

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, September 2, 2007

Labor of Love

Aesthetics Committee

While Labor Day is, historically, a day to celebrate the Labor Movement in the United States, or as a day of rest from our ongoing labors, it is also there to remind us of the labor that we give to our workplace, our home, our families, our friends and...our church. Many of us labor long and hard for the Fellowship, a place that we love very much. We labor in large ways as well as small ways of which few are even aware. Still, there is more to be done. And sometimes it can be done more speedily and with a lighter heart if done in fellowship. We have a few tasks on our "to do" list that will go more easily the more hands are available to complete them. Please dress casually and join us to lovingly labor for the Fellowship.

Sunday, September 9, 2007

If I Won the Lottery

Speaker: Mary Ryan

Most of us have said at one point in our lives, "If I won the lottery I would _____". Usually we think of buying a new car, or a house or traveling to distant exotic locations. But as we know, money can't buy happiness. There are many stories about lottery winners who wish they hadn't "won".

This morning we will pretend we've won the lottery and discuss how we would deal with our new fortunes. Would it change our lives and our values? The amount you will have won will not be disclosed until the morning of the service. Please come and be prepared to discuss.

Sunday, September 16, 2007

In the Beginning: *Water Ceremony*

Rev. Paul Langston-Daley

Welcome back from travels far and near! Today we

celebrate our return from summer. As we begin our year together, we share stories of our adventures and I will share myths of the beginning of the world.

Please remember to bring your water to pour into the shared bowl. This is a service for all ages.

Third Sunday potluck will follow the service.

Sunday, September 23, 2007

New Ways to Love Each Other

Guest Speaker: Pat DeBrady, UU Reformation, Phila
Lay Leader: Stefanie Fulwood

Pat DeBrady, who currently volunteers as the statewide organizer for UUPLAN, Unitarian Universalist PA 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.

Sunday, September 30, 2007

Living the Tradition

Rev. Paul Langston-Daley

How many times have we each heard someone from another denomination ask us— "So, what do Unitarian Universalist's believe?" Some know that we have no creed, others think of us only as some heretical tradition that doesn't believe in Jesus. Still others believe we lump all traditions together. What do we believe and have faith in? Do we believe and have faith in anything? Today we explore the principles and purposes of our tradition and give shape to our faith.

From the Minister's Desk

Hello to one and all!

I am excited about joining you all in your continuing journey. I know that the Board has been working hard to make some organizational changes, and while these are not generally visible to most people, they are important. I want to applaud all the hard work that has been done thus far by so many people. Working with such a committed group of leaders will be a pleasure.

I know that many of you have not yet met me. By the time you get this I will have had the opportunity to provide at least one Sunday service, but it seems like a good place to tell you a bit about myself.

I am a divorced father of one son, Parker, who was born on Mother's Day in 1997. He is currently living with his mother in Santa Cruz. He comes to visit me a few times a year and we talk on the phone regularly.

I am a graduate of Andover Newton Theological School, a Liberal Christian seminary in Massachusetts. From 1998-2005 I served the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Santa Cruz County. Prior to being called to the Santa Cruz County Fellowship I served as Interim minister for the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany in Albany, New York, a congregation of over four hundred members. My internship was completed at the First Parish in Waltham, Massachusetts in 1996.

It is my goal to bring an open and inclusive message of community to the Pottstown Fellowship.

Because my theological beliefs are varied, I rely on Unitarian Universalist history as well as a variety of other traditions as sources for theological reflection. I have been greatly influenced by the Taoist image of life as a river and Native American beliefs, specifically the ideas of interconnectedness and the impact we have on the world for seven future generations. I sincerely believe, and want to encourage people to discover, that we are each valuable. When we understand and accept our own value, we are better able to share more authentically and to help others to recognize and accept their own value. Authentic relationships honor the web of life and, I believe, help to mend the tears we face as a society.

As a UU minister, I have an obligation to provide the congregation with the basic understanding and exploration of different traditions as well as our own UU history. This education supports those who have grounding in a particular tradition, and may help others discover which traditions provide the grounding and roots they seek. I believe it is vital to hold up the common truths of different traditions in order to recognize the commonality and power of ideas such as love, compassion, peace and equity.

