

FOCUS

November 2008

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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www.uucdc.org

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**Sunday Services,
Nursery Care &
Church School**

(PreSchool - 8th)

10:30 a.m. Sept.-June



FROM THE MINISTER

On the morning following the end of General Assembly in Ft. Lauderdale last June, I woke up early and decided to take a walk along the beach. It seemed the right thing to do, given that we'd spent a week in a hotel across the road from this beautiful, broad expanse of sand and I'd not had a single free moment to set foot on it. I tucked my shoes under a lifeguard stand and headed down to the water line. The waves were gently lapping the shore and I turned south, with the warm Florida sun on my left, rising above the water in a fiery, red ball, bathing the hotels and condominiums to my right in a soft, pastel pink.

As I walked down the beach, I mostly kept my eyes focused on the sand at my feet, in search of a stone to bring back to our church for ingathering and hoping to find a beautiful shell, or, maybe even a doubloon from some long-ago, sunken Spanish galleon. What I found instead, was a whole lot of trash. Plastic bags and soda bottles. Discarded sandwich wrappers. Empty, rusted beer cans, and all sorts of other detritus. Soon I found that I was just happy not to be sidestepping any medical waste. I looked out to sea and saw several large cargo and tanker ships belching smoke, all queued up to enter Ft. Lauderdale channel, and I was reminded that this area was far from pristine. With each step I became more and more depressed, and I began to regret ever getting out of bed.

But I decided to press on a bit further and I'm glad I did. Walking just a few more yards along the sand, I came across the tracks that a female turtle had made earlier that morning, long before sunrise, as she came out of the sea to dig a nest and lay her eggs on the beach. Following the tracks up to my right, I saw an area already marked off by wooden stakes and yellow "crime scene"

(Continued on page 2)

Speakers for Nov. Services (10:30 a.m.)

November 2: Rev. Peter

November 9: Rev. Peter

November 16: Association Sunday! Gini Courter, moderator of the UUA Board, will be guest speaker. (See article, page 6.)

November 23: Intergenerational Thanksgiving Service

November 30: Rev. Peter

Who's Who**Staff**

Rev. Peter A. Friedrichs,
Minister

Jean Campbell,
Director of Religious
Education

Chris Schroth,
Music Director

Rina Jurceka,
Administrator

Chrissy Drummond,
Administrative Assistant

Jason Schafer-Valerius,
Accompanist

Jack Shaffer, Sexton

**Jennifer Pinto, Meghan
Pomeroy, Kristine Baney,**
Child care

Board of Trustees

Mark Bernstein,
President

Donna Harris,
Vice President

Dino Ramos,
Treasurer

Julie Chuplis,
Secretary

Bryan Boosz

Marylin Huff

Mike Mitchell

Jean Wallace

FOCUS INFO:**Editors:**

Bette Austin
& Neil Goldstein

Production:

Rina Jurceka

The deadline for December is November

10. Please send your
text

via email to:

Focus@uucdc.org

or put it in Rina Jurceka's
mail slot, in the church
office.

Focus Folding, 10 a.m.
November 21. Come
help!

From the Minister

(Continued from page 1)

tape, placed there, no doubt, by a vigilant volunteer dedicated to protecting the turtle's eggs from human interference. My spirits were buoyed by the sight, my heart filled with hope for the new life that pulsed just inches below the surface of the beach.

The sea doesn't choose what it washes up. It doesn't discriminate between coral and cans, between shells and syringes. The waves bring what they bring, depositing it indiscriminately at our feet in a timeless ebb and flow of the gorgeous and the ghastly. Our lives are like that, too. While we like to believe that our destiny is in our hands, we, in fact, have little choice over what lands at our feet. Like the beach I was walking, our lives can be littered with trouble and danger, not of our own making. We lose our job to downsizing or outsourcing. The bank calls our loan because of the credit crunch. We are sideswiped by someone running a red light. We discover a lump in our breast or our throat or our prostate. In the words of Rev. Forrest Church, who is himself dying of cancer, "The trapdoor we didn't know we were standing on, suddenly opens beneath us."

Like a tidal wave, these times of trial and strife can overwhelm us, and we can easily become convinced that all of life -- all of our life -- is treacherous, dark and dangerous. But, like the ocean, our lives also yield up precious gifts. Even amidst the turmoil and pain, if we look hard enough, if we just keep walking ahead, we'll come across them. The generosity of a stranger. The call from a friend that arrived unbidden at the moment it's needed most. The smile and "I love you Mommy" from your beautiful, precious child. The simple sight of the sun angling through the autumn leaves on an unreasonably warm afternoon.

As we enter the coming seasons of gratitude and generosity, we know that life will continue to be both beautiful and beastly. May those who stand among the debris that the sea washes in have the strength to keep walking and to keep looking for the treasures that lie ahead. And, may those who are lucky enough to stand amidst the shining shells have the grace and compassion to reach out and help to lead others there.

Love,
Peter

Calling All Bakers (and Bread-Cutters and Cider-Pourers)!

Bakers, start your ovens!

We seek volunteers to make pumpkin bread for the Nov. 23 Thanksgiving service. To join up and to get the recipe, please contact Administrative Assistant Chrissy Drummond, 610-566-4853, Ext. 4, or assistant@uucdc.org.

We also need people to cut up the bread and pour cups of cider on that Sunday morning. Again, let Chrissy know that you'll be available. Thank you!

BOARD PERSPECTIVES: GET A LIFE

From President Mark Bernstein

A friend and fellow congregant was lamenting the other day that there was too much to do at church on Sunday. Following the worship service, there was a discussion with the Board, an event in the anti-racism, anti-oppression series, a program under the Adult RE banner, and, of course, coffee hour. Her complaint was that she wanted to do it all, but wasn't able to.

Our church life is rich with opportunities for personal growth and enrichment, for deepening our Unitarian Universalist faith, for extending ourselves into the world, and, thereby, living our Mission-Covenant statement to the fullest. On any given Sunday and many nights during the week, our doors are open to new ideas and new challenges and new ways of looking at life. It is through these activities and events that we develop a sense of shared community.

I hope that you will continue to check our church calendar on the web, read about upcoming events in the FOCUS and in our Order of Service, and make a commitment to become more deeply involved in our church life. It is through this immersion with others that we truly understand what it is to be a Unitarian Universalist. Sharon Olds wrote: "To a poet, the human community is like the community of birds to a bird, singing to each other. Love is one of the reasons we are singing to one another, love of language itself, love of sound, love of singing itself, and love of the other birds." There are many birds to love at UUCDC and many ways to express that love ... in community.

