

# THE REPORTER

The Unitarian Church of Harrisburg • February 2009 • Vol. 44, No. 6

Listening Assistance Devices available, see an usher for assistance. The building is handicap accessible.  
Child care for children under age 6 is available during both services.

## February Services

February 1	9:15 & 11:00	☼ <b>Stolen Sermons</b>
February 8	9:15 & 11:00	☼ <b>Holy Toenails</b>
February 15	9:15 & 11:00	☼ <b>Eros and Agape</b>
February 22	9:15 & 11:00	☼ <b>Youth Sunday</b>

## From Your Minister

*The Reverend  
Howard N. Dana*

On Sunday January 4, 2009 Sparkie Radcliffe and I were guests at an afternoon worship service to celebrate The Shared Ministry and mark its transition to a new life. As we sat in that beautiful, light-filled sanctuary with about 75 other people, Sparkie and I witnessed an event that was both sad and hopeful. The Shared Ministry congregation had come together to say goodbye to both their minister and their building. They had, in some cases, come together to say goodbye to one another. And they had gathered to hope that a new chapter would open for them. Through our presence (and a large chocolate cake) Sparkie and I represented that new chapter. We were honored to be there to witness to this congregation's remarkable journey.

In the part of the worship service devoted to saying goodbye to their pastor, Rev. Michael Beynon, he formally said, "I thank The Shared Ministry's members and friends for the love, kindness, and support shown me these last two years. I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made. I am grateful for the many ways my leadership has been accepted. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here." The congregation responded saying, "We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and accept that you now leave to minister elsewhere. We express our gratitude for your time among us. We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your departure." Wow, what a way for a minister and a congregation to part!

After saying goodbye to their minister, The Shared Ministry affirmed these words about the building that, for generations, they have called home: "The time has come for this congregation, The Shared Ministry, under God's leadership, to take leave of ownership of this building. It has been consecrated for the ministry of God's Holy Word and Sacraments. It has provided refuge and comfort for God's people. It has served well our holy faith. It is fitting, therefore, that we should

*(Continued on page 4)*

This place is *hoping!* We are truly becoming a large multifarious\* community, with a great diversity of cool projects, moving in every direction all at once, and all the stresses that go with trying to coordinate structured chaos. It is amazing and exciting!

For one example, Ann and I attended the Mindfulness Meditation Group's session on January first, and I shouldn't have been surprised to find a large, thriving sub-community, sharing an ancient spiritual practice together. Some are long-time UCH members, others come just for MMG on Tuesdays. I recommend checking it out. MMG is just one of SO many amazing offerings, started by interested members, that have become the breath of this church community.

This community is *so* hopping that something really big, really important, has gotten almost lost in the hubbub. Our hard-working and efficient Search Committee, without anywhere near the recognition they deserve, has (since September) completed and compiled our congregational survey, assembled and sent packets about UCH to interested candidates, and is now communicating with those candidates, gradually and thoughtfully whittling the pool down. Soon, within a few short months, we will meet the committee's choice for our new Associate Minister. We will have some time to get to know him or her, and then have a congregational vote on whether to call that candidate to join us. Joan Hellmann is chair of the Search Committee, and has worked very hard to make sure the committee does all it can to represent our diverse views and interests during the search process. And no, even the president isn't privy to any details of the process before the committee shares its result.

...And while all that is happening, new projects and opportunities are brewing! Watch this month for invitations to several new task forces, created by the Board in hopes that they will take on a life (a breath?) of their own. Some invitations will reach out to those who like to clean, paint, spackle, and eat pizza with friends. Some will seek those who want to start or contribute to social justice efforts, in Allison

