

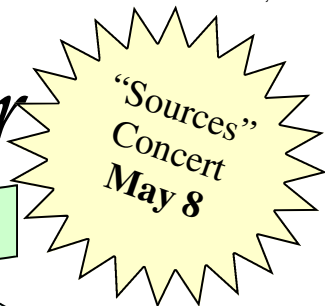


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Skylights newsletter



Spring Sale, Saturday, May 2, 9:00—2:00



Upcoming Sunday Worship Services

May 3, 2009 at 9:15 and 11:15 a.m.

Passages—A Service for All Ages

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

Worship Leader: **Revs. Chris Reed and Forrest Gilmore** Worship Associate: **Jordan Corn**
Music: **Beth Ertz, Marjorie Herman**

May 10, 2009 at 9:15 and 11:15 a.m.

A Special Sermon from Melissa Harris-Lacewell

Melissa Harris-Lacewell is Associate Professor of Politics and African American Studies at Princeton University. She is the author of the award-winning book, *Barbershops, Bibles, and BET: Everyday Talk and Black Political Thought*, (Princeton 2004). She has provided expert commentary on U.S. elections, racial issues, religious questions and gender issues for many television, radio and print sources both in the United States and around the world. We'll keep you posted about the sermon topic.

Guest Worship Leader: **Melissa Harris-Lacewell** Worship Associate: **Maggie Beaumont**
Music: **Annette Sheldon—flute, Beth Ertz, Marjorie Herman**

May 17, 2009 at 9:15 and 11:15 a.m.

The Perennial Philosophy

Many philosophers and theologians speak of truisms that seem universal... expressed in all cultures throughout the world. These collective expressions are known as the perennial philosophy. Today, we'll explore some of those basic understandings.

Worship Leader: **Rev. Forrest Gilmore** Worship Associate: **Sharon Copeland**
Music: **Adult Choir, Beth Ertz, Marjorie Herman**

May 24, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

A Day of Remembrance

Formerly known as Decoration Day, Memorial Day commemorates U.S. men and women who died while in military service to their country to include all Americans casualties of any war or Military action. We will take time to reflect on the losses we have encountered with in the state of New Jersey and the congregation at large.

Guest Worship Leader: To be announced Worship Associate: **Jeffrey Bock**
Music: **Jillian Corn, Beth Ertz, Marjorie Herman**

May 31, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

The Blossoms of Hope—A Service for All Ages

Today, we celebrate our gifts to the world as we honor those who have served in the shared ministry of our congregation. Please bring a flower or two to our service. We'll share these with each other as we acknowledge the hope we each have to offer.

Worship Leader: **Revs. Forrest Gilmore & Chris Reed** Worship Associate: **Jordan Corn**
Music: **Adult Choir, Kids' Chorale, Beth Ertz, Marjorie Herman**

Reflection

Reverend Chris Reed

During the month of May, the ministers present a balanced budget to the board and then at our annual meeting on May 31, members of the congregation vote on that budget. We projected a serious shortfall in our pledging income this year due to the difficult financial times and the stresses that each one of us is experiencing. We came up with a plan that addresses that shortfall through staffing, with different kinds of staffing adjustments, corresponding to several possible final figures for the pledge income for next year. Please see details of this plan in a mailing sent to all congregants and please see our adjacent message.

Three positive things have happened in this difficult and somewhat painful process.

The first is that many who saw the staffing cuts and salary decreases that might have to be made, came forward with a challenge fund to match pledge increases. The matching funds and the pledge increases have already significantly impacted some of the cuts, although we still are a distance from the staffing that we would like to have in place for the coming year. We ask that everyone read the mailed materials and adjacent message and if possible consider a pledge increase, no matter how small. And on behalf of the congregation, we thank each one of us, whether or not we are able to increase our pledge, because we are each doing the best that we can.

Secondly, just as all of us are trying to be more financially conservative and efficient with resources in our own lives, we looked at our staffing and made some changes primarily with summer hours that make us more efficient as a congregation. While this may cause some difficulties for some staff members and require more volunteer participation, these summer hour adjustments better fit our current summer programming. So they are positive changes in the long run.

And thirdly, it is often in times of stress that individuals and institutions are reminded of what is important. As UU's we do not have a belief system grounded in absolutes or certainties, rather we understand faith as living our values in uncertain times. Our faith community is still intact, we are here, and we return each week, renewing and affirming these values of wholeness in our own and in each other's lives. In times of additional stress and worry and uncertainty, it becomes clear how important our spiritual grounding is. I can see a strengthening of commitment and compassion, in the pastoral associates program, on committees, on Sunday morning...

The news that Forrest is leaving at the end of June is also sad and maybe compounds our feelings of uncertainty. It is a saying goodbye, a loss and a grieving for many of us. During May and June there will be many opportunities for heartfelt goodbyes, thank you, blessings for the future. Meanwhile, we will have an interim parish minister in place hopefully by the middle of August. And as when anyone leaves our staff or our congregation, we still have all the gifts that Forrest brought to this congregation in his ministry and we can build on these. And we will, just as we will greatly miss him and his family.

Message From the Ministers

As you know, we live in challenging economic times. The congregation has sadly not escaped this. **We are potentially looking at a \$100,000 shortfall for next year's budget.** As you can imagine, such a loss would seriously impact our work as a congregation and lead to significant cuts in staff, both in salaries and positions. Such changes would lead to a reduction in our youth and social justice programs, a greater burden placed on our volunteers and a much more strained ministry and administrative staff.

We recognize that many of us are experiencing financial difficulties, and yet, **through the power of collective action, raising such funds may be easier than it seems.**

If each family in the congregation were to give an additional:

- \$2/week (the price of a cup of coffee), we would raise \$30,000!
- \$5/week (the price of a sandwich), we would raise \$75,000!!
- \$10/week (the price of a movie), we would raise \$150,000!!!!

Recognizing this potential, some of our lead donors have joined together to offer a gift of almost \$16,000, challenging the rest of the congregation to match it. Just this past Sunday, we already raised \$13,240 towards that match.

We want to invite you to seriously consider increasing your pledge. In doing so, we invite you to act, but in doing so, to think small. Just a cup of coffee or a sandwich or a movie per week can make an enormous difference... but only if all of us jump in to make that difference.

If you are financially able, please take the time to fill out a "Can You Increase Your Pledge" Card as soon as possible, but no later than May 3rd. You can fill a card out at UUCP, phone or e-mail Sara Oderwald (609-924-1604x11, office@uuprinceton.org) or go to our website (www.uuprinceton.org under the giving page).

Even the smallest amounts make a difference when we add them all together... but we must act to make it so. Thank you so much for taking the time to consider this and for all the support you provide to UUCP.



Reflection Reverend Forrest Gilmore

As most of you know by now, I announced my resignation this past month. I did so after the printing of our

newsletter, though, so I wanted to share some of what I shared in the congregational letter and my sermon on April 5th here.

My reasons for leaving are complex, but my answer basically comes down to this: my inability to balance my spiritual, family and work lives. Some years ago, I heard an aphorism that said "God, Family, Work: live your life in that order." I have found that the intensity of parish ministry has not allowed me to do so.