With respect,
Mark

Goals, Icicles and More: Report from the Staff

Beginning this month, the FOCUS will include a monthly report from your church staff. It is a compilation of material from each of the senior staff members -- Rev. Peter, Jean, Rina and Chris -- and though by no means comprehensive, it's intended to give you an idea of where we're spending our time and energy. The members will take turns creating the report, but feel free to ask any of us about the items you find here.

First, some figures:

In September, the average Sunday attendance in the Sanctuary was 141. Average overall Sunday attendance (including Sanctuary, children and adults in RE, and youth) was 203. Average weekly plate collection was \$371, including our largest "Share the Plate" collection to date -- \$779, half of which was donated to the Domestic Abuse Project of Delaware County.

Staff Goals

Did you know the staff sets both individual and team goals each year? Here are the team goals for the year:

- ◆ Facilitate and support transitions in Religious Education.
- ◆ Understand and appreciate the roles of paid staff under Policy Governance.
- ◆ Deepen and strengthen teamwork among staff (grow into a team).
- ◆ "Keep the lights on" -- make sure the church is here for our members and friends.
- ◆ Work with the Lay Leadership Council to promote opportunities for participation and personal/institutional growth.

Now a little information from each of us.

From Religious Education

In September the Adult RE program initiated a new registration process. All registrations for workshops and

(Continued on page 15)

Monthly Statement: How We're Doing Financially

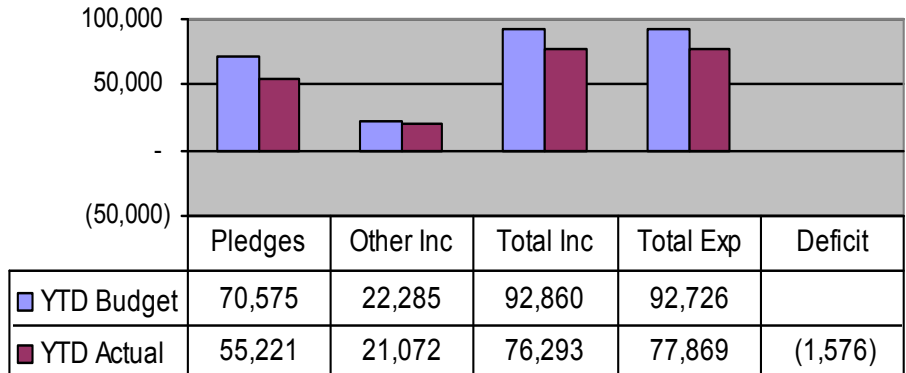
Here's our monthly financial update, meant to make thinking and talking about finances a regular part of being a church member.

As of the end of September, we were running a small deficit, primarily due to actual pledges of \$55,221 being down by 21.7% compared to our budgeted amount of \$70,575.

Actual income was \$76,293 versus the budget of \$92,860. Actual expenses were \$77,869 versus the budget of \$92,726. Therefore, the total deficit through September was \$1,576.

To assist UUCDC with its cash flow, members may want to consider making monthly contribu-

Revenues & Expenditures - As of September 30, 2008



tions toward their annual pledges.

Dino Ramos
Treasurer

Nits and Bits from the Finance Committee

For those who may not know how the Finance Committee processes your contributions, here is a simple explanation:

All monies given to the church as pledges, donations, fund raisers, etc., are deposited by the Depositing Treasurer (Jamie Cancro), whose mailbox in the church office is in the fourth tier to the right of the office door. Each amount, other than pledges, must be accompanied by a green deposit slip. All checks must be made out to UUCDC (much easier to write than Unitarian Universalist Church of Delaware County) and submitted with a green deposit slip completely filled out. If you don't know what account to use on the green slip, ask Rina or check the list on the wall to the left of the mailboxes. Please total all checks and count cash twice, at least. We want to be sure your count matches ours so that no one is short-changed. Even though the green slip is not neces-

sary for pledges, do remember to write on the memo line what the check is for, e.g., Annual Pledge - 08/09.

All disbursements for events, reimbursements, etc., are processed by the Disbursing Treasurer (Lois Morrigan). A white Disbursement Voucher must be filled out and put in the mailbox just below the Depositing Treasurer mailbox.

For new and experienced ushers, please review carefully the part about the Sunday collection in the wonderful usher booklet provided to you. Even if you've been ushering for years, parts are being overlooked by some. Also, count the cash twice. We want your count to match ours. There are recycled envelopes for you to use next to the grey ushers' box.

Jamie Cancro

Pledge Payments Needed

Although we are on good financial footing, cash flow is tight. This time of year pledge payments are often light, but bills are not. Please make sure you are up-to-date with pledge payments. Thank you.

Board Notes: October Update

At the October meeting, the Board focused much of its discussion on matters related to stewardship, one of the three Ends Statements that were prioritized for this year. The Stewardship Ends Statement calls on each of us to "give generously of our time and our money to nurture and create beloved community within and beyond our walls."

Toward that End, the Board learned about the next Annual Fund Drive, which will kick off in early 2009, from Betsy Crane and Bill Clinton, co-chairs. Betsy, who brings years of fundraising experience from her previous UU church in Indiana, PA, and Bill, a veteran of past UUCDC fundraising campaigns, are planning a process that will be open, collaborative, and transparent, and aligned with our spiritual development. The Annual Fund Drive will give everyone a chance to share their personal stories about receiving the generosity of others and, in turn, giving to others. It also promises to open up new ways for members to talk candidly about money, including fears related to the recent economic downturn. Bill and Betsy have met with Rev. Peter and a number of other church leaders and soon will be developing a calendar for a year-round process for the drive.

On another Stewardship note, Rev. Peter provided an overview and explained the purpose of the UUA salary guidelines for church employees. The guidelines help to ensure that all church employees are fairly and equitably compensated, both with respect to comparable positions outside the church (e. g. in other churches and nonprofits) and, in relation to other staff positions within the church.

The Board also discussed next steps on long-range, strategic planning and decided to dovetail work toward this goal with the ongoing efforts of the Lay Leadership Council. The Council has asked all UUCDC committees and activity groups to assess how well their activities support the Mission-Covenant and the Ends Statements. Once this information is collected, the Council will determine which Ends Statements need further action or support -- in essence, creating the framework for a long-range, strategic plan. The Board will support the Council's efforts and offer feedback during the planning process.

