

the FELLOWTARIAN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester

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SUNDAY SERVICES January, 2007

January 7

EPIPHANIES GREAT AND SMALL

Rev. Dr. Patrick T. O'Neill

This Sunday marks the Christian feast of the Epiphany, "The Twelfth Day of Christmas." According to tradition, this is the celebration of the arrival of the Three Wise Men bearing their strange gifts at the stable where the child Jesus was born. The notion of "Epiphany" has an interesting place in religious explorations of all kinds. May your personal star lead you to church this morning.

January 14

**GENDER IDENTITY AND
GENDER CHANGE**

Rev. Dr. Patrick T. O'Neill

This Sunday Dr. O'Neill and several lay leaders will explore the sensitive issues and momentous implications – physical, psychological, and spiritual – of a person's decision literally to change gender, to actually bring one's body into alignment with a soul that has always felt somehow "misplaced" in one's physical gender. What does it mean to be a "Welcoming Congregation" in support of someone going through such change? How can a community be supportive of one who asks for understanding and acceptance in such a process? Let us learn what experts have to tell us.

January 21

**THE STORY OF LECHAMBON:
HOW GOODNESS HAPPENED THERE**

Rev. Dr. Patrick T. O'Neill

Philip Hallie was a member of the American army that liberated France and later the concentration camps of middle Europe. He had seen death and destruction and cruelty firsthand, and for years after his scholarly mind had searched desperately to understand it. But more specifically, his soul yearned, hungered for an antidote to the massive imagery of cruelty his world had seen. And so, when he at last came across the story of an obscure little French village called Le Chambon, Philip Hallie wept. Come hear the story of LeChambon and how goodness happened there.

January 28

AGING AND VALUES

Rev. Libby Smith

How we treat our elders speaks volumes about our values. If we really applied our Unitarian Universalist values and principles to the issues of aging, perhaps we could learn to celebrate age, even in the midst of a culture that fears and fights it. We welcome Rev. Smith to our pulpit again as she has so inspired us in the past. As the chaplain at UU House Retirement Community, she has an informed perspective on this topic.

Services and Babysitting at 9 AM and 11 AM. Religious Education at 9 AM only.

PONDERINGS: FROM REV. DR. PATRICK O'NEILL

A colleague of mine was interviewed by a newspaper recently for the usual seasonal article about the “true spirit of Christmas, versus the artificiality of the season.” And he was asked if he “really believed in the spirit of Christmas,” or whether he didn’t agree that it was all rather artificial — this limited time of year when people try to be nice to one another and do good for others and look for miracles, and promote peace of earth, etc., etc., etc.

And I love my friend’s answer to that question. He said, “Of course, I believe in the spirit of Christmas. It’s the rest of the year I don’t believe in! What makes us assume that people being good to one another is somehow artificial, that we’re being phony when we try to care for each other? Nope,” he said, “I believe Christmas is the way we really are, and the rest of the year is unbelievable.”

I really do admire and respect my friend’s faith in human nature. There are so many days when the evidence, however, seems to tilt in the other direction, when cynicism about our world and the way it works comes much more easily.

Life never wants for shadows. We do not always choose our experiences, certainly not our hurts and wounds. But we can, if we choose, pause to ponder the graces which have touched our lives. More, the season invites us to ponder what new possibility is still waiting to be born in our lives. I hope that is what the season brings for us all.

Fast away the old year passes. Indeed, they seem to pass faster and faster. Remember when you were a kid and a year just seemed like forever? Christmas seemed like it would never arrive, and seventh grade seemed like it would never end. Alas, it did and it did. It always does.

From our house to yours, we wish you a happy holiday season and many bright hopes for the new year unfolding. Peace!

— po’n

CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?

The Sound Committee has been meeting to identify how to make the sanctuary the most accessible for all to hear. We have suggested that the Fellowship acquire an Assisted Listening device (\$1,200) and perhaps a state of the art microphone (\$300) and additional speakers (\$200). Funding for this is in process. If you would like to support this project, please write a check to UFWC, write “Assisted listening in sanctuary” on memo line and place the check in the plate or send it to the Fellowship c/o the income treasurer. Thank you.

— Ed Cohle, Sue Gast, Gerry Giess, Tom Townsend

HAVE YOU ANSWERED THE CALL TO JOIN CHALICE LIGHTERS?

