

FOCUS

November 2007

Unitarian Universalist Church of Delaware County

UUCDC is a liberal religious community where young and old, partnered and single, gay and straight, skeptic and believer, people diverse in background and race, come together to build a better world for ourselves, our children and the larger community. We invite those who share these values to join us for Sunday services and for events listed in this newsletter.

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E-mail:

churchoffice@uucdc.org

**Sunday Services,
Nursery Care &
Church School**
(PreSchool - 8th)
10:30 a.m. Sept.-June

**Coming of Age &
High School Youth**
6 p.m. Sundays



FROM THE MINISTER

Imagine taking a cruise with all your closest friends, your dearest family members, and lots of other people who are interested in the same things you are. Add some other folks who are smart, energetic, great conversationalists and generally enjoyable to be with.

Imagine that the cost of the cruise is reasonable, in part because everyone who goes on the trip takes a small part in keeping the boat afloat. Perhaps you cook the dinner one night while someone else does some housekeeping, and others all pitch in to make sure that the chores get done and everyone has a good time.

Now, imagine boarding the ship. You're full of anticipation, hope and enthusiasm, and looking forward to sharing some great experiences, getting to know others better, and exploring unknown places together. Off you sail, out of the harbor, into the open seas.

The first few days seem idyllic. You're getting to know some new people and the food is great and you're even better at the limbo than you remembered! The workload is manageable, and you feel that it's a small price to pay for what you're getting out of the trip.

But soon you notice something strange: The ship doesn't seem to be going anywhere. It's moving forward, but its course is erratic. A northerly wind blows it one way, then a storm buffets it in another direction. After a few days of zig-zagging across the seas, you decide to see what's going on.

(Continued on page 4)

Speakers for November Sunday Services

Nov. 4 -- Rev. Peter Friedrichs

Nov. 11 -- Rev. Lyn Cox, Acting Director of Lifespan Faith Development for the Joseph Priestley District

Nov. 18 -- Rev. Peter Friedrichs and Jean Campbell, Director of Religious Education. *Intergenerational Thanksgiving Service*

Nov. 25 -- Rev. Peter Friedrichs

Notes From the Board

Vicki Coupland Hired as Membership Talent Coordinator

At its October meeting, the Board of Trustees approved the hiring of Vicki Coupland as part time Member Talent Coordinator. In one of her responsibilities, Vicki will help the Membership Council integrate new members into the life of the church. She also will design, develop and implement ways for all members to identify their needs, gifts and interests in relation to the congregation. (See article on page 10.)

In other business, the Board continued to work on Policy Governance, specifically considering models of administrative structure.

Board members also are working on Long range Strategic Planning, using SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis to help identify the key factors that are important to achieving the church's mission, goals and objectives. Vice President Mark Bernstein led the discussion and prioritization of strengths. The goal of the planning process is a strategic plan for the church.

Staff members reported that they had con-

cluded a successful retreat where they reviewed past goals and set new ones for the church year.

The Board thanks the following people:

- Jean Lenke, for producing, designing and copying the Lifespan Religious Education Prospectus
- Leigh Mitchell, Janet Boosz and others, for organizing the pictorial directory
- Skip Seelaus, for helping with the church computers and working so well as Worship Associate with the Rev. Kathleen Bortner, the Oct. 7 guest minister
- Mary Beth Hoffman and Tiffany Hanulec, for their work on the Interfaith Hospitality Network
- Chris and Honnie Townend, for volunteering to teach in the fourth-grade R.E. class

Julie Chuplis

Three Unforgettable Gifts

A gift to the church: serving as a representative of our church community.

A gift to a young person: acting as friend and guide as a ninth grader crosses the threshold from childhood to youth, and embarks on a journey toward adulthood.

A gift to yourself: an opportunity to get to know our church young people and to experience personal challenge and spiritual growth.

You can give all those gifts by becoming a mentor in the church's Coming of Age Program

We are looking for adults age 26 and above for the 2007-08 program. We seek four women and six or seven men -- enough prospective mentors to give the young people a choice of whom they are matched with.

Please take the first step of offering your help if you feel you would accept a mentorship position if it is offered later. A

Matchmaking & Profile-Swapping Dinner will be held in November. If you're accepted, you'd meet with your young person about once a month for the rest of the church year.

Caring Corner

This month we celebrate Bob Wilner's continued progress. He was at church recently and is recovering well. Cards are always appropriate for Bob.

Cards for Bolling Clarke should be addressed to her at the Crosslands retirement community. This remarkable lady is holding her own, having come through recent triple-bypass surgery and heart-valve correction at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. Her children will deliver cards sent to her at 222 Crosslands Drive, Kennett Square, PA 19348.

Vicki Hagel has had trouble with an infection resulting in another hospital stay. Cards are also welcomed for Vicki.

Dick Cohen is recovering from hip-replacement surgery. Once again – send him a card to cheer him if you can.

In case you didn't know, we sponsor a Cancer Support Group. It is free and meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the church. Brown-bagging is advised.

Judy Lemezis, the group's professional facilitator, says it is designed to help members rediscover and build on their coping strengths.

Susan Eidson

Musings from the Music Director

Since becoming music director, I have spent considerable time thinking about the role of music in the life of the church.

Music is a big reason why I spend Sunday mornings at UUCDC. But it is not a necessary part of meaningful worship for many people. In fact, some religions consider music in worship to be at best a distraction and at worst an evil influence.

Musical performance can be a chance to gratify the ego by showing off one's technical abilities. But it also can greatly affect listeners, independent of the performer's intentions.

It can have extraordinary emotional power. That power can flow from inspired lyrics paired with music. And instrumental performances can communicate emotions directly.

Of course, one person's music can be another's noise.