As a reminder, all are welcome to attend the series on open forums coming up to discuss UUCDC Ends Statements. Each forum will focus on one or

two of the Ends Statements and everyone is invited to discuss what the statements mean to them, share questions with board members, and offer suggestions for transforming these aims into reality.

On November 2, the forum will be on Environment; November 9, Service and Community. Both forums will take place after church in the Youth Room. Diversity and Outreach will be held December 7 (a date change from November 23), after church in the Lounge.

Finally, the Board and Rev. Peter would like to acknowledge and thank the following individuals for their personal acts of good stewardship in the church community:

--Rina Jurceka, who recently marked her ninth anniversary as church administrator, for her years of well-organized and well-humored service.

--Committee on Ministry members Mary Clinton, Joyce McKee, Don Pound, Adam Preset, and Jane Seelaus for their work in supporting the congregation during a turbulent time.

--Laura Fetterman and Janet Boosz, who, as Sunday morning assistants, helped the children and teachers evacuate the church in an orderly fashion on September 28 when the fire alarm sounded during morning chapel.

--Members of the Antiracism Planning team -- Susan Eidson, Mardys Leeper, Sayre Dixon, Kelli Schweitzer and Irene Friedrichs -- for planning a comprehensive Anti-Racism, Anti-Oppression, Multiculturalism (ARAOM) program for UUCDC this year and for their support in executing same.

--Marge Caton, for all her hard work coordinating weddings and memorial services in the past several months.

--John Ashbrook, for pitching in wherever he sees a need, including helping to edit FOCUS and serving as usher at special events.

Jean Wallace

for the Board

UUCDC to Celebrate Association Sunday in November

UUCDC will celebrate Association Sunday at our morning service, November 16. Our guest speaker will be Gini Courter, UUA Moderator, whose sermon is entitled "Gathered Side by Side."

As Moderator, Gini serves as Chief Governance Officer of the Association, and presides at General Assemblies and at meetings of the Board of Trustees. It is the UUA's highest volunteer position. We are delighted to welcome her to UUCDC.

Association Sunday is an annual UUA initiative to bring UU congregations together to support their common goals. This year Association Sunday will raise funds to support projects focused on

two areas: Lay Theological Education and Excellence in Ministry, including scholarships for promising students preparing for our ministry and the Diversity of Ministry initiative to support our ministers of color. These initiatives were the chosen priorities of a survey of UU leaders across the country. We will be asked to give a special offering to support these initiatives.

Please plan to meet Gini after the service at a luncheon to be held in Fellowship Hall

More details later.

Interim DRE Needed

An ***Interim Director of Religious Education*** is sought for UUCDC for the period from November 2008 until the church completes a successful search for a permanent Director of Religious Education (at least through June 2009 and possibly through June 2010). The Interim DRE will oversee continuation of the various religious education programs at UUCDC and work with teams to plan for the 2009-10 church year.

The Interim will oversee weekly Sunday School programs with the support of the Sunday School Assistants and will work with the RE Council to plan programming for the remainder of this church year and 2009-10. She or he will interact with Sunday School teachers and children to ensure smooth functioning of the program. The Interim also will be responsible for weekly Chapel services for the Sunday School children and teachers, and for the occasional "Large RE" sessions.

The Adult and Youth programs will require minimal management by the Interim because their leaders have nearly complete control – they will

go to the Interim for regular communication, advice and help with any problems that arise.

The Interim will be responsible for tracking expenses related to the RE program and will, in conjunction with the Religious Education Council, develop a proposed budget for 2009-10. The Interim also is expected to communicate regularly with the congregation about events in the program through the monthly FOCUS and the weekly Digest. The Interim reports to the Minister and will participate in weekly meetings of the church's senior staff.

This is a 20-hour-a-week position. Compensation will be commensurate with experience and consistent with UUA Fair Compensation Guidelines. Members of UUCDC are encouraged to apply for this Interim position, with the understanding that they will not be eligible to apply for the permanent DRE position.

Interested candidates should contact Judy Farling, chair of the Personnel Committee.

Young Performers Wanted!

Do your children love music? We invite young singers and instrumentalists to participate in the Nov. 23 Thanksgiving service and the Family Christmas Eve service. Come join the fun!

For more information, please contact Jean Campbell, dre@uucdc.org or 610-566-4853, Ext. 3, or Chris Schroth, 610-361-9588.

The Auction Is Nearly Here

We have a wonderful evening planned, with something for everyone! You don't need to be a big spender to thoroughly enjoy this evening. The best part is spending quality time with members of our community and their guests. Did you miss out on last year's laughter -- " Ministerial Roast" and "Girls' Night Out?" You won't want to miss these special moments, plus a Wine Bar, where our own wine experts introduce a variety of vintages.

What's on Offer?

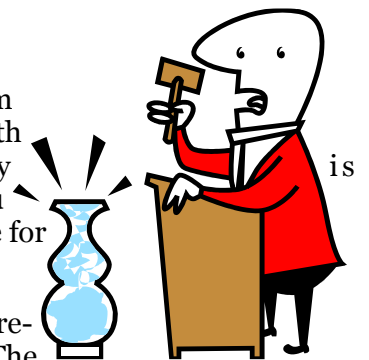
- Dinners
- Original paintings
- Vacation homes
- Home-baked goods
- Fine wines
- Children's toys

What Are the Details?

- Auction paddle (\$10)
- Silent auction, 6:30 p. m.
- Live auction, 7-9 p. m.
- Childcare available

If you have something to offer and haven't had a chance to stop by the auction table after services, please don't delay. Contact Mark Shay,

mshay@classicwines.com
or 610-357-4648 with
your donation. Not only
it tax deductible, but you
will be entered in a raffle for
an iPod.



Running the auction requires many hands. The Auction Committee welcomes your help. If you are interested in helping with food, setup, cleanup, contact Skip Seelaus (Paul.Seelaus@uphs.edu or, evenings, 610-565-0331).

The best part about the auction is that you will have a great night, and all proceeds go directly to the church. We're counting on you to make the auction the best ever as this is an important fundraiser for our church and our success depend on your support and participation.

See you there! Many thanks for your contribution to UUCDC.

The 2008 Auction Team

RE-FLECTIONS

Saying Goodbye Is Hard

As I write this, it is only 2½ weeks since the announcement of my resignation, and 5½ weeks before my last day (Nov. 23) with you. This is my final FOCUS column as your Director of Religious Education.

