

 **the**  
**FELLOWTARIAN**

**Newsletter of the Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester**

**Web Edition – No Personal Phone Numbers or Addresses**

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## SUNDAY SERVICES

December, 2005

**December 4**

**A MOTHER'S PLEDGE**

**Immy Ferrara and  
Rev. Larry Smith**

"A Mother's Pledge" is a group of moms who have lost a child to AIDS or who have a child living with HIV. Immy Ferrara founded the group after her son was diagnosed with AIDS. To mark World AIDS Day on December 1, Immy will share her powerful and inspirational story of her son's coming out and the effect upon her family.

**December 11**

**THE KOANS OF EVERYDAY LIFE**

**Rev. Larry Smith**

In Zen Buddhism, koans are enigmatic statements that aspirant monks are given by their masters. If we look for them, koans are everywhere and they have something to teach us about human reason and mystery.

**December 18**

**THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS  
WHO FOUND CHRISTMAS**

**Rev. Larry Smith**

Of all the religions in America, Unitarian Universalism is probably more responsible for the current practice of Christmas than any other. This is the story of how religious liberals created Christmas.

**December 24**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

**Rev. Larry Smith**

**7:00 p.m. Single Service**

This is our yearly candlelight service. Join us for readings, carols and singing by our choir. *THIS IS A SINGLE SERVICE.*

**December 25**

**A BRIEF LESSON FROM BOTTICELLI**

**Craig Talbot**

**11:00 a.m. Single Service**

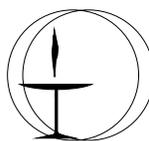
The Italian Renaissance artist Botticelli shares with us his own ideals of Christmas mixed with the ideals of humanism in his painting, "The Madonna of the Eucharist." *THIS IS A SINGLE SERVICE.*

## FROM YOUR INTERIM MINISTER

“Joy to the World!” It’s Christmastime — that time of year when we celebrate the birth of Jesus and the closeness of the human family. Every year I try to savor the Christmas season through a mix of reasonable skepticism and loving faith.

My reasonable mind says to me that the holiday is an amalgam of pre-Christian, pagan beliefs and ancient Greek myth and ancient Jewish prophecies. The whole narrative of events is unlikely even in the parts that most people would think were normal. For example, the trek to Bethlehem was not a normal event. People in the Roman Empire did not have to return to the places of their birth to pay taxes. That part of the story was meant to combine prophecies that the messiah would be from both Nazareth and Bethlehem. This is the Unitarian side of the equation. I know that the myth of Christmas is a story cobbled together without much reference to factual history or reason.

The other side of the Christmas story is that through the birth of Jesus and the magic of that night encounter we are able to live with the idea of creation in a time of darkness, a candle is lit in the night. Through this birth narrative we also find that birth is a holy time with the universe stopping for new life.



Whatever our personal theological views of the season whether it is the time of Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, the winter solstice or something else, this is a holy time, a time when people need to be together to proclaim that life continues amidst the darkness.

It is not a perfect time. Many people feel sad or lonely at this time of the year. That is also a mark of the season for those who feel loss or for whom the brief hours of daylight are oppressive. For them too, our faith is also present. Sometimes it helps those for whom this Christmastime is sad to share their thoughts.

Christmas time though is a time of joy for the most part, a time to listen for angels and share good cheer and the warmth of human sharing, a time to believe that the universe is a friendly place. For that reason, “Joy to the World!”

— See you in church,  
Rev. Larry Smith

## THE PENTATEUCH

What is the Pentateuch? The simple answer is that it is the first five books of the Bible composing Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. The Pentateuch’s importance is that it is the only part of the Bible that it is basic to understanding all of the religions following the “God of Abraham.” Though this course will undoubtedly bring up spiritual questions, its approach will be scholarly.

Join us with your Bibles at 7:30 p.m. on Monday nights in January for an understanding of the beginning of the Jewish scriptures. Please sign up in the lobby, call the church office (610-692-5966 or email: office) so the minister will know how many handout copies he should make.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

NOVEMBER 11, 2005

The Board of Trustees met on the evening of November 11. The board discussed how to move ahead with the refurbishing of the minister’s office. Cheryl Pittenger will coordinate this effort, and several members of the congregation will be consulted with regards to esthetics and organization. The foyer will be looked at after the office.

