



Skylights *newsletter*

November 2007

Vol. 29, No.4

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CONGREGATION OF

DAYLIGHT
SAVINGS
TIME ENDS
NOV 4

Upcoming Sunday Worship Services

FELLOWSHIP
AUCTION
SATURDAY
NOV 17

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

A Gift of Sabbath

Worship Leader: **Rev. Chris Reed** Worship Associate: **Jordan Corn**

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

As I prepare for my sabbatical, I am reminded of its connection with the Sabbath. We often view the biblical story of creation as a time of six days of work and a seventh day of rest or reward for the hard work, a renewal or recharging. But there is also a view that the purpose of the first six days was to get to the place of the ultimate creation that happens on the seventh day. What was created on the seventh day?

November 11, 2007 at 9:15 a.m. (ONE SERVICE Today)

My Trip to India

Worship Leader: **Rev. Forrest Gilmore** Worship Associate: **Mike Piscetelli**

Music: **Marjorie Herman, Beth Ertz, Deva Burns, guitar**

With Chris going on sabbatical for six months, I took some time away in October before she left. I traveled to India for a three-week spiritual retreat. I look forward to sharing all about it with you at this special one-time only service. After the service, let's head over to the Princeton Chapel together to hear Bill Sinkford, the President of our denomination, speak at 11 am.

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

A Celebration of Thanksgiving—An All Ages Service

Worship Leader: **Rev. Forrest Gilmore** Worship Associate: **Maggie Beaumont**

Music: **Marjorie Herman, Beth Ertz, Adult Choir, Kids' Chorale**

Join us for our annual celebration of the harvest. Our service will center on our traditional ritual of generosity as we give food to serve those in need. Please bring packaged items of food, which we'll give to support the local Crisis Ministry. Also, we will celebrate Association Sunday today and take a special offering to benefit the great work of our Unitarian Universalist Association.

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

The Transient & the Permanent

Worship Leader: **Rev. Forrest Gilmore** Worship Associate: **Ted Fetter**

Music: **Marjorie Herman, Beth Ertz**

Theodore Parker, one of our Unitarian exemplars, preached a powerful and controversial sermon in 1841, entitled *A Discourse on the Transient & Permanent in Christianity*. With it, he challenged many of the dogmas of his day. What holds true through time and what passes away remains a spiritually powerful question today. Let's explore it together.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST PRESIDENT TO SPEAK AT UNIVERSITY CHAPEL

It will be a great pleasure for Princeton Unitarian Universalists to welcome **Rev. William Sinkford**, President of the Unitarian Universalist Association, to our community on Sunday, **November 11th**, to preach at 11:00 a.m. at the University Chapel as part of the Annual Conference and Interfaith Service for Peace. See details on page 8.

Reflection

By Reverend Chris Reed

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 jour-
neys.*

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

In recent reading I came across a story about Alfred Hitchcock, who was known to actors as a very exacting director. The actors and crew were working on a scene and they were struggling with many considerations, the staging, pacing, lines, lighting. And they were up very late struggling to get it right. Then just when they felt that they were near the solution, Hitchcock came in and started telling all these jokes, junior high type jokes. And they were lost again.

Later when someone asked him why he chose that moment to get them off track by joking around, Hitchcock paused and then said "You were pushing. It never comes from pushing".

The story is from a book by Wayne Muller, titled "Sabbath".

These times of renewal or just being present, these times of not pushing, are important in our lives. We make that space daily through walking or meditating. We make it weekly through our gathering as a worship community. And it is the primary goal of my sabbatical. Sabbaticals, like Sabbaths, honor the necessary time of dormancy. No matter what other "work" I may do, courses, writing, retreats...., my real sabbatical work is of a spiritual nature. There is a chant that I learned in my first year of being a DRE (director of religious education) in 1989. "Take your time, go slowly. Listen deep inside yourself. Simple things are holy".

It is also true of sabbaticals, that while a minister is gone, the creative life of the congregation can often blossom. My sabbatical will be starting on November 6 and I'll be back on May 6. In the last two months I have been working with staff and lay leaders, to strengthen many of the structures that implement and embody our many ministries. Through the Leadership Leaves Program, our congregation also receives assistance both monetary and professional, during this six months. This is coincidentally a year that is seeing many new aspects of these ministries, including newcomers circles, a new adult programs committee, and a new youth programs coordinator.

May you have a blessed and productive, meaningful and creative six months, doing the work of healing of self and the world. May you also take some time and go slowly.

You have my blessings, my wishes for a good 6 months, and my love.

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OFFICE NOTES

Please join me in welcoming our new Office Assistant, **Michelle Simone**. Michelle is a student at Rutgers University and will be in the UUCP office part-time. Her schedule will include Sunday hours, so please stop by to say hello and introduce yourself. Michelle can be reached at simone@uuprinceton.org, or 609-924-1604 extension 15. Welcome Michelle, we're delighted to have you with us! ~Sara Oderwald

Reflection

By Reverend Forrest Gilmore

Forrest is in India this month. His column will return in the December issue of *Skylights*.