At UUCDC, we strive for a "ministry of music."

To me that means offering opportunities for growth and healing through music. We aim for a quality and type of music that speaks to the hearts and minds of listeners. Does that mean every listener will enjoy everything we present? Absolutely not! But if you listen with an open mind and heart, you may be surprised by how far you can push your horizons.

In addition to producing entertainment or emotional satisfaction for the listener, making music can be a wonderful chance to interact with others. Performing in an ensemble can be deeply satisfying. People who have little else in common can be part of amazing interactions when working collaboratively that way. Sometimes, the satisfaction or healing effects don't involve the audience aspect at all. And the music doesn't have to be "good" on some objective scale to have a good effect on the musicians.

At UUCDC, we would like to do it all – to present creations that awe and inspire the listener; to provide opportunities for middle-of-the-road talents to experience the joys of singing, playing and dancing; to expand our horizons by listening to or performing pieces that we think we won't like; to give solace to people in grief; and to open the hearts and minds of our children to the possibilities of music.

So, don't be shy -- jump in! Let us on the musical staff know what you want to try, what you like or don't like about the music here, and what talents you and your family have to offer. All I ask is that you try your best to keep your ears, heart and mind open.

Beth Youse

Who's Who

Staff

Rev. Peter A. Friedrichs,
Minister

Jean Campbell,
Director of Religious
Education

Beth Youse,
Music Director

Rina Jurceka,
Administrator

Liz Kievit
Administrative Assistant

Board of Trustees

Jody Malloy,
President

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Lowell Young,
Treasurer

Julie Chuplis,
Secretary

Donna Harris

Katy Lynn

Mike Mitchell

Bruce Wyman

FOCUS INFO:

Editors:

Bette Austin
& Neil Goldstein

Production:

Rina Jurceka

The December deadline
is **November 19.**

Please send your text
via email to:

Focus@uucdc.org

or put it in the Focus
box, in the church office.

Focus Folding, 10 a.m.
November 30. Come
help!

**Note: The deadline
for January is Decem-
ber 10.**

From the Minister

(Continued from page 1)

You climb up to the bridge and ask to speak to the captain. Imagine your surprise when he tells you, somewhat matter-of-factly, "Oh, didn't you know? This ship doesn't have a rudder."

Suddenly this cruise doesn't feel like such a good idea.

The metaphor of a rudderless ship may seem a bit harsh when we look at UUCDC. There are so many positive things going on here -- from a Board that is deep into the work of revamping our governance structure, to a vibrant Lifespan Religious Education program, to the committed corps of volunteers who have made the Interfaith Hospitality Network a reality, to all the members who are dedicated to making sure that our ship stays afloat. We are all doing wonderful, engaging, fulfilling and necessary work to maintain the presence of a liberal religious voice in Delaware County.

But now is the time to begin to clarify some critical questions about our identity and our purpose.

Why do we exist as a church? What do we seek to accomplish as a congregation? What work are we called to do? How do we bring to life the principles of our faith? What commitments do we make to each other to sustain us? As an independent congregation, free of the dictates of a central church authority, we have the liberty of building our own rudder and setting our own course.

The Mission-Covenant Task Force has scheduled a series of "Discovery Cafés" during the month of November as the first stage of a process designed to give everyone in the congregation (newcomers and old-timers, members and friends alike) a voice in setting our future direction. Your participation is needed to make this process inclusive and thereby successful. Please see more details on the back page, look for updates in the weekly e-mail Digest and the Sunday Orders of Service, and plan to attend a session.

The horizon extends in every direction around us. The ocean is boundless. Each of us has a hand on the wheel, and together we will determine where we're heading. I, for one, am happy to be with you on this voyage and I can't wait to see where we go!

Peace,
Peter

Holiday Pageant Offers Roles for All

WANTED: Children, youth and adults to perform in and help produce the Holiday Pageant on Sunday morning, Dec. 23.

If you're interested, contact Jean Campbell, 610-566-5348.

BOARD PERSPECTIVES: NEW STAFF, NEW POSITIONS REFLECT UUCDC'S PROGRESS

From the President/Jody Malloy

I have an incredible desire to throw a party for this congregation. Why? What's the occasion? The occasion is that we have just filled our last vacant staff position. After searching for three and one-half years, and finally hiring, we are now fully staffed!

First we searched for and called our new minister. When we found ourselves searching for directors of Religious Education and Music at the same time we were searching for a minister, we chose to make those positions "acting," and hired an acting DRE and acting Music Director. We also made the decision to divide the Music Director's position into smaller responsibilities and hired two acting Assistant Music Directors. When our accompanist became our acting Music Director, we needed to hire a new accompanist. Because the accompanist resigned shortly after he started, we hired a second accompanist a few months later.

Then, at the end of last year—with Rev. Peter, our new minister, involved we were able to hire "permanent" directors of Religious Education and Music, and an Assistant Music Director. During that same period there was a turnover in the sexton's position.

In addition to changes in existing positions, we also added several staff positions to support the program of a church of our size and growing. During the summer of 2006, the Board voted to add paid Cradle Room Caregivers to our staff. Most recently, our fiscal 2007-2008 budget included adding an Administrative Assistant and Membership Talent Coordinator to our professional staff. (See article on page 10) If I am counting

correctly, we have been through the hiring process 17 times in the past three plus years. Wow!

I know that change is the only constant there is, so the likelihood is that sometime soon, for personal, organizational, or growth reasons, we'll have another search on our hands. For now, we are fully staffed, and I want to express my sincere gratitude to this congregation for all the commitment it gave to get us to this point.

