

# The Sojourner

newsletter of the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship of Pottstown

1565 South Keim St  
(610) 327-2662

Pottstown, PA 19465  
uupottstown.org

## January 2008

### Sunday, January 6, 2008

#### **Power of Apology and Peace of Forgiveness**

Lay Leader/Speaker: CJ Rhoads

Have you ever been really really angry at someone? So angry you didn't want to forgive them?

CJ will explore the consequences of holding onto grudges and anger. She will also provide some practical advice on how to deal with unforgivable behavior and seek peace for yourself.

### Sunday, January 13, 2008

#### **Building a Legacy**

Rev Paul Langston-Daley

A few months ago I challenged this congregation to begin to think forward, to build a common vision and a common mission; to build an institution.

Today we explore what it takes to find this vision and mission. What we build together will be the future, the legacy we leave behind.

The service today will be followed by a Town Hall meeting to discuss goals, and to consider our future.

### Sunday, January 20, 2008

#### **Technology - Embrace It!!**

A collaborative service  
with Bob Jones and Mary Ryan

We hear a lot of comments these days about how things were better in the past and how technology has hurt human connections and how things were better in "the good old days".

We're going to talk about the positive side to technology and science and how many things have helped in our daily lives.

*Third Sunday potluck will follow the service.*

### Sunday, January 27, 2008

#### **Why We Garden**

Rev Paul Langston-Daley

Creating a garden requires attention to both the individual plants, and the garden as a whole.

As a culture we have moved so far toward individual needs and wants, that we have forgotten how to be a community. The younger generations have forgotten or lost an understanding of the instructions of being in and part of a community.

How do we find balance?



*From the Minister's Desk*

The founders built this fellowship as their legacy. They created it and nourished it and passed it on. What shall we do with their legacy? Will we hold so tightly to the past that we lose sight of the future? Or will we form our own dreams of the future and live them so we might pass this legacy on to our children? What legacy will we leave to those who come after us?

A few months ago I challenged you to build an institution. But, what does it mean to build an institution? I have heard the story of this fellowship on many occasions and it is a wonderful story. But, I have wondered why the story always ends at the building? Twenty years of history are left unspoken, forgotten. What happened in those years? Why are they not part of your history? What direction or focus led you on AFTER the building of the edifice?

Building an institution requires a vision, a common mission and purpose. Building an institution requires hope and faith and a commitment to something larger than your selves. Visitors join when a strong vision is present. When they sense that they can be part of that greater vision. We have a message that saves lives. We have a message of tolerance and acceptance that is the antidote to the “us and them” culture that now persists in our society. We have a message that can save lives but we must be willing to embrace it, share it and pass it on. A commitment to the future includes a commitment to our children and our Religious Education program.

This month we begin several new steps in the process of building this church, this institution. On January 12<sup>th</sup> the Board and Committee Council will meet to discuss short term-goals. On January 13<sup>th</sup>, following the service, we will hold a Town Hall Meeting to talk about your vision for the future of this Fellowship and our goals for next year. We will also hold several circle dinners to gather information about our mission and continue building the connections between you.

Creating a unified vision will require trust, compromise and faith. I have no doubt that we can succeed if we put ourselves to this task fully, with love and unity as our guides.

It is my sincere hope that each of you will participate in one circle dinner. Let us feed one another with our outstretched arms that all may be fully satisfied. Let *each* of us be heard, not just the loudest, or the bravest. Let us, together, find the vision that will be our legacy for the future.

Shanti,  
Paul

Rev. Paul Langston-Daley, Minister  
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Pottstown  
610-850-3364  
Minister@uupottstown.org

## *President's Message*

I have found the onset of a New Year to be a time to celebrate accomplishments and joyful experiences in my life, to contemplate that which was left undone and think of those who are no longer with us, and to embrace the excitement of change.

The New Year also represents new opportunities. For the Fellowship, the New Year provides a chance to set new goals and accomplish our vision together. The focus of our congregational goals for this physical year is on our behavior covenant, developing a mission and vision, improving stewardship and working for a healthier congregation. This month the Board and Committee Council will be meeting to review the progress on these goals and to discuss goals and priorities for the upcoming 2008-2009 Fellowship year. We will be meeting with the congregation on January 13<sup>th</sup> to hear your ideas and thoughts about your vision for the future of our Fellowship.

