

# the FELLOWTARIAN

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

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## SUNDAY SERVICES September, 2006

**September 3, 10 a.m.**

**WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH "GOD"?**

**Discussion**

*This is the last single service at 10 a.m. of the summer.* Most of this service will be in a small group discussion format. What does the word "God" mean? For each of us it is different, from a personal guide to an imaginary abstraction to all that is in between. This is an opportunity to exchange ideas about what this word means to you and hopefully gain an understanding of what it means to others.

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**NOTE: DOUBLE SERVICES (9 A.M. AND 11 A.M.) RESUME SEPTEMBER 10**

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**September 10**

**INGATHERING SUNDAY:  
STARTING NOW, BEGINNING HERE**

**Rev. Dr. Patrick T. O'Neill**

Come one, come all to the Ingathering Sunday of a brand new church year! Double services resume at 9 and 11 a.m. Classes resume for the children! Our new Interim Minister will be preaching! All are invited to bring a sample of water symbolic of your summer activities or travels. Rev. Patrick's sermon will speak to the joys and challenges of our individual and collective religious journeys for the year ahead. Come join us for a grand Sunday experience, and by all means, invite a friend to church this week!

**September 17**

**HOW TO CASE A CHURCH, PART I:  
SUNDAY MORNING**

**Rev. Dr. Patrick T. O'Neill**

We all have some idea of what we would like our Sunday morning experience at church to include. Or do we? To paraphrase Emerson, when it comes to worship, one person's comfort is another person's affliction. We come to church for many different reasons, with many different needs. How can we make coming to church on Sunday morning welcoming, inclusive, meaningful, uplifting, inspiring, comforting, and worthwhile for a wide variety of people? Come to church this week and find out, why don'tcha? (The bagels and the *NY Times* will still be there when you get home. And besides, we even sing.)

**September 24**

**JUSTICE, EQUITY, AND COMPASSION:  
FAITH VS. PRACTICE**

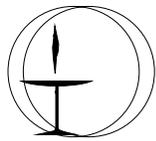
**Rev. Dr. Patrick T. O'Neill**

The Second of our UU Principles says our faith will seek to affirm and promote "Justice, Equity, and Compassion in human relations." Sounds simple enough, but as the saying goes, if it were easy, anybody could do it. This Sunday's sermon will consider how hard it sometimes is to walk our talk.

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

## PONDERINGS THE MINISTER'S COLUMN

Hello, I'm Patrick O'Neill, and this month I begin my one year Interim ministry here at UFWC. I want to thank your Interim Search Committee and the Board for the warm welcome that has already been extended to me. Flo Miller, your President, and Pam Baxter and Diane Vely have



been gradually showing me the ropes (and how to work the alarm system!). We've had a Board retreat this week, I've got my keys and my parking permit, and now as I write my first column for the newsletter it really does feel like I've arrived. It feels good.

I've been a UU minister for a long time, since 1979, and this is now the fifth UU congregation I've served. Most recently I completed nine years as senior minister at First Unitarian Church in Wilmington, Delaware in 2005. My wife Patricia teaches Early Childhood Education at Delaware Technical Community College. We have two grown children and one two-year-old granddaughter out in Seattle.

Like both Larry Smith and Kate Rohde, I am a graduate of Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago, where I earned my doctorate in ministry. I also have a Master's in theology from the University of Chicago Divinity School, and my undergraduate degree is from St. Peter's Jesuit College. Before enter-

ing ministry studies I had a background in teaching and social work.

Larry, Kate and Tom Chulak have sung me your praises as a congregation, and rightly so from all that I have seen so far. I hope to build on the good work they were able to do with you as you move forward in your search process for a permanent minister this year. And I, myself, will also be in search for a new permanent position for next year.

But in the meantime, lest anyone think our Interim year together is just about "running in place" while you wait for your new permanent minister to appear, let me hasten to assure you that your Board leadership and I have no intention of allowing the momentum of the past two years' work to be lost! This can be an invaluable year of further learning and development and growth for the Fellowship, and I bring you my commitment to do all I can to help and assist as an

advisor, a consultant, a pastor, preacher, teacher, and counselor. It is my experience that when it comes to congregational life, there is no such thing as status quo. Our aim this year will be to build on the many strengths of your Fellowship and to move forward. Some things may change, some new things will be introduced. Nothing is "on hold" this year, least of all your dreams as a congregation. Onward, friends!

