

UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP OF WEST CHESTER
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FELLOWTARIAN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester

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SUNDAY SERVICES

June, 2005

June 5

CHOOSING AN END

Rev. Larry Smith

The Terry Schiavo case has brought the euthanasia debate to the public eye yet again. Under what circumstances do individuals have the right to terminate their own lives?

June 12

"LIFE BECOMES RELIGIOUS WHENEVER WE MAKE IT SO"

Pam Baxter

Led by our Director of Religious Education, today's service recognizes both the role of Religious Education in the lives of our children and the individuals who carry the message — the teachers.

June 19

HOLY FATHERS

Rev. Larry Smith

Throughout our lives we find surrogate spiritual "fathers," men who guide through times by acting in ways that protect, direct and prepare us for the days ahead.

June 26

CAPEK

Rev. Larry Smith

Norbert Capek was the minister of the single largest Unitarian church in the history of liberal religion. Today we will explore his story. Flower communion Sunday.

Service, Religious Education & Babysitting at 10:30 AM

FROM YOUR INTERIM MINISTER

As the church year begins to wind down for the summer I have been reflecting upon the events of the past year - new interim ministry, planning to go to two services, new purpose statement, new vision—this congregation has gone through many changes in a brief period of time. It has been a great joy to serve a congregation so dedicated to its future. Thank you so much for supporting liberal religion in West Chester. It has been a great first year.

When the interim ministry search committee interviewed me last year, the nature of intentional two-year interim ministry was discussed. In the writings about intentional two-year interim ministry with churches like the Fellowship, the first year is about “awakening.” “Awakening,” in this context, means re-energizing the congregation to find a new vision and enable the church to accept change as beneficial. I believe the congregation has succeeded in that effort beyond all expectations.

In the literature about intentional two-year interim ministries, the second year is about “turning.” In “turning” the congregation is open to change and able to engage in the issues relevant to interim ministry. Ultimately, all interim ministry is about turning from one direction to another, even if the change is seemingly minute.

As I reflect upon the work of the past year I also perceive work that needs to be done. The good thing about that work is that it will not be as intensive as the work the congregation has already done. Next year I anticipate the congregation working on implementing second services, beginning the interim ministry developmental tasks and commencing the search process for a settled minister. As

noted before, I imagine that this coming church year will be less intense than this year has been. It will be very intense for the members of the ministerial search committee. In the coming year they will need the congregation’s support in many diverse ways.

Looking back on the past year and our ministry together, I need to share with you that interim ministry is not about the work that interim ministers do. It is about the

work that the congregation does and the interim minister facilitates. You should be proud of the journey of the past year and your efforts to facilitate change. I want to thank you for making my work pleasurable. It has been a genuine honor to work with a community committed to sharing our liberal faith with our larger community and willing to work hard to build a bridge to the future.

— See you in church, Larry

IT’S LONELY IN THE FRONT OF THE ROOM; WON’T YOU JOIN ME?

Cognizant of our need to make room for visitors – who are hesitant to stray to the front of the meeting room – I sat in the front row of the Fellowship on Sunday, May 8. For a time Pam Baxter joined me. Alas, but not unexpectedly, she left after the children’s story. Bob Scott, who was filling in as lay leader for the Religious Services Committee, was also sitting up front. I took some comfort in his presence, although he was on a side row a distance away. However, when his duties as lay leader were over, he also abandoned me to join his family a few rows back.

That left me all by my lonesome, feeling a bit awkward and wondering if it would be rude to look directly at Larry.

Won’t some of you join me up front, at least until we go to double services and there is more room in the sanctuary for newcomers? It really isn’t so awful. As a matter of fact, it was kind of interesting to be up front and center. And perhaps someone visiting that Sunday found a seat towards the back that I would otherwise have occupied.

— Flo Miller

BOARD OF TRUSTEES -- MAY 10, 2005

The Board of Trustees met on the evening of May 10. The bulk of the meeting was spent discussing items to be brought before the Congregation at this year’s Annual Meeting. These included the proposed compensation package for the new minister, the proposed budget for 2005-2006, and nominations for the various offices to be filled for the upcoming year.

A motion was passed to adopt a new vision statement created for the Congregation by the Vision Committee. This statement will be presented at the Annual Meeting.

The Building Committee was authorized by the Board to formulate a plan to enclose the porch.

