

 **the**
FELLOWTARIAN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester

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SUNDAY SERVICES

May, 2007

April 29

A SHARED VISION

Rev. Deborah Mero
Candidate for Settled Minister

Words like “ideal” and “perfect” often appear in the written hopes and dreams we have for finding the right match between congregation and minister. Though ideal and perfect are well beyond what any of us can expect, vision, hope, faith, and love can take us steps closer to what we all long for. Let us begin our time together sharing the hopes and dreams we have for our relationship, for the Fellowship, and for the peaceful and just world we wish to see.

Today is the first of two consecutive Sundays when the candidate for our pulpit will lead the service.

May 6
SINGLE SERVICE, 10 AM

MORE THAN WORDS

Rev. Deborah Mero
Candidate for Settled Minister

Though I will have some words to impart to you that are significant to me — words like Pentimento and Tikkun Olam — the concepts behind them, the pictures they paint, the ideas they represent and the call to action they embody are at the core of our mutual calling to be a blessing in and to the world. We will have exchanged a lot of words, stories, and ideas throughout the week. The words are only the beginning. It will be the actions, the relationships, the trust, and the commitment that follow the words that will be the true measure of the future we hope to share.

Today is the second of two consecutive Sundays when the candidate for our pulpit will lead the service. Come one and all to this historic day in the life of our Fellowship. This is the culmination of our much anticipated search process. **There will only be one service, a 10 a.m., followed by a Congregational meeting at 11:15.**

May 13

TO BE ANNOUNCED

Rev. Dr. Patrick T. O'Neill

To be announced.

May 20

TO BE ANNOUNCED

Rev. Dr. Patrick T. O'Neill

To be announced.

May 27

**HEALING ABUSE, RENEWING HOPE
AND CHANGING LIVES STARTS HERE**

Karol Smith-Williamson

Ms. Smith-Williamson will offer insights as to what each and all of us can do to bring about a less violent and more peaceful world. She is the Director of Development and Communications for the Domestic Violence Center of Chester County.

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Wow! Did I describe a “lull” in activities in last month’s column? That disappeared so fast, I scarcely had the chance to enjoy another cup of coffee after finishing the column! Since then, we braved some truly horrendous weather to turn out in large numbers for our annual dinner, we attended small gatherings in conjunction with our stewardship campaign, we enjoyed a benefit concert of magnificent piano music, we launched a global warming initiative complete with an cross-denominational rally, and we planned a spaghetti dinner as an initial fund-raiser to support a Habitat for Humanity project in West Chester.

Trumping all that, however, was the wonderful news that the Search Committee had recommended a candidate for the settled ministry. Plans are now in the works for candidating week with Rev. Deborah Mero from April 29 to May 6. I’m leaving it to the Search Committee to provide information on the many activities during that week. I’d like to emphasize, however, how important it is for all of our members to meet and get to know Rev. Mero. This is important not only for our sake but for Rev. Mero’s as well. A call is a joint venture between candidate and congregation: She needs to feel comfortable with us as much as we need to feel comfortable with her.

What I’d like to do now is review for our newer members the process that got us to this point in time. Three years ago, Rev. Kate Rohde left the Fellowship after a successful 17 years as our minister. Kate did not come to us through the usual search process. Rather, she was appointed

by the UUA in Boston under the denomination’s extension ministry program in 1987. We worked with Kate for two years in that program before voting to call her as our settled minister.

After Kate left, we spent a full year in an intense self examination of who we were and what we aspired to be as a religious community. We adopted a new vision statement, wrote a long-range plan, and made a strong commitment to grow. Only then did we feel ready to initiate the search for a new settled minister. At a congregational meeting in the spring of 2005, we voted our current Search Committee into office. In accordance with the search process followed by congregations in the UUA, their job was and has been to find the very best ministerial candidate for us.