*(Continued on page 3)*

## President's Message

J.D. Stillwater

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>February 2009</h1>						
<p>1</p> <p><b>Services</b> <b>9:15 &amp; 11 AM</b></p> <p>Path to Membership 10:15 &amp; Noon</p> <p><i>Doyle COUCH</i> 7 pm</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Yoga 6:30</p> <p><b>GROUNDHOG DAY PARTY/ CLOVER GROVE</b> <b>5 PM</b></p> <p><i>Hellmann COUCH</i> 7 pm</p> <p>ICE Meeting 7 pm</p>	<p>3</p> <p><i>Dooley COUCH</i> Noon</p> <p>Mindfulness Meditation Group 7 PM</p> <p>QUESTERS 7 PM</p> <p>FINANCE CMTE 7:30</p> <p>Helping Women in Prison 7:30 PM</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Queen Spirit Potluck &amp; Circle 6 PM</p> <p><b>Adult Religious Growth &amp; Learning @ 6:30 PM:</b> Cakes for the Queen of Heaven</p> <p><i>Community Cmte</i> 7 pm</p>	<p>5</p> <p><i>Ziegler/Tyger COUCH</i> 9:30 am</p> <p>Unisingers 7:00</p> <p><b>Adult RGL @ 7 PM:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Laughing Our Way Thru the Isms;</li> <li>◆ Singing as Spiritual Practice</li> </ul>	<p>6</p> <p>UCH PlayGroup 9:30 AM</p> <p>Youth Group Overnight 5:30 pm</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Youth Group Overnight conclusion</p> <p><i>The Cowardly Lion: the Power of Fear</i> 9 AM</p> <p><b>Whole Church Potluck 6 PM</b></p>
<p>8</p> <p><b>Services</b> <b>9:15 &amp; 11 AM</b></p> <p><b>Happy Birthday</b> Charles Darwin observances 12:30 - 2:30 pm</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Yoga 6:30 pm</p> <p><b>Adult RGL @ 7 PM:</b> Building the World We Dream About</p> <p><b>2009 Auction Planning Mtg</b> 7 PM</p>	<p>10</p> <p>REPORTER Deadline</p> <p>MMG 7 PM</p>	<p>11</p> <p><b>Adult RGL @ 6:30 PM:</b> Cakes for the Queen</p> <p><b>Board Mtg</b> 7 pm</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Unisingers 7 pm</p> <p><b>Adult RGL @ 7 PM:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Laughing Our Way Thru the Isms;</li> <li>◆ Singing as Spiritual Practice</li> </ul>	<p>13</p> <p>UCH Playgroup 9:30 AM</p>	<p>14</p> <p><i>The Cowardly Lion: the Power of Fear</i> 9 AM</p>
<p>15</p> <p><b>Services</b> <b>9:15 &amp; 11 am</b></p> <p>Path to Membership 10:15 &amp; Noon</p> <p>Young Adult Cmte 2:30 PM</p> <p><i>Doyle COUCH</i> 7 pm</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Yoga 6:30 pm</p> <p>Adult RGL: Building the World We Dream About 7pm</p> <p><i>Hellmann COUCH</i> 7 pm</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Regional Middle Sch. Planning Team 10 am</p> <p><i>Dooley COUCH</i> Noon</p> <p>MMG 7 PM</p> <p><b>PRIDEFEST MTG 7 PM</b></p> <p>QUESTERS 7 PM</p>	<p>18</p> <p><b>Clover Grove</b> 7 pm</p> <p><i>Community Cmte</i> 7 pm</p>	<p>19</p> <p><i>Ziegler/Tyger COUCH</i> 9:30 am</p> <p>Unisingers 7:00</p> <p><b>Adult RGL @ 7 PM:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Laughing Our Way Thru the Isms;</li> <li>◆ Singing as Spiritual Practice</li> </ul>	<p>20</p> <p>UCH Playgroup 9:30 AM</p> <p>Clover Lane Coffeehouse 8 pm</p>	<p>21</p> <p><b>Craft Group</b> 8 am</p>
<p>22</p> <p><b>Services</b> <b>9:15 &amp; 11 AM</b></p>	<p>23</p> <p>Yoga 6:30 pm</p> <p><b>Adult RGL @ 7 PM:</b> Building the World We Dream About 7PM</p>	<p>24</p> <p>MMG 7 PM</p> <p><i>Membership Action Council</i> 7 pm</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Unisingers 7:00</p> <p><b>Adult RGL @ 7 PM:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Laughing Our Way Thru the Isms;</li> <li>◆ Singing as Spiritual Practice</li> </ul>	<p>27</p> <p>UCH Playgroup 9:30 am</p> <p>RGL Volunteer Appreciation Dinner 6 pm</p>	<p>28</p>

# JOYS & CONCERNS

This information is reserved  
for Members of UCH.

## Directory Updates

This information is reserved  
for Members of UCH.



## President's Message

*J.D. Stillwater*



*(Continued from page 1)*

Hill or elsewhere. (I know, this may be a large group...I've already heard from people who want to start a children's library, tutor children, offer summer camps, hold block parties, do exchanges with other churches, start a new soup kitchen...)

Then there may be an invitation to join a group that will consider the timing and tactics of a future Capital Campaign, another to seek and write grants for all kinds of projects, another to consider ways to join with other organizations in interfaith efforts, and more. Some will be very specific—if you have experience fixing, tuning, moving or selling pianos, we now have *eleven* of them that need *you!* If any of the invitations make you think “Well that would be fun!” then jump in!

By April, I hope we can all look at this congregation and say that not only is this place hopping, but it is *on the move!* I picture it like a square dance or contra dance where no one knows any of the calls, but they're having a great time moving together, bumping into one another, and laughing, all the while their numbers grow as more people join the joyous movement, and as the dance proceeds, a whole new way of dancing emerges, with new patterns, new movements that don't need calls, incorporating free expressions as well as coordinated movements into a blissful, boisterous ballet.\*\*

I look forward to bumping into you soon!