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, December 8th from 9:00-4:00** 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. Please RSVP by Wednesday, December 5th at events@uuprinceton.org.

A Conversation with UUA President Rev. Bill Sinkford

Sunday, November 11, Channing Hall, 4:30-5:30

We are very excited and pleased to be able to have this conversation with Rev. Sinkford at a time when there has been much conversation about the growth of our denomination, including the new ad campaign, and the Association Sunday initiative. Rev. Sinkford has inspired and supported the work done in our denomination that asks the question "How can we, given our free church structure, with no central authorities, how can we strengthen our liberal religion?"

Aside from this being an exciting time to have this conversation, Rev. Sinkford is a wonderfully inspiring speaker, who can speak to administrative and spiritual aspects of our faith, as well as our denominations efforts to work towards greater justice and peace in our world. Rev. Sinkford will give a brief opening talk. But the heart of the conversation will be the questions and concerns we might have, and his responses. All are invited.

COME TO OUR FELLOWSHIP AUCTION

Saturday November 17th
5:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m.

Fun for Adults: Bid & Win Trips,
Jewelry, Pottery, A Sermon!
Supervised Fun for Children:
Pizza & Activities!

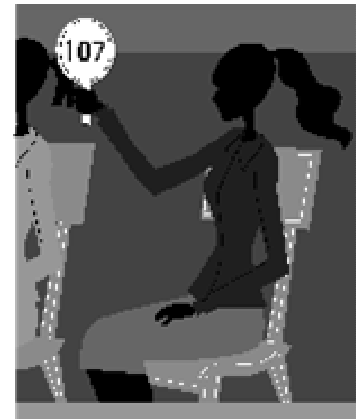
Your Generosity Makes the World a
Better Place

All Proceeds Go To Charity

Fellowship, Finger Foods & Wine,
Family Friendly

Food & Silent Auction Starting At 5:30
Followed By Live Auction!

RSVP to events@uuprinceton.org
or signup on Sundays in Robinson Lounge
Please tell us how many will attend (include
ages of children) by Monday, Nov. 12th



Questions: contact
Cindy Jenison
683-8067
cjenison@patmedia.net

Adult Programs

NEWCOMER CIRCLES

We are excited to be adding Newcomer Circles to our small group ministry program. A Newcomer Circle is part Covenant Circle and part discussion group for Newcomers. The themes focus on the topics that are most compelling for those who are new to our faith and for those who are seeking religious community.

Newcomers' Circles meet for four months, twice a month for a total of 8 meetings.

A Circle will be started on Thursday evening, October 25, meeting on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 7:15.

If you would like to join this or a future Newcomers' Circle, please contact **Rick Baker**, rick.baker1@att.net, or **Shelle Summers** in the church office at summers@uuprinceton.org or 924-1604, ext14.

As we go forward to create new circles, please let us know what days or times work for you, by filling out one of the grids at the Welcome Circle or by contacting Rick or Shelle. Our hope is to include all newcomers in circles and to have no one wait more than a few weeks.

Signing the Membership Book Ceremony

This is for those who have taken the Introduction to Membership Class or have been in a Newcomer Circle and want to become members. Please sign-up at the Welcome Circle or contact one of the ministers at 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.

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY—"Get Plugged In"

Covenant Circles - Revisited!

We have made some revisions to our Small Group Ministry program based on expressed needs and feedback of so many congregants who have been in covenant circles and many who have not, but would like to try.



The basic Covenant Circles that we have created over the last 4 years, have been very successful in terms of creating community, encouraging spiritual growth and inviting authentic connection with each other.

And yet, there is always room for improvement! These are the changes that we are making to the basic **Covenant Circle**:

- There will be time for discussion and questions and socializing for the last 20-30 minutes of each Circle. (The previous format did not give enough opportunity for this.)
- Each CC will be encouraged to get together socially a few times, and/or work together on a social justice or service project.

- Several Covenant Circles will meet twice a month to enhance community.
- We will start with a fewer number of groups and grow new groups as needed during the year.

Circles will now meet from year to year although people can leave or join at the end of each year in June.

Please sign up at the Program Table in Robinson Lounge or contact Shelle Summers at summers@uuprinceton.org, 609-924-1604, ext. 14.

NEW PROGRAMS

Level-One Hatha Integral Yoga®, Sept. 10–Nov. 14. Classes meet for 90 minutes each session: 6:30–8:00 p.m., on Mondays, and 8:30–10:00 a.m. on Wednesdays.

Finding and Developing Your Spiritual Practice: started September 27 and meeting twice a month on Thursdays from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

UU History Through Books

Each book will be discussed for 3 sessions.

