper**  
Music: **Marjorie Herman, Beth Ertz, Bell Choir**

Some tell us we are born in sin. Yet, the liberal religious tradition tells us we are born whole. Yet as we age, we set aside the less acceptable sides of ourselves, beginning the lifelong journey to reclaim our wholeness once again. Today, we celebrate our original wholeness and explore ways to embrace the fullness of who we are.

**May 20, 2007 at 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. (Two Services)**

*Is God Real?*

Guest Worship Leader: **Rev. Forrest Gilmore** Worship Associate: **Michael Piscetelli**  
Music: **Marjorie Herman, Beth Ertz, the Adult Choir**

With the rise of religious fundamentalism, authors Richard Dawkins, Sam Harris and David Dennett have reinvigorated the public debate about the existence of God, claiming that God is not real and that reason must take precedence over faith. In this sermon, we'll explore this powerful question – Is God Real?

**May 27, 2007 at 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. (Two Services)**

*Remembering*

Worship Leaders: **Worship Committee Members**  
**Raj Nigam, Judy Malsbury, Jeffrey Bock, and Kathy Lehmann**  
Music: **Marjorie Herman, Beth Ertz**

In a time of war, Memorial Day takes on added poignancy. We not only remember heroes from long past wars, but are reminded of the proud service people dying everyday in Iraq. Whatever one's perspective on the Iraq war we support our troops, knowing that over 3300 have been killed and thousands of others seriously wounded. Let us come together this morning in a spirit of reflection to honor the sacrifice they have made.

# Reflection

**By Reverend Forrest Gilmore**

I am, of course, deeply saddened by the killings at Virginia Tech this past month. My prayers go out to all the families of those who died, were injured, or simply witnessed this incredible tragedy. I encourage us all to deal with our grief and anger by opening our hearts to those around us.

I also want to express grief over the passing of author and Unitarian Universalist Kurt Vonnegut. He was a humorous and powerful voice, challenging the absurdity of war and encouraging us to think for ourselves. May we do his life honor with our continuing work together as a congregation.

I want to remind you about upcoming budget planning events,

so you can participate. On **May 8 at 7 pm**, the Board meets to approve the final budget and set the annual meeting agenda. On **May 20 at 10:30 am and May 30<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm**, we'll have the chance to discuss the Annual Meeting Agenda, including the Final Budget, in two open forums. And don't forget, the annual meeting is on **June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30 pm**. The annual meeting agenda will be mailed no later than two weeks prior to the meeting, so look for it towards the middle of the month.

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**Next Skylights  
deadline:  
MAY 21  
skylights@uuprinceton.org**

Please send all *Skylights* submissions to:  
**skylights@uuprinceton.org**

# Reflection

**By Reverend Chris Reed**

Chris has bronchitis. Her column will return in June.

***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.*



# Religious Education for Children and Youth

## Affirming UU Principles in the Summer

RED Room, Sunday May 13, @ 10:30-11:05 am in John Murray Room

What can you and your family do this summer to promote UU principles? How can you reinforce lessons learned during this past year in Children's and Youth RE? Let's brainstorm about how to bring a little UU into your summer vacation. Learn about some of the exciting events both here at UUCP and also in the greater NY-Philly area. Come share your ideas about affirming UU principles while at the shore, Disney, or whatever your vacation destination! Please come to the RED Room discussion on Sunday, May 13 in the John Murray Room, 10:30-11:05 am. Childcare will be available in room 7. Contact Tom Prusa (tjpprusa@hotmail.com) for more information.

## 07-08 RE Class Registration Begins

RE parents, please note that next year's schedule of classes and registration forms will be available the third week of May. We wish to remind you that each class is limited to 16 participants, with those who register early more likely to be assured of a place in their preferred class or session. This year we had at least two classes that were filled to capacity; therefore, we **strongly encourage** you to submit your registration forms by Sunday, June 10. This will help us to make any necessary adjustments to the RE schedule based on the information you give us. Thank you! ~Shelle Summers

## Summer Chalice Program Begins June 17!

Our summer RE program will run June 17 to September 2, 10:00-11:00 a.m., and we have some wonderful fun planned for Pre-K kids and older kids ages 6 to 12! We are re-

## Children's RE Calendar

Sunday, May 6

*Intergenerational Rites of Passage*

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

Sunday, May 13

*Children's Worship: Playground Questions*

9:15 and 11:15, FAhs Theatre

RED Room

Affirming UU Principles in the Summer

10:30—11:05, John Murray Room

Sunday, May 20

*Children's Worship: Playground Questions, Part 2*

9:15 and 11:15, Fahs Theater

New Parent Orientation

10:25—11:05, Fahs Theatre

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 is provided in Room 7.

