

 **the**
FELLOWTARIAN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester

Web Edition – No personal phone numbers or addresses

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SUNDAY SERVICES

June, 2006

June 4, 9 a.m. Service Only

**WAR, THE RIGHT OF CONSCIENCE,
AND UU RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**Pam Baxter,
Director of Religious Ed.**

The option of filing for Conscientious Objector status did not go out with the Vietnam War. Can a Unitarian Universalist upbringing support one's petition not to serve in the military? In exploring this question, Pam will share a true-life story involving UU Religious Education, the Ten Commandments, and a family's commitment to non-violence.

June 4, 11 a.m. Service Only

COMING OF AGE CEREMONY

The Coming of Age year provides insights into what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist and encourages the participants to determine whether or not they would describe themselves as UU. Join us for a memorable service in which the nine members of this year's 9th grade class will share with us their individual spiritual journeys. We will also hear from the mentors who worked with them.

June 11, 9 a.m. Service Only

A CELEBRATION OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Our Religious Education Program is wrapping up for the year and we will be celebrating our children and teachers. Come hear our fabulous UFWC drummers, "sit in" on a class in world religions, and help us say "thank you" to the members of our Fellowship who supported RE in our classrooms during the year. Enjoy a delicious "enhanced Coffee hour" immediately following the service.

June 11, 11 a.m. Service Only

BUDDHISM AND UU

Robin Garrett

Many folks here at UFWC have expressed an interest in more services related to Buddhism. For this service Robin Garrett will deliver a talk based on sermons by several UU ministers including the Reverends Roberta Finkeltstein, Mark Gallagher Bell, and Erik Walker Willstrom.

June 18

FROM YOU I RECEIVE, TO YOU I GIVE

Rev. Larry Smith

On this Sunday we reflect on the gifts that liberal religion gives us and the blessings of community. This will be a flower communion service. Please bring a flower, if you are able.

June 25 - 10 a.m. - One Service Only

MEET YOUR OWN LIFE

Lay Led

A poet once said that when you meet your own life in a great poem, your life becomes expanded, extended, clarified, magnified, deeper in color, and deeper in feeling. During this lay-led poetry service, you are invited to share poems that have enriched your understanding of your own life and deepened your relationship with the world.

Services, Religious Education & Babysitting at 9 AM and 11 AM

FROM YOUR INTERIM MINISTER

Two years ago the interim ministry search committee for the Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester asked me to work with the church for the next two years as its interim minister. It has been quite an exciting time for all of us. I have never seen a church revision its ministry more fruitfully than I have witnessed here. It is a testament to your courage and enthusiasm for your faith community that encourages me that the interim ministry process does work when a congregation has good leadership and the blessing of many gifts to share. I would especially thank your congregational presidents for their dedicated leadership during this interim period. West Chester was very fortunate to have Lincoln Baxter, Mary Hepokoski and Flo Miller in lay leadership roles. The church was fortunate that members came together through the board and key committees to move the church forward.

Leaving West Chester will not be easy. You have accomplished much together and I am sure that your future will be great if you continue to support your vision. You might have noticed during this interim ministry that I rarely referred to this congregation as many ministers do. Interim ministers are rightly taught to refer to the churches that they serve without including themselves. When someone spoke of our accomplishments together it was always important that I referred to “your” accomplishments. That is because the work of the interim ministry is really the work of the congregation—not the interim minister. Interim ministers like to say that we are “pre-fired.” It is a way of expressing the reality that we need to keep some distance and not bond too closely with the congregations

we serve. Such is necessary for our sanity and the good of the church.

Our code of ethics also states that after our interim ministry with a congregation we keep as little contact as possible with the church or individual congregants. After I cease being your interim minister I will not be in contact with congregants. That is the rule and I respect it.

Unlike all my previous ministries however, I can assure you that I may see you some time in the future. Living in the Philadelphia-area means that I will probably meet you when we are shopping at the King of Prussia mall or strolling through Longwood Gardens or attending an arts event. This is almost inevitable and I look forward to those chance encounters. When we meet though I cannot talk about church business or your minister. I would be glad to know about your children, your job, your life.

You will also encounter me at district functions. I hope to be working as a minister in this region in the future. I would be glad to chat over lunch at the district annual conference or talk for a moment after a regional committee. Though I will no longer be your minister, I will still be in community with you through our larger movement in this area.

My heartfelt congratulations on receiving the Rev. Patrick O’Neill as your interim minister for the next year. He tells me that he is enthusiastic about serving as your interim minister. I have every confidence that your next year of interim ministry with Rev. O’Neill will be exciting and wonderful for all of you.