I want you to know a few things.

First, this decision was extremely difficult for my family and me. My wife, Jill and I, wanted to make it all work and for three years, we fought hard to try and do so. But, ultimately, we felt the strain of it all was leading us to not live up to our values the way we wanted to.

Second, this is not the congregation's fault. No one and nothing here has forced this decision on me. Please, down the road, don't try to change anything based on my decision. This is a good congregation doing good things.

And lastly, I know that you all are feeling many things – sorrow, loss, appreciation, worry, maybe even anger, maybe in a few cases, relief. I want you to know that I want to know your feelings. This community has meant a great deal to me these last several years, and I welcome, as I always have, you bringing to me all that you are as we prepare to say goodbye.

My last sermon will be on June 21st. Following that, Jill and I will move to Bloomington, IN to be closer to her family as we raise her two children, and hopefully have a child together. On the work end, my hope is to build a business as a spiritual director and/or pastoral counselor and also do some writing. I'm not sure if I will return to full-time parish ministry in the future, but definitely not until we're out of the early childhood years.

I have learned a lot while serving here... and everything I've learned will go with me. I hope that you, too, have learned from me, and in some small or even large way, I have contributed to your life. We have two months together, and in that time, I welcome all your communications. It's very important to me that we have the opportunity to say a meaningful farewell.

Notes: There are three events this month I encourage you to make a special effort to attend.

On May 5th, we'll be having a town meeting in between the two services to further explore our budget and fundraising efforts for next year. Please try to come.

On May 8th, our choir is performing a wonderful concert based on the 6 Unitarian Universalist sources. The piece is magnificent. Look for more information on Page 13 in this issue of Skylights.

On May 31st, we're having our annual meeting, when we approve our budget, vote on our officers and do any other major business of the congregation.

Relational Covenant Statement Final Draft for Consideration at UUCP Annual Meeting on May 31

Over the past eight months, our congregation has participated in a series of forums designed to explore the meaning of our relationships within this congregation and our aspirations for strengthening this community by deepening these relationships. Most recently on March 29th, approximately 35 members of the congregation attended a Town Hall meeting to respond to the second draft of our Relational Covenant statement. The suggestions and ideas expressed at this Town Hall meeting have shaped draft #3 of the Relational Covenant statement shown below. This final draft will be voted on at the UUCP Annual Meeting on May 31st. Members of the Relational Covenant Task Force express heartfelt thanks to the many congregation members who have served as hosts, facilitators, scribes and discussants during this process!

UUCP Relational Covenant Draft #3

Our covenant affirms a commitment to build loving, healthy and trusting relationships within our congregation. We know it will be challenging to be faithful to the promises we make, but we believe that by choosing this path, we will love better, relate more compassionately and feel the power of our human connections.

Our Promises:

- We warmly welcome all.
- We speak with honesty, respect and compassion.
- We listen attentively.
- We express gratitude for the service of others.
- We honor and support one another in our spiritual journeys and in times of joy, need and struggle.
- We embrace our diversity and the opportunity to share our different perspectives.
- We address our disagreements directly and openly and see conflict through to an authentic resolution.
- We serve our church community with generosity and joy.
- We strive to keep these promises, but when we fall short, we forgive ourselves and others and begin again in love.

The Relational Covenant Task Force – Linda Benson, Ron Campbell, Diana Gray, Sharon McCrae, Michele Ochsner and Dana Powsner

Religious Education for Children and Youth



New RE Parent Orientation May 3, 10:30-11:10, John Murray Room

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. If your family is new to UUCP and you have not yet attended an RE Parent Orientation, please try to come! Child-care available in Room 9.

Summer Chalice Program Begins June 7

Our summer RE program will run from June 7 to September 6, and we have some wonderful fun planned for Pre-K/K kids and older kids ages 6 to 12! If you think your child may attend even one session during the summer, we encourage you to go ahead and register online at <http://www.uuprinceton.org/summerre/>. We know that families have lots of plans and travel scheduled, so we're creating "standalone" lessons for the Summer Chalice Program. We hope your child will come many Sundays, but just coming for a few of them, as your family schedule allows, will be perfectly okay! **If you have questions about the Summer Chalice Program, please call or email Shelle Sumners (609/924-1604, ext. 14, sumners@uuprinceton.org).**

'09-'10 RE Class Registration Begins

Next year's schedule of classes and online registration will be available by the third week of May.

Many Hands Make Light Work

The RE Council is already beginning to get organized for next year's classes and events. We are acutely aware that much is asked of the parents who have children participating

Children's Worship & Religious Education Schedule

Sunday, May 3

Intergenerational Passages Service

9:15 & 11:15 Channing Hall
No RE Classes

New RE Parent Orientation
Between services, 10:30 to 11:10
John Murray Room
Childcare available in Room 9

Sunday May 10

Sacred Story

9:15 & 11:15 Fahs Theatre

Sunday, May 17

Last Day of RE Celebration

9:15 & 11:15 Fahs Theatre
Last Day of RE classes

Sunday, May 24

UU Music Fun with Marjorie Herman!

10:00 Fahs Theatre
(beginning of summer worship schedule)

Sunday, May 31

Intergenerational Flower Communion

10:00 Channing Hall

Sunday, June 7

Summer RE Begins

10:00 the Courtyard

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

YOUTH MINISTRY

Don't Forget!

- Youth Group Food Drive Continues
- 5/17 Youth Brunch!!
- 6/7 Youth Sunday!!!

MAY EVENTS

Every Sunday Morning	Morning Youth Group	11:00a-12:30p
1st & 3rd Sunday Evenings	Evening Youth Group	7:00p - 9:00p
5/3	AM— Passages Service: Credo & Bridging	9:15a & 11:15a 7p Evening YG
5/10	AM—Youth Group	
5/17	AM—Brunch	Brunch 7p— Evening YG
5/24	Memorial Day	No YG
5/29-30	Youth Sunday Lock-In	Overnight: 7p-9a

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

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.

NEWCOMERS' CIRCLES

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 11 other people in a small group setting.

A Newcomers' 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 three months, twice a month for a total of seven meetings.

If you would like to join our next Newcomers' 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. Our hope is to include all newcomers in circles and to have no one wait more than a few weeks.

WELCOME NEWCOMERS!!!

The Rev. Chris Reed and the UUCP Welcoming Team cordially invite you to a **"Wine and Cheese" for Newcomers Sunday, May 17** from 4 to 6 p.m. at Chris's home.

*** Non-alcoholic beverages will be served as well***

For directions please visit the Welcoming Table. We hope you'll join us. Please R.S.V.P. by **May 14** to welcome@uuprinceton.org or **Marty Akers** 609-737-3948.



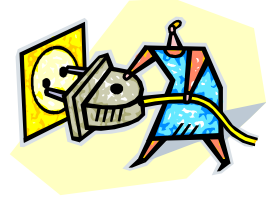
The UUCP **BOOKSTORE** is open every **Sunday** between services. Contact **Alice Harper** (aharper67@comcast.net, 609 737-3046.)

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. Chris Reed or Rev. Forrest Gilmore 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. After a check in and short meditation, participants reflect on and share responses to questions that evoke our individual sacred stories.