*JD Stillwater*

\* Like that word ‘multifarious’? Me too. (I had to look it up.)

\*\* He starts with a show-offy SAT word, and ends with a horrible run-on sentence, which then goes out with a truly disgusting example of alliteration. (Where'd this guy learn to write? Must be a science teacher or something...)

## Lay-Led *Additions* Ministry

Within our liberal religious community, addiction and alcoholism remain a taboo subject...let us break that silence and help afflicted families, persons, and partners establish a "living dialogue" about this silent plague. We are forming a lay-led addiction ministry to carry the message to those who are suffering from this biological, emotional, mental, social and spiritual malady.

If you are in recovery from chemical dependency, or recovering from co-dependence, and or a child of an alcoholic or addict in recovery please JOIN us by contacting Terence Sillett at 564-5370 or email [lionheart@pobox.com](mailto:lionheart@pobox.com).

*Submitted by Terence Sillett*

## From Your Minister

*Rev. Howard N. Dana*

*(Continued from page 1)*

take leave of our ownership of this consecrated house, lifting up our hearts in thanksgiving for this common store of memories.” Then, through a spoken litany, the congregation released their church building, just as they had released their minister. They released their building to us!

The most touching aspect of this service of release was The Shared Ministry’s continued confidence in God’s mission in the world. They had followed that mission and would continue to do so. I saw faith in action that afternoon. As sad as people were to have to release both their minister and their building, there was never a sense that this was the end of their ministry. There was never a sense that the decisions they had made were faulty or foolish ones. The Shared Ministry has faith in itself. And it has faith in the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg. It has faith in us—in you and me!

I hope we can schedule a special service some time in February to consecrate the building at 16<sup>th</sup> and Market to our ongoing ministry with The Shared Ministry. I hope we can each make vows to work cooperatively—to learn and help and grow together. I hope we can trust one another to be of mutual support. I hope we can build on the great faith that both our congregations so clearly possess.

As I was writing this column I got the news that the Methodist Conference will release over \$50,000 for repairs to the roof of The Shared Ministry church building, before we even take ownership. This is yet another indication that our cooperating with this small-but-intrepid congregation is going to be very good for us. That they would ask denominational officials to release money to be spent on a building they will no longer own shows what trust The Shared Ministry congregation has in us. I know that we will live up to their trust.

Soon we will all have a chance to roll up our sleeves and get to work at 16<sup>th</sup> and Market Streets in the City of Harrisburg. I welcome this chance to put our faith into action. I look forward to the grand adventure this cooperation will surely turn out to be. Thank you all for your faith in the project—and your continued support of our fine congregation. See you in church.

*Love, Howard*

The REPORTER  
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UNITARIAN CHURCH OF HARRISBURG  
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## Associate Minister Search

Having read ministerial profiles, examined their search packets and held brief phone interviews with those potential candidates of most interest to us, the Associate Minister Search Committee is in the process of narrowing our list of candidates to three. We will then interview those pre-candidates in depth before deciding on the final candidate.

We are seeking an Associate Minister who will be:

- a cooperative and supportive colleague for our senior minister and for other staff members;
- a skilled spiritual and conceptual interpreter of Unitarian Universalism for those unfamiliar with our faith tradition as well as for our current congregation;
- a compassionate and influential pastor, caring for and counseling individuals, and visiting the sick and shut-ins at home and in health care institutions;
- a prophetic agent and inspirational leader for progressive social justice work in accord with Unitarian Universalist social values;
- a sensitive and patient bridge builder and cultural interpreter between the present congregation and the demographically, ethnically, and racially diverse communities of Harrisburg;
- a knowledgeable guide to other religious traditions congenial to some members of our congregation, capable of leading us in appreciating the gifts of a variety of sources;
- a dedicated, innovative, and patient institution builder and catalyst for membership growth;
- a conscientious, persistent, and wise religious leader with a skill set encompassing leadership development, church dynamics, interfaith outreach and communication, and community building both within and outside the congregation.

Certain personal qualities have been identified by our congregation as particularly important:

- Empathy - being warm, compassionate, and caring;
- Professional competence - ability to communicate, and to relate to members and staff in a manner which is empowering;
- Strong moral character - stable and reliable;
- Open-mindedness.

The ministerial skills and enthusiasms we identified as crucial to the congregation are: social action, community building, membership growth, and spiritual guidance. Significant skills and interests are: adult religious education, leadership development, facilitation, and hospital calling. Because we hope to pick a candidate who best fits our congregation’s needs, we made these statements in our congregational record that we provided to potential candidates. In return, we also must meet the requirements of potential available candidates, such as our programs, geographic location, salary needs, size of congregation, and the relationship with the senior minister. Given these expectations from both sides, we will strive to present a candidate that you will come to love. If you have questions or concerns, please look for us at church or e-mail/phone us or send us a letter. We are all in the church directory.