Finally, let me tell you that it has been an honor to serve as

your interim minister these past two years. I have witnessed your changes and development as beacons of hope that churches can accomplish all that they set out to do. Remember to welcome the stranger and to turn your vision to the larger community beyond your congregation. The Brandywine Valley and the Joseph Priestley District of the Unitarian Universalist Association need the ministry that this community can provide. I believe that your best days as a religious community still lie ahead of you if the stranger is welcomed and justice is sought. The Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester will always be in my thoughts and prayers.

— Keep the faith,
Larry Smith



HOW DO WE SOUND TO YOU?

As part of the congregation’s need to increase accessibility, a small committee is currently looking at issues concerning the sound in our worship space. The more input we have about how well people can hear in this space, the better the results will be.

Please contact Susan Gast or Tom Townsend to share your thoughts. Tell us how the volume and clarity are for you with the minister or others speakers at the podium and/or with the music.

Also, please contact them if personal sound amplification is something you or anyone you know would like to try or use.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

One of the busiest years in the history of our Fellowship is about to end. Each of you will take from the year your own memories. It is my hope that those memories will include moments of fun and spiritual enrichment as well as a sense of achievement for any contribution you have made to Fellowship operations. Whatever that contribution – be it committee work, helping with a special event, or simply financial support - it has been much appreciated.

I'd like to share with you what I see as the highlights of this very eventful year. Before I do so, however, I want to take the time to acknowledge the invaluable contribution to our Fellowship of our departing interim minister, Larry Smith. When you arrived, Larry, many of us (including me) were complacently asleep, happy with things as they were. Truth be told, I felt a bit resentful when you started talking about those "mice." You had a receptive and dynamic President (Linc Baxter) who worked with you and deserves a great deal of the credit for waking us up. But we needed a skilled "outsider" to facilitate change, and you fit the bill. It has been an honor and a pleasure for me to build on the groundwork you and Lincoln laid. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for all you have done for our Fellowship.

Without further ado, then, these are what I see as the highlights of our past year:

- Our increased denominational presence and our growing reputation within the denomination as a dynamic and extremely healthy congregation. The significance of this cannot be over estimated. We have had representation not only at the annual Joseph Priestley District Conference but also at several district workshops and meet-

ings over the course of the past year. Five of our members – to my knowledge an unprecedented number – will be attending the General Assembly of the UUA in St. Louis in June.

- The growth consultancy with the Rev. Tom Chulak and the exceptional work of our Bridging Team. They have been of great assistance to the Board in meeting the challenges of growth, particularly in the area of governance. In fact, the governance model (which I characterize as a "work in progress") is a highlight of its own from this past year.

- The untiring energy and commitment of our Ministerial Search Committee. I was uplifted by the reports they brought back about our desirability as a congregation among the ministerial candidates they interviewed. I was equally uplifted – in fact, inspired – by the supportive response from the congregation when the committee announced that they were unable to bring forth a candidate.

- The Chalice Lighters grant. When I took over the Presidency in July, the general outlook for receiving money from this source was pretty bleak. We just didn't seem to fit any of the criteria. The impressive work of our Bridging Team in combination with other initiatives that demonstrated our commitment to growth changed the picture and won us the grant.

- The response to the 2005-06 stewardship campaign and the transitional fund drive that accompanied it. I was amazed by the outpouring of support from the congregation. And then we turned around and did it all over again for

the 2006-07 year, rising to the challenge of the \$25,000 matching gift!

- The successful implementation of double services. The Religious Services Committee, the Religious Education Committee,

and the Membership Committee perhaps made the greatest contribution to this effort, but every other committee within the Fellowship was also involved in one way or another.

other.

- The completion of our interim ministry search with the appointment of Rev. Patrick O'Neill to the position for next year. I have high expectations for our new year with Rev. O'Neill.

There are many, many other accomplishments over the past year that I could name were it not for space limitations. I'm sure that you could add to the list, too. In fact, each and every one of you probably has your own list!

Some of you will be continuing to give of your time and talents over the coming summer months. Religious services will still be held, albeit on a reduced schedule; bills will still need to be paid; building needs will have to be met; summer camping and a board retreat will need to be organized. But I encourage all of you, whatever your summertime commitments, to find the time to relax and recharge before we reconvene for a new church year in September. Meanwhile, please try to attend some of our summer activities (the camping trip is great fun), and I hope to see you at our various events and at religious services in June.