Sign-up for each book individually.

1st Book – *Out of the Flames* starting October 24.

Enrollment is closed.

2nd book - *A Chosen Faith* by John Buehrens.

Three sessions beginning January 16. *A Chosen Faith* is a clear, helpful introduction Unitarian Universalism. Two long-time ministers and denominational leaders, John A. Buehrens and Forrest Church, describe the sources and history of Unitarian Universalism.

3rd book - *Peabody Sisters* by Megan Marshall.

Three sessions beginning March 19.

The Peabody Sisters—Elizabeth Palmer Peabody (1804-1894), Mary Tyler Peabody Mann (1807-1887), and Sophia Amelia Peabody Hawthorne (1809-1871)—were champions of reform movements, pioneers in modern educational theory, founders of the kindergarten movement in America, and supporters of the arts. No less important was their function as central conduits in the small, complicated web of relationship that comprised the Transcendentalist movement, and the vital links they represented between institutional Unitarianism and its often estranged Transcendentalist offspring. This is a fascinating book which will increase your understanding of our Transcendentalist heritage.

A Contemplative Retreat: Please see box on page 3.

ONGOING PROGRAMS

UU Buddhist Group

1st & 3rd Sundays of each month, 12:30a.m.-2:00 p.m. in Fahs Theatre. Contact **Fay Moore** (fay@elliottmoore.com), 609-933-1625 or **Nancy Keene** (nancy@nancykeene.com), 609-844-1260. Upcoming Dates: **November 4 and November 18**

CUUPS (Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pa-

Adult Programs, continued

(Adult Programs Continued from page 5)

gans): 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 Date: **November 23**

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. **Weekly on Wednesdays, 6-7 pm (No meeting on Nov 21)** Contact Rev. Forrest Gilmore for information.

Great Books Reading Circle

Sunday, November 11 at 1 PM in Room 8

Please come and discuss *A House for Mr. Biswas* by V.S. Naipaul. Often called Naipaul's first great novel, it tells the story of Mohun Biswa, a Hindu living in postcolonial Trinidad. When Mohun marries his wife, Shama, he "effectively married her entire family, the daunting, smothering Tulsis.

House for Mr. Biswas is the life story of a man who wanted only a home, but who was a magnet for misfortune, oppression and humiliation, a wanderer with no place he could call his own, with no family except that which he was to attempt to create out of the engulfing world of the Tulsis. Mohun's survival is a triumph of resilience and persistence and humor, an epic of dignity and self-respect doggedly clung to." ~Karen Siracusa



Creative Journaling

Calling all Creative Journalers, and anyone interested in exploring the inspired process of Creative Journaling:

We meet the **first Monday** of each month at 7 p.m. in the Founders Room. If the first Monday falls on a holiday we will meet the second Monday of that month. We bring our blank books, and we share papers, wonderful collage materials, juicy markers, writing prompts and our inner explorations in this group. All materials will be provided except your blank journal, so come along and see what we are up to. If you have no idea what this would be like, but are curious, feel free to drop in and find out, or to know more, e-mail **Emily Townsend** at em@etstudio.net or call 609-933-9391. Do let us know if can join us, so we expect you!

Loss & Grieving Group

Those of us who have lost a partner, parent, child, sibling, or someone else who has been a part of their lives go through similar experiences that we can share with one another. It is often meaningful and honoring to ourselves and those we have lost to share our loss and grief in a community whose understanding and compassion are grounded in like experience. While this group is primarily 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 open to all who come at any time and for however

many sessions. We meet on the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 7:00p–9:00p in Room 15. If you have any questions, please call or email **Linda Benson** at 609 497-1866, lbenson5@verizon.net.

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 in Room 15 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 youn-gadulds@uuprinceton.org.

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 **Shelle Sumners** 609-924-1604 ext. 14, or sumners@uuprinceton.org.

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 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.

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 Silver-Dove@comcast.net or catch me at a second service on Sundays. ~Mirah Riben

A Course In Miracles

Our study group meets in Classroom 8 downstairs at 11:15 am – 12:30 pm each Sunday morning.

Adult Programs, continued

(Adult Programs Continue from Page 6)
For more information about any of these classes, visit the Adult Program table in Robinson Lounge or contact **Alice Harper** (aharper67@comcast.net, 609-737-3046) or **Linda Benson** (lbenson5@verizon.net, 609-497-1866).

DO YOU HAVE A PROGRAM IDEA?

We invite anyone with an idea for an Adult Program to submit a proposal to the Adult Program Committee. The proposal should contain an outline of the content, the target audience and maximum number of participants, time line (how many weeks/hours the course will require) suggested dates and times for the course, any costs for materials associated with the course (no fees may be charged for presenting an adult program).