The Nomination Committee is being formed and will be working to fill the vacant positions on the governing board. The rotating term concept initiated with our new governance model to provide leadership continuity means that some of the current Board members will remain on the Board for the 2008-2009 year. These positions are the Finance Secretary and one at-large member, with the President-Elect moving to the President position, and the President moving to the Past-President position. Since the President-Elect position was not filled at the last election, the Board passed a motion at their November meeting to combine the President-Elect and President positions for this current year; so I will remain as president and Carla Johnson will remain as Past-President for 2008-2009. The congregation will be electing the following Board positions for the 2008-2009 year: President-Elect for a three year term, and Secretary, Treasurer and an at-large board member for two year terms. If the Nomination Committee approaches you to fill a position on the Board, please consider sharing your talents to help build our community.

I want to encourage our Fellowship to take the opportunity to build a strong, united community that will allow us to carry forward with our UU tradition, sharing our gifts with future generations. I hope that we continue with our good efforts from this past year to be intentional about the choices our community makes. May we enjoy each other's company as we work together towards a shared vision, building a Fellowship that will grow and flourish as a light of hope, celebrating not just this New Year together but many more new years to come!

May the New Year bring you joy and peace as we journey along our spiritual paths.

Peace,

Mary

# Religious Education Notes



## Family Chalice Lighting:

**We light this chalice, thankful to be together, and savoring the warmth we bring one another in these cold winter months. I am glad I can always come home and know I am safe and cared for.**

## Curriculum

Our curriculum this year is covering the UU 7 principles in depth, using different approaches each week to build on different learning styles. This month our topics are:

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Principle:

*Acceptance of one another & encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations:  
Growing together by accepting and listening to each other.*

January 6<sup>th</sup> Seeing One Another's Points of View: What is a Marple?

January 13<sup>th</sup> Listening to Each Other: When You Say It, What Do I Hear?

January 20<sup>th</sup> Listening to Each Other: Listening As A Group

January 27<sup>th</sup> Encouraging One Another

## Please Welcome....

Please welcome Kristin Appignani, our new nursery person! She is ready for children ages infant–four years of age, and will be available for special events, too. She has an art background, and is really good with kids – we feel very lucky to have her. Please make her feel welcome!

## Thank You's

Thanks to Michaela and her friend, and Conner and Nicholas (and Linda!), for helping make the **Hanging of the Greens** successful!



Nicholas & Conner Fulwood making gingerbread cookies with Linda Pallay



Michaela Nemeth modeling the day's greenery



Michaela and friend steadying the tree for Albert Jenkin to cut

Continued ....

Thanks, also, to Hayley, Darcy, Cady, & Robin Mossholder, Baxter Sewall, and Michaela Nemeth for coming to our annual **Holiday Craft Day!** We made snow globe ornaments that were hung on the tree at the Yule service on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Thanks, too, to Kristen Appignani (the adult pictured below) for her help getting them made!



The gang at work



Ornaments drying



Close up of our snow globe ornaments

See you at RE!

Lynn Medley, RE Chair

## Are You A Budget Director? Would you Like To Be?

UUF is a membership-owned, membership-controlled spiritual organization. We each individually choose how much money we want to put into the "pot", and together we vote on how that money is to be spent. Traditionally, UUs shy away from discussions about money, but I think it is ultra-important for everyone to get a chance to have their say on how much money we need and how much money we should spend on what. Often, members spend their own money on needed items rather than join the conversation. However, as Stewardship Chair I'd like to see us move toward including all the costs of the Fellowship in the budget.

On January 27, 2008 at 12:00 noon, there will be a Budget Director's meeting. Who is a Budget Director? Anyone who has spent their own money on Fellowship items, or anyone who would like input into how Fellowship funds are spent. Of course, it also includes those people who are designated as responsible for certain budget lines, as well as all the people on which they rely for input into the budget. That combined list probably includes everyone in the Fellowship.

Prior to that meeting, the Finance Committee will publish a report that includes the detailed spending from the previous calendar and church year. During the Budget Director's meeting, we will discuss these actuals together and formulate a budget upon which the Pledge Drive will be based. This year's pledge drive will be started with a Kick Off Dinner and Talent show on March 22, 2008, so we need to have the proposed budget completed well in advance of that.

Sooo - everyone is invited to the Budget Director's meeting on January 27th to provide input into next year's budget. Please let me know if you plan to come.

Sincerely  
CJ Rhoads  
Stewardship Chair

## *The Women's Group*

The Women's Group will celebrate women this month as we dine together to celebrate the New Year! All current, past members, and new members are welcome and to join us. Contact Linda Pallay, via email or phone, by December 30<sup>th</sup> if you would like to dine with us. We have a reservation @ the Thai Place Restaurant, 700 Nutt Rd., Phoenixville, 610-917-9943. We will meet inside the restaurant on January 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 6:30 pm.

If you are thinking about joining the women's group please contact Linda Pallay or Bonnie Donohue by leaving a message on the Fellowship phone @ 610-327-2662, someone will contact you to discuss the Women's Group spirituality study course this year.

