

 **the**
FELLOWTARIAN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester

Web Edition – No personal phone numbers or addresses

Telephone: 610-692-5966

Web: www.ufwc.org

Rev. Larry Smith, Minister 610-692-5966 email: minister

Office/Administrative Assistant 610-692-5966 email: office

Flo Miller, President email: president

Pam Baxter, Dir. of Religious Ed email: dre

Steve and Linda Sander, Editors email: fellowtarian

SUNDAY SERVICES
February, 2006

February 5

A BEAUTIFUL MIND

Rev. Larry Smith

Mental illness is part of human existence. All religious leaders and prophets have been accused of being mentally ill. What part does this component of the human experience play in our spiritual lives?

February 12

WORKS OF LOVE

Rev. Larry Smith

Examining our religious tradition and the writings of Kierkegaard, we will reflect on expressions of love.

February 19

A POETIC EXPLORATION OF COMPASSION

Dianne Herrin

Poets' words strike our spirits directly. Our minister uses them to uplift and urge contemplation. In his absence this week, the congregation explores the meaning of compassion. Come share readings on the subject from great poets (including your own friends!). Many have found this service to be among our most moving each year.

February 26

DEUS EX MACHINA

Rev. Larry Smith

Computers have changed our world. Most of us could not function normally in an average day without silicon chips. How, though, have computers changed religion?

FROM YOUR INTERIM MINISTER

This past month I have been talking with numerous ministerial colleagues interested in the ministry of the Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester. Never before in my career as an interim minister have I seen a church generate as much interest as West Chester has. My telephone has not stopped ringing, and I have had some difficulty keeping up with all the requests for information.

As Martha Stewart might say, "It's a good thing." The display of interest among my ministerial colleagues means that the Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester is communicating well its future ministry to those who are interested. It also means that the work that the Fellowship undertook last year to understand growth issues and to make real changes that will help in the future have been noticed by many clergy. And they are enthusiastic about this congregation's willingness to examine itself and to learn new ways of being a church.

During the next month you will probably not see much of the Ministerial Search Committee members. They will be talking to ministers and meeting even more intensely than they have been. All of my ministerial colleagues with whom I have spoken have mentioned the Ministerial Search Committee. Colleagues have voiced their positive impressions of the Ministerial Search Committee and the Fellowship. Sometimes I have heard them say things like, "I was surprised that a small congregation could undertake such a professional-looking packet" or "The West Chester Fellowship has done and is doing the kinds of things that most congregations its size are unwilling or unable to do." These kinds of comments reflect

well on you as a congregation. They reflect well on the Ministerial Search Committee too.

Though you will not see the members of the Ministerial Search Committee often in February, I hope that when you do that you will give them your thanks for their hard work. They are **Jim MacFadyen (chair), Cyndy Bullaughey, Ed Cohle, Curt Hoganson, Eileen Kelly, Sandy Schaal, and Mark Steel**. They have been working long hours at the Fellowship. Their partners hardly recognize them due to their Ministerial Search Committee schedules. Due to the private nature of their work, they cannot tell Fellowship members where they have been or with whom they have been speaking. When you see them, thank them for their hard work. They need to be recognized!

You have also made this congregation appealing to my ministerial colleagues through your work and commitment. This is a congregation of dedicated people. Time and again ministers have expressed interest because this is a congregation that is willing to move, while retaining some of the elements that define its central identity.

As I have spent time with the Fellowship I have begun to recognize that its commitment to caring for each other, breaking bread, exploring new ideas and trying to reach out to its larger community are part of the identity that makes West Chester so appealing. This is a good church trying to grow in body and spirit. I guess that the thing that moves me the most is not some sort of quantitative, numerical success, though I would be pleased to see that, but the congregation's willingness to try. I hope that as you read this that you

will understand that ministers have heard the good things about this congregation and that they are interested. They are interested because you are a good, religious community with great possibilities. They are interested because your Ministerial Search Committee is devoted to this effort.

— See you in church,
Rev. Larry Smith



BOARD OF TRUSTEES JANUARY 10, 2006

Executive Treasurer Erach Patel presented the Treasurer's Report for December that included an outline of estimated expenses for several building improvements, plus the funds available to cover those expenses. The Board approved the allocation of funds as presented.

Chair Bruce Koepcke reported for the Bridging Team. The Team is working with UUA consultant Tom Chulak, and is moving ahead in its role as an advisory group to the Board as the UFWC transitions from a Pastoral to a Program-sized church.