All proposals are subject to review and approval by the Adult Program Committee and the ministers.

Once the program content and duration of the course have been agreed upon, the suggested dates and times will be reviewed for any conflict with the existing UUCP calendar. Final scheduling and publicizing of the course will be the responsibility of the Adult Program Committee.

Please submit any proposals to Adult Program Committee co-chairs **Linda Benson** and **Alice Harper** (email is preferred but snail mail or in-church hand-off is also welcomed). Thank you! We look forward to receiving your course outlines.

Fall Film Series 2007—the best medicine the last of our four classic comedies Friday, November 2 **Annie Hall** (1977) rated PG

Considered to be "Woody Allen's breakthrough movie" (Time), Annie Hall won four Oscars, including Best Picture, and established Allen as the premier auteur filmmaker. Alvy Singer (Allen) is one of Manhattan's most brilliant comedians, but when it comes to romance, his delivery needs a little work. Alvy falls in love with the ditzy but delightful nightclub singer, Annie Hall (Diane Keaton). When his own insecurities sabotage the affair, Annie is forced to leave Alvy for a new life in Los Angeles. Knowing he may have lost Annie forever, Alvy's willing to go to any lengths, even driving L.A.'s freeways, to recapture the only thing that ever mattered: true love. —Amazon.com

Showings begin at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. in Fahs Theatre
Contact **Shelle Sumners**, RE Coordinator 609/924-1604,
ext. 14, sumners@uuprinceton.org

MUSIC LOVERS MAKE NOTE!! You'll want to attend our ALL MUSIC SUNDAY, on Dec. 2. The theme is "Listen to the Music" and will be all inclusive, from Bach to Bee-bop, formal to folk, and everything in between. There will be congregational participation, so warm up your voices in the shower before you come, for "Spirit of Life," "Come and Go With Me," "Meditation on Breathing," and others. The Bell Choir and Adult Choir will join in presenting "How Can I Keep from Singing,"

Music Continued in next column)

Hospitality

- Greeting folks at the door with a smile and handshake.
- Guiding a new family to the children's RE program.
- Guiding a newcomer to the welcome circle.
- Helping someone who might struggle with the front door.
- Saying 'good morning' or 'it's nice to see you' as you hand someone an order of service.

All simple acts of hospitality – making folks feel welcome and cared about on Sunday morning.

Simple acts, but holding the potential for profound impact for both giver and receiver. Perhaps your kind words or gesture provides enough comfort or reassurance for a new person to stay for the morning and return again the following week. And we never know if that stranger coming in the door brings with them gifts unimagined – a chance for wider understanding and deeper love.

Greeting is the responsibility of all of us. **However, on Sunday morning we need four people for each service who are our official ushers and greeters.**

Besides the aforementioned greetings, the official ushers and greeters are responsible for collating the order of service; distributing and then putting away the hymnals, taking up the collection and counting the collection. This is an easy job and is great for new people to get to know names and faces of others in the congregation.

Please consider becoming an usher/greeter. One service a month would be fantastic. Consider becoming an usher captain for one Sunday a month. DUNS groups, covenant circles and other groups might consider this as a service project.

However, if your schedule only permits only an occasional commitment, that is okay as well.

Training will be provided.

Sign-up sheets are at the program table every Sunday. Call **Kathy Lehmann** at 609-695-6672 or email to Lehmatt3@aol.com with questions or to sign-up.

Joys and Sorrows

To help nurture a beloved community here in this congregation, please remember to share significant events in members' lives with the Pastoral Associates, who are charged with extending the pastoral ministry. This column is a place to inform the larger community of major events in people's lives. Sometimes people want to have their news shared; sometimes privacy and confidentiality prevail. Items for this column should be sent to skylights@uuprinceton.org. All items will be reviewed by the Pastoral Associate leadership team before printing (Revs. Chris Reed and Forrest Gilmore, Laurie Powsner and Carol Haag).

Son Alex had a bad bicycle accident and is not out of the woods, but is recovering slowly. (it happened Aug. 8). **Harry and Ruth Tomlinson** are in Texas for a couple weeks to help out.

(Music Continued) arranged by Marjorie Herman, and Kids' Chorale will share their inspiration, too. Plus, there will be a small instrumental ensemble, including a string quartet. So bring your body, mind, and spirit -- well or weary -- Sunday, Dec. 2 for either (or BOTH!!) services. We can't wait to share the music with you! For more information, contact Marjorie at 609-924-1604, ext. 16 or at herman@uuprinceton.org.