Sunday, May 27

*Children's Worship: Friends and Enemies*

9:15 and 11:15, Fahs Theater

Sunday, June 3

*Children's Worship: Celebration*

9:15 and 11:15, Fahs Theater  
Last day of RE classes

Sunday, June 10

*Intergenerational Flower Communion Service*

10:00, Channing Hall

ceiving registrations now, and if you think your child may attend even one session during the summer, we encourage you to go ahead and register. We know that families have lots of plans and travel scheduled, so we've designed "standalone" lessons for the Summer Chalice Program. See the UUCP RE webpage for the schedule of summer Sunday lessons and activities: [http://www.uuprinceton.org/re/summer\\_programs.html](http://www.uuprinceton.org/re/summer_programs.html). We hope your child will come lots of Sundays, but just coming for a few of them, as your family schedule allows, will be perfectly okay!

**If you have questions about the Summer Chalice Program, please call or email Shelle Summers (609/924-1604, ext. 14, [sumners@uuprinceton.org](mailto:sumners@uuprinceton.org)).**

## Register Now for Earth Spirit Week!

By now all RE families should have received by "snail mail" and e-mail a registration form for our UUCP Earth Spirit Week summer camp for kids ages 4 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 are planning crafts, activities, music, and snacks that will encourage a sense of responsibility for and genuine connection with the earth. Camp tuition is \$50, and we encourage you to register as soon as possible, as space is limited! Call Shelle Summers at 609/924-1604, ext. 14, or e-mail her at [sumners@uuprinceton.org](mailto:sumners@uuprinceton.org), for more information.



## Newcomers

### Meet the Ministers & Brunch

First Sunday of the month (5/6) after each service, usually at 10:30 A.M. and 12:30 P.M. unless there is one service, in the John Murray Room for an informal conversation with a minister. Obtain a free brunch ticket by signing a Visitor's Card for use after or during the meeting. Gather at the Welcome Circle 12 minutes after the service.

### Introduction to Membership Class

Third Sunday of the month (5/20) from 12:45 – 2:25 P.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 call the office at 924-1604, ext. 10 by the **Thursday before (5/17)**. 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 sign-up at the Welcome Circle or contact one of the ministers: 609-924-1604 to arrange a time. Alternatively, an opportunity to become 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. Circles are groups of 7 to 10 people who meet monthly for an opening reading, personal check-in, topic discussion, check-out and closing reading. The topic each month is the same for all circles, so that all participants are involved in a greater conversation, congregation-wide. 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](mailto: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 Religious Education & Programs

### LOSS & 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.

The group is 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays at 7:00-8:30 in Fahs Theater. Join us on **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](mailto:lbenson5@verizon.net) or Rev. Chris Reed at [reed@uuprinceton.org](mailto:reed@uuprinceton.org).

### YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

The Young Adults Group is a diverse, fun 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 **May 27**. 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 con-

gregation'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](mailto: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](mailto: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?*

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

*(Adult Edu & Programs Continued on page 5)*

# Adult Religious Education & Programs, continued

## UU Buddhist Group

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of each month, 12:45–2:45 p.m. in Fahs Theatre or the John Murray Room. Contact **Fay Moore** ([fay@elliottmoore.com](mailto:fay@elliottmoore.com)), 609-933-1625 or **Nancy Keene** ([nancy@nancykeene.com](mailto: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](mailto:hoeger@princeton.edu). Upcoming Date: **June 1**

## 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 reads the great war novel: *A Farewell to Arms* by Hemingway

Great Books will meet Sunday, May 6th at 1 PM in Rm 8 (downstairs). Often considered the finest American novel to emerge from World War I, *A Farewell to Arms* is the tragic story of an American soldier and English nurse who make a separate peace. Hemingway's description of the German attack on Caporetto -- lines of fired men marching in the rain, hungry, weary, and demoralized -- is ranked as one of the great moments in literary history. Contact Karen Siracusa at [kn.siracusa@att.net](mailto:kn.siracusa@att.net) 896-1016 -- Or -- Linda Benson at [lbenson5@verizon.net](mailto:lbenson5@verizon.net); 609-497-1866 and join us.

## Minds on Fire

Come set your minds on fire!! Join us on **Tuesday, May 1st from 7-9 pm** for Minds on Fire, a monthly opportunity to explore significant issues through an intellectual lens. Our focus this month will be an interview/debate between Christian pastor Rick Warren and famed atheist Sam Harris. The reading is available in advance at UUCP or via e-mail. Contact Rev. Forrest Gilmore for information and to sign-up.

## Post-Ulysses Reading Circle is open to all

Next readings: **May 10 and 24**. 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 **May 7 and June 4**. Please e-mail **Emily Townsend** ([em@etstudio.net](mailto:em@etstudio.net)) to sign up or for more information.

(Adult Education & Programs Continued from page 4)

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](mailto:SilverDove@comcast.net) or catch me at a second service on Sundays. ~Mirah Riben

## A COURSE IN MIRACLES

**May 6** *The Special function* you share is the offering of Peace. You are not an arbiter of vengeance. Have you found your Peace to share? Is forgiveness your function in time?