— Yours in faith, Flo Miller

"I want to acknowledge the invaluable contribution to our Fellowship of our departing interim minister, Larry Smith."

REV. PATRICK O'NEILL IS OUR NEW INTERIM MINISTER

The search for a new interim minister for our Fellowship next year has reached a successful and exciting conclusion with the appointment of Rev. Patrick O'Neill of Wilmington, DE to the position.

In a special meeting prior to services on May 14, the board heard and unanimously accepted the recommendation of the Interim Search Committee to appoint Rev. O'Neill. Chair Mike Miller delivered the report. Committee members Kate Cuiffari, Gerry Geiss, and Deanna Koepcke were also present to answer questions. All spoke with great enthusiasm about Rev. O'Neill's candidacy. They added that Rev. O'Neill is equally enthusiastic about coming to West Chester.

In his report, Mike emphasized Rev. O'Neill's preaching skills, but he also outlined some valuable experience in other areas. Rev. O'Neill has strong connections to the denomination and will be serving on the UUA's Ministerial Fellowship Committee next year. (This committee grants Fellowship to ministerial candidates.) He may be able to help us avoid some pitfalls with policy governance, as he is familiar with both the good and the bad aspects of that organizational approach. His has served UUA congregations of varying sizes, which should in general work to our benefit.

Several portions of Mike's report are worth reprinting, as they express far better than I ever could the committee's reaction to Rev. O'Neill's candidacy. Those portions of the report follow:

"Rev. O'Neill has served UU congregations large and small since 1979, most recently having completed nine years as senior minister at 1st Unitarian Church Wilmington DE," Mike wrote. "Prior to that call he served the Unitarian Universalist 1st Parish Church in Framingham, MA.

"Rev. O'Neill is noted for his pastoral care but even more so for his preaching. He delivered the sermon for the 'Service of the Living Tradition' at the 2005 General Assembly. This is one of the highest honors that can be bestowed upon a UU minister, and only the best preachers are invited to perform this function. Rev. O'Neill has won several other awards for his sermons, including: the 2004 UUMA (Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association) Preacher in the 25th Ordination Class; the UUA-UUMA Annual Stewardship Sermon Award, and the UUA 'Vision of Justice' Sermon Award. During our calls to his references, we heard over and over again that we would be fortunate to have such a preacher in our pulpit. We heard comments like: 'He is soft spoken but intense. He may not electrify the room, but he will touch your soul.' One person in Framingham wondered if he could drive here to hear him speak. . . ."

"The interim search committee believes that Rev. O'Neill will move us to a larger more diverse program sized church and help us make this transition seamlessly. ..."

"It is difficult to convey the level of excitement that developed within the committee as

we interviewed Rev. O'Neill's references and then Rev. O'Neill himself. It is difficult to convey the increasing feeling of energy, and it is difficult to convey the excitement and energy that was returned by Rev. O'Neill. I think - the committee thinks - that Rev. O'Neill is the right minister for our time. We think that he is a big, positive step forward toward our goals and dreams. We think that he will be the new flame in our chalice, and we highly recommend him to the Board as our next minister."

Rev. O'Neill will be joining us in August, but probably on an on-call basis only. His ministry will not fully get underway until September. I do hope he will be able to meet with the Board over the summer and that we will be able to begin our work together at that time. More details will follow in the summer issue of the Fellowshiparian. Meanwhile, if you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me or a member of the Search Committee.

— Flo Miller, for the Board

SUMMER SUNDAY SERVICES TIME (10 AM SERVICE ONLY) EFFECTIVE JUNE 25

For the summer, the UFWC will host a single service each week. This service will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. We will begin our summer services on Sunday June 25, 2006. Please note this important schedule change.

NOTES FROM UNDERGROUND: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE

The RE Committee is in the process of recruiting teachers for 2006-07. If you are asked to teach, I hope that you will understand that it is an honor to be asked, and I hope that you will carefully consider the opportunity.

Teaching RE classes supports the entire Fellowship, develops important relationships with our children, and also gives you an opportunity to learn more about Unitarian Universalism or World Religions, depending on the year's curriculum rotation. New teachers always remark how much they learned during the year.

We have two important services coming up in June. At the 11:00 service on June 4, we will be privileged to witness the Coming of Age Ceremony of our ninth graders. The class spent the first part of the past year learning about pivotal people and ideas throughout the history and development of Unitarian Universalism and spent the second half of the year working with mentors while exploring their own beliefs. This special service will commemorate the students' individual journeys, and they will share with us the insights they gained over the year.