If you haven’t yet answered the call to join Chalice Lighters, please consider doing so now. For a donation of only \$20 three times a year for an individual or \$40 for a couple, you can help the growth of UU societies in the Joseph Priestley District of our Unitarian Universalist Association. Our own Fellowship is benefiting right now from a \$20,000 grant through Chalice Lighters. This grant was funded through the donations of UU Chalice Lighters.

Applications for membership and additional information are available through the Chalice Lighters Link on the JPD website (www.jpduua.org). I would also be happy to talk to you about it and provide you with an application. The Fellowship has about 45 members in Chalice Lighters at last count. Our goal is 70. Won’t you help us reach it?

— Flo Miller



SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

There are now three Small Groups meeting (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings), and there is interest in a daytime group. There is room for more folks in each group. If interested, fill out a registration form in the lobby, email SGM or speak with Rev. O’Neill or Gerry Giess.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I write this, my mind is on all of the many projects and tasks I need to complete before my family descends on me for various Christmas get-togethers, beginning on Christmas Eve and continuing through most of Christmas week. I suspect that the same is true of most of our members. I do hope that you take some time out of the frantic holiday pace to sit back, relax, and enjoy the camaraderie of friends and relatives. Our Fellowship's holiday gatherings provide a good opportunity to do just that. If it's not too late by the time this newsletter reaches your home, try to get to at least one gathering.

These holidays also signal the end of the first half of our church year. And what a 'first half' it has been! In the last month alone, five new members signed our book, bringing our membership to a record 159. While I can't speak for the new folks, I hope that they have found in our Fellowship a warm, welcoming and supportive church home. I would also hope that both new members and old have been energized by the many exciting events and happenings of the past few months. I could not possibly name them all – and in any case, most of them have been reported in past issues of the Fellowshiparian. I do want to mention, however, how much I enjoyed the recent spaghetti dinner – and how amazed and gratified I was by the overwhelming attendance. This

"It's the support of our members and friends – in money as well as volunteer commitment – that makes our Fellowship the healthy, active, and growing congregation that it is."

joint venture on the part of the Fellowship and Habitat for Humanity at West Chester University attracted around 250 people. For a while, folks had to wait to be seated – just like your favorite restaurant on a Saturday night! Many of the attendees were students who as a side benefit, now know about our Fellowship. Other attendees were of course our own Fellowship members and friends. Music by Who Needs Nigel added to the festive atmosphere. And in the process, close to \$1200 was raised for Habitat for Humanity. Events such as this give us a valuable presence in the community and build our own esprit de corps.

I want to comment on one other past event, this of a more serious nature. A number of you, particularly those in leadership positions, attended the workshop presented by Rev. Robert Lathan in October. At that workshop, we agreed upon a number of areas/projects on which we need to focus if we are to continue on our current growth path. Included was the development of a clearly defined mission statement to expand upon our existing vision statement. After some discussion, and with Patrick's valuable input, the Board has deferred the development of a mission statement until we have called a settled minister. Our feeling is that we would want the new minister to be part of this very important process. In the meantime, Board member Craig Talbot is research-

ing just what constitutes a mission statement (there has been confusion in this area) and looking at what other congregations have adopted.

The Board has begun discussing the other areas of focus as well. Specifically, board member Jack Butler will be heading a committee to explore short and long-term building needs. This was viewed as a critical area by those in attendance at the workshop.

I can't end this column without commenting on the busy months ahead of us. Our schedule from January to June will be chock-full of events, some fun and others serious and business-related. Stay tuned especially for news of our annual dinner in March and the stewardship drive that follows. Remember, it's the support of our members and friends – in money as well as volunteer commitment – that makes our Fellowship the healthy, active, and growing congregation that it is.

Coming close on the heels of the Stewardship Drive, hopefully, will be a week full of social gatherings and meetings with a candidate for settled minister. The week will end with a vote by the congregation on whether to issue a call to him/her. Your attendance at that meeting will be critical.

For now, however, enjoy what remains of the holiday season. Whatever your religious heritage and beliefs, join your Fellowship members and friends in sharing the light and love that is central to our faith. I close this month's message in that spirit.

