

Skylights *newsletter*

Two-Service
Sundays begin
September 14

Upcoming Sunday Worship Services

September 7, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.

Blessing the Waters—An Intergenerational Service

As many of us return from summer travels, we renew our purpose for being together with our traditional gathering of the waters ritual. Bring water to share (from home or travel), which has personal meaning to you. This is a service for all ages.

Worship Leaders: **Revs. Chris Reed & Forrest Gilmore** Worship Associate: **Michael Piscetelli**

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

September 14, 2008 at 9:15 and 11:15 a.m.

To Do Justice (1 of 3)

Join us for the first of a three-sermon series exploring the power of liberal religion and the importance of our mission as a congregation. Our purpose, in short, is to help people seek the sacred and serve the world in a community of love. We'll use the famous phrase from the Book of Micah in the Hebrew Scriptures ("What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness and walk humbly with your God") to highlight each of our three core reasons for being. In addition to our sermon, each Sunday, we'll invite members of our congregation to share some of their experiences. This Sunday, we take up the theme of justice and our many congregational projects that better our world.

Worship Leader: **Rev. Forrest Gilmore** Worship Associate: **Jeffrey Bock**

Music: **Annette Sheldon, flute, Beth Ertz, Marjorie Herman**

September 21, 2008 at 9:15 and 11:15 a.m.

To Love Kindness (2 of 3)

Join us for the second of a three-sermon series exploring the power of liberal religion and the importance of our mission as a congregation. This week, we explore cultivating a loving community and will emphasize our work to create a relational covenant for the congregation.

Worship Leaders: **Revs. Forrest Gilmore & Chris Reed** Worship Associate: **Sharon Copeland**

Music: **Adult Choir, Vocal Quartet (9:15), Beth Ertz, Marjorie Herman**

September 28, 2008 at 9:15 and 11:15 a.m.

To Walk Humbly With Your God (3 of 3)

Join us for the last of a three-sermon series exploring the power of liberal religion and the importance of our mission as a congregation. We focus this final week on the spiritual path and the many ways we can grow in connection with the holy known by many names.

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

Music: **Beth Ertz, Marjorie Herman**

Reflection

By Reverend Chris Reed

For those of you who were gone during the weeks of midsummer, you were with us in spirit as we all responded to the violence of July 27 at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church in Knoxville. Many of us were hurt or angry or confused by this violence, an act against loving people, and possibly children, an act against the liberal church, when our own values call for the reverence of life and the honoring of other religious paths.

Thank you to Rev. Dr. Nicole Kirk and Raj Nigam, who helped us change our service on August 3 to include a candle lighting ceremony to honor the victims of the shootings, and as an act of solidarity with the two Knoxville congregations as they mourned the lives of dear members and started on a path of healing. We joined many other congregations that morning, in lighting candles, saying prayers and holding in our hearts those who died, those who were hurt and their families and fellow congregants.

And finally we recommitted ourselves to come down on the side of love, looking for sources of hope and love in the aftermath of senseless violence. We sent your donations on to the Knoxville Relief fund, and many of us wrote notes of sympathy and support to the two congregations.

In the same way that the death of a loved one is somehow strangely an opportunity to affirm the gift of life, so this senseless violence has been an opportunity, in Rev. Bill Sinkford's words, "to stand up and stand on the side of that larger love. You can't allow your fear or your confusion or your sor-

row or your anger...to keep you separated from what is central to your living, however you express it religiously".

It was among other things, an opportunity to stand on the side of love and recommit to our principles of welcoming diversity and honoring the worth, the sacred life of each person.

Coming back from our different experiences of summer, healing, restful, or challenging, many of us have started looking forward to the fall.

One of the initiatives that came out of last year's Shared Ministry Summit is the relational covenant. This is not a new idea for us. Aside from our being a covenantal religious tradition, such a covenant, one that speaks to how we treat each other, has several precedents in our congregation.

For at least the last 25 years, our children's Sunday morning classes start the year with the creation of a behavioral covenant, also called guidelines. The RE teachers lead them in this creation and during the course of the year make reference to it as needed to maintain a safe place, that invites spiritual growth.

The youth group has their own unique way of creating a covenant. During our start-up retreat, they write their expectations that will allow them to be together in a way that invites mutual respect, authenticity, and appreciation of each other. Then we all sign the covenant and it stays up on the wall for the year.

The most recent example of a relational covenant is the one that some 200 of us have experienced in the covenant circles during the last five years. Participants covenanted with each other to be present and listen to each other in a way that truly hears and honors the stories and feelings and viewpoints that are shared. At the end of each year we asked participants to evaluate their experience. Aside from comments that speak to their personal growth, such as "it is the place where I feel most connected with others", several mentioned that they think that it is

mostly the covenant circle that has changed the culture of the congregation from one that usually honored debate and argument, as witnessed in many board and committee meetings of the past, to a congregation that honors difference, welcomes diversity and responds to the sacred in each person. While these comments came from participants, they speak to the truth of my own experience here for the last 26 years.

Aside from our classroom covenants and the addition of two new covenant circles this fall, as a congregation we are taking the next step and creating a relational covenant for all of us. It will be the focus of a worship service on September 21 and the workshop on October 4.

Somehow I know these are connected. I somehow bring my sorrow over what happened in Knoxville to the work of creating our covenant of how we will be with each other.

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.

Reflection

By Reverend Forrest Gilmore



I want to welcome you all back from any summer sojourns you took this summer. My family and I traveled to my wife, Jill's home in Bloomington, Indiana for a week, and then, while the kids spent time with their father, we took advantage of some relaxing time at home. We enjoyed the beauty of the summer, ate good food, read books, went to movies, did some gardening, and basically had the perfect vacation.

While the time away from work was important and restorative, I was deeply saddened to hear about the tragic shootings in our Unitarian congregation in Knoxville, TN. I very much wanted to be here with you through that time and am glad that Revs. Chris Reed and Nicole Kirk were here to offer a powerful service following that sad event. These shootings only remind us how important it is that we come together to carry the flame of liberal religion.

As we enter the new congregational year, I want to bring to your attention some upcoming events and two major initiatives this year.

On September 7, join us for our Sunday service for all ages at 10 am. Please bring some water from a place that has been special to you. We'll return to our two service schedule (9:15 & 11:15) on September 14. We will be experimenting with our music program somewhat this year, with a quartet singing at the 9:15 service and a full choir at 11:15. We also are considering a style change in services, emphasizing a more contemplative tone at 9:15 and a more celebratory one at 11:15.

Our Shared Ministry Summit is rescheduled for Saturday, Septem-

ber 13. This is our annual opportunity to come together with as much of our congregation as possible to explore how we shall build this faith in the coming year. Using an "open space" process, all who feel called to serve the mission of our congregation will respond to the question – "What is our mission together asking of us next?" This is the second year we will use this process. Last year, it was extremely powerful as it excited and inspired us! Don't miss out. All are welcome. Check out the article inside for more information.

Make sure to get our Harvest Dinner on your schedule, September 20 at 5:30 pm. More information on Page 4.

On September 21 in Sunday services, we'll be discussing a new initiative to create a congregational relational covenant. A relational covenant is a collection of community promises, emphasizing how we want to be with one another. Check out additional details beginning on Page 14.

And last but definitely not least, the facilities planning committee will be releasing a survey this month to solicit your feedback on the quality of our building and grounds. Your feedback will be very helpful as we meet with an architectural firm to develop a long-range master plan for the future of the building. We definitely need your feedback, so please respond to the survey.

Come to the Harvest Dinner Our Most Popular Intergenerational Dinner!

CONVIVIALITY ALL EVENING



POTLUCK

Saturday September 20

Appetizers and Beverages at 5:30

Dinner at 6:00

Let us know you are coming by signing up in Robinson Lounge, or e-mailing events@uuprinceton.org

Let us know number of adult attendees number and ages of children attending and be sure to indicate your food offering appetizer, vegetable/salad or carnivorous.

Shared Ministry Summit

Saturday, September 13, 2008

9:00am — 4:00pm
at UUCP



Ministry is all we do together to accomplish our mission.

For all who feel an interest or passion to serve the mission of our congregation, *join us for our 2nd annual shared ministry summit*. As a congregation, we emphasize that we share the ministry, doing the work of our faith together. The quality of our congregation is only as strong as this partnership. This is our annual opportunity to come together with as many of us as possible to focus on making the upcoming year a successful one.