An ad hoc committee has been formed to look into various grant possibilities for the benefit of the Fellowship. Fred and Heidi Freyer will serve on this committee, and Pam Sapko will contribute as a consultant.

Proposals to realign the coffee hour were discussed. The goal is to simplify the running of the coffee hour and to create a sub committee to take charge. One idea that was discussed was to have one coffee hour, scheduled between the 9 and 11 o’clock services, with juices offered after the 11 o’clock service. This idea met with resistance from several members of the board. A proposal will be taken to the Fellowship Council that would allow for the creation of a coffee hour sub committee as part of the Membership Committee.

A motion was passed to accept the recommendation of the Religious Services Committee that one service be held on both Christmas and New Year’s Sunday. The congregation will be notified as to the scheduling of these services.

— Paul Sapko, Secretary

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I write this, we are approaching what for many of us is the busiest and most stressful time of the year. If the media are to be believed, we'll spend December relaxing before a blazing fire, opening presents around a well-decorated tree, baking cookies, singing carols, and eating turkey. Happy children, a contented family dog, and gently falling snow will complete this cozy picture.

But someone has to stoke the fire, buy and wrap the presents, find and decorate the tree, bake the cookies, locate the songbooks, stuff the turkey, feed the dog, and (dare I say it) shovel the snow. All that, and the Fellowship too?? Something has to give.

My suggestion is that we take a deep breath, pay attention to what absolutely needs to get done, and put everything else on hold. Yes, we need to have Sunday services and provide a Religious Education Program. Our Search Committee — God bless them — needs to keep the process moving. Visitors need to be greeted, and bills need to be paid. But we can take a vacation from some of our other projects and spend our time just enjoying one another instead.

And while we're at it, we can give ourselves a pat on the back for all we have accomplished thus far this church year:

- Our ministerial search is progressing, thanks to the non-stop efforts of our Search Committee. I've read the Congregational Record (check it out on the membership portion of our website), and I've seen some of the materials they've prepared for the ministerial packet. These guys and gals could run their own

PR firm. They've done a beautiful job of telling our story in words and pictures.

- Bruce Koepcke and his Bridging Team are off to a wonderful start after hosting an all-day workshop with our growth consultant, Rev. Tom Chulak, on November 5. The Bridging Team will now be making some concrete recommendations to the Board on governance structure before moving on to other topics relevant to our growth.

- The Fellowship Council has met twice under the leadership of vice president Bob Scott. Cross-committee communications are improving through the Council, which is looking at procedural and other issues related to improving church operations.

- Our double services are running fairly smoothly, with the Board monitoring attendance and membership growth.

- Having removed the tree from the front of our property, the Building Committee is concentrating on completing a long-standing project to erect a new, more clearly visible sign.

- Did you see the Fellowship office? A crew of Maria and Mark Steele, Jane Krick, and Sue Stedman cleaned and rearranged the space, almost turning this ugly duckling into a swan. The transformation to a "swan" will hopefully be completed when we follow through on plans to refurbish the space.

And that's only a few of the things we've accomplished. I'd say it's time for a holiday rest!

Before I sign off on that thought and this column, I want to add that the word "holiday" means different things to different people. While my references

at the beginning of this column centered on Christmas, I recognize that other faiths and beliefs are represented among our membership. Regardless of your religious background and beliefs, however, you are welcome at our holiday get-togethers. I encourage you to plan to attend one or more of these festive events; they provide an opportunity to just get to know one another better and build the community that is so important to the health of our congregation. They just might help with that holiday stress, too!

See you in church and (I hope) at a holiday party.

— Flo Miller, President



## ATTENTION SINGERS

UFWC Choir is always welcoming new members, and we invite you to lend your talents in service and to have some fun. Our rehearsal schedule has changed slightly, from every Thursday evening to just two Thursdays per month (the first and third Thursdays at 7:15 p.m.), and the choir sings on the third Sunday of the month at both services. The exception to this rule is the month of December — rehearsals are on December 8 and December 22, for our holiday performance on Christmas Eve. Please join us!

