

 **the**
FELLOWTARIAN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester

Telephone: 610-692-5966

Web: www.ufwc.org

Rev. Deborah Mero 610-692-5966 email: minister
Barbara Robinson, Administrator 610-692-5966 email: office
Bob Scott, President email: president
Pam Baxter, Dir. of Religious Ed email: dre
Steve and Linda Sander, Editors email: fellowtarian

SUNDAY SERVICES

October, 2007

October 7

IN RETREAT

Rev. Deborah Mero

There are lots of kinds of retreats. We had one with the leadership in August, the military has its own understanding of the meaning, and the JPD ministers will be having theirs this coming week (which I will be attending). Why so many meanings for or understandings of one word?

October 14

THE LANGUAGE OF FAITH

Rev. Deborah Mero

Last February the Search Committee and I engaged in a lengthy conversation about theology and the use of words in both our congregations and in our society. Clearly the language of faith has been hijacked over the last couple of decades, but as a faith tradition, Unitarian Universalism has within itself struggled with words. We will begin to unpack the language of faith today. It will be an ongoing process over time.

October 21

**PEACEFUL PRESENCE
AN INTERGENERATION SERVICE ON COOPERATION**

Rev. Deborah Mero

Philadelphia begins its plan today to put 10,000 volunteers on the streets of the city to curb the violence that has filled the news of late. Though we may not be facing the same threats in our community, we all need ways of settling disputes and disagreeing peacefully and with respect. Today we will share tools for doing this.

October 28

RACISM – YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW

Sandra Vaughn-Lewis

Sandra Vaughn-Lewis, MSW, lived as a child well below the Mason-Dixon Line and in her adult years has had a wide variety of personal and professional experiences which have provided her with a strong foundation for reflecting on how racism has and has not evolved and changed in our communities and nation as whole and also on what hope we can have for the future.

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

The Song of Deborah

I feel thoroughly welcomed by the congregation and would like to thank all of you for being so cooperative and upbeat and willing to forge off into the future together trying new things and making changes as we go along. I look forward to getting to know you all over time and especially the children.

As an interim minister, that need in my life has had to be put on hold. There is never enough time to do everything a minister is asked to do, and

when there is only a year or two to do a lot of work with a congregation, the children often are left behind.

Since I am now a settled, rather than interim, minister, I will indulge the opportunities that time has to offer — most specifically getting to know you all. We will take time and make time to do that. You will hear more about that soon.

This month's offering is mostly of a practical nature. Some of this I shared with the leadership in August, but all of it is information I want to convey to you.

There very well may be times when you want to call me and hesitate to do so because you are not sure where to call or when it is OK to call. I hope this will clarify the matter for you. If it does not, then please ask me.

Schedule: My day off is Monday and I try to keep it free of churchly things. From the time I leave on Sunday through Tuesday mornings I will not be checking UFWC e-mails or

messages. If there is an emergency that needs my attention I hope that you will call me anyway. I plan to be in the office Tues. Wed. and Thurs. mornings from 9-1 unless other meetings get in the way. I do my sermon writing at home on Fridays (and usually Saturday mornings too) and would appreciate having the

opportunity to concentrate during that time.

Call me with regular congregation business between the hours of 9 a.m.

and 8 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday (caveat above on Fridays). If I am occupied or unavailable an answering machine will receive your messages and I will call you back. Currently you can call me at the Fellowship using the regular number. We are arranging to get a separate phone number for the minister's study. Reportedly it will be 610-692-5990 once it is hooked up. When I am not there, the phone will be set to forward calls to my home (as long as I remember to set it!).

The following article "When To call Your Minister" is by UU minister Peter Lee Scott, I have reprinted it at every opportunity when I enter a new congregation.

1. The minister is available to help you 24 hours a day. You should never hesitate to call in an emergency at any hour.
2. You are not bothering the minister with your problems; you are not taking time away from more important things. You are im-

portant; one main reason you have a minister is to be of help to you; that is what her time is for.

3. A minister cannot know when she is needed—you need to tell her.

Below are just a few of the instances when you might call your minister:

- a) when someone is in the hospital or is going to be;
- b) when someone is confined and would like to be visited;
- c) when there is a death in the family (the minister should be called before the mortician);
- d) when you wish to discuss funeral arrangements ahead of time;
- e) when you have children to be named or dedicated;
- f) when you have personal problems or family difficulties (many ministers do short term counseling and are often good at referrals);
- g) when you want to get married;
- h) when you have marriage problems;
- i) when you are arrested or in jail;
- j) when you have an important choice to make - educational, job, etc.;
- k) when you are angry with the minister or upset with something in the church;
- 1) when you have prospective members for the church in mind;
- m) when you want to talk about religion;
- n) when you do not yet know the minister and would like to get acquainted;

(Continued p. 5)

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Now we go!