Associate Minister Search Committee:

Joan Hellmann, Chair, joan\_elizabeth@comcast.net, 236-6749  
Dawn Duffins Dick Hoke Nels Johnson  
Phyllis Slater Caroline Stine Libby Tisdell

# Yes!

Dear Harrisburg  
Unitarian Universalists,

As I write this I am looking forward to three personally important upcoming events in my near future. One is my sermon for Martin Luther King's birthday weekend, another is my upcoming participation in the UU Living Legacy Pilgrimage to civil rights landmark sites in Alabama and Mississippi during a week in mid-February, and the third is my appearance before the UUA's Ministerial Fellowship Committee in late March.

And of course there are larger-context dynamics that are currently also pretty exciting. For me, this is a time to be especially awake, aware, and alive. Yes!

Locally, negotiations continue for the acquisition of the Shared Ministry church on Allison Hill. Many in the congregation have voiced a heartening eagerness to become engaged there. At the same time, new energy is being focused on the purpose, plans, vision, and mission of our whole religious community, bringing a sense of a new chapter beginning in the adventure that is UCH. Who is it that we would like to become? Everyone matters in that process, and all are invited to be a part of that community-wide conversation, with deep listening and cultivation of our best selves. Yes!

Also adding excitement is anticipation about the results of the search for a settled associate minister for UCH. Soon our hard-working committee will be selecting pre-candidates from a large group of applicants, and from the pre-candidates will likely emerge the selection of a finalist, a candidate for the position to be presented to the membership. Ultimately the decision to call that minister will be made by the vote of the membership. Yes!

Many have asked whether I could please stay on as the permanently settled associate. Oh dear ones, how I wish that could be the case. But that is not possible, for many reasons. I have decided that I could focus on the upcoming sorrow of saying goodbye, and feel broken hearted, or – wiser – look forward with faith and hope towards the unfolding of a fine future for both you and me. In some ways, it is a difficult place to be, in the unknowingness of the changes ahead. And yet, we can choose to cultivate an openness to what the future will bring us. No matter what, I will always be with you in spirit, cheering you on. Yes!

In the wider world there's great anticipation nationally and internationally with the upcoming inauguration of a new United States president. The promise and hope attached to that event and its aftermath are historically momentous. A new day dawns. Yes!

I love you all very much. Keep your light shining; let's all keep building the world we dream about. Namasté.

*Yvonne*

Yvonne Schumacher Strejcek  
Acting Associate Minister

February 11<sup>th</sup>

4-6 PM

*Dauphin Co. Courthouse*

Corners of Front & Market Streets

**STANDING ON THE  
SIDE OF LOVE**

**STANDING UP  
FOR EQUALITY**

*Sponsored by the*

**RAINBOW EQUUALITY ADVOCATES  
UNITARIAN CHURCH OF HARRISBURG  
& PANZEE PRESS**

## Philosophy & Literature Group

The Philosophy and Literature Group will meet at the home of Ann Sitrin, on February 8, at 7:30 PM to discuss *The Looming Tower*, by Lawrence Wright. For directions and to let her know that you will be attending, you can reach her at 766-4767 or [ann.sitrin@gmail.com](mailto:ann.sitrin@gmail.com).

*Submitted by Dick Hoke*

## Living Sustainably The Exploration for Meaning

Five Classes (No class April 1)

**Wednesdays from 7 to 9 PM**

**March 18 through April 22**

Topics:

1. Environmentally, where are we now? ...without the sugar coating!
2. Economic models and measurements used: How they work against the environment
3. "Reduce Reuse Recycle" and "Think Global. Act Local" - Do we really know what these mean in our everyday actions?
4. Green Living, Pattern Language, Permaculture, Intentional Communities, Alternative Lifestyles
5. Where do we go from here?

Classes will include both presentation of material by the group sponsoring this class and group discussion. Participation is encouraged.

**Sponsored by Green Sanctuary.** To register or obtain additional information, please contact: Cassa Von Kundra (or Rachel Mark) at [cassa@comcast.net](mailto:cassa@comcast.net) or 717-421-2335.

*Submitted by Rachel Mark*

# Religious Growth & Learning

Dear Friends,

When the generation that is busy raising children participates in church life, it is enriching for all, as well as healthy for the church community. Parent participation in things like classes, events and committees is both appreciated and valued! As a parent, I know that dealing with bedtimes, homework, meals, illnesses, and fatigue can make attending things at church challenging. I can't help you get to the meeting or event, but once you get there, UCH is committed to helping you feel comfortable with your child in the care of our screened and experienced childcare providers.