At the 9:00 service on June 11, we will be celebrating the RE Year, and honoring our 35 teachers and Youth Group advisors. The RE Committee and I hope you will attend this service whether or not you have children in the Program, show your support for this year's teachers, and join us for an "enhanced coffee hour" immediately following the service.

The RE Program also benefits tremendously from the help

of our Religious Education Committee and our Floating Volunteers. Thanks to everyone who has given their time and energy to provide such valuable service to our children, and thus to our Fellowship.

At the annual retreat for DRE's in the Joseph Priestley District in May, we reflected on miracles. One thing that I consider a miracle, but which is so easy to take for granted, is the freedom to worship as we choose. Everyone involved in religious education at our Fellowship is part of this miracle. But "Everyone" is more than those who are teaching or serving on the RE Committee.

"Everyone" is every member of the church who makes a pledge and supports the programs of our Fellowship. "Everyone" is every person who takes

time to speak with children on Sunday mornings, and makes a point to get to know them better. "Everyone" is all those who tolerate or even welcome some fidgeting in the seats during Intergenerational services; everyone who understand that "it takes a village." Thanks to all of you!

Results so far from a poll of parents may result in a series of RE Family Fun events being scheduled throughout the summer, rather than planning RE activities for Sunday mornings. Parents: we will keep you updated on this via email. The Fellowship's Annual Campout is already on the calendar for July 21/22, at Susquehannock State Park.

— Pam Baxter
Director of Religious Education

POTLUCK AND ANNUAL MEETING

Please plan to attend our potluck supper and annual meeting on Sunday evening, June 4 at the Fellowship. The potluck will begin at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting at 6:30.

It's a chance to socialize with one another before the current year ends while also participating in some important organizational business. We'll be voting for officers and committee chairs who will serve in the new year and reviewing and approving the budget. We'll also vote on our Fellowship delegates to the annual General Assembly of the UUA, being held in St. Louis June 12-25.

I hope to see you on the fourth.

— Flo Miller, President

FIRST CHALICE LIGHTERS' CHECK

Tom Parker, our Fellowship liaison to the Joseph Priestley District's Growth and Extension Committee, is scheduled to present the first of our Chalice Lighters checks at one or both services on Sunday, June 18. Please be sure to welcome and thank Tom if you are in church that day.

BOARD RECOGNITIONS

It takes a lot to silence my usual loquacious self. But that seems to be happening now, when I simply don't know how to adequately thank the Stewardship Committee for an outstanding campaign this year. And I don't know how to thank everyone else for responding to that campaign with a generosity that is just about unprecedented.

From the fun of the annual dinner to the warm camaraderie of the stewardship gatherings this was a marvelous effort, organized and flawlessly executed by some of the most creative and hard-working folks in our Fellowship. They inspired and encouraged us to meet the challenge of the matching \$25,000 gift – and meet it we did. Collectively, we demonstrated through our response to the stewardship campaign just how much we all value our Fellowship and how committed we are to achieving our goals. On behalf of the Board, I thank everyone for their support.

It's the Stewardship Committee, however, that the Board would especially like to thank. Without them, none of this would have happened. The credit for heading the effort goes to Bruce Koepcke, but he could not have done it without the help of a number of key people. They included (in no particular order): Jack Butler, the stewardship gatherings; Gerry Geiss, canvass organizer; Diane Cohle, dinner chair; Ed Cohle, dinner entertainment; Sarah Klaum, catering; Pam McKamey, artwork, invitations, and the brochure; Kathy Neary, telemarketing; Erach Patel, financial guide; Jim Willis, the sign (Our New Journey); Mike Miller, the wine; Craig Talbot, the stage backdrop, and Cyndy Bullaughey, a whole host of things.

The Board would also like to extend a hearty thanks to the Interim Minister Search Committee, which spent a very intense few weeks reviewing ministerial packets, checking references, and conducting interviews. Our gratitude and appreciation go to committee chair Mike Miller and members Kate Cuffari, Gerry Geiss, and Deanna Koepcke. They found time in their very busy schedules to take on this task with little advance notice. Thanks to their hard work, Rev. Patrick O'Neill will be joining us next year as our interim minister. You will all have the opportunity to meet Rev. O'Neill when his ministry officially begins at the end of the summer. More details on his background are given elsewhere in this Fellowshiparian.

— Flo Miller
For the Board of Trustees

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MAY 9, 2006

Bruce Koepcke attended the meeting as a representative of the Metro Marketing Committee and reported on the effort being undertaken by the Joseph Priestly District to publicize Unitarianism. The Board passed a motion supporting further exploration of this effort by the Metro Marketing Committee.