This is a phrase my friends and I use when we play doubles tennis together. What it means, or what we hope it means, is that now we're ready, now we've got the cobwebs out of our games, we remember which of us is left handed and which right, we have the signals down, our shoes are double knotted, we've figured out which is the stronger player across the net... we can finally get down to playing some tennis.

As I observed at the board meeting the other night – we've got the cobwebs out here at UFWC too. We've selected our settled minister and helped move Deborah in. We've got an increased presence in the office with Barbara, our new administrative assistant. We're well into organizational changes. Most committees have chairs and co-chairs (not all; see below). Our finances are okay, and our building is in pretty good shape (although in need of some maintenance, painting, and such, and a better reserve fund). The office construction is underway, and programs for the year are shaping up well.

So all in all we're not facing too many problems as a leadership group, and I can't even begin to tell you what a gift this is. It allows us to pay a little less attention to the details of "fixing things around here so we can do what we want to do," and move on to acting on, "what we want to do." I for one am deeply appreciative of all who got us to this wonderful point.

So enough already, let's get back to work – and there is plenty of real work to do. To be able to devote board meetings to that real future oriented work rather than a long list of 15 minute problem discussions that leave us

exhausted — that's part of my heaven on earth!

We spent an evening with the congregation (great turnout – thanks!) and a full day in a combined board/council retreat in late August shortly after Deborah moved into town. This was facilitated by our District Executive, Richard Speck, and it was a wonderful time for this new group to spend time together and get the issues we face and the approach we'll take to face them out in the open. Someone mentioned to me how transparent we were as a group — no hidden agendas or issues, everything on the table. It's a very good leadership team – we're all blessed here too. We set the following overall goals for the year (some paraphrasing...):

1. Refine Roles and connections between them – ongoing but getting better
2. Address Leadership Training and Volunteerism - more improvement needed.
3. Enhance Admin Role and improve Communication in all directions - clear
4. Assimilate Minister – let's put some time/focus here and not rush
5. Get out into the community.- we said we wanted to, let's do it.

Of course we have the normal fears of change and what it will mean to our highly valued intimate community and what it will force in terms of building issues. I assure you we will find good ways to work these things out if we face them openly with each other. Let's throw open the doors and welcome everyone we can convince to walk through them to stay and work and play with us.

We're planning on holding board "town meetings" this year so that we can listen to the

congregation's questions, concerns and desires and update everyone on where we are against some of our goals. I have early November in my mind for the next such meeting and will let everyone know once the date is set.

Deborah is smart and funny and spiritual and strong and very adept and well connected and it's already been a pleasure working with her. It's nice to see her slipping slowly out of the interim minister role she's been playing in recent years to the role of our settled minister at UFWC. Very much fun for both of us.

We had a very nice picnic at Hoopes Park – thanks to all who helped make that happen and who came to welcome Deborah, Barbara, Ralph, and Frank into our family and to just hang together. Thanks especially to Phil and Mary Yeager for another amazing effort on the 'vittles' and to Nancy Artus and the whole Fun & Fellowship committee for arranging for such nice weather and getting everything else right.

I won't go over the long list of activities, education series, small group ministries, social justice actions, adult religious education series, book groups, caring actions, sermons and services, pot lucks, RE classes and projects, youth activities, musical events of all shapes and sizes, fun fundraisers, and just the regular hard work of being who we say we want to be as Deborah has reminded us several times already. I'll just say again that I'm very, very, very pleased that we have put ourselves in position to do this work without major hurdles and with some of the friendliest and hardest working people I've met.

Now we go!

— Bob Scott

REmarks: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE

You know that there is a religious education program at UFWC, and you know that on most Sundays the children are downstairs at classes. You also know that the Fellowship has a Director of Religious Education (DRE). But do you know what the role of the DRE is?

The DRE is a staff member hired by the Fellowship. The number of hours for which a DRE is hired generally reflects the population of the church and its children. For our size church, we have a fairly large number of children – over 70 in the Program. I am presently hired at three-quarters time (30 hours/week).

What does the DRE do? A DRE wears many hats. At the highest level, the DRE is responsible for helping to encourage and develop the spiritual life of the children of the Fellowship and to hold, and hold up, the vision of the RE Program. Using the analogy of public school, a DRE is also Superintendent of Schools, Principal, Administrator, Teacher, Curriculum Consultant, Nurse, School Psychologist, Lunchroom Aide, Treasurer, Assemblies and Events Planner, Public Relations Director, a Coach, Librarian, and sometimes Custodian.

What are the best times to talk with me? I am largely available on Sunday mornings. I do request that you follow up a “corridor conversation” with an email. If you have a question or concern outside of Sunday, the best times to contact me are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. I do answer my phone in the evening. Mondays I try to lit-

erally unplug. If you have an urgent concern that can't wait until Tuesday, please email rather than calling, and I will try and get back to you. One Sunday a month I am not on duty.