The committee conducted an extensive congregational survey to determine who we wanted for a minister in terms of religious beliefs, program priorities, skills and talents. They put together a comprehensive congregational record containing the survey data as well as data on membership, programs, financial support – everything that defines us as a congregation, past, present, and future. In return, ministers seeking congregations put together their own packets. Through a secure website maintained by the UUA, this information was exchanged.

The Search Committee exchanged even more detailed packets with ministers of interest, held interviews, and heard several “pre-candidates” preach. In short, they fully “vetted” the available candidates. We expected them to come back with a recommendation within a year, since that is the typical length of time

required for the search process. As many of you know, however, they ended the first year of the search feeling they did not have a candidate who was a good fit for our congregation. They consequently made the difficult and courageous decision to recommend that the search be extended for an additional year. That decision spoke volumes for the integrity of our Search Committee and the search process. Our congregation applauded the committee for their wise decision and supported them in the extended search.

While I cannot speak for the Search Committee, I am confident from my conversations with them that they feel the second year of the search was more than worthwhile. If you’ve heard them speak or talked to them directly, you know how enthusiastic they are about presenting Deborah Mero as the best possible candidate for the settled ministry with us. Ultimately, however, the decision to call her will be yours to make at the congregational meeting on May 6. We will be using secret written ballots to ensure that no one feels pressured and everyone votes their conscience – and I do urge you to vote your conscience. To do otherwise would be to do an injustice to both Rev. Mero and our Fellowship. But I also want you to understand the journey we have taken as a Fellowship to reach this historic moment in time. I for one am excited about the possibilities for our future. I hope you are, too.

— Flo Miller, President



CANDIDATING WEEK SCHEDULE APRIL 29 TO MAY 6

Plans for Candidating Week are shaping up, and we need YOU! This will be a very busy week for our Candidate, Reverend Deborah Mero, as she conducts services both Sundays, meets with many committees and groups, and attends our various all-congregation events (listed below).

Why do we need you? Well, as you know, members will be voting at the congregational meeting at the end of the week, on whether to extend the official “call” to Reverend Mero. And you’ll want to take every opportunity to get to know her before you cast your secret ballot. But, more than that, we need to show that as a congregation, we are involved, enthused and welcoming! We want Deborah to see an active, vibrant congregation, and we need all of us here to do that.

PLEASE NOTE! There will be a SINGLE SERVICE on May 6 at 10 a.m., followed by the Congregational Meeting at 11:15.

Please plan to attend the service and the meeting. Our by-laws require a quorum of at least 40% membership to be present for the vote – we need you to be here for this very important decision.

Committees and other groups meeting with Deborah during the week will be notified via email of the times, dates and other specifics. Please see your committee chair for this information. There are several all-congregation events planned — please plan now to attend at least one of these events:

“Welcome, Deborah!” Potluck – Sunday, April 29, 6-8 p.m.

This event is for everyone. Please bring a main dish, salad or side dish to share. Beverages will be provided. Wine and beer will be available for a small donation. Desserts will be provided. Babysitting will be provided downstairs, if requested. Contact Nancy Artus, email: fun, by April 26 if you require babysitting.

Family Potluck and Game Night – Friday, May 4, 6:30 p.m.

Doors open at 6:15, potluck begins at 6:30. We will play “All my friends and neighbors”, a family circle game, at 7 p.m., followed by other games. This is a family activity, children are encouraged to attend, and everyone is welcome. *Note that Deborah will be in meetings from 7:30 to 8:30, so come early.*

Meet-and-Greet Sessions – Tuesday, May 1, 6-8 p.m., and Wednesday May 2, 9-11 a.m.

These informal sessions are designed on a smaller scale, to give folks a chance to meet Rev. Mero, chat a bit, share some light refreshments. Drop in to the Fellowship at any time during one of these two sessions to say hello.

If you have any questions about Candidating Week, feel free to contact anyone on the Search Committee (Jim MacFadyen, Cyndy Bullaughey, Ed Cohle, Curt Hoganson, Eileen Kelly, Sandy Schaal and Mark Steel) or email search-committee.