All are welcome (current leaders, future leaders, newcomers, oldtimers). The only requirement – you care about the future of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton.

The question we all will respond to is “What is our mission together asking of us next?” We will use an open space format, which invites the participation of all present. We did a similar process last year to high acclaim!! It empowers and excites those who participate.

Coffee, lunch and childcare are available. Please sign up for the summit by Thursday, September 11, by sending an e-mail to events@uuprinceton.org or on Sunday mornings at the program table. Please let us know by Sunday, Sept 7, if you need childcare. Contact Revs. Forrest Gilmore or Chris Reed with questions.

Religious Education for Children and Youth

RE Teachers and Liaisons "Start-Up" Meeting September 6

Thank you to all of you parents who have volunteered to teach RE this year or be a liaison in your child's class. Teachers and Liaisons will meet on **Saturday, September 6**, from 9:00 to 1:00 in Channing Hall (new teachers and liaisons come at 9:00, those who have done it before join us at 10:00). Attendance at this meeting is vitally important to the quality of our ministry to children and youth, and a required part of teaching RE or being a liaison. We look forward to seeing you there!

8th Grade OWL Parent Orientation September 7

Eight-grade parents and teachers (no kids) will meet on **Sunday, September 7**, 5:00-7:30 p.m. in the John Murray Room for an orientation to the Jr. High OWL program.

Intergenerational Water Ritual Service September 7

In **one** intergenerational service at 10:00 in Channing Hall, we will celebrate the end of the summer and the beginning of the new church year with a water communion. Remember to bring a small amount of water (or "virtual" water) from your summer travels to share and blend with that of others.

RE Classes Start September 14— Please Register!

If you have not yet registered your child for RE, do so ASAP to try to ensure a place in your desired class. Remember that we are a cooperative program and that your child is not officially registered until you have made a commitment to participate as a volunteer. On September 14 and 21 in Robinson Lounge there will be an RE registration table, staffed by RE Council members, who will be happy to answer questions and help you fill out a registration form. You can also register online, at www.uuprinceton.org.

Children's Worship & Religious Education Schedule

Sunday, September 7
Interdependent Web
Intergenerational Service:
Water Communion

10:00 Channing Hall
 No RE Classes

Sunday, September 14
Welcome!

9:15 & 11:15 Fahs Theatre
 First day of RE Classes

Sunday, September 21
No Children's Worship today: all children and teachers will go to the adult service on Relational Covenant in Channing Hall for the first 15 minutes and then go to classes.

Sunday, September 28
Being a UU Kid

9:15 & 11:15 Fahs Theatre

If you have any questions, call Shelle Sumners (609/924-1604, ext. 14) sumners@uuprinceton.org

New RE Parent Orientation Sunday, October 5

Parents who are new to our RE program are asked to participate in this orientation, where they will become acquainted with the goals and methods of our learning program. The meeting will be between services from 10:30 to 11:10 in the John Murray Room.

YOUTH EVENTS

This year UUCP Youth Ministry consists of multiple components to share our love for and with youth. Our vision is to build leadership, foster identity with UU values through worship, build community and create opportunities for social action.

Every month we will host opportunities for youth on Sunday mornings, and evenings... please consider partnering with us on our wonderful journey!

SEPTEMBER YOUTH MINISTRY EVENTS

Every Sunday	Morning Youth Group	11:00a
Every Sunday	Coming of Age (9th Grade)	11:15a
1st & 3rd Sun	Evening Youth Group Social	7-9p
9/6—9/7	YG Kick-Off Retreat	2:00p-9:00a
9/20-21	Jr. Youth Conference	Harriman Park, NY
9/26-9/28 Tentative Date	Coming of Age Retreat	Princeton Blairstown Center
9/27	Youth Covenant Con www.metrovac.org	Community Church, NYC

Contact **Pia** for more info:
YPC@uuprinceton.org or
 609.924.1604 x18

Religious Education for Children and Youth continued

Welcome Back!

By Tom Prusa

The RE Council would like to extend the warmest of welcomes to all of UUCP families. Let me begin by saying that we are all excited about the new year. Our hope is to build on the successes of the past years and improve in the areas that need change. An important way we can learn about what works and what doesn't is your feedback. If you have any ideas for an activity, event, or discussion, we'd love to hear from you. If you see areas of weakness, let us know. We all want to make UUCP a better place. My email is tprusa@gmail.com – let me hear from you!

As we did last year we are looking for ways to bring you family-focused opportunities to participate in social justice and social action events. We will continue to bring you our Sunday Fahs Children's Worship time portal, focusing on significant UUs and those who expose UU ideas. It is always exciting to see who will emerge from the portal – Ben Franklin? John Adams? Olympia Brown? Sylvia Plath? Alexander Graham Bell? Charles Darwin? The possibilities are nearly endless.

Also this year we are making a conscious effort to better connect with parents and classrooms. Chris Reed along with members of the RE Council will be having "parent coffees" in each and every classroom in the Fall. Our plan is to follow up again in the Spring to hear how things are going.

For those of you new to our congregation please don't hesitate to ask questions and share your thoughts. I encourage you to get involved as best you can. Your experience here at UUCP is definitely related to your involvement. It is not an accident that the RE program is designed as a cooperative program. There are many different events and activities – I am confident there is something that will capture you and your family's interests.

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UUCP RE COUNCIL MEMBERS 2008-09

RE Council Chair oversees RE council committees; helps hold vision for council	Tom Prusa 908-319-0025 tprusa@gmail.com
RE Coordinator liaison to the Program Council, helps hold vision for Council	Nancy Gardner 609-466-2780 wellnansee@yahoo.com
Early Start Coordinator coordinates Nursery, Butterflies and Pre-K worship	Paul Barkofsky 609-924-2475 paul.barkofsky@gmail.com
Social Events Committee Chair plans and coordinates RE family so- cial events throughout the year	Cathy Bauer-Koggan 609-799-4336 cbkoggan@comcast.net
Teacher Representative represents RE teachers on council	Andrew Galbraith Ryer drew@mjm.com
Summer Programs Coordinator with RE Administrator, coordinates Summer Chalice and Summer camp and additional summer activities	Bridgette Heller 609-924-3942 bheller@cpcus.inj.com
RE Youth Representative	Kate Henry 609-716-9557 kmhcool1@comcast.net
Curriculum Committee Chair Identifies curriculum for the coming year, identifies and reviews adjuncts to curriculum	Tedi Lange tedilang@aol.com
Children's Worship Committee Chair Sets theme for Fahs Worship, coordi- nates weekly Fahs programming	Stephanie Cohen 609-323-7552 stephaniehanzel@hotmail.com
RE Program Committee Chair plans and coordinates RED Room discussions and other RE programs throughout the year	
Social Action Chair coordinates social action projects for RE classes and General RE Social Action projects	Louise Senior 609-688-8847 Louise.Senior@verizon.net
UUCP Staff - Council Members (non-voting)	
Minister of Religious Education (MRE) Oversees all Adult and Children's RE programming	Chris Reed 609-924-1604, ext. 12 reed@uuprinceton.org
Youth Program Coordinator Oversees youth advisors for 8 th -12 th grade, coordinates religious education experience for youth	Pia O'Loughlin 609-924-1604, ext. 18 ypc@uuprinceton.org
RE Administrative Coordinator Oversees day to day management of all facets of Children's religious edu- cation	Shelle Sumners 609-924-1604 ext. 14 sumners@uuprinceton.org

Adult Programs

The programs planned and presented by the Adult Program Committee seek to further the mission of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton by building community; nurturing spiritual growth; and being an active force for building a more compassionate, sustainable, and just world.

NEWCOMER CIRCLES

A new "Newcomers Circle" will be starting on Wednesday, **September 17**. This seven session program is an opportunity for newcomers to explore the central traditions and understandings of our faith. It is also a great opportunity to get to know 12 other people in a small group setting.

This circle will meet on the first and third Wednesday nights of the month and be led by **Kathy Lehmann** and **Rev. Chris Reed**.

Please sign up by contacting **Rick Baker**, rick.baker1@att.net, or in the lounge on Sunday mornings.

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.

Newcomer Circles meet for three months, twice a month for a total of seven meetings.

If you would like to join a future Newcomer Circle, please sign up at the Welcome Circle in Robinson Hall on Sundays or contact **Rick Baker**, rick.baker1@att.net, or **Rev. Chris Reed** at reed@uuprinceton.org or 924-1604, ext 12.