Who else is involved? The Religious Education Program is supported by the Religious Education Committee, which meets monthly throughout the year to discuss every aspect of the program, from curricula to teacher recruitment, staffing the Nursery, building safety, and planning special events.

"Your very presence here at the Fellowship and how you interact with our children also support the Program."

Two of the ongoing threads are the spiritual life of our children and how to best weave them into the overall fabric of the Fellowship.

Our Committee Members this year are: Cathy Vogt (Chair), Sue Quake (Vice Chair), Jim Brenner, Holly Heidelbaugh, Sharon Mayer-Conroy, Kate Shaw, Sue Sluk and Marie Steel. If you have questions about the program, please feel free to contact any of them in addition to me.

Our Program now has the additional support of Reverend Mero, who will be looking for ways to develop a ministerial relationship with the children. This is one of the things she and the RE Committee will be working on this year.

The RE Program is supported by Volunteer Teachers – 29 of them this year, including one of the members of our Youth Group and one of our Young Adults. Don't know who's a teacher? Look for people with a red apple sticker on their nametag. Parents support the Program by bringing their children to church and involving them in the life of the Fellowship. Parents who

are not teaching also support the Program as Floating Volunteers, helping out where needed in classrooms or the Nursery, and serving the morning snack.

Finally, the RE Program is supported by all of you. This happens through your annual pledge, which allows the Fellowship to hire a DRE, and allows the Committee to purchase curricula and supplies. But your very presence here at the Fellowship and how you interact with our children – either on Sunday mornings, or at a potluck, game night, or other event – also support the Program.

Thank you for your caring, for your support, and for helping our children on their spiritual journey as Unitarian Universalists.

As always, if you have questions, concerns or suggestions, please contact me at email: dre.

— Pam Baxter,
Director of Religious Education

“ENHANCED” COFFEE HOUR – NOVEMBER 4 AFTER BOTH SERVICES

Join the Religious Education Committee for Coffee Hour downstairs, and see where the children of our Fellowship hang out while you're upstairs at the service. Get your coffee or other beverage upstairs, then bring it downstairs and enjoy delicious muffins, coffee cake, fruit and other goodies while you browse the classrooms and circle area. Learn more about the Religious Education Program, and what the children and our wonderful volunteer teachers are doing on Sunday mornings. See you in RE.

*The Song of
Deborah*
(continued from p. 2)

- o) when you simply want someone to talk with.

All of this was originally written in the days before e-mail. Electronic communications have been both a blessing and curse to the work we do together. You will find that I will return e-mails relatively quickly when the subject merits a quick answer. For matters that require conversation, please, let us converse. Communication will be key in how well we move forward together.

One of the goals set at our retreat was the assimilation of your new minister into the community. My hope is that this year will be one of promoting healthy communications and healthy processes. At the same time, we want to celebrate life, each other, and the liberal faith tradition that challenges us to search for our deepest understandings of truth and faith in a multitude of ways. We are first and foremost a religious community. It will be fun to explore what that means to us all in the coming year and beyond. Creativity, flexibility and connection will be the underlying mantra as we delve deeply into who we are, why we are together, and what we might do to make this a better world.

— Peace and Faith,
Deborah



NEIGHBORHOOD GATHERINGS PLANNED

Coming to a neighborhood near you...

We are planning a series of small gatherings at members' homes during the month of October as a way for our congregation to get to know Deborah better, and for her to hear from us about who we are as individuals.

We will introduce the series on Sunday September 23, when sign-up sheets will be available for members to select a gathering. Once the dates are finalized, they will be published on the website and by email.

We are still seeking members who might be willing to host a gathering. Please contact Bruce Koepcke.

This will be a fun way for us to get to know Deborah and enjoy good fellowship at the same time.

More to come...

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee has welcomed two new committee members, Susan Gast and Robin Garrett. They have jumped right in, taken on new tasks, and are doing a great job. Thanks! Fred Frayer is taking on the Chili Cookoff again this year and is looking for lots of help. We are looking forward to meeting with Rev. Mero to guide us through a hopeful further growth process. Any membership-related comments are welcome from the congregation.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Come to the first informational meeting and workshop to explore the history of the Fellowship movement and the meaning and use of the words Unitarians use to describe our congregations. This meeting will be held September 23 at 12:15 p.m. in the sanctuary. An abbreviated session will be held between services from 10:15 and 10:45 for those unable to attend the later meeting. If you are unable to attend in September, another two sessions will be held October 14 at the same times.

This meeting is simply a forum to learn about names and their history and meaning. We will not be discussing whether the UFWC will change its name or potential new names for the congregation. These discussions will take place at a later date.

A pizza lunch will be provided. All ages are welcome, although babysitting is recommended and will be provided for the youngest children (ages 7 and under).