You can reach me during business hours at my home phone if you'd like to make an appointment. Or leave a message with Diane Vely at the church office. Or email me at minister. For pastoral emergencies, call anytime. Monday is my day off, which, except for emergencies, I ask you to honor. Friday I write sermons and study. That's it for now. See you in church!

— *po'n* (Rev. Patrick O'Neill)

### ARE YOU UP TO DATE?

Have you finished paying your last pledge? If not, it's not too late. Please make every effort to fulfill your pledge as soon as possible. To make sure it's credited properly, write "2005-06 pledge" on the memo line.



Everyone who still owes something on their last pledge will receive a reminder letter soon. If you have any questions, please contact Cyndy Bullaughey, email: income-treasurer. Thank you.

— Finance Committee

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope all of you have had a restful summer and are ready for what promises to be a busy year for the Fellowship. I myself took a “sabbatical” from church work in July, attending only to must-do activities and avoiding any new initiatives or issues that did not need my immediate attention. I am grateful to the many hard-working committee members who made my time of rest possible by keeping our summer religious services, building projects, and other concerns on course. In addition, I want to thank Vice President Bob Scott, who called Fellowship Council meetings in June and July, where issues of common concern were expressed and resolved. That also gave me peace of mind.

Not that the Fellowship was ever far from my thoughts. I took advantage of my “time off” to read a book with the intriguing title, *Moving On from Church Folly Lane: The Pastoral to Program Shift*. Its author is Rev. Robert T. Latham, a Unitarian Universalist minister since 1969 who coincidentally has accepted an interim ministry at Wilmington this year. Our new interim minister, Rev. Patrick O’Neill, knows him well.

I learned of the book at the General Assembly of the UUA in St. Louis in June and purchased it at the bookstore in the exhibit area. Patrick has been able to obtain some additional copies from Rev. Latham for sale at \$15 each. I strongly encourage our membership, and especially

members of our Council, to read this book. If you would like your own copy, see Patrick or me. I will also be purchasing several copies for general circulation through the Fellowship and you can inquire with me about “borrowing” one of those copies.

Reading the book, for me, was the equivalent of reading about the history of the Fellowship. While Rev. Latham focuses

*We need to continually explore how we will define and create community in a larger church.*

on the pastoral to program shift, he talks about the characteristics of family-sized congregations as well. He discusses how a congregation can carry traditions and modes of thinking from its family-sized beginnings through a pastoral model and beyond. From his discussion, I gained tremendous insights into how and why we arrived at this particular time in our history.

I was also gratified to read that in many respects we are on the right track in making the pastoral to program transition. We’ve expressed a strong commitment to grow; we’ve initiated a new government model; we’re taking a look at leadership development; we’ve moved away from a “culture of scarcity” to a “culture of abundance,” as illustrated so well in our recent stewardship campaigns; and we’re working toward strengthening internal and external communications. All of these are necessary steps to growth as outlined by Rev. Latham.

But further challenges lay ahead, and this book also summarized them beautifully. We need to continually explore how we will define and create community in a larger church. As part of that process, we need to strengthen our small group ministries and create other interest groups where people can develop relationships on a more intimate level than is possible in a larger congregation as a whole. We need to evaluate and perhaps adjust elements of our worship service to ensure it is meeting the needs of a larger congregation.

I’ve had the opportunity to meet with Patrick on several occasions and we’ve also discussed the challenges that lie ahead. I am very impressed with Patrick and the enthusiasm and knowledge he is bringing to our Fellowship. Under his leadership, I believe this additional interim year will prove to be a bonus for us. We can only grow stronger!

Finally, on a personal note, I want you all to know that Mike (my husband) and I will be leaving our home of 27 years in September. This is a “down-sizing” decision made for good reasons, but difficult and stressful nonetheless. Until everything is resolved, hopefully by mid-fall, you may find me at times distracted and not as attentive as I’d like to be. My time will be more limited than it has been in the past. I ask for your understanding and prayers for a “safe landing” in a new, smaller home.

— See you in church,  
Flo Miller

## WELCOME THE INTERIM MINISTER PICNIC



Welcome Back! Our new interim minister, Patrick O'Neil will join us for his first Sunday service on August 27, and the Fun & Fellowship Committee has planned a picnic to welcome him to our congregation.

We will picnic at Broad Run Park in Downingtown (West Bradford Township) from 12-4 p.m. Broad Run Park shares its entrance with West Bradford Elementary School. This is a new park so make sure you get directions. Maps are available in the foyer and have been sent out in an e-mail.