Parents can expect that our providers will ensure that children have quality childcare where the children are safe and content, and hopefully learning and having fun as well. The leaders who plan meetings, classes, activities or events should find it easy to arrange for childcare. When the word "childcare" is used, please understand that it includes older children who may just need supervision.

We have procedures in place to help ensure the safety and health of participants. We ask parents to be responsible in three ways: 1) provide one week's notice so that providers can be scheduled; 2) only bring children who are healthy enough to be around other children; and 3) provide notice in the event that childcare isn't needed after you have originally requested it.

Leaders are asked to make meetings, events and activities "parent friendly" by offering childcare and perhaps scheduling an early evening start time. Everyone should be informed that childcare is available on request so long as we have sufficient notice. The procedure for how to arrange for childcare is outlined in this edition of *The REPORTER*, on the church website as well as occasionally in the Weekly News and other publications.

*In faith,  
Trish*

## Is Your Pantry Full?

Every day we hear of more job losses and more woe for the economy. If you still have *your* job, and *your* home, and have enough to eat, please consider donating each week to our food ministry. February's donations will go to the Central PA Food Bank. This food bank serves soup kitchens and food pantries throughout our area.

*Submitted by Nathalie Hoke*

## HOW TO ARRANGE FOR CHILDCARE

A sponsoring group or leader should offer childcare when publicizing an event or inviting participants to join a class, committee or task force. Participants should be required to let the designated leader know if they need childcare at least one week before it is needed. When the word "childcare" is used, please note that it includes older children who may just need supervision.

Make a request for childcare through [childcare@harrisburgUU.org](mailto:childcare@harrisburgUU.org) with at least one week's notice. Requests made with less than one week's notice are not guaranteed to result in childcare being provided.

The request for childcare should include:

- the start and end time of the event
- the number of children and their ages
- Confirmation will be sent. If confirmation is not received, please resubmit the request.

Participants using childcare should notify Trish Brandon at 564-4761 or [tmbrandon@comcast.net](mailto:tmbrandon@comcast.net) if canceling childcare.

Childcare providers are paid through the budget of the sponsoring ministry which is funded through the church budget. Participants using childcare do not incur any expenses. A voucher debiting the ministry utilizing childcare will be submitted. Ministries without adequate funds in their budget due to recent budget cuts should still offer childcare and talk to Trish Brandon about funding.

## UPDATE ON THE NEW STEWARDSHIP RITUAL FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Children and youth have been encouraged to put a donation in the collection plate at the bottom of the main stairs each week to nurture the concept of stewardship for our congregation. We are off to a good start as about \$60 has been donated since October. It's especially fun to see the big smiles on faces of preschoolers when they get to put money in the dish.

The Children and Youth Committee has decided to make offering plates available in each classroom to help leaders and participants remember the ritual. Someone from each class will transfer the class offering to the central offering each week.

The Committee is still considering options for inspiring generosity in stewardship and ways to encourage and celebrate children and youth giving from their own financial resources. Share your ideas with committee chair Kathy Malarich whose contact information is in the church directory.

## CHILDREN & YOUTH PROGRAM

### VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

The annual RGL Volunteer Appreciation event enjoys a well earned reputation of delicious food in a delightful atmosphere! All of the volunteers who participate in making the children and youth program possible are welcome to attend on February 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 in the Priestley Room. The Board of Trustees and staff team are invited to attend in appreciation for their support as well as to extend their thanks to the children and youth program volunteers. Childcare and the supervision of older children will be provided upon request. Contact Trish Brandon for childcare and questions

## *Generosity Campaign: 2009 – Zipping up the Budget!*

Wow! It's that time of year again when we have to start thinking about next year's budget. As a reminder, our fiscal year runs from July 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup>. In January, we start looking at next year's budget. Preparing for the income part of the budget process means that we need to start asking members of the congregation to do their part by starting to think about what you might be able to pledge for the next fiscal year. While I really wish all I needed to do was send out reminder notices to which everyone would respond with the most generous pledge they can afford, the process is generally a lot more complicated.

There are several ways to accomplish the task. Last year, we had a Commitment Sunday, where we all met for one service at the Sheraton. We heard a "Sermon on the Amount" and almost half the congregation brought their pledges on that Sunday, with many more following up with their pledge before the end of March. In the two years prior to that, we did Face-to-Face budget drives, with almost 20% of the congregation agreeing to meet personally with the rest of the congregation over a period of a month or so in order to connect more deeply with others and to have meaningful conversations about the mission of the church in confidential and informal manner.