— Barbara Kovacs, Choir Director

## NOTES FROM UNDERGROUND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE

In late October, I attended my first LREDA (Liberal Religious Educators Association) Fall Conference, the annual gathering of DRE's, Youth Leaders and others involved in the spiritual development of the children in our congregations. Some of the main goals of the workshop were: To define some of the changing religious landscape and its impact upon the internal systems of the congregation of welcoming, nurturing, empowering and serving, and on religious education; and to become mindful of the DRE's role in narrative leadership – in helping to interpret and re-interpret the story of the congregation, to move beyond the familiar or limiting tales into a new story.

I found the workshop excellent in helping to give some different perspectives on how religious education affects the life of the church as a whole, and in giving insight into how stories can be used both to learn and to grow.

Among the books, curricula and other materials available at the bookstore, I found a wonderful little book titled, "The Gift of Faith: Tending the Spiritual Lives of Children." If you've ever wished for direction, ideas and resources in being a spiritual guide for your child, or if you've ever wondered if it's worth the effort to get your children out the door to church on Sunday morning, I know that you will find much of value here. The book is by Jeanne Harrison Nieuwejaar and is available through the UUA Bookstore ([www.uua.org/bookstore](http://www.uua.org/bookstore)). If

you are interested in buying a copy, please let me know. If enough people are interested, we can make a group order and take advantage of both a bulk discount and reduced shipping costs.

Volunteer teacher, Cathy Vogt, reports that in October the 3rd & 4th grade class was visited by four of our UU ancestors as part of the UU Pilgrimage unit in the Holidays & Holy Days curriculum. She says, "We began the class by talking about family trees and our ancestors. Then we took an imaginary trip to Spain, Transylvania, France and England. As we traveled to each of the countries (the four corners of our classroom) we met up with four very important ancestors. First we visited Michael Servetus (Paul Sapko) who told us about the books he wrote and how he was burned at the stake for heresy. Next we visited Francis David (Juan Leon) and learned that he started the first Unitarian church in the world, in

Transylvania. Then we visited Joseph Priestley (Curt Hoganson), who told us about his life in England and how he started the first Unitarian church in America. Lastly, we visited George de Benneville (Chuck Vogt) and learned that he felt that God is a loving God who will eventually save everyone and not just a few people predestined to go to Heaven when they die.

"The children enjoyed looking at the world map to see where we were traveling, as well as listening to our special guests speak. One of our guests even grew a beard and mustache to play the part and another learned a special accent. This helped to make the people seem more real to the children and hopefully the next time they hear about these important figures in UU history, they will remember their first experience."

— Pam Baxter Director of Religious Education



### NO RE CLASSES DECEMBER 25 OR JANUARY 1

There will be no Religious Education classes or programs on Sunday, December 25 or Sunday, January 1. The overwhelming response to a poll of parents was that people would either be visiting relatives out of town on those days, or celebrating at home with their families. Most said that they would be attending our annual Christmas Eve Service. Please join us on the evening of Saturday, December 24, at 7:00 p.m. for celebration, singing, and sharing the warmth of our spiritual community.

## THANKS AND CONGRATULATIONS

Rev. Larry in cooperation with the Board took time out from the 11 a.m. service on November 13 to offer some belated thanks and appreciation to several individuals who provided leadership to our Fellowship during a critical time. They were Mary Hepokoski, Kora Stahl, and Devon Miller, all members of our Board of Trustees who stepped down last June.

Mary was on the Board for only four months – from March to June – but during that time she served as interim president, kept us moving forward on our commitment to growth, and oversaw the extremely important selection of our Ministerial Search Committee. Mary brought to the task experience gained from service on the Search Committee and as President of her former congregation in Minnetonka, Minnesota. We were very fortunate to have Mary step into a leadership role just as we were launching our own Search process.

Kora was on the Board for three critical years during which various circumstances created rapid turnovers in leadership. Altogether, four presidents and two ministers (Kate Rohde and Larry Smith) headed the Fellowship during Kora's time on the Board. For the last two years of her tenures, she served as vice president. As both a Board member and vice president, she provided a continuity of leadership during an unsettled time. It would be difficult to underestimate the value of her steady presence.

Devon served a two-year term on the Board and also contributed stability and continuity during the turnover in presidents and ministers. Shortly after taking on the Board position, Devon also took on the job of maintain-

ing the membership portion of our website. When our Board or committee chairs want agendas, manuals, policies or other important documents posted on the web, they turn to Devon, and he takes care of it. This work is behind-the-scenes and invisible to many of us, but the results are highly visible in terms of a well-maintained and valuable source of information in our website.