- 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 grow new groups as needed, so that we hopefully turn no one away.
- 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.

(Adult Programs continued on page 6)

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** (lindabenson5@gmail.com) and **Alice Harper** (aharper67@comcast.net).

(Adult Programs continued from page 5)

NEW PROGRAMS

Scriptures Circle

**2nd and 4th Thursdays: April 9 & 23
7:30-8:30 p.m. in the Founders Room**

Join the twice monthly evening circle for those who would like to read the Hebrew Bible and the Christian New Testament from a Unitarian Universalist point of view, led by **Rev. Chris Reed**. We bring many backgrounds and understandings to such a reading, including the historical and political contexts, the spiritual aspect of the writings, feminist theology, an exploration of the various traditions or writers, and our own individual experiences with the Bible.

The daytime Bible group, also led by Chris, lasted for twelve years, with participants reading the Bible aloud, cover to cover. This will be a bit different and more selective, with a much shorter time frame. Please bring a Bible. You can use any version as the diversity makes for a richer discussion. If you are buying a Bible you may want to use the NRSV.

Sign up at events@uuprinceton.org or at the Adult Program Table in Robinson Lounge on Sundays or attend the next meeting.

Transitions: Support Group for Those Affected by the Current Economy

**2nd and 4th Mondays: May 11 & 25
7:00-8:15 p.m. in the John Murray Room**

In this economically difficult time for many and for our country, several people in our congregation have experienced job loss or a decrease in income or housing difficulties, or a significant loss in their retirement funds. This group is for any who are feeling the stress of these times. It is part support group, part networking and part resources. We are also creating a list of those looking for jobs and those who know of work opportunities.

You can sign up at the Adult Programs table in the lounge on Sundays or through events@uuprinceton.org. If you have any questions or concerns please contact **Rev. Chris Reed** reed@uuprinceton.org.

Nonviolent Communication

Sunday Afternoon, May 17, 1:00–3:00 p.m. in the John Murray Room

If you participated in the “You Just Don’t Listen” workshop **Eliane Geren** presented last spring, you know how powerful the communication tools she teaches are. Elaine has offered to continue this work with a series of monthly workshops to be held on Sunday afternoons.

As Eliane tells us, “Nonviolent communication is a language of compassion that has the intention of valuing everybody’s needs. It is a life-transforming communication process. It has taught me to be aware of my language and thinking so that I can stay fully connected to the worth and value in myself and others, no matter what we are saying or doing. It also has offered me practical, specific simple steps to help this happen.”

Sign up at the Adult Program Table in Robinson Lounge or at events@uuprinceton.org

POSSIBLE FUTURE PROGRAMS

Let us know if you would be interested in participating in or facilitating any of the following groups (we’ll have a place to indicate interest at the Adult Program Table in Robinson Lounge on Sundays or email events@uuprinceton.org):

- Postelection Affinity Group: Where Do We Go From Here?
- Women’s Spirituality Group
- Meditation Group
- Nonviolent Communication Practice Group

ONGOING PROGRAMS

Young Adult Group!!! Now Forming!!!
Ages 20-35(ish)
Sunday, May 3, 12:30-2:00
John Murray Room

Come and join us at our next meeting as we continue to form a new Young Adult group for our congregation. This is a unique spiritual stage in our lives, and our spiritual growth and enjoyment during this time is enhanced by a loving, supportive and social community.

We meet on the first Sunday of each month for a spiritual discussion, and the third Saturday of each month for a social activity. Please come and help shape this vital ministry to all who walk through our doors looking for such a community of peers. To find out more about us, look for the flyer at the Adult Program Table in Robinson Lounge on Sundays. To join our Google Groups listserv, send an email to uucpyoungadults@gmail.com.

Aging and Saging

**2nd and 4th Wednesdays: May 13 & 27
10:30 a.m.—Noon in the John Murray Room**
Always open to new participants
Led by Rev. Chris Reed and participants

(Adult Programs continued on page 7)

(Adult Programs continued from page 6)

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.

Speaking Spanish—Hablando Español

This group is still taking a spring break, please watch for the restart date in future *Skylights*.

Eckhart Tolle Reading Group

The Power of Now: A Small Group Discussion and Personal Exploration
1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 7:15 to 8:45 p.m. in the Founders Room

"At the deepest level of Being, you are one with all that is"

In 2008 our discussion group explored Eckhart Tolle's book *A New Earth* and how we could apply the ideas to live in the present and simply practice stillness in our lives. In January, we will begin walking through *The Power of Now* to discover the insights and "ah ha" moments we may have missed before. Emphasis will be placed on using the readings as signposts to the underlying experience of presence and spiritual development.

- The first meeting was Wednesday, January 21 Participants will need a copy of *The Power of Now* (approximately \$15).

Ron Campbell, Bill Wymer, and Shelle Sumners will serve as co-facilitators.

Please email sumners@uuprinceton.org to let us know if you are interested in joining this group.

CUUPS (Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans)

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

Classroom 11 otherwise.

All are welcome. The **Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans**, or **CUUPS** (pronounced *cups*), is an organization chartered by the UUA in 1987 to practice and share Earth-centered traditions within the larger denomination. We seek to build bridges between 21st-century pagans and those who embrace other religious traditions, while celebrating the "interdependent web of all existence" as recognized in the Seventh Principle of Unitarian Universalism.

All are welcome; we keep our content child-friendly.
 Contact **Elissa Hoeger** (609) 683-4409, hoeger@princeton.edu.

Great Books Reading Circle

No meeting in May

Contact **Karen Siracusa** (kn.siracusa@att.net or 896-1016.)

Creative Journaling

Third Monday of the month—May 18
7:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m. in the Founders Room

Creative Journaling has **MOVED!**

We now meet the third Monday of the month, in the Founders Room, so if you have a hankering to try something completely different, join us.

We come with blank books; we play with paper, glue, color and juicy markers, and we share a bit about this process.

(All materials are provided, all you need is yourself and a blank journal.) No experience needed; writers, artists, poets, thinkers, be-ers, do-ers, it's all good.

Do e-mail **Emily Townsend** if you are interested in joining us, so we know who to expect.

emtheartist@yahoo.com

Gentle Yoga Class

Saturdays 10:00 a.m.—11:15 a.m. in Founders Room or Channing Hall

All levels welcome!

Childcare available in Room 9 (Please R.S.V.P.)

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.

Contact **Autumn Fiester** to R.S.V.P. for childcare fiester@mail.med.upenn.edu 215-573-2607.

UUCP Adult Singles

The UUCP ADULT SINGLES is an INTERACTIVE, PARTICIPATORY social network. We have no upper or

(Adult Programs continued from page 7)

lower age limits. Our members are single, divorced and widowed.

Sign up to learn about and suggest activities and events of interest; request and find companionship to attend a film, lecture, hike, or...

To JOIN, just send email to: uucpsingles@googlegroups.com

Visit the group at <http://groups.google.com/group/uucpsingles>

~Mirah Riben

A Course in Miracles

Sundays 11:15 a.m. in Room 15

A Course in Miracles will be continuing to study the Work Book section for the summer. We will meet following the service each week either in room 8 of the Sunday school, or if it is hot in another air conditioned room, probably room 15 if it is available. Hope you can join us.