A sign-up sheet is in the lobby. Please indicate whether you will be sharing lunch, and whether you will need babysitting. You may also email the committee at email: name with your reply.

GOODBYE TO DIANE VELY

Thanks to the generosity of all who contributed to a gift, we were able to give Diane Vely a nice send-off when she left her position as our administrative assistant at the end of August.

Pamela Baxter, Cyndy Bullaughey and I treated Diane to a nice luncheon at Spence's Restaurant in West Chester, at which time we presented her with a \$250 check and a beautiful glass perfume decanter from Simple Pleasures Gallery. If you've ever been in Simple Pleasures, you know this was akin to a work of art. Wherever Diane chooses to display it in her home, we hope it will serve as a reminder of the years she spent with us. I received a thank-you note from her for both the check and the gift.

Diane has moved on to a part-time position as an office receptionist with an ophthalmologist at Paoli Hospital. We wish her the best of luck in her new position as we welcome Barbara Robinson to our Fellowship as the new office administrator.

Finally, our request for gift contributions was made over a brief time span in August. We may not have reached everyone. If you missed the opportunity to contribute, rest assured that this gift was given on behalf of the entire Fellowship. There will undoubtedly be occasions in the future when special gifts are called for, and you can do your part then.

— Flo Miller

CARING CORNER

This month we are reviving the Caring Corner after a year's hiatus. Please accept our apologies to all of those who lost loved ones or experienced life events that were not reported during the time period.

Congratulations to Dr. Dorothy Wavrek who is now beginning practice as a pediatrician after setting out ten years ago to become a doctor. It's been a long road – good for you, Dorothy!

Congratulations to Ed and Diane Cohle. Their daughter, Alicia, a UFWC RE and youth group grad, was married in August.

Condolences to the Bruce and Deanna Koepcke, Pat McKamey, and family on the recent loss of Deanna's mother.

We are sad to report that Alice Bullen, Wayne Bullaughey's mother and a long time UU and member of the Fellowship, died on September 12. Our thoughts are with Wayne and Cyndy and their family. A memorial service will be announced in the future.

Committee Update. The Caring Committee is looking for volunteers who are willing to help a member or friend of the congregation with rides, meals, visits, help with yard work, etc when called on. We will have a table at Coffee Hour to sign up volunteers on October 14 and on November 11. There will also be a box on the table in the lobby with forms to either offer or request help. You can also speak to a member of the Committee (Sharon Mayer-Conroy, Heidi Buss, Diane Cohle, Pat and John Orban), or email caring@ufwc.org. We are also compiling a file of community support resources to make available to the congregation.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees held its monthly meeting on September 11. They were joined by Marie Steel, Mark Steel, and Ed Cohle, who shared information they brought back from the UU Leadership Institute that they recently attended. Also, the Board agreed to a request by the Social Justice Committee to allow Planned Parenthood to use space in the Fellowship building for twice monthly group meetings. In addition, the Board spent some time discussing ways of defining the Fellowship's mission, in contrast to its vision, and President Bob Scott asked Board members to begin thinking of ways of expressing the ideas in the vision statement in terms of end results.

Also discussed were personnel and Fellowship calendar policies, the employment of a new administrative assistant, and progress toward hiring a custodian. The meeting ended with Rev. Deborah Mero sharing her first report to the Board, including her view of the Covenant being established between her and the leadership of the Fellowship.

All Board reports may be accessed at the Fellowship website. Also, Board members look forward to congregational input, including questions and comments. The Board consists of Bob Scott, President; Craig Talbot, Vice President; Erach Patel, Finance Chair; Deanna Koepcke, Secretary; and Trustees Jack Butler, Diane Cohle, Fatima Patel, and Sandra Schaal. Rev. Deborah Mero and Director of Religious Education, Pam Baxter, also meet with the Board.

— Deanna Koepcke, Board Secretary

STONES IN THE SAME WALL – SOCIAL JUSTICE

When Pam Baxter originally suggested that all of the projects we do in social justice are like “stones in the same wall”, it brought an image to my mind that really captured the spirit of our committee. It’s not that one stone is more important than the other or that a big stone is better than a small stone. All are needed to build the wall that represents a just, compassionate and loving world. Building the wall takes time, a long time, maybe a lifetime.

We continue to receive great information about many worthy efforts in the community that our members and friends want us to get involved in. Unfortunately, other stones in the wall are currently garnering our time and money. This is the reality we all have to deal with and live by. So keep those cards and letters coming, folks, even if it only means we may put your stone on the pile of stones for our future efforts. As one stone is firmly set in the wall, others will be needed. We are trying to take the long term view of our efforts.

PHILLY-AIDS WALK

Every year, our Youth Group participates in the Philly AIDS Walk. A testament to the fact that social justice doesn’t just happen as a result of the social justice committee, it happens throughout UFWC. In fact, the congregation has voiced aspirations to have social justice at the core of our identity.