A multitude of thanks to all those involved in the searching, hiring and training/orienting staff, including the Personnel Committee (all those who were members during this time period), the individual search committees for each position, our staff, and our Finance Committee. Not only did they write and negotiate 17 new contracts, they also advertised for positions, interviewed dozens of candidates, updated the employment paperwork and added to the payroll the new employees, and spent time training them to do their new jobs. That's a lot of work!

Thanks to those forward thinkers who brought to the Board's attention the need for the new staff positions, including the Membership Council, RE Council and DREs who presented the need for the paid Cradle Room Caregivers, and our current Senior Staff (Minister, DRE, Music Director and Administrator), who brought to the Board a very thorough proposal to hire an Administrative Assistant and Membership Talent Coordinator.

Thanks to the Board members, whose leadership helped the congregation understand the merits of

(Continued on page 14)

Staff Office Hours

The staff members are generally in the office at the times listed below (though they do work other hours). They are also available to meet by appointment.

Rev. Peter Friedrichs: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays

Jean Campbell, Director of Religious Education: 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Mondays, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays

Rina Jurceka, Administrator: 12:30-4 p.m. Mondays, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, 9—1 on Wednesdays

Beth Youse, Music Director: Available by appointment

RE-FLECTIONS

JEAN CAMPBELL,
DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

How You Can Help to Weave Our Future

I have just spent three inspiring, informative days in San Antonio, Texas, with 199 other UUs, most of whom are religious-education directors. The main topic of the Liberal Religious Educators Association Conference was "Tapestry of Faith," a new, comprehensive curriculum for children, youth and adults.

This curriculum will be available online during the next couple of years, providing materials and resources for us to use in myriad ways. The availability and flexibility of the curriculum will breathe new life into the Unitarian Universalist faith and all of its congregations. The curriculum and other resources could help us build the most compelling program we've ever had here -- but doing that requires input from you.

It became clear during the conference weekend that to make our Religious Education program the best it can be, we need strong adult faith-development programming.

We need to be well-versed and grounded in what our religion is, our history and our own beliefs. As our knowledge of UUism deepens, and our clarity

about individual belief develops, we can become stronger leaders in social action and better guides for our children along a path of faith and understanding.

I am always interested in what kind of programming you would like. I invite you to strike up a conversation with me, or leave me a voicemail or e-mail or an old-fashioned handwritten note, about what you would like to see offered in our Adult R.E. program. After all, the program is meant to help you grow in your journey as a UU.

On a parallel track, I want to discuss children's R.E. Your goals and aspirations for their programming will be the focus of Sunday morning breakfast discussions that I will host during the next four to five months. Parents, watch for your invitation to these important conversations.

I look forward to many rich conversations about R.E. programming as we continue to weave the fabric of our community.

Jean

LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sunday School

Featured Class: 7th/8th Graders

For the Sunday School section of the FOCUS, we will feature one class each month, to give you perspective on the R.E. program. This month, instructor Brian Campbell writes about the 7th/8th grade OWL class.

The class is doing the Our Whole Lives curriculum. The course covers intimacy, sexual identity, sensuality, sexual health and reproduction, and sexualization. We meet every Sunday from 10 a.m. to noon. This year, we meet at the Schlenkers' home. They have generously allowed us to use the quiet space, where the class can feel comfortable and can speak freely, privacy and confidentiality being key parts of the program.

The class comprises nine youth and four instructors -- Brian Campbell, Don Keckler, Emilie Reimer and Barb Wray. All the instructors have either taught the class before or been a student in it (any guesses who that might be?).

In the first few weeks, class members focused on getting to know one another and building the trust that is so important for the group to flourish and feel safe.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

As a teacher, I particularly enjoy the group dynamics, getting to know our youth and the other teachers better. I also enjoy knowing that we are conveying comprehensive, accurate information that will help the students make good decisions.

Middle School Youth

Sun., Nov. 11 -- Special Night, at a local fun spot, with games or activities. Watch for announcements and flyers.

Sat., Dec. 8 – Save this evening for great holiday fun.

Coming of Age (9th graders)

Sun., Nov. 11 -- Mentor mixer. Adults, please consider mentoring one of our Coming of Age youth. It can be one of the most rewarding activities at UUCDC. (See article on page 4.)

Sun., Nov. 25 – Movie Night: *The Pursuit of Happyness*, starring Will Smith (rated PG-13).

YUCKIs (High schoolers)

Nov. 9 to 11 -- OWL CON 2 youth conference, Annapolis, Md.

Sun., Nov. 18 -- Holiday Pie Sale fund-raiser (see article on page 13).

ADULT Religious Education -- R.E. Is Not Just for Kids.

The Adult Religious Education team will be organizing courses and events throughout the year for adults wishing to learn and share with others about our faith, congregation and being a person of liberal faith. If you have ideas for programming, please contact Loretta Orndorff, Adult Religious Education Team Leader.

Sunday Morning Forums

Forum discussions are most Sundays, 9 a. m. in the Lounge. Bring coffee and tea, if you wish, for an hour of discussion. The Forum is a place to share our ideas with others, not to find the right answer. We usually find a range of answers and that is what makes the Forum interesting.

Forum Topics for November

- November 4 Forgiveness, facilitated by Patti Fiske
- November 11 The Question of God, facilitated by Loretta Orndorff
- November 18 Glass Half Full, Glass Half Empty, facilitated by Clement Smith
- November 25 No Forum. Have a safe Thanksgiving holiday.
- December 2 Simply Put! Our Bumper Stickers, facilitated by Patti Fiske

Stay tuned for future Forums on "The Gospel According to the Simpsons," facilitated by Mark Bernstein and Charlie Pell.