Community Building

Women's Alliance

The Women's Alliance November meeting will be on Thursday, November 15 in the Founder's Room. We will start with lunch at 12:00 noon and the program will be at 1:00 p.m. Our speaker will be Pat Radtke. She, along with other participants in the program, will tell us about our new UCP Social Justice Program and discuss the plans and progress of the three major components. We invite all UUCP members and friends to join us. If you can join us for lunch, please bring a salad to share. Beverages and dessert will be provided. ~Lorraine Anderson

Men's Club

The first meeting of the Men's Club for the Fall season will be on Tuesday, October 16th. We will meet in the Church kitchen at 11:30 am to enjoy wine, beer, snacks, and good conversation. At approximately 12:30 pm Roger Hoff will serve up on eof his gourmet luncheons. Following this each member can bring us up to date on his Summer activities. If time permits we can then discuss some topic of common concern. To reserve a place please call me at 609-430-4305. Do it NOW!! We look forward to seeing all of our members!! ~Bill Barnard

Dinner Discussion

On Tuesday, November 27, the subject of the Dinner Discussion will be MADAGASCAR, its unique plants and animals, and how these are threatened by a rising population. The speaker will be **Bonnie Tillery**, Coordinator of Population Issues for the NJ Chapter of the Sierra Club. With visuals she will take us on a tour of Madagascar, off the southeastern coast of Africa, to show us plants and animals found no where else on earth, and will talk about what the people of Madagascar are doing to protect their lemurs, chameleons and other special resources in one of the world's environmental hotspots. Ms. Tillery has received numerous recognitions and awards, state and national, for her work on population issues, and has also traveled to Ecuador to study the environmental effects of family planning. Sign up with Mal Durbin between services November 18 and 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. ~George Schindler, Jr.

UU Connections

ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND INTERFAITH SERVICE FOR PEACE

Unitarian Universalist Association President Bill Sinkford will be the speaker at the Princeton University Chapel on Sunday, November 11 at 11:00 AM, the opening of the conference "Stopping Nuclear Terrorism and Proliferation." Afternoon speakers will include Phyllis Bennis, Institute of Policy Studies, Freeman Dyson, Institute for Advanced Study, Frank von Hippel, Princeton University Program on Science and Global Security, Ambassador Max Kampelman negotiator of the INF treaty, and James Nolan, International Affairs, University of Pittsburgh. This congregation is one of the co-sponsors of the conference. To register, go to www.peacecoalition.org or phone 609-924-5022,

the Coalition for Peace Action. ~Carol Allen, UU Connections Committee

UUCP Raises Money for Jena, Louisiana, Legal Defense

The brunch on October 7 and additional contributions have resulted in our congregation raising \$500 for the Jena legal defense. It will be used for the defense of the Jena Six whose sentences are pending. ~Carol Allen

UUCP Letters and Petitions Against the War

During September, 40 UUCPers wrote short letters to their congressmen during coffee hour and 45 signed petitions against continuing the war in Iraq. UUA President William Sinkford went to Capitol Hill on October 10 with 13,500 UU petitions of which 50 or more were from our congregation, including those signed on line. ~Carol Allen

As a continuation of **Not In Our Town's** No Racism/No Violence campaign, a youth forum will be held on Sunday, Nov. 18 from 2:00 to 5:00 pm in the Princeton High School Auditorium.

Some two dozen Princeton area High Schoolers will speak from their hearts about how they experience racism. Called Through Our Eyes, the forum will also deal with ideas and recommendations about how to bring about change.

The program is open to the public, and all members of our congregation, youth and adults, are invited to attend. For more details, call Marietta Taylor, Society of Friends representative to NIOT, at 683-0571. **Pat Ramirez**, NIOT contact for UUCP.

Board of Trustees

In the last two issues of Skylights, the Board of Trustees listed its goals for this year. One of these goals was to "complete and publish the ends statements this fall." We're happy to report that we have completed our ends statements, and we are publishing them for the very first time in this column!

Just what are ends statements and why is the completion of them so important to us? According to The Policy Governance Fieldbook edited by Caroline Oliver, ends statements "define what results an organization holds itself accountable for producing in the world, for which people, at what cost." They are specific statements about the impact that the organization intends to have.

The idea here (the main one behind policy governance) is that the board creates ends statements which tell the executive team what we want our congregation to accomplish. Just how the executive team – in our case, Chris and Forrest – chooses to meet these ends is up to the team, not to us as board members or you as congregants. The ends statements which we present to them must be both direct (no ambiguity) and measurable (so that the executive team can be held accountable for its progress in meeting these ends).