I am looking forward to getting to know you and to serving your needs as a congregation. Together we have the knowledge, wisdom, strength and courage to grow this Fellowship into its fullest potential. Liberal religion is not just about building community, it is about living and honoring our principles in our daily lives. As Unitarian Universalists we have a saving message that the world desperately needs. We are a beacon of hope shining brightly- we need only be willing to proclaim it for others to heed our call for acceptance, love and compassion. I look forward to helping you shine your light in the greater community; to grow and prosper, not just for yourselves, but for the world.

Shanti,

Paul

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President's Message

I hope that you all enjoyed your summer! It's been quite a busy summer at the UUFP. The leadership has been busy making plans for the year.

In August the Board members, Committee Council, and our minister, Rev. Paul Langston-Daley, had a productive leadership retreat. The retreat began with Board training based on material from a JPD workshop that I attended in July. The training covered the purpose and responsibility of the board, healthy leadership practices, growth and change in congregations, as well as systems thinking in faith communities. A Board Manual containing additional training aids was also provided to all Board members. Special thanks to Carla for developing a flash drive "soft" Board Manual!

The Board also focused on setting goals for the year. We began with the five goals established by our congregation in the May 2007 meetings held by UUA growth consultant, Rev. Tom Chulak: 1) Develop a Behavior Covenant, 2) Develop Mission and Vision, 3) Improve Stewardship, 4) Build a healthy congregation, and 5) Implement new governance structure for the Board and Committee Council. Based on these five general goals, the Board established goals that were SMART: Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, and Tangible. It is important that our goals are measurable to provide a means for the Board to gauge progress.

The committee chairs joined the leadership retreat in the afternoon, and we reviewed the roles and responsibilities of the Board, the Minister, the Committee Council and the Committees based on our new governance model. We then reviewed the UUFP Planning Schedule that the Transition Team developed to aid in the implementation of our new structure. This schedule outlines the major planning activities for this year and the next fiscal year. In our model, both the Board and the Committee Council are involved in the annual planning cycle and preparation for the budget process. Since the annual budget process has already been completed for the year, the committees will make plans based on the current approved budget. Next year, the Committee Council will take an active role in the budget and planning processes.

In our new structure, the Committee Council has a primary responsibility to transform the goals set by the Board into meaningful implementation plans and budget requests. The committee chairs received training on this process at the retreat. The Council will compile the committee plans into a unified action plan for the year and send it to the Board for approval.

As we embark on this important upcoming year, please be patient as we work out these new processes. Let's work hard on our goals, yet make sure we also have fun and take time to nurture one another in our individual spiritual journeys.

I want to thank everyone for their continued efforts and support. I'm also grateful for our past leadership and recognize that we are reaping the benefits of their past endeavors. Our congregation is built on the strong foundation established by our founding members forty years ago. We will be honoring those people who have helped to build our UU community at the UUFP 40th Anniversary Celebration in November.

I look forward to sharing an exciting year's journey at UUFP with you.

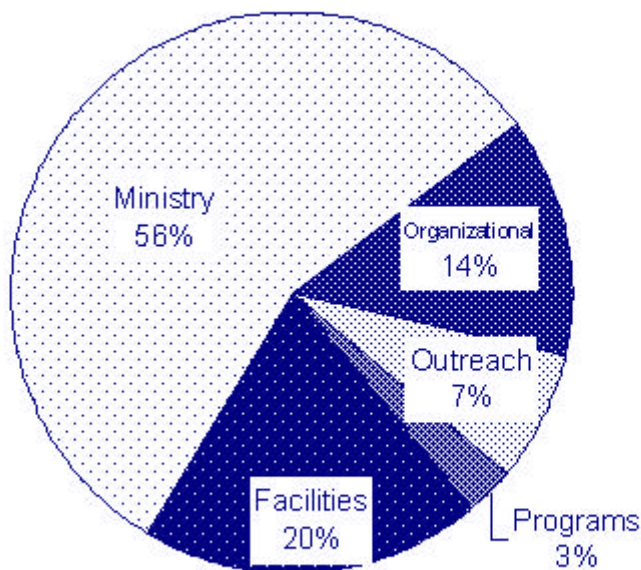
Respectfully,
Mary

UUF^F End of year Financial Report

Expense Breakouts: July 1, 2006-June 30, 2007

2006-07 Actuals

Pledges	\$	29,672
Other	\$	14,176
TOTAL	\$	43,848
Facilities	\$	8,807
Ministry	\$	25,161
Organizational	\$	6,313
Outreach	\$	3,353
Programs	\$	1,207
TOTAL	\$	44,841
Shortfall	\$	(993)



Report created by Albert Jenkin, Treasurer and CJ Rhoads, Finance Secretary

Save the date!