The Board passed a motion to schedule a goal-setting retreat on February 25.

The Board voted to call a Congregational meeting on January 29. The meeting's purpose will be to obtain Congregational approval for a Chalice Lighters Innovative Growth application. A mailing will be made to notify the Congregation of the meeting.

— Paul Sapko, Secretary

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I write this, I've just returned from our after-service January 15 work party, organized to empty out the sanctuary and upstairs office in preparation for a chemical cleaning of the floors. Under normal circumstances, I'd hardly call lifting chairs onto a stage and hauling furniture down the stairs a "spiritual experience." But I am energized and renewed in spirit from what I saw and felt in the Fellowship building as we worked.

The sense of community and the shared – I'd even say joyful - camaraderie made this much more than a work party. Older and newer members and friends (both in terms of age and association with the Fellowship) took over with little direction and did what needed to be done in little more than an hour. We were family, coming together for the common good. At the risk of sounding just a little bit sappy, I got downright emotional, thinking about what this seemingly mundane activity signified in terms of who we are as a religious community. It occurred to me that our ability to come together with enthusiasm and energy, no matter what the task, has been one of our greatest strengths and has sustained us through many difficult challenges over the years. I'll be relying on that strength as we work through the very ambitious agenda we have before us in the next few months. I encourage all of you to draw on that strength as well.

Addressing the floor project specifically, it should be just about completed by the time this Fellowship reaches your home. It's my hope that the chemical cleaning will greatly improve the appearance of the floor, but I do

not believe it will come close to giving us the appearance of a new or completely refinished surface. Please keep that in mind when you assess the results.

More pressing on my agenda as I write this is completion of an application for a Chalice Lighters' grant. These grants are awarded in various categories by the Growth and Extension Committee of the Joseph Priestley District of the UUA; we are applying in the "innovative growth" category. With a Feb. 1 application deadline looming, I am feeling somewhat pressured by all that needs to be accomplished. At the same time, I'm very pleased with just how the decision to apply came about. As I shared with you in an earlier e-mail, our commitment to growth and the work we are doing with our Bridging Team led our consultant, Tom Chulak, to encourage us to apply. We are apparently making a name for ourselves as a congregation that saw a challenge and is rising to meet it!

Vice President Bob Scott and Finance Chair Erach Patel are working hard with me on the grant application, and we expect to also draw upon the grant-writing experience of Pam Sapko. In addition, we will receive input from a member of the JPD's Growth and Extension Committee. We expect to have a finished document ready for your vote at a congregational meeting after the second service on January 29; please plan to attend if you possibly can. While we have no guarantee of receiving the grant money, we do know that a congregational vote strengthens our chances.

Your entire Board of Trustees is also looking at recommendations for changes in governance that were presented to us by the Bridging Team in January. These recommendations are intended to provide the structure for operating more efficiently as a larger, program-sized congregation. In accordance with the recommendations, the Board has scheduled

...Cont'd next page.



SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Reserve April 23 to April 30 for Candidating Week This is when the ministerial candidate that the committee will choose will be with us from Sunday to Sunday, preaching both days. There will also be many opportunities to meet with him or her during that week — details on events for the week will come later. It's important that as many of our congregation as possible be present for this Candidating Week, especially for the vote at the end of the week. So, please plan to be here!

Where we are in the process: we're pre-candidating, which means we're meeting and interviewing our short list of ministers, and things are going very well. Please continue to keep us in your thoughts and send us your positive energies as we progress through this crucial phase of our task.

As always, you can address your concerns, ideas and questions to the committee (email: search-committee).

NOTES FROM UNDERGROUND – RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE

With both Christmas and New Year's Day falling on Sundays, it was a fairly quiet December in RE, but that just gave us more time to plan for January, including our first-ever Indoor Family Camping event on January 27.

It was wonderful to welcome everyone downstairs after services on January 8 for Coffee Hour refreshments. We wanted to spotlight the improvements that were made to the RE space over the past year thanks to the efforts of the Building Committee, the RE Committee and other volunteers. If you weren't there on the 8th and haven't seen the improvements yet, please stop down and take a look.

Looking back as we approach this year's halfway mark, I feel that we have made a remarkably smooth transition to double services. As expected, we have more children in attendance at the 9 a.m. service, but there is a strong core group attending at 11 a.m. The RE Committee's planning, and the follow-through and commitment from teachers and the other Sunday volunteers have been key in our success.