A Chosen Faith, Facilitated by Rev. Peter Friedrichs

Wednesdays, Oct. 31, November 7 and 14, 7 p. m. This three-session workshop will explore the origins, meaning and values of Unitarian Universalist faith. The discussions will be guided by the book "A Chosen Faith." To register for the workshop and purchase the book (\$15), contact Jean Campbell 610-566-4853 or dre@uucdc.org.

"The Four Apostles-A Road to Boston" workshop, led by Rick Gross.

In this four-hour seminar 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. November 3, participants will explore the works of four men

(Continued on page 15)

SOCIAL JUSTICE

What You Can Do to Reduce Gun Violence

After Sunday services, look for the Gun Violence Task Force table. There, you can sign a letter to your state legislators, asking them to support the immediate passage of two bills. (Don't worry – you don't need to know the lawmakers' names!)

One bill requires the reporting of lost and stolen guns. That measure is a response to the subterfuge in which legal owners supply firearms to criminals, then claim that any crime-related weapons traced to them were stolen or lost.

The other bill limits any qualified person to the purchase of no more than one handgun a month. (That's right – in Pennsylvania, if you pass a background check that you're over 21 and not a convicted felon, you can buy as many as you want at any one time.) This measure is meant to thwart "straw purchases," in which people legally buy multiple weapons in behalf of criminals.

Passage of those bills would help make a difference, said the three panelists at the Oct. 14 forum co-sponsored by the Task Force and the Social Justice Committee.

The forum's title asked, "Can the Suburbs Make a Difference?" in stemming the gun-violence epidemic. At least 40 attendees gathered in the Sanctuary to hear

from Diane Edbril, executive director of CeaseFire PA, a statewide organization lobbying for what it calls sensible gun laws; Michael Chitwood, superintendent of the Upper Darby Police Department; and Wanda Moore, director of the Chester organization Peace in the Streets/Peace on Earth.

The forum got front-page coverage in the Oct. 17 issue of the News of Delaware County's Mid-County Edition.

The panelists talked about various aspects of the crisis on the streets of our region. (Just one example of the crisis: Less than 24 hours before the forum, two people were killed and five injured in four shootings in Chester -- six miles from church.)

After a greeting and reflection from Rev. Peter, Joe Miller of the Task Force introduced the panelists.

Diane decried what she called the lack of "accountability" in gun purchasing in Pennsylvania, and detailed the pending legislation. She said proposals that Philadelphia ban gun sales on its own were impractical, because the city has only 19 of the state's 3,000 licensed gun dealers. As to how citizens can help reduce gun violence, she said they should sup-

port gun-control organizations, sign petitions and write letters in support of the two bills, and ask their neighbors to do the same.

Michael said that he has been in law enforcement for 43 years and that he "hates guns." After relating some harrowing stories from his encounters on the streets, he displayed several confiscated weapons and described the crimes they'd been involved in. He noted the clout of the National Rifle Association, saying he was at the top of its "hit list," and urged citizens to use their political power to act against the proliferation of firearms.

Wanda focused on Chester and its young people, saying that too many of them feel unsafe in school, on the streets, and at home. She said much of the local violence was related to the lack of jobs, the drug trade, and poor teaching and administration in the Chester Upland School District. People who want to help should address the "structural issues" affecting employment and schools, she said.

Neil Goldstein

UUCCers Support Darfur Rally and Plan More Action

Pursuing the congregation's commitment to help end genocide in Darfur, seven church members lent their voices and spirits to the "Olympic Torch Relay/Dream for Darfur" rally Oct. 7 at the Independence Hall Visitors Center in Philadelphia.

The members heard several speakers detail the crisis, in which at least 200,000 civilians have been killed. Keynote speaker Joey Cheeks, the Olym-

pic speed-skating champion, told the crowd how ordinary citizens can urge China to pressure Sudan -- one of China's major oil suppliers and trading partners -- to end the killing. (To sign a petition asking Congress to call on China to help stop the violence, go to http://www.savedarfur.org/pages/china_and_sudan.)

To continue the church's efforts, the Social Justice Committee will soon recommend specific actions

that congregation members can take to help ease the suffering in Darfur. Stay tuned!

Neil Goldstein

PA UUs Set Up Legislative Advocacy Network

UUs in Pennsylvania have formed a statewide action network called UUPLAN, the Pennsylvania Legislative Action Network. The goal is to lobby Harrisburg legislators on issues important to many Unitarian Universalists, such as gun control, global warming, gay marriage, and immigrant rights.

UUPLAN held an organizational meeting September 29 in Harrisburg to elect a board and select the first issues for its focus.

Some of the tools UUPLAN will

make available to the 38 UU Pennsylvania congregations are: a directory of activism, providing information on issues UU congregations are working on; an action center for coordinating statewide efforts; a blog for members to share what is and is not working with their church's activism; a statewide conference in the fall of 2007; a UU lobby day, also this fall, for UUPLAN activists to lobby State representatives on issues on which they will be voting.

New Jersey is also setting up a

similar activist UU network. In the past two years, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) has helped six states develop statewide legislative advocacy networks. Similar networks have been operating for several years in New York, Maryland and California. These have full-or part-time lobbyists.

UUPLAN's website is www.uuplan.org and its email address: info@uuplan.org.

Think Green, Do Green

In a recent "New York Times" article, it was pointed out that "it is estimated that the United States goes through 100 billion plastic bags a year, which take an estimated 12 million barrels of oil to produce and last forever." These last-forever bags then clog landfills, kill aquatic creatures on the bottom of oceans and lakes, or blow in the wind.

Did you forget about that old, but sturdy canvas bag hanging in

the back of a closet? Why not use that when you go shopping in the supermarket and forsake the plastic bags?

It's hardly the total answer to global warming, but it does have to do with the environment, and every little bit helps. It's only our need for a world of total convenience that prevents us from taking action.