**May 13** *The Rock of Salvation*: Nothing attests to death and cruelty; to separation and to differences, for here, everything is perceived as one, and no one loses that each one may gain. What is

dependable but God's Love?

**May 20** *Justice Returned to Love*. To the world, justice and vengeance are the same. The law of separation demands a victim. It is not justice that one should lack for what another has. Justice demands no sacrifice.

**May 27** *The Justice of Heaven*. What can it be but arrogance to think your little errors cannot be undone by Heaven's justice? An answer which demands the slightest loss to anyone has not solved the problem.

Come join us in room 8 from 11:15 to 12:30 Sunday mornings to discuss these provocative topics. ~Hil Anderson

## PASTA WITH A PASTOR

Join us for a monthly event sponsored by Revs. Chris Reed & Forrest Gilmore with the hopes of having some fun and connecting more deeply with members, friends and newcomers of the congregation. This month, Forrest and his partner, Jill, will be hosting a dinner at their new home on **Sunday, May 6th<sup>nd</sup> from 5-8 pm**. There are only 8 spaces available (plus kids) so sign-up soon by contacting Forrest by phone or e-mail.

# Community Building

## Women's Alliance



Save the date! The Women's Alliance annual luncheon and **Strawberry Festival** will be held **Thursday May 17** in the Founder's Room. Luncheon will begin at 12 noon. After the festivities we will hold our annual meeting at which time we will elect officers for next year and designate which charities will benefit from our fund raisers this past year. You don't have to be a member to join in the fun. Just bring a salad to share. We will provide dessert and beverages. ~Lorraine Anderson, president.

## Men's Club

There is no scheduled luncheon for May.  
~Bill Barnard

## Dinner Discussion

Our speaker for the **Tuesday May 22** Dinner Discussion will be Dr. Marc Mappen, Executive Director of the New Jersey Historical Commission.

His topic — "There's More to New Jersey Than the Sopranos!" — promises to be a delightful romp through the 343-year history of the Garden State, touching on many famous New Jerseyans and their accomplishments. With a PhD in American History, Dr. Mappen was formerly associate dean at Rutgers University. He is a prolific author, editor, and radio and TV commentator on historical themes. Recently he acted as co-editor in chief of the "Encyclopedia of New Jersey" (Rutgers U. Press, 2004). At the Historical Commission his role is to preserve, disseminate and promote the history of our state. Sign up with Mal Durbin between services May 13 or 20. 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. ~George Schindler

## UU Connections

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS  
PURSUE THE GREAT TURNING  
TO EARTH COMMUNITY**

In our Earth Day concern for sustainable resource use, we at UUCP are part of a movement to reverse the way our society

has been operating. We can study a new approach which links the pursuits of diverse environmental, peace, and justice activists. Pat Ramirez and Carol Allen recently joined 120 Unitarian Universalists and others from 26 states and 2 Canadian provinces, in Columbus, OH to discuss a major transition underway in our society. "The Great Turning – from Empire to Earth Community," is a book by David Korten and the beginning phase of an international movement of people and organizations concerned about our future. Author David Korten and David Cobb, the 2004 Green Party presidential candidate were keynote speakers. Korten said the world has experienced over 5,000 years of paternalistic, top-down, "Empire" type government and policy-making which has led to almost continuous war and strife, and a growing gap between the very rich and very poor, from generation to generation. Korten (who also spoke at UU General Assembly 2006) said only a major shift toward more cooperation and less exploitation, more "bottom-up" and less "top-down", will prevent a Great Unraveling.

As an example of something that can be done locally, David Cobb told of an ordinance passed in his home county in California ("Measure T"), that protects local control by ensuring that only individuals, local organizations and local businesses can make financial contributions to local elections. We've all experienced the power of corporations to have their way in elections and zoning conflicts, etc. because of their deep pockets. This local ordinance ensures that Humboldt County residents have more control of their own destiny. As we stumble towards the future of diminishing oil supplies, huge tax payments to the military-industrial complex, and a warming climate, we hope for a smooth transition to a healthy, peaceful future. In the summer, we hope to start a study group at UUCP on The Great Turning. In the 2007-2008 church year, it could be an Adult Religious Education series. Let Pat Ramirez or Carol Allen know if you are inter-

ested in participating. We are all looking for ways to improve our society and support others who are doing so. Meanwhile, a good source for more information is: <http://thegreatturning.net>. David Korten will speak at UU General Assembly 2007 and has been on a book tour, including a dozen or more presentations at UU congregations throughout the country.

Pat Ramirez and Carol Allen

## "WHAT DIFFERENCE SHOULD UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM MAKE IN THE WORLD?"

That question will be the subject of the OPEN SPACE DISCUSSION at the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly (GA) to be held June 21-25 in Portland, Oregon. You are urged to attend and participate in setting the UU agenda for the 21st Century. Those members of this congregation who have attended GA in past years will tell you that it is a big, unforgettable experience that carries over into your congregational experience and personal life as well as challenging some basic values and reinforcing others. You can read about the details and programs of GA at [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org). If you are interested in being a delegate, tell Rev. Chris Reed, Rev. Forrest Gilmore, or Jordon Corn, president. ~Carol Allen

UU Connections Committee

## Save the Date The UUCP Annual Meeting

Community Dinner and Celebration  
Saturday June 2, 2007 5:30 p.m.