— Flo Miller

REmarks RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE

Our Holiday Pageant was the highlight of December. Thanks to all of you who found the time in your busy schedules to bring your children to rehearsal, help with costumes and practice music. The pageant was a lot of fun, and also offered a different way to look at the meaning of Christmas.

The pageant – with the same name – asked the question, “Would You Like to Hold the Baby?” using this as a metaphor to invite us to explore what is most meaningful to us in our lives. To look at our values and how we live them. To acknowledge and nurture our spiritual side. An invitation to embrace what we consider sacred. And to embrace hope, in the form of new life and new potential for love, peace and goodwill to all people.

In contrast to our Christian-based Christmas pageant, at our Group RE/Children’s Worship on Sunday, December 31, we will be calling out our pagan, earth-centered selves in a slightly late celebration of the Winter Solstice. We will chant and drum, light candles, give and receive gifts in honor of the natural world and snack on stars. (Note: RE on this date is at 11 a.m., to coincide with the single adult service on that date.)

Last month, teachers in the 4th/5th grade “Traditions With a Wink” class were surprised at how much the children already knew about events in the Bible. When one parent asked her child how he knew all this, she learned that he’s been soaking up information from the Discov-

ery and History channels!

Note: The instructions in the Order of Service and in the RE Brochure ask parents to retrieve children at the close of the service, however, services occasionally run short. Since we need to allow time for classes to finish, I want to amend the instructions to read: “Please retrieve younger children (Nursery through 5th grade) immediately after the

end of the service, but not before 10:00 a.m.”

Next Event. Our next RE Family Fun event is bowling, on Friday, January 26 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Palace Bowling and Entertainment Center in Downingtown. (See announcement below.)

— Pam Baxter
Director of
Religious Education

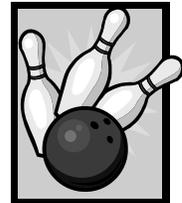
RE FAMILY BOWLING PARTY

Where: The Palace Bowling and Entertainment Center
977 E. Lancaster Ave. Downingtown Pa 19335

When: Friday January 26 from 6 to 8 p.m.

\$14.00 per person (includes all you can eat pizza and soda, shoe rental and unlimited bowling for 2 hours)

Come join us for an evening of fun and fellowship. Please RSVP to Marie Steel.



WELCOME AND HONOR OUR NEW MEMBERS AT THE ANNUAL NEW MEMBER POTLUCK

January 28 at 6:00 p.m. is the date to meet and welcome the fourteen new members (so far) since the last dinner. There will be fun facts to get to know more about the newest members, and of course, the well-known potluck food.

More information will be forthcoming by email and in the February *Fellowtarian*.

This is one of the key events of the year. See you there.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The UFWC Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, December 12. The Board members processed and finalized plans for sharing Sunday service offerings once a month with a charity — this collection will take place on the third Sunday each month, and half the offering, not including pledges, will be given to a charity chosen by the Social Justice Committee. Rev. Patrick O'Neill will describe the charity before the offering is taken so that the congregation can be aware of how the money will be used. Further, it was decided that the offering taken at the Christmas Eve service will also be shared.

It was reported by Finance Chair, Erach Patel, that the poinsettia sale, coordinated by Pam Sapko, raised \$800.

Jack Butler shared that he is following through on a board assignment to form a committee to begin to look at long-range building options, assuming the congregation continues to grow. The Board also discussed how to proceed in creating a mission statement with the congregation, but decided, on Rev. O'Neill's advice, to postpone the major work until the Fellowship has a new, settled minister. Craig Talbot will continue to research the process for creating a mission statement.

In addition, the Board passed a motion authorizing Erach Patel to work with the Fellowship Council and other members or committees to revise the Bylaws to reflect changes in the organizational structure of the Fellowship. A draft of these revisions will be

presented at the annual meeting on June 3.

The Board also approved a special fund drive to raise up to \$1,000 for equipment for an assistive listening system to be available during Sunday services, agreed to a request to waive the rental fee for Amnesty International to show a film in the Fellowship building on January 17, and approved plans for a piano concert on March 30 presented by the Music Committee, with proceeds benefiting an area or project in the Fellowship.

And lastly, the Board discussed the draft of a form created by the Nominating Committee to ascertain interests of UFWC members in various activities and committees in the

Fellowship. Connected with that, the Board agreed to look into using some of the Chalice Lighters grant money to hire a part-time committee support person to aid the Membership Committee in keeping track of congregation attendance and contact information.