Mike Miller reported to the Board on the progress of the Interim Minister Search Committee.

Erach Patel presented a report detailing the results of the recent canvas and also gave a preview of the 2006-07 budget.

The Board passed a motion accepting the recommendation of the Religious Services Committee that the summer service be held at 10 a.m. The Board also discussed the process used to come to this decision and how to proceed with future decisions under the new governance model.

— Paul Sapko, Secretary

2006 UFWC DIRECTORY

The new 2006 UFWC Directory is ready. Please pick up your copy – one per household please! – from the table in the back of the sanctuary. If you are listed in the directory, there is one especially for you with your name on the back cover. If you are not in the directory but are interested in the Fellowship and would like to have one, extra copies are available. To be included next time, send an email to directory or call the office, 610-692-5966.

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

After the open sessions of April and May, two small groups will continue to meet twice a month on Wednesdays and Thursdays — or is anyone interested in meeting on Sunday after service? If you are interested in joining one of the groups, please contact Gerry Geiss (email: SGM). As we hope to include as many as possible, more open sessions will be held in the fall.

SHARING THE PLATE

- Generosity is an important spiritual practice.
- We must care for the victims of society while working to change the underlying causes of their distress.
- The Fellowship is looking for ways to become more outwardly focused and known in the community.

The Social Justice Committee is sponsoring a new practice that will address all three of these goals called “Sharing the Plate.” It is an idea that has been successfully tried in many other churches.

Here’s how it works:



1. A call for suggestions will be made quarterly in the Fellowtarian (i.e., now!)
2. In response to this call, Members and Friends are invited to suggest a charity to the Social Justice Committee. This is to be done by submitting your suggestion to email: social-justice or by contacting the committee chair if you do not have email. The charity must be local.
3. The SJC will evaluate the suggestions.
4. Only non-pledge donations will be used; that means cash and checks that are not marked “pledge”. One-half of the amount collected on the designated Sundays will go to one of the charities.

Other churches found that giving increased when the plate was shared so that there is seldom any loss of income to the church. Frequently income from the plate actually increased because people were more generous, and some UU churches are well known in the local charitable community as places to go to for help because of this practice of sharing and generosity.

SHOW YOUR APPRECIATION! CELEBRATE OUR TEACHERS!

On RE Sunday, June 11, we will have an “Enhanced Coffee Hour” immediately after the 9:00 a.m. service to thank our Religious Education Teachers for their dedication to our children. We would like parents whose children attend RE, as well as anyone else in the congregation who wishes, to contribute something. Items needed are: coffee cake, muffins, fruit, juice, bagels and cream cheese, etc. All are welcome to attend the brunch, so please plan to stay after the service. Please contact Sharon Mayer-Conroy to specify what you would like to contribute.



— Thanks,
RE Committee

THE LEFT V. THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD

This fall a discussion group will talk about Michael Lerner’s *The Left Hand of God* and about personal and congregational visions for social justice. You might think, “How are the left and right hands of God different?” This book is based on the religious and spiritual traditions of a worldview of hopefulness, awe and wonder. It is a worldview with more love than domination, and more caring and generosity than pain and cruelty. All these traditions are representative of the left hand.

Make *The Left Hand of God, Taking Back Our Country From the Religious Right* part of your summer reading, and find out more about the left v. the right hand. Be ready to join the discussion!

WANT TO BE A SERVICE LEADER?

This year ten people have volunteered to be service leaders; that is, they led certain parts of the service, usually the welcome, chalice lighting, and sharing and caring. This is a good opportunity to have broader participation by members in the service. Next year, we hope that more people will offer to help lead services. The new interim minister, Rev O’Neal may have some different roles for service leaders to fill, but we know he welcomes lay participation in services.

If you are interested in being a service leader, please contact Gerry Giess (email: religious-services).

YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

As June approaches, we continue to relax, plan our summer (or our future) and wonder where we are headed next. It seems appropriate at this time to wish three of our active graduating seniors an excellent farewell!!! Adam Pape, the most recently joined member, has been an active participant in all of our social action projects for the past three years. He is an excellent painter, and also serves up an excellent chili at Safe Harbor. A software expert, he's planning a career in IT. Anita Stahl has been an active member for at least four years. A tennis pro, bilingual, a well-spoken advocate for social action and a student of the Kabalah, she is headed off to NYU. Anita spearheaded several significant social action activities, including finding the UN /UUA liaison on AIDS orphans in Africa and opportunities to help victims of the Asian tsunami. Anita has been one of our leaders this year - and we will miss her wit, her music, her cynicism, and her selfless devotion to Madonna.