Have a great summer. ~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** (lindabenson5@gmail.com, 609-497-1866).

Into the Woods

Thanks to everyone who helped with our first "Into the Woods" last Sunday, April 19 – especially **Bill, David and Cathy Bauer-Koggen, Dunbar and Nick Birnie, Stan DeReull and Annette Sheldon!!** We cleared a LOT of pesky invasive plants in two general locations, and potted "live stakes" of native plants elderberry, silky dogwood and buttonbush. The woods adjacent to our congregation are owned by Princeton Township, but managed by "Friends of Princeton Open Space" who are custodians of the preserved land. FOPOS needs help – so in a sense, we are "adopting" the land!

Come work with us again on Sunday, May 17, 2009. ALL are welcome to join in this UUCP RE-sponsored work project! Work with either the 10:30-12:30 group, or the 1-3 pm group – or both! Meet at the "woods" end of the UU Princeton Congregation parking lot, and wear comfortable clothes and "sensible" shoes, and dress in layers for whatever weather we have that day. Long sleeves and long pants are a good idea, because

some plants are thorny. Bring **work** gloves (leather ones are best for working with thorny plants, other gardening ones for planting), old/recycled plant containers (up to 1 gallon size), recycled plant trays, and tool(s) such as "loppers" (long handled, short blade) and/or hand clippers, pruning saws. A few wheel barrows would also be useful.

What will we be doing?

- 1) We'll meet up with Steve Hiltner of Friends of Princeton Open Space who will teach us identification of invasive plants and give a short nature walk.
- 2) Those who are able will help clear out the non-native Multi-flora Rose & Privet, then place

Loaves and Fishes 2009



Thank you to all the congregational volunteers, including RE Families and the 7th grade class members, who helped make the UU-sponsored

Loaves and Fishes 2009 a resounding success! Special kudos to the 7th grade RE class members who volunteered – you worked together as a terrific team! Our thanks go out to (at least): Carol and Carl Haag, Zoe Bookman, Dan Sturm, Sarah Kreji, Annie Prior, Evan Lea, Cameron Niemeyer, Amanda Mason, Zach Kleiman, Connor Leahy, Martin Veintraub, C. Reisler and her niece, Lynn Whitney, Zoe & Max Kollegian, Snig Prior, Jeff Bock, Taryn Krietzman, Andre Bonk, Elizabeth Silverman, Lori Ingwerson-Fadden, Amand and Bill Gillum, Regina Ryan, Rebecca Burr and her family, Janice Fishbein, Cindy Neidler, Cindy Dixon, Shari Griffen, Kim Hawkes, Nancy McCormack & family, Louise Senior, Nick Birnie, Carolyn Hoeschle, Jane Fetter, Brian and Susan Cupp, Beth Behrend, Karen Kent, Karen Siracusa, Monica, Phil & Grant Jurkowski, Bill, Jeffrey & Celia Gleason, Andrea Malcolm, Jeanne DeVoe, Pia O'Laughlin, Lauren O'Neil, Gloria Geitz, and Carol Allen! (apologies to anyone whose name got left out – I tried to keep accurate lists, but we had a volunteer *army*!)

Many of you baked and the mountain of brownies you provided were exactly enough! Our extra hands made light work of the Friday night bag lunches with our fellow UUs at Washington Crossing, and we were grateful for all of your help serving the big meal (and cleaning up!) on Saturday. Great work everyone -- you've really used your "open minds, loving hearts and helping hands"!

We look forward to your help again next year – Friday and Saturday March 26 & 27, 2010!!

~Louise Senior and Nancy McCormack, Loaves and Fishes UUCP co-chairs

the cuttings into brush piles in the forest. The brush will provide shelter and habitat for wildlife.

3) We hope to plant native species in the small, moist clearing near our congregation. ON April 19, our workers cleared the multiflora rose from this site, so that the native plants will be able to take root.

4) Some of our workers will plant seedlings, or start more seeds of native plants.

It would be great to have rsvps: please let **Louise Senior** know if you're planning to attend: Louise.senior@verizon.net or 609 688 8847. Louise will supply a large cooler of lemonade and/or water for the work-

(Woods continued on page 9)

GREEN CORNER

Solar Panels are Up and Creating Renewable Energy on Our Roofs

At last, we have solar power at UUCP! Jersey Solar, LLC, a solar installer that has been in business since 1976, installed our photovoltaic (PV) modules earlier this spring. They were connected and feeding energy both to us and to the public utility by early February.

The modules convert sunshine into electricity. UUCP gets the first use; if more electricity is produced than we need, the extra electricity flows to the grid to help meet the electricity needs of other utility customers. We are, in effect, a "generator," on a par with (albeit smaller than) the power plants that use coal, natural gas, and nuclear energy. When UUCP sends our solar electricity to the "grid," the utility purchases less fossil-fuel based electricity. The result is less air pollution, global warming gas, and mercury in our water bodies.

The State of New Jersey has committed publicly, and in regulation, to generating 20 percent of its total electric needs from renewable energy sources by the year 2020. Most importantly, the state also has committed to generating 2 percent of all electricity from solar energy.

The PV system helps the congregation in three main ways. First, it produces clean, renewable energy. That reason alone makes it the right choice. Second, about 40 percent of our electrical demand is now being met by the sun. Also, we are paid, through Clean Power Markets, for any extra electricity we put back into the grid. As a result, we should see significantly lower utility bills from now on (we think we will pay about \$5,000 less each year).

Finally, the utility also pays us for our "green tags," also known as Solar Renewable Energy Credits, or SRECs. This solar incentive system, which the state has created to encourage the use of solar power, is paid by the utilities which are required to buy the SRECs by the State's Clean Energy Program.

(Green continued on page 12)

UUCP SPRING SALE

**Saturday, May 2
9:00 am –2:00 pm**

Think GREEN—Reduce, Re-Use and Recycle!

All proceeds go to our **Social Justice Ministries**.

Come out for a day of great bargains, good food, live music, fun and FELLOWSHIP! This year is the 50th anniversary of the first Spring Fair, organized by Doreen Spitzer in 1959. All proceeds will be donated to **Social Outreach**.

Donations can be brought to UUCP until Friday evening. Please make sure the items you donate are in good, working condition. For those of you helping out that evening, a supper will be served by our CUUPs group for a small 'at cost' fee.

Saturday Volunteers, please remember to **WEAR GREEN** and park at the **Community Park North Parking Lot** on Mountain Avenue. It's not far to walk, and there will also be a shuttle service back and forth to UUCP.

Carbon Tip of the Day: A great way to shrink your carbon footprint is to buy **used clothing in your own community**, since transporting clothes from faraway manufacturers emits a great deal of carbon. Supporting the Spring Sale is a very green thing to do!