This week in Chapel I told a story called “The Hardest Word.” In the story the hardest word in the world is “sorry.” I’m not sure who gets to designate the hardest word, but if “sorry” is truly the hardest word, then “goodbye” must be the second hardest.

Many of you have already expressed to me your feelings regarding my resignation. I have shared with some of you both light, easy conversations as well as heavy, difficult discussions. I treasure all of these, as they are imperative to our understanding and healing.

When we have had these conversations, the range of emotions I experienced in coming to my decision has been reflected back to me in your faces and words. I can say for sure that I have felt each and every one of those emotions at least once in the last five months. What I did not anticipate, however, was to be reliving each of those emotions with you, as you experienced them.

Saying goodbye is hard, especially when we feel sadness in the reason why.

I will never forget one recent conversation with a sixth grader who approached me during coffee hour and said, “... We love you, can’t you please stay?” I knew that saying goodbye to my role as DRE here would be difficult, but I never imagined it would be this difficult. I was struck by how sad it is for our children to be caught in the whirlwind of adult issues, especially at church.

As I reflect on the conversation with our courageous sixth grader, I realize it is important to tell our children that it is difficult and sad to say goodbye, but that church will still be here and so will Chapel and Sunday School. Yes, it will be difficult and it will be different, but it will be OK. There

Unitarian Universalist Church of Delaware County

**JEAN CAMPBELL,
DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

will eventually be a new DRE, whom I hope you grow to also love.

Saying “Goodbye, I must go” is really, really hard, especially when we involve children.

I am nervous about what lies ahead for me, just as you may be nervous about what lies ahead for the RE program. Change can be scary and maddening. It can feel as if we are groping around in the dark. It pushes us out of our comfort zone. But change also brings opportunities -- opportunities for new growth, for improving things, for a new job, and for a new DRE to carry the program forward.

To make the most of these opportunities will require the involvement and input of everyone. Just as many people supported me as we developed and grew the RE program, you will need to continue to support each other in this transition so that the program will continue to thrive and grow.

Thank you for the opportunities, patience and support you have offered me over the years. I have grown and learned immensely. To the huge number of volunteers who said “yes” to me so often, thank you for sharing your time, energy and talents with me while we grew a strong, successful program. It has been a wonderful time. You have given me so much that UUCDC is in my veins. Though I may not be here very much for a while, UUCDC will always be in me. Thank you for the honor of serving you.

Yes, saying goodbye is really hard and really sad, especially when we love each other.

With heartfelt thanks and warmth,

goodbye,

Jean

LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Fifth Graders and the Bible: Sunday School Report

Every week in the fifth-grade Sunday School class, we introduce a new story from the Bible. So far, we have explored the stories of Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, and Noah.

We find our fifth graders to be intelligent, insightful and full of thought-provoking questions. We try to use those strengths in each class.

For instance, we used the story of Cain and Abel to explore topics such as the roots of “evil,” right versus wrong, and our own morals and values surrounding the choices we make to do harm or good. Additionally, we pose a Mystery of the Week question and consider possible answers through role-playing, friendly debate and other activities.

Finally, children are sent home with a letter after each class so that parents and families have the chance to continue our discussion. When we discussed Cain and Abel, the letter asked parents to consider the following with their child: “Think of the one thing you want most right now. ... If that thing was in front of you and you had the opportunity to steal it, would you? Would you steal it if you knew for sure that you would NEVER be caught? Why or why not?”

We are having a great year so far and welcome your feedback and input. The fifth-grade teachers are Elizabeth Musewicz, Honnie Townend, Penny Joines and Jason Koelewyn.

Elizabeth Musewicz

What’s Happening in Youth RE

Middle School Activities Group. Organizers are still looking for a few great volunteers to champion this sixth-to-eighth-grade activities group. The young people gather on the first Saturday evening of each month either at church or elsewhere for fun, age-appropriate activities. If you’re interested in helping, please contact Marge Caton, 610-269-0794 or aldomaca@comcast.net. Past activities have included baking cookies, going to Kehler’s Gym, and holding movie and game nights.

COA (Coming of Age). This program is off to a great start. The ninth graders are looking forward to selecting Mentors, so if any adults still want to participate, now is the time. Please contact Scott Parsons at 610-566-5772 and fill out a Mentor profile. (See article on page 12.)

YUCKIs. In September, these high schoolers completed their weekend planning a retreat at Harper’s Ferry, W. Va., with a fun rafting trip down the Potomac River. They hosted the Halloween Haunted House in October. For November, they will once again hold the **Thanksgiving Great Pie Sale** (see article on Page 13). A sales table will be set out after Sunday services through Nov. 16, with delivery on Sunday, Nov. 23. Order early!

YUCKIs: Helping Darfur Victims and Painting for Fun

Here’s an update about activities started in the 2007-08 church year by the YUCKIs, our youth group for high schoolers:

Darfur Aid

The young people decided to dedicate \$600 of their 2007-08 fundraising earnings to the purchase of solar cookers for refugees from Darfur violence. That sum was matched with \$300 from the Social Justice Committee. At \$20 a cooker, the money will reach and help feed 45 families who are victims of the genocide.

Four Square Court

Have you noticed the painting in the circular drive? It’s a court for the playground game of Four Square.

The idea came out of the 2006 Coming of Age retreat. Kaitlin Kennard, a 2008 YUCKI graduate, created the design, and the YUCKIs painted the court in June. Parent Mark Yerger coordinated the effort.

The court was placed in the circular drive because a flat surface is ideal for the game. The rainbow coloring and chalice image are in keeping

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(Continued from page 9)

with UUCDC's overall look and feel.

For those who aren't in the Four Square know:

To play the game, you need a court, a ball and four active players, plus any number of people awaiting their turns. The object is to go from the lowest-ranking square (the J) to the highest-ranking square (the chalice) by eliminating other players. Once eliminated, a player leaves the court and goes to the back of the waiting line, while the first person in line joins in, occupying the lowest-ranking square.

In general, when the ball is bounced into your square, you must bounce it back out without hitting twice in your own square, otherwise you are out. You try to move up to higher squares so that you can make it to the "four square" and score the most points.

Adult Religious Education

We are well into Adult RE fall programming, described on the UUCDC website: <http://uucdc.org/adultre.html>. One class that is still open for registration is Rev. Peter's "Spirit of Life" that begins in January and will be held on the first and third Thursdays through May, except for January. (See dates below.) Contact Chrissy Drummond, UUCDC administrative assistant at assistant@uucdc.org to register for this program.