As we go forward to create new circles, please let us know which days or times work for you by filling out one of the grids at the Welcome Circle in Robinson Lounge or by contacting Rick or Chris. 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 ceremony is for those who have previously 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 Rev. Forrest Gilmore or Rev. Chris Reed at 609-924-1604 to arrange a time.

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY— "Get Plugged In" Join a Covenant Circle



Covenant Circles create community, encourage spiritual growth, and invite authentic connection with one another.

• There is time for discussion, questions, and socializing for the last 20 to 30 minutes of each Circle. (The previous format did not give enough opportunity for this.)

- Each Circle is encouraged to get together socially a few times and/or work together on a social justice or service project.
- We start with a fewer number of groups and grow new groups as needed during the year.
- Circles meet from year to year.

Please sign up at the Adult Program table in Robinson Lounge or contact **Shelle Sumners** at sumners@uuprinceton.org, 609-924-1604, ext. 14 or **Chris Reed** at reed@uuprinceton.org, 609-924-1604, ext. 12 if you are interested in joining a Covenant Circle.

NEW PROGRAMS

Speaking Spanish

Starting in September, we are offering a weekly group that focuses on speaking and learning Spanish. Some people will never have spoken Spanish; some learned it in college a long time ago; some took quick courses for travel or are learning it at Mercer County. All are

(Adult Programs continued on page 8)

DO YOU HAVE A PROGRAM IDEA?

Is there a program or group that you would like to see at UUCP? Let us know and we'll try to make it happen.

Do you have an idea for a program or group you would like to facilitate? 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
- any costs for materials associated with the course (no fees may be charged for presenting an adult program)

All proposals will be reviewed by the Adult Program Committee and the ministers. Final scheduling and publicizing of the course will be the responsibility of the Adult Program Committee and the facilitators). Please submit any proposals to Adult Program Committee co-chairs **Linda Benson** (lbenson5@verizon.net) and **Alice Harper** (aharper67@comcast.net).

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invited to be part of this group.

We offer this program as a religious community that “strives to create a beloved community, building a sense of wholeness in our world.” As Rev. William Sinkford suggested at a recent multicultural diversity conclave, the courses that we offer, the pictures and statements that we have up on the walls, the elements of worship and how we greet people, all of these need to reflect in different ways the many people coming into our congregations with different backgrounds. This Speaking Spanish group affirms and respects the great number of Spanish-speaking individuals in our country who come from a rich variety of cultures. Our hope is that each person in the group, individually and perhaps with the group, will have opportunities to reach out across the bridge of a language barrier to offer connection and friendship to local Spanish-speaking people and communities.

If you are interested in this group, please send e-mail to events@uuprinceton.org or sign up at the Adult Program Table in Robinson Lounge on Sundays.

Cakes for the Queen of Heaven – Back by Popular Demand

This nine-session program for women explores the feminine divine in ancient paganism, Judaism, Christianity, and new earth-based aspects of contemporary religion. We traditionally offered this every fall and many women’s spirituality groups were born from the program. One of the reasons for the program’s importance and success is that it offers women an opportunity to heal from having grown up female within patriarchal religion. This opportunity that we extend toward one another ends up being powerful in many ways, relationally and creatively, as well as spiritually.

Our format contains creative ritual, check-in, and participational exploring of the feminine divine. We share leadership for various rituals or exercises, greatly enriching the program. We use the basic structure of the original Cakes with continual updates to the content with the most recent works of feminist theology and creative ritual, always keeping the best, like the Donna Reed films and the writings of Merlin Stone.

Cakes will start on Thursday, **September 25**, and continue to meet on the second and fourth Thursday nights, 7–8:45 pm in Fahs Theatre.

If you are interested, please send e-mail to events@uuprinceton.org or sign up at the Adult Program Table in Robinson Lounge on Sundays.

Restorative Therapy and Faith-Based Anti-GLBT Bullying at Religious Educational Institutions Uncovered Founder of ♥HeartStrong Comes to Princeton

Marc Adams, Lambda Literary Award finalist and Silver

Pen Award recipient for his autobiography, *The Preacher’s Son*, will be speaking on Saturday, **September 27**, at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$10.00. *The Preacher’s Son* chronicles Marc’s life growing up gay as the son of a fundamentalist Baptist minister in rural Pennsylvania where he endured a childhood of physical, emotional, and spiritual abuse. He went on to attend, by choice, Jerry Falwell’s Liberty University. His book reveals life at Liberty and the struggle to conform. He shares about his years as an ex-gay. It culminates with his coming to terms with being gay, his coming out to his fundamentalist Baptist Christian family and his journey to become a Unitarian.

Marc will share some of his life’s story and HeartStrong, the nonprofit organization he co-founded. It is a nonprofit educational organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender students of religious schools, colleges, and universities. HeartStrong has provided hope and help to GLBT students who have endured faith-based anti-GLBT bullying in religious schools around the world since 1996.

Discovering a Sense of Place (Sponsored by the Green Sanctuary Committee)

Our church sits on four acres of land in Princeton Township, but what else do you know about our place? We are part of a bioregion, with particular land forms, fauna and flora, weather patterns, watershed, and history of use.

The Green Sanctuary Committee is offering “Discovering a Sense of Place,” an eight-week, self-led program developed by the Garden State Earth Institute. The goal is to stimulate discussion wherein everyone’s opinion is heard and respected and to encourage personal choice of actions.

The only cost is \$25.00 for the textbook.

Discussion Group format: A class of 8 to 15 participants will meet on eight Mondays, starting **October 6**, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Topics covered in the eight sessions include: A Sense of Place, Knowing Your Bioregion, Mapping Your Place, Empowerment, Responsibility to Place, Living in Place, and Community

Course book contains background material, articles from contemporary literature, stimulating questions for discussion, a guide to facilitation, references, and resources.

Process: Participants read the articles before each session. A Garden State Earth Institute volunteer facilitates the first session only. Facilitation then rotates among the participants making for an egalitarian group.

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(Adult Programs continued from page 8)

For more information, contact **Pat Ramirez**, (609) 497-2912, patramirez31@hotmail.com. Sign up through events@uuprinceton.org or at the Adult Program Table in Robinson Lounge on Sundays.

Aging and Saging

2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month
10:30-Noon in the John Murray Room
Starting Wed. **September 24**
Led by Rev. Chris Reed and participants

A new program for all over 60 years old. Or anyone who feels over 60. We'll be using the UUA program "From Aging to Saging" as a resource along with several other resources, including participants' interests in various topics. This will be primarily a sharing of experiences, stories, feelings and information.

We no longer have a daytime covenant circle and rather, we offer this affinity circle for those who would like to meet during the day to create a community of loving, supporting, learning individuals who find it exciting to explore the terrain of getting older with each other.

"Sage" is apparently only a noun and an adjective, but for you purists out there, please consider that it resonates with both "age" and, as someone over 60 just said, also with "sag", both respected verbs.

Sign up by sending e-mail to events@uuprinceton.org or on Sundays in Robinson Lounge at the Adult Program table.

IN THE PLANNING STAGES

Green Film Series

The Green Sanctuary Committee is planning a film series on Earth matters. Among the films to be shown are *The 11th Hour*, *Affluenza*, *The End of Suburbia*, *The Bone Yard*, and, of course, *An Inconvenient Truth*, 2nd edition. Suggestions for additional films are welcome. Contact: **Ellie Whitney**, 426-6166 or ewhitney@comcast.net

Nonviolent Communication Practice Group

Several participants in the "You Just Don't Listen" workshop presented at UUCP by Eliane Geren on May 24 are interested in continuing their learning by creating a practice group to meet twice a month starting in the fall. Those who are interested are encouraged to include in their summer reading *Nonviolent Communication: A Language of Life* by Marshall B. Rosenberg and Arun Gandhi and to begin looking through the companion workbook *Nonviolent Communication Companion Workbook: A Practical*

SAVE THE DATES: OCTOBER 24 AND 25

JESUS SEMINAR ON THE ROAD

Join us for a Friday night and Saturday program exploring "Jesus in the First and Twenty-first Centuries," presented by the Westar Institute.

Friday Night Lecture

From Nazareth to Nicea (7:30–9 p.m.)

Who is the founder of Christianity: Jesus, Paul, or the Roman Emperor Constantine? How did Jesus—a Galilean peasant, teller of parables, exorcist, and healer—become the royal son of God celebrated in the creed of Nicea?