Paul Giess has been with us forever. An accomplished musician specializing in jazz trumpet - although known to dabble in marching bands and drum and bugle corps from time to time, Paul has been another leader of note. Paul managed several successful band concerts over the past years, and is the proud sponsor of several water buffalo. Paul is also an eagle scout and a leader of Troop 55 here in West Chester. Paul heads off to James Madison University for a career in Music.

All three seniors were active parts of our work this year — whether cooking for Safe Harbor,

SOCIAL JUSTICE UPDATE

War In Darfur

*The merciless soldier,
with a heart that's a boulder,
Driven by money, blinded by fear,
Desperate cries for help, he'll never hear.*

*Roaming the streets with a charred black soul,
No one is safe, not woman not man, not young and not old.*

*Knowledge is forcibly pushed aside,
Because power has now taken the stride.*

*What was once a sanctuary, a haven for all,
Is now no haven, but a place where innocent lives did fall.*

—Part of a poem by Emtithal
(read the entire poem by going to www.uusc.org/darfur/darfurpoem.htm.)

But the question is who is Emtithal?

- a) The poet laureate of Nigeria
- b) A professor at Oxford University
- c) The Undersecretary for Justice at the U.N.
- d) a 12-year-old girl from Darfur

If you picked “d” above, you are right. The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) has been active in the Stop the Genocide in Darfur movement. One thing that you can do, if you haven't already, is to send a postcard to President Bush (at www.uusc.org/darfur/index.html).

Also, if you haven't already, consider becoming a member of UUSC today. It's OUR charity, and it needs the support of all UUs. See Rob Sartain or Tom Townsend.



raising money for water buffalo, sending money for AIDS orphans in Africa, walking the AIDS walk, running a concert, or merely hanging out and talking.

The adult leaders of the youth group would like to congratulate these three graduating youth group members. It has been a rare privilege to get to know you — and we look forward to following your career. Don't forget to come back at New

Year's for the panel discussion. Travel well.

The Youth Group meets almost every Sunday evening from 6:00 until 7:30 p.m. in the basement of the Fellowship. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to e-mail us at: youth-group.

HAVE YOU MET MIKE AND JENNIFER STEVENS?

Married for five years and living in Paoli, Mike and Jennifer Stevens joined the UFWC on Nov. 20, 2005 with multifaceted goals. For Mike: "To pursue education, fellowship, giving back to the community and personal spiritual growth." For Jennifer: "To have a spiritual outlet in place for our family — something that fits our beliefs."

Their similarities don't end there. "Jen and I share Aikido, flying and the joy of exploring this wonderful world in which we live," says Mike, who manages a group that designs computer hardware in large servers for Unisys Corp.

Adds Jen: "I have many interests and love trying new things. With Mike's encouragement, I got my private pilot's license in 2003. Since then, I have become quite involved with a women pilots' organization called The 99s."



Jen also serves as secretary for the Eastern PA chapter of The 99s, and is co-administrator of their listserv. When land-bound, she enjoys the moves and philosophy of Aikido.

Mike not only practices Aikido but teaches the defensive martial art, which emphasizes "becoming one" with your opponent and resolving conflict without fighting, he explains. He also flies a small airplane out of Brandywine Airport. On the church front, he is interested in working with Habitat for Humanity and joining at least one committee, he says.

Jen, a part-time fitness instructor in Berwyn and West Chester, is involved in the Social Justice Committee and has lent a hand to Habitat for Humanity as well. As time permits, she plans to check out other UFWC committees "and see if anything else fits."

When asked about plans/changes expected in the future, her thirst for life rings clear in her response: "Always!"

And when asked what she'd like people to know about her, that theme continues.

"I like meeting people and getting to know them through the UU functions, so I'll leave the getting to know more about me until then," she says. "Hope to talk to you all in the future!"

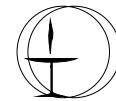
— Sharon Breske

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Habitat for Humanity Workday is scheduled for Saturday, June 17 in Coatesville, 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. You do not need to be skilled to volunteer — you just have to be at least 15 years old and willing to learn. We are limited as to the number that can participate so call or email me soon if you are interested.