— Paul Sapko, Secretary

NOTES FROM UNDERGROUND – RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE

How will RE handle two services? Introducing “Way Cool Sunday School”

Our plan for running two RE programs starting this fall is to implement a model called “Way Cool Sunday School” FOR BOTH SESSIONS (9:00 and 11:00 a.m.) for Pre-K through 6th grade children and continue with our scheduled rotation of Neighboring Faiths, Our Whole Lives (OWL) and Coming of Age for 7th - 9th grades, again for both sessions.

“Way Cool” calls for alternating curriculum-based classes with worship and social action:

Sunday 1: Worship – This is what we have been calling “Group RE.” We gather the children together and focus on a topic having to do with Unitarian Universalism or our curriculum theme for the year. Typically, we combine learning and discussion, a craft and an activity. It is on these Sundays that we plan to incorporate music, drama and more art.

Sunday 2: Social Action Sunday – We will be planning activities that the children can do that both coincide with community efforts already underway at the Fellowship, e.g., preparing meals for the Safe Harbor homeless shelter and other projects, e.g., making cards for the Caring Committee to send out to members as needed.

Sundays 3 & 4: Curriculum in graded classrooms – This follows the model we have been using up to this point, i.e., teaching curricula based on a theme for the year. This year’s theme is World Religions. We will be asking parents to choose either the 9:00 or 11:00

session, so that we will know how many children to expect at each time. We know that it may not always be possible for families to stick with the service they have chosen. However, we will expect parents to adhere to one session as closely as possible.

Note: Depending on the size of the classes and availability of teachers, we may need to run just one class for 7-9th grades. We will almost certainly need to do this for O.W.L. since the program requires training four facilitators. In these cases, we will have to select a time.

JPD Spring Conference.

Families who attended the JPD Spring Conference (April 8 & 9 in King of Prussia) know how much fun their children had being with lots of other UU kids and families. To build on that, the RE Committee decided to open our next RE Family social event to the other UU churches in our area – Thomas Paine, Pottstown and Main Line. The Thomas Paine and Pottstown churches, in particular, welcomed our invitation and we have started talking about planning other joint events.

Hike at VFNHP. The weather was perfect for our rescheduled Family Hike/Scavenger Hunt and Picnic at Valley Forge Park on May 14 and we had a great turnout. We were successful in finding the Great Arboreal Rabbit, the Pennsylvania Upland Lobster and the Giant Tree Frog, in addition to bracket fungus, woodpecker drilling holes, cannons, the Grave of the Unknown Soldier, and other items natural and historic. Look for photos on our website, www.ufwc.org.

Summer Sundays. Do you go on vacation each summer? We do too, but only for a couple weeks. We are planning programming for children on July 10, 24, 31 and August 7, 14, 21 and 28. The Fellowship will be closed for the July 4th weekend to accommodate floor painting in the basement. (Thank you, Building Committee and volunteers!) Our Annual Camping Outing at French Creek State Park is scheduled for Saturday/Sunday, July 16/17. For details, see elsewhere in the Fellowship or check with Dan Meyer, 610-873-6613.

Brunch. Please plan to stay after the service on Sunday, June 12 for a Brunch in honor of our teachers. See below for details.

JOIN US FOR BRUNCH!

On June 12, we will be having a brunch immediately after the service to thank our Religious Education Teachers for their dedication to our children and to celebrate the students who have completed the year-long O.W.L. course. We would like for those parents whose children attend RE and who are not teaching this year, as well as anyone else in the congregation who is not teaching, to contribute something to the brunch. Items needed are: egg dishes, muffins, fresh fruit, juice, bagels & cream cheese. We will also need people to move some of the chairs aside and set up tables. All are welcome to attend the brunch so please plan to stay after the service. Contact Cathy Vogt at cvogt@comcast.net or 610-399-3706 to specify what you would like to contribute. Thanks!

— RE Committee

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The UWFC Ministerial Search Committee has been formed and we've plunged right into our work. Committee members are: Curt Hoganson, Cyndy Bullaughey, Ed Cohle, Eileen Kelly, Jim MacFadyen, Mark Steel and Sandy Schaal. We have already met 3 times and we're working on the following tasks: planning the committee's retreat (planned for early June), developing a survey to gather your input, and reserving pre-candidating locations for early next year.