The plan for this year's budget drive is to have "cottage meetings". This provides an opportunity for folks to sit down in fellowship to discuss why this particular place – the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg – is important to them. The way it will work is various members will be asked to host their church neighbors who live in the same zip code. This will take place on a weekend in March, preferably the weekend of March 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. Once those groups are set up, the group can decide whether or not there will be a meal, will it be potluck or one person doing all the cooking, whether it will be Friday night or Saturday and if so, whether it will be during the day or evening. Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup> will be our annual Stewardship Service.

I've heard from many of you that

you do not feel comfortable asking for money, and frequently ask me if I find it difficult. To be honest, I don't ask for money! I ask people to think about what the church means to them, and then to look at their budget to determine how much they can comfortably give to support their spiritual community. However, for those of you who still think that sounds too difficult, we will be providing a script you can follow that will lead you through the process of thinking about the church and what it means to each person in attendance.

And when we say "each person" – I would encourage each of these cottage meetings to include our children. Questions will be designed to bring them into the conversation as well. I'm sure we'll all be amazed to hear what our young people think about this church and what it means to them!

I've put together zip code maps, so if you're not sure who's in your zip code, we'll be providing that information as well. Some zip codes have over 50 people, so we'll be asking for multiple individuals to host events there, and once you look at the map, we should be able to figure these out by neighborhood. Other zip codes have only a few people, so we may be combining folks from multiple zip codes to ensure we've got enough people for an exciting time.

Together we can zip up this year's budget drive, and have fun by meeting your neighbors from church!

*by Alanna Berger*

## **QUESTERS**

The quest is simply the attempt of a few pioneer men to become aware of their spiritual selves as all men are already aware of their physical selves." ~ Paul Brunton

Questers will meet on  
February 3 and 17 at 7 PM.

*Submitted by Terence Sillett*

## **Kazuri Beads Bring New Life**

Wycliffe and Sue have been given new life through the generosity of UCH, led by the efforts of the high school group. Wycliffe and Sue were dealt a tough hand; they were born in Kenya, tested HIV positive, and were orphaned. On top of that Wycliffe has cerebral palsy. Fortunately, dedicated workers in Kenya are caring for them at a facility called New Life Homes. It costs \$1000 to maintain each child for one year at New Life Homes until they can be adopted. Since the UCH youth group raised over \$2000 for New Life Homes we are the symbolic "adoptive" parents of Wycliffe and Sue for their first year of life.

The youth raised this money by working with a Harrisburg group called the Amani Project. The Amani Project acquires "seconds" of the world-renowned Kazuri beads. The beads are then made into jewelry and sold at nearly 100% profit. In total UCH youth gave approximately 100 hours of time to make and sell the beaded jewelry. Thank you to the congregation for supporting this project, and congratulations to the youth group for adopting two kids! Check out [www.amanimeanspeace.org](http://www.amanimeanspeace.org) for more information.

### **WHOLE CHURCH POTLUCK DINNER**

sponsored by Randa &  
supported by her  
COUCH GROUP

**When:** Sat., Feb 7th, 2009  
6 until 9 pm

**Where:** Common Room, UCH  
**What to Bring:** A prepared dish  
and ideas to share

**Why:** Brainstorming and Conversation for a thriving UCH

**Who:** You! Everyone's Invited!  
Childcare will be provided if  
requested of Randa by 2/1/09.  
(irrt1946@yahoo.com)

*submitted by Randa Todd*

## Helping Women in Prison

**“Lady D” is succeeding.** LT, or Lady D. (as Tammy Johnson calls her), graduated from Promise Place on January 5 “with grace.” She moved to her own apartment, and is maintaining full time employment with a trucking firm in Carlisle – and looking for part-time work as well. She has gained enough self assurance that she will be part of a presentation by the PROGRAM for United Way. There is still sadness in her life, as she struggles to reunite with her children, but her church sustains her – she joined a church in Steelton “which pretty much adopted her.”

**February Meeting:** Our church is hosting the Community Connections Breakfast the morning of Saturday, April 18. It is for women and men in halfway houses (like Promise Place and Firm Foundation) and work release centers (like Woodside Family Center), and we expect 30-40 guests. We’ll need setup people, cooks, servers, cleanup helpers, and greeters, among others. Join us at the February 3 meeting as we figure out who needs to do what to make it a success.

**THANKS for giving:** The inmates at Dauphin County Prison each got a Christmas gift bag with a pair of clean socks, a candy bar or two, and a stamped Christmas card to send. The guys in Jim’s Chapel Talk group were really appreciative, and our giving helped this happen. Buying Giant Gift Cards for women at Promise Place will help them shop for needed groceries. And our response to the Giving Tree was fantastic. Thanks to all!

**Coming This Spring:** We’ll be reading and talking about Donald Braman’s *Doing Time on the Outside: Incarceration and Family Life in Urban America*, which addresses issues like social silence, the incredible cost of collect phone calls to family members, and the impact of incarceration on the African American community. Copies will go on sale in advance. For details, check with John Hargreaves .