This is my last time coordinating these workdays. My husband, Peter, and I have purchased a home in Portland, OR and will be moving as soon as we sell our home here. If the opportunity to enrich your life and do service for others by working as a Unitarian on a Habitat for Humanity home is to remain available at UFWC, someone else from the congregation will need to step forward and volunteer to coordinate as a member of the social justice committee. It is not a lot of work and you do not have to be available every workday. Please call or email me if you wish to embrace this opportunity or get more information.

— Sincerely, Mary Hepokoski



SECOND FRIDAY FILM SERIES

BORN INTO BROTHELS

The film *Born Into Brothels* will be shown Friday, June 9, at 7:30 p.m. as part of the Second Friday Film Series. This film series is sponsored by the Chester County Peace Movement in cooperation with the UFWC Social Justice Committee.

This Oscar-winning documentary is a portrait of several unforgettable children who live in Calcutta's red-light district, where their mothers work as prostitutes. Spurred by the kids' fascination with her camera, Zana Briski, a photographer documenting life in the brothels, decides to teach them photography. As they begin to look at and record their world through new eyes, the kids awaken to their own talents and sense of worth.

Please join us after the movie for discussion.

FAREWELL LARRY PICNIC

Join us on Saturday, June 17 from 4:30-7:30 p.m. at a Farewell Party for Rev. Larry Smith. Everyone is invited to attend this picnic at Coopersmith Park (just East of West Chester). This will be one of your last chances to say good-bye to Larry.

Let's make it a vegetarian extravaganza. Bring a dish to share (salad, dessert or something to grill). We will have burgers, dogs, chicken, veggie burgers, and all the fixin's for those of you who wish it. Lemonade, tea, water, and all the paper products will be there; you can bring other beverages if you wish.



While Coopersmith Park is not as spacious as Hoopes Park, there is still a pavilion, playground equipment, tee-ball, a volleyball court and a horseshoe pit, and plenty of space to toss a frisbee. Please let us know if you can bring a volleyball and net, or horseshoes. Feel free to bring any sports supplies or games. Our picnics are always lots of fun so bring the whole family. In case of a downpour we will picnic at the Fellowship instead.

There will be a basket under the pavilion for donations (\$3/adult or \$2/child) to cover the cost of the food and park. We ask that you sign up on the roster in the lobby or respond to the email message which we will send out, so that we have an idea of how many are coming. (Latecomers are welcome, if you have a last minute change in plans.)

To get to Coopersmith Park from West Chester, head east on West Chester Pike to Spring Lane (near Shop Rite). Maps of the park's location will be available in the church lobby in June. This event is organized by the Fun & Fellowship Committee. Contact Mary Yeager (email: fun) if you have any questions.

GAME NIGHT

Our next Game Night is Friday, June 2, at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship building. Everyone is welcome; just bring a dish and a beverage to share as well as any game(s) you would like to play. Dinner is at 6:30 p.m. followed by games, usually around 7. Contact Mary Yeager (email: fun) if you have any questions.

CARING CORNER

Condolences to Bob Hess, whose father died on April 14 at the Brethrens' Home in New Oxford, Pennsylvania. Please remember Bob and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

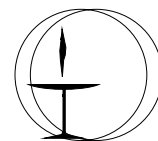
FUN & FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP

As we wind up our social activities for this fiscal year, we realize it is time to start planning for next year. Most of this committee has been together now for the past two years, planning picnics and potlucks. Some of our members are moving on to other activities at the Fellowship, so the committee is looking for new members and new ideas. Please consider joining our committee.

Fun & Fellowship sponsors, supports, and/or plans social activities that bring our members and friends together in fellowship. This past year we planned the fall picnic, the Bicarb Bistro, monthly Game Nights, the Feast of Decadent Chocolate, as well as our first Peep Show. Fun & Fellowship co-sponsored the Community Dance and supported the Holiday Potlucks. We are currently planning a Farewell Larry Party in June, a Wine Tasting Event, and the Annual Summer Camping Weekend. Next year we hope to also host socials in coordination with the Social Justice Committee and the Young Adult Ministry.

Do you have ideas for fun social events? Tell us about them, or better yet, come to our planning meeting on July 6 at 6:00 p.m. – (dinner is on the house!) at Mary Yeager's home. Talk to us (email: fun)

— Nancy Artus and Mary Yeager (Co-Chairs)



CHANGE IN PICNIC PLANS

I know that the Fellowship has never needed a reason for a Potluck before, but with Rev. Larry leaving us it seemed like a good time to send him off with our best wishes and thanks. So we have changed the date, time, and place — and morphed the Annual Spring Picnic into a Farewell Party for Rev. Larry.

We apologize for any confusion or trouble this causes. Please see the “Farewell Larry Picnic” article on page 10 for further information. Thanks for your understanding.