Social Action Sundays – We are continuing to develop ways we can fulfill our commitment to befriend the children at the Holland-Glen hospice. This month we'll be making Valentine's cards and cookies for the children.

Last month, with \$40 previously collected, the children voted to donate two flocks of chickens through the Heifer Project. The children would like to be able to donate a water buffalo (a goal of \$250) so we have started brainstorming ideas for fundraisers

Ninth Grade – January marked the halfway point for the Coming of Age class. They came

to the conclusion of Heresy Apparent, a curriculum that explores the lives of famous and not-so-famous Unitarians and Universalists, and have embarked on a program of self exploration. With the support of adult mentors from within the congregation, the students will wrestle with questions such as: Is there a God? If so, what do I believe about him/her/it? Do I consider myself a Unitarian Universalist? If so, why? In June, the members of the class will have an opportunity at a Sunday service to

share their journeys and discoveries with the congregation.

RE Committee – At the end of the month, the Religious Education Committee will conduct its Third Annual Retreat in Phoenixville. In the workshop portion of the Retreat we'll use the curriculum "Articulating Your UU Faith" to help develop our two-minute "elevator speeches," i.e., a brief response to the question, "What's Unitarian Universalism?"

— Pam Baxter
Director of Religious Education



From the President, cont'd...

a February 25 retreat to set three-year goals. Bruce Koepcke, Bridging Team chair, will facilitate that retreat with assistance from other members of his team.

Meanwhile, Cheryl Pittenger continues to work with her ad hoc committee to refurbish our office; we expect that work to be completed before candidating week for a new minister in April. The downstairs foyer area will be refurbished as well. Sheila Cain, whose artistic talents have been utilized in many past projects, will lead the effort in that area. And have you been wondering what happened to the project to enclose the porch? It was delayed because of other more pressing building issues, but we're ready to move on it now.

To a certain extent, all of this is dwarfed by the work of our exceptional Search Committee. I understand from Committee Chair Jim MacFadyen that our enthusiasm and commitment is coming through to potential candidates, who say they appreciate the work we have done to prepare for growth. I'd add this to Jim's report: It's the Search Committee who portrayed our Fellowship so beautifully through their creatively designed and very comprehensive packet for candidates. And that's been only a fraction of the work they've accomplished. If there were a Unitarian heaven, I'd nominate them for sainthood.

Finally, those who know me realize that I get frustrated by "hanging issues." I like to see the period at the end of the sentence, and I want problems resolved yesterday, so to speak. For that reason, I'm especially delighted to see progress on some of our long-standing issues. But I know many more challenges wait in the wings, especially with the probable call of a new minister. I have every confidence that we can meet these challenges, whatever they may be, by continuing to work together for the common good of our very unique and special religious community.

— See you in church, Flo Miller

HELP PLEASE?

As Vice-President I'm also the chair of the Fellowship Council — which is currently a group of committee chairs that meet and focus on operations issues leaving the Board to focus on strategic issues. This is all still being defined, with the Bridging Committee working hard to get it all laid out, but we're having fun getting started.

As part of the operations side, I'm very aware of all the jobs that are being done by folks in this fellowship — and it's an incredible effort going on when you stop to think of all that's just getting done week in and week out. I'm also very aware of the things that are not getting done due to lack of folks available on various committees or in specific tasks. Even though there are several very busy short term committees (such as the Search Committee) that prevent those folks from helping in other areas right now, I have to believe that there are some folks who may have joined us recently or are just coming back from a long winter's nap who may be wondering how they could help and are not knowing where to turn.

So I'd like to use the *Fellowtarian* to communicate some of this, from the perspective of the Leadership Council and Board who are trying to get some things accomplished and are frustrated by not having people to hand things off to.

So here's a shot at what I know right now — and hopefully we'll use this space (and some bulletin board space) to keep the needs list active and available.

First things first — I'd like someone to volunteer to write this monthly column. And I'd like someone to volunteer to help me with the Fellowship bulletin boards.

Second, there are three com-

mittees that I think need additional members and/or leaders.

Social Justice — chair and more members. Tom Townsend chairs this committee and also is our UUSC Regional Representative. His heart and efforts are truly in the UUSC work, where he's been such a great asset to us and to the Regional effort. He has approached us about the need for a Social Justice Chair. The committee is well staffed by folks who are doing many good things in our community, but Tom feels (and I agree) that it needs someone who can coordinate those individual efforts better and connect the congregation better to the community action we are or could be doing. If anyone wants to make a big difference this is a chance — and you'll get lots of help.