We will feast on burgers (various kinds), hotdogs, chicken, and vegetarian fair. Buns, condiments, drinks and paper products will be provided. We ask for a donation of \$3 for adults and \$2 for children to cover the cost of the food and the park rental. Bring a salad or dessert to share. Feel free to bring sports supplies for basketball, tennis, baseball, and Frisbee.

We are hoping for a good turn out, so you might want to bring lawn chairs and/or blankets as well. As usual, a light rain will not stop us — worse weather will result in us all picnicking in the sanctuary while the food is grilled on the porch.

This is our first Social event for the fall. Come meet Reverend O'Neil. We look forward to

## SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Greetings from your Ministerial Search Committee! For those of you who are new to UFWC, the seven members of this committee are: Cyndy Bullaughey, Ed Cohle, Curt Hoganson, Eileen Kelly, Jim MacFadyen (chair), Sandy Schaal and Mark Steel. We're already well into our activities for this search year having had our retreat on August 6, and we've been working on updating our Congregational Record and information packet.

As you may know, we conducted a congregational survey last summer and had a wonderful response from our members and friends. If you were not here for the survey, or didn't get to do it for any reason, or if you did but would still like to voice a concern or idea, here's your chance! On October 15, we'll host a session after the second service. More details will follow in the next *Fellowtarian*, and in the order of service, but you can save the date now!

And you don't have to wait until October 15 — feel free to approach us at coffee hour with any questions or ideas you'd like to share. Or, you can email all of us at once at search-committee.

## PHILADELPHIA WILMINGTON GROWTH TEAM SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

The Philadelphia Wilmington Growth Team Social Action Committee includes seven out of the fourteen PWGT congregations, including the UFWC. Our focus for the next several years will be on the issue of global warming. The congregations at General Assembly voted on a statement of conscience on this issue in June, and this will be the starting basis of our work. At our next meeting, we will discuss a PWGT Justice Sunday for the fall using this issue as the topic for congregational and regional activities.

We approved a quarterly book reading, with the first book being *The Left Hand of God* by Rabbi Michael Lerner. Each quarter the committee will suggest a new book for personal reflection and study.

The group discussed meeting on Martin Luther King weekend to do study/action on the current Commission on Social Witness social action issue — Peacemaking.

— Pam Baxter, Co-chair, PWGT Social Action,  
email: dre

seeing you all there and to sharing stories of our summers. Sign-up in the foyer or via email, so that we have an idea of how many are coming — but even last

minute picnickers are welcome. Contact Mary Yeager, if you have any questions, email: fun.

## NEWS FROM THE BOARD RETREAT

After time off in July, your Fellowship Board of Trustees launched their work for the new year at a retreat August 12.

Held in the Main Line Unitarian Church, which graciously offered its facilities, the retreat in part focused on some initial goal setting for the year. Far more important than that, however, the retreat gave your new Board the opportunity to get to know one another in a more relaxed setting than would be possible in a formal meeting. Our new interim minister, Rev. Patrick O'Neill, joined us, and we were able to share stories of the Fellowship and of our own lives with him. As we laughed and at times grew serious together, we established a bond and a working relationship that should serve us well throughout the year.

I came out of the retreat energized. I feel very fortunate – we are all as a congregation fortunate – to have a truly dedicated and caring Board at the helm this coming year. They bring to the work of the Fellowship diverse talents, a willingness to work, and equally important, a sense of humor and the ability to laugh. As your president, I have the unfortunate habit of sometimes taking myself too seriously. I have no doubt that this Board will lighten my perceived load by reminding me that we need to intersperse our work with some fun. For that I am extremely grateful.

Our Director of Religious Education, Pam Baxter, joined the Board at the retreat and offered valuable input to us. In addition to yours truly, the 2006-07 Board members (all of whom were present at the retreat) are:

Bob Scott, vice president, Deanna Koepcke, secretary, Erach Patel, finance chair, Cheryl

Pittenger, Fatima Patel, Jack Butler, and Craig Talbot.

We are working on developing nametags that will enable you to immediately spot a Board member during coffee hour after services this year. It is part of an effort to make leadership more visible to the congregation. Do not hesitate if you ever have a question about the Fellowship to approach a Board member; we are there to represent you.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge that three members of this year's board - Fatima, Craig, and Jack - gave up a Saturday in July to travel to an all-day Board training session offered by our Joseph Priestley District of the Unitarian Universalist Society. In addition,

Craig took an entire week to attend a leadership training school in New York State. These training opportunities are invaluable in terms of building the understanding necessary to lead effectively. I would encourage our leadership to take advantage of similar opportunities throughout this year and in the future.