Facilitated by Rev. Peter, the dates are: Janu-

Happy 50th, Main Line Unitarian

As you may know, the Main Line Unitarian Church in Devon is an offshoot of UUCDC. What you may not realize is that our offspring is having a big birthday.

Here's the text of a recent letter to Robert Batt, president of the Main Line board, from the proud parent:

Dear Bob,

On behalf of our Board of Trustees, our Minister, Reverend Peter Friedrichs, our staff and the congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Delaware County, I want to congratulate you and the Main Line Unitarian Church as you celebrate

ary 8 and 22, February 5 and 19, March 5 and 19, April 2 and 16, and May 7 and 21

This workshop seeks to bring meaning, inclusiveness, and growth to Unitarian Universalist adults as they deepen their spiritual awareness and connections. The Spirit of Life program taps into one of the central functions of religion, eloquently described by Rev. Kendyl Gibbons: "...how we -- each of us, in our uniquely constituted beings -- recognize and understand and make sense of the unbidden, overwhelming awe at the wonder, magnificence, danger, demand, and delight of being alive." The workshop offers participants time and community to explore their Unitarian Universalist spirituality.

The Adult RE team is putting together spring semester classes. Those being considered are: Poetry, Junto discussions, T'ai Chi, Chi Walking and Running, workshop on Sexuality and Spirituality, and Neighboring Faiths for Adults.

The December FOCUS will publish the final spring curriculum. Registration is January 4, 11, 18, and 25.

Consider registering for Spirit of Life this fall and get ready to register for spring classes.

your 50th anniversary. As your 'parent' church, we take great pride in your success and accomplishments in furtherance of the Unitarian Universalist faith throughout our region and the world. May you grow and prosper as you enter your next half-century of service to your church community.

With love and respect,
Mark Bernstein, President
UUCDC Board of Trustees

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Inquirer Columnist Heads Nov. Anti-Racism Events

Annette John-Hall, a Philadelphia *Inquirer* columnist, will speak here at 1 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 9. Her talk is the first of three supported by the Homer Jack Fund, founded by UUCDC to honor the work of the late Homer Jack, a UU minister who worked for social justice in Delaware County, with a focus on Chester.

John-Hall's twice-weekly column speaks to issues of the city, justice and race relations.

Her talk is just one of UUCDC's Anti-Racism, Anti-Oppression, Multicultural events this month.

Continuing at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 12, will be the second session of the discussion group ADORE (A Dialogue on Race and Ethnicity). The group provides an opportunity to share personal experiences and perspectives around issues of race and ethnicity with others in our congregation. Using readings, videos and other resources, the group explores the complex set of family, community and cultural issues related to race and racism. You need not have attended the first session in October to join this one.

Also, please watch the church calendar for the start of the "Soul-Work" and other book-discussion sessions.

Interweave—What's Going On

UUCDC's Interweave Group is dedicated to the spiritual, political and social well-being of UUs and others in our larger community who are confronting oppression as lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgender and questioning persons and their heterosexual allies. As a Welcoming Congregation, UUCDC celebrates, supports the lives, relationships, and contributions of its LGBTQ members and friends.

Interweave Group invites your participation at its monthly gatherings. Meetings are on the first Wednesday of each month (September-May) at 7:15 p.m., usually in the Youth Room, to discuss new ideas, plan events, and support one another as we work together to ensure the continuation of spiritual, educational, and outreach programs. Your help and input are essential in reaching these goals. Interweave welcomes curiosity, creativity and company. Working together we can accomplish great things. Everyone (gay,

The Anti-Racism, Anti-Oppression, Multicultural program is a yearlong effort by UUCDC. In the words of Rev. Peter's sermon of Sept. 21:



We are "embarking on a long-term, intentional program to become an anti-racist, anti-oppressive, multicultural congregation. ... We need to discover the link between ourselves and our deeds, between who we are as people of faith, people of this faith, and the work that we are called to do.

"Our social justice work needs to be grounded in a serious, unsentimental faith. If we are optimists and idealists, let us claim those aspects of our being. But let us anchor that optimism and idealism with firm and fully matured beliefs in the nature of the Divine, of humankind, of good and evil, and the workings of the Universe.

"This is the arduous work of building the foundations and pouring the footings that will bear the weight of the bridge we wish to build to the Promised Land, the Beloved Community, the world we dream of."

straight, young, older) is welcome. Questions? Contact interweave@uucdc.org or call the church office: 610-566-4853.

Monthly Meetings: Sometimes the group goes out to dinner, so check the church calendar or email interweave@uucdc.org.

One Book UUCDC: Interweave will host a Racial Justice, Anti-Oppression Reading Project that combines race and LGBTQ issues.

"One Book" Potlucks: Spring, 2009. Dates to be announced.

Spring clothing drive: To support "women in transition," keep Interweave in mind as you clear out closets. The group is looking for clothing in good condition. More details to come.

Lavender Women's Activity Group: Contact by email: lavenderwomen@hotmail.com.

Unforgettable Gifts in Store for Mentors

Coming of Age is a program that runs through the church year to help ninth-grade youth develop a sense of self and UU values as they cross the threshold between childhood and adult life. The program is led by four volunteers, but other adults from the congregation are needed as individual mentors to youth. Both the young person and the mentor are in for rewarding and unique relationships.

Won't you consider mentoring a COA youth?

This year we need five male and five female mentors to make the program a success. The youth are already signed up and excited!

Unforgettable gifts are in store for COA participants:

- ◆ A gift to a special youth: acting as friend and guide as the young person embarks on a journey toward adulthood.
- ◆ A gift to yourself: an opportunity to get to know our church youth, and to experience personal challenge and spiritual growth. In your role as mentor, you will have the rare chance to help a young person grow as you provide guidance in a non-parental role.

In addition to some Sunday evening events throughout the year, COA will include four larger

events:

- ◆ **Saturday, Jan. 10 -- The UU Dinner Party.** At this event, everyone comes dressed as a famous UU (living or past). We are served dinner by the Senior High youth group (an act of service on their part!). It's a lot of fun, and dinner is part of the bargain.
- ◆ **Friday, Jan. 30, through Sunday, Feb. 1 -- Murray Grove Retreat.** This weekend is intended to take youth, mentors and leaders out of their everyday routines to a quiet and reflective space where the transformation process can begin. Values-based exercises, history and games too!
- ◆ **Saturday, Feb. 28 -- Credo Workshop.** Youth are challenged to develop a sense of ownership and responsibility in expressing their own beliefs. Mentors support them without "giving them the answers." The workshop kick-starts this process.
- ◆ **Friday, May 15, to Sunday, May 17 -- Poconos Rite of Passage Retreat.** This weekend is the culmination of the program. Youth are challenged physically and mentally, and we celebrate their success. It is a powerful weekend for all.