**APRIL 26 – Friday, May 1 – Bring donated items to UUCP
FRIDAY 6pm – SUPPER & BOOTH SET-UP
SATURDAY, MAY 2 at 9am – DOORS OPEN**

DONATIONS DROP OFF at UUCP

Sunday April 26	1—7 p.m.
Monday April 27	4—7 p.m.
Tuesday April 28	4—7 p.m.
Wednesday April 29	4—7 p.m.
Thursday April 30	4—7 p.m.
Friday May 1	4—6 p.m.

CLEAN-UP AFTER THE SPRING SALE

After we get done selling as much as we possibly can, we always find that we still have lots of great stuff that no one has purchased. We like to give that stuff to other organizations who can re-use that "stuff" These organizations have included libraries, Good Will, the Rescue Mission, Homefront, and several others.

We also find we have other "stuff" that no one is likely to want and that we need to send to a landfill.

If you know of any organization that would appreciate our "left-overs" and that could see that they are re-used by someone who needs or wants some of our stuff, please let Ray Nichols know of that group and how to contact their "Re-Use Coordinator."

Ray Nichols (609) 737-7442 or Acer-Nichols@verizon.net

(Woods continued from page 8)

ers – all children must attend with at least one responsible/supervising adult.

So....what's so bad about Multiflora rose and privit and other non-native plants?

Invasive plants grow more vigorously in our area than our natives do, so they out-compete the native plants. They provide less food for our native insects, birds and other animals, so as the invasives take over, there is less habitat for wildlife – even though it's "open space" there aren't as many niches for our native animal friends to thrive! And, for any gardeners out there, the multiflora roses now harbor "Rose Rosette Disease" which jumps to cultivated roses and destroys them (it does not affect our native roses, thank goodness!).

Community Building

Women's Alliance

Thursday, May 21
Strawberry Festival

We'll gather for our annual meeting to elect officers, vote on our proposed donations, and enjoy anticipating the summer. Our delicious luncheon of various salads will end with strawberry shortcake!



Luncheons are held in the Founders Room at 12:00 noon. Please bring a salad to share. Beverages and shortcake will be provided. Everyone is welcome. **Emma Forehand**, (609) 921-6146.

Dinner Discussion

Tuesday, May 19, 7 p.m.

The topic for the May 19 Dinner Discussion is **End of Life Decisions and the Final Exit Network**, and the speakers will be long-time UU member **Bob Levine** and two other members of Final Exit Network **Bob Fleming** and **Hazel Stix**. They will describe the mission and operation of the Network and the struggles by the people who call on it. The network is under serious assault by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation — arrests, freezing of bank accounts, and raids on officers' homes to seize computers and records. The speakers will describe these events and the serious problems faced by the volunteers. — **Where?** Robinson Lounge. Sign up with **Mal Durbin** between services May 10 or 17, by calling her (before 9 PM Sunday May 17) on 609 759-3351, or e-mail malf302@yahoo.com. Dinner is \$10, adjusted up or down for newcomers or latecomers. Arrive 7 PM for snacks, beverages and dinner. Talk is at 8:10 PM. You can skip dinner and the fee by arriving just for the talk. ~George Schindler, Jr.

Men's Club

The next Men's Club luncheon will be on Tuesday, **October 13**. ~Bill Barnard

Denominational Connections

UU Camps and Conferences

Want a vacation for you or a summer camp experience for children and youth which manifests your UU values? To see the complete array of summer happenings for families and/or adults, go to www.CU2C2.org and be impressed by the interesting choices, many of which are in beautiful vacation areas. ~Carol Allen, UU Connections Committee

UUs to Gather in Salt Lake City; Delegate Slots Open

Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) General Assembly (GA) will be held in Salt Lake City from June 24-28. At present there are delegate slots open; UUCP can have nine delegates. A delegate will carry the UUCP banner in the Wednesday Opening Night Exercises. Non-delegates and families are also urged to attend.



There are special programs for children and youth. GA is an exciting blend of policy-making, justice focus, learning, communicating, dancing and singing, and reflection. As UUCP enters the ministerial search process, it is very productive to have people attending denominational events to broaden our perspective on UUA values. This year there will be the election of a new president of UUA and also completion of the Statement of Conscience on Peacemaking resulting from the 2006-2010 Study/Action Issue. A very special event for UUCP this year is having Princeton University Professor **Melissa Harris-Lacewell**, daughter of **Diana Gray** of our congregation and an authority on Religion and Politics, African-American Politics, and Gender and

Politics, give the distinguished Ware Lecture at 8:30 PM on Saturday, June 27.

UU University, nine hours of focus at GA, has the following six tracks: Stewardship; Multigenerational; Multicultural; Justice; Governance; Theology. For details on GA program, registration, housing, etc. go www.UUa.org and link to General Assembly. If you are interested in being a UUCP delegate, contact Administrator Sara Oderwald in the church office.

~Carol Allen, UU Connections Committee

Social Action

COALITION SPEAKER ON NUCLEAR ABOLITION

On Sunday, May 17 at the Princeton Theological Seminary, McKay Student Center, the Coalition for Peace Action will have its annual meeting. Speaker will be Ambassador Thomas Pickering, formerly with the State Department in Russia and Eastern European countries and now a leader in the Global Zero Campaign for nuclear abolition. There will be a reception for sponsors at 12:30, lunch at 1:30, and program from 2:30-4:30. Stephanie Harris of UUCP will be honored for her leadership in pursuit of Verified Voting (verified paper ballot).

For reservations, go to www.peacecoalition.org. ~Carol Allen

Thank you for all the Books!

The 11:15 4-5th grade class thanks our congregation for making our Lubuto Library Book Drive a wonderful success! We surpassed our goal of 250 books — and the volumes will soon be on their way to Zambia, thanks to Dow Jones. ~11:15 4-5th grade teaching team: Monica Sluyter, Jeanne Devoe, Susan Griffen and Louise Senior

Social Justice

The Social Justice Committee will meet on Wednesday **May 13** in Room 15 at 7:30pm. All are welcome to attend. ~Pat Radtke

Homefront's "Week of Hope" May 9-13



Homefront's Week of Hope will bring together friends and neighbors of all ages through-

out Central New Jersey all recognizing the need for need for positive change in the lives of local families who are homeless or are in the crisis of poverty. This is a unique opportunity to advocate for the right of every child to safe, stable home and a chance to work toward a better life. Visit Homefront's website for further details:

www.homefrontnj.org

Possible volunteer opportunities include:

5K Run/Walk **May 9** - 11 a.m.

Motorcycle Run **May 16** - 9 a.m. registration

Community Family Picnic **May 16** from noon to 2:00 p.m.

~Stephanie Cohen

Successful Spring Day of Service

Despite rainy weather, April 11, 2009 brought out many UUCP folks to serve in East Trenton by helping with the 3rd Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Habitat work crew and sandwich making for Habitat for Humanity workers. With approximately 20 children, it was a little "wild" having an Easter egg hunt indoors, but the children did not seem to mind as they scavenged the Learning Center for hundreds of colorful plastic eggs. Other activities included, seed planting in take-home pots, Easter/Spring crafts and prizes offered to those with a "magic number" inside one of the plastic eggs. **The following congregants helped make this day a success: Rusty Bryant, Ray Nichols,**

Polly Ramstad, Norma Veile, Robert Bizezinski, Peter and Sarah Macholdt, Kathy Fedorko, Nancy Fiedler and daughter Cadence, Michelle Hunt, Regina Ryan, Diana Davies, Ryan Warriar, Pat Radtke and her visiting relatives, Diana Gray, Carolyn Hoeschele, Monica Sluyter and her RE class, Mary Tulloss, Amanda and Bill Gillum, Margo and Jesse Saltzman and Helen Szathmary. If I forgot anyone, I apologize. Thank you so much for making this day possible and I'll keep you posted for further service projects coming up!