I would love to see lots of adults join this pleasant eight mile walk (or at the very least co-sponsor a walker). Let’s show the youth that we don’t just “talk the talk” but will literally “walk the

walk”. Contact Rob Sartain or e-mail youth-group. More details on page 8.

BEYOND WAR – BEYOND EXPECTATIONS

When we announced our intention to run a Beyond War discussion series, we never imagined that we would have to make a decision such as whether we can fit everyone in two groups or do we need to start a third. The response has been tremendous and includes a number of people outside UFWC.

The discussion series starts September 17 and runs for 8 weekly sessions. Thanks to Kathy McGinnis for tireless hours spent coordinating the effort. In addition to Kathy, Ed Cohle Sandy Schaal and Bob Scott will act as group facilitators.

SPECIAL MOVIE PRESENTATION

The HBO film *Ghosts of Abu Ghraib* will be shown on Sunday October 28 from 6-8pm. Pizza will be provided for dinner so you can take the night off cooking. This movie is being shown as part of a nation-wide project coordinated by the National Religious Campaign Against Torture.

The filmmaker asks critical questions such as: How did torture become an accepted practice at Abu Ghraib? Did the U.S. government policies make it possible? How much damage did the incident do to our credibility as a defender of freedom and human rights around the world? The images and interviews are extremely intense and are recommended for mature audiences only.

We will have a chance to discuss our feelings and thoughts after the movie as well as further actions that can be considered.

SHARE-THE-PLATE NOMINATIONS

The Social Justice Committee welcomes share-the-plate nominations. The third Sunday of the month has been host to the share-the-plate program conducted by the social justice committee. Your generous contributions have helped bring needed funds to a number of small community organizations, some in a constant struggle to stay afloat.

We know there are many small organizations out there that might benefit from our share-the-plate. Preference is given to small, local organizations that do not have large amounts of funds from government or other sources to sustain them.

Please complete a nomination form and submit it to the Social Justice Committee. The new form will be available shortly. Every nomination will be reviewed but not necessarily chosen by the committee. Contact us at email: sharing-the-plate for more information.

POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT UU STYLE

Imagine the opportunity to explore ways for UU’s to influence our state legislature on those issues that concern us (e.g., global warming, gay rights, living wages, educational equality, etc.). For a chance to make a difference in a big way, please consider attending the 1st annual conference of UUPlan at the Har-

(Continued next page.)

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SERVICE COMMITTEE (UUSC) UPDATE:

Please answer the following question by filling in the blank:

Compared to any other congregation in the northern JPD district, the Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester _____.

- (a) had almost twice the percentage of members in UUSC
- (b) sold almost twice as many UUSC holiday cards
- (c) raised almost twice as much money during the Guest at Your Table drive
- (d) pledged almost twice the total funds for UUSC
- (e) all of the above

If you guessed "all of the above," you're right! And that's considering that we are one of the *smaller* churches! That's unbelievably "good news." But the "bad news" is that not 100% of our members are members of UUSC; in fact, we ended up with only 74% membership — not enough to get the new banner (which requires 75%). But we won't give up. We'll work harder. We'll do it together. So if you're a member, please renew your membership. And if you're not, please consider it. Talk with one of our Local Reps: Robin Garrett, Deanna Koepcke, or Linda Sander or renew/join online at www.uusc.org.

UUPLAN is coming! But what is UUPLAN? It stands for UU PA legislative advocacy network. It's UUs joining together to effect better legislation in Harrisburg. See the "Stones in the Wall - Social Justice" article for details.

Coming soon: This year's beautiful Holiday Greeting Cards from UUSC. They will be sold after each service in the latter part of October, all of November, and the first part of December. Proceeds go to UUSC.

STONES IN THE WALL, CONT'D

risburg church on Saturday, September 29 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. All are welcome to help this vital agency that works for better legislation get off to a solid start.

Included will be speakers from Maryland (where a similar organization is already strong), Harrisburg (to help us better grasp the functioning of the legislature), as well as UUPlan core members. For more information, contact Tom Townsend. You may also link directly to this effort by calling 215-283-7157 or e-mailing info@uuplan.org.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD

The Social Justice committee recently voted to co-sponsor an LGBTQA (Questioning, Allies in case you were wondering) group for 14-18 year olds in the West Chester area. After conducting a number of focus groups, Planned Parenthood of Chester County determined that there is need for this kind of group. They will be facilitating the meetings of this group. It's also an opportunity to show teenagers that religious organizations can be supportive, loving and understanding of them regardless of sexual orientation. The group hopes to start in November. More details will be made available in the near future.

PHILLY AIDS WALK

The Fellowship Youth Group is again fielding a team this year for the Philly AIDS Walk on Sunday, October 21. Money raised from the Walk will provide HIV- and AIDS-related services locally in the Delaware Valley. The Walk is a pleasant 12K (eight mile) walk from the Philadelphia Art Museum up Kelly Drive, across Falls Bridge and back down Martin Luther King Drive, returning to the Art Museum.