Next meeting date: February 7<sup>th</sup> @ 7 pm at the Fellowship in the Nursery/Lounge.

All are welcome.

Linda

## *Mark your calendars!*

### *Thrift Store Fashion show*

Saturday, January 19 at 6:30 pm.

Plan on coming to our thrift store fashion show and spaghetti dinner!

Entrance fee: canned goods for Pottstown food pantry. Sponsored by the UU Action committee.

This is an all generation event. People of all ages are welcome to "walk the runway". So break out your thrift store finest and help us celebrate re-use after the holiday.

If you have any questions, contact the committee at

[uuaction@uupottstown.org](mailto:uuaction@uupottstown.org).

Carla Johnson  
UU Action Committee chair

## *First Friday Movie Night*

at 7 PM on January 4th

### **Hairspray (2007)**

Tracy Turnblad is an overweight high-school student whose only dream is to be on a local Baltimore teen dance program. While her father tells her to follow her dreams, her mother Edna reminds her that she doesn't look like the girls on that show. After impressing the show's host, Tracy earns a coveted spot on the program, but when she becomes a popular addition to the cast, she earns the wrath of the prettiest girl in school -- a girl whose mother just happens to operate the local television station. Tracy's visit to detention hall opens her eyes to the racial tension on the show, as does the budding relationship between her best friend and an African-American boy named Seaweed. Thus empowered, Tracy attempts to integrate the races on her favorite program. ~ Perry Seibert, All Movie Guide

## *Friendly's Night January 15th*

We have another fund raiser coming up this month.

Please come to Friendly's restaurant at Rt 100 and Shoemaker Rd. between 4 and 9 PM and join other members for food and fellowship.

We will need a few people to sign up as hosts (many hands make light work). Remember, Friendly's donates 10% of the evening's proceeds to our Fellowship.

So, Come, Eat, Talk, Laugh and Share!

See Rev. Paul if you'd like to host- a sign up sheet will be available on the first few Sunday's this month.



## *UU Opportunities from the larger community...*

**Meadville Lombard Theological School**, a Unitarian Universalist seminary located in Chicago, Illinois, announces two learning and networking opportunities for lay leaders, seminarians, and ministers:

**Winter Institute** - February 8 - 10, 2008

### **Can We Build the Beloved Community through Political Action?**

Explore the potential and the limitations of democratic processes for creating the beloved community. During two days of lecture and discussion, consider the kinds of political activities effective in building community and how this political work is connected with the institutional life of the church.

This workshop will be led by Dr. Melissa Harris-Lacewell, Associate Professor of Politics and African American Studies at Princeton University and author of "Barbershops, Bibles, and BET: Everyday Talk and Black Political Thought."

Fees for the Institute are \$130 for students; \$190 for all others (not including lodging). For more information, visit our website,

[http://www.meadville.edu/LL\\_WinterInstitute.htm](http://www.meadville.edu/LL_WinterInstitute.htm), or email: [winterinstitute@meadville.edu](mailto:winterinstitute@meadville.edu).

Registration closes January 15.

### **Civil Rights Bus Tour**

March 22 - 30, 2008

Join Rev. Dr. Gordon and Judy Gibson as they take you on a tour of significant sites of the Southern Civil Rights Movement, offering a journey of experiential learning where you will encounter the sites, sounds, and especially the people who worked to create change during this revolutionary time in our country's history. The course is offered for credit for seminary students, but non-students are encouraged to audit the course, too.

Enrollment to take the course for credit will be limited to 15. An additional 15 seats on the tour will be available to the general public. Registration is on a first-come basis and is due no later than January 18, 2008. Please note that this year the course runs across Easter weekend. Participation for the entire eight days is required for those seeking academic credit and strongly encouraged for all others. See the link on our home page for more information about this course: [www.meadville.edu](http://www.meadville.edu).

This course was offered in 2006 and was a life- and ministry-changing experience for all of the participants. For an account of that trip, please visit our website:

[http://www.meadville.edu/AtML\\_CivilRightsApril06.htm](http://www.meadville.edu/AtML_CivilRightsApril06.htm).

For more information, please contact Tina Porter at [tporter@meadville.edu](mailto:tporter@meadville.edu).

## *Shared Ministry*

The Committee on Shared Ministry invites members and friends to attend a small group circle. The circles will be hosted at various times from mid January through early February. Circles will be hosted by Gladys Smith, Paul Nemeth, Stef Fulwood, Mary Alsayegh, Carla Johnson and Jenn Mossholder in their homes.

We'd like to get ideas of what is important to you and our Fellowship - currently and in the future - on these topics:

1. Lifespan Religious Education
2. Social Action
3. Worship

The signup sheets will be posted at the Fellowship, beginning on December 16.