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. Please feel free to approach them with questions and comments.

— Deanna Koepcke, Secretary



MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Did you know that The Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester has been increasing its membership at the rate of about one new member per month since July 1, 2005? UFWC now has 159 members, which translates to nineteen new members in just eighteen months. We have fourteen new members who have joined since our most recent new member pot luck supper last spring. On Sunday, January 28, 2007, these latest new members will be honored at this year's dinner. Stay tuned for details in next month's *Fellowtarian* and by email.

The importance of this tremendous growth is not just the fact that we are becoming a larger congregation, but that these new members help fuel greater participation in church activities. Perhaps the most visible example of this can be seen in the expansion of our choir and small group ministry. So if you have an interest in getting an affinity group started of any sort, chances are that one may already exist or that there are like minded individuals who share your same interest. As our congregation grows, so too will the number and variety of these affinity groups, which will in turn deepen our connections with one another.

— Fred Frayer and Mira Tryon
Co-chairs, membership committee

SHARING THE PLATE

The Social Justice Committee reports that the Fellowship's first "Sharing the Plate" collection occurred at the Sunday services on November 19. The offering received was shared with Safe Harbor, which offers shelter for homeless people in West Chester. A check for \$523, half the amount collected, was sent to that organization. As Erach Patel, Finance Chairperson, put it, the congregation "stepped up to the plate" in a very generous fashion.

Habitat for Humanity was chosen as the second recipient, with the collection being taken on Sunday, December 3, the same day as the fund-raising event at the Fellowship co-sponsored by Habitat and the Social Justice Committee. Habitat for Humanity will also receive half the offering taken at the Christmas Eve service. This organization describes itself as building houses "in partnership with people in need."

The Social Justice Committee has designated the West Chester YWCA to receive half the offering collected at the January 19 services. The YWCA's mission statement describes its work "to eliminate racism and empower women." Diverse groups of people meet there to receive support, including new mothers and women in transition, who seek mentoring and job training.

On February 18, the recipient will be *La Comunidad Hispana* in Kennett Square, an organization which is devoted to "improving the quality of life, health, and well-being of low-income Hispanics and other underserved groups." This

agency provides critical services, including health care, medicine, food, shelter, transportation, education, and job training.

The Social Justice Committee is asking the congregation to suggest charities to receive future Sharing the Plate donations. Various ways to offer ideas will be available, including forms to be filled out and placed in a suggestion box in the lobby, as well as an electronic version of the form. Members and friends may also bring their ideas to Committee meetings.

The collections for Sharing the Plate will be taken on the

third Sunday of the month. Pledge payments to the Fellowship will not be split; therefore, it is important that any checks be clearly marked as to whether they are pledge payments or are intended for the Sharing the Plate program.

Part of the UFWC vision statement reflects our desire to be, "a catalyst for a just and compassionate world." The Social Justice Committee believes that sharing the plate with charitable organizations whose activities align with UU social justice goals is a step in that direction.

— Deanna Koepcke



SPAGHETTI DINNER BENEFITS HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

On December 3, the Fellowship hosted an "Italian Bistro" Spaghetti Dinner fund raiser to benefit Habitat for Humanity. The Social Justice Committee, with the help of the Young Adults Group, joined forces with the West Chester University chapter of Habitat for Humanity, and successfully raised over \$1100 which will go toward construction of a house in the borough of West Chester next year, to be built by Habitat for Humanity of Chester County.

Kudos must go to the 20 volunteers from the WCU chapter of HFH who organized and ran the dinner, to all the Fellowship members who contributed to planning and promoting the event, and especially to the members of the Young Adults Group who worked alongside the WCU volunteers. Finally, a great big "thank you" to all the members of *Who Needs Nigel?!*: Tom Buglio, Ed Cohle, Juan Leon, Paul Sapko, Marie Steel, and Craig Talbot.

We look forward to doing more joint projects with WCU Habitat for Humanity group in the future, working together to strengthen and support our community.

— Mike Stevens, email: habitat

NEW DIRECTIONS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION

The Left Hand of God discussion groups will meet together at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 14, along with representatives of the Social Justice Committee, some members of the Board, and everyone in the congregation who is willing and able to attend, to discuss their ideas for UFWC social justice. The snow date will be January 21.