On behalf of the entire Fellowship, the Board expresses its thanks and appreciation to all three of these dedicated leaders.

The Board at its November meeting also recognized Chris Brenner and the entire Service Auction Team for their extraordinary efforts in organizing and carrying out this year's Service Auction. A great deal of detailed behind-the-scenes work goes into planning the auction. Donations must be solicited from the outside community as well as from inside

the Fellowship, accounting procedures must be established, the catalogue must be written and designed, food and drink must be arranged. This year, in addition to all that, the auction committee added an on-line silent auction component. The results of their efforts: over \$11,000 raised for the fellowship.

Finally, we offer congratulations to the Fun and Fellowship Committee, the Religious Education Committee, and the Youth Group for creating a marvelous "Horror House" on Halloween weekend. Games, movies, refreshments and some incredible decorations combined to make this a Halloween party that will "haunt" the memories of those who attended for a long time. Here's to a successful repeat next year!

— Flo Miller, for the Board of Trustees

### CALLING ALL YOUNG ADULT WANDERING SOULS

Always wanted to visit other UU churches? Join other UU Young Adults each month as we visit a different congregation in the Joseph Priestley District (JPD). *Wandering Souls* is an activity of the JPD UU Young Adult Network. Directions and more information available at [www.jpd-uuyan.org](http://www.jpd-uuyan.org). 2005-2006 Dates:

December 4 — First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia

January 8 — First Unitarian Church of Baltimore

February 5 — Unitarian Church of Harrisburg

March 5 — Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington

April 9 — Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Centre County

(State College)



## YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

Another excellent month. We started off the month with a most event — the first ever collaboration between Fun and Fellowship, RE and the Youth Group in a Halloween extravaganza. Fresh popcorn, two scary movies (well at least one scary movie and another silly movie) and an incredible basement haunting say it all. Special thanks to the Yeager family for their special contributions to make the demented kitchen all the more so. Who knew that drizzled red jello dripped slowly over a cauliflower would make it look like a freshly harvested brain? There were dead bodies and ghouls galore, a matched pair of heads on the finger food buffet table, a vat of fresh chili being mixed before you eyes, bodies jumping out from behind walls, our very own Jason - complete with chainsaw, and the classic bowl of parts. A good time was had by all.

We followed that the next evening by selling ourselves at the auction. We actually sold ourselves twice - with two youth group crews now scheduled to do some serious leaf raking this month.

Then, we've had several major discussions. A somber evening trying to understand all the sides of the abortion issue resulted in a commitment to spend at least two more evenings further exploring the topic.

We are expanding our scope of social action projects as well. Already the proud owners of two water buffalo (through the Heifer Project), we have now committed to buying an alpaca, as well as contribut-

## MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

Many thanks to those who participated in the Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop. Sayre and Eddy (who lead the workshop, as well as both services on the 6th) told us a normal turnout for a congregation our size is about 20 people — we had 35! The search committee greatly appreciates the commitment and support of this fellowship!

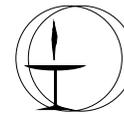
On the afternoon of December 11, we'll have an informal Ministerial Search Committee "Talk About". This will be a social event where we'll share some food, drink, and the survey results with the congregation. And you'll have a chance to share your thoughts and concerns with us. We'll begin with lunch at 12:30 p.m. and have you home in plenty time for the Eagles' kickoff at 4:00.

Our Congregational Record (CR) which is posted on the UUA website for ministers who are in search is also available for your reading pleasure, in the foyer of the fellowship. We only ask that you leave it there when you're finished, so others may see it, too.

We've received the initial list of interested ministers and have begun the difficult work of winnowing. We're close to wrapping up our work on the packet, which we'll exchange with these interested candidates. Please keep us in your thoughts as we begin the most challenging part of this process.

As always, you don't need to wait for the coming social event on December 11 — the committee is available and interested in hearing your views and concerns at any time. Please feel free to approach us during coffee hour or via email to search-committee.

— Ministerial Search Committee



ing to the UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) for earthquake relief. We are starting to plan how we want to spend our Martin Luther King Day of Service.