For now, I want to thank the entire board, our committee chairs, and all our hard-working volunteers for giving their time and talent to the Fellowship this year. Together, we can make a difference in the life of our religious community.

— Flo Miller,  
President

### SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE UPDATE

A few key items to report from the Social Justice Committee:

1) Our first scheduled meeting will be Sunday September 24 at 7 p.m. One priority for me is to determine if Sunday at 7 p.m. is the best time for our group to meet, so suggestions on that topic are welcomed.

2) The broad goal of the committee for this fall is to work with our new minister, Rev. O'Neill, and our board liaison, Bob Scott, to explore how the committee and its work can best be organized in this time of exciting growth and change at UFWC.

3) A third emphasis is to maintain involvement and activity with the many social justice efforts already ongoing in the congregation, such as, two meals a month for the homeless via Safe Harbor and Salvation Army, our sponsorship of Chester County's chapter of PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), and our active participation in Habitat for Humanity and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee ( a partial list – please forgive me for omissions).

If you need to communicate with me about anything that is committee-related, the best way is to call my cell phone. I do check my e-mail (email: social-justice) but not as often as some folks do.

— Robin Garrett, Social Justice Chair

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees met on the evening of Tuesday, August 15. Issues discussed included filling vacancies on four Fellowship committees, the need for a liaison for our congregation to the Philadelphia-Wilmington Growth Team (Craig Talbot volunteered), and allocation of the current portion of the Chalice Lighters' grant we have received. Plans were also made for leadership development training in October.

Also discussed were ways of supporting the Social Justice committee, with Rev. O'Neill offering to share with the committee his experience in facilitating congregation-wide projects. In addition, some time was spent processing how the congregation can engage in a discussion of the issues which may come up in connection with the November Congressional elections, which they may feel strongly about, without causing divisiveness or seeming exclusionary.

Board members are Flo Miller (President), Bob Scott (Vice-President), Erach Patel (Executive Treasurer), Deanna Koepcke (Secretary), Jack Butler, Fatima Patel, Cheryl Pittenger, and Craig Talbot. Rev. Patrick O'Neill and Pam Baxter (Director of Religious Education) also meet with the board.

— Deanna Koepcke, Secretary

## SEE YOU IN PORTLAND?

Five Fellowship members — Wayne and Cyndy Bullaughey, Rob Sartain, Mike Miller and myself — attended the annual General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association in St. Louis in June.

We each brought back our own memories of educational workshops, spiritually enriching worships, stimulating conversations with UUs from all over the country, and those uniquely UU "plenaries," or business sessions. I'd wager, however, that one thread binds those memories for all of us, and that's the deep sense of joy and renewal that comes from contact with a thousand or more people who share our faith. There's just something terribly moving about standing in a meeting hall singing UU hymns with a thousand others, or applauding as UUA President Bill Sinkford delivers a rousing update on causes that are near and dear to our hearts, or watching as literally hundreds of churches display banners that speak to both their uniqueness and our common values. (Our own Fellowship had a banner at one time, but the mice — literally — got to it. We need a new one! Stay tuned for more on that possible project.)

Actions of Immediate Witness on issues of immediate concern, a Statement of Conscience on Global Warming, and some important revisions to the UUA bylaws emerged from the GA as well. Hopefully, we'll be able to schedule a Sunday service sometime this fall at which we'll update the congregation on all the business and the fun. Until then, ask any of us about our experiences.

GA next year will be in Portland, Oregon. Will we see you there?

— Flo Miller

## DOUBLE SERVICES BEGIN SEPT. 10

We will resume our regular schedule of services, with two services each Sunday beginning on September 10, 2006.

Services will be at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services on the 10th will be Intergenerational, with all children upstairs except for infants and toddlers.

The RE Program will begin Sunday, September 17. Please note this important change of schedule.

## CHOIR



UFWC Choir rehearsal will begin for the fall on Thursday, September 7, at 7:30 p.m. Rehearsals will be from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., on the first three Thursdays of every month, in the sanctuary.

We plan to perform on the third Sunday of each month, at both services, and so the first choir performance will be on Sunday, September 17.

We are always looking for new members, age 16 and up, who enjoy singing, so please feel free to come to the first rehearsal and check it out! If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Kovacs, Choir Director, email: choir.

## **NOTES FROM UNDERGROUND: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE**

Welcome back to an exciting year of exploring in our Religious Education (RE) Program. The RE Committee, our teacher volunteers and I are looking forward to helping the children of our Fellowship delve into what it means to be Unitarian Universalist.