To join us, please pick up a walk sponsorship form in the Fellowship or register online at <http://aidsfundphilly.org>. Raise as much money as you can from friends, family or co-workers — there are prizes for raising money! Be sure to register for team #1843, the Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester.

We'll meet at the Malvern SEPTA station in time to catch the 7:30am train on Sunday, October 21st to ride into Philadelphia together and walk together. Be sure to wear comfortable walking shoes and socks and bring some cash for SEPTA fare and for lunch afterwards.

If you can't walk with us, please consider sponsoring a walker today!

For more information, please email youth-group.

**Don't forget
to buy
grocery
certificates
after the
Sunday
service.**



WEST CHESTER CHILI COOK-OFF VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

On Sunday, October 7, from noon to 4 p.m., The UFWC will compete with over 100 area organizations for the title of best chili in West Chester. The event takes place on Gay Street. We are hard at work putting the final touches on our booth to raise awareness of our church in the community.

There will be posters and literature touting the activities of our faith community, and special displays on a project that our energetic and vibrant youth group supports. The day promises to be fun.

How can you help? Glad you asked. First, you can help name our vegetarian chili by filling out a Name That Chili! form located in the lobby at the Fellowship. Be creative, have fun and you can be the proud winner of a UFWC cookbook if your name is chosen by the Chili Committee. Winner will be announced on September 23 after each service. If you prefer, you can email your suggestion to Fred Frayer at email: chili-cookoff.

If you have a knack for decorating, a love of chopping vegetables, or the desire to move supplies from the Fellowship to the cookoff site, we need you! Although the event actually runs from noon to 4, we will need people from 8 to 5. Between 8 and noon, we will need people to help set up the booth and assist with the cooking. Between noon and 4 we will need chili servers and booth greeters. Between 4 and 5 we will need help breaking down the booth and returning supplies to the Fellowship.

Also, we need two free-standing gas stoves with two burners (not a gas grill, but burn-

ers that can provide direct heat for the chili. If you have one or know of someone who does, please contact Fred Frayer at the above-mentioned email.

Best of all, when you are not volunteering at our booth, a \$10 wristband allows you to sample more chili than you can imagine, and for you football fans, it's an Eagles bye week. If you can help out, please e-mail or phone Fred Frayer. Please specify what time you can help, and how you would like to assist us. Hope you can join the fun!

WANT TO HOST A HOLIDAY PARTY?

It is already time to get the holiday parties on the UFWC calendar. Every year, a few of our members and friends open their homes for some holiday cheer. The hosts provide the beverages, their homes, and one dish; the guests provide finger foods; and the Fun & Fellowship Committee coordinates it all (maps, RSVPs, announcements). If you are interested in hosting a party this year, contact Nancy Artus by emailing holiday-potlucks. First come, first served.

HELP WITH SUNDAY REFRESHMENTS

Please consider helping out with the refreshments at Sunday services. The tasks and time commitment is not hard, especially if shared with a friend. Instructions are printed and usually someone who's done it before is there to lend a hand. It's a good way to meet people and get involved. See Mira Tryon, or email coffee.

STOCK UP ON THE BICARBS...THE BISTRO IS COMING

That's right. The Fellowship will once again be hosting the Bicarb Bistro, that annual event at which we get to taste, and judge, the culinary talents of our membership in one or more specific food areas. This gastronomical challenge to the cooks who prepare it and the stomachs that digest it started out as a chili cook-off many years ago in our old home on Franklin Street. Through the years, it's taken the form of a soup-and-bread kitchen, a pasta extravaganza, a dessert lover's paradise, even a massive hors d'oeuvres spread.

We're currently working on exactly what form the Bicarb Bistro will take this year, but we know the date: Saturday, November 10. So before you walk away from this issue of the *Fellowtarian*, mark the date on the calendar. And please stay tuned for specific details. Remember, to make this event a success, we need two ingredients in addition to the food: Lots and lots of cooks to prepare the dishes and an equal number of people to do the sampling and judging.

As usual, prizes will be awarded to the dishes adjudged to be best. Will yours be among the prize-winning entries? Stay turned, and see if you have a recipe that fits the bill!

— Flo & Mike Miller, Co-chairs

LIVE AUCTION, ONLINE AUCTION, RAFFLE, LOTTERY

It's all coming to UFWC! Come to the auction October 27 beginning at 6 p.m. and expect fun, catered food, excitement and suspense. That's when we'll end the online auction and hold our raffle, envelope lottery, and live auction. There is no charge for admission.

Joseph Felice, a licensed auctioneer of 22 years, will be back for a second year. Joe particularly enjoys doing benefit auctions. Many of us liked him last year because he does not pressure you like many auctioneers do.