Interested but you think the calendar is too much? Talk to us, and we'll try to work something out.

Goodbyes and Hellos at Rose Tree Day School

Rose Tree Day School is up and running full speed for another wonderful year of growing, learning and playing together.

We had a very busy start to the new term with some staff turnover, which doesn't happen often (luckily!).

We said goodbye to Paula McGeary, the head teacher in the youngest class. Paula has been working on her master's degree in Early Childhood Education and couldn't say no to a full-time kindergarten position. We also said farewell to Theresa Maloney, the teacher in the 4-year-old class and kindergarten assistant. Theresa is busy raising her darling infant son, Liam. We will really miss these special teachers!

We also were sad to say goodbye to Meghan Conway, as she shifted away from education into art studies. She still drops by to help her mom, Ms. Marianne, and to substitute on occasion.

On the other side of the coin, we welcomed two great new teachers. In the Stars Class (4-year-olds), is Ms. Jen, a recent graduate of Cabrini College. Ms. Jen is really busy with her class, and is working as the assistant kindergarten teacher.

In the Cupcake class, Ms. Stacey, a Penn State alum, is learning a lot about working with 3-year-olds all day long, then going home each night to her own precious 2-year-old.

All the staff members have been working to reorganize classrooms, make new friends, and create stimulating learning experiences for the children. We've had a lot of changes, but because flexibility is any teacher's middle name, we've welcomed the opportunity for growth. Stop by and see us sometime!

ARTS, BOOKS & MUSIC

Four Hands, Two Pianos for November Rose Tree Concert Series

Dick Veleta and Carl Cranmer, pianist and Veleta's West Chester University colleague, will team up for an evening of four-hand pianistic fireworks from Bach to Ravel for the second concert in this year's Rose Tree Concert series, November 16, 7 p. m. in Fellowship Hall.

The program will include "Ricercar" from "Musical Offering" by Bach; Mozart's Sonata in C, (K. 521);

Book Club Welcomes Avid Bookies, Regular Irregulars—Everyone

I'm often asked if you have to sign up to come to the UUCDC Book Club discussions, or if you must read and talk about every book on the reading list. The answer is "No!"

While there is a core group that attends most discussions, we often have "irregulars," showing up every now and then or just once to talk about a particular book of interest.

What do we actually do in Book Club discussions? That depends on who shows up and what thoughts or experiences are brought into the discussion. If it is a work of fiction (we read both fiction and non-fiction), we talk about the story and the characters, but the story might be a launching point for a conversation about racism, greed, loneliness, friendship, or other subjects. Recently, we read the novel "Water for Elephants," by Sara Gruen. The story centers on life in a traveling circus during the Great Depression. Among the many things discussed were some of our own experiences of having gone to the circus as children.

The Book Club meets once a month, and the list of books we are reading can be found on the UUCDC

Did You Say, 'Pies'? Mmmmm ...

Did you enjoy the pies you ordered for Thanksgiving last year? The YUCKIs will be baking again, using new and exciting recipes!

Preorder forms will be available Nov. 2, and the deadline for ordering is Nov. 20. Please hand the forms to a YUCKI in Fellowship Hall after Sunday services or e-mail the church.

Pickup date will be Nov. 23 in Fellowship Hall.

Beethoven's Waldstein and "Ich Denke Dein" variations; and "Rhapsodie Espanol" by Ravel.

The ambiance is outstanding, the reception delicious, and the music will be wonderful. What a way to begin the new week and celebrate the concert series' 23rd annual season!

website (uucdc.org/bookclub.html) or on the bulletin board just outside the entrance to Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited and we have men and women in our group.

For our November 21 meeting we are reading "The Nine," a book about the U.S. Supreme Court by CNN analyst and commentator Jeff Toobin.

In October we read "40 Days and 40 Nights" by Matthew Chapman, the great-great-grandson of Charles Darwin. This book is about the "monkey trial" that took place a few years ago in nearby Dover, PA. A group of fundamentalists hijacked the Dover school board and tried to have "intelligent design" taught in the classroom as an acceptable theory of biology. But intelligent design is creationism dressed up to look like science and the court was not fooled.

All discussions begin at 7:30 p.m. and finish about 9 p.m. Please join us as a regular participant, a regular irregular, or for that one book you just have to talk about!

Yo UUCDCERS

Pajama Stories for Young and Old on Nov. 21

Wondering where the activities are for children in our Anti-Racism, Anti-Oppression, Multicultural initiative?

Well, put the children in their coziest p.j.'s and slippers, get their favorite blankets, and come to church at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 21, for some hot cocoa, cookies and bedtime stories with an anti-racism focus.

We'll have appropriate stories for ages infant through 10. Oh, and grown-ups are also welcome to wear pajamas!

Onward and Upward With Our Own Jody Malloy

Congratulations to our own Jody Malloy, who last month became the director of Lay Leadership for the Joseph Priestley District. Jody will be working to bring together congregational presidents and other lay leaders in UU congregations to share information, network, and engage in mentoring relationships. Way to do us proud, Jody.

How You Can Help Middle Schoolers

Looking for a way to have fun, be with our young people, and give of yourself? Be a Middle School Youth Activities leader.

The activities group meets once a month, usually on Saturdays. The group's purpose is to gather sixth, seventh and eighth graders for fun, social, bonding activities. We seek two to three adult leaders who are 25 or older.

If you're interested or would like more information, please contact Jean Campbell, 610-566-4853, Ext.3, or dre@uucdc.org.

Hot Time in Store for Chili-Chocolate-Homebrew Challenge

UUCDC is gearing up for the First Annual Chili-Chocolate-Homebrew Challenge, Saturday, January 24.

It's not too early to get the beer brewing, to practice your favorite chili and chocolate recipes, and prepare for an evening of enjoyable competition and taste-testing.

Committee members -- Jody Malloy, Irene Friedrichs, Penny Bartlett and Kelli Schweitzer -- are busy planning this major fund-raising event. They will need your help as entrants in the competition, setting and cleaning up before and after the Challenge, and tasting all the memorable goodies.

An invited panel of judges will choose winners in the following categories: Traditional (meat), white (poultry) and veggie chilis, chocolate cakes, brownies, fudges, pies, candies, and a youth competition.