We were really proud to host three youth from the Media church on the 13th. They are trying to grow their youth group, and came to visit us for inspiration and guidance.

We've a film coming up: *Saved*, a fictional look inside the workings of a Christian high school (except the fiction is very close to the reality we experi-

ence daily), more visits from local youth groups, a game night, a band concert in January, and maybe even a holiday party.

Interested? We meet almost every Sunday evening, from 6 until 7:30 p.m., downstairs. The youth group is open to all youth affiliated with the Fellowship from 8th through 12th grade. Any questions? Contact David or Michael Werner, email: youth-group. See you there.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE

Throughout this holiday season you will probably have many people at your table at different times. But I hope that there is one person whom you invite to your table at every meal — I hope that you will have a “Guest at Your Table”. Put the “Guest at Your Table” box, which will be handed out on November 20, at the center of your table; look at the pictures; talk about the significance of helping others; drop a few coins into the box at every meal. This annual event at the Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester causes us to think of and talk about and help those who need it most: the marginalized people of the world that slip through the cracks: The street vendors at the former World Trade center, the underclasses in the countries hit by the Tsunami; the women and children who in many countries don't count.

Besides helping others, this celebration causes us to think about OUR charity, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC). The UUSC is strictly a membership organization; it receives no governmental or denominational funds; it depends on us—you and I—for its existence. Any amount will be appreciated, but if you can give \$40.00 per adult, that will give you a year's membership. So if you are not a member, then please join; if you are a member, then please renew your membership. Nationally, only 15 out of 100 UUs are members of UUSC. But at UFWC we are at 76%, by far the highest percentage in our entire district. It's true we are a small congregation, but we care more, do more, and hold our heads higher. People at the district and national level are starting to ask “the Unitarian Fellowship of...where?”

## HAVE YOU MET SUSAN SLUK?

The first time Susan Sluk attended service at the UFWC was a day of beginnings and ends. In search of a new spiritual home, she came to the Fellowship by herself, anxious but hopeful. Ninety minutes later, she left in such a peaceful state that her husband said she even looked different when she came home.

It was the start of a new journey, and the end of a long quest for the right religion.

“What influenced me the most that first day was when everyone held hands and sang ‘Peace of the River,’” recalls Susan, a West Chester resident who joined the UFWC in late summer. “There was such a warmth from everyone and a sense of belonging. It was the clincher. I had found the right place.”



Her spiritual quest began as a Catholic who went through the sacraments but kept having questions that didn't seem to fit with the religion, she explains. “By the time I got to college I stopped going altogether. I seemed to need a spiritual home rather than a religious one.”

As Susan got older, she read about Eastern religions and realized there were many ways to express spirituality. But picking the right one was no simple choice, and she gave up completely until her twin sister mentioned Unitarian Universalism.

“I'd never heard of UU,” she says. “I read up on it, looked for a fellowship, and lo and behold [there was] one right here in West Chester.”

The location was on her side: Susan lives in the borough with her husband John; Jack, 3; Eryn, 2; and Southie, a four-year-old Boston terrier. A stay-at-home mom, she went to school for art, and when time permits, she enjoys illustrating. Other hobbies include reading (she joined the sci-fi and mystery book clubs at Barnes and Noble), kayaking, climbing, doing yoga and cheering on the Boston Red Sox during baseball season (she credits her husband for getting her hooked). Susan also strives for a “green” home by using organic foods and products — one of many goals comprising an overall mission:

“Each day I try to do my best for my family,” she says. “Everyday I hope I learned something.”

— Sharon Breske

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We are now in reach of 100% membership. There are only two congregations in the entire U.S. that have achieved that status. Are we good enough? Do we care enough? I think so.

So please participate. Take a “Guest at Your Table” box and give it a place of prominence at

your table. Fill it so full that it takes a wheelbarrow to get it back to the Fellowship.

P.S. And buy some greeting cards too, which will be sold after the services until we run out. These beautiful cards are only \$8.00 a pack, and the proceeds go to UUSC.

## GAME NIGHT

This month Game Night is on Saturday night. We are doing this for two reasons. One reason is to avoid the traffic problems in town which we usually have that night due to the Old Fashioned Christmas. The other reason is that some people have said that it is too hard for them to get to Game Night on Friday. So hopefully, we will see some new faces at Game Night.