CANDIDATING WEEK WORK PARTY

Come help us spruce up our building for the arrival of Rev. Deborah Mero, our ministerial candidate, Saturday, April 28, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MAY 6

On Sunday, May 6, our Fellowship will experience a truly historic event: for the first time in our 53-year-old history we will vote on a ministerial candidate recommended by a duly elected Search Committee – a committee that has (let it be said) worked tirelessly and with unprecedented energy and commitment to bring us a candidate who they believe shares our vision, dreams, and aspirations for the future. That candidate, of course, is Deborah Mero.

If you are currently a member of the Fellowship – and signed the membership book on or before April 6 – it is vital that you attend this meeting. Why April 6? Because our bylaws state that to vote at a congregational meeting, a person must have signed the membership book at least 30 days prior to that meeting.

Again according to our by-laws, a vote of this significance requires a 40% quorum of our membership. But I hope and expect we will have a much higher attendance than that. In short, if you are an active member who cares about our Fellowship, come!

The congregational meeting will begin at 11:15 a.m., just after the 10 a.m. service, which Rev. Mero will lead. The vote will be by secret ballot, so that everyone feels completely comfortable voting their conscience.

I am humbled, honored, pleased, excited – and if truth be told, even a little bit anxious – about conducting the meeting as the Fellowship president on this momentous occasion. As I call the meeting to order, I hope to look out on a “packed” meeting hall. Will your face be among those I see? Make it so.

— Flo Miller, President

REmarks — RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE

One of the benefits of getting up early on Sunday mornings is that I get to listen to the rebroadcasts of Dan Gottlieb's "Voices in the Family" on WHY. This week, on Holocaust Remembrance Day, Gottlieb and his guests focused on the question, "What made some people risk their lives to rescue complete strangers from the Nazis?"

One of the comments made me think immediately of the children of our Fellowship. Dr. Stephen Post, Associate Professor of Philosophy at Case Western, noted that "Compassion is something that's transmitted. There is no substitute for passing the torch by setting an example, whether it's parents or non-parents."

Social Action has always been an important thread in the fabric that makes up UFWC, but lately we seem to be more energized than ever before. I think it would be difficult for our children to not be aware of at least some of the ways that the Fellowship is working to make the world a better place; to be, as our Vision states, "a catalyst for a just and compassionate world." They can see that it's not just their parents talking about and working for change, but that there are other Unitarian Universalists concerned about and working for the same things.

At the Fellowship, the children get to participate in social action projects, too. Last fall, the children took part in the UUSC Sunday service. This spring, they prepared a meal to be served at the Safe Harbor homeless shelter. And several parents brought their children to the April 14 Global Warming rally on the Fellowship steps. My hope is that through these activities, our children are able to get a sense of

not just their own place in our church community, but also of UFWC's role as an agent for change in the larger West Chester community and beyond.

Middle School Regional Cluster Programming

Middle School Regional Cluster Programming (MSRCP) is coming to UFWC. Following a successful, three-year pilot program in central Pennsylvania, the Joseph Priestley District is working to expand MSRCP to the rest of the District. Twice a year, special half or full-day events will be planned for sixth, seventh, and eighth graders. They will be organized around the basic components of Fun, Food, Fellowship and Worship. Our first event, a Samhain Festival (the Celtic observance of the end of the harvest and the beginning of the new year) is scheduled for Saturday, October 20 at Mill Creek.

Our cluster includes eight congregations: in PA – West Chester, UUCDC (Media), Pottstown, Well-springs (Chester Springs); and in DE – Wilmington, Mill Creek, Newark and Dover. This will be a great opportunity to meet other UU middle schoolers, see what's beyond UFWC, and form some friendships to take into Youth Group and Cons (Youth Conferences). There will be more information as we develop the program, and opportunities for parents to get involved with planning.

Youth Group YES Award

Congratulations to the Youth Group for their fourth consecutive YES Award! (For details, please see the Youth Group report elsewhere in the newsletter.) The Youth

Group has a long history of working on social justice issues – through bringing issues into our consciousness, hands-on involvement, and fundraising. They have taken on leadership roles in the District and have given support to youth groups in neighboring UU congregations. Throughout it all, they remember to have fun.