Leadership Development — chair and more members. This is the former Nominating committee. As part of our changing governance model we've concluded that this committee should be standing year round. Not only should it recruit for Board positions and a few key committees, but it should expand into helping us put a leadership transition plan in place — including leadership training and succession planning. This corresponds with the new program size congregation we plan to become. We need a chair, and another member would be good as well. It's a very high impact position, and will take some start up effort, but the intention is to get this process organized so that it runs smoothly going forward.

Communications — chair and more members. John Orban, currently chair, feels it's in great need of some re-thinking and sorely needs members to help with tasks and someone to coordinate all of

this. We also need many specific tasks done to facilitate both our internal communications with each other and our external communications with the community at large. Here's a list:

- Marketing/Advertising coordinator to focus on best ways to get the word out about our wonderful Fellowship.
- Bulletin Board coordinator to make best use of our internal communications - work closely with council, board and committees.
- Web Page, internal and external — Someone could play coordinating role for external communications, and another for internal communications using the very capable web resources we already have in place with Steve and Devon.
- People with writing skills to help with articles.

If any of this tickles your fancy, contact me or Flo or any board member.

— Bob Scott

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING JANUARY 29

Please take the time to attend our congregational meeting at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 29. It's important that we have a quorum of our membership to approve our application for a Chalice Lighters Grant from the Joseph Priestley District. We'll have copies of the application for you and will review it at that time.

— Flo Miller

BOARD RECOGNITIONS

The Board this month wishes to shine the spotlight on Abby McGillivray, Craig Talbot, and Tom Buglio for their contribution to our holiday celebration.

When an emergency prevented our choir director, Barbara Kovacs, from performing her duties at the Christmas Eve service, Abby stepped in and took her place. No one in the audience was the wiser. The choir sang beautifully under Abby's capable (and very last minute) direction.

Craig Talbot led the Sunday service on Christmas morning before a small but appreciative audience – including visitors from Transylvania. He shared a written sermon from Rev. Larry on the artist Botticelli's ideals of Christmas mixed with humanist ideals as expressed in the painting, "The Madonna of the Eucharist." Tom Buglio provided the music.

Family commitments prevented me from attending either of these services – although I confess I really wanted to hear that sermon on Botticelli. (I couldn't imagine anything sounding more "Unitarian" in a Christmas sermon!) Those who were able to attend enjoyed the opportunity to share the Christmas spirit with our warm and caring community. They were able to do so because three of our members went above and beyond the call of duty, taking time away from their own families and holiday commitments. Please remember to thank them for their Christmas "gift" to us when you see them in church.

— Flo Miller

FEAST OF DECADENT CHOCOLATE

One of our Fellowship's most anticipated events is coming — everyone's favorite feast, our celebration of chocolate. The Feast of Decadent Chocolate will be February 12 after each of the services.

Everyone brings a favorite chocolate treat. During coffee hour (more aptly called Chocolate Hour), we share our treats — it's potluck chocolate! The more chocolate the better, so don't forget to bring your favorite treat, homemade or not.



We chocolate junkies are already looking forward to this event with great anticipation. Those of you who aren't chocolate lovers can come and be amused by the unusual behavior chocolate brings out in some of us. Either way the coffee hour conversation will be enjoyable as usual. If you have been thinking about introducing a friend to The Fellowship, this may be the ideal event to get them acquainted with our Unitarian community. Those attending the 11 a.m. service are encouraged to come early and join the 9 a.m. coffee hour to get caught up with friends.

Contact Mary Yeager (email: fun).

REMINDER - If you picked up a poinsettia from the foyer and forgot to send in a check, please do. Write "poinsettia" on the memo line and drop it in the plate on Sunday, or mail it to the church office. Thank you!

NEW UU CLASS

Are you curious about the history of Unitarian Universalism? Do you want to know more about what our Fellowship offers? Do you have any questions about how our Fellowship is run? All this and more will be discussed at the New UU class.

It's a series of two meetings, each lasting about 90 minutes, to be held at 12:30 p.m. (after the Sunday service) on February 26 and March 6. Pizza will be provided. The class was developed for those who are new to Unitarian Universalism or to our Fellowship, but "old" UU's are also welcome.