The idea is to brainstorm together on how to make UFWC a more effective catalyst for a just and compassionate world as laid out in our vision statement, and also to take steps on a long standing goal of arriving at a congregation-wide focus issue that we can all get behind and have an impact with. We do intend to continue the good work we are already doing in the many areas we're involved with, but feel strongly that we need to put some real focus on a single issue to better engage the congregation as a whole and to help establish our identity and outreach into the community.

Bob Scott, representing the Social Justice Committee, will facilitate the discussion. We will talk about the ideas generated by the LHG groups, some that have come into the SJ Committee already, and new ideas generated at this meeting. We will also briefly look at our current program and past actions and identify potential focus issues with strong energy within the congregation.

A good focus issue should be broad enough to allow for varying types of engagement such as hands-on activities, education, community activities, and working for systemic change, but narrow enough to allow us to concentrate our efforts so that we can be effective.

We may get lucky enough to settle the issue at this one meeting, but not likely. Rather the intention is to narrow our thinking to several areas of interest and then follow up with subsequent discussions and meetings, perhaps involving a consultant from UUA to help, with the goal of arriving at full consensus in time for our June congregational meeting.

Pizza will be provided for lunch. If you need on-site child care in order to attend this meeting, please let us know as soon as possible – and no later than January 4 – and we will try to arrange for a babysitter. There will be a sign-up sheet in the lobby to help us estimate how many pizzas to order and the number of children who need child care. For more information contact Linda Sander at email: LHG.

Let's talk about new directions for Social Justice at UFWC!

"We need to put some real focus on a single issue to better engage the congregation as a whole and to help establish our identity and outreach into the community."

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The Social Justice Committee will meet at 5 p.m. on Sunday January 28. On the agenda for discussion so far are: UUSC updates; increasing UFWC's commitment to and involvement in Habitat for Humanity; continued discussion of the proposed new local project/subgroup that would look at education and activism on alternatives to violence, both interpersonal (such as domestic violence) and collective, such as (war and terrorism); and follow-up on the January 14 discussions about the development of the congregation's larger vision for collective social justice work.

— Robin Garrett
Social Justice Chair



PIANO CONCERT IN MARCH

There is a benefit concert planned for March 31 with three pianists playing. The music committee could use some help with planning and refreshments. Anyone interested in helping should contact Elaine Friedlander at email: music. More details about the concert will be in future issues of the *Fellowtarian*.

UUSC NEWS

What is Guest at Your Table? It's a 30-year-old tradition of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) that permits all of us to care and share — to put our values to work. UUSC is OUR charity. It helps people in the U.S. and around the world in the four areas that were highlighted during the service on December 3.

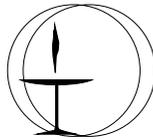
While helping us to concentrate on the many needs in the world, it also permits us to become (or renew) membership in UUSC. Here are the details. An annual adult membership is \$40. But couples can join for \$75. For seniors it's just \$20, and for students an unbelievable \$10. You decide what category you fit into. Furthermore, all donations that come from us are matched internally by an anonymous donor (up to \$1,000). And all donations of \$75 or more are matched externally. That means a \$75 donation can get doubled twice — \$300 going to UUSC!

The boxes will be collected starting on Sunday January 14. Between now and then, please drop a few coins into your box at every meal (to welcome a Guest at Your Table). Although we'll bring a wheelbarrow to cart away the heavy boxes, you can help by replacing the coins with a check made out to UUSC. And please be sure to fill out the bottom flap of the box that lists among other things your congregation. We want the "Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester (PA)" to get credit for your donation. Remember this is the year that we're aiming for 100% membership.

*"The UUSC is
our charity."*

Also don't forget to give memberships in UUSC to your friends and loved ones. You can do this online at www.uusc.org or by sending in a membership envelope. UFWC gets credit for that too! And for those of you who don't have room on your table for a box, just join or renew on-line or send in a membership envelope with your check. Envelopes can be found on the Activities Table in the lobby or just ask Robin Garrett, Deanna Koepcke, Linda Sander, or Tom Townsend.

UUSC thanks you in advance. More importantly, millions of the most deserving, but least cared-for peoples of the world thank you.