While the committee needs to observe confidentiality about possible candidates, we will be keeping you posted on our progress via monthly articles in the Fellowtarian and updates during Sunday services. And we may be calling upon some of you to contribute your many talents to assist us. Many thanks to all of you for your ongoing support and enthusiasm.

The committee's work will follow this timeline, as closely as we are able. Look for our progress chart in the vestibule in the coming weeks.

May 2005 — develop survey; plan retreat.

June — Locate and reserve neutral pulpit sites for pre-candidating weekends; conduct survey.

July/ August — Review survey results, begin work on Congregational Record; begin work on packet to be sent to prospective candidates.

September — Finalize Congregational Record on UUA website, it will become available for viewing by ministers.

October/November — Begin receiving names of interested candidates and review their Ministerial Records on the UUA website; winnow to short list; exchange packets.

December — Choose pre-candidates, contact to schedule pre-candidating weekends.

January thru early March 2006 — Hold pre-candidating weekends; work to reach consensus on candidate; once accepted, announce to congregation.

April/May — Hold candidating week with chosen candidate which concludes with congregational vote.

June-August — Transition from interim minister to settled minister.

— Eileen Kelly, leentk@comcast.net

YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

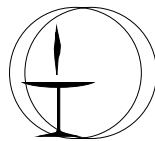
As we come to the end of the school year, it is fun to reflect on youth group activities for the year. Once again, we've been very busy. We started with the Philly AIDS walk last fall, went costume bowling, convened two (and soon three) Battles of the Bands, bought a water buffalo, painted an auditorium, cooked and served a meal at Safe Harbor, learned about political campaigns, sang in the choir, were active on Fellowship committees, helped on Fellowship work parties, sold ourselves at the service auction, went to cons, played games, hung out, got elected to DYSC, won our second consecutive YES award, worked with Amnesty International and others on fund raising, and held an excellent Youth Sunday.

What is coming up?? Another battle of the bands (Friday, 27 May 2005), an end of year party, some sort of summer stuff — including a picnic at a baseball game with fireworks, canoeing, a summer movie event, a summer con event, and possibly even more.

Interested? All UFWC youth between 8th and 12th grade are eligible to attend. We meet virtually every Sunday in the basement, from 6 until 7:30 p.m. Contact Michael Werner at youthgroup@ufwc.org. See you there.

CARING CORNER

Special congratulations go to Jan and Marsha Brofka-Berends on the birth of their new daughter, Sylvia Jingmei ("Bright Perfection") Brofka-Berends. Sylvia was born on May 6, weighing in at 10 pounds. Happy birthday, Sylvia!!



JUNE YOGA

Yoga classes are continuing on Thursdays in June from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Everyone is welcome — no age limit, level of flexibility or other excuse that can't be accommodated. Have fun getting relaxed and healthy. Contact Mira Tryon at mirat_1109@msn.com or 610-429-4468.

HAVE YOU MET MARY YEAGER?

You may have savored the mouth-watering meals she and her husband have prepared for Stewardship dinners. Or, maybe you've offered her ideas for the Fun and Fellowship Committee, which she co-chairs, or church picnics, which she usually plans.

If not, chances are you've met Mary Yeager in one of many other capacities at the UFWC — in the book discussion group; at potluck and game night, which she often organizes; or at her RE class this year when picking up a preschooler.

With her many involvements, which also include co-founding the Earth Stewardship Task Force, preparing lunches for the Salvation Army, chaperoning DYSC conferences and assisting with the Flea Market and Service Auction, Mary is leaving a mark on the Fellowship, just as it's leaving an imprint on her.

While Mary joined the UFWC in February, she has been attending the Fellowship for nearly 10 years. "I joined because this felt like home," says Mary, who lives with her husband Phillip in Westtown Township just south of West Chester University. "I didn't join right away because you might say I was a 'recovering Catholic.' But I am pretty much past my recovery phase and looking to the future now."

In addition to trailblazing her spiritual path (fostered in part by the book discussions on spirituality), Mary's interests extend beyond the church and into a wealth of other areas. She has a hankering for mystery novels, for instance, and has read the Tolkien series "more times than I

can remember," a literary love affair that won her heart in the '60s. She's also environmentally wired, sharing concerns about global warming, care of state and national parks, clean water, wilderness preservation and pollution controls.