RSVP by February 20, to Fred Frayer. Please mention how many will attend and any special dietary needs. Childcare will be available if requested at least one week in advance — let Fred know how many children, and how old they are.

If you are interested but cannot attend in February, let Fred know that, as well. The class will be offered again in May.

PIANO REMINDER

Anyone who unplugs the grand piano must remember to plug it back in when they are done moving it. Thank you.

— Elaine Friedlander
Music Coordinator

COMING SOON

End-of-year tax statements and pledge updates will be mailed soon. Please watch for them.

YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

January is traditionally a month of social action for the youth group. This year is no exception. We kicked off the month with a folk concert, on Friday night, January 13. Showcasing five local groups, this concert was dedicated to supporting the UUA/UN African AIDS Education Fund. This fund provides a year of school to a child for only \$60. This event not only showcases the music, it also showcases our youth and the facility. You should be very proud of what this youth can accomplish.

We finished the weekend with a day of painting at the Salvation Army offices in West Chester. We decided several years ago to keep our Day of Service local — and each year the projects keep getting more challenging, and we keep getting better. This year, our crew painted a chapel space, and an excellent time was had by all.

We then topped off the month with the mother of all social action activities — Winter Con. Held in Silver Spring this year, our contingent was part of a large group of youth from all over the District. There were outside trainers and facilitators who led sessions on how to organize and conduct social action events, and then we packed up on Saturday afternoon and went to four different social action events in the DC area. Some painted, some cleaned, some did outside cleanup work.

Seem interesting? Want to learn more? Want to be a part of this? The youth group meets every Sunday night, downstairs in the Fellowship, from 6:00 p.m. until 7:30. All UFWC Youth from eighth through twelfth grades are welcome to attend. For more information, contact the group (email: youth-group). See you there.

REGIONAL SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE FORMING

Your help is needed — and your enthusiasm.

The JPD-sponsored Philadelphia/Wilmington Metro Growth Committee is moving into high gear. Committees have been formed to implement the Growth plan, and one of these committees is the Social Action committee. Here's what the committee is hoping to accomplish:

- Join resources for larger justice projects that we may not be able to accomplish on our own
- Become more visible as UU's through our justice work
- Create and strengthen ties between congregations
- Develop relationships with other organizations/churches in our communities that are doing justice work
- Bring a liberal voice to national and local justice issues, balancing the conservative viewpoint.

I have agreed to co-chair the committee along with Carla Johnson, who is the current board president of the Pottstown church. We are looking for people from each of the other congregations in the Philadelphia/Wilmington area to serve as contacts/liaisons to the Social Action committee.

We also need other people from the regional congregations that may be interested in helping to define and implement the plan.

If you are interested in joining the work of the committee, please contact me (email: DRE).

This is exciting new ground we're breaking, and it promises to be an exciting and rewarding experience.

— Pam Baxter, DRE

KEYS PLEASE!

Since we moved into our current building, many of our members have occupied leadership positions and been given keys. Some of these keys have not been returned when they were no longer needed. They may have been turned over to a new leader or found a home in a bureau drawer. As a result, we are unable to account for a large number of keys. With a larger congregation and an increasing number of people coming into the building, security concerns require us to take better control of this "key situation." We will begin the process by determining how many keys are out there, and we need your help.

If you currently hold a key (exterior door or interior office) please let Diane Vely know, preferably by email at office. Specify which key(s) you have and why you need them.

If you received a key in the past and no longer need it, drop the key in the container in the lobby marked "Returned Keys" on Sundays. Please label the key(s) so we know which doors they open.

As we grow we need to restrict the number of keys in circulation. We will develop procedures for issuing and returning keys in the future, and we will keep better records of who has keys. For now, we simply need to know where all of our keys reside. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated! Thank you.

— Kora Stahl for the Board



SOCIAL JUSTICE

Many of you heard the very fine sermon about Rev. King and Social Justice on January 15 by Susan Minasian, Director of Admissions at Lancaster Theological Seminary. In talking with her after the service, I asked what we should be doing. Her response surprised me. "Be more verbal," was her first advice. UUs should speak up more not only for human rights and social justice, but also for their religion. We're the best kept secret in town, she said. So we need to tell more people not only what we fight for but also what we believe in.

Social justice is a topic that you, the members and friends of UFWC, have repeatedly said you support and want to be an integral part of your congregation. You'd also like the Fellowship to embark on a congregation-wide project. The Social Justice Committee is working on a plan whereby we'd become affiliated with a local social justice agency. There would be plenty of work of many different kinds to go around. Would you be willing to participate? I hope that the answer will be a resounding "YES". Stay tuned.