~Stephanie Cohen

Raise the Wage Campaign

Please visit the Social Justice table on Sunday to learn more about wage justice in New Jersey. We cannot have an economically just society when individuals cannot cover basic expenses on a full-time minimum wage income.

Come to the table on Sunday and write a letter to your representative letting them know that you support the Raise The Wage Campaign. ~Stephanie Cohen

Welcome to the RAISE THE WAGE CAMPAIGN, representing 21 organizations focused on winning a much-needed pay raise for New Jersey's minimum wage workers. The Campaign goals are:

- 1. A state minimum wage of \$8.50**
- 2. A minimum wage that is indexed--raised automatically each year to keep up with increases in costs and/or other wages**
- 3. For New Jersey's tipped employees, a minimum cash wage of 65% to 85% of the minimum wage.**

Princeton UULMNJ Action Team Meeting Scheduled

On May 10, at 10:30 - 12 in Forrest's office Princeton's UULMNJ Action Team there will be a meeting of those interested in being part of this group. Please confirm with Elaine at elaine@nigamfamily.org that you will be coming.

The vision is that each congregation's action team will work with the UULMNJ, A Public Policy Network. Congregational teams will give input into the network and follow up within their own congregations to encourage gathering of information on issues and implementing advocacy actions.

In addition, as both UU Church at Washington Crossing and UU Congregation of Princeton are in Mercer County and congregants have overlap in voting districts, some collaboration will be desirable and we will be doing this.

We have an incredible opportunity in the years ahead to live our UU faith out loud and help build the beloved community in our garden state.

Diana Gray, UUCP Co-Liaison, UULMNJ, A Public Policy Network
Another UUCP Co-Liaison, To Be Announced

New Jersey Day of Action for Immigration Reform

New Labor invites you to New Jersey Day of Action for Immigration Reform. May 1st has become an unofficial day on which immigrants and allies hold events in towns and cities across the U. S. to press for immigrant rights.

Please join us:

When: May 1, 2009

Where: Lincoln Park,

Broad St. Newark N.J.

Time: 11:00 am

For more info:
Call 732-246-3900
Or 732-534-4166
~Stephanie Cohen

News from the Board

In the wake of Forrest's announcement of his decision to resign his position here at UUCP, we're sure there are many questions on everyone's minds about what is to come. As a Board, we'd like to keep you all informed of the activities taking place as we move forward as a Congregation.

The next step for us is to decide how we will fill this hole that has been left. At our most recent meeting on April 14, 2009, the Board was joined by Andrea Lerner, the Metro District Executive, who facilitated our discussions and answered our questions. We were educated about the role and importance of an interim minister. This person will be charged with helping us to face our transition, answer difficult questions, and challenge us to be the best place we can be all the while making the best use of the ministers, church staff, and lay leaders as well as making appropriate use of District, UUA, and other outside resources.

Given the current economy and financial contraction that many of us are feeling, the Board debated whether we should fund an interim minister at this time, or take the opportunity to cut deeply into our salary expenses. The question we were left asking ourselves, however, is the following: If Forrest were NOT leaving, would we be thinking about contracting our ministerial staff to one minister at this time? We feel this question is an important point of consideration, a point for thoughtful

dialog with opportunities for all voices to be heard. We did not feel it was appropriate to make a BOT decision to forego interim ministry during that period of debate. The Board believes strongly that the congregation is best served by having a minister who can, together with Chris, meet our ministerial needs, and ideally contribute to our debate and discussion as an objective outside observer and change consultant, through this period of self assessment and transition.

The goal of this transition period is that the Congregation will emerge with renewed vision, strengthened stewardship, prepared for new growth and new leadership, and ready to embrace the future. As a result of our discussions, the Board voted unanimously to seek an interim minister to serve us for the upcoming church year.

It is the Board's responsibility to find and hire an interim minister. That process is already underway as the timeline is very brief. We anticipate an interim minister being in place by mid to late August. At the same time, the Nominating Committee is charged with identifying a Search Committee who will begin their work over the summer. Approval of the Search Committee is by congregational vote. More information on that will follow.

~ Kathy Lehmann and Lauren Foss, on behalf of the Board of Trustees

(Green continued from page 9)

We earn one green tag for each 1,000 kilowatt hours (1 megawatt hour) we produce.

In our first six weeks of operation we generated 3,000 kilowatt hours. This means our PV system has earned us three green tags so far.

Today each tag is worth between \$400 and \$600 per SREC on the market. We expect to earn about 30 green tags a year. This means we will likely have more than \$20,000 in income each year (not to mention lower utility bills)! Between the lower utility bills and the SRECs, our PV system will be paid off in less than five years!

With more and more dire effects of global warming looming ever closer, our federal government is offering incentives for others to do what we have done. Owners of residences who install PV systems on their roofs are receiving a 30 percent tax *credit* on their federal income taxes. In addition, the state of New Jersey offers rebates and SRECs for PV systems on homes. Businesses, non-profits, and municipal/public/school buildings also have incentives.

Do join us in the Twenty-First Century, the beginning of the Energy-Climate Era. Solar power is benign, silent, and non-polluting and will help make our world a safer place for our children and fellow creatures on the earth.

We hope that other congregations throughout the region will follow the leadership of UUCP and install PV systems to send the message that the time for change has arrived.

~Ellie Whitney, chair, Green Sanctuary Committee, in consultation with Tom Prusa and Dolores Phillips

(Hands continued from page 4)

in our religious education programs. We are making a serious effort to streamline our class structure and reorganize the classes in order to reduce the demands on RE families. That being said, the reality is our program only functions with your participation. I see this as a double-edged sword. It definitely can seem like all you do is pitch-in and you don't get enough

UUCP time for your own spiritual and emotional needs. Isn't "church time" supposed to be a break from the demands of parenting and work? On the other side of the coin, the time you spend helping out with the classes and brunch gives you a great opportunity to learn about UU principles and leaders and also get to know your fellow congregants.

As we begin to look forward to next

(Hands continued on page 13)



FAMILY GET-A-WAYS at MURRAY GROVE – get back to simplicity!

Enjoy a mini-vacation at your Mid-Atlantic UU retreat center in the peaceful NJ Pine Barrens, on the site where Universalism began: available mid-weeks; comfortable and affordable; fun: pool (in season), athletic fields, nature walks, barbeques, fire circle; near beaches, boardwalks, Six Flags, canoeing, restaurants and parks



Support your UU retreat centers!