**Want to support the Prison Action Committee?** Come to the Christian Gospel Concert April 25<sup>th</sup>, at the Christian Churches United Sanctuary (formerly Lutheran Church of the Redeemer) on South 19<sup>th</sup> Street just off Derry Street in Harrisburg.

**Opportunities to Help:** UCH members can help the women at Woodside or Promise Place in many ways, all year-round. We always need drivers to take women to the monthly Community Connections Breakfast – like the one coming up on February 28 and March 21. And the PROGRAM really needs people to train residents in life skills such as shopping for groceries on a budget. Or help Alice Winner with a class on Time and Paper Management. Reach Alice at SilkSpinnerAW @ verizon.net) or 717-534-2368 for details. Reach Chris Dutton at cdutton @ state.pa.us or 717 221-9993. Reach Jim at nanjim65 @ verizon.net

**For more information** contact Margaret Carrow, Chris Dutton, Dick Hoke, Jim Cavanaugh or John Hargreaves, or visit the Church web site at [www.harrisburguu.org](http://www.harrisburguu.org)

*Submitted by Jim Cavanaugh*

## Mindfulness Meditation Group

**Definitive answers to great questions back us into a box from which there is no escape. A better view may be to avoid answers...instead have better and better questions. A life of better questions allows for the mystery of being. It allows for the unknown. It welcomes possibilities. - B. Byers**

Please join us Tuesday evenings at 7:00 in the Margaret Fuller Chapel as we come together to sit and ponder the questions that give substance to our lives. The possibilities are endless. The meditation on Tuesday February 17<sup>th</sup> (the third Tuesday of the month) will be held in complete silence. Please feel free to address any questions you may have about our group to [mmg\\_of\\_uch@comcast.net](mailto:mmg_of_uch@comcast.net) or call Jeanne at 774-1479.

*Submitted by Jeanne Shellman*

“I do not ask for this faith because I shrink from paying the great debt of nature. But I ask for it that I may have respect for myself — that I may feel life is worth living — that good is worth striving for above and beyond its mere return of earth. And above all else, I ask for that faith because it makes life grand, and gives to us sublime possibilities. And further, it gives a substance of joy and bliss which nothing earthly ever gave, and which nothing of earth can take away.”

Eunice Hale (Waite) Cobb

## QueenSpirit POTLUCK & CIRCLE

**Wednesday, February 4, 2009, 6 – 9 pm**

Unitarian Church of Harrisburg  
Common Room & Joseph Priestly Room

- Bring a favorite dish, dessert or beverage to share
- Bring your place setting and serving spoons and plates

## CANDLEMAS ON FIRE

Candlemas (February 2) celebrates the midpoint between the Solstice and the Spring Equinox, the point when winter temperatures begin to rise. During this classic fire ritual each participant will focus on 1) what she will discard, 2) what she will initiate, and 3) the environment of support she will invoke to stay on her chosen path. Cordell Affeldt, Mary Braasch, and Tammy Adams lead the circle.

QueenSpirit is a co-created women’s spirituality circle.

*Submitted by Anne Moore*

# Coffee House Features Local Talent

Clover Lane Coffee House is pleased to welcome back local R&B artist Rose Hudson for a repeat concert -- she was our top-rated artist from last year! Doors open at 7:00; concert is at 8:00 on Friday, February 20. She will be accompanied by Reggie Addison on keyboard. Admission is \$5 at the door.

Born to a Puerto-Rican mother and an African-American father, Rose Hudson was exposed as a child to rhythm and blues, Motown, Latin, and more. She sang vocals for York-based "Sunburst" in the early 1980s - then put her music career on hold for more than two decades to work as a nurse and raise her eight children. She resumed her musical career in 2002 and, in the words of one local reviewer, she's "Back with a Vengeance."

Her velvety, powerful and sultry voice has wowed audiences with her "rich, saucy, straight outta church hip-shakin', booty-quaking' style" that brings you to your feet till your legs get sore. She has performed with several jazz and blues bands and is a favorite across Central PA. Last year she released her first CD, "Like A Rose: Rose Hudson & Friends Live at Annie Bailey's."

*Submitted by Bart Carpenter*

## *Happy 200th Birthday* **Charles Darwin!**

A Celebration of Evolution & Charles Darwin for all ages  
**Sunday, February 8, 2009, 12:30 to 2:30 PM**  
Lower Level UCH

Please **RSVP by THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5th** to Trish Brandon at 564-4761 or [rgl@harrisburgUU.org](mailto:rgl@harrisburgUU.org) for lunch planning and childcare.

An event for the entire family to celebrate the 200th birthday of Charles Darwin. Enjoy lunch and birthday cake together, then view a short video about Charles Darwin and his groundbreaking theory of evolution.