UUSC JUSTWORKS CAMPS

You may not know that the UU Service Committee, as well as receiving contributions, sponsors volunteer opportunities where UUs work together to help people in need. These are called JustWorks Camps, they usually are a week or two in length, and volunteers pay a fee for meals and lodging.

Two such opportunities in 2007 are in February in New Orleans, and in March in Biloxi, Mississippi, helping to repair and rebuild homes damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. The fee is \$400.

Our local UUSC reps would like to gauge UFWC congregants' interest in participating in one of these camps. Anyone who would like more information or would like to indicate a willingness to take part in such an opportunity may contact Deanna Koepcke. You may also read about JustWorks Camps at UUSC.org.

— Deanna Koepcke

UFWC EMAIL LISTSERV KEEPS YOU UP-TO-DATE

Have you subscribed to the UFWC general listserv? This sends announcements to your mailbox whenever we have information that can't wait for the *Fellowtarian*. These include information from the minister, committees, event updates, schedule changes, etc. For instance, we have been sending out the latest information on the holiday parties (including maps) this month.

We NEVER share your email address with any outside entity, and messages are sent as blind carbon copies, so other recipients cannot see your address either. In addition, messages are scanned by McAfee Anti-virus for your protection.

The general listserv is open to anyone. (There is also a members-only listserv that is used on rare occasions). To subscribe, send your request to Steve Sander (email: email). Remember to include the email address that you want subscribed, since you may be sending your request from a different email account.

YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

December is always an excellent month for the youth group. We started off the month sharing fabulous CHEAP FOOD provided by the West Chester University Habitat for Humanity club, in conjunction with the Fellowship's own Habitat group. Almost half the youth group made it back out that cold, dark Sunday night for this event. We are excited about the possibility of actually wielding a hammer or two in the spring when construction projects begin again.

Friday night December 15 was awesome. After settling on the Heifer Project as our preferred holiday social action project, we hosted four local high school bands for a concert fund raising event. While the full count is not yet in, it appears as though we are well on our way towards buying several more water buffalo.

The weekend was topped off with an equally amazing Winter Solstice Celebration and Drum Circle. Collaborating with the Fellowship Drummers, we convened an amazing celebration of dark and light and the changing of the seasons. We are confident that the sun will come up tomorrow.

Meanwhile, holiday celebrations continue, culminating in the ever popular New Years Sunday Interview of Youth Group Alumni. This Sunday service will provide an interesting comparison of campus life in urban New York City, a more rural Virginia, and a warm and sunny Florida, to name a few. This year, the youth group itself will actively participate in this service, hav-

ing some of their own special questions answered. Does anyone really fold laundry at college?

January should be equally exciting and active. We've several Super Secret Sunday events coming up, a Martin Luther King Day work project, a major CON event in

Frederick, Maryland, and at least one argument and another film discussion.

Interested? Fellowship affiliated Youth grades 8 through 12 meet nearly every Sunday morning at 10:45 in the basement Youth Group room. Questions? Ask away at email: youth-group. BE THERE!!



REMEMBERING HOWARD YATES

I report with sadness the death of Howard Yates, a valuable former member of our Fellowship, on November 26 at White Horse Village of heart failure. Howard and his wife Sue (who passed away last year) joined the Fellowship in October 23, 1955 – about a year and one-half after it was chartered. Both were active in the early years of the Fellowship and through at least the 1980s. Cyndy Bullaughey, our unofficial Fellowship historian, recalls that Howard was on the Social Action Committee and also did a lot of work on the building and grounds in our old home on Franklin Street. He and Sue were in the Bridge Club that started as a Fellowship activity and has continued as an outside bridge/social group to this day.

Charter member Ruth Stanley confirmed my memory that Howard was a nurse who taught nursing at Chester County Hospital. Ruth said he also taught Religious Education in the early years.

Cyndy recalled that Howard did alternate service as a conscientious objector during World War II. My only other memories of Howard are as a lay leader at our services in the days before Kate Rohde arrived as our first fulltime minister. I remember his extremely tall figure standing before the podium in the front of the Franklin Street meeting room. As for Sue: I treasure and wear (when it's cold enough) a sweater she knit and I purchased at one of our very first service auctions.

