

The Sojourner

newsletter of the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship of Pottstown

1565 South Keim St
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Pottstown, PA 19465
uupottstown.org

August 2007

Sunday, August 5, 2007

Grace for Mavericks

Guest minister: Rev. Daniel S. Schatz,
BuxMont UU Fellowship
Lay Leader: Stefanie Fulwood

Words like "grace", "sin", "redemption" and even "God", sometimes make Unitarian Universalists uncomfortable. Yet if we explore the ideas behind them, we may find hidden treasures that help us in our own spiritual growth while creating the kind of religious community that is our ideal.

For those of you who attended the "Kindling the Flame" service held recently at UU Germantown, you will remember Rev. Schatz's compelling and engaging sermon delivered during this service. We're honored that he has accepted our invitation to be a guest minister this Sunday.

Sunday, August 12, 2007

Storytelling and Identity: Telling Our Own Story

Speaker: Lynn Medley
Lay Leader: Stefanie Fulwood

A vital part of any spiritual community, like our own Fellowship, are the stories of the individuals that come together, and the stories of those gathered from the past. We are no different, but aren't we interesting! As we add new elements to our story with the rise and fall of the tide of our own personal lives, the incoming of a new minister and with the writing of a new covenant, taking a moment to look closely at who we are is a revealing process. In this service we will use the framework of storytelling to think about and talk together about who we are individually and as a group.

Sunday, August 19, 2007

That Others May Simply Live

Reverend Paul Langston-Daley

Gandhi said "Live simply that others may simply live." With all the news of global warming, and higher gas prices it's easy to become overwhelmed and cynical. I believe we need a new ethic, one that balances the needs of the individual with the needs of the greater community. Are we willing to sacrifice our individual comforts to allow others to simply live? Are we willing to live the principles we embrace? Can we find the balance between our own individual needs and the needs of the world community? Today we explore these questions and consider what it means to live simply. Please join us in welcoming the Reverend Paul Langston-Daley to our Fellowship.

Sunday, August 26, 2007

New Ways to Love Each Other

Guest Speaker: Pat DeBrady, UU Reformation,
Philadelphia

Lay Leader: Stefanie Fulwood

Pat DeBrady, who currently volunteers as the statewide organizer for UUPLAN, Unitarian Universalist Pennsylvania Legislative Advocacy Network, will speak to us on new ways to love each other.

Pat DeBrady has been a socially active UU for over forty years. Her pulpit visits to local churches have spanned a wide range of topics including surveys of contemporary African/American literature to the broad examination of our national values and, occasionally, her own poems.

President's Message

Even though it's summer, the UUFP has been quite busy.

As you know, we are in the important process of creating a UUFP Congregational Covenant. The first covenant workshop held on June 11th resulted in a draft that was sent to all members to solicit feedback. The second Covenant Workshop was held on July 1st. In this workshop participants discussed and revised the draft from the previous workshop. A final draft of the proposed covenant will be sent to the congregation by the covenant task force. The plan is to have a congregational vote in September on whether or not to adopt the covenant. This covenant is not a statement of belief, but rather will serve as a guide to members as to how to act together as a community.

One of the goals for restructuring of the Board and Committees was to remove the committee work from the Board, allowing Board members to focus efforts on stewardship and long-term planning. The committees have been moving full speed ahead with their activities this summer. It is exciting to see the start-up of the new Committee Council. The Board received the first Committee Council report for their July Board meeting. The Council has also established a Yahoo Group to facilitate communication between the various committees. Leadership is making a concerted effort to increase internal communications as it is crucial to the smooth operation of our organization. Please be patient as we work out these processes.

The Stewardship Committee has made some great progress. The Treasurer has set up and started using Quicken for the church finances, and the Finance Secretary presented newly formatted reports at the July Board meeting. Also, the addition of two Finance Assistants who help with weekly collection and bank deposits has been a valuable addition to the Committee.

Thanks to the Facilities Committee for their fantastic job on the new Social Room floor. The hardwood floor really energizes the room and gives the space a new ambiance. Also, the new dishes purchased by the Aesthetics Committee are lovely and were enjoyed at our July potluck lunch.

In July our interim minister, Rev. Colin Bossen, officiated at his final service. In recognition of Colin's work, the Fellowship presented him with an engraved desk clock. We deeply appreciate Colin's efforts with the Fellowship. I believe that the work we've done together this past year has positioned the Fellowship for an exciting upcoming year. On August 15th we will begin our journey with our new acting minister, Rev. Paul Langston-Daley. We welcome our new minister to the UUFP and look forward to our shared ministry with him.