Saturday Workshops

Jesus in the First Century (9:30 to noon)

What do we know about the historical Jesus? Includes an introduction to the methods of modern scholarship used to distinguish the words of the historical Jesus from those later attributed to him.

Jesus for the Twenty-first Century (1:30–4 p.m.)

Can the historical Jesus revitalize or transform Christian faith? Does this Jesus have any relevance for people who claim no allegiance to Christianity? Includes a discussion about the relation of the historical Jesus to questions about the meaning of human existence and ultimately about the nature of God.

Presenter: Brandon Scott (Ph.D, Vanderbilt University) Brandon is the Darbeth Distinguished Professor of New Testament at the Phillips Theological Seminary, Tulsa, OK. His books include *Hear Then the Parable* (1989), *Re-Imagine the World: An Introduction to the Parables of Jesus* (2000), and *Hollywood Dreams and Biblical Stories* (1994).

Registration for All Sessions: Cost will be \$50 or \$60, depending on registration date and \$40 for an additional family member. Single Sessions: Friday \$15, Saturday workshops: \$25 each.

Sign-ups to begin shortly.

Guide for Individual, Group or Classroom Study by Lucy Leu (both paperbacks/both available new and used from Amazon).

A planning meeting will be organized soon. If you are interested in this program, please email the office at events@uuprinceton.org. There will also be a sign-up sheet at the Adult Program Table in Robinson Lounge on Sundays.

ONGOING PROGRAMS

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

(Continued from page 9)

Friday near the Full Moon, 7:00-9:30 pm, Memorial Garden in fine

Mabon, The Autumnal Equinox

On **September 23, 2008** at 7 pm in Channing Hall, Evergreen CUUPS will offer a public celebration of Mabon, the second of the harvest festivals. All are welcome to participate. Mabon is a day of balance between light and dark. It signifies a time when most crops have been gathered and we are able to rest in thankfulness. It is also the start of the Autumn season, a beautiful time of year whose radical changes remind us to prepare for the coming Winter season --- when much of nature will hide or sleep. Bring drums, bring food or beverage to share (something out of your own garden or orchard would be best; local is good, too), bring your awareness of what you are harvesting this season. And wear contrasting colors: black and white, red and green, blue, and yellow, or any combination of your own choosing. ~ Elissa Hoeger

weather, Classroom 11 otherwise. All are welcome. Contact **Elissa Hoeger** (609) 683-4409, hoeger@princeton.edu. Upcoming Date: September 12

Great Books Reading Circle Meets Sunday, Sept 14 at 1 PM in Room 7

Please come and discuss The Yiddish Policemen's Union by Michael Chabon, a Pulitzer Prize winning

author. This novel has been described as a fantastical tale of "Jewish refugees and their descendants who have prospered in the Federal District of Sitka, a "temporary" safe haven created in the wake of revelations of the Holocaust and the shocking 1948 collapse of the fledgling state of Israel. Proud, grateful, and longing to be American, the Jews of the Sitka District have created their own little world in the Alaskan panhandle, a vibrant, gritty, soulful, and complex frontier city that moves to the music of Yiddish. For sixty years they have



been left alone, neglected and half-forgotten in a backwater of history. Now the District is set to revert to Alaskan control, and their dream is coming to an end: once again the tides of history threaten to sweep them up and carry them off into the unknown. Now when homicide detective Meyer Landsman investigates a killing of a neighbor, he finds himself contending with the powerful forces of faith, obsession, hopefulness, evil, and salvation that are his heritage— At once a gripping whodunit, a love story, an homage to 1940s noir, and an exploration of the mysteries of exile and redemption". (For more info: contact **Karen Siracusa** at kn.siracusa@att.net or 896-

1106)

Creative Journaling

What is it that we do in this group? We share art and writing techniques to access our subconscious and find our inner authentic voices. Making collages (we show you how!) and using writing prompts can greatly expand your journaling practice. Please join us with a blank book and yourself - we will provide all the other materials you need (and that's lots of cool materials) Join our group of supportive, creative people who are exploring and sharing this process together. We usually meet the **third Tuesday of each month** in Founders Room from 7 - 9. If you have more questions, please e-mail **Emily Townsend** at emtheartist@yahoo.com (and do let us know if you are coming so we expect you.)

Gentle Yoga Class

Yoga comes from the Sanskrit word "yuj" meaning "to meditate

deeply" or "to concentrate oneself." Yoga is meditation through motion, practice in calming the mind through a series of poses. It is physically energizing and mentally restorative.

DATES: Saturdays

TIME: 10:00-11:15 a.m.

WHO: Everyone. All levels welcome!

CHILDCARE: Room 9 (Please R.S.V.P.)

WHERE: Channing Hall or Founders Room

HOW: Contact **Autumn**

Fiesta to R.S.V.P. for childcare

fiesta@mail.med.upenn.edu
215-573-2607

UUCP Adult Singles

The UUCP Single Adult Group meets every Sunday after second service, over brunch, in the Founders Room (except when no brunch is served.)

UUCP ADULT SINGLES exists to:

- Create a "chosen family" unit for adult singles within the larger UUCP Community.
- Avoid feeling alone in a crowd or out of place at UUCP services and events
- Seek and find companionship to attend films, dinners, museum trips, hikes, lectures, etc.

Join us at:

<http://groups.google.com/group/uucpsingles> (where you can also check messages, change your settings, or unsubscribe) or join by sending an e-mail to: silverdove@comcast.net, or just join us any Sunday! ~Mirah Riben

A Course in Miracles

A Course in Miracles will continue to meet this fall in Room 8 at 11:15. The group will be comparing the concepts

(Adult Programs continued on page 11)

(Adult Programs continued from page 10)

and study practices of the Course with the ideas and practices that Eckhart Tolle presents in his book "A New Earth." Those of us who have read his book found many similar ideas and practices between his work and the Course. Becoming aware of these relationships will enhance a deeper understanding of both works. Feel free to join us. I think you will enjoy the wide-ranging discussion. ~Hil Anderson

Interested in Adult Programs?

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).

Community Building

Women's Alliance

September 18 Luncheon Meeting—Founders Room, noon to one o'clock

In this election year, we'll consider our voting process. **Stephanie Harris**, of this church, discovered some eye-popping things in her work on the Political Action Committee of the local peace organization. As a result, she developed the talk we'll have on the 18th - "Does Your Vote Count?"

Bring salads to the Founders Room to share for the noon luncheon. The program will begin at one o'clock.

Members, remember that dues will be due this first meeting. Guests are also welcome to join us.

~Emma Forehand (609)921-6146

Men's Club

The next meeting of the Men's Club will be held in October. Please check with **Bill Barnard** at 609-430-4305 for up-to-date information.

Dinner Discussion

The Dinner Discussion Group will

hold its first meeting of the new church year on **September 16** at 7:00 PM in the Robinson Lounge. Our usual menu of flank steak, salad bar, backed potato desert and coffee, preceded by our snacks and drinks will continue at the miraculous price of \$8 despite the increased cost of food. Better take advantage of this bargain while it lasts.

Our speaker will be **Jim Barg** of the NJ Mycological Association who will provide an introduction to wild mushrooms of NJ. There will be a display of mushrooms and his talk will be illustrated. He will emphasize identification of the poisonous ones! Come out and find out all you ever wanted to know about NJ mushrooms in the field.

Sign up with **Mal Durbin** between services Sept 7 and Sept 14. Arrive 7 PM on Sept 16 for snacks, beverages and dinner (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.

~Hil Anderson

UU Connections

UU Economic Justice Conference - 2009

Save the Date: "The Times They Are A-Changin' - Re-envisioning Economics in a New Era" a retreat sponsored by UUs for a Just Economic Community will be held at Rowe Conference Center in Northwestern Massachusetts, April 1-5, 2009. For more information, go to www.uujec.org ~Carol Allen

GA Attended by Two from UUCP

UUA General Assembly 2008 was held in June in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Our congregation had just two delegates, **Craig Rubano**, a first time attendee at GA, and **Carol Allen** who was involved at GA with the booth and workshops of UUs for a Just Economic Community (UUJEC). Carol and others from UUJEC led the delegates in

passing an Action of Immediate Witness on Single Payer Health Care.