Come celebrate our accomplishments, congratulate outgoing board and committee members, vote on the budget, new board members, the nominating committee and the committee on ministry. A program for children of all ages will be provided. Sign-ups will be in the Robinson Lounge or send your RSVP to

[events@uuprinceton.org](mailto:events@uuprinceton.org)

Please indicate your food contribution: Dessert, Main Entrée, Salad.

Please, no appetizers.

If you need childcare please let us know the age of each child.

~Cindy Jenison

# Board of Trustees

## Budget Endnotes

By Jordan Corn, president

I've mentioned repeatedly over the course of this year that the Board has a lot of work to do to get our Ends well-defined and in place. Down the line, this may be the time of year when having this work done is the most valuable. Spring is budget season for our Congregation. Our budget can be construed as consisting of two classes of items.

The first consists of those things we *need* to do. These include items ranging from the mundane (utility bills, copying costs, etc.) to the important (paying our ministers and current staff, maintaining our building, etc.). There isn't much flexibility in these items, and they generally don't create too much dialog.

The second class of items in our budget consists of those things we *wish* to do. These are items that are discretionary, and often focus on increases we would like to make to the budgets for our various programs. It is these items that generate the most dialog, and occasionally discord within our Congregation.

It is precisely in this area, determining how to manage our discretionary expenses, that Ends are potentially the most helpful. A clear set of Ends represents the difference that we as a Congregation hope to make in the world. Such a set of statements, once they exist, are even more powerful if they are prioritized.

When a prioritized set of Ends statements exists, the discussion about resources can be framed differently. The priorities presumably represent the collective desire of the Congregation, and are generally reflective of where the Congregation wishes to expend its resources.

While this does not lead to a straightforward exercise of lining up dollars and programs behind various Ends statements, it does enable the discussion to move toward alignment of dollars and programs to priorities and gaps. For example, if an End is assigned high priority by the Congregation, and significant gaps hinder our progress toward it, there is a relatively clear call to allocate resources toward it. A lower-priority End toward which significant progress is being made is, by comparison, unlikely to benefit substantially by the addition of more resources. For this budget season, we don't have the benefit of such a set of priorities, and, now that we are in the process of discussing the budget, we are realizing the value they would bring. When discussions about whether to assign dollars to Program A or Program B are held, it is difficult to assess which area of spending would most benefit us. In the absence of clear priorities, the Board and the ET are trying to make decisions like this based on what we hear from the Congregation in all of the various budget forums we are attending.

Furthermore, decisions like this end up being divisive.

When budget conversations are cast in terms of spending on Program A or Program B, an either-or mentality, perhaps even a win-lose mentality, can easily take hold. The ability to align programs with Ends can change that conversation as well. As our energies align with Ends, we should begin to see that a single program can align with multiple Ends, and that a change of resources allocated to a given program can serve multiple purposes.

These issues are further incentive for the Board to continue devoting substantial attention to defining Ends statements this year. As I said last month, we're not there yet – we're in the process of adding a level of clear, actionable statements to detail the Ends we have. If these statements are crafted correctly, it should be possible to correlate budgets and programs to them. And, if they are prioritized so as to reflect the will of the Congregation, which we are working to make happen in time for next year's budget cycle, it should be possible to use them to frame conversations, and, we hope, align thinking about the budget.

## Social Justice

### **Social Justice volunteers for the Habitat-East Trenton Community Center Project World of Wonder Learning Center!**

Needed: Loving Hearts and Helping Hands!

For: Gardening in the Community and Getting the Classroom Up and Running!

Call: **Kate McGinnity** 609-397-7582 or e-mail [katemcginnity@aol.com](mailto:katemcginnity@aol.com)

### **HELP HABITAT BUILD NEW HOMES IN TRENTON**

Construction has started on the townhouse that UUCP has pledged to construct on North Clinton Ave. in Trenton. About a dozen members of our congregation participated in our first workday, on April 21<sup>st</sup>. We expect to have at least one workday per month until the townhouse is completed, and we plan to see a family in their new home before Christmas.

Working together with other members of our congregation is fun and rewarding. There is a lot of satisfaction to be gained from seeing your work take shape in a new house. Also, this is a great opportunity to gain new skills that can prove useful around your own home.

Our next workday is scheduled for Saturday, May 26. However, there are also opportunities for working at other times. If interested in learning more about this project, or to volunteer to work, contact Ray Nichols by e-mail at [acer-nichols@verizon.net](mailto:acer-nichols@verizon.net), or in the evening by phone at (609) 737-7442.