Mark your calendars now for this festive evening of fellowship.

Calling UU Buddhists

Are you a UU Buddhist? The UU Buddhist Fellowship wants to send you the latest copy of its journal, the UU Sangha.

Just e-mail Bob Ertman (of the UU Church of Annapolis, Md.) at robertertman@msn.com.

(Continued from page 3)

classes for September through January were accepted in a three-week period in September. We had between 5 and 16 registrants for each of the workshops that were offered, except for two.

To date, 8 Coming of Age youth and 13 senior high youth (YUCKIs) are registered. Both programs started their programs this fall with retreats, and both groups have several new adult leaders and advisers.

Nearly 90 children, COAers and YUCKIs are registered in the RE program. Sunday School is providing religious education to 40 to 50 children each week. More than 20 adult volunteers a week teach these children. With seven classes, we have put to use one of the cradle rooms and the downstairs lobby area for classroom space.

Believe it or not, even with more than 50 volunteers helping the program, some of our teaching teams are stretched thin and in need of another person or two. Since the beginning of the church year several people needed to step down from teaching. We also are in need of OWL (Our Whole Lives) teachers and Middle School Activities advisers.

That said, heartfelt thanks to all who give of their time and energy to ensure a successful program.

From the Music Program

At the beginning of this church year, the chorus welcomed new members Shirley Steele, Jean Taranta and John Ashbrook, and welcomed back Patti Garver, Lillian Finnell, Kate McCain and Peter Hoffer from hiatus. We encourage anyone who loves to sing to join us and explore music that we hope enriches the worship experience for all.

With the holiday season approaching, the chorus has begun rehearsal for our special music service in December, featuring John Rutter's "When Icicles Hang." We're also preparing for Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve. We hope to include children's participation in the services celebrating these holidays.

From the Administration Office

We are exploring changing our church management software to a system that is web-based. This will provide greater access and utility to those who need it, particularly lay leadership. A team of people from several areas of church life are exploring this option, particularly data security. We are learning terms such as "role based access protocols." Expect to hear more about all this soon.

We have checked in with all the people who have made calls when a phone tree needed to be implemented in the last couple years. Not all can continue to serve. We thank them for their service and are still seeking those who might be able to help in the future.

From the Minister's Office

Rev. Peter is working with the Personnel Committee and the RE Council to develop an interim Director of Religious Education job description, and will advertise internally and externally for this position (see page 6). Rev. Peter will work with Personnel and the Council to appoint a search committee for the DRE position.

Peter is in close communication with Rich Cairncross, chair of the RE Council, and with the Committee on Ministry in an attempt to reduce levels of anxiety and concern about both DRE Jean Campbell's resignation and the future course of the RE program.

Please contact any of the staff during their working hours with questions or comments.

Rina Jurceka

Church Administrator

November 2008

Go Green, Be Green

After the spring-summer tsunami of articles, radio and TV interviews, round table discussions, tips and advice on global warming, CO2 emissions, gas prices, oil prices and what to do about these various problems afflicting Planet Earth, some facts emerged:

- ◆ The United States represents just five per cent of the world's population.
- ◆ The U.S. however, accounts for 25 per cent of the world's oil use, and has been the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases. (China overtook us this year.)
- ◆ A thousand pounds of carbon dioxide are added to the atmosphere for every barrel of oil burned.
- ◆ The good news (because of high gasoline prices) is that in the first five months of 2008 Americans drove 30 billion fewer miles during the same period last year.
- ◆ That means that 30 billion pounds of CO2 were not released into the atmosphere.
- ◆ It's estimated there are some 18 billion barrels of offshore oil in areas now closed to drilling.
- ◆ However, those billions would meet global needs for only seven months.
- ◆ It will take at least two decades for drilling in restricted areas to have any effect on domestic production and, according to the Department of Energy, "because oil prices are determined on the international market," the impact on fuel costs would be "insignificant." *

So while we moan and groan over gasoline and oil prices, surrounded by a blizzard of confusing campaign rhetoric, ask yourselves these end-of-summer questions.

- ◆ Do you make a positive effort to have at least one no-drive day a week?
- ◆ Do you plan your errand trips, so that you can reduce miles by making the visit to the supermarket, the post office, the cleaners, the library, the barber shop and the hairdresser in one congratulatory, fuel-saving sweep?
- ◆ Are the tires on your car adequately inflated? The saving is 800 pounds of carbon dioxide.
- ◆ Do you change your car's air filter monthly? A saving of 250 pounds of CO2.
- ◆ Did you car-pool more than three times this summer and fall?
- ◆ If you went into the city did you use public transportation, rather than drive?

If the answer was "yes" to all of the above, you may have just turned a becoming shade of pale green, along with a small portion of the earth around you, with thunderous applause in the background from GO GREEN-BE GREEN..

A Day of Mindfulness at UU Church of Annapolis

The Mindfulness Practice Group of the UU Church of Annapolis, Md., will sponsor a Day of Mindfulness with Ayya Sobhana on Saturday, Nov. 15.

Ayya is one of only 17 fully ordained Theravadan Buddhist nuns in North America. The day's theme will be "metta", the Pali term for loving-kindness. Please dress comfortably, prepared to take off shoes before entering the sanctuary. The mindfulness group will have a basket available to receive your "dana," or generosity, offered by custom for the benefit of the community of the visiting cleric.

Registration will start at 9:10 a.m. and practice will begin at 9:30, ending between 4 and 4:30 p.m.

We will also practice early mindful eating together, since Ayya must have her main meal of the day before noon. You are invited to bring with you a vegetarian dish to share, plus a plate and utensils for yourself, to reduce the carbon footprint of the event.

RSVP if you can to mpg@uuca-md.org or to 410-268-9639. For driving instructions please visit the UUCA web site at <http://www.uuca-md.org>.

THIS, I BELIEVE/MARK BERNSTEIN

From the Editors,

This is the eighth installment of the occasional series "This, I Believe." We invite you to send us a concise statement of your own core belief. We hope that through these short essays, we'll get to know each other better, and we'll enjoy provocative food for thought. Please submit your work to focus@uucdc.org. It should run between 350 and 500 words. For the full guidelines-- and for an easy, one-step way to submit your work to FOCUS -- go to <http://uucdc.org/thisibelieve.html>. For more information, contact Bette Austin or Neil Goldstein.