Some of you may remember the fortune cookies which we passed out during coffee hour last year. The sayings in those cookies – there were five different ones – were our first attempt at ends statements for the congregation. Over the last year we have reexamined those statements (repeatedly!) to determine if they met the requirements for ends statements. The fifth one we got rid of completely, and the fourth one got folded into the third. We then took the remaining three statements and took them down to the next more specific level or levels. At our last

(Board Continued on page 9)

GREEN CORNER:

Ten Years from Now—Our Church

The year is 2017 and we have been a Green Sanctuary since 2009. Newcomers to the church are powerfully impressed by our commitment to the earth:

Worship services are infused with environmental awareness

- All of the Religious Education programs are permeated with earth-mindfulness
- Decorations within the sanctuary, made of natural materials, honor the planet, its ecosystems, and its diverse human communities
- Solar panels on the church roof and natural light throughout the building bespeak our commitment to energy conservation
- The church and all of its members use compact fluorescent or LED lighting everywhere we can and dispose of spent bulbs responsibly
- Cleaning and art projects are all done with nontoxic products
- We use recycled paper, both sides, and then recycle it again. We recycle everything we can, and if something can't be recycled or reused, we don't buy it.
- Congregation members frequently gather into groups to re-use and recycle materials—groups such as mending bees, swap programs, and clean-up parties
- The larger community recognizes the church as a leader in environmental matters and knows we can be counted on as an ally in its work promoting environmental and economic justice

Our brunches and dinners, served on permanent, re-usable dishware, always offer dishes that are mostly or purely vegetarian, often locally grown, and organic

The church's endowment is all invested in environmentally and socially conscious funds

In all these ways and more, we respond to the call to reverse the cycle of destruction that our kind have brought upon the earth, we awaken to the spirit of the divine, and we connect deeply with the mysteries of life. (Paraphrased from the *UU Green Sanctuary Manual*.)

Join us on the month's **FIRST MONDAYS** at 7:30 pm in Room 15. Contact Ellie Whitney, ewhitney@comcast.net

(Board Continued from page 8)

board meeting on October 9, we voted to adopt the listing that you see here.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton
Ends Statements—Adopted October 9, 2007

Members and friends of the UUCP strive to create the beloved community, building a sense of wholeness in ourselves, our congregation, and our world.

I. We create a joyous, loving and dynamic community – accessible to all – that provides acceptance, support, and a sense of belonging.

A. We freely and willingly share the responsibility and effort required to build and maintain community.

B. We intentionally welcome people of all ages, races, backgrounds, beliefs, gender preferences, and physical and mental capabilities.

II. We provide a nurturing environment that invites people into diverse opportunities for transformational spiritual growth.

A. We create religious experiences which are varied in format and content, which draw upon both philosophical and religious thought, and which appeal to both the mind and the heart.

B. We offer to congregants of all ages, interests and abilities regular and varied opportunities to learn about and explore religious and spiritual issues.

III. We create a more compassionate, sustainable and just world.

A. We deepen our sense of respect for and connection

with all living things by living in better balance with the natural world.

B. We offer a variety of means, both financial and experiential, through which congregants can apply and promote the values inherent in these Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism:

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person.
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations.
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all.
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

~Elizabeth Silverman

(Social Justice Continued from page 10)

ministry. The breakout groups at the conference will include 1) the _process for _ issues determination; 2) congregational involvement; 3) communications and education; and 4) organizational structure.

If you are interested in participating in the upcoming January 2008 conference, please put the date on your calendar and speak with your social justice committee chairperson. We are looking forward to having everyone join us in January to enter the next stage of this endeavor. ~Edie Grauer, Social Justice Coordinator

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

As we approach the end of the 2007 calendar year, some congregants may be finding that they must take a distribution on their 401K or IRA before the end of December. If you are fortunate enough to be in that situation (youth-challenged and the owner of a qualified retirement account of some stripe), consider the following proposition recently brought to our attention by a long-time member and former President of the Congregation.

If you transfer a security from your IRA (or 401K) directly to UUCP to satisfy part or all of your pledge, the amount of that transfer reduces your taxable income dollar for dollar. This is far more advantageous to the donor than the more commonly used methods of making a charitable donation. Contrast this to writing a check or a credit card payment where your generous contribution is an itemized deduction (which is obviously NOT a dollar for dollar reduction in taxable income.) If you are currently making withdrawals from a retirement account and would like to pursue this option, please contact Sara Oderwald in the congregational office at 609-924-1604. ~Jonathan Sachs, Standing Stewardship Co-chair

THE CRISIS MINISTRY

2008 Tax Volunteers (still) needed! The Crisis Ministry seeks volunteers to help its clients with their taxes from January through April 2008. The federal government recognizes the Earned Income Tax Credit as a way to alleviate poverty. The City of Trenton and Mercer Alliance to End Homelessness will partner with all social service agencies to help make a difference in the lives of low-income families. If you are willing to volunteer your time during the tax season, please contact Marcia MacKillop at 396-9355, x12. Training will be provided for tax preparers in November and December of 2007!

Harvesting Hope at CM: Do you have what it takes to be a good tutor or mentor? Harvesting Hope welfare-to-work training program has opportunities this fall. Please contact marciam@thecrisisministry.org

Save The Date: "Footprints" Walk is scheduled for Saturday, April 19, 2008. If you want to be a part of this planning committee, please contact Marcia MacKillop. This is a valuable spring event that addresses hunger and homelessness in your community. People of all ages can get involved and feel good about helping their neighbors.