Our silent auction will be online, in eBay-style, beginning October 7. Instructions on how to register and bid will be sent by email shortly before the online auction begins*. Can't come the night of the auction?

That is no reason to be left out. Wherever you are, get online. You can bid from anywhere beginning on October 7 and up until the bidding closes on the evening of the 27th.

Our popular raffle and envelope lottery will both be back this year. This is another way you can participate even if you won't be with us Saturday night. Tickets and envelopes will be on sale Sunday, October 21 as well as the night of the auction. Envelopes will go for \$5 a piece. Each envelope is a winner, containing either a coupon or gift certificate for a local business such as a restaurant or museum.

There will be a Halloween costume party and dinner downstairs for the kids while the auction is in progress. See the accompanying article this page for information.

**If you do not receive UFWC emails but wish to register for the online auction, send a message to Dan Meyer at email: auction-donations. If you registered last year, no need to re-register. You'll receive an email with your userID and password. Online bidding will end the night of the auction, shortly before the live auction begins. Laptops will be set up in the fellowship building on the two Sundays preceding the auction and at the auction for everyone's use. If you do not have online access at home, you can bid on Sundays and at the auction, or you can call Dan or Scott Klaum with your bidding instructions.*



HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARTY FOR KIDS AUCTION NIGHT OCTOBER 27- 6 P.M.

While the adults are having fun upstairs at the service auction, the kids will be having a blast downstairs at a non-scary Halloween costume party. There will be food, age-appropriate activities, and a chance to show off their costumes when they parade through the auction! All of this is free to children whose parents are attending the auction. Signing up in advance is required so that we can plan the sitters, activities and food. Sign up by sending the names and ages of your children to Nancy Artus at email: auction as soon as possible or by October 20.

AUCTION DEADLINE

Please submit a description of your auction donation(s) by completing the form in the September *Fellowtarian* (There are copies in the lobby.) and depositing it in the box in the lobby, or you can email your description to Dan Meyer at email: auction-donations. We need them by Sunday September 30 to be included in the auction book. Late submissions will be included in an addendum. Thank you for supporting the fellowship.

YOGA

Yoga classes are held weekly on Thursdays from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m. downstairs. Everyone, whatever level, is welcome at any time. Classes are different each week, so it's easy to fit in. Flexibility, stretching, breathing and relaxing are the focus of each class. Now is the time to make that commitment you've been talking about! Contact Mira at email: yoga for more information.



SIMPLICITY CIRCLE

Our next meeting is October 7 at 12:30 p.m. This discussion will focus on Genuine Living and will be started off by Ibo Thorbas, a new member of the group. We will examine what we understand the purpose of our lives to be. What does it mean to live genuinely, when we reside in circumstances where our basic needs are already met?

This is a good group to attend by newcomers. Contact Heidi Buss at email: simplicity.

FALL HIKE

Summer is over and the cool, refreshing days of autumn are upon us. What better time of year to take a walk in the woods. Join us on Saturday, November 3, for a hike at lovely Ridley Creek State Park. We will meet in the outer reaches of the Westtown Village Shopping Center parking lot at the northeast corner of Routes 202 and 926 at 1:15 p.m. and will carpool from there. Or you can meet us 15-20 minutes later in the parking lot near the main park office on Sandy Flash Drive South. We will hike for around 2½ hours. There is quite a bit of up and down on the park trails, so it may not be suitable for children under seven years old. The rain date will be the next day, Sunday, November 4, same time, same place. Please RSVP or refer questions to Paul Sapko.

EXPLORING DIVERSITY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

OCTOBER 21 7:30 – 9 PM

Our book for October is *Seedfolks* by Paul Fleischman. *Seedfolks*, recommended for ages 10 and up, tells the story of thirteen very diverse strangers who, working separately, transform a trash filled vacant lot into a neighborhood garden. Over time, they find that they have grown into a caring community. Fleischman's thirteen vignettes allow each gardener to tell his/her own unique story. This slim book, under 100 pages, has been selected by several cities across the country for its Citywide Reads Program. Locally, *Seedfolks* was the selected book for discussion during last month's YWCA of Chester County's *Inclusive Community Week Program* (September 23-28). Shelly Case will lead our discussion.

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

All are Welcome. We started this group several years ago with the intent of using books and movies as a springboard to explore and better understand differences in ourselves and others. With that in mind we will be selecting our reading for the months ahead as well as movies for the busy months of December and January. A list of past selections is available on the UFWC website.

GAME NIGHT WITH RE

Our next Game Night is Friday October 5 at 6:30 p.m. We extend a special invitation to all the children and their families in our congregation, as this will be one of your family Religious Education activities for the fall. After our potluck, we will start with a group game like All My Friends and Neighbors, and later we can play Bingo if you wish. As always, there will be plenty of other games to play.