Just a reminder that the UUF^F 40th Anniversary dinner will be held on Saturday evening November 10th. Clear your calendars now for this historic event!

Also, don't forget that the UUF^F History Project Group is collecting information and memorabilia about the early years at the Fellowship. If you have photos or old records in your closet or attic, now is the time to dig them out, dust them off and share them with the History Project Group. For more information about this project refer to page 9 of the June 2007 issue of the Sojourner.

Contact CJ Rhoads if you have information or items to contribute to this effort.

Our Potluck

The potluck will be held, as usual, on the 3rd Sunday of the month this September. Since we are short handed in the kitchen we are asking all those who bring food to be responsible for any heating or preparing of their individual dishes.

Also, it will be helpful if the casseroles and serving plates are taken home immediately after the potluck-thereby saving on dishwashing and trying to figure out who they belong to after everyone has gone home. At this time we have a willing volunteer to wash the dishes but I'm sure she will be happy for any help that is offered!

If you have any questions or would like to help out in the kitchen on this day please speak to Judith Van Beek.

Hear ye, Hear ye! We are getting closer to a covenant!

Covenant \kəv- (ə-) nənt\ n [of covenir to agree, fr. L convenire] 1: a usu. formal and binding agreement: COMPACT 2 a written agreement or promise usu. under seal between two or more parties esp. for the performance of some action

What could be more important than our covenant? Our covenant is a promise we make about how we will act with and toward each another not only on Sundays, but in committee meetings, and at informal gatherings – whenever we are in our UUFPP community. Because this promise is so important, we have committed a lot of congregational time and attention to creating it. We have had three congregational meetings to move from initial individual thoughts to cohesive group ideas. We've wordsmithed as small and congregational-sized groups, and are now at a point that we are ready to gather again as a congregation to vote on its implementation.

UUFPP COVENANT

Version for vote October 2007

In the pursuit of truth, and in the spirit of justice, we unite in compassionate fellowship and service.

With the UU Principles as our guide, we covenant to:

- Uphold a nurturing community where all are welcome in the search for intellectual stimulation and spiritual nourishment
- Presume good intentions, even in times of conflict, and go beyond tolerance to understanding
- Consider carefully the potential results of our words and actions, behaving with kindness and respect towards others
- Enrich our liberal religious community by encouraging diversity among our members and exemplifying an open mind within the larger community
- Cultivate the health of the congregation through shared ministry, giving cheerfully of ourselves as we are able, to the tasks we choose together
- Support one another in all phases of life
- Nurture the growth and education of our children who are an integral part of our community
- Have faith in our chosen leadership and be supportive of them in their efforts
- Honor our collective space by respecting the sanctity of our building and grounds, and the gifts contained within

*There will be a congregational vote on this version of the covenant
October 14th, 2007 at 11:30, following the service*

Transition Team

The Transition Team will resume monthly meetings on September 11 at 7pm after a brief recess this summer. The Transition Team continues to work with the Board of Directors and the Committee Council to help UUFP travel along our new pathway of working toward our new governance model and toward the goals we set forth at our last meeting with Tom Chulak, UUA Growth consultant.

A behavioral covenant was one of the goals we voted on to pursue and many members helped work on the drafts and final version. Workshops held in June and July with our previous Interim minister Collin Bossen started us along the way. We will vote as a congregation on October 14th to approve the final draft. Please mark your calendars to continue to have your say in how we grow and change at UUFP.

The process of working toward a more intentional and streamlined way of running UUFP has continued throughout the summer. There will be changes along the way as we figure out the best fit for ourselves. Please remember that your opinions are important and will help to evaluate how we adapt the governance model to fit UUFP.