The Board and Committee Council will be meeting on August 18th for the annual leadership retreat. At the retreat the focus will be on short-term and long-term goals for the congregation, as well as setting our agenda for the next year. The initial efforts at the workshop will relate to the key issues that were identified in the May 2007 shared leadership workshops held by UUA growth consultant, Rev. Tom Chulak.

I hope you are enjoying the summer!

Respectfully,

The Transition Team Report

The start of our year has really taken off. The Transition Team is working with the Stewardship Committee and the Committee Council Chairs to synchronize our yearly calendar with the pledge drive, budget and the steps taken to plan for the following year. Various committees plan the following year in the winter and spring of the current year of operation. This helps committees and UUFP stay on track with our vision and mission goals as well as give us plenty of time to plan for quality programming for Sunday services, RE and other UUFP activities and events. One of the goals established for this year is developing a congregational behavioral covenant for UUFP members and friends. We are also trying to streamline how we run UUFP. Work has been started on both of these and is outlined below:

Our behavioral covenant is in the final stages as we have completed our two congregational workshops with Colin. At the meetings, we discussed how we would like to act and speak with each other, and how we would disagree with each other. We established a list of behaviors/characteristics that were consistent with our UUFP principles. Currently this list is being drafted into a covenant. Later on this summer or fall, we will come together as a group and vote on this covenant if we all feel it represents us. Please keep an eye out for this next step in our covenanting process.

As part of our new governance model, we are trying to streamline how we run UUFP to avoid burnout and give people more energy for fun at UUFP! One important thing we realized is that we no longer need to have two congregational meetings! (Yippee)! We will be able to accomplish our planning goals with one meeting and other information sessions rather than additional meetings, which require meeting quorum. We all know this is good news! Streamlining how we do the business of running UUFP is already having positive benefits.

The Transition Team also functioned as the ministerial search committee. Reverend Paul Langston-Daley will be our acting minister for the coming year and will start on August 15th.

Please join us in welcoming him to our fellowship.

Ping An, Linda

Chinese for "peace"

Committee Council

I just want to take a brief moment from the Committee Council to let everyone know that the official UUFP calendar is currently being housed on a private yahoo group, during the time that our Communications Committee is overhauling our UUFP website. We began this change by housing the calendar on the UUFP Committee Council yahoo group, but that had some logistical problems in allowing everyone access to the portions of the group they needed to access, so we're in the process of moving it. The UUFP Calendar group can be found at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/uufpc/>. If you haven't received an invitation to join by the first week in August, please call or email Stefanie Fulwood at fulwoods@comcast.net. Adding and deleting dates will be limited, but anyone who is a member will be able to view the calendar at any time. Please see me if you have any questions.

There are a lot of other things going on with the Committee Council right now that are related to getting started. We're working closely with the Board and the Transition Team to stay true to our new structure, to work out the kinks and to think ahead to how all of this will work with a larger congregation. It's a lot of work for everyone involved and while we appreciate the pats on the back and the thanks coming our way, we also appreciate those who offer to help. We're catching up to all the work that needs to be done this year, while at the same time planning ahead for a smooth workflow in years to come. It's daunting sometimes. Even if you're not sure what you would like to do, or don't want to be heavily involved in anything, we welcome any and all help that gets offered. If you have an interest in any area, contact the chair. They're all listed on the cover of the Order of Service. We also welcome ideas and suggestions, cognizant of the fact that just because someone offers a good idea, doesn't mean they are willing or able to follow through with the effort. Please don't let that keep you from offering the great ideas!

Respectfully,
Stefanie Fulwood
Committee Council Chair

Stewardship: CJ Rhoads
Programs: Stefanie Fulwood
Social Life: Jeanne Bautista
UU Action: Carla Johnson
Communication: Cougar
Facilities: Matt Molyneux
Religious Education: Lynn Medley
Members Services: Kay Price

JPD WOMEN AND RELIGION ANNUAL RETREAT

A Weekend to Change Your Life

October 12-14, 2007

Friday evening through Sunday lunch

Led by Barbara Vaughn and Heather Gehron-Rice

St. Raphaela Center
Haverford, PA

During this weekend we will take the heritage from the women in our lives and look at where we are and where we want to go from here. We will decide what needs to change and then design a road ahead to move our lives in the direction that expresses our essential selves.

The weekend is based on the book [A Weekend to Change Your Life](#) by Joan Anderson. There will be alone time, sharing time, and plenty of encouragement and support from other women. Come and enjoy a weekend of relaxation with women of like mind as we learn and grow together.