Craig carried the UUCP banner in the opening exercises. He also transported our banner to GA and assembled the banner carrier from pvc pipe, a job which sometimes involve three people. GA is made up of five days of lectures, workshops, worship services, and social events with numerous events scheduled simultaneously. Delegates report that deciding which events to attend is a major challenge. One annual event so special that no other event is scheduled during it is The Ware Lecture. This year the speaker was Van Jones of the Ella Baker Center for Human Values. He spoke about a program to train and empower young people in Oakland, California, in "green" jobs. He inspired people that it is possible to fight both poverty and pollution at the same time.

It is possible to review many parts of GA through the UUA website. Many of the programs and all of the plenary sessions are available on streaming media. Go to www.uua.org, then under "I am interested in..." select Events, then General Assembly, and then a link line to GA 2008. Then under "Watch GA on Streaming Media", open the link "more than twenty hours of GA."

On Sundays September 21 and 28, there will be a table in Robinson Lounge of information about GA. There will also be some opportunities to view videos of GA programs with a group and discuss issues of interest to the congregation. Meanwhile it's not too early to start thinking about GA 2009 in Salt Lake City, Utah in late June. ~Carol Allen

carolkallen@msn.com

UU Connections Committee

Legislative Ministry

August Update: UU Legislative Ministry, New Jersey

The UULMNJ Steering Committee, with representation from ten congregations, has been meeting monthly through the summer to work on By-laws, Priority Issues Determination, the Affiliation Agreement and Financial Procedures with the expectation that these drafts will be ready for review and action with the wider network in the fall.

We've had over 500 Priority Issues Survey responses from 15 congregations. The three issues which received the strongest overall support were: Economic Justice (e.g. fair wages, school funding, housing, civil/racial justice), The Environment (e.g. open spaces, clean water, toxic remediation) and Health Care (e.g. universal coverage, appropriate access).

The September agenda includes planning for the next several months including congregational communications and affiliation process, research on priority issues, legislative advocacy actions process and collaboration with other organizations, Board formation and especially coordinating involvement of the many NJ UUs that have expressed interest in this project.

Rob Henry, the uulmnj.org website master, is bringing the site back on line after a hiatus due to a host server transition.

Co-chairs: Rohn Hein rohn@netzero.net,
Lynne Quinto, lsquinto@verizon.net
Submitted by Elaine Nigam

Social Justice

Work at Trenton Area Habitat for Humanity Continues Volunteer Construction Workers and Tutors Sought

This summer, a small group of UUCP volunteers have been working one Saturday a month to help complete the

new homes at 644-652 N. Clinton Avenue in Trenton. We learned a lot about installing sheetrock. We will continue this work schedule of one Saturday a month for the foreseeable future. **Upcoming work days are: September 13, and October 11.** If you can help on one or more of these days, please contact **Ray Nichols** at (609) 737-7442, or **Peter Gerster** at (609) 466-1361 or petegerster@comcast.net.

Volunteer tutors sought:

Now that school is re-starting and we have finished renovating the Learning Center in the East Trenton Community Center at 601 N. Clinton Ave., on the corner of Older Ave., they are looking for volunteer tutors from our congregation to work with students in Grades 4 and up at the Learning Center after school. If you are interested in tutoring, please contact Liz Leonard at the Habitat for Humanity office at (609) 393-8009 ext. 221. ~Ray Nichols

Grace Notes

News from the UUCP Music Ministry

By Marjorie Herman

Greetings from the UUCP Music Ministry. It's been a productive summer, with making exciting plans for Fall, and attending the UU Musicians Network 25th Anniversary Conference in Boston.

First, the conference: 330 Music Directors from all across the country met for four days to inspire each other for the coming year with workshops, concerts, repertoire reading sessions, and networking. I led a workshop, and had the thrill of having one of my pieces sung, which will be

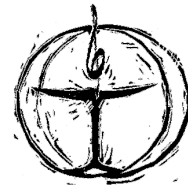
published by a UUMN publisher this fall. The presentations were extraordinary, and you'll see and feel bits and pieces of what I learned in the weeks and months to come.

Change in Choir Sundays

You may have heard that there are changes afoot in our Sunday services. One of them involves the presence of the Adult Choir, which used to sing for both services on Choir Sundays. From now on, the Vocal Quartet will sing for the first service, and the Adult Choir will sing for the **SECOND SERVICE ONLY** for Choir Sundays. We're hoping that the lessened commitment on Sunday mornings will encourage you to think seriously about joining our jolly band for a jolt of spiritual energy in your lives.

Ensemble start up dates:

1. The **Adult Choir** has its first rehearsal on Wednesday evening, August 27 from 7:30 pm til 9:00 pm in Channing Hall. Rehearsals are every Wednesday evening at this time. All are encouraged to come and listen, and/or give your voice/body/mind/spirit a workout on a trial basis. Our first service (our last one-service-Sunday) will be on Sunday, Sept. 7 -- Water Communion.
2. **Kids' Chorale** will have its first meeting on Sunday, Sept. 14 between services at 10:30am in Fahs Theater, our new rehearsal space. Parents **MUST** be present at this first meeting.
3. The **Bell Choir** will start up on Thursday evening, Sept. 11, in Channing Hall, from 7:00 pm til 8:30 pm.



Anyone who is interested in any of these ensembles, contact me, (MH), at marjmuse@optonline.net or leave a message for me at 609-924-1604, ext. 16.

**UUCP Music Ministry:
Lighting the World with Music**

Relational Covenant

The Way We Were: Covenants in Early UU History By Dana Powsner

The idea of developing a Relational Covenant may be a new concept to many of us but it appears that UUs were creating covenants 400 years ago. When we shape our own Covenant this fall, we will be reliving an important part of UU history.

The following chronicle tells us how this came about. It was presented at the UU Church of Berkeley California during their Covenant creating process and was written by one of their members, Sue Magidson. She has given permission for us to use this so we can discover that Covenant is actually part of our UU heritage.

In the past several years, congregational covenants have become a hot topic in Unitarian Universalist circles. While this may seem like just another fad, history offers a different perspective. As it turns out, covenants have been fundamental to American Unitarianism for nearly 400 years. You can find the fascinating details in Rev. Alice Blair Wesley's Minns Lectures. Meanwhile, here's a brief synopsis.*

Our story begins in 17th century England. Imagine being ordered by the government to go to church every Sunday. Imagine being required to attend the church in your neighborhood (and no other!). Imagine being forbidden from gathering to discuss religion anywhere except at your local church. This was religious life in 17th century England – a world where kings and bishops ruled and where religion and government were intertwined. It was these restrictions that motivated our religious forebears to get on rickety ships and travel across the Atlantic Ocean to an unknown land.

Once they arrived, they faced a critical question: What was church going to look like in the New World? What would replace the hierarchical, gov-

ernment-ordained structure they'd fled?

They spent a lot of time talking about this. One group, in Dedham MA, met weekly for an entire year. They structured their meetings to encourage deep listening and discourage arguing, just as we do in our Covenant Circles. They listened to one another's stories, thoughts, and deepest beliefs. Their meetings were "peaceful, loving and tender" and, as they put it, "not contradictory."

Eventually, these folks questioned whether they needed a church at all. Might these gatherings be enough? After more discussion, they decided that these meetings were too casual to support their goal of living in the "ways of deepest love." They needed an institution. They wrote, "Others in the larger society need the example of love which a free church will publicly show forth."

In place of the hierarchy they'd fled, our forebears chose a structure in which there was no external authority, like a king or bishop, and where everyone had a voice and a vote. Each church was autonomous. Individual church members were ultimately responsible to their consciences and to each other. Sound familiar?

What's not so familiar is that these folks organized their churches around covenants – written documents about how they wanted to be together. Each church developed its own covenant describing the type of community to which they aspired. Central to each covenant was the spirit of love, working in congregants' hearts and minds.

Bringing these covenants to life – trying to live the ideals they'd put on paper – was how these folks practiced religion. Their covenants were central to their spiritual practice. This may seem surprising, until we think about the world's major religions. Religions are not only about a person's relationship to God (if they are that at all), but are fundamentally concerned with how humans interact with one another.

These covenantal churches called themselves "free churches." Two hundred years later, in the 1800s, 125 of these "free churches" of New England adopted the name Unitarian. And thus American Unitarianism was born.

This vision of individual autonomous churches in which every member has a voice closely resembles our modern UU church. To us, this structure seems familiar, reasonable, even obvious. It can be hard to remember that democratic, independent churches were once so radical that their participants risked being fined, jailed, exiled, whipped and even hanged.