Candidating Week Event for RE Families

The Search Committee has set aside a special time for RE families to get acquainted with our new ministerial candidate, Rev. Deborah Mero, at a family potluck dinner and game night on Friday, May 4. Dinner will start promptly at 6:30 p.m. (doors will open at 6:15 to get set up). A special "ice breaker" game is scheduled for 7:00, with Game Night continuing after that. Hope you can make it.

— Pam Baxter
Director of Religious Education

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

We are pleased to welcome Rhonda Price, Kathryn Racette and Jim Nelsen as our newest Members. We hope everyone makes an effort to meet and get to know them. The Membership Committee also asks the entire congregation's help in welcoming all new or returning visitors. They are potential members! If anyone is running an event or looking for volunteers, don't be hesitant to ask a "new face" if he or she is interested in helping. Remember, we were all visitors and new members at one time.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

As of the middle of April, the Stewardship Campaign has completed about two-thirds of the annual canvass of members and friends. We have 160 pledge units so this is a big job. Many thanks to the facilitators and canvassers who have devoted their evenings and weekends toward the accomplishment of this important task. Also, thank you to the hosts of our Gatherings who opened their homes so that we could continue our tradition of small social meetings cum fund raising. These are excellent opportunities to find out how other members and friends feel about the Fellowship. Finally a big Thank You to Receipts Treasurer, Cyndy Bullaughey, for keeping track of the incoming pledges and measuring our progress.

We hope to finish contacting everyone before Candidating Week begins on April 29, so that we can present our candidate for permanent minister with a fully funded budget. We know that all members and friends support us in this goal.

— The Stewardship Committee

JOIN UUSC NOW

There are only a couple of months left, and we do not yet have 100% of the members of UFWC who are members of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC). Absolutely, we want to maintain our position as the congregation in our district with the highest percentage membership in UUSC. But we can't do that without your help. So, please, if you have not already joined, do so today. One of our Local Reps, Robin Garrett, Deanna Koepcke, or Linda Sander can help you. Or you can do it online at www.uusc.org Thanks!



TAKE THE SKILLS AND INTERESTS SURVEY

The UFWC wants you to complete the skills & interests survey! We're also asking that one adult in each household complete the household demographic information survey. Questions? Get in touch with Lori Ratajczak. **Please complete your surveys May 13, 2007.** Thanks for helping us know who we are and how we can better serve our growing UFWC community.

GROCERY STORE CARD PROGRAM

Help support the Fellowship while you shop, without spending any extra money. Purchase a grocery card from UFWC to use in a participating store – Giant, Acme, Shoprite and Superfresh. You buy \$100 worth of grocery cards for \$100. You use them like cash for \$100 worth of goods. But the Fellowship has only paid \$95 for the cards, so we earn \$5 (or 5% of the purchase)! In addition, Acme donates 1% of the value of register receipts that we collect, so save your receipts and place them in our collection box.

See us after each service during refreshments to buy cards.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees had its regular meeting on April 10, 2007. Board members made plans to meet with the ministerial candidate, Rev. Deborah Mero, during candidate week. Also, three motions were passed: one to allocate income from the Social Action Trust Fund for 2006 and 2007, to be used toward the Fellowship's co-sponsorship of a Habitat for Humanity house in West Chester; a second to approve the proposed contract letter for the position of parttime administrative help; and a third to subsidize the registration fees of people who have expressed interest in attending the JPD conference in April.

In addition, Jack Butler reported on the work of the committee on long-term building needs, including evaluating the meeting space for maximum capacity. And the Board reviewed proposed changes to the Fellowship By-laws, to update them for presentation to the congregation at the annual meeting on June 3.