Speaking of new faces, Game Night is a great activity to invite friends to. Friends are always welcome. Encourage your children (or spouses) to bring a friend along.

In case you haven't been to a Game Night, it is very simple. Bring a dish and beverage of your choice to share (enough to feed your family as if that was all they were eating). Also bring any game you would like to play. We provide the paper products.

The doors are opened at 6:30 p.m. — we start dinner shortly thereafter. Games usually start just after 7 and last till 9 or 9:30. There is no set agenda. We play whatever games we choose that night. Some people just watch (that's OK too).

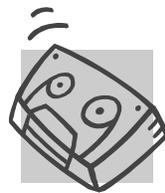
There is no need to call ahead and reserve a spot; just come. Contact Mary Yeager, email: fun.



## EXPLORING DIVERSITY DISCUSSION BOOK GROUP

During December and January we discuss movies, which we view at home before our meeting.

On December 18, 7:30-9:00 p.m., at the Fellowship, we will discuss the movie *A Day Without A Mexican: There Goes the Neighborhood*. This movie tells



the story of what life could be like in California if one day all the Mexicans disappeared. We see the chaos, tragedy and comedy of errors that follows.

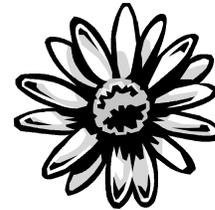
According to the writers and producers, Hispanics make up one third of the state's population. Discussion leader: Susan Gast.

January 15: The film *Travelers and Magicians* tells the tale of two men whose lives intersect as they embark on their personal journeys: a story telling monk and a man seeking a better life than his village has to offer. Is the grass really greener on the other side? Discussion leader: Maria Rule.

For questions or problems obtaining a copy of our selected films, contact Ruth MacFadyen or Shelly Case, email: diversity-book-group.

## SIMPLICITY CIRCLE

What do we most deeply seek in our varied lives? Simplicity Circle meets monthly to focus on our strivings for a life of meaning, one that goes beyond the clutter and wasters of precious time and energy. What are we really after? What can we find that



provides a sense of profound and lasting satisfaction? Individual experiences and answers will vary, and definitions will not be all the same. It is in the being together like this that we begin to find the answers for ourselves.

We will continue to touch base with previous themes that have helped to simplify our lives. We will ask, "How do we decide what is necessary and important?"

To assist us, we have begun reviewing Carol Jones' "Tips for Living an Inspired Life", such as, "Find the Best Fit, Yank Weeds From Your Mental Garden, Be Who You Say You Are." Action plans can include simply asking ourselves what is really important? Craig Talbot will lead this month.

Current membership includes some from previous years and new members joining. We meet after the 11 a.m. service on the first Sunday of the month.

To learn more contact Heidi Buss, email: simplicity.

## FOLK SINGING

There will be no folk singing in December due to the many other weekend events scheduled. Enjoy the holidays!

## HOLIDAY PARTIES

Thanks to our volunteer hosts it looks like there will be plenty of cheer in the Fellowship this Holiday Season. Here are the dates for our Holiday parties. We encourage you to attend at least one (if not all) of the Holiday Parties. The notation that children are welcome indicates that the host family will have space and some activity designed for children. While children are welcome to any of the parties, parties noted as “children welcome” will be more fun for children to attend.

**Dec 4, Sun 4-7 pm**  
Paul & Pam Sapko

**Dec 10, Sat 6:30 pm**  
Juan Leon  
Children welcome

**Dec 17, Sat 6:00 pm**  
Cathy & Chuck Vogt  
Children welcome

***NOTE: Please do not bring any dish with onions to the Vogt's party on December 17 due to a severe allergy in the family.***

**Jan 1, Sun 2-7 pm**  
Flo & Mike Miller  
Children welcome  
See p. 10 for more information

Remember, our hosts are providing beverages — guests must bring the food. Finger food or appetizers are suggested. Bring enough to feed your entourage (as if that were all you were eating).

About two weeks before each party we will send out an email reminder with directions. If you think you are going, please reply to the host. You don't have to reply to come, but it helps. This way our hosts have an idea of how much beverage and how many chairs to provide.

We will also have directions available in the foyer. If you need more information contact Nancy Artus with the Fun & Fellowship Committee, email: fun.