Today we are free to gather and worship as we choose, free to govern ourselves. We've kept the governing structure of those early churches, but, as Alice Blair Wesley argues, somehow we've lost the spiritual foundation beneath the structure – the intention to walk together in love.

One reason that UU congregations around the country are turning to covenants is an effort to return to this spiritual grounding. If our values are to be worth anything, we need to practice what we preach – here in our congregations as well as in the outside world. A covenant gives us a way to state our intentions – our highest ideals – and then to support one another as we try to uphold them. We won't always succeed, but the process of writing down our aspirations gives us a structure with which to do this important and challenging work of interacting intentionally and religiously.

(Relational Covenant continued on page 14)

(Relational Covenant continued from page 13)

- Most of the information in this presentation (and all of the quotations) come from Rev. Wesley's 2000-01 Minns Lectures, which can be downloaded at <http://minnslectures.org/archive/wesley/wesley.htm> or purchased from Amazon (*Our Covenant: The 2000-01 Minns Lectures*).

This Fall: Launching a Relational Covenant Process at UUCP

A "relational covenant" is a congregational vow that describes how we promise to be in relationship with one another. Developing a relational covenant at UUCP will provide an opportunity to build more authentic and trusting relationships between congregants.

Mark Your Calendar

Our worship service on Sept. 21 will launch a series of activities through which our congregation will develop a relational covenant. Two weeks later, on October 4, we will come together for an all-congregation workshop. At cottage meetings in November we will continue to share ideas, as well as draft and refine our consensus covenant statement. Everyone is invited to explore how we want to be together in community.

For members of the congregation who participated in developing a Mission Covenant, this process will sound familiar. Our goal is a relational covenant statement that the congregation fully "owns" and can enthusiastically support. Our relational covenant will be important only to the extent that it is created through a process that provides meaningful opportunities to reflect on and discuss what we need, want and value in our rela-

tionships here at UUCP.

Materials relevant to the relational covenant process are now posted on UUCP's website. They include the recommendation by the Committee on Ministry to undertake this process, an article that describes the history of covenants in the churches that gave rise to Unitarianism, and personal reflections on what we hope to gain through this process.

Since January, a small task force has been meeting with **Forrest Gilmore** on a monthly basis to identify and develop resource materials and plan activities for this fall. Members include former members of the Committee on Ministry (**Cathy Stolle, Dana Powsner and Sharon McCrae**) and a representative of the Adult Programs Committee (**Michele Ochsner, Ted Fetter, Pete Gerster, and Kathy Taylor** are serving as advisors. **Chris Reed** helped the process get underway before her sabbatical and will participate in the planning and implementation process this fall.

Share Your Ideas and Participate

Do you have ideas about what sort of relational covenant you would like to have with your fellow congregants? What are you prepared to promise or covenant with other congregants at the UUCP?

There will be many opportunities to participate in this process—including attending or hosting our cottage meetings in November. *If you are interested in participating in this*

Relational Covenant Task Force
 Sharon McCrae mccrae7@comcast.net
 Dana Powsner dpowsner@patmedia.net
 Cathy Stolle stolle@email.chop.edu
 Michele Ochsner ochsner@smlr.rutgers.edu

process or have ideas to share, please feel free to contact a member of our task force. And check out the Relational Covenant web page under "News and Events" at uuprinceton.org. ~Michele Ochsner

Green Sanctuary

Green Corner: Plastic Bags and Bottled Water

It is becoming clear that plastic bags, plastic bottles and the bottling of water cause so much environmental harm that we should try to do away with them. To that end, the Green Sanctuary Committee is launching several initiatives this fall. We plan to:

- Encourage the use of cloth bags rather than plastic bags.
- Promote the use of large glass bottles rather than small plastic bottles, when serving drinks at brunches.
- Discontinue use of our bottled-water cooler and switch to a system that uses filtered, sanitized tap water.

Plastic Bags. Worldwide, 500 billion to a trillion plastic bags are consumed each year, and fewer than 1 percent of those are recycled. The other 99 percent clog our landfills, fly on the wind, run down drains and sewage pipes, and wash up along shores. One patch of floating garbage in the Pacific Ocean between California and Hawaii is now twice the size of Texas and still growing. Some 80 percent of the material in this garbage island is plastic bags, weighing 3.5 million tons.

Each year, millions of wild animals, sea animals and birds choke to death on plastic bags, often mistaking them for food. It is time that we banned these unnatural and hazardous items from use in our state and our nation. Many other countries have already

(Green Sanctuary continued on page 15)

(Green Sanctuary continued from page 14)

done so or are considering a ban, including Bangladesh, Botswana, Canada, China, western India, Rwanda, Singapore, South Africa, Taiwan and Tanzania. Ireland began taxing plastic bags in 2002 and has thereby reduced their use by 90 percent. Here in the U.S., San Francisco is the first city to ban plastic bags; Oakland and Boston are following suit.

Plastic bags are made from oil, so by using them we are contributing to our nation's dependency on foreign oil. China, having banned free plastic bags, is saving 37 million barrels of oil each year.

While we await legislation that will ban plastic bags in New Jersey, let's quit using them now. Take cloth bags to the store. If you need to buy cloth bags, consider purchasing them from our Music Committee, which is selling attractive bags decorated with the UU chalice.

Plastic Bottles. Like plastic bags, most plastic bottles (about 90 percent) end up in landfills where they yield toxins as they take millennia to decompose. Also, like plastic bags, bottles are made from petroleum and add to our dependency on foreign oil. Out of concern over their environmental impact, the House of Representatives is now considering House Bill 2422 (2008), which proposes a ban on all plastic bottles one liter or less in size. Tell our Representative, Chris Smith, if you support this bill.

Bottled Water. Under most circumstances, bottled water presents no health advantage. Nearly half of all bottled water is tap water; its high price does not signify that the water has a high value, but reflects the cost of making the bottles, filling them, transporting them and shelving them in stores until you buy them. The water itself costs almost nothing. To drink, say, 6 to 8 glasses of water a day from bottles costs an average of \$1,400 per person per year, whereas drinking the same amount from the tap costs about 50 cents.

The growth in bottled water production has increased water withdrawals from springs and ground water near bottling plants, leading to water shortages that afflict nearby households, farms, and ecosystems. In addition to the millions of gallons of water

Save the Date: Murray Grove Homecoming

A Unitarian Universalist Mid-Atlantic Celebration

Saturday, September 27, 10-4



Rev. Tracey Robinson Harris – UU Evangelist
 “Truth, Repair and Reconciliation: A Journey in the Spirit of Universalism”

Workshops:

Tracey: the work of Truth, Repair and Reconciliation that the UUA is engaged in following the passage of the Responsive Resolution by this name at GA08

Rev. Liz Strong: “Universalist and Unitarian Religious Education through the decades: a story of vibrant response to the challenges of the times”

Drumming workshop repeat from last year

Music, Fellowship and Fun Under the big white tent

Plus:

Pre-Homecoming Coffee House Friday, September 26
 Share your talents and enjoy others’

Post-Homecoming Service Party
 and Sunday service in the Chapel

Only \$10 for the day; \$8.50 box lunch optional, members and under 5 free

\$40 for each overnight with breakfast

Register on-line at www.murraygrove.org or

Sign up at the program table during coffee

hours in September. ~Carol Haag



used in the plastic-making process, two gallons of water are wasted in the purification process for every gallon that goes into the bottles.

If you are unsure of the quality of your tap water, you can have it tested. If you simply don't like the taste of your water, try using a filter pitcher or installing an inexpensive faucet filter to remove trace chemicals and minerals. Travel bottles with

built-in filters are also available. If you will be away from home, fill a reusable bottle from your tap and refill it along the way.

The Green Sanctuary Committee meets every first Tuesday at 7:30 PM in the John Murray room. For information, call **Ellie Whitney**, chair, 609-426-6166, ewhitney@comcast.net.

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 (Rev. Forrest Gilmore, Jon Krejci, Rev. Chris Reed, and Carol Haag).

Martin Gerster, age 38, died July 17 in Ottawa, Canada, his home for the past four years. He attended church school at UUCP, and was a member of CUUPS and the Young Adults group. He is survived by his parents, **Dell and Peter** and his sisters, Jean and Ann.

Martin was a kind and generous person. He was gentle with children especially his nieces, and fun-loving with his sisters. Martin was skilled at drawing, and typically won at games like Pictionary. In a few lines, he could capture the essence of an image. He often drew characters that exuded strength and power. Perhaps these were his way of confronting a threatening world that held many more demons than most of us have to face.