She thrives on gardening as well, particularly vegetable gardening with Phillip, whom she met in the food service industry — she as a waitress out of high school, and he as a chef at the West Chester Country Club. Three children and several jobs later (including Phillips'



head chef position at Mendenhall Inn for two years), the Yeagers launched a catering business. They catered for eight years before closing their doors due to burnout and the need for changes they weren't ready/willing to make.

While they still create in the kitchen and are learning the art of canning and preserving, Mary joined UPS part-time 15 years ago to be at home with her sons, now ages 18, 20 and 21. She also finished her BS in biology at West Chester University two years ago, and is rethinking her career path now that her sons are almost on their own.

"They have changed my life...I am not the same person I was 20 years ago largely due to experiencing life with them," says Mary, adding, "I am happy that they, to different extents, feel at home here at the Fellowship."

— Sharon Breske

THINK GLOBALLY, EAT LOCALLY

It can be good for the environment. Community farms maintain open spaces and help fight suburban sprawl. Many local foods are healthier to eat and include a large variety of heirloom or other specialty produce that is often not available at grocery stores. Buying locally means lower transportation costs and lower emissions. Be part of the interdependent web, and develop a direct connection with the people who grow or make your food.

A CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) is a way for the public to create a relationship with a farm and to receive a weekly basket of produce by buying a membership or share. Each farm varies in the foods produced and how memberships or shares are sold. There are a number of CSAs in our area.

An alternative to buying a share in a CSA is shopping at Area Producer-only Farmers Markets. As the name implies, items for sale at these markets are grown or made by the farmers themselves — there is nothing brought-in from terminal markets or produce auctions. Selections are vast, and include vegetables, fruit, breads, meats, cheeses, flowers, soap, and baked goods. There are local markets in Eagle, Kennett Square, Phoenixville, and West Chester.

For details, visit the Local Harvest website at <http://www.localharvest.org>. You can enter your zip code to locate the CSAs and markets near you. Included are hours, location, contact information, links to their websites, and a description of what is sold.

— Amy Spare
Social-Justice Committee

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SERVICE COMMITTEE

Here's a short quiz about UU churches in the Joseph Priestley (North) district:

1. What is the only UU church in which 75% of its members are members of the UU Service Committee (UUSC)?
2. What is the UU church that raised the most money for UUSC through the sale of greeting cards last year?
3. What is the UU church that raised the most money for UUSC's "Guest at Your Table" project this year?
4. What is the UU church that raised the most money per member for UUSC's Tsunami relief drive?

If you answered The Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester to all these questions, then you got 100%. Not bad, considering that most of the other churches are larger than we are, and three of them are five times larger. But, we're not yet at 100% membership (see Question 1). Many newer members probably have never even heard of UUSC. It's OUR charity—a totally independent human rights organization that depends on you and me for its existence. And it puts our UU values to work each and every day, all around the world. So, if you're not already a member, please join! Membership is just \$25 a year. See Rob Sartain or Tom Townsend (610-388-9559 or social-justice@ufwc.org) for more information and for membership applications. Also visit www.UUSC.org for the latest information. We at UFWC can't rest until we can look around the sanctuary and smile proudly because everyone is a member of UUSC.



THANK YOU TO ALL THE 2005 FLEA MARKET AND PLANT SALE VOLUNTEERS

The 2005 Spring Flea Market and Plant Sale was a great success. At the Plant Sale, we had lots of beautiful baskets, flowers, and herbs and vegetables. And, at the Flea Market, we recycled lots of treasures, and had a lot of fun. Together, the two events made almost \$2000.

We welcome any suggestions and comments for next year.

Paulette Buglio, Sandy Retzlaff, Mary Hepokoski, and I would like to ask you to join us in saying thank you to the following volunteers:

Anne Rice	Cheryl Pittenger	Debby Kern	Erach Patel	Linda Sander	Robin Garrett	Trever Buglio
Beth Daniels	Chris Radcliffe	Devon Miller	Fatima Patel	Marie Steel	Sarah Klaum	Tyler Kelly
Betty Grosse	Cliff Retzlaff	Diane Cohle	Gerry Giess	Marina Kaplan	Shelly Case	Virginia Iliff
Bob Radcliffe	Connie Eichenberg	Diane Maguire	Hugh Iliff	Mary Yeager	Steve Sander	Wayne Bullaughey
Bob Scott	Craig Talbot	Doris D'Angelo	Jane Krick	Mike Farnam	Sue Stedman	
Brandon Miller	Cyndy Bullaughey	Eileen Kelly	John Gangwisch	Nancy Artus	Susan Gast	
Bruce Koepcke	Dan Meyer	Elaine Friedlander	Katie Farnam	Pam Baxter	Tilo Stahl	
Cathy Vogt	Dawn Kriebel	Eleahn Kahn	Kora Stahl	Phyllis Kryven	Tom Buglio	
Charlot Figgatt	Deanna Koepcke	Eleanor Sinclair	Lauren Kelly	Rob Sartain	Tom Townsend	