We in the Fellowship today owe a great deal of gratitude to Howard, Sue, and the many other charter and early members who nurtured and supported our religious organization through its formative years. At least some of our charter members are still in the area (Gordon Roehrs and Ruth Stanley come to mind), but their numbers, sadly, are diminishing. We should not forget them or the rich and meaningful history that shaped us into who we are today. We are charged with carrying on and building the tradition that they started. I for one regard that as a sacred trust.

— Flo Miller

SIMPLICITY CIRCLE

Our next meeting is on January 7 at 12:30 p.m. after the service. We usually meet downstairs. This time, instead of identifying one facilitator to present a theme for the day, we ask each person to present something of particular meaning and importance to him/her.

Focus continues to center on our strivings for a life of meaning, beyond the clutter and wasters of precious time and energy. We're asking ourselves questions, more and more directly, what do I really want out of life? How do I get there? Answers are varied, individual and personal.

Whether attendance is larger or smaller, an amazing energy exists. 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 by newcomers, who want to begin developing some relationships in a reflective, personable atmosphere. Any questions or comments contact Heidi Buss at email: simplicity.

GET READY FOR THE COMMUNITY DANCE

A fun, family event.
Sunday, March 4.
Details to follow in
future *Fellowtarians*.

HOLIDAY PARTIES REMINDER



As of press time there were still two end-of-the-year holiday parties to go.

Saturday, December 30 at 5:30 p.m. is the **Karaoke Party** in the sanctuary (with quiet conversation in the foyer or fireplace room). To help us set up and decorate contact us at email: fun. Emailing us if you plan to attend is appreciated — it helps us prepare — though it isn't necessary. If you need a babysitter for an infant or toddler, contact us immediately or else none will be available.



Monday, January 1 is the **New Year's Open House** from 2 to 7 p.m. at the home of Cathy and Chuck Vogt. Children are welcome. Directions will be in the reminder email, in the foyer, or you can contact the Vogts.

As with all our other Holiday Parties, please bring an hors d'oeuvre or dessert to share.

See the December *Fellowtarian* for more details.

EXPLORING DIVERSITY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

January 21 from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

CRASH... Award winning film written and directed by Paul Haggis. (Moving at the speed of life, we are bound to collide with each other.)

This movie challenges the viewer to look at their own prejudices about race and class by telling a story about what happens to several people whose lives unexpectedly come together during a 36-hour period in post 9/11 Los Angeles. Crash depicts this time when our fear of differences was made more obvious and when any stranger must be the enemy. Shelly Case will lead the discussion of this thought provoking film.

*Please note: In December and January we discuss films that we have watched at home before we meet. This film is readily available. Please contact us with any questions or to borrow the film from any of our Netflix members.

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

February 18 our selection is the memoir *Waiting for Snow in Havana, Confessions of a Cuban Boy* by Carlos Eire. Discussion leader will be Judy Finkel. All are Welcome.

LUNCH GROUP

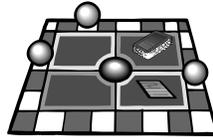
Lunch group will meet on Friday, January 12, at 11:30 a.m. at the Hunan Restaurant located in the Shop Rite shopping center at 1103 West Chester Pike, West Chester. (Please note that we have changed to the second Friday of the month.) Newcomers are welcome.

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 make a reservation and save enough seats at the restaurant. If you can't send an e-mail or change your mind at the last minute, come anyway. Everyone is welcome.

— Linda Sander

GAME NIGHT

Our next Potluck and Game night will be on Friday, January 5, at the Fellowship. Join us at 6:30 p.m. for dinner or after 7 p.m. for games. Everyone is welcome — families, individuals, couples, and children. Bring a dish and beverage to share. (Don't forget the beverage, because we never know how many are coming so we don't know how much to bring. Besides, we don't know what you want to drink.) Bring a friend, too.



We send out an email reminder a few days before to those who are regulars. If you would like a reminder, just send a note to email: game-night asking to be put on the Game-Night list. If you have any questions you can query at the above email address or call Mary Yeager.

SECOND FRIDAY FILM SERIES GUNNER PALACE

The film *Gunner Palace* (2005) will be shown Friday, January 12, at 7:30 p.m. as part of the Second Friday Film Series sponsored by the Chester County Peace Movement in cooperation with the UFWC Social Justice Committee.