In his all-too-brief life, Martin was called upon to deal with a number of serious threats to his well being, including childhood cancer. He confronted each of these with characteristic courage and a unique sense of humor. His life was a gift to his family, and he is deeply missed.

A memorial service was held at First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa. Contributions in Martin's memory can be made to the Vista Centre, 211 Bronson Avenue, Suite 214, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1R 6H5. The web site is <http://www.vistacentre.ca/>

Sally Schroeder reports: that "**Charlie Dieterich** was the guest speaker at my church (UU Congregation of Marin) on Sunday. He's finished 2 years at the Starr

King School in Berkeley. He has been doing a chaplaincy at the VA hospital in Palo Alto all summer, and planned his talk around his experience there, plus prayer, and wove in the Knoxville tragedy. It was beautifully and sensitively done, and I could tell that the congregation was very tuned in to him." Sally sends her greetings to old friends at UUCP and says she misses you terribly.

A long-time member, **Madeline Wallmark**, died August 5, 2008. Madeline was 94 and had a massive stroke that left her in a coma.

She became a member of our congregation in 1969, was a member of the weekly Bible class, and shared her life's journey in a spiritual odyssey that she gave here several years ago. Madeline was very independent, an incredible reader, loved research and travel and learning of all kinds, worked as one of the first computer programmers after WW II and then for ETS. She was a much loved mother and grandmother. We extend our sympathy and love to her sons John and Tobey and their families.

The memorial service to celebrate Madeline's life was conducted by Rev. Chris Reed at UUCP on Sunday, August 10, at 2:00pm.

On July 4, **Carl Haag** celebrated his 80th birthday with a dinner at the Unitarian Universalist Church in honor of his family and friends, who came from as far as Ontario, Canada and Georgia, California and Maine, Texas and many places in between.

Tony Tucker turned 85 on July 6. He had hoped to attend his family reunion in Fitzgerald, Georgia this year, but instead received cards and happy birthday

hugs from friends at UUCP.

Hil and Lorraine Anderson are now living in their new one-story home in West Windsor. Lorraine is getting in-home physical therapy, and reports that she is "coming along slowly." They are very grateful to all of the UUCP members who have been providing them with dinners. This has allowed Hil to focus on getting their new house set up, selling their old house, and helping Lorraine with her rehabilitation. Their new address is 78 Honeyflower Lane in West Windsor. Their new phone number is 490-1270.

Meals needed, this is a long haul for Hil and Lorraine and meals provided are a big help. Please contact **Carol Haag** (RevCarolH@verizon.net) or call 609-924-5857 to get on the list.



“Travel the World in Song”

A Concert Performed by Joan Waite to Benefit The Crisis Ministry of Princeton and Trenton
 Sunday, October 12, 2008 - Unitarian Universalist
 Congregation of Princeton
 Tickets \$25 to be purchased at the door



Eighteen songs in eleven languages representing fourteen countries across five continents. That's what music lovers can expect at 3 PM on Sunday, October 12, 2008, at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton. All this for only \$25, with all proceeds going to The Crisis Ministry of Princeton and Trenton.

The concert will be presented by mezzo-soprano **Joan Waite**, who traveled the world herself before settling in South Brunswick fourteen years ago. A native of Toronto, Canada, Ms. Waite is a retired anthropologist who studied at L'Ecole des Science Politique in Paris, France, and has degrees from Sarah Lawrence College and Northwestern University. Following graduate school, she sang in New York City with the Collegiate Chorale. She then moved to Nigeria where she performed on a children's television show. After returning to the United States, she taught at Sarah Lawrence, founded the African-American Educational Center of Northern New Jersey, served as the director of education at the SMA Fathers' African Art Museum in Tenaflly while teaching summers in Le Cote d'Ivoire, and sang with both Return to the Source of Irvington and Princeton's Westminster Jubilee Singers.

This will be Ms. Waite's sixth annual benefit concert. All have, in some way, explored the themes of love, faith, and inspiration – perhaps not a surprise given that she has been happily married for 47 years to Robert Waite, a retired executive with ITT and the son of missionaries to Sierra Leone; that she is the mother of three and grandmother of one; and that she is herself the fifth-generation descendent of runaway slaves who escaped to Canada via the Underground Railroad.

This year's concert will begin with selections from Europe, followed by songs from the Middle and Far East. After a brief intermission, Ms. Waite will present an arrangement of African songs. The final grouping starts in South America, then moves north through the Caribbean to North America. Printed translations will be provided, as Ms. Waite will be singing these songs in their original languages: English, German, French,

Spanish, Hebrew, Arabic, Indonesian, Mandarin, Zulu, Xsosa and Yoruba.

Accompanying Ms. Waite on the piano will be Peter de Mets, whose credits include serving as an accompanist for “You're a Good Man Charlie Brown,” “Singin' in the Rain,” and “The Emperor's New Clothes.” He is also a tenor soloist and a composer whose work has been performed at the National Cathedral, the White House, and, most recently, in Beijing, China as part of the 2008 Olympic Celebrations. West African drummer Sharon Silverstein, founder of Living At Peace LLC and The Peace Project, will join in on several of the selections.

All monies raised at the concert will go to The Crisis Ministry of Princeton and Trenton, an organization “committed to easing the hardships of poverty in our community by providing food, financial assistance and advocacy,” according to its mission statement. Jarrett Kerbel, the Crisis Ministry's executive director, expects that the funds will go toward helping with the skyrocketing cost of heating oil for some of the approximately 1200 families which it serves on a monthly basis. The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton, of which Ms. Waite is a member and which is sponsoring the concert, has supported the Crisis Ministry almost since the agency's founding in 1980.

For further information, please contact **Elizabeth Silverman** at 609-655-2507 or esss144@aol.com.



(Welcome Back continued from page 6)

For those of you returning, the Council appreciates all you do. I also encourage you to continue to get involved wherever and whenever you can. We all have very full lives outside UUCP and it is often tough to fit UUCP into the family schedule. Yet, I feel strongly that the time and energy given to UUCP is among the best things I do. I am quite sure that my feelings are shared by the others on RE Council. Don't be afraid of getting involved in new things. If you haven't tried your hand at teaching, go for it. Teaching a RE class is a great way to learn about Unitarian Universalism. Working as a class liaison is another way to get involved. We also have a number of community building events and social action projects that you can participate in. All are great ways to meet new people and have fun too.

Below is a list of the current RE Council members. As you can see, we still need chairs for the Children's Worship Committee and the RE Program Committee. If you think you might be interested in joining the council or working on any of the committees' activities please call or email me, **Tom Prusa**, (see list on page 6 for contact info) or the committee Chairperson directly.

Here Is A Great Way to Re-cycle!

Used Athletic Shoes Needed
 Adopt-a-Family Program
 Used or New Athletic Shoes (used not abused) Adult Size 7 and larger—Soccer Cleats ALL Sizes
 The Perpetual Prosperity Pumps Foundation is a not-for-profit Foundation bringing technology and training to the poorest farmers and villages in Ghana West Africa. The Foundation sponsors the Adopt-A-Family Program which is funded by the sale of used athletic shoes. PPPF is a bottom up approach to eradicating poverty one family at a time.
www.pppafrica.org

600 pair of athletic shoes provides: water access, an irrigation system, training, seed, livestock; that allows a family to enjoy a perpetually sustainable harvest.

Bring in your used athletic footwear, tie the laces together and drop them in the large clearly-marked container you'll find in Robinson Lounge.

Your sneakers will be shipped to Africa where they will be sold by street vendors. All proceeds are then used to buy: bicycles, rabbits, fruit trees, chickens, lucaena trees, colonized bee hives, mushrooms, access to local water, miracle pump system, integrated M.O.R.E. System, one year training in regenerative farming. ~Sara Oderwald

CRISIS MINISTRY

The Rhythms of Life

Following the extraordinary success of last year's Beatles-themed event, the Crisis Ministry is pleased to announce that we will meet again in Princeton's McCarter Theatre to support the vulnerable people we serve — and to enjoy the good company of fellow Crisis Ministry friends. Please mark **Monday, November 17**, on your calendar, and plan to get together at 6:30 p.m. in the McCarter lobby for delicious refreshments and delightful camaraderie, followed by a rousing concert by the internationally acclaimed **SOWETO GOSPEL CHOIR**. **The Crisis Ministry will have 200 tickets available.** Visit www.thecrisisministry.org or call 609-396-9355, ext. 27, for more information about making your reservations.