-- Warmly, Krystaleve Snow, flea-market@ufwc.org

CHRISTIAN INTEREST GROUP

Are you reading a book about Jesus that you'd like to discuss with others? Do you have some Christian inspiration that you would like to share?

Has the book *The Da Vinci Code* sparked in you an interest in the historical Jesus? If the subject involves Jesus, then this is the place to discuss it.

Come join other UU's in discussing Christian topics. The group is coordinated by John Gangwisch and Phyllis Kryven and meets the fourth Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship.

Contact John Gangwisch at 484-288-0217 or CIG@ufwc.org if you need a ride to the meeting or are homebound and would like to call into the meeting.



FELLOWSHIP CALENDAR

- May 29 Sun** **2005 Annual Fellowship Picnic/BBQ.** 12:00 to 3:30 p.m. at Hoopes Park, W. Ashbridge Street, West Chester. See May *Fellowtarian* p. 7.
- Jun 3 Fri** **Lunch Group.** 11:30 a.m. at Atlanta Bread Company. E-mail Linda Sander at lunch-group@ufwc.org to be added to the e-mail reminder list.
Potluck and Game Night. 6:30 p.m. at the Fellowship. All are welcome. For information contact Mary Yeager at game-night@ufwc.org.
- Jun 5 Sun** **Simplicity Circle.** 12:15 after the service in the sanctuary. Contact Eleanor Sinclair 610-436-8151 or simplicity@ufwc.org.
Social Justice Committee Meeting. 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Fireplace Room. Contact Tom Townsend 610-388-9559 or social-justice@ufwc.org.
- Jun 7 Tue** **Finance Committee Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship office. Contact Erach Patel 610-719-8180 or finance@ufwc.org.
- Jun 10 Fri** **Chester County Peace Movement's "Second Friday" Film Series.** 7:30 pm Showing *Orwell Rolls in His Grave* by Robert Pappas in the UFWC Sanctuary. Bring and share refreshments and discussion after the showing.
- Jun 12 Sun** **Brunch to Honor RE Teachers.** After the service in the sanctuary. See p. 3.
Safe Harbor Dinner. Provided by the Fellowship the second Sunday of the month. Contact Catherine Sachs, 610-692-0991 or safe-harbor@ufwc.org.
- Jun 14 Tue** **Board Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship office. All are welcome.
- Jun 22 Wed** **Christian Interest Group Meeting.** 7:00 p.m. See p. 6.
- Jun 25 Sat** **Lunch for the Needy.** Provided by our Fellowship at the Salvation Army. Contact Catherine Sachs, 610-692-0991 or salvation-army@ufwc.org.
- Jun 26 Sat** **Big Work Party.** After the service. Help us get ready for all the changes to RE space during the weeks of June 26 to July 10. Contact Tilo Stahl, e-mail: building@ufwc.org.

Groups meeting multiple times in a month:

Youth Group meets most Sunday evenings 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the OWL/Youth Group Room. Contact Michael Werner 610-429-1176 or youth-group@ufwc.org.

Yoga Classes. Thursdays in June. 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. See p. 4.

SUMMER CAMPING TRIP FRENCH CREEK STATE PARK, JULY 16-17

Camping, hiking, swimming, singing around the campfire, eating, catching frogs and fireflies (and letting them go!) These are all popular activities at our annual overnight camping trip to French Creek. Please plan to come on Saturday, July 16. 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. If need be, we may even be able to find an extra sleeping bag and tent!

There will be a sign-up sheet at the back of the sanctuary as well as directions to the campsite and suggestions about what to bring. There will be a nominal fee to cover costs as well as a request for everyone to bring some food.

In the meantime, contact Dan Meyer or Eileen Kelly (camping@ufwc.org) with questions. We hope to see you there.