This is an opportunity to connect with other women and to enjoy some well deserved free time.

This month the women's group will meet at Bonnie Donohue's house for spirituality and fun. We will open the circle and spend some time with check-in and with discussion about the continuation of *Rise up and Call her Name*, which we will return to in September. Please bring or wear your bathing suit and bring a towel. Bonnie has invited us to relax and swim in her pool.

Currently, our meetings are the second Thursday of the month at 7pm. All UUFP women and friends are welcome to join the women's group. Please feel free to join us for a session or two to see if you would like to journey with us as we continue our study of women and earth-based spirituality.

Sung to the tune of "Blue Moon"

This song was composed and performed by Eileen Humpal and accompanied on the piano by Robin Ward "many years ago" according to Bob Jones. It was reprised for Bob's July 18th service. By popular demand the song is printed here in it's entirety. Enjoy!

U-U's, though never sure what we're there for
We're always saying a prayer for
Opinions that we can care for
U-U's, don't follow Buddha or Jesus
There are no dogmas that please us
But liberal causes they seize us.
We get together every Sunday
to explore our minds as far as we dare
Inside we're always hoping that one day
We'll find an idea that more than two of us can share
U-U's, you may not like our agenda
In fact it just might offend 'ya
At least we don't try to bend 'ya
U-U's, we'll tell you just what we're thinkin'
And ask you what you've been drinkin'
If your ideas are stinkin'
If you think we're all opinionated blowhards
That's OK 'cause that's just what we think of you
If all you want to do is sit at home and play cards
Then you'll never be a certified U-U
U-U's, with us you're always a winner
We'll never call you a sinner

UUA General Assembly Statements/Resolutions

This past General Assembly in Portland, OR marked the 30th anniversary of the "Women and Religion" Resolution, which recognized continuing gender inequity and committed the UUA to recognizing and addressing the issues that affect full equality for women. This GA also marked the 10th anniversary of the "Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities" resolution, and the 10th anniversary of the "Toward an Anti-Racist Unitarian Universalist Association" resolution. Like the one 30 years ago, both of these resolutions recognize the many ways in which our communities continue to perpetuate privilege and inequity, and calls for us to respond.

This year, our six Actions of Immediate Witness continue our affirmation of the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and the expansion of our explicit recognition of oppressed peoples into our communal embrace. In particular, this year marks the first time that the delegates of General Assembly have *explicitly* recognized transgender persons as in need of protection from discrimination.

The Actions of Immediate Witness are:

- [Social Support for the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women \(CEDAW\)](#)
- [Support Immigrant Families: Stop the ICE \(Immigration and Customs Enforcement\) Raids](#)
- [Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education Legislation](#)
- [Stop US Sponsored Torture: A Religious Call to Action](#)
- [Repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"](#)
- [Pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act with Transgender Inclusion and Protection](#)

In addition to the Actions of Immediate Witness, the delegates at GA passed the 2007 Statement of Conscience, "[Moral Values for a Pluralistic Society.](#)"

Learn more about Statements of Conscience/ Actions of Immediate Witness, visit www.uua.org/csw.

To read our past statements/resolutions, visit www.uua.org/socialjustice/socialjustice.

Respectfully submitted ,

About our Gardens...

Our River Birch was badly damaged by last February's heavy frost. Our Master Gardener suggested we leave all the branches with leaves on them on the tree. PLEASE, NO PRUNING THIS YEAR! The lower branches are very much alive-the tree needs as much nourishment from the leaves as it can get. It has been fertilized.

We now have an edger, thanks to Jon Price. However, now we need someone to make the borders on the Southern and Eastern sides of the flowerbeds. Goggles are necessary and available; also, string and posts for setting a straight line. See Dorothea Hamlin about helping with this project.

We would like to exchange some tall orange daylilies for medium and low-growing varieties. We need bicolor orange and yellow, bright red, apricot-peach, pink, and variegated whites. Now is the time to make healthier plants of your own by separating them!!! Please give your plants to Dorothea Hamlin or Judith Van Beek so they will not be mixed with the plants we are giving away. We have more of the very showy daylilies to give away-they will be in plastic bags at the front door.

All help is appreciated, Dorothea Hamlin

Sunday Service Committee

Things are happening so fast this summer with a new minister joining us! Let me share all that's going on in August and September with you.