### Missed your "Photo Opp" with Lifetouch?

#### You can still be part of our UUCP Photo Directory!

Three ways to be included – and to receive a free Photo Directory:

- 1) Have your photo taken at any Target or JC Penneys photo studio and purchase a print.
- 2) Schedule a Lifetouch photo session at a nearby church (Amanda has details).
- 3) Submit a good quality personal photograph  
(Note: Copyright release needed for "studio" photo other than Target or JC Penneys)

#### Requirements:

- Photos need to be in "vertical" format
- Prints no larger than 5"x7" (will be returned)
- Enclose a **\$10 check**, payable to UUCP
- Include full list of names for the photo label
- Copyright release form (for studio photo other than Target or JC Penneys)

Place photo, check and names list in a Zip-Lock bag and bring to the church office.

Submission deadline is **Monday, May 14<sup>th</sup>**. Questions?

Contact Amanda Gillum (609-737-9163, [gillumam@comcast.net](mailto:gillumam@comcast.net))

### An Invitation to UUMAC

July 22-28, 2007

WHAT IS UUMAC? We are the Unitarian Universalist Mid-Atlantic Community. For one week each summer, we stay at DeSales University in Center Valley, Pennsylvania, about five miles southeast of Allentown, to learn, grow, retreat, and recreate together.

UUMAC is open to people of all ages, races, abilities, genders, and sexual identities and orientations.

We are intergenerational and our recreation is playful for everyone. For some, UUMAC is an ever-expanding family reunion. For others, UUMAC is an opportunity for rest and renewal. Many seek intellectual discussion and the exchange of ideas. Most enjoy lively camaraderie on hikes, on bikes, while rafting or crafting, moving in line, or dancing out of step. Come alone or bring the whole family. Come explore life's mysteries, share stories and life journeys, and experience the uniqueness of the individual within a loving, all-age community. We hope you will join us at UUMAC July 22-28, 2007.

Please download and share our brochure:

<http://uumac.org/UUMAC2007Brochure.pdf> or visit our website: [www.uumac.org](http://www.uumac.org). Ask **Leslie Bock** ([leslies75@optonline.net](mailto:leslies75@optonline.net), 609/448-1613) for more information about UUMAC!



## UUCP Spring Fair & Sale

Saturday May 5<sup>th</sup>

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (NEW TIME!)

You will be thrilled (stunned, more likely) by the sheer volume, quantity, and variety of goods available. In addition to the clothing, toys, china, dishes, books, computers, small appliances, art, sports equipment, furniture, jewelry, linens, plants, baked goods, and hot dogs, there will be a live band playing.

Save those household goods and DONATE them to our UUCP Annual Spring Fair & Sale. All proceeds go to local non-profits and charitable groups. The Fair will offer: clothing, shoes, purses, coats, linens, furniture, lamps, books, videos, computers, radios, TVs, jewelry, vases, towels, posters & pictures, kitchen appliances, dishes, trinkets, bowls, toys, baby equipment, games, sports equipment, gardening tools, general household items... you name it, we got it...if we don't have it, you don't need it.

### DROP DONATIONS OFF AT UUCP DURING PRE-FAIR WEEK

For **Large** items - Call **Bill Gillum** (737-9163) to arrange evening pickup during the week before the fair. **Very Large** items can be 'sold' by putting photos on a bulletin board during Fair. *Warning—We cannot receive or pickup a fridge or very large couch.*

2007 Spring Fair Chairs: **Judy Malsbury, Patricia Lange, Ruth Tomlinson**. (We are not occasional chairs, not lazy-boy chairs, nor easy chairs. We are just chair chairs.)

All proceeds are donated by the Congregation to local area charities and non-profits.

### Spring Fair Pick-Up Service

We will provide pick-up service for people not able to deliver items to the church for the May 5<sup>th</sup> Spring Auction. Items that can fit into a minivan (e.g., Grand Caravan) and be handled by two people are fair game. We cannot sell bedding (legal restriction). Especially large/heavy items, such as breakfronts, freezers or air conditioners, can be effectively offered by displaying photos at the auction. All electronic and electrical equipment must be in working condition. **Ask yourself, would you buy this item?** Remember items not sold must be disposed of and that cuts into the dollars available for outreach.

Pick-ups will be scheduled beginning the afternoon of Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, and evenings through Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Bill Gillum (609-737-9163) to request your pick-up.

## UUCP Spring Fair & Sale

### Donation DROP OFF Hours

1 - 7 pm : Sunday, April 29

4 - 7 pm : Mon, April 30 through Thu, May 3

4 - 6 pm : Friday, May 4

**GREEN CORNER**

**Shall we become a Green Sanctuary?**

Global warming was the topic chosen for the Minds on Fire meeting on the first Tuesday in March. The discussion began with concerns about what is happening to our Earth--disrupted seasons, rising seas, intense storms, worsening droughts, dangerous heat waves, the rapid retreat of glaciers and more—and it seems that we humans are the agents of much of what is going on. The fossil fuels (coal, oil, and gas) that we are burning to feed energy to our power plants and vehicles are producing more heat-trapping gases than the earth can absorb, and the planet's temperature is rising.