Check out murraygrove.org; write us at murraygrove@murraygrove.org or call 609-693-5558

Save the dates:

Murray Grove's 2nd ANNUAL DRUM AND DANCE RETREAT

– Learn to drum and have some fun!
– August 14-16

HOME COMING WEEKEND – September 25, 26, 27

–Rev. Carol Haag, Murray Grove Board of Trustees

The combined choirs of Trinity Church Princeton and Church of the Redeemer Bryn Mawr present a concert featuring

G. F. Handel's **Coronation Anthems**

Tom Whittemore, conductor

Sunday, May 3 at 4:30 p.m.

Trinity Church

33 Mercer St., Princeton

Information:

609-924-2277

www.trinityprinceton.org

\$10 students

\$20 general admission

The choirs will kindly donate the proceeds to the Crisis Ministry.

Grace Notes

Our presentation of "Sources" is coming up on Friday evening, **May 8**. This is an opportunity to witness an artistic rendering of the theological diversity



contained in our Unitarian Universalist ideals. Composer Rev. Jason Shelton and lyricist Rev. Kendyl Gibbons have created a stunning work, bound to uplift and inspire all who hear it. For background information, check out the article that appeared last summer in UU World: <http://www.uuworld.org/life/articles/108002.shtml>. The UUCP Adult Choir will be joined by a chamber orchestra for this performance.

As part of the evening, there will be a brief Hymn Sing, and you'll hear Adult Choir favorites as well. So grab your favorite UU's and join us for what will hopefully be a lovely spring evening in Channing Hall, and renew with us your "Sources."

Tickets will be available at the door. Hope to see you there,
Marjorie Herman



(Hands continued from page 12)

year, I ask all of you to reflect on how you can participate in our RE program next year. While we are working on making the structure less demanding, we will need your help. It is simple – without you the UUCP RE program cannot be a success. Most tasks are pretty simple and, with enough support, are not overly time consuming. It is definitely the

Help Find Our Next Minister

This year's Nominating Committee (**Jordan Corn, Vicki Campbell, Bill Gilmore, and Linda Benson**) is charged with nominating a Search Committee to find our next minister. We are seeking individuals who see the potential of the congregation, support the progress that has been made with each of our ministries, and have the time and willingness to commit to this valuable effort to attract an individual with a vision similar to that of our Congregation. The last Search Committee worked extensively on a broad strategy to build a structure that met the long-term interest of UUCP membership, and we anticipate that the new Search Committee may elect to take on a similar endeavor.

Please let us know if you would like to recommend someone for this position or if you would be interested in applying to serve on the committee yourself. You can contact Jordan (at jcorn@meredithpoint.com, or 609-890-7865) or any member of the Nominating Committee by May 15. We will be providing application questionnaires to interested candidates.

Please note that all participants must be members of the UUCP.

~Jordan Corn



case that many hands make light work. That is the case with RE.

Over the coming months you may get a call from Shelle, Chris, or maybe me asking if you can help out. Please join us. Even better, don't wait for the call – send a note to Shelle (sumners@uuprinceton.org) and let her know you are ready and willing. Thanks for all you do.

~Tom Prusa and the RE Council

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).

Congratulations to **Carol and Carl Haag!** Their son Ken and Nikki Fogler were married by Chris Reed on March 21.

This in from **Catherine Schurdak...** My dear friend, Jim Hill, recently lost his daughter Tiffany to diabetes; she was 19. We want to keep Jim in our thoughts as he assumes care of Tiffany's 1 1/2 year old daughter (Tiffany's death was absolutely sudden—diabetic coma.)

We acknowledge the death of **Rev. Berjohie "Berjie" Andreassian Bergler** last July 10th. We knew her only slightly at the end of her life. But what a life she lived! Born in Turkey in 1922, she fled with other Armenians to Lebanon. She graduated from Keuka College as class valedictorian and earned her BD in Ministry from Colgate-Rochester Divinity School, valedictorian and the only woman in her class. She was Assistant Professor of Religion at Mt. Holyoke College, preached at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst, served as Director

of Religious Education at All Souls Unitarian Church in New York and was the first woman to preach at that church. Rev. Sophia Lyon Fahs wrote a letter of reference for her fellowship as a minister. She was ordained at Community Church of New York as Minister to College Students and established campus ministries in several major colleges and universities. She married Robert Bergler in 1965 and became an Assistant Professor of Religion at Douglass College. They were members of the Unitarian Society of New Brunswick and in her retirement she attended the Unitarian Church of Princeton.

Fund for Nicole Lynne - Nicole is thriving! **Betty Ashwood** has returned to work at Princeton University, with support of food and babysitting from friends. To express the love and care of UUCP, Betty and Nicole's village, we've established a fund for Nicole: to put away for her education, to help with extraordinary expenses, or to provide something special for her as she grows up.

If you would like to contribute, send checks made out to UUCP and marked Nicole's Fund.



Stewardship

Seeing Opportunities in Challenges

Crisis is an opportunity to re-think our values and take action in support of our core beliefs. Like many other congregations and non-profit organizations, the UUCP stewardship drive has not, as yet, raised sufficient funds to support our current staff and programs. To date, 277 out of 344 pledging families (81%) have pledged a total of \$530,369. To sustain our current programs, we need to raise \$640,000. We have the good fortune of having several families in the position of offering *challenge* pledges totaling \$16,000 as of April 19. This means that for every dollar raised up to that amount, it will be matched one for one, so we can raise \$32,000 in additional income for our programs. And, this is just the start of this new pledge drive.

Please consider what the UUCP means to you personally and what you believe it means to the larger community. We offer liberal religious education programs throughout the lifespan and support several social justice efforts. Are these programs and our worship services worth taking the extra step to re-order your own financial priorities? I'm taking a simple approach. I've already made my pledge, but have decided to put an envelope on my desk as a reminder to put an added \$5.00 per week toward our UUCP mission. If you can take that extra step per week by adding an additional amount per week to your pledge, please return a pledge card with the total amount you will add to your pledge or just call the office and let Sara know. Through our collective effort, UUCP can be a model of growth and possibility rather than of fear and withholding. To paraphrase **Maggie Beaumont**, "our message to the universe is one of having and sharing".