Members of the Board are Flo Miller, President, Bob Scott, Vice-President, Deanna Koepcke, Secretary, Erach Patel, Finance Chair, Craig Talbot, Cheryl Pittenger, Fatima Patel, and Jack Butler. Rev. Patrick O'Neill and Director of Religious Education, Pam Baxter, also meet with the Board. Please approach any of them with questions or comments.

A DAY OF INTERFAITH AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Saturday, April 14 was a very special day for the Fellowship. We participated in a nationwide set of locally created events (part of Step It Up 07) to urge Congress to take action on global warming, specifically, to cut carbon emissions 80% by 2050.

UFWC participated in a Tree Walk sponsored by the borough shade tree commission and BLUER, Borough Leaders United for Emissions Reduction. The goal of the tree walk was to emphasize the amount of carbon that trees take up and hold. Lovely Marshal Square Park was planted as an arboretum over 100 years ago and features some beautiful specimen hardwoods. UFWC's former congregational home at one corner of the park, on Franklin Street, holds special memories for many of us.

We participated in a rally with three other S. High Street churches – Episcopalian, Methodist, and Baptist. We hung huge banners, paraded in front of our churches with posters, heard roving speakers and strolling musicians (and in our case, our own UU quartet), and attracted a lot of friendly waves and honks from motorists.

We ended the morning, tired and hungry, eating brown bag lunches at UFWC and enjoying a selection of beverages and goodies laid out by the Fun & Fellowship Committee. Many people took pictures throughout the day. Some are posted on the StepItUp07.org website; others on our website.

The response of the congregation to the opportunity to speak out on a critically important issue as part of a nationwide effort was

YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

April was an exciting month for the youth group. We won the Joseph Priestley District's annual Youth Empowering and Supportive (YES) Congregation Award on behalf of the Fellowship for the FOURTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR! Eight congregations (out of 65) received the award this year, and we are only the second in the District to earn it four years in a row.

Receipt of the YES award is a significant accomplishment. This award is the District's mechanism for recognizing our Youth Program for its integration of social action, worship, education, fellowship, and inter-congregational activities. To earn it this year we organized half a dozen social action projects, led a Sunday service at the Fellowship, had three of our youth elected to District-level positions, engaged in outreach to two other congregations in the District, and participate actively in District conferences, among other activities. The youth group thanks you very much for your support and encouragement in all our activities!

This award recognizes our integration of social action, worship, education, fellowship, and inter-congregational activities.

We pick up the physical award at the annual Joseph Priestley District conference in Harrisburg, an exciting weekend for all.

The rest of the April schedule featured a fascinating discussion on racism and a meeting with Rev. Deborah Mero as part of her candidating week.

The month of May finds us wrapping up our Fellowship year meetings, planning a year-end party and preparing for our Bridging Service in June, where we bid farewell to our graduating seniors.

If you're interested in learning more about the youth group and our activities, we welcome all high school aged youth of similar spirit. We meet most Sundays at 10:45 a.m. in the Youth Group/OWL room. Feel free to email us, too, at youth-group.

CONGREGATIONAL SOCIAL JUSTICE MEETING

Help chart our course for social justice action.

Sunday, May 20 12:30 P.M.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.
See p. 7.

awesome. We are often reminded of the moral failing of remaining silent. Step It Up 07 was an unusually enjoyable means of speak-

ing out, and a terrific opportunity to work in cooperation with others. The question is: how do we follow up?

SOCIAL JUSTICE: MAKE A DIFFERENCE

On Sunday, May 20 at 12:30 p.m. we will meet and chart our course for social justice action for the next year. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. We will discuss issues related to social justice projects and actually vote on projects to reflect our passions. Our course will be charted as a result of this meeting! It is important that as many people as possible attend.

The Left Hand of God book discussion groups spent several sessions as small groups before coming together in one large meeting in January to share their ideas about all the ways our congregation might make the world a better place. After that meeting many months ago, there was energy to begin new projects and efforts in social justice.

This is the promised meeting to complete the process of organizing all of the great ideas into a more manageable list and to find out where the most passion lies. You need not have been in attendance at the previous meeting nor do you need to read *The Left Hand of God* to participate.