Although we've been pretty good about distributing the Guest at Your Table boxes in the late fall, we're not so good about collecting them. But all is not lost; you can still turn in yours to Rob Sartain or Tom Townsend. If you don't have a box, then please consider a gift to OUR charity, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee; just make out your check to UUSC.

At UUSC they put our UU values into action all across the U.S. and around the world every day. What does UUSC do? That's a fair question. A main area is that they assist the marginalized, who are not helped by the big charities or local governments. For example,

HAVE YOU MET AMY AND BILL CROWELL?

Amy and Bill Crowell have attended the UFWC since 2001, and in March 2005 they became members. While they were both raised Catholic, they were searching for a religion with a better fit for their ideals and beliefs.

"Before our first daughter was born, we became more serious about looking for a church with a sense of community where we would feel comfortable, where we would be free to ask questions and explore our spirituality, where we could have a positive and loving image of God and life, and where our children could learn about different religions and their own spirituality," says Amy. "We found that at the UFWC and we have been very impressed with how friendly and welcoming everyone has been."

Bill is from Delaware County, Pennsylvania. Amy is originally

"...we have been very impressed with how friendly and welcoming everyone has been."

from Albany, New York, but she has lived in Pennsylvania for ten years. Soon after her move to Pennsylvania, mutual friends introduced Amy to Bill, and they married in 1999. They moved to East Bradford in 2000 and have two toddlers, Emma and Megan.

Bill is an independent software consultant, project manager and owner of a consulting company, as well as a partner in another business that provides IT support to

hospitals. He enjoys learning about new hobbies, such as woodworking and landscaping. Previously Amy worked in the counseling and corporate training fields, and now stays at home to manage the family and household. Along with reading and scrapbooking, she enjoys boating on the Chesapeake Bay with the family.

a recent report indicated that they are still helping the victims of the Tsunami, specifically women who are not eligible for assistance through their governments because they are women.

That's the kind of work that UUSC does. So please join or renew your membership. This year it costs \$40 per adult or \$75 per couple, with the first \$1000 matched within UFWC and all gifts of \$75 or more matched externally. You can have your gift quadrupled! UFWC stands currently at 76% membership, by far the highest within our district. But that's not good enough. Let's make 100%. We won't rest until we do.

— Tom Townsend
Social Justice Chair

NEW MEMBER POT LUCK SUPPER

On Sunday, February 26 at 6 p.m., we will honor our newest members by treating them to a scrumptious potluck supper provided by current members and friends. The honored guests need only bring themselves. There will be a few fun activities during the evening, and it's a terrific and relaxing way to welcome our newest members as well as socializing with old friends. It is always well attended, so be sure to come.

SOUNDS SWEET! VALENTINES DANCE FEBRUARY 11

Hey! It's time for our annual Valentines Dance in the Sanctuary on Saturday February 11, 7-10 pm. This is a great chance to 'shake, shake, shake, yer bootie', and shed some of those holiday pounds (or to make space for the feast of the decadent chocolate the next day!)

Music is by **"Who Needs Nigel?"** — a classic-rock band of six Fellowship members who've entertained UFWC for three years. Dancing isn't your thing? Just bob your head or stand slack-jawed and you'll be in good company, too!

No admission fee: this is just another of them big ol' parties. So bring your friends; the more the merrier. A chance to show off the Fellowship. Friends. Dancing. **"Who Needs Nigel?"** Starts at 7:00. If Pucksatawny Phil can crawl out of his hole, so can you! See you there!



GAME NIGHT

Join us February 3 for a potluck dinner followed by fun with all kinds of games. Last month some played Oodles, others played Apples to Apples and then Balderdash, and another group played Magic – The Gathering and then Space Munchkin. There was a quite a variety. Other weeks, we have played Scrabble and various card games.

Who knows what we will play this time. It is up to those who come. Sometimes we try something new, but there are always people wanting to play old favorites too. Bring what you like to play (If you forget there are plenty here).

Don't worry about dinner. Bring a dish and a beverage (for example a two-liter bottle of soda) to share. If you don't have time to cook, pick up a pizza or cookies on the way.

It is a great way to end the workweek (or start the weekend). Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and games start around 7 p.m. We are usually done between 8:30 and 9:45. No need to call ahead. If you have any questions contact Mary Yeager, email: fun.