With the Pre-K through 5th Grade classes, we will be investigating our Principles and Purposes, and continuing with group Social Action projects once each month that expand awareness of and reach out to the wider community.

### **Classes at 9:00 and 11:00:**

Pre-Kindergarten: Chalice Children  
Kindergarten/1st Grade: Around the Church, Around the Year  
2nd/3rd Grade: A Stepping Stone Year  
4th/5th Grade: Traditions With a Wink

### **Classes at 9:00 only:**

The 6th & 7th grade class will start with a curriculum titled, Race to Justice, followed by The Gospel According to the Simpsons.

The 8th & 9th grade class will be engaged in the Our Whole Lives (OWL) sexuality education course, and will also meet at just one service (most likely 9:00, depending on class/facilitator input).

More information will be available in the RE Brochure and on the website. (See September 17 Parent Orientation, below.)

### **Some dates to mark on your calendar:**

- Sunday, September 10: Our traditional Intergenerational Ingathering service. Double services begin, 9:00 and 11:00.
- Wednesday, September 13, 6:30 p.m. Teacher Orientation & Pizza. Details will be emailed to teachers.
- Sunday, September 17: RE Program begins. We will have a PARENT ORIENTATION between services. Please come and learn more about the program your child(ren) will be involved in, ask questions, meet teachers, fill out Registration Forms and pick up your copy of the UFWC RE Brochure and the 2006-07 RE Calendar. If you're not teaching this year, please sign up to be a Floating Volunteer on several Sundays. We'll also review the RE "Rules of the Road," so that you can help your children know what is expected/hoped of them on Sundays.
- Friday, October 6: Our first RE Family Social this year piggy-backs on our regular Fellowship Game Night. We'll post more information about this event as we get closer to the date.

### **Ways parents can help:**

- We need a supply of snacks to start off the year. Please leave your contributions downstairs on the table to the left of the refrigerator in the Snack Hallway. Reminder: acceptable beverages are Juicy Juice and apple juice. (No added sugar or food dyes.) Favorite Snacks: Pepperidge Farm Goldfish, small pretzels, microwavable popcorn. Please – no cookies or other sugary stuff.
- Sign up as a Floating Volunteer at Parent Orientation, or contact Cathy Vogt.  
As always, if you have questions, concerns or suggestions, please contact me.

— Pam Baxter  
Director of Religious Education  
email: DRE

## ADD YOUR SPARK TO OUR DENOMINATIONAL FLAME: JOIN CHALICE LIGHTERS!

This church year and for the two years that follow, our Fellowship will receive valuable funding assistance in areas related to growth. We will be supplementing our operating budget with money that will support our committee work through additional paid staffing, will increase our community outreach through publicity and marketing initiatives, and will improve leadership development through various means. The money to do this is coming to us from Chalice Lighters, a program of the Joseph Priestley District of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Chalice Lighters is funded by Unitarian Universalists who believe that growth is essential to the health of our religious movement. Those UUs – from the 65 member congregations in the JPD – respond with a contribution of at least \$20 when a request or “call” arrives in the mail. No more than three calls are issued in a year, and all calls are to assist congregations with specific growth initiatives.

Taken together, those contributions pack a punch; for instance, we will be receiving a total of \$20,000 from just one call. And it’s worth noting that this isn’t the first time Chalice Lighters has come to our aid. At least twice in the past we’ve received grants to help with building and staffing needs.

But while we have benefited from the Chalice Lighters Program, only 21 of our

150-plus members are Chalice Lighters themselves. I do not believe those low numbers are a reflection on our generosity (or lack of it.) Rather, there has been no information on Chalice Lighters disseminated to the general congregation in recent years. Our members can’t be expected to contribute to a cause they know nothing about!

I’d like to change that. Over the course of this church



year, I will be encouraging you to join Chalice Lighters, through additional newsletter columns and sign-ups on Sunday after the service. See me or another Chalice Lighter for additional information – you’ll recognize us by the Chalice Lighters stickers on our nametags. Flyers with additional information will also be available on the table in the lobby.