Please reserve several hours for this important process. We will try to provide babysitting, if it is requested by May 10 — Either e-mail social-justice-chair or request child care on the sign-up sheet that will be available at the next several Sunday services. We will provide lunch. In order that we may purchase enough food, please sign up if you will be attending.

— Ed Cohle

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS SYMBOL MEANS?



It's a symbol our congregation can proudly display! We now have a system that transmits amplified sound to people in our sanctuary using headsets.

To make the Fellowship more accessible to people with various needs, we now have assistive listening devices for the sanctuary. The system links our sound system to individual receivers with headsets for those who may have difficulty hearing or understanding.

If you or anyone you know might be struggling to hear the sermons or announcements, the system is available. Just let one of the greeters know and take a test run with one of our three headsets.

Questions? Speak with the Sound Committee — Ed Cohle, Susan Gast, Gerry Giess and Tom Townsend.

R. E. FAMILY HIKE

Everyone is welcome to join us on Saturday, May 12, for our Third Annual Hike/Scavenger Hunt/Picnic at Valley Forge National Park, sponsored by the R.E. Committee. Previous attendees have had a wonderful time hiking, exploring nature and having a great day out of doors. The scavenger hunt has turned up some interesting finds, including the Giant Tree Frog, the Pennsylvania Upland Lobster and the Great Arboreal Rabbit!

We will meet at the Wayne's Woods picnic area at 10 a.m., hike until about noon, and then stay and enjoy our home-packed picnic lunches. There will be fun for all ages and abilities.

What to wear: comfortable shoes, hat and clothing suited to the weather.

What to bring: lunch, water, binoculars, camera, frisbee or other outdoor games.

Contact Marie Steel.

Note: Scavenger Hunt is "eyes-only," no collecting.



PLEASE HELP KEEP OUR R.E. AREAS CLEAN

We are a busy congregation, and many more meetings are being held in the classrooms downstairs. This is a reminder that the sexton only comes in to clean once each week, and any food trash left behind may get unpleasant before the next cleaning date.

Please make an extra effort to take a look around before you leave, and remove any food items/food trash that you brought in. If a trash bag becomes full, please tie it off, and place it in one of the large trash cans in the back stairwell.

One of the RE Committee's goals is to provide a clean, safe and healthy environment for the children of our Fellowship. Please help us meet that commitment. Thank you,

— Heidi Frayer, RE Committee Chair

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR FLEA MARKET

Are your closets, shelves, cupboards, garage, attic, basement and the boxes hidden under your bed cluttered with neglected, unused “stuff”?? Donate it for our May 19, Saturday morning Flea Market. May the opportunity to benefit UFWC inspire you to tackle your Spring Cleaning!

However, if it has been languishing unused because it is soiled, stained, torn, obsolete, crooked, discolored, dysfunctional, ugly, twisted, chipped, moldy, hazardous, broken or otherwise horrid or non-functioning *please* transfer it to your own personal trash bin—we won’t be able to sell it. Also, shoes are a hard sell, so unless they are exceptionally nice, don’t donate them either.

Only good-quality, ready-for-use items will get purchased during our 4-hour sale. We want this to be a positive experience for patrons and a small job for the clean-up committee. Here is what sells best:

- clean, ironed, in-season clothes, preferably with all buttons
- children’s toys and books—clean and in good condition
- games and puzzles, for both children & adults (no missing pieces, please)
- appliances, household tools, garden tools (working condition only)
- housewares, except individual mugs or glasses (complete sets OK)
- jewelry, crystal, silver
- electronics – nothing obsolete
- interesting books (no textbooks, encyclopedias, books in bad condition)
- tapes, videos, CD’s, DVD’s, etc
- holiday and specialty items (be selective, please!)
- bicycles, sports and exercise equipment
- furniture and rugs—but if it requires more than one person to carry, you must guarantee to remove it Saturday noon if it doesn’t sell!