Before our discussion ended, we were asking: What can we do to help heal the earth? What is the best use we can make of our time and energy as individuals and as a UU congregation? Shall we become a certified Green Sanctuary? We formed a group to explore that possibility and met for the first time on the first Tuesday in April. We have asked the Executive Board to appoint us and others as a standing committee of the congregation.

The Green Sanctuary program arose out of the UU Ministry for Earth. It envisions that UU members “recognize and embrace our moral imperative to live in covenant with the web of life through personal, congregational and denominational practices.” To become a Green Sanctuary, a congregation plans and commits to activities in four areas—worship, religious education, environmental justice, and sustainable living. Once these activities are completed, the congregation can apply for certification as a Green Sanctuary by the Ministry for Earth. About 50 other UU churches across the country are now certified.

Shall we undertake to become a Green Sanctuary? We'll be bringing that question to all of you in the months to come. — *Jaime Ewalt, Dell and Peter Gerster, Ray Hallows, Ray Nichols, Dana and Henry Powsner, Doug Rhodes, Ellie Whitney*

**My Personal Follow-Up to UUCP Service February 4, 2007**

I believe in Josh,  
 My great-grandson  
 Who, though not yet 3,  
 Really smiles the smile --  
 And most of the rest  
 Of my gaggle of relatives.  
 I believe in the inherent relationship  
 Of all humanity  
 Based on dust  
 Leading to community.  
 I believe in life-strengthening beauty:  
 New Jersey clouds  
 Lively colors, soft colors  
 Silver trumps gold--  
 Country/Western music--  
 Drumming on my Native American drum--  
 Forrest strumming accompaniment to sermons.  
 I believe in life-long learning,  
 Variety reading,  
 Libraries,  
 National Public Radio,  
 Interweaving friendships with social activism  
 I believe in the irreplaceable value of  
 Doggie companionship --  
 Barks and all.  
 I believe in the health-giving quality of  
 Dark chocolate,  
 Despite its deliciousness.  
 So This I Believe.  
 You?  
*Maggie Pack, February 2007*



**A SPECIAL EVENT FOR THE EARTH - NOT TO BE MISSED!**

UUCP PRESENTS ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST ENVIRONMENTALISTS

**JOHN SEED** of the Rainforest Information Centre of Australia  
 Presenting:

**Climate Change, Despair & Empowerment**

7:30 PM Thursday May 17, 2007

Channing Hall

Open to the Public and Free

A public presentation which addresses the hopelessness and despair people feel about the status of global warming and the environment, provides tools to transform that despair into empowerment and effective action. Please come and help spread the word. For more info: [doloresphillips@comcast.net](mailto:doloresphillips@comcast.net) or 609-516-3526



LOAVES AND FISHES  
THANKS

THANKS to the generosity of so many people, this year's Loaves and Fishes program, in cooperation with the UU Congregation of Washington Crossing, fed over 600 children, women and men.

Thanks to **Pat Lange** for the beautiful fishes that hung over the sign-up table and to **Terri Bookman, Nancy McCormack, Maggie Pack** and **Peggy Matthews** who helped people decide where to volunteer.

Thanks to **Nancy McCormack, Sherry, Chloe and Ruby Roga, Fran Benson, Dina Laresch, Carolyn Hoeschele, Ted and Jane Fetter, Paul and Bree Powell, Carol Allen, Sarah Tulloss, Nancy Fiedler, Sarah Spaulding, Cindy Jenison, Nadine LeBeau, Joy Okoye, Cynthia Neider, and Jen Lau-Colalillo** for baking 450 brownies!

Thanks to, **Cathy Hitchcock, Andy Hahn, Nancy and Meredith McCormack, Gloria Gietz, Bridgette, Eliot, and Mariah Heller, William Koggan and Jeannine Benson** for bagging 750 lunches on Friday night at the Washington Crossing UU Church.

THANKS to **Pat and Doug Radtke, Ben Shelden, Cathy Wagner, Carl Haag, Sherry, Chloe and Ruby Roga, Sandra and Sadie Amarti, Corinne Reslier, Peggy and Margaret Matthews, Jaime Ewalt, Laura and Kathryn Leonard, Kris and Maddy Sturm, and Rebecca Nice Parrone** who set up, prepared food, served the guests or cleaned up at St. Mary's Cathedral in Trenton.

Thanks to Girl Scout Troop 1807 of Plainsboro for donating 200+ sets of plastic cutlery wrapped in napkins.

**AND A HUGE THANKS** to Pennington Quality Market who provided the food at a cost way below any other store and delivered it! *Please shop there and thank them for their generous community spirit.*

With such outpouring of generosity, it was a pleasure to chair this event. *-Carol Haag*



## 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](mailto: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.

**Polly Ramstad's** brother died March 30, 2007. The Memorial Service was held in the Los Angeles area.

**Barbara and David Titus** are home again and recuperating after each had a recent hospital stay. They would welcome being contacted by friends.