— Fun & Fellowship

SUMMER CAMPING TRIP SUSQUEHANNOCK STATE PARK: JULY 22-23

We’ve had a great spring, and school’s about out. What does that mean? Summer ... woo hoo! And what does summer mean? Let’s go CAMPING!

2006 at the UFWC has already been full of fun, excitement and change. So why should our annual camping trip be any different? It seems a good time to try someplace new. For this year’s overnight expedition we’ve chosen Susquehannock State Park, which sits on a bluff overlooking the Susquehanna River in southern Lancaster County, north of the Conowingo Reservoir.

Please plan to come on Saturday, July 22. Even if you’re not a camper or can’t spend the night, you are welcome to drop by Saturday afternoon or evening to join in the fun and make some new friends. There will be a sign-up sheet at the back of the sanctuary along with directions to the State Park and campsite. There is a nominal fee to cover the cost of the campsite and food. More information will follow in the next *Fellowtarian*.

In the meantime, contact Dan Meyer and Eileen Kelly (email: camping) with questions. We hope to see you there.



SUMMER SUNDAY SERVICE TIME
Single Service at 10 A.M.
Beginning June 25.

SIMPLICITY CIRCLE

Our next meeting is on June 4, first Sunday in the month, as usual, at 12:30 p.m. We are meeting downstairs now.

Focus continues to center on our strivings for a life of meaning, beyond the clutter and wastefulness of precious time and energy. Together we find answers that mean most to ourselves, and in sharing we invigorate one another.

More new members have shown interest. Interactions are free as well as considerate and meaningful, which adds up to a satisfying, thought provoking experience that can last through the month. This is a good group for newcomers who want to begin developing some relationships in a reflective, personable atmosphere. Any questions or comments contact Heidi Buss at email: simplicity.

— Heidi Buss



FOLK SINGING

Folk singing in June will be Saturday, June 3, at 8 p.m., at the home of Linda and Steve Sander. Come on out and have some fun. We have over 175 songs that we like to sing: traditional and modern folk songs, as well as pop favorites. No talent or experience is necessary. Newcomers are always welcome. Bring a munchie, if you wish. Maps available in the foyer. Contact Steve (email: folk-singing).

FELLOWSHIP CALENDAR

- Jun 2 Fri Potluck and Game Night.** 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. See p. 10.
- Jun 3 Sat Folk Singing.** 8 p.m. at the home of Steve and Linda Sander. See p. 11.
- Jun 4 Sun Simplicity Circle Meeting.** 12:30 p.m. downstairs. See p. 11.
Annual Meeting and Potluck. Potluck at 5:30 p.m. Meeting at 6:30. See p. 5.
Social Justice Committee Meeting. 7:30-9 p.m., fireplace room. Contact Tom Townsend (email: social-justice).
- Jun 5 Mon Finance Committee.** 7:30 p.m. Contact Erach Patel (email: finance).
- Jun 9 Fri Chester County Peace Movement Film Night.** See p. 9.
- Jun 11 Sun RE Sunday "Enhanced Coffee Hour".** After the 9 a.m. service. See p. 7.
Safe Harbor Dinner. Provided by the Fellowship the second Sunday of the month. Contact Catherine Sachs (email: safe-harbor).
- Jun 13 Tue Board Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship office. All are welcome.
- Jun 16 Fri Lunch Group.** 11:30 p.m. at La Tolteca in West Chester. Contact Linda Sander (email: lunch-group) to be added to the e-mail reminder list.
- Jun 17 Sat Habitat for Humanity.** 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. See p. 9.
Farewell to Larry Picnic. 4:30-7:30 p.m. at Coopersmith Park. See p. 10.
- Jun 24 Sat Lunch for the Needy.** Provided by our Fellowship at the Salvation Army. Contact Catherine Sachs (email: salvation-army).
- Jun 27 Tue Building Committee Meeting.** 7 p.m. in the fireplace room. Contact Bob Radcliff (email: building).
- Jul 22-23 Sat-Sun Summer Camping Trip.** See p. 11.

Groups meeting multiple times in a month:

- Yoga** Thursdays 6-7 p.m. in the basement.
- Youth Group** Most Sunday evenings, 6-7:30 p.m., OWL/Youth Group rm. See p. 8.

***Don't forget to buy grocery store certificates
 Sunday after the service.***



***Don't let your brain
 go completely on
 vacation this
 summer.
 Read Michael
 Lerner's
 The Left Hand of
 God.
 See p. 7.***