— Flo Miller

### COMING IN OCTOBER A SERMON AND AN EVENING WITH THE LEFT HAND OF GOD

*“We understand that our well-being as Americans is intrinsically tied to the well-being of everyone else on this planet... Within twenty years we will help raise the standard of living in the developing world so dramatically that terrorists will find it almost impossible to recruit people who are angry enough to want to give their lives to fight the values and power of the US and its allies.” — Rabbi Michael Lerner*

Past *Fellowtarian* articles have introduced the book, *The Left Hand of God* by Rabbi Michael Lerner. On Sunday, October 22, Rev. O’Neill will preach at 9 a.m. and at 11 a.m. about the ideas and visions presented in this book. Then at 7 p.m. we invite everyone interested to come together for a discussion of these ideas and the meaning they bring to each of us and possibilities for our congregation and community.

Some of us who have read the book found that it isn’t always easy — skipping around to the parts that seem to have the greatest meaning to you is a fine idea. Chapter 9 outlines the new “Covenant with America,” Rabbi Lerner’s visionary plan, guaranteed to give you new hope. And don’t forget — the Social Justice Committee bought six copies so you can check one out of our library.

What a great way to enter the fall election season — UU’s talking about what our personal and collective faith says about the direction of our own lives, our community and that of our government and those who represent us.

## YOUTH GROUP ANNOUNCEMENT

Are you in 8th through 12th grade? Do you ask yourself questions like, "Do dyslexic agnostics wonder about the existence of Dog?" Do you dream of world domination? Do you worry that your neighbor is dreaming about world domination? Are you looking for fun in all the wrong places?

These questions, and others, will be answered — and soon — as the Youth Group kicks off the fall season.

Last year we won our third consecutive YES Award from the District — an unheard-of achievement. To do that, we went to CONS, did fund raising, convened excellent concerts, bought water buffaloes, served meals, walked for AIDS, watched movies, hung out, and generally had an excellent time.

Want to know more? Interested? Want to learn why active participants in YRUU are considered the most dangerous youth in America?

An announcement on our first meeting will come soon. Until then, if you have any questions, please write or call Michael or David Werner (email: youth-group) or Rob Sartain.

Be there. Remember, half of life is just showing up. What you do with the other half makes all the difference.



## CAMPING: LET'S TRY AGAIN! RIDLEY CREEK STATE PARK SEP 30- OCT 1

Our summer camping trip was cancelled due to storms, but we don't give up that easily. Fun & Fellowship has booked a group camping site at Ridley Creek State Park, just 10 miles from the Fellowship. So even though you may have other things to do that weekend, it should be easy to join us for all or part of the fun.

The park has many hiking trails plus a 5-mile paved loop trail for bicycling, jogging and walking. There is a playground not far from our campsite as well as fishing (angle and fly fishing) in Ridley Creek. The park also has a historical colonial plantation and pony rides for children.



You can join us for it all, or just the barbeque dinner and/or singing by the campfire. We have site #13A from 3 p.m. Saturday until 3 p.m. Sunday. To get to the park from West

Chester, take the West Chester Pike (PA 3) to PA 352. Take PA 352 south (Middletown Road) to Gradyville Road. Turn left on Gradyville and drive 1.3 miles to the park.

Please let us know if you are coming by either sending an email to camping, signing up in the lobby, or calling Nancy. There will be a nominal fee to cover the cost of the campsite and food. Hamburgers, hotdogs, veggie burgers, condiments, non-alcoholic beverages and s'more ingredients will be provided for Saturday night. Bagels, coffee, and juice will be provided for Sunday morning. Please bring a side dish for either dinner or breakfast. If you are camping, you will need a tent, sleeping bag, mattress, pillow, and flashlight.

Let's hope those weather gods don't get mad. Hope to see you there!

### SEEKING SERVICE LEADERS FOR '06-07

Looking for a relatively easy way to help out at the Fellowship? Consider becoming a lay service leader. We lead certain segments of the weekly services, assist the minister or outside speaker, and help set up the sanctuary before and tidy up after services. If you're totally terrified of speaking before a group of friends, this may not be for you, but training is easily arranged.

Since a good number of last year's leaders are returning, it's likely that we'll need only minimal commitment (five or six single services during the year) from you to help strengthen the program.

If you think you'd like to be part of the public face of the UFWC, please see Craig Talbot or email him at religious-services.

## BICARB BISTRO

That's right, it's time for the Fellowship's Annual BicarB Bistro! On Saturday September 23, the Fellowship BicarB Bistro will showcase our members' and friends' culinary skills. What is the BicarB Bistro, you may ask? It is a fun Fellowship tradition held each fall, where you may make a dish to be sampled by everyone who attends. The entries are numbered and the voting is anonymous. People taste each entry and vote for their favorites. For the BicarB, we need both chefs and taste-testers. So as long as you enjoy good food, this is the event for you.