First, Rev. Dan Schatz from UU BuxMont will be joining us on August 5, 2007. For those of you unable to attend the "Kindling the Flame" service recently held at UU Germantown, he is a charismatic and compelling speaker. He is a graduate of Harvard Divinity School and has previously served as an intern to UUA President John Buehrens, a hospital and hospice chaplain, a teacher of Comparative Religion and Minister of the UU Fellowship of the Eastern Slopes in Tamworth, New Hampshire. Dan is also a folksinger, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist with two albums to his credit. Dan will be performing some of his own music during the service.

Second, our fall liturgical calendar is going to be a bit different this year.

It will be as follows:

August 19th: Rev. Paul Langston-Daley's first service

September 2nd: "Labor of Love" service. We will gather for an opening and then separate to lovingly labor over our Fellowship building and grounds.

Come dressed and prepared to work.

September 16th: Ingathering Sunday. This is a departure, as it would historically be held on September 9th.

September 23rd: Our RE team will present, in an interactive experience, the curriculum that our children will be following during this year. Even if you do not have children in RE, this will be applicable to all ages and a great continuation of Telling Our Own Stories.

As always, my door, my phone and my email are open for questions, suggestions and comments. I welcome the feedback.

Bright Blessings,
Stefanie Fulwood
Programs - Sunday Service Committee Chair

Sunday Service Committee: Bob Jones, Cougar, Mary Ryan, Emily Quarles-Mowrer and myself.

New Email Addresses for UUPFP

By June of this year our "tech services" task force had gotten the new website up and running. The next step was generating new, more functional email addresses that will automatically forward incoming Fellowship mail to the home email of the committee member or volunteer responsible for that task. Below are the newly created addresses and the contact person..

Minister@uupottstown.org - Rev Paul Langston-Daley
President@uupottstown.org - Mary Alsayegh
PastPresident@uupottstown.org - Carla Johnson
BoardSecretary@uupottstown.org - Linda Pallay
CommitteeCouncil@uupottstown.org - Stef Fulwood

Office@uupottstown.org - Albert Jenkin
Maillings@UUPottstown.org-Judith Van Beek
Newsletter@uupottstown.org - Kay Price
UUAction@uupottstown.org - Carla Johnson
Programs@uupottstown.org - Stefanie Fulwood
MemberServices@uupottstown.org- Kay Price
Facilities@uupottstown.org - Matthew Molyneux
Communications@uupottstown.org - Cougar
SocialLife@uupottstown.org - Jeanne Bautista
Rentals@uupottstown.org -Stefanie Fulwood
RE@uupottstown.org - Jeanne Bautista
Finance@uupottstown.org - CJ Rhoads at UUPFP
Stewardship@uupottstown.org - CJ Rhoads at UUPFP
PeacefulResolutions@uupottstown.org - CJRhoads
Transition@uupottstown.org - Linda Pallay

Who's Who at the UUF

Minister: Rev Paul Langston-Daley

Board of Directors:

President: Mary Alsayegh

Past President: Carla Johnson

President Elect: Vacant

Secretary: Linda Pally

Finance: CJ Rhoads

Transition Team: Linda Pally

At Large: Lynn Medley

At Large: Bob Gross

Committee Chairs:

Stewardship:

Chair: CJ Rhoads

Fundraising: Jeanne Bautista

UUAction:

Chair: Carla Johnson

Welcoming Congregation: Don Davis

Programs:

Chair: Stefanie Fulwood

Sunday Service: Stefanie Fulwood

Women's Group: Linda Pally

Chautauqua Team: Cougar

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: Cougar

Newsletter: Kay Price

Technology/Webmaster: Cougar

Social Life:

Chair: Jeanne Bautista

Sunday Coffee Teams: Judith Van Beek

Religious Education:

Chair: Lynn Medley

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**

Meditation Moments...

Let your mind become clear like a still forest pool.

by Jack Cornfield

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

August 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2 Yoga: 7:00	3	4
5 Choir: 8:30 Service: 10:00	6	7 Meditation with Sally: 7-8:30 Trans Team Mtg: 7:00 Mem Mtg: 7:00	8	9 Yoga: 7:00 Women's Group: 7:00 (Bonnie Donahue's house)	10	11
12 Choir: 8:30 Service: 10:00	13	14	15	16 Yoga: 7:00	17	18 Board/Comm Council Retreat: 9-4
19 Choir: 8:30 Service: 10:00 Attn: no potluck today	20	21 Sunday Service Mtg: 7:00	22	23 Yoga: 7:00	24	25
26 Choir: 8:30 Service: 10:00	27	28	29	30 Yoga: 7:00	31	

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
FELLOWSHIP OF
POTTSTOWN

1565 South Keim Street
Pottstown, PA 19465

Phone: 610-327-2662

Email:

office@uupottstown.org

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