And, incidentally, the Acme at

Baltimore Pike and Beatty Road now has a container where you can dispose of those old plastic bags you've collected. It's near the doorway toward Providence Road. Now what we need to discover is what Acme does with them.

By the way, reusable bags are available at Acme and Trader Joe's.

Social Justice Proposes Share-the-Plate Program

The Social Justice Committee is considering a proposal for a Share-the-Plate program to the UUCDC Board. Share-the-Plate is a program for contributing a Sunday collection to a social justice organization or project. Monies collected for Share-the-Plate are not taken out of previously pledged funds.

The most common program, carried out in many UU Churches, is a once-a-month contribution to a selected organization or project. Generally, the Social Justice Com-

mittee picks the project after soliciting the congregation for non-political and non-divisive ideas. Information is provided to the congregation before Share-the-Plate Sunday. Congregations find this program a good "fit" because it brings our passion for social justice into the worship service and involves the congregation in the work for social justice. It also accommodates our diverse opinions about how to do that work. Many churches find

that this program results in an increase in contributions to the general fund and a new enthusiasm for giving, when they see its power extend into the community and beyond its operating budget.

What do you think? Please let members of the Social Justice Committee know your opinion about this idea.

Patti Fiske,
Social Justice Committee

Membership Talent Coordinator Joins UUCDC Staff

Vicki Coupland is the last of UUCDC's new staff and she is Membership Talent Coordinator, the official title after a couple changes.

In this role Vicki will help members become active and join activities in which they have an interest and a talent, and help them connect with committees where there is a need for new members.

At the moment, she is excited and busy developing a church survey, to be distributed later. The survey will find out what church members and friends are truly interested in, what they like to do, what they think their talents and skills

are. This data will be on a computer (of course) and, Vicki believes, will save a lot of tedious and often non-productive telephoning and will, instead facilitate matching of interests/skills with church needs.

A Morton resident, Vicki mixes a busy professional life with being a mother of ten-year-old Sarah, who attends R.E. classes. Vicki and Sarah will take part in the holiday production of "A Christmas Carol."

Vicki grew up in Scotch Plains, NJ, and received BS and MS degrees in economics from the Uni-

versity of Delaware. For many years she lived in Center City, while she was working for the Federal Reserve Bank as an economics researcher. She currently works for ARKEMA, a chemical firm.

One of her abiding interests has been mental health support. After various volunteer roles, she became chair of a community support program related to mental issues, involving volunteers, consumers, patients, family members, and community groups.

Hey, Kids – Want to Sing and Play?

All children and youth are invited to sing or to play their instruments in a worship service.

The Auction (Still) Cometh—Dec. 15

Yes, the Fall 2007 Church Auction is just around the corner (again). The new date is Saturday, Dec. 15.

The Auction Committee postponed the event because it would have been difficult to receive offerings and still have time to print the catalog before the original Oct. 20 date.

If you haven't yet submitted your offering, please fill out an auction form, available in the office, and put it in the auction box.

The deadline for offerings is Sunday, Dec. 2.

Bring your friends! Bring your relatives! Bring anyone and everyone!

This is a wonderful, fun evening and a great opportunity to spend time with members of the

UUCDC community. This is also an important fund-raiser. Our success depends on your support and participation. Come and enjoy our world-class, veteran auctioneers, Brian Campbell and Mark Bernstein. It is not possible NOT to have a great time as you vie for some gourmet dinner, four nights of responsible child care, a weekend at a lovely seashore house, a beautiful painting or photograph that would look terrific on a certain wall -- and, of course, as you support the best cause ever--UUCDC!

What Can You Contribute?

Dinners, game nights, vacation-home weeks and weekends, home-baked goodies (brownies, carrot cakes, apple pies), musical performances. Services such as tax preparation, simple wills, child care, gift-wrapping and pet-minding are high on many lists.

Everyone has something to offer.

Give some thought to what you have to offer and stop by the auction table after the Sunday services and fill out a contribution form. You can also call Skip Seelaus (evenings: 610-565-0331).

How Can You Help?

Running the auction requires many hands, and the Auction Committee welcomes your help. It needs help with poster creation, mailings, donation collection, catalog creation, computer data entry, hospitality, setup and cleanup. It's a long list. Help shorten it, make it disappear. Stop by and sign up at the auction table after Sunday service in the next few weeks.

Mark Your Calendar – Saturday, Dec. 15!

Notes From the Coordinating Council

At its Oct. 22 meeting, the Council met with Vicki Coupland, the church's new Membership Talent Coordinator (see article on page 10). The panel agreed on a process for communicating its needs to Vicki.

Council members also discussed the needs of the Hunger Task Force and how the Council can better support the important work of that group.

The issue of winter parking reared its ugly head once again. The Council will consider various options for accommodating the anticipated large number of vehicles on our already-stretched-to-the-limit lot.

Finally, to help monitor the effects of membership growth on UUCDC, the Council agreed to implement a standing agenda item in which, each month, it will report on any issues or concerns related to that situation.

Mark Bernstein

Small Group Ministry Considers Big Question

The poet Russell Kelfer wrote:

*You are who you are for a reason.
You're part of an intricate plan.
You're a precious and perfect
unique design,
Called God's special woman or
man.*

Leaving aside for the moment the question of whether or not we are created by God, this short verse speaks to us about one of the most pressing theological and philosophical questions that we encounter as human beings: "Why am I here?"

Other ways to ask this question include: "What is my purpose?" and "What motivates me?" and "What am I called to do with my life?"

Some people are driven by guilt, or fear, or money, while others are driven by love, or compassion, or peace.

This month, many of our small groups will be considering this question of purpose. If you had to answer the question "Why am I here?" how would you respond?