Our categories for adults include chili con carne, vegetarian chili, and bread. This year we are also including a category for the under-20 crowd. Anyone under twenty can submit his/her favorite cookie for everyone to sample and vote on. Please encourage our children and youth to participate.

Anyone who wishes to come but doesn't want to bring food may come at 6:30 p.m. (chefs, cooks, and bakers should arrive at 6 p.m). Those not bringing food are asked to donate \$3/person to defray costs. Everyone will receive a ballot. After the sampling, the ballots will be collected and tallied. Winners will be announced, but most importantly, everyone gets to enjoy our Fellowship friends and great food.

In order to increase the community's awareness of our UFWC, the Fellowship Council has decided to participate in the Rotary's West Chester Chili Cook-off on October 8. The recipe of one of the winners of our chili competition will be used to represent the Fellowship at this Borough event. Look for more info in the October *Fellowtarian*.

Our BicarB Bistro is a popular event. In order to avoid some com-

plications, we have these suggestions for those who are bringing food.

- Bring enough food for 60 people — at least three standard sized loaves of bread and or at least 1 gallon of chili. (At least 70 **small** cookie pieces for the child/youth category)
- Bring a legible list of ingredients, so that people with allergies/sensitivities can participate. Especially note if there is any seafood/raw onions/nuts/wheat or gluten (wheat, rye, barley or oats). Products containing gluten include flour/bread crumbs/bulgar/soy sauce/beer.
- Those who bring food should arrive as close to 6 p.m. as possible
- If you need any accessories like grated cheese or butter, please bring them.
- When you sign in that night, make sure you mention whether or not yours is a vegetarian dish.

Don't let all the competition scare you; this is just a fun social event. Bring a friend — this is a great event to introduce someone to the Fellowship.

We will provide a tossed salad and crackers to complete the meal, courtesy of the Fun and Fellowship Committee. Nonalcoholic beverages will be provided. (Beer and wine will be available for \$1 donation/drink). We hope to have some musical entertainment for your enjoyment as well.

Sign up to bring a dish on the table in the foyer or via phone or email. There is no deadline for signing up. Contact Mary Yeager, email: fun, if you have any questions or to sign-up.

## SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

We hope to make the Small Group Ministry program familiar and available to anyone who is interested. This is the fourth year of the program at UFWC. To make it more appealing, we are going to continue to have open sessions on the first and third Thursdays through September. In October or November, we will form into new groups that will meet twice a month through May.

We hope that by forming new groups we will be more welcoming to newcomers. All meetings take place at the Fellowship. More information about the topics will come by e-mail and on the Fellowship website — follow the link in the "Action" section. Come join us!

— Gerry Giess, email: sgm

## LUNCH GROUP

The UFWC lunch group meets the third Friday of the month at 11:30 a.m. Newcomers are welcome. In September we will meet at La Tolteca, 907 S. High St., West Chester. E-mail lunch-group to be added to the e-mail reminder list.

Each month we send out an e-mail reminder and tally the responses to estimate how many people will come. This helps us plan how many places to save at the restaurant, but don't worry if you're not on the list, don't have e-mail, or change your mind at the last minute. Come anyway. Everyone is welcome.

— Linda Sander

## EXPLORING DIVERSITY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

**When: 3rd Sunday of each month**

**New time: 7:00-8:30 p.m.**

**Location: Fellowship Classroom**

We will have our first meeting on Sunday, September 17 to discuss *All the Shah's Men: an American Coup and the Roots of the Middle East* by Stephen Kinzer. Our Discussion leader will be Nakhostin "Niki" Javidani. What happened in the not so distant past that continues to cause many Iranians to fear and despise our country? This book tells the behind the scenes story of events leading to the Coup.

### **2006-2007 Book/Movie List**

- October ..... *Women of the Silk* by Gail Tsukiyama (historical fiction), led by Debby Kern
- November .... *Goat: A Memoir* by Brad Land (non fiction), led by Ruth MacFadyen
- December .... Movie: *White Balloon*, led by Niki Javidani
- January ..... Movie: *Crash*, led by Shelly Case
- February ..... *Waiting for Snow in Havana, Confessions of a Cuban Boy* by Carlos Eire, led by Judy Finkel
- March ..... *Mountains Beyond Mountains* by Tracey Kidder (non fiction), led by Dena Beeghly
- April ..... *Fabulous Small Jews* by Joseph Epstein (fiction, short story collection), led by Susan Gast
- May ..... *Stone Butch Blues* by Leslie Feinberg (non fiction), led by Fatima Patel

Our group seeks to understand better and appreciate the many differences that exist by exploring and discussing books and movies that give us an opportunity to walk in someone else's shoes. We select a variety of material both fiction and non-fiction, new and old and have used plays and children's literature in the past. All are welcome to attend. Contact: Ruth MacFadyen or Shelly Case or email: diversity-book-group. ALL ARE WELCOME

## SIMPLICITY CIRCLE

Our next meeting is on September 10 at 12:30 p.m., after the service. We might meet downstairs or upstairs, depending on conditions. Juan Leon will lead.