**Grace Gambino** is home and recovering well from bypass surgery. She has been touched and warmed by the many friends who have called her, sent cards, flowers, and food. She sends out to all her gratitude and heart-felt thanks.

**Kate McGinnity's** mother died April 7<sup>th</sup>. She and her brother and two sisters came from Florida, Washington State and New Jersey to be with her and she died in her home in Indiana. Kate said "It was wonderful that we all had those last two days together with her as she knew she was dying and was leaving us and saying goodbye. It is still so hard but it was a peaceful ending for her and as my brother said, "She had taught us how to live, and now she has taught us how to say goodbye.""

**Betsy Speir** died April 9<sup>th</sup>. She attended Bennington College in Vermont and La Sorbonne in Paris. After college, she worked for American Express and US Lines, both in Europe and in the United States and also worked elsewhere as a travel agent. She was an avid skier, inspecting resorts around the world. She also enjoyed horseback riding and tennis. She moved to Princeton in 1969. In the 1970s, she opened the Nassau Gallery in Princeton with Margaret Morgan. She volunteered in local schools and continued her tutoring even after her health deteriorated. She sponsored with her daughter, Melanie, a family of eight Afghan refugees and co-adopted a young man from Cambodia, Pinith Ky. Mrs. Speir continued to help others through the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in New York City. Locally, she founded LIFT (Looking Into The Future) and InnerEd. LIFT, located in Trenton, brought tutors together with poorly performing students. InnerEd was a foundation that helped disadvantaged students receive a better education. Betsy is survived by her brother, Phillip Palmedo; children, Phillip P. Thompson, Bethlin Thompson Proft, Melanie Thompson Fauchet, Gerard Thompson Jr., Molly Thompson, Robert W. Speir IV and Pinith Ky; and 23 grandchildren. Services were April 16<sup>th</sup> at UUCP. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Planned Parenthood of Mercer County, (609) 599-4881 or the National Parkinson's Disease Foundation, (800) 327-4545.

New Member **Nancy McCormack** is a wife, mother of two daughters, yoga instructor and massage therapist. She thoroughly enjoys the spiritual path that life has to offer. Welcome Nancy!