Through a series of stations, participants will learn about evolution and Darwin's strengths as an observer and independent thinker. Also learn about his influence on religious thinking, and hear about the current intelligent design controversy. The program is for school-aged children through adults. Child care will be available on request.

*Submitted by Trish Brandon & David Spear*

## **INSIDE THE INTELLIGENT DESIGN TRIAL**

**Monday, March 2, 7:00 to 8:30 PM**

Hear local author Lauri Lebo discuss the intelligent design trial from 2005. As the education reporter for the York Daily Record, Lauri covered the trial in Harrisburg and had first-hand knowledge of the parties involved.

Sponsored by the Harrisburg Area Humanists, this event will also explore the implications of science and religion in society and our educational system. It will also celebrate the effect that evolution has had on religious thought, as we celebrate the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth.

For information, contact David Spear at 731-9688 or [spear130@gmail.com](mailto:spear130@gmail.com).

*Submitted by David Spear*

## **IT'S GROUNDHOG DAY!**

**Monday, February 2**  
**5:00 to 9:00 PM**

Come celebrate the ancient pagan festival of Imbolc, with Clover Grove, the UCH pagan Group. Imbolc is when the ewes gave birth and produced milk, then humans had extra nutrition possibilities to see them till the end of winter. Bring a dish to share, then help pull taffy for a sweet treat to munch during the movies. Those above age 12 will watch the movie Groundhog Day. There will be child care and an appropriate movie for the younger crowd. Come for all or part of the evening activities. Renew your faith in humanity and the sun at this annual tradition!

- 5 pm - arrival
- 5:30 - Ritual
- 6 pm - Pot Luck/Taffy pull in the Common Room & Kitchen
- 7 pm - Groundhog Day Movie in the Fuller chapel, and childcare downstairs if needed
- 9pm - clean up, go home

RSVP if childcare is needed before January 30 to Rebecca Walde-mar, [cythereademar@yahoo.com](mailto:cythereademar@yahoo.com) or 364-2029.

*Submitted by Ann Stillwater*

## **Philosophy of Religion 101**

**A ♦ L ♦ E ♦ R ♦ T**

Are you considering joining the four bi-weekly sessions scheduled to begin Thursday, April 9? (See page 7 in the *Adult Religious Growth and Learning* booklet.) Please inform Dick Hoke of your interest, however tentative it may be. A "prospectus" concerning content and suggested readings is available upon request. Email [rrhoke@aol.com](mailto:rrhoke@aol.com) or call 737-3973.

*Submitted by Dick Hoke*

**The Unitarian Church of Harrisburg**  
**1280 Clover Lane**  
**Harrisburg, PA 17113**

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**February 2009**

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**MINISTER**

Rev. Howard N. Dana

**ACTING ASSOCIATE MINISTER**

Yvonne S. Strejcek

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GROWTH & LEARNING**

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Wendy Shaver, Youth Advisor

**CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR**

Sandy Wilbern

**MUSIC MINISTRY**

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Jim Haines, Associate Director

Julie Slaybaugh, Unisinger Accompanist

David Walker, Choir Director

**STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR**

Alanna Berger

**SEXTON**

Bob Kershner

**GROCERY GIFT CARD COORDINATOR**

Anne Moore



Affiliated with the  
Unitarian Universalist Association

**Wondering if a church service or event has been delayed  
or cancelled due to the weather?**

When inclement weather is expected, call the Church at 564-4761 for any special announcements regarding delays or cancellations of services or events or tune in to one of the following stations.

**Radio:** WITF 89.5

**Television:** FOX 43, WHP-CBS 21, The CW15, WITF

**Websites:** [abc27.com](http://abc27.com), [fox43.com](http://fox43.com), [whptv.com](http://whptv.com), [cw15.com](http://cw15.com), [WITF.org](http://WITF.org)

Use your best judgment about driving. Closures will be posted on our website whenever possible.

**Newsletter Information**

*The REPORTER* is published monthly by the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg. Della Hoke-Uvick is the Editor.

**Submissions** to *The REPORTER* are due **on the 10th of each month**. Please include a name and phone number in case of questions.

Submissions may be

- ♦ **Mailed to or dropped off at:** 1918 Princeton Avenue, Camp Hill, PA 17011 (by 8:00 PM);
- ♦ **emailed to:** [dellahoke@yahoo.com](mailto:dellahoke@yahoo.com). *Please note that there will be a return reply acknowledgement - if you do not receive an acknowledgement within 24 hours, please call Della!*
- ♦ **or** dropped off in *The REPORTER* mail slot at the Church by 2:00 PM;
- ♦ **Call** Della at 737-9251 with questions, please, no calls after 9:00 PM.