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

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

— Heidi Buss

## FOLK SINGING

The UFWC Folk Singing Group will have its first meeting of the fellowship year on Saturday, September 16. We meet at 8 p.m. the home of Linda and Steve Sander in Westtown Township, just south of West Chester — maps are available in the lobby and by email.



This is a purely social group. We do not perform, and no experience or talent is necessary — just a desire to have fun. We have nearly 200 songs that we like to sing — folk songs, pop songs, and country songs. You can also suggest your own favorites. Come join us, and bring a munchie if you wish.

Contact Steve, email: folk-singing.

## YOGA

Mira Tryon would like to resume Thursday Yoga classes at either 6 or 6:30 p.m. She would like input about the best times from those who are interested. Please contact Myra at email: yoga, if you are interested. She will send an e-mail announcement when classes start.

## FELLOWSHIP CALENDAR

<b>Aug 27</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>Welcome the Interim Minister Picnic.</b> 12-4 pm, Broad Run Park. See p. 4.
<b>Sep 1</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Potluck and Game Night.</b> 6:30 p.m. sanctuary.
<b>Sep 6</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>RE Committee.</b> 7 p.m. OWL room. Contact Pam Baxter, email: dre. <b>Finance Committee.</b> 7:30 p.m. Office. Contact Erach Patel, email: finance.
<b>Sep 7</b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Small Group Ministry Open Meeting.</b> 7 p.m. All UFWC members and friends are welcome. See p. 10.
<b>Sep 8</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Chester County Peace Movement Film Night</b> <i>Uncovered: The Whole Truth About the Iraq War.</i> , 7:30 p.m., sanctuary.
<b>Sep 10</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>Simplicity Circle Meeting.</b> 12:30 p.m. after the second service. See p. 11. <b>Safe Harbor Dinner.</b> Provided by the Fellowship the second Sunday of the month. Contact Catherine Sachs, email: safe-harbor.
<b>Sep 12</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>Board Meeting.</b> 7:30 p.m. Fellowship office. All are welcome.
<b>Sep 13</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Teacher Orientation &amp; Pizza.</b> 6:30 p.m. See p. 7.
<b>Sep 15</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Lunch Group.</b> 11:30 p.m. at La Tolteca in West Chester. See p. 10.
<b>Sep 16</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>Folk Singing.</b> 8 p.m. at the home of Steve and Linda Sander. See p. 11.
<b>Sep 17</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>RE Parent Orientation</b> between Sunday services. See p. 7. <b>Exploring Diversity Book Discussion Group.</b> 7 - 8:30 p.m. fireplace room. See p. 11.
<b>Sep 21</b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Small Group Ministry Open Meeting.</b> 7 p.m. All UFWC members and friends are welcome. See p. 10.
<b>Sep 23</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>Lunch for the Needy.</b> Provided by our Fellowship at the Salvation Army. Contact Catherine Sachs, email: salvation-army. <b>Bicarb Bistro.</b> 6:30 p.m. (6 p.m. for chefs, cooks, & bakers). See p. 10.
<b>Sep 24</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>Social Justice Committee Meeting.</b> 7 p.m., fireplace room. See p. 5.
<b>Sep 26</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>Building Committee Meeting.</b> 7 p.m. fireplace room. Contact Bob Radcliff, email: building.
<b>Sep 27</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Council Meeting.</b> Large RE room. Contact Bob Scott, email: vice-president.
<b>Sep 30-Oct 1</b>	<b>Sat-Sun</b>	<b>Annual Fellowship Camping Trip.</b> Ridley Creek State Park. See p. 9.

**Groups meeting multiple times in a month:**

- Choir Practice** First, second, and third Thursdays of the month, 7:30-9 p.m. in the sanctuary. Email: choir. See p. 6.
- Youth Group** Most Sunday evenings, 6-7:30 p.m., OWL/Youth Group rm. See p. 9.
- Yoga Classes** Thursday evenings, dates and times to be decided. See p. 11.