Our Small Group Ministry pro-

gram consists of groups of eight to 12 people meeting either once or twice a month to discuss questions of meaning and importance. It's a way to build relationships with others in the church in a confidential and comfortable atmosphere, and to take time to encounter life's important issues.

Rev. Peter

Marketing UUism Nationwide

The Unitarian Universalist Association's national marketing campaign has begun.

Advertising in Time Magazine began with the Oct. 15 issue and will continue during the next several months with ads and "advertorials" -- printed material that promotes UUism and directs readers to a web archive of Time articles on current religious and ethical issues.

As sponsor of the new Time.com religion pages, the association will bring liberal religious perspectives to the public discourse on faith and values in our society. The pages will offer links to articles and essays authored by Unitarian Universalists on important topics including:

- The relationship between religion and science
- The role of religion in American democracy

Religion, morality and sexuality

The association also has produced a new DVD, [Voices of a Liberal Faith — Unitarian Universalists](#), and urges members to share it with friends via YouTube.com. At UUA.org, you can see a new 30-second ad on UUism (also available on YouTube), and view new [print advertisements](#) that are available for use in local media or in congregations.

The UUA is supplying congregations with the DVD as well as a comprehensive Frequently Asked

Questions sheet and new hospitality tools.

At UUCDC, "the marketing campaign can only be a big boost in helping us to achieve what we hope to accomplish -- increased membership," said Gayle Beaney, who's on the Membership Council. "We will be looking for ways to take advantage of this program. In addition, the UUA is making available much information to help churches be successful in their growth. We will certainly be drawing upon this valuable resource as well."

Neil Goldstein

ARTS, BOOKS & MUSIC

Schubert's "The Miller's Pretty Daughter" is Choice for Season's Second Rose Tree Concert

Randall Scarlata, tenor, will sing Schubert's "Die Schöne Mullerin" ("The Miller's Pretty Daughter") for the second Rose Tree Concert of its 22nd season, November 18 at 7 p.m.

Scarlata will introduce, comment, provide the postlude, as well as sing this music based on

poems by Wilhelm Muller. Dick Veleta will be accompanist.

"Die Schöne Mullerin" tells the tale of a young miller boy as he wanders along a stream in search of work. Along the way, he meets the miller's daughter and falls in love with her, but she loves another and, in despair, he drowns

himself. Glorious music accompanies this sad tale.

The concert will be held in Fellowship Hall. The tickets cost \$15 at the door for adults and \$5 for students.

"Self Made Man" for Book Club Nov. 23

In November, the UUCDC Book Club will be reading *Self-Made Man* by Norah Vincent. Vincent reports about her experiences after she changed her appearance to pass herself off as a man. We'll discuss it at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 23, in the Youth Room, and we'd love to have you join us!

For the October meeting, club members read *Slaughterhouse-*

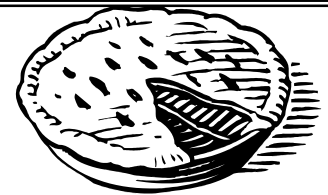
Five by Kurt Vonnegut. The novel tells about Billy Pilgrim, a World War II veteran and prosperous optometrist who becomes "unstuck in time." Intelligent, alien creatures called Tralfamadorians teach him a reconception of time, allowing Pilgrim to travel to any point in his life by closing his eyes.

The story centers on the bombing of Dresden, Germany, during

WWII. More than 100,000 civilians died during the raid and subsequent firestorm. Pilgrim (and Kurt Vonnegut, in real life) witnessed the gory aftermath.

Bryan Booz

2d Annual Great YUCKI Pie Sale -- Order Now!



The YUCKI high school youth group is repeating last year's tasty Great Pie Sale for Thanksgiving.

Members will take orders through Sunday, Nov. 11. Pies will be available for pick-up on Sunday, Nov. 18, after the service. For order forms, check the Order of Service each Sunday, or contact any YUCKI member or advisor.

As with all YUCKI fund-raisers for this church year, the group will donate 20 percent of the proceeds to Darfur relief.

This year's varieties, at \$10 a pie: apple, pumpkin, pecan, blueberry, and Chocolate Dream.

Let the YUCKIs know how many they can make for you!

Jennifer Haines

YO UUCDCERS!

Come Help Us 'Deck the Halls'

The holidays will be here before you know it, and we need volunteers to help prepare for the December intergenerational service titled "Deck the Halls." Subcommittee and cookie-making opportunities abound!

If You're a Child or Youth, A Chorus Awaits

We want to start a children's chorus or child/youth singing ensemble. Along those lines, we'd like some young people to help our chorus sing "Let There Be Peace on Earth" at our Thanksgiving Sunday morning service on Nov. 18.

Fun(d) Driving Into 2008

Last year's annual fund drive set records of all kinds, but the most important is that we pledged almost \$300,000 to support and sustain UUCDC. Your generous pledging is vital to the success and future of our church and its liberal reli-

IN OUR BACK YARD

Cherry Hill Church Seeks D.R.E.

The UU Church in Cherry Hill wants to hire a full-time Director of Religious Education to start work in July 2008. The congregation of 325 enrolls 110 children and youth in its program. The compensation package includes a salary of \$40,000 plus retirement benefits.

gious mission. UUCDC thanks each and every one of you for doing your part. While the next fund drive isn't until spring, some members of the Fund Drive Committee for 2007 have agreed to stay on board to organize the 2008 fund drive. That committee includes Mark Bernstein, Bryan Boosz, Marge Caton, Sayre Dixon, Fred Kelemen, Janet and Lowell Young.