As usual, donations for the Saturday sale will be accepted the previous Thursday, May 17 from 7 – 9 p.m. Pull up to the Lacey Street side door, and volunteers will help you unload your car and distribute your goods to the appropriate sales tables.

P.S. Don’t forget to shop, and bring a friend with you.

It’s a treasure hunt you shouldn’t miss! Good quality, interesting UU stuff, including some that will be totally unexpected and surprising! The prices are very low, and the sale income helps support UFWC.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BAKE SALE

Bake your favorite recipe for cookies, brownies, cakes, breads, and other pastries and bring them Saturday morning (May 19) for the bake sale, an added feature at our Annual Flea Market.

The bake sale profits will help UFWC meet its fundraising goal for the West Chester Borough Habitat House. Maybe we’ll even do coffee!

MAKING FRIENDS ON A FLEA MARKET WORK CREW

Newer members and visitors have always found working on a flea market crew a great way to get acquainted and make friends. Join the more experienced hands and have fun while making this mammoth sale a success for UFWC. We need workers for several tasks: room set-up and intake of donations, organizing and pricing, helping at the sale, and (best of all!) clean-up.

We will again donate all unsold items to local non-profits so we’ll need drivers to transport goods Saturday afternoon. If we do as well as last year, by 3 p.m. the sanctuary will be emptied, swept clean and reset for Sunday services!

Flea Market Volunteer Shifts

Flea Market volunteers are needed during the following times:

Thu, May 17 6- 7 pm
Stack chairs, set up tables/signs

Thu, May 17 7-9 pm
Help with drop off and sort

Fri, May 18 9 am-1 pm
Arrange and price items

Sat, May 19 7:30 am-noon
Help with sale

Sat, May 19 noon-3 pm
Pack up and re-set sanctuary

Sat, May 19 1-3 pm
Transport unsold goods

You will be able to sign up for one or more shifts during after-service coffee hours in the next few weeks. Or send an email message to flea-market or call Sue Stedman.

SIMPLICITY CIRCLE

We will meet on May 13, at 12:30 p.m., the second Sunday this time, because of candidating week and the congregational meeting taking place May 6.

We ask each person to present thoughts meaningful to you regarding the theme of the day — mentoring that has impacted our lives, and the ways in which we have been affected. This could include mentoring we have done ourselves

Our last meeting was amazingly stimulating again, with new members joining and the attendance larger than ever. A number of young people have joined, and their refreshing views mix well with those of the older adults. We are truly diverse.

This is a good group for newcomers, who want to begin developing relationships in a reflective, personable atmosphere. Contact Heidi Buss, email: simplicity.

EXPLORING DIVERSITY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP - MAY 20, 7 -8:30 PM

Leslie Feinberg's novel, *Stone Butch Blues*, is a provocative, riveting story about the sad and courageous life of Jess, a butch lesbian trying to survive in the turbulent '60's and '70s. The novel explores Jess's journey from awkward schoolgirl, to labor activist, to transgender pioneer, as she deals with the shame, guilt and humiliation in-



flicted by society. It is also a commentary on love, friendship, hope and the audacity to emerge whole in a world that rewards conformity. Discussion will be led by Fatima Patel.

We meet regularly on the third Sunday of the month September through May. Plans for next year's reading and discussion topics will be announced in the July and August *Fellowtarian*,

and we welcome your suggestions.

Please don't hesitate to call either Shelly Case or Ruth MacFadyen with your questions or contact us by email at diversity-book-group.

FOLK SINGING

The next folk singing get-together is Saturday, May 26, at 8 p.m. at the home of Linda and Steve Sander. We have nearly 200 songs we love to sing, and we are always adding new ones. No talent or experience is necessary. Newcomers are always welcome. Bring a munchie if you wish. Contact Steve, email: folk-singing. Maps are in the foyer.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Building Committee is seeking volunteers to help with mowing and yard work. With enough volunteers the commitment is only about two hours every other month, so please sign up and help keep the Fellowship looking good. Volunteers please call Tilo Stahl.