COMMUNITY DANCE COMING IN MARCH

What is a community dance? It is old-fashioned country dancing for all ages and all experience levels, particularly tailored to the inexperienced. Simple American and English line, square and circle dances will be taught and called. The music is live and up-tempo.

The dance will be Saturday, March 25, from 3 to 5 p.m. A small admission fee will be charged. There will be pizza and a cold foods potluck afterwards. More details will be in the March *Fellowtarian*. The Fun and Fellowship and Religious Education committees are co-sponsors. Contact Nancy Artus or Cathy Vogt.

EXPLORING DIVERSITY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Join us on Sunday evening February 19, 7:30 - 9 p.m. downstairs at the Fellowship, to discuss *Middlesex: A Novel by Jeffrey Eugenides*. Discussion will be led by Judy Finkel, whose description follows:

Middlesex tells the story of Calliope Stephanides and three generations of a Greek-American family as they move from immigration to assimilation. To understand why Calliope is not like other girls, she has to uncover a family secret and an astonishing genetic history. It is a wondrous and exhilarating story.

Contact Ruth MacFadyen or Shelly Case (email :diversity-book-group).

March 19 will be *Small Island: A Novel by Andrea Levy*, led by Dena Beeghly. Note: Our 2005-2006 Reading List is posted on our website.

SIMPLICITY CIRCLE

Our next meeting is February 5, at 12:30 p.m. Several new members have joined, and we are getting close to full circle. Interactions have been dynamic and considerate.

Focus continues to center on our strivings for a life of meaning, beyond the clutter and wasters of precious time and energy. Being together helps us find the answers for ourselves and in sharing we invigorate and validate one another.

Don Hurford will guide our thinking next time, drawing on selected resources. Contact Heidi Buss (email: simplicity).

FELLOWSHIP CALENDAR

- Jan 27 Fri RE Indoor Family Camping.** See p. 4.
- Jan 29 Sun Congregational Meeting.** 12:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. See p. 5.
- Feb 1 Wed RE Committee Meeting.** 7-9 p.m., at the Fellowship. E-mail: RE.
- Feb 3 Fri Game Night.** 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. See p. 9.
- Feb 4 Sat Folk Singing.** 8 p.m. at the home of Steve and Linda Sander. See below.
- Feb 5 Sun Simplicity Circle Meeting.** 12:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. See p. 9.
Social Justice Committee Meeting. 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the fireplace room. Contact Tom Townsend, email: social-justice.
- Feb 10 Fri Chester County Peace Movement Film Night.** 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Film: *Walk on Water*. Contact CCPM for details.
- Feb 11 Sat Valentine's Dance.** 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the sanctuary. See p. 9.
- Feb 12 Sun Feast of Decadent Chocolate.** After each service. See p. 6.
Safe Harbor Dinner. Provided by the Fellowship the second Sunday of the month. Contact Catherine Sachs. Email: safe-harbor.
- Feb 14 Tue Board Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship office. All are welcome.
- Feb 17 Fri Lunch Group.** 11:30 a.m. at La Tolteca in West Chester. E-mail lunch-group to be added to the e-mail reminder list.
- Feb 19 Sun Exploring Diversity Book Discussion Group.** 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the fireplace room. See p.9.
- Feb 25 Sat Lunch for the Needy.** Provided by our Fellowship at the Salvation Army. Contact Catherine Sachs. Email: salvation-army.
- Feb 26 Sun New UU Class, first session.** 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. See p. 6.
New Member Pot Luck Social honoring our newest members. 6 p.m. in the sanctuary. See p. 8.
- Feb 28 Tue Building Committee Meeting.** 7 p.m. in the fireplace room. Email: building.
- Groups meeting multiple times in a month:**
- Choir Practice** First and third Thursdays of the month, 7:15 p.m. in the sanctuary. Email: choir.
 - Yoga** Thursdays 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the basement. See below.
 - Youth Group** Most Sunday evenings, 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m. in the OWL/Youth Group room. See p. 6.

YOGA

Yoga classes are continuing through the month of February. There's plenty of room for all those who are interested in making a commitment to a calmer, healthier lifestyle. Call Mira for more information.

FOLK SINGING

The next folk singing get-together is Saturday, February 4, at 8 p.m. at the home of Linda and Steve Sander. Come out and have some fun singing and socializing. No experience or talent necessary. Bring a munchie if you wish. Contact Steve (email: folk-singing).