We would love to have you join us on that fund drive committee! To build on the success of the previous year, we need at least two more people to join the committee. Your perspective and insight into UUCDC are welcome. If you are newer to the congregation and are ready to branch out and have a good time, then you are most welcome to join our crew. The first organizational meeting of the fall will be Wednesday, November 7, 7 p. m. in the Lounge. Please see any member of the committee or just show up to find out what an exciting year 2008 promises to be. The 2008 UUCDC Fund Drive Committee wants you, now!

Candidates should have at least one year of experience as a DRE or a related position as well as a bachelor's degree, preferably in a human-services field. To apply, send your resume to Paula Horton at phorton100@comcast.net or 333 Springhouse Lane, Moorestown, NJ 08057. For questions, contact Paula by e-mail or phone her at 856-439-9588.

(Continued from page 5)

taking the risk to enhance our professional staff. This includes the Board, led by my predecessor, Bob Beaney, who, during our ministerial search, increased our budget to bring our minister's salary within fair compensation guidelines, so that we might attract an excellent candidate. This also includes last year's Board that took the risk to add the Cradle Room Caregivers, Administrative Assistant and Membership Talent Coordinator positions to our budget.

Finally, thanks to UUCDC members, who placed their faith in the church leadership when asked to pass-and fund!--budgets that included these new positions and increased salary. The faith that you exhibit in your church leadership gives your congregational leaders the energy to continue to serve this congregation. On behalf of the leadership, I thank you, and look forward to working together this year on our journey of discovery as we develop our new Mission-Covenant.

Yours in gratitude,
Jody

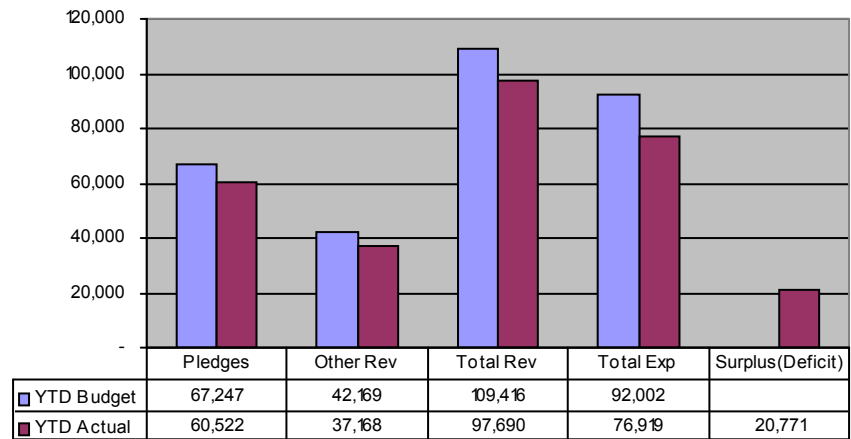
Monthly Statement—How We’re Doing Financially

This is the first installment of a monthly update meant to make thinking and talking about finances a regular part of being a church member -- not just something that comes up once a year during the Fund Drive.

Each month you’ll see a bar graph like the one accompanying this article. It will show at a glance whether we are ahead or behind budget in our collection of pledges and other sources of income, and whether we are ahead or behind budget in spending.

The bar graph compares the year-to-date (YTD) budget to the YTD actual revenue and expenses — in this case, for the three-month period that ended Sept. 30. (Our fiscal year starts July 1.) As you can see, pledges were slightly behind budget (pledges always come in slower in July and August).

Revenues & Expenditures - As of Sept. 30, 2007



The “Surplus (Deficit)” bar shows net income (total revenue minus total expenses) for the YTD actual. That bar and the accompanying figure show our revenue was \$20,771 ahead of our expenses for July 1 through Sept. 30.

Our objective is to make church

finances as transparent and understandable as possible. Note that the bar graph is a work in progress — we welcome your comments.

Lowell Young
Treasurer

(Adult RE continued from page 7)

who were significant influences on Unitarianism-Universalism: William Ellery Channing, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Theodore Parker and James Luther Adams.

Those attending are encouraged to acquire copies of "Three Prophets of Religious Liberalism: Channing, Emerson, Parker" by Conrad Edick Wright and "Examined Faith" by James Luther Adams and George K. Beach. Excerpts from these two sources will be discussed in the seminar.

The seminar will focus on each of the following:

- What were his primary contributions to UU?
- How have his thoughts influenced the movement today?

Bring lunch. Telephone Jean Campbell to register and request childcare.

Boston Trip for Adults, April 24-27

A spring trip to Boston, home of the Unitarian Universalist Association and Walden Pond is planned for adults. Preparation for the trip will include sessions on UU history and faith, with the trip a culmination of UU studies.

The Adult Religious Education Team meets monthly to plan substantive and fun programming for nurturing the mind, body and soul of adults in our congregation. The programming is for those new to our faith and for those who have been part of our faith community for many years. A mix of people who participate adds to the value. There is no question that does not make us think more deeply about our connection to UUCDC and each other. Join us for Adult RE at UUCDC.

Joyce McKee

Thursday, Nov. 8, 7:30 p.m., YUCCI Room
Sunday, Nov. 11, noon, Lounge
Sunday, Nov. 11, 7 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2 p.m., Lounge
Saturday, Nov. 17, 10 a.m., Lounge
Wednesday, Nov. 28, 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary
Thursday, Nov. 29, 10 a.m. Lounge
Sunday, Dec. 2, noon, Yucki Room
Sunday, Dec. 2, 7 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Discovery Cafes

Discovery Cafes' dates, times and places are listed below. Sign-up sheets will be available after Sunday services for members and friends to choose when to participate.

two large-group meetings and a final congregational meeting for voting in April. Details on those events will come later.