# MAY 2007

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
		<b>MAY 1</b> 4:00p-7:00p Donation Drop Off for Spring Fair  NO MEETINGS IN THE UUCP BUILDING. Check with meeting leader for location	<b>MAY 2</b> Full Moon ☾ 4:00p-7:00p Donation Drop Off for Spring Fair  NO MEETINGS IN THE UUCP BUILDING. Check with meeting leader for location	<b>MAY 3</b> 4:00p-7:00p Donation Drop Off for Spring Fair  NO MEETINGS IN THE UUCP BUILDING. Check with meeting leader for location	<b>MAY 4</b> 4:00p-7:00p Donation Drop Off for Spring Fair  NO MEETINGS IN THE UUCP BUILDING. Check with meeting leader for location	<b>MAY 5</b> <b>9:00—1:00</b> <b>SPRING FAIR</b>  4:30p-8:30p Pre-K Parents as People Night—Founders
<b>MAY 6—Two Services 9:15 &amp; 11:15a.m.</b> 9:00a-2:00p Brunch—Robinson 10:30a Meet the Ministers—Murray 11:00a-12:30p Youth Group—Room 15 11:15a-12:3p Course in Miracles—Room 8 12:30p Meet the Ministers—Murray 1:00p-3:00p Great Books—Room 8 7:00p-9:00p Youth Group—Fahs	<b>MAY 7</b> 7:00p-9:00p Creative Journaling—Founders Room 7:15p-9:15p Covenant Circle (1st Monday)—Murray	<b>MAY 8</b> 12:00p-1:00p Office Staff Meeting—Murray 5:30p-7:30p Green Sanctuary Committee—Room 15 6:30p-9:00p Covenant Circle (2nd Tuesday)—Murray 7:00p-9:00p—Board of Trustees Meeting—Murray	<b>MAY 9</b> 6:00p-7:00p Stillness Circle—Fahs 7:00p-9:00p Covenant Circle(2nd Wednesday)—Murray 7:30—9:00p Choir Practice—Channing Hall	<b>MAY 10</b> 10:00a-12:00p Covenant Circle (1st Thursday rescheduled)—Murray 5:30p-7:00p Social Justice Ministry Meeting—Founders 7:00p-9:00p Covenant Circle (2nd Thursday)—Murray 7:30p-9:30p Post-Ulysses Reading Group—Founders Room	<b>MAY 11</b> 7:15p-9:00p Covenant Circle (2nd Friday)—Murray	<b>MAY 12</b> 8:30a-10:30a Building & Grounds Meeting—Heald Library  8:30a-10:30a Pastoral Associates—Murray
<b>MAY 13—Two Services 9:15 &amp; 11:15 a.m.</b> 9:00a-2:00p Brunch—Founders 11:15a-12:30p Course in Miracles—Room 8 1:00p-3:00p Great Books—Room 8 11:00a-12:30p Youth Group—Room 15 7:00p-9:00p Youth Group—Fahs	<b>MAY 14</b> 7:15p-9:15p Covenant Circle (2nd Monday)—Murray  <b>DEADLINE to submit photos for directory</b>	<b>MAY 15</b> 7:00-9:00 Committee on Ministry—Murray	<b>MAY 16</b> New Moon ● 1:00p-2:30p Office Staff Meeting—Murray 6:00p Stillness Circle—Fahs 7:00p-9:00p Covenant Circle (3rd Wednesday)—Murray 7:00p-8:30p Loss & Grieving Group—Fahs 7:30—9:00p Choir Practice—Channing Hall	<b>MAY 17</b> 12:00p-3:00p Women's Alliance Luncheon & Strawberry Festival—Founders 6:30p-8:00p Youth Group (3rd Thursday)—Room 15 7:00p-8:30p Bell Choir Rehearsal—Heald Library 7:00p-9:00p Covenant Circle LEADERS MEETING—Murray	<b>MAY 18</b>	<b>MAY 19</b> 4:30p-7:30p Pre-K Family Picnic—Founders
<b>MAY 20—Two Services 9:15 &amp; 11:15 a.m.</b> 9:00a-2:00p Brunch—Founders 10:30a Sunday Forum: Discussion of Annual Meeting Agenda, including Board-approved Budget—Murray 10:30a New Parent Orientation—Fahs 11:00a-12:30p Youth Group—Room 15 11:15a-12:30p Course in Miracles—Room 8 12:45p-2:45p UU Buddhist Group—Fahs 1:00p-3:00p Great Books—Room 8 1:00p-3:00p Introduction to Membership Class—Murray 7:00p-9:00p Youth Group (3rd Sunday)—Fahs	<b>MAY 21</b> 4:00p <i>Skylights</i> JUNE 2007 issue <b>DEADLINE</b> Send to: <a href="mailto:skylights@uuprinceton.org">skylights@uuprinceton.org</a>	<b>MAY 22</b> 7:00p-9:00p The Congregational Council meets—Murray 7:00p Dinner Discussion—Robinson	<b>MAY 23</b> 6:00p Stillness Circle—Fahs 7:30—9:00p Choir Practice—Channing Hall 8:00p-10:00p Membership Committee—Murray	<b>MAY 24</b> 5:30p-7:00p Social Justice Ministry Meeting—Founders 7:30p-9:30p Post-Ulysses Reading Group—Founders Room	<b>MAY 25</b>	<b>MAY 26</b> <b>Habitat Building Workday in Trenton</b>
<b>MAY 27—Two Services 9:15 &amp; 11:15 a.m.</b> 9:00a-2:00p—Brunch—Founders 11:00a-12:30p Youth Group—Room 15 11:15a-12:3p Course in Miracles—Room 8 12:30p-1:30p Young Adults—Room 1	<b>MAY 28</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED—MEMORIAL DAY</b>	<b>MAY 29</b>	<b>MAY 30</b> 6:00p Stillness Circle—Fahs Theatre 7:00p-8:30p Open Meeting: Discussion of Annual Meeting Agenda, including Board-approved budget—Founders 7:30—9:00p Choir Practice—Channing Hall	<b>MAY 31</b>	<b>JUN 1</b> Full Moon ☽ 5:00p-9:00p CUUPS Full Moon Circle—Memorial Garden/Room 11	<b>JUN 2</b> 8:30a-10:30a Building & Grounds Meeting—Murray  <b>5:30p-8:30p</b> <b>ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING—Channing</b>

### 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.

### Names & Numbers

**Rev. Christine F. Reed**  
reed@uuprinceton.org  
Co-Minister ext. **12**

**Rev. Forrest Gilmore**  
gilmore@uuprinceton.org  
Co-Minister ext. **11**

**Marjorie Herman**  
herman@uuprinceton.org  
Music Director ext. **16**

**Shelle Sumners**  
sumners@uuprinceton.org  
RE Coordinator ext. **14**

**Cara Karch**  
karch@uuprinceton.org  
Office Assistant ext. **15**

**Jorge Garcia Salas**  
garcia@uuprinceton.org  
Sexton ext. **18**

**Sara Oderwald**  
office@uuprinceton.org  
Administrator ext. **10**

Office Hours:  
Monday - Friday,  
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Phone: **609-924-1604**  
FAX: 609-924-0533

e-mail:  
**office@uuprinceton.org**

Web page:  
<http://www.UUPrinceton.org>

### About Skylights

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**Next Skylights**  
**deadline:**  
**MAY 21**  
[skylights@uuprinceton.org](mailto:skylights@uuprinceton.org)

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50 Cherry Hill Road  
Princeton, NJ 08540-7626

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