## BICARB BISTRO A SUCCESS

Wow! I hope you didn't miss it because we had a really good time. The competition was tough. Deanna Koepke took first place in the main dish category with her BBQ chicken with Dan Meyers coming in second. Marie Steel's zucchini casserole won the vegetarian selection with Mira Tryon taking second. As for the desserts, Nancy Artus's pecan pie tied with Sharon Mayer-Conroy's cherry cheese pie for top honors. Congratulations to the winners. Look for their recipes on our website, plus we will print up some copies and put them in the lobby.

Thanks to all the cooks — there wouldn't have been any food without you, and it was all good. I wish you all could have been winners. Thanks also to all who helped organize and run this event especially Cheryl Pittenger, Kate Cuffari, Chris Seitzer, Craig Talbot, and Nancy Artus. It wouldn't have happened without them. How can I forget the barber shop quartet Vintage Blend. Thanks to Cyndy Bullaughey for donating their performance through the service auction. We welcome feedback on all Fun & Fellowship events.

— Mary Yeager, email: fun

## CARING CORNER

Condolences to Diane Maguire and her family on the death of her father. He passed away at the age of 85 on October 22.

Congratulations to Peter Hepokoski, who retired from ING after thirty-seven years as an actuary in their life insurance division, thirty-four in Minneapolis, and three here in West Chester. His last day there was November 1. Enjoy your retirement, Peter!

## FELLOWSHIP CALENDAR

- Dec 3 Sat Potluck and Game Night.** 6:30 p.m. at the Fellowship. See p. 8.
- Dec 4 Sun Simplicity Circle Meeting.** 12:30 p.m. at the Fellowship. See p. 8.  
**Holiday Party** at the home of Paul & Pam Sapko. See p. 9.  
**Social Justice Committee Meeting.** 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the Fireplace Room. Contact Tom Townsend, email: social-justice.
- Dec 7 Wed RE Committee Meeting.** 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Fellowship. E-mail: RE.
- Dec 8 Thu Finance Committee Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship office. Contact Erach Patel, email: finance.  
**Choir Practice.** 7:15-9:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. See p. 6.
- Dec 10 Sat Holiday Party** at the home of Juan Leon. See p. 9.
- Dec 11 Sun Search Committee "Talk About" Social.** 12:30 p.m. See p. 6.  
**Safe Harbor Dinner.** Provided by the Fellowship second Sunday of the month.
- Dec 13 Tue Board Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship office. All are welcome.
- Dec 16 Fri Lunch Group.** 11:30 a.m. at Atlanta Bread Company, Exton.
- Dec 17 Sat Holiday Party** at the home of Cathy & Chuck Vogt. See p. 9.
- Dec 18 Sun Exploring Diversity Book Discussion Group.** 7:30-9:00 p.m. at the Fellowship. See p. 8.
- Dec 22 Thu Choir Practice.** 7:15-9:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. See p. 6.
- Dec 24 Sat Lunch for the Needy.** Provided by our Fellowship at the Salvation Army.
- Jan 1 Sun New Year's Open House** 2:00-7:00 p.m. at the home of Flo and Mile Miller. See pp. 9 & 10.

Groups meeting multiple times in a month:

**Youth Group.** Meets most Sunday evenings 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the OWL/Youth Group Room. See p. 6.

**Yoga.** Thursdays 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship basement.

## NEW YEAR'S OPEN HOUSE

Welcome in the New Year with a New Year's Day Open House at our home in Exton. For this traditional event, we supply lots of chili and fixings, plus cold cuts for sandwiches, some salads and munchies, and sodas. We ask you to bring hors d'oeuvres, salads, desserts, and wine and beer if you wish to imbibe.



It's a great opportunity to socialize and get to know one another a little better away from the usual church setting. Newer members are especially encouraged to join us.

All ages – children included – are welcome. We'll have children's videos on a television set in our rec room (you are invited to bring your own videos as well), football on another television set in our den, and lots of room for conversation and socializing in the rest of the house.

Hours are 2 to 7 p.m. Sunday, January 1. Maps to our home will be available at church. RSVPs are helpful so we know how much chili to make, but last minute drop-ins are welcome. We hope to see you there!

— Flo & Mike Miller