What's Your Dream Plan for UUCDC? *Let's Talk at 'Discovery Cafes' in Nov., Dec.*

Five years ago, the congregation took part in a similar re-examination process. The process is especially important this year as the Board makes the change to a Policy Governance model, giving the Board responsibility for defining policies, while the staff and committees implement them. The Board wants to know how you envision UUCDC.

On Jan. 25 and 26, a professionally led workshop will use the input from the Cafes to help refine the vision into a workable plan for UUCDC's future.

November and December will offer plenty of opportunities for UUCDCers to present their "dream-plans" for the church.

The Mission-Covenant Task Force has set up several "Discovery Cafes" that will enable congregation members and friends to offer thoughts on such questions as: Who are we? Where are we going? How do we get there? What kind of church do we want UUCDC to be?



Unitarian Universalist Church of Delaware County
145 W. Rose Tree Road, Media, PA 19063

Focus

November 2007

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Calendar

November 2007*

Date	Name of Event	Time			
11/1	SGM	1:00 PM	11/10	Madrasa	10:00 AM
	Chorus Rehearsal	7:00 PM		Rental	10:00 AM
	Interweave Meeting	7:00 PM		MS Youth Activity	5:00 PM
	Thespi	7:00 PM		LW Dance set up	6:00 PM
				LW Dance	8:00 PM
11/2	Potluck Dinner—Rental	5:30 PM	11/11	Adult RE Forum	9:00 AM
	Samhain Pagan Rental	6:00 PM		Worship Service & RE	10:30 AM
11/3	Adult RE Workshop w/Rick Gross	10:00 AM		Sermon Discussion	11:45 AM
	Madrasa	10:00 AM		Mission Covenant Discovery Cafe	12:00 PM
	Newcomer Reception set up	4:00 PM		Independent Catholics	5:00 PM
	Newcomer Reception	6:00 PM		COA	6:00 PM
				YUCKI	6:00 PM
				Mission Covenant Discovery Cafe	7:00 PM
11/4	Adult RE Forum	9:00 AM	11/12	Voice Lesson Rental	8:30 AM
	Worship Service & RE	10:30 AM		Board of Trustees	7:15 PM
	Sermon Discussion	11:45 AM	11/13	Mission Covenant Discovery Cafe	2:00 PM
	Thespi	2:00 PM		Yoga	5:45 PM
	Independent Catholics	5:00 PM		DBSA	7:00 PM
	COA	6:00 PM		Adult RE	7:30 PM
	YUCKI	6:00 PM			
11/5	Voice Lesson Rental	8:30 AM	11/14	Cancer Support Group	11:30 AM
	RE Council	7:15 PM		Chosen Faith	7:00 PM
	Mission Committee	7:30 PM		MCC Rehearsal	7:00 PM
11/6	Yoga	5:45 PM		Membership Council	7:00 PM
	Muslims	7:00 PM		Adult RE	7:30 PM
	Social Justice Committee	7:15 PM	11/15	Chorus Rehearsal	7:00 PM
	Adult RE	7:30 PM		Parent Support Group	7:00 PM
11/7	Chosen Faith	7:00 PM	11/16	Social Justice Forum	7:00 PM
	Fundraising Committee	7:00 PM	11/17	Madrasa	10:00 AM
	MCC Rehearsal	7:00 PM		Mission Covenant Discovery Cafe	10:00 AM
	Adult RE	7:30 PM		Piano Tuning	10:00 AM
11/8	Chorus Rehearsal	7:00 PM		Wedding	3:00 PM
	SGM	7:00 PM			
	Mission Covenant Discovery Cafe	7:30 PM	11/18	Adult RE Forum	9:00 AM

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*Printed October 23, 2007

November 2007

	Worship Service & RE	10:30 AM		Thespis	6:30 PM
	YUCKI Bake Sale	11:30 AM		Coordinating Council	7:00 PM
	Sermon Discussion	11:45 AM		Caring Committee	7:15 PM
	COA-YUCKI Advisor Training	12:00 PM		Coordinating Council	7:15 PM
	Joining Process	12:00 PM			
	Adult Ed Planning	12:15 PM	11/27	Yoga	5:45 PM
	Thespis	2:00 PM		Thespis	6:30 PM
	Independent Catholics	5:00 PM		DBSA	7:00 PM
	COA	6:00 PM		Adult RE	7:30 PM
	YUCKI	6:00 PM			
	Rose Tree Concert	7:00 PM	11/28	Cancer Support Group	11:30 AM
11/19	Voice Lesson Rental	8:30 AM		Thespis	6:30 PM
	DRE-AD	7:00 PM		Worship Associates	7:00 PM
	RTDS Board	7:00 PM		Adult RE	7:30 PM
	MCC	7:30 PM		Mission Covenant Discovery Cafe	7:30 PM
	Mission Committee	7:30 PM	11/29	Mission Covenant Discovery Cafe	10:00 AM
11/20	Yoga	5:45 PM		Chorus Rehearsal	7:00 PM
	Muslims	7:00 PM	11/30	Thespis Performance	6:00 PM
	Adult RE	7:30 PM		MCC	7:30 PM
11/21	RTDS Parent Visitation	10:00 AM			
	Membership Meeting	7:00 PM			
	Adult RE	7:30 PM			
11/22	THANKSGIVING	12:00 AM			
11/23	Book Group	7:30 PM			
11/24	Madrasa	10:00 AM			
11/25	Adult RE Forum	9:00 AM			
	Worship Service & RE	10:30 AM			
	Sermon Discussion	11:45 AM			
	Thespis	2:00 PM			
	Independent Catholics	5:00 PM			
	COA Movie	6:00 PM			
	YUCKI	6:00 PM			
	Thespis	6:30 PM			
11/26	Voice Lesson Rental	8:30 AM			