I was recently at a low point in my life...again!!! This time, though, I decided to do something about it. I reached out to those around me for help. So that was how I was having lunch one day with Peg, a dear friend of some 30 years, when she asked me if I believed in God. She told me that her belief in a higher power enabled her to have something to hold on to. It allowed her to feel less alone in times of despair. I listened respectfully and then told her that, no, I didn't believe in God. "Well, then," she asked, "what do you believe in?"

I realized in that moment that it's easier to know what you don't believe in than to know what you do. So I mumbled something incoherent and then spent the next couple of days thinking about her question. Here's my answer. Peg, are you listening?

I believe in you, Peg. I believe in the power of others to help heal me as I heal myself. I believe in the magic of relationships and the importance of connecting with others in our minds and in our hearts. I believe in the ability of my friends to breathe life into me. I believe in laughing together and loving together. I believe in being present with others and listening to them as if what they are saying is the most important thing in the world. I believe in soft hugs and pats on the back and gentle squeezes of the hands I am holding at the end of Peter's benediction. I believe that in concert with others, all things are possible. I believe in you, Peg, as you believe in me.

Mark Bernstein

You Can Help Us Host Homeless Families in Nov. and Dec.

Last month, the Delaware County Interfaith Hospitality Network celebrated its one-year anniversary. In that time, UUCDC has hosted IHN families five times, and we'll start our sixth hosting week on Sunday, Nov. 2. As of this writing we expect three families totaling 10 people. With economic hardship hitting hard in all of our communities, Delco IHN has had a record number of inquiries for placements of families. It looks to be a busy year for all of us.

Our guests will be with us for a week, and all volunteers (both experienced and new to the program!) are welcome and appreciated. This is a big job for a few people, but a manageable one when we all work together to make it happen.

If you are interested in helping during the Nov. 2 week or our next hosting week starting Dec. 28,.

Now, some fun facts about the past year of IHN here:

- ◆ Number of families hosted: 9.
- ◆ Number of children hosted: 16.
- ◆ Number of families who've "graduated" from the program, meaning they were placed in housing by IHN: 2.
- ◆ Number of volunteers: 93.
- ◆ Average number of volunteers needed to make IHN work each week: 53.
- ◆ Longest shift you can sign up for: 11 hours for an overnight.
- ◆ Shortest shift: a few minutes to drop off breakfast and lunch items.



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

Focus

November 2008

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Calendar

November 2008*

Date	Name of Event	Time			
11/1	JPD - YSC ADVISOR TRAINING	7:30 AM	11/9	ARE- UU101	9:00 AM
	Muslims	9:30 AM		Worship Service & RE	10:30 AM
	Middle School	5:00 PM		YUCKI's Soup Luncheon	11:30 AM
				COA Leaders	12:00 PM
11/2	ARE- UU101	9:00 AM		Is Membership in Your Future?	12:00 PM
	Worship Service & RE	10:30 AM		Personnel Meeting	12:00 PM
	UUCDC Board	12:00 PM		UUCDC Board	12:00 PM
	Race: The Power of Illusion Movie	1:00 PM		Speaker Series	1:00 PM
	Thespis	2:00 PM		Thespis	2:00 PM
	Newcomers Reception	3:30 PM		COA Mentorship Potluck	6:00 PM
	IHN	5:00 PM		Independent Catholics	6:00 PM
	COA	6:00 PM		Yucki's	6:00 PM
	Independent Catholics	6:00 PM	11/10	Voice Lesson Rental	8:00 AM
	Yuckis	6:00 PM		Thespis	7:00 PM
11/3	Voice Lesson Rental	8:00 AM		Board Meeting	7:15 PM
	IHN	5:00 PM	11/11	Yoga	5:45 PM
	REC Meeting	7:00 PM		ADORE Group	7:00 PM
11/4	IHN	5:00 PM		DBSA	7:00 PM
	Yoga	5:45 PM	11/12	Muslims	6:00 PM
	Social Justice	7:00 PM		MCC	7:30 PM
11/5	IHN	5:00 PM	11/13	ARE	7:00 PM
	Muslims	6:00 PM		SGM	7:00 PM
	Interweave Meeting	7:15 PM		Chorus	7:30 PM
	MCC	7:30 PM	11/14	Auction Set Up	12:00 PM
11/6	SGM	1:00 PM	11/15	Muslims	9:30 AM
	IHN	5:00 PM		Rose Tree Piano Tuning	10:00 AM
	ARE	7:00 PM		Auction	6:00 PM
	Chorus	7:30 PM	11/16	Worship Service & RE	10:30 AM
11/7	IHN	5:00 PM		HTF Meeting	11:45 AM
	Film Night	7:00 PM		Thespis	2:00 PM
11/8	Muslims	9:30 AM		Rose Tree Concert	5:00 PM
	Muslims	4:45 PM		COA	6:00 PM
	IHN	5:00 PM		Independent Catholics	6:00 PM
	HTF- Feeding at Shelter	5:30 PM		Yuckis	6:00 PM



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November 2008

11/17	Voice Lesson Rental	8:00 AM	11/25	Yoga	5:45 PM
	DRE AC	7:00 PM		ARE- Spirit in Practice	7:00 PM
	MCC	7:00 PM		DBSA	7:00 PM
	Thespis	7:00 PM	11/26	RTDS	10:00 AM
	RTDS Board Meeting	7:15 PM		RTDS	1:30 PM
11/18	Yoga	5:45 PM		Muslims	6:00 PM
11/19	Muslims	6:00 PM	11/28	Commitment Ceremony Reh.	6:00 PM
	MCC	7:30 PM	11/29	Memorial Garden	9:00 AM
	Membership Council	7:30 PM		Muslims	9:30 AM
11/20	ARE	7:00 PM		Commitment Ceremony	10:00 AM
	Chorus	7:30 PM	11/30	Worship Service & RE	10:30 AM
11/21	Pajama Stories	7:00 PM		Thespis	2:00 PM
	Book Group	7:30 PM		COA Movie Night	6:00 PM
11/22	Muslims	9:30 AM		Independent Catholic	6:00 PM
	Yucki Pie Bake	12:00 PM			
11/23	Worship Service & RE	10:30 AM			
	Pie Pick Up	11:30 AM			
	Is Membership In Your Future	12:00 PM			
	Thespis	2:00 PM			
	Muslims	4:30 PM			
	COA	6:00 PM			
	Independent Catholics	6:00 PM			
	Yucki's	6:00 PM			
11/24	Voice Lesson Rental	8:00 AM			
	MCC	7:00 PM			
	Thespis	7:00 PM			
	Lay Leadership Council	7:30 PM			