The Committee Council Chairperson: Stefanie Fulwood; our Treasurer: Al Jenkin; the Transition Team members: Mary Alsayegh, Carla Johnson, Bob Jones, Rev. Paul Langston-Daley and myself and the Board of Directors: Mary Alsayegh, Carla Johnson, CJ Rhoads, Bob Gross, Lynn Medley, Rev. Paul Langston-Daley and myself attended an all day workshop to review the new governance model, and to learn about the new and not-so-new roles of who does what, and to also plan for this year. Kay Price, the membership chairperson, and Cougar Reddy, from the Chautauqua Café and Sunday programming committees, joined us in the afternoon.

The BOD will work on long range planning, the Committee Council will work on improving communication between committees and on joint ventures between committees. We are available to answer questions and listen to your ideas on how to help the process run more smoothly. Please do not hesitate to contact us.

We are all the meat and potatoes of UUFP and each of us plays an important part at the Fellowship. The community we have built has grown and changed over the years but our principles are still the same: coming together in community for spirituality, understanding of ourselves and the world around us in accordance with the seven UU principles and purposes. I look forward to seeing you each Sunday as we meet together this year for another interesting and engaging year at UUFP.

Peace,

Linda

Women's Group

The Women's Group meets at the UUFP in the lounge on the second Thursday of each month at 7 PM. This month's date is September 20th. We will finish up the Wal-Mart movie this month as we did not finish it last month. All UUFP women and friends of UUFP are invited to join us. We have an open membership. Each meeting begins with a check-in to catch up with each other on how we've been doing for the month and then we start in with the topic of the evening. We are concentrating on the "Rise Up and Call Her Name" a woman honoring, earth based, spirituality curriculum. We will return to the third session in October. Please consider joining us for reflection, community, discussion and spirituality.

Linda

Chautauqua Café

The dates for our Fall Chautauqua Café evenings are October 27th, and November 24th. Our "outside" act for October is "Leisha," who has performed and taught belly dancing in our area for years. Leisha is a beautiful dancer, one you are certain to enjoy. In addition to her solos, she will explain and engage adventurous members of the audience in learning some movements as well.

Expect another hilarious skit from the Wing-It players, along with songs, occasional thoughtful moments, and great desserts and coffees. November's acts are firming up now.

Mark your calendars for these fun-filled community evenings.

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.

For more information, contact::Kay Woods at woods7777@aol.com or call 717-424-2830

Also watch for updates at www.jpdw.org

The UUFP's Women's Link is Jennifer Mossholder.

Who's Who at the UUF

Minister: Rev Paul Langston-Daley

Board of Directors:

President: Mary Alsayegh

Past President: Carla Johnson

President Elect: Vacant

Board Secretary: Linda Pallay

Finance Secretary: CJ Rhoads

Board Member: Lynn Medley

Board Member: Bob Gross

Committees:

Committee Council Chair: Stefanie Fulwood

Transition Team: Linda Pallay

Peaceful Resolutions: CJ Rhoads

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

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: Vacant

Newsletter: Kay Price

Website Updates: Bob Gross

Social Life:

Chair: Vacant

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...

Life can be found only in the present moment.

Thich Nhat Hanh

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

September 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 Choir: 8:30 Service: 10:00	3	4 Meditation with Sally: 7-8:30	5	6 Yoga: 7:00 Membership Mtg: 7:00	7	8
9 Choir: 8:30 Service: 10:00 Chi Gong: 11:30	10 Committee Council Mtg	11	12	13 Ministry start-up session: 6:00 Yoga: 7:00	14	15 Deadline for Sojourner articles
16 Choir: 8:30 Service: 10:00 <i>Water ceremony</i> <i>3rd Sun Potluck</i>	17 Board Mtg: 7:00	18	19	20 Yoga: 7:00 Women's Group: 7:00	21	22
23 Choir: 8:30 Service: 10:00	24	25 Sunday Service Mtg: 7:00	26	27 Yoga: 7:00	28	29
30 Choir: 8:30 Service: 10:00						

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
FELLOWSHIP OF
POTTSTOWN

*1565 South Keim Street
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*Pottstown Cluster food pantry collection during service
every third Sunday of the month.*