Please bring a dish to share as well as a beverage. Pizza and fried chicken are popular items as well as fresh fruit. Paper products are provided. You are encouraged to bring games as well, though we can't promise to play every game.

This is an informal event so don't get stressed about it. There is no need to impress us with your culinary skill, or to call ahead, or to be on time; just come! Contact Mary Yeager if you have any questions at email: game-night.

FOLK SINGING

Folk singing is Saturday, October 20, at 8 p.m. at the home of Linda and Steve Sander. Bring a munchie, if you wish. Maps are available in the foyer. Newcomers are always welcome. Contact Steve at email: folk-singing.

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

Small Group Ministry sign-up is commencing. This is an opportunity to get to know other Fellowship members and friends through a more personal discussion format that addresses a different topic each meeting. We hope to have groups of 8-10 people that meet twice a month. Groups will be formed for the evenings/days that are most commonly requested.

If you are interested in becoming part of a Small Group, please send your name and the specific evenings or days that are convenient for you to: email: SGM, or fill out a form on the table in the lobby. Be aware that Rev. Mero will be leading Adult RE on Wednesday evenings and Tuesday or Thursday afternoons, so if you are interested in that, do not sign up for Small Group Ministry at those times.

If you are seeking more information, there will be booklets on the table in the lobby, and there is a lot of information on the UUA website (www.uua.org). Feel free to call with other questions.

FELLOWSHIP CALENDAR

(All email addresses @ufwc.org unless otherwise noted.)

- Sep 29 Sat** **1st Annual UUPLAN Conference.** 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. Harrisburg UU Church. See pp. 7-8.
- Sep 30 Sun** **Deadline for Auction Submissions** to appear in the book. See p. 10.
- Oct 3 Wed** **RE Committee.** 7:00 p.m. OWL room. Contact Pam Baxter, email: dre
- Oct 5 Fri** **Game Night with RE.** 6:30 p.m. Sanctuary. See p. 11.
- Oct 7 Sun** **West Chester Chili Cook-off.** 12 - 4 p.m. UFWC participation 8 a.m. - 5p.m. See p. 9.
Silent Auction Online Bidding Begins. See p. 10.
Simplicity Circle. 12:30 p.m. Fireplace Room. See p. 10.
- Oct 9 Tue** **Board Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. Office. All are welcome.
- Oct 11 Thr** **Social Justice Committee.** 7p.m. Office. Contact Ed Cohle and Linda Sander, e-mail: social-justice
- Oct 12 Fri** **Lunch Group.** 11:30 a.m. at Panera in West Goshen. Contact Linda Sander, email: lunch-group
- Oct 14 Sun** **Naming Meetings.** 10:15-10:45 and 12:15-1:45 p.m. Fellowship. See p. 5.
Safe Harbor Dinner. Provided by the Fellowship the second Sunday of the month. Contact Sharon Mayer-Conroy, email: safe-harbor
- Oct 19 Fri** **Coffee House.** Musicians and poets. 7-9 p.m. Sanctuary. Contact Judy Perri, e-mail: coffeeshouse
- Oct 20 Sat** **Youth Group Advisor Training.** 9 am - 4 pm, Sanctuary. Contact Kate Cuffari, email: youth-group
Folk Singing. 8 p.m. at the home of Steve and Linda Sander. See p. 11.
- Oct 21 Sun** **Philly AIDS Walk.** Led by the Youth Group. See p. 8.
Auction Raffle and Envelope Lottery Tickets. Available today and the evening of the Auction. See p. 10.
Exploring Diversity Book Discussion Group. 7:30-9 p.m. Fireplace Rm. See p. 11.
- Oct 24 Wed** **Council Meeting.** Large RE room. Contact Craig Talbot, email: vice-president
- Oct 25 Thu** **Religious Services Committee.** 7:30 p.m. Office. Contact Curt Hoganson, email: religious-services
- Oct 27 Sat** **Lunch for the Needy.** Provided by our Fellowship at the Salvation Army. Contact Sharon Mayer-Conroy, email: salvation-army
Annual Auction. Auction with catered food. 6 p.m. Sanctuary. See p. 10.
Halloween Costume Party for Kids. 6 p.m. Downstairs. See p. 10.
- Oct 28 Sun** **HBO film Ghosts of Abu Ghrab,** Dinner, movie, and discussion. 6-8 p.m. Sanctuary. See p. 7.

Groups meeting multiple times in a month:

- Small Group Ministry** Groups will meet the evenings/days most commonly requested. See p. 11.
- Youth Group** Most Sunday mornings. 10:45 a.m. OWL/Youth Group rm. Contact Kate Cuffari, email: youth-group
- Yoga Classes** Thursdays 6:15-7:15 p.m., downstairs. See p. 10.
- Beyond War Series** Mondays 7-9 p.m. See p. 7 and the September *Fellowtarian*. Contact Kathy McGinnis, email: beyond-war