Find Your Treasure

at the

2007 UFWC Spring Flea Market

Saturday, May 19 8:00 a.m. to Noon
At the Fellowship

See articles on page 8 to find out
how to donate items and how to
volunteer to help.



LUNCH GROUP

Lunch group will meet on Friday, May 11 at 11:30 a.m. at Panera, located next to Shop Rite at 1103 West Chester Pike. Newcomers are welcome. E-mail lunch-group to be added to the e-mail reminder list. Please try to respond to the e-mail reminder so we can save space for everyone, but if you change your mind at the last minute, come anyway. Everyone is welcome.

— Linda Sander

FELLOWSHIP CALENDAR

- Apr 28 Sat Spring Cleaning Work Day.** 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. See p. 3.
- Apr 29 Sun Welcome Deborah Pot Luck.** 6-8 p.m. Sanctuary. See p. 3.
- Apr 30 Mon RE Committee.** 7:00 p.m. OWL room. Contact Pam Baxter, email: dre
Social Justice Committee. 7-9 p.m. Office. Contact email: social-justice
- May 1 Tue Meet-and-Greet Rev. Deborah Mero** 6-8 p.m. See p. 3.
- May 2 Wed Meet-and-Greet Rev. Deborah Mero** 9-11 a.m. See p. 3.
- May 3 Thu Finance Committee.** 7:00 p.m. Office. Contact Erach Patel, email: finance
- May 4 Fri Family Potluck & Game Night.** 6:30 p.m. Meet Rev. Mero. 6:30-7-30. See p. 3.
- May 6 Sun Congregational Meeting to vote on calling Rev. Deborah Mero as minister.** 11:15 p.m. See p. 3.
- May 8 Tue Fun & Fellowship Meeting.** 7-8:30 pm. Fireplace room. Email: fun.
- May 10 Thu Deadline for Child Care Requests for the Congregational Social Justice Meeting.** See p. 7.
- May 11 Fri Lunch Group.** 11:30 a.m. at Panera in West Goshen. See p. 9.
Chester County Peace Movement Film Night. 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary.
- May 12 Sat RE Family Hiking.** 10 a.m. at Wayne's Woods picnic area, Valley Forge National Park. See p. 7.
- May 13 Sun Simplicity Circle Meeting.** 12:30 p.m. Fireplace Room. See p. 9.
Safe Harbor Dinner. Provided by the Fellowship the second Sunday of the month. Contact email: safe-harbor.
- May 16 Wed Board Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. Fellowship Office. All are welcome.
- May 17 Thu Flea Market Donations Drop-Off and Sorting.** 7-9 p.m. See p. 8.
- May 18 Fri Flea Market Preparation.** See p. 8.
- May 19 Sat UFWC Spring Flea Market.** 8:00 to noon. See p. 8. for complete schedule.
Habitat for Humanity Bake Sale at the Flea Market. See p. 8.
- May 20 Sun Congregational Social Justice Meeting.** 12:30 p.m. Lunch provided. All are welcome. See p. 7.
Young Adult Group. 12:30 p.m. Downstairs. Email: young-adults
Exploring Diversity Book Discussion Group. 7-8:30 p.m. Fireplace Rm. See p. 9.
- May 22 Tue Building Committee.** 7 p.m. Fireplace Room. Contact Bob Scott, email: building.
Social Justice Committee. 7-9 p.m. Office. Email: social-justice.
- May 23 Wed Council Meeting.** Large RE room. Contact Bob Scott, email: vice-president.
- May 24 Thu Religious Services Committee.** 7:30 p.m. Office.
- May 26 Sat Lunch for the Needy.** Provided by our Fellowship at the Salvation Army. Email: salvation-army.
Work Day. Morning and afternoon at the Fellowship. Email: building.
Folk Singing. 8 p.m. at the home of Steve and Linda Sander. Email: folk-singing. See p. 9.

Groups meeting multiple times in a month:

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