~Nancy Fiedler, Stewardship Co-Chair

View the current calendar online at:
<http://plus2.calendars.net/uuprinceton>

MAY 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
<p>MAY 3—TWO SERVICES—9:15 & 11:15 INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE BRUNCH 10:15—11:00 Town Hall Budget Discussion Meeting—Channing 10:35a Kids' Choral Rehearsal—Room 2 10:30a-11:10a RED Room—Murray 11:00a Morning Youth Group 11:15a-12:30p A Course in Miracles—Room 8 12:30p-1:45p Young Adult Group—Murray 12:30—2:00 Town Hall Budget Discussion Meeting—Channing 1:00p-3:00p Environmental Film Series—Fahs Theatre 5:00p-6:30p Environmental Film Series—Fahs Theatre 7:00-9:00p Evening Youth Group Social (1st Sun) - Room 15</p>	<p>MAY 4 7:00p-9:00p Special Board of Trustees Meeting: Search for a Settled Minister—Founders Room</p>	<p>MAY 5 2:00p-4:00p UU History Through Books—Murray 7:00p-9:00p RE Council (1st Tue) - Founders Room 7:30p-9:00p Coalition for Peace Action meeting—Room 7</p>	<p>MAY 6 7:15 p Covenant Circle (1st Wed) - Murray 7:15p-8:45p Eckhart Tolle Reading Group (1st Wed) - Founders Room 7:30p-9:00p Adult Choir Practice—Channing Hall</p>	<p>MAY 7 10:00a-Noon Women's Alliance Board Meeting (1st Thu) - Founders Room 7:30p-9:00p Bell Choir Rehearsal—Channing 7:15p Covenant Circle—(1st Thu PM) - Murray Room 7:30-9:00p UU History Through Books—Founders</p>	<p>MAY 8 8:00p Sources— Music Ministry Concert—Channing 7:00p CUPS Full Moon Circle—Room 11</p>	<p>MAY 9 Full Moon 8:30a-3:00p Trenton-Habitat Work Day (2nd Sat) 8:30a-10:30a Pastoral Associates (2nd Sat) - Murray 10:00a Yoga Class—Founders Room</p>
<p>MAY 10—TWO SERVICES—9:15 & 11:15 MOTHERS DAY 10:15a-11:30a Princeton UULMJ Congregation Action group meeting—Forrest's office 10:35a Kids' Choral Rehearsal—Room 2 11:00a Morning Youth Group 11:15a-12:30p A Course in Miracles—Room 8 1:00p-3:00p Environmental Film Series—Fahs Theatre 5:00p-6:30p Environmental Film Series—Fahs Theatre</p>	<p>MAY 11 7:00-8:30p Transitions (2nd Mon) - Murray</p>	<p>MAY 12 7:00p-10:00p Board of Trustees meeting (2nd Tue) - Founders 7:00p-9:00p Newcomer Circle (2nd Tues) - Murray 7:30p-9:00p Storytelling Circle (2nd Tue) - Room 7</p>	<p>MAY 13 10:30-Noon Aging & Saging (2nd Wed) - Murray 7:00p-9:00p Adult Program Committee (2nd Wed) - Founders 7:00p-9:00p E2 Covenant Circle (2nd Wed) - Murray 7:30p-9:00 Social Justice Committee—Room 15 7:30-9:00p Adult Choir Practice—Channing Hall</p>	<p>MAY 14 7:00p-8:30p Scriptures Circle (2nd Thu) - Founders 7:15p-9:15p Covenant Circle (2nd Thu PM) - Murray</p>	<p>MAY 15</p>	<p>MAY 16 10:00a Yoga Class—Founders Room 4:00p-6:00p Environmental Film Series for Kids—Fahs Theatre</p>
<p>MAY 17—TWO SERVICES—9:15 & 11:15 BRUNCH SPONSORED BY YOUTH 10:15—11:00 Town Hall Budget Discussion Meeting—Channing 10:35a Kids' Choral Rehearsal—Room 2 11:00a Morning Youth Group 11:15a-12:30p A Course in Miracles—Room 8 12:30—2:00 Town Hall Budget Discussion Meeting—Channing 1:00p-3:00p Environmental Film Series—Fahs Theatre 1:00p-3:00p Nonviolent Communication—Murray 5:00p-6:30p Environmental Film Series—Fahs Theatre 7:00p-9:00p Evening Youth Group (3rd Sun) - Room 15</p>	<p>MAY 18 7:00p-9:00p Creative Journaling (3rd Mon) - Founders 7:30p-9:30p Covenant Circle—Murray</p> <p>5:00p Skylights MAY 2009 issue DEADLINE skylights@uuprinceton.org</p>	<p>MAY 19 7:00p-9:00p Dinner Discussion—Robinson 7:00p-9:00p Committee on Ministry (3rd Tue) - Murray 7:00p-9:00p Blessed Bounty (3rd Tues) - Room 15</p>	<p>MAY 20 1:00p-3:00p OFFICE STAFF MEETING—Office closed 7:15p-8:45p Eckhart Tolle Reading Group (3rd Wed) - Founders Room 7:30-9:00p Adult Choir Practice—Channing Hall 7:30p Membership Committee Meeting—Forrest's Office</p>	<p>MAY 21 Noon—1:00p Women's Alliance Luncheon (3rd Thurs) - Founders 7:00-9:00p Small Group Ministry Leaders Meeting—Murray</p>	<p>MAY 22</p>	<p>MAY 23 10:00a Yoga Class—Founders Room</p>
<p>MAY 24—ONE SERVICE—10:00 10:35a Kids' Choral Rehearsal—Room 2 11:00a Morning Youth Group 11:15a-12:30p A Course in Miracles—Room 8 1:00p-3:00p Environmental Film Series—Fahs Theatre 5:00p-6:30p Environmental Film Series—Fahs Theatre</p>	<p>MAY 25 OFFICE CLOSED in observance of Memorial Day 7:00-8:30p Transitions (4th Mon) - Murray</p> 	<p>MAY 26 7:00p-9:00p Leadership Council (4th Tues) - Minister's Office 7:00p-9:00p Newcomer Circle (4th Tues) - Murray</p>	<p>MAY 27 10:30-Noon Aging & Saging (4th Wed) - Murray 7:00p-9:00p E2 Covenant Circle (4th Wed) - Murray 7:30-9:00p Adult Choir Practice—Channing Hall</p>	<p>MAY 28 7:15p-8:30p Scriptures Circle (4th Thu) - Founders</p>	<p>MAY 29</p>	<p>MAY 30 10:00a Yoga Class—Founders Room</p>
<p>MAY 31—ONE SERVICE—10:00 FLOWER COMMUNION—Intergenerational 10:35a Kids' Choral Rehearsal—Room 2 11:00a Morning Youth Group 11:15a-12:30p A Course in Miracles—Room 8 1:00p-3:00p Environmental Film Series—Channing 12:30p Annual Picnic</p>	<p>JUN 1 7:00p-9:00p RE Council (1st Tue) - Founders Room 7:30p-9:00p Coalition for Peace Action meeting—Room 7</p>	<p>JUN 2 7:00p-9:00p RE Council (1st Tue) - Founders Room 7:30p-9:00p Coalition for Peace Action meeting—Room 7</p>	<p>JUN 3 7:15 p Covenant Circle (1st Wed) - Murray 7:15p-8:45p Eckhart Tolle Reading Group (1st Wed) - Founders Room 7:30-9:00p Adult Choir Practice—Channing Hall</p>	<p>JUN 4 7:15p Covenant Circle—(1st Thu PM) - Murray Room</p>	<p>JUN 5 7:15p Covenant Circle—(1st Fri PM) - Room 15 7:00p CUPS Full Moon Circle—Room 11</p>	<p>JUN 6 10:00a Yoga Class—Founders Room</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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CONTENTS	
Sunday Worship Services	1
Reflection	2-3
RE for Children & Youth	4
Adult Programs	5-8
Green Sanctuary	9
Spring Sale	9
Community Building	10
Social Justice	11
Legislative Ministry	11
Board of Trustees	12
Music Ministry	13
Nominating Committee	13
Joys & Sorrows	14
Calendar	15
Ministers' Schedules	16

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