Please join us - it's a great way to get to know each other better.

If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Paul or Carla Johnson.

## *UUFP Town Hall Meeting*

**Sunday, January 13 at 11:30 a.m.**

The Board invites the members and friends of our Fellowship to meet with us and discuss your vision for the future of this Fellowship and our goals for next year. Our community needs your ideas, thoughts, and support! Hope to see you there.

## **UUPLAN and People of Faith Harrisburg Lobby Day**

**Tuesday, January 29, 2008**

On Tuesday, January 29, 2008 join Unitarian Universalists and other people of faith from across Pennsylvania in Harrisburg to lobby for legislation that will protect LGBT people from discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodations.

Join our brothers and sisters in faith for this important opportunity for us to speak with one voice to our state law-makers and demand equality for all Pennsylvanians. More details to follow in the coming weeks.



## *Meditation Moments...*

*The only way to bring peace to the earth*

*is to learn to make our own life peaceful.*

—Jack Kornfield

Come join us for meditation the first Tuesday of the month  
in Fellowship Hall from 7pm - 8:30pm.

No experience is necessary, just a desire to take some quiet time for centering and development of inner calmness.

*Any questions, please call Sally Martin 610-323-3067*

*note: no Meditation in January-see you in February!*

## Who's Who at the UUF

**Minister:** Rev Paul Langston-Daley

### **Board of Directors:**

**President:** Mary Alsayegh

**Past President:** Carla Johnson

**Board Secretary:** Linda Pallay

**Finance Secretary:** CJ Rhoads

**Treasurer:** Albert Jenkin

**Board Member:** Lynn Medley

**Board Member:** Bob Gross

### **Board Committees:**

**Committee on Shared Ministry:** Carla Johnson

**Peaceful Resolutions:** CJ Rhoads

### **Congregational Committees:**

**Committee Council Chair:** Stefanie Fulwood

### **Stewardship:**

Chair: CJ Rhoads

Treasurer: Albert Jenkin

Fundraising: Vacant

### **UUAction:**

Chair: Carla Johnson

Welcoming Congregation: Don Davis

### **Programs:**

Chair: Stefanie Fulwood

Sunday Service: Stefanie Fulwood

Choir: Marianne Yarnall

Women's Group: Linda Pallay

### **Member Services:**

Membership: Kay Price

Caring: Ruth Daly

Greeters: Judith Van Beek

### **Facilities:**

Chair: Matthew Molyneux

Building and Grounds: Matthew Molyneux

Aesthetics: Stefanie Fulwood

Gardens: Dorothea Hamlin

### **Communications:**

Chair: Vacant

Newsletter: Kay Price

Website Updates: Bob Gross

### **Social Life:**

Chair: Vacant

Sunday Coffee Teams: Judith Van Beek

### **Religious Education:**

Chair: Lynn Medley

## **Important email contacts:**

Minister@uupottstown.org – Rev Paul Langston-Daley	Programs@uupottstown.org – Stefanie Fulwood
President@uupottstown.org – Mary Alsayegh	MemberServices@uupottstown.org- Kay Price
PastPresident@uupottstown.org – Carla Johnson	Facilities@uupottstown.org – Matthew Molyneux
BoardSecretary@uupottstown.org – Linda Pallay	Rentals@uupottstown.org –Stefanie Fulwood
CommitteeCouncil@uupottstown.org – Stef Fulwood	Finance@uupottstown.org - CJ Rhoads at UUF
Office@uupottstown.org – Albert Jenkin	Stewardship@uupottstown.org - CJ Rhoads at UUF
Mailings@UUPottstown.org-Judith Van Beek	PeacefulResolutions@uupottstown.org— CJ Rhoads
Newsletter@uupottstown.org – Kay Price	Sharedministry@uupottstown.org: Carla Johnson
UUAction@uupottstown.org - Carla Johnson	Webmaster@uupottstown.org – Bob Gross

**Change of email, phone or street address?** Email your new contact information to mailings@uupottstown.org or hand over new info in person to Judith Van Beek.

## **Sojourner Policy/Deadlines**

The Sojourner is the voice of the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship of Pottstown. Notices pertaining to the Fellowship, its activities and members, and denominational news may be submitted to the Fellowship in writing or by email. **The submission deadline is the 15th of each month. Please note the email address for the Sojourner: newsletter@uupottstown.org**

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
FELLOWSHIP OF  
POTTSTOWN

*1565 South Keim Street  
Pottstown, PA 19465*

Phone: 610-327-2662

Email:

[office@uupottstown.org](mailto:office@uupottstown.org)

*Pottstown Cluster food pantry collection during service  
every third Sunday of the month.*