Social Justice

UULMNJ Meeting on Legislative Ministry is a Success

On Saturday, October 6, 2007 members representing several UU congregations around New Jersey – both near and far -- gathered in Princeton to plan for a January 2008 legislative ministry conference. The gathering turned out to be very exciting and productive. Representatives from UU congregations in East Brunswick, Montclair, Newton, Cherry Hill, Orange, Washington Crossing, Summit, and Princeton shared their dreams and expectations for the UU Legislative Ministry, and determined goals, outcomes and a structure for the January 2008 conference.

The Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of New Jersey (UULMNJ) was spearheaded by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton (UUCP), and envisioned to be a statewide coalition and legislative voice on issues of concern to UU'ers. UUCP established the legislative ministry amongst its three major social justice initiatives focusing on economic justice. The October 6th meeting also accomplished the goal of moving UULMNJ from being a Princeton project to a statewide UU collaboration.

The January 12, 2008 legislative ministry conference will serve as a forum focused on establishing UULMNJ. The keynote speakers for the conference will be Rev. Dr. William Murray, Board member with Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland (UULMMD); and Betty McGarvie Crowley, UULMMD Board President, who will share Maryland's experience and accomplishments in establishing UU Maryland's legislative

(Social Justice Continued on page 9)

The Thanksgiving Ingathering

(Hint: Clip this list and take it along to the market when you shop.)

On November 18 we will be collecting bags of food for The Crisis Ministry food drive.

The following items are acceptable:

- 3 canned meats (chili, corned beef, tuna, spaghetti & meatballs, etc.)
- 1 canned spaghetti sauce/canned tomatoes
- 1 small or medium peanut butter
- 3 cans of vegetables
- 3 cans of fruit
- 1 cans of legumes - kidney beans, black beans, etc.
- 3 cans of soup
- 1 hot cereal (oatmeal, grits, cream of wheat) or small box cold cereal
- 1-2 lbs. pasta
- 1 small jelly, jam or honey (plastic container)
- 1 box macaroni and cheese
- 1 lb. dried beans
- 2 lbs. rice
- 1 pkg. dried soup (oodles of noodles etc.)
- 1 dessert box or treat (jello, pudding, cookies, etc.)

NOTE: ALL CANS SHOULD BE #303 SIZE OR 12-16 OZ.






NO GLASS CONTAINERS PLEASE!

~Lauren O'Neil



NOVEMBER 2007

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
			<p>8:00a-10:00a Yoga Class—Channing 6:00p-7:00p Stillness Circle—Fahs 7:30p-9:00p Choir Practice—Channing</p>	<p>NOV 1 10:00a-Noon Women’s Alliance Board Meeting—Founders 6:45p-9:15p Covenant Circle (1st Thurs PM) - Murray Room 7:00p-8:30p Bell Choir Rehearsal—Channing</p>	<p>NOV 2 10:30a—Film Series: <i>Annie Hall</i> —Fahs Theatre 6:45p -9:15p Covenant Circle —(1st Friday PM) Murray Room 7:30p—Film Series: <i>Annie Hall</i>—Fahs Theatre</p>	<p>NOV 3 4:00p-8:30p Parents-As-People, Pre-K Pajama Party—Rooms 9 & 10, Founders</p>
<p>NOV 4—TWO Services 9:15 & 11:15 a.m. END DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME 9:00a-2:00p Brunch—Founders 10:35a Kids’ Chorale Rehearsal—Channing 11:15a-12:30p A Course in Miracles—Rm 8 12:30p-2:00p UU Buddha Group (1st Sunday)—Fahs 4:30p-8:30p Elementary OWL Teacher Meetings—Murray Room</p>	<p>NOV 5 6:00p-8:00p Yoga Class—Channing 7:30p-9:30p Green Sanctuary—Room 15 7:00p-9:00p Creative Journaling—Founders Rev. Chris Reeds begins 6 month sabbatical</p>	<p>NOV 6 ELECTION DAY—VOTE!!! 5:30p-7:00p Legislative Ministry Steering Committee (2nd Tuesday) Minister’s Office 6:30p-9:00p Covenant Circle (2nd Tuesday)—Murray</p> 	<p>NOV 7 8:00a-10:00a Yoga Class—Channing 6:00p-7:00p Stillness Circle—Fahs 6:45p-9:15p Covenant Circle(1st Wednesday PM)—Murray 7:00p-9:00p Loss & Grieving Group (1st Wed) —Room 15 7:00p-9:00p UU History Through Books—Founders 7:30p-9:00p Choir Practice—Fahs Theatre Tonight</p>	<p>NOV 8 9:45a-12:15p Covenant Circle (2nd Thurs AM) - Murray Room 6:30p-9:30p Spiritual Practice Workshop—Room 15 7:15p Newcomer Circle (2nd Thurs) Murray Room</p>	<p>NOV 9 New Moon ● 7:15p-9:00p Newcomers Circle 2 —(2nd Friday) Murray Room</p>	<p>NOV 10 8:30a-10:30a Pastoral Associates—Murray</p>
<p>NOV 11—ONE Service 9:15 a.m. 9:00a-2:00p Brunch—Founders 10:35a Kids’ Chorale Rehearsal—Channing 11:00a Youth Group—Room 15 11:15a-12:30p A Course in Miracles—Rm 8 12:30p-2:00p Young Adults—Room 1 1:00p-3:00p Great Books—Room 8 4:30p-5:30p A CONVERSATION WITH UUA PRESIDENT BILL SINKFORD—All Congregation—Entire Upstairs</p>	<p>NOV 12 Veterans Day Holiday OFFICE IS CLOSED 6:00p-8:00p Yoga Class—Channing 6:45p-9:15p Covenant Circle (2nd Monday PM) - Murray Room</p> 	<p>NOV 13 11:30a-2:00p Men’s Club—Founders 5:30p-7:00p Legislative Ministry Steering Committee (2nd Tuesday) Minister’s Office</p>	<p>NOV 14 8:00a-10:00a Yoga Class—Channing 6:00p-7:00p Stillness Circle—Fahs 7:30p-9:00p Choir Practice—Channing</p>	<p>NOV 15 Noon-3:00p Women’s Alliance General Meeting—Founders 7:00p-8:30p Bell Choir Rehearsal—Channing</p>	<p>NOV 16</p>	<p>NOV 17 5:30p-8:30p FELLOW-SHIP AUCTION—Channing, Robinson</p> 
<p>NOV 18—TWO Services 9:15 & 11:15 a.m. 9:00a BRUNCH —Founders 10:35a Kids’ Chorale Rehearsal—Channing 11:00a Youth Group—Room 15 11:15a-12:30p A Course in Miracles—Rm 8 12:30p-2:00p UU Buddha Group (3rd Sunday)—Fahs 7:00p-9:00p Youth Group (3rd Sunday)—Fahs Theatre</p>	<p>NOV 19 5:00p <i>Skylights</i> NOV 2007 issue DEADLINE Send to: skylights@uuprinceton.org 6:00p-8:00p Yoga Class—Channing</p>	<p>NOV 20 7:00p-9:00p Committee on Ministry—Murray</p>	<p>NOV 21 8:00a-10:00a Yoga Class—Channing 1:00p-2:30p Office Staff Meeting—Murray 6:00p-7:00p Stillness Circle—Fahs 7:00p-9:00p Loss & Grieving Group (3rd Wed) —Room 15 7:00p-9:00p UU History Through Books—Founders 7:30p-9:00p Choir Practice—Fahs</p>	<p>NOV 22 THANKSGIVING OFFICE IS CLOSED</p> 	<p>NOV 23 FRIDAY AFTER THANKSGIVING OFFICE IS CLOSED Full Moon ○ 7:00p-9:30p CUUPS Full Moon Circle—Room 11 & Memorial Wall</p>	<p>NOV 24</p>
<p>NOV 25—TWO Services 9:15 & 11:15 a.m. 9:00a BRUNCH —Founders 10:35a Kids’ Chorale Rehearsal—Channing 11:15a-12:30p A Course in Miracles—Rm 8</p>	<p>NOV 26 6:00p-8:00p Yoga Class—Channing</p>	<p>NOV 27 7:00p Dinner Discussion—Robinson Lounge</p>	<p>NOV 28 8:00a-10:00a Yoga Class—Channing 6:00p-7:00p Stillness Circle—Fahs 7:30p-9:00p Choir Practice—Fahs 7:30p-9:30p Membership Committee meeting [4th Wed] - Murray</p>	<p>NOV 29 10:00a-Noon Women’s Alliance Board Meeting—Founders 6:30p-9:30p Spiritual Practice Workshop—Room 15 7:00p-8:30p Bell Choir Rehearsal—Fahs</p>	<p>NOV 30 7:15p-9:00p Newcomers Circle 2 —(4th Friday) - Murray Room</p>	<p>Dec 1</p>

Ministers' Schedules



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

Rev. Chris Reed
On sabbatical from
Nov 6, 2007 to
May 6, 2008

Rev. Forrest Gilmore
Noon – 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 Jeanne Carsten, President of the Board of Trustees.

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Submissions to be sent to **skylights@uuprinceton.org** Please submit your article as an attachment in our preferred font, Times New Roman, 11 pt. Describe your submission in the subject line of your e-mail.

Next Skylights
deadline:
NOV 19
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Skylights

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