Gunner Palace reveals the complex realities of the situation in Iraq not seen on the nightly news. Told first-hand by our troops, *Gunner Palace* presents a thought-provoking portrait of a dangerous and chaotic war that is personal, highly emotional, sometimes disturbing, surprisingly amusing and thoroughly fascinating. Filmmaker Michael Tucker, who lived with 2/3 Field Artillery (aka "The Gunners") for two months, captures the lives and humanity of these soldiers whose barracks are the bombed out pleasure palace of Uday Hussein (nicknamed Gunner Palace), situated in the heart of the most volatile section of Baghdad.

Please join us after the movie for discussion.

FOLK SINGING

The next folk singing get-together is Saturday, January 6, at 8 p.m. at the home of Linda and Steve Sander. If you've never participated in the group before, join us and start off your new year with a song.

This is not a performance group. We just get together to sing, sip, snack and socialize. If you have a guitar, bring it. We have nearly 200 songs that we like to sing — traditional and modern folk songs, country tunes, and old pop favorites.



All adults are welcome. No talent or experience is necessary. Bring a munchie if you wish. We provide a selection of beverages — beer, wine, soda — but feel free to bring a personal choice.

Maps are available in the foyer. Contact Steve Sander at email: folk-singing.

YOGA CLASS

Yoga classes will continue through the winter if there is sufficient participation. If you are interested in improving your mental, physical and spiritual health for the New Year, please join us Thursdays from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m. All levels are accommodated and welcomed. Contact Mira at email: yoga for more information.



FELLOWSHIP CALENDAR

- Dec 30 Sat** **Holiday Party. Karaoke Party.** 5:30 p.m. at the Fellowship. See p. 10.
- Jan 1 Mon** **Holiday Party. New Year's Open House.** 2-7 p.m. See p. 10.
- Jan 3 Wed** **Finance Committee.** 7:30 p.m. Office. Contact Erach Patel.
RE Committee. 7:00 p.m. OWL room. Contact Pam Baxter.
- Jan 5 Fri** **Potluck and Game Night.** 6:30 p.m. sanctuary. See. p. 11.
- Jan 6 Sat** **Folk Singing.** 8 p.m. at the home of Steve and Linda Sander. See p. 11.
- Jan 7 Sun** **Simplicity Circle Meeting.** 12:30 p.m. after the second service. See p. 10
- Jan 9 Tue** **Board Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. Fellowship office. All are welcome.
- Jan 12 Fri** **Lunch Group.** 11:30 a.m. at Hunan Restaurant in West Goshen. See p. 11.
CCPM Film Series. 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary. See p. 11.
- Jan 14 Sun** **New Directions for Social Justice Action at UFWC.** 12:30 p.m. All are welcome. Sign up in the lobby. See p. 7.
Guest at Your Table Box Collection. Starting this Sunday. See p. 8.
Safe Harbor Dinner. Provided by the Fellowship the second Sunday of the month. Email: safe-harbor.
- Jan 21 Sun** **Exploring Diversity Book Discussion Group.** 7-8:30 p.m. fireplace room. See p. 10.
Snow Date for January 14 New Directions Discussion.
- Jan 23 Tue** **Building Committee.** 7 p.m. Fireplace Room. Contact Bob Radcliff.
- Jan 24 Wed** **Council Meeting.** Large RE room. Contact Bob Scott, vice-president.
- Jan 26 Fri** **RE Family Fun Bowling.** 6-8 p.m. See p. 4.
- Jan 27 Sat** **Lunch for the Needy.** Provided by our Fellowship at the Salvation Army. Email: salvation-army.
- Jan 28 Sun** **Annual New Member Potluck.** 6 p.m. See p. 4.
Social Justice Committee. 5 p.m. Fireplace Room. Contact Robin Garrett . See p. 7.

Groups meeting multiple times in a month:

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| Choir Practice | First, second, and third Thursdays of the month, 7:30-9 p.m. sanctuary. Email: choir. |
| Small Group Ministry | Groups meet twice a month. See p. 2. |
| Youth Group | Most Sunday mornings. 10:45 a.m. OWL/Youth Group rm. See p. 9. |
| Yoga Classes | Thursdays 6:15-7:15 p.m. in the basement. See p. 11. |



Don't forget to buy grocery gift cards after the Sunday services. It costs you nothing and earns money for the Fellowship.