RED WAGON ALERT - the Crisis Ministry is seeking donations of Red 'Radio Flyer' Children's Wagons. Metal or wood, its all good, used or new they just need to roll and hold donated food! Contact Director, Jarrett Kerbel, or drop wagon at CM's Princeton or Trenton office.

2009 Tax Volunteers needed! The Crisis Ministry seeks volunteers to help clients with their taxes from January through April 2009. If you are a willing volunteer with available 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 2008!

McCaffrey Receipts: Did you know that the Crisis Ministry used to receive almost \$10,000 a year from the proceeds of McCaffrey receipts? During these economic times, we would like to remind people to SAVE their receipts for CM--CM's food costs are increasing as well! Remember:

- Receipts cannot be more than 6 months old.


Please drop off receipts in the box in Robinson Lounge. ~Lauren Oneil



View the current calendar online at:

<http://plus2.calendars.net/uuprinceton>

SEPTEMBER 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
<p>SEP 7—ONE Service—10:00 a.m. WATER COMMUNION INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE 11:00a Morning Youth Group 11:15a-12:30p A Course in Miracles—Room 8 5:30-8:00p 8th Grade OWL Parent Orientation—Murray Room 7:00-9:00p Evening Youth Group Social [1st Sun] - Room 15</p>	<p>SEP 1 OFFICE CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF LABOR DAY </p>	<p>SEP 2 7:00p-9:00p RE Council—Founders Room 7:00p Transitioning Group (1st Wed) - Room 15 7:15p Covenant Circle (1st Wed) - Murray Room 7:30-9:00p Adult Choir Practice—Channing Hall</p>	<p>SEP 3 7:00p-9:00p A New Earth Study Group (1st Wed) - Founders, Fahs 7:00p Transitioning Group (1st Wed) - Room 15 7:15p Covenant Circle (1st Wed) - Murray Room 7:30-9:00p Adult Choir Practice—Channing Hall</p>	<p>SEP 4 10:00a-Noon Women's Alliance Board Meeting (1st Thurs) - Founders Room 7:15p Covenant Circle—(1st Thu PM) - Murray Room</p>	<p>SEP 5 6:00p Coming of Age Ceremony—Channing 7:15p Progressive Film Festival "When the Leaves Broke"—Fahs Theatre 7:15p Covenant Circle (1st Fri) - Room 15</p>	<p>SEP 6 10:00a Yoga Class—Founders Room 9:00a-1:00p Teacher Start-Up—Channing Hall 2:00p Sat-9:00a Sun—YG Kick-Off Retreat</p>
<p>SEP 7—ONE Service—10:00 a.m. WATER COMMUNION INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE 11:00a Morning Youth Group 11:15a-12:30p A Course in Miracles—Room 8 5:30-8:00p 8th Grade OWL Parent Orientation—Murray Room 7:00-9:00p Evening Youth Group Social [1st Sun] - Room 15</p>	<p>SEP 8 7:15p-9:15p Covenant Circle (2nd Monday PM) - Murray Room</p>	<p>SEP 9 7:00p-9:00p Board of Trustees—Founders 7:30-9:00p Green Sanctuary Committee—Room 15</p>	<p>SEP 10 7:00p-9:00p Adult Program Committee (2nd Wed) — Founders 7:30-9:00p Adult Choir Practice—Channing Hall</p>	<p>SEP 11 10:00a-12:15p Covenant Circle (2nd Thurs AM) - Murray Room 7:00-8:30p Bell Choir Rehearsal—Channing</p>	<p>SEP 12 7:00p-9:00p Barrok Covenant Circle (2nd Fri) - Murray Room 7:15p Progressive Film Festival "Washington You're Fired"—Fahs Theatre 7:00p—9:00p CUUPS Full Moon Circle—Memorial Wall/Room 11</p>	<p>SEP 13 8:30a-3:00p Trenton Habitat for Humanity Work Day—Trenton (2nd Sat) 8:30a-10:30a Pastoral Associates—Murray 9:00a-4:00p Shared Ministry Summit—All upstairs incl Fahs 10:00a Yoga Class—Founders Room</p>
<p>SEP 14—TWO Services—9:15 & 11:15 a.m. 9:15 & 11:15 RE Classes Begin 10:30 Kids' Chorale Rehearsal—Fahs 11:00a Morning Youth Group 11:15a-12:30p A Course in Miracles—Room 8 1:00-3:00p Great Books Reading Group "The Yiddish Policemen's Union"—Room 7</p>	<p>SEP 15 Full Moon ☉ 5:00p <i>Skylights</i> OCT 2008 ISSUE DEADLINE Send to: skylights@uuprinceton.org</p>	<p>SEP 16 7:00p-9:00p Creative Journalism (3rd Tue)—Founders 7:00p Dinner Discussion—Robinson Lounge 7:00p-9:00p Blessed Bounty (3rd Tue) - Room 15 7:00p-9:00p Committee on Ministry (3rd Tue) - Murray</p>	<p>SEP 17 1:00p-2:30p Office Staff Meeting—Murray 7:00p-9:00p A New Earth Study Group (3rd Wed) - Founders 7:30-9:00p Adult Choir Practice—Channing Hall Newcomer Circle [3rd Wed]</p>	<p>SEP 18 Noon—1:00p Women's Alliance Luncheon (3rd Thurs) - Founders 7:00p-9:00p Small Group Ministry Leaders' Meeting—Room 15</p>	<p>SEP 19 7:15p Progressive Film Festival "North Country"—Fahs Theatre</p>	<p>SEP 20 10:00a Yoga Class—Founders Room 5:30-8:30p Harvest Dinner—ALL CONGREGATION—All Upstairs incl Fahs</p>
<p>SEP 21—TWO Services—9:15 & 11:15 a.m. 11:00a Morning Youth Group 11:15a-12:30p A Course in Miracles—Room 8 7:00-9:00p Evening Youth Group Social [3rd Sun] - Room 15</p>	<p>SEP 22</p>	<p>SEP 23 7:00-9:00p Autumnal Equinox/Mabon Celebration—Channing 7:00-9:00p Leadership Council—Murray Room</p>	<p>SEP 24 10:30-Noon Aging & Saging—Murray 7:30-9:00p Adult Choir Practice—Channing Hall</p>	<p>SEP 25 7:00-8:45p Cakes for the Queen of Heaven—Fahs Theatre</p>	<p>SEP 26 7:15p-9:15p Barrok Covenant Circle (4th Fri) - Murray 7:15p Progressive Film Festival "GTTMO: The New Rules of War"—Fahs Theatre</p>	<p>SEP 27 10:00a Yoga Class—Founders Room 9:00a-1:00p Newcomer Orientation—Founders & Murray Rooms 8:30a-3:00p Trenton Habitat for Humanity Work Day—Trenton (4th Sat) 7:30p Marc Adams "Restorative Therapy & Faith-Based Anti-GLBT Bullying" - Channing</p>
<p>SEP 28—TWO Services—9:15 & 11:15 a.m. 11:00a Morning Youth Group 11:15a-12:30p A Course in Miracles—Room 8</p>	<p>SEP 29</p>	<p>SEP 30 7:00p-9:00p A New Earth Study Group (1st Wed) - Founders 7:00p Transitioning Group (1st Wed) - Room 15 7:15p Covenant Circle (1st Wed) - Murray Room 7:30-9:00p Adult Choir Practice—Channing Hall Newcomer Circle [1st Wed]</p>	<p>OCTOBER 1 7:00p-9:00p A New Earth Study Group (1st Thurs) - Founders Room 7:00p Transitioning Group (1st Thurs) - Room 15 7:15p Covenant Circle (1st Thurs PM) - Murray Room 7:30-9:00p Adult Choir Practice—Channing Hall Newcomer Circle [1st Thurs]</p>	<p>OCTOBER 2 10:00a-Noon Women's Alliance Board Meeting (1st Thurs) - Founders Room 7:15p Covenant Circle—(1st Thu PM) - Murray Room</p>	<p>OCTOBER 3 7:15p Progressive Film Festival "Normal"—Fahs Theatre</p>	<p>OCTOBER 4 10:00a Yoga Class—Founders Room Relational Covenant Workshop—no times yet</p>

Ministers' Schedules



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

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

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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**Next Skylights
 deadline:**

SEPT